

# On the Same Page

“The troubles of my heart are enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses. Look upon my affliction and my trouble, And forgive all my sins.” (Psalms 25:17–18 NAS95)

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## A Developing Direction

### Forever-Family Fellowship

**We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever**

### All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, **we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long.** What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

### Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. **We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.**

### Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. **We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.**

## Child of Woe

Sunday, June 11, 2017

The Old Testament saint [Job says](#), “man is born for trouble, as sparks fly upward.” And he should know. Once his life was the picture of remarkable blessedness. Then trouble hit. He became a “child of woe.”

We, by-and-large, live lives that are extremely blessed, interrupted by trouble. There are others who live lives of endless woe, rarely interrupted by blessing. For many of us, our woes are self-inflicted. We have at least contributed to the cause of our trouble, whether in the area of finances, or health, or relationships. We spent the money we did not have. We failed to follow general rules of health. We keep damaging relationships, thinking that the other person should change, not us.

Other woes seem to come naturally. Aging, whether it happen to your body, or to the septic system, happens. Nothing in this world lasts forever. And when it wears out, we have to go through the pain and expense of fixing or replacing it, if it is fixable at all.

And then there are woes that are unpredictable. Perhaps some would call them accidental. Believers, if consistent, would call them providential. You get blind-sided by another driver - his fault, not yours. A tornado takes out the house, or cancer, like lightning, strikes close to home. And once again you fit the description: child of woe.

This is the case for everyone: religious/non-religious. No one escapes. But some interpret it differently than others.

Those who hold to orthodox Christianity understand that God, far and away bigger and wiser than mere man, sees the big picture, and allows woes for a variety of reasons, many of which do not have to do exclusively with me or how I feel about it. We are but bit players in a larger drama, and we seldom truly know “why?”. But we also understand and experience that we as ‘bit players’ are at the same time ‘blessed players.’ We are on personal terms with the central, heroic figure in the whole drama that spans not only continents, but the far reaches of both heaven and earth, as well as eternity past and future. We know him, and trust him, even when it hurts, and even when we are scared to death.

We used to sing [this old song](#), “Take the name of Jesus with you, child of sorrow and of woe. It will joy and comfort give you. Take it everywhere you go.” And then a line from the chorus: “Precious name, ... hope of earth and joy of heaven.”

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Martin Luther, in Preface to the Wittenberg Edition of Luther's German Writings (1539) - tells how to be good theologians, after the pattern of David -

**“Firstly, you should know that the Holy Scriptures constitute a book which turns the wisdom of all other books into foolishness, because not one teaches about eternal life except this one alone. Therefore you should straightway despair of your reason and understanding. With them you will not attain eternal life, but, on the contrary, your presumptuousness will plunge you and others with you out of heaven (as happened to Lucifer) into the abyss of hell. But kneel down in your little room [Matt. 6:6] and pray to God with real humility and earnestness, that he through his dear Son may give you his Holy Spirit, who will enlighten you, lead you, and give you understanding.”**

Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 72.

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## **News and Notes**

**Prayer Time:** Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., at the Milford Tim Hortons; Sundays, 9 a.m., in the sanctuary

**A series on Marriage Communication meets two more times in June: this Tuesday, June 13, and then the 27th.** Start time is 6:15 at the church, and the study concludes at 7:30 p.m.

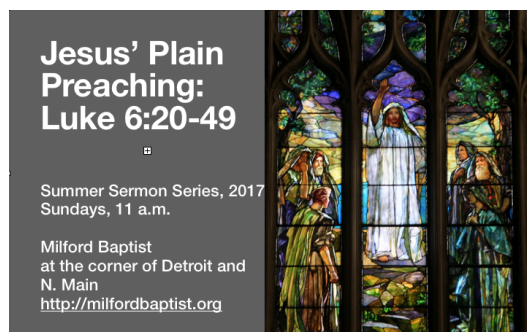
**Third Friday Fellowship** (lunch and cruise at the Watson's), Friday, June 16, 11:30 a.m.

**Men of Action Breakfast, Meeting, and Work Day**, Saturday, June 17, 7:30 a.m.

**Father's Day Worship led by men from the congregation**, Sunday, June 18

**W. Hickory service**, 10:15 a.m., and **Elders/Deacons dinner and meeting**, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 20

**Church-Wide Canoe and Picnic**, Saturday, June 24



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**Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.**

**This Sunday, June 11, we begin a summer series in Luke 6, Jesus' Plain Preaching, and his Sermon on the Plain.** This Sunday, we reflect on "Blessings and Woes," and see that many of our blessings can conceal woes, and all of our woes can be flavored with blessing.

**Last Sunday, June 4,** we broke from our Luke series to celebrate the birth of the Church, Pentecost, and to thank

God for the ministry of the Holy Spirit. **[Listen to the message on the Holy Spirit, from Psalm 51:9-13, here.](#)**

**Sunday School classes meet each Sunday morning, 9:30 a.m.** Our adult class is studying subjects related to the morning message; the youth are tackling a series on Biblical answers to tough questions; the children's class is learning the Lord's Prayer.

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