



# On the Same Page

“A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.” (Proverbs 17:22 ESV)

## 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.**

## Comfort Connection

Sunday, July 23, 2017

We were built for human connection - person to person and face to face. But living in a bent and twisted world, those connections don't always work well. It is not surprising, then, that many people run from true connectedness with others, and hide, whether in isolation, or alternate realities, often provided by screen technologies.

But we were not built for screens. It is not a meeting of souls. Oh, it can tickle the fancy or distract from the pain of loneliness or the frustration of people. But screens don't heal or foster growth.

The apostle Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth seeks to mend his connection with these people. The relationship has been bruised, and Paul is seeking to re-establish a connection that is distinctively Christian. This connection will not happen because they belong to the same political party or share the same hobbies. It will occur because they share the same view of the world that centers in One Key Person - in Jesus, God's Son and man's Savior.

The connection that we find in 2 Corinthians chapter 1 is a **comfort connection.** The word “comfort” shows up 10 times in vv. 3-7. It is a passage that admits that life is often hard, for you, and for me. And it is a word that assures that **we each care for the other in the midst of life's difficulties.** Paul's use of the word “comfort” assumes that it is something that we all need when experiencing affliction, and it further assumes that we are all better off for offering it to others. It is just a first step in engaging in face to face, “soul” encounters.

Again, many people avoid either receiving comfort and/or offering it. The reasons may be complex. But people, let's be honest. We live in a broken world, and no one is a comfort expert, offering it perfectly. Only God has the resource to comfort from a bottomless heart and an endless love. And we only comfort well when we draw on this resource. And even then, I find that the self likes to get in the way. To coin a proverb: Don't reject a kind word just because of bad grammar.

Comfort allows our relationships to be “buffered” rather than “brittle.” A “brittle” relationship is easily fractured. The slightest disappointment results in an unforgivable offense that ends the relationship, pushing the damaged psyche off into exile. On the other hand, a “buffered” relationship trusts in the good and godly intentions of the other person, however imperfect he/she may be, and accepts their care as a gift, knowing that the gift of comfort ministered from human hearts issues first of all from “the Father of mercies and God of all comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:3).

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Martin Luther, and his “Preface to the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans” (1522, and revised in 1546), helping us to properly define “faith.”

**“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that the believer would stake his life on it a thousand times. This knowledge of and confidence in God’s grace makes us glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and with all creatures. And this is the work which the Holy Spirit performs in faith. Because of it, without compulsion, Christians are ready and glad to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, out of love and praise to God who has shown them this grace. Thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate heat and light from fire.”**

Martin Luther’s Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 101.

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## News and Notes

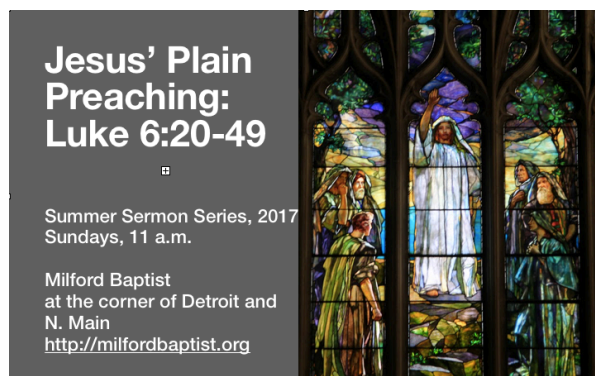
**Prayer Time:** Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., at the Milford Tim Hortons; Sundays, 9 a.m., in the sanctuary  
**Men of Action breakfast meeting, discussion of Galatians 2:20, and church facility work session is Sat., July 22, 7:30 a.m.**

**Elders/Deacons meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 6:30 p.m.**

**Please note the church’s new phone number: 248-717-3564**

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



**Jesus' Plain Preaching:  
Luke 6:20-49**

Summer Sermon Series, 2017  
Sundays, 11 a.m.

Milford Baptist  
at the corner of Detroit and  
N. Main  
<http://milfordbaptist.org>

**Our Summer Series is “Jesus’ Plain Preaching”,** from his Sermon on the Plain. Having introduced Luke’s alternation between blessing and woes, we have been taking each of the 4 pairs in detail. The first message (Luke 6:20,24) was “The Problem of Prosperity,” [found online here](#)). The second message, from last Sunday, considered the surprising contrast between the hungry and the well-fed (vv. 21,25), in a message entitled “The Problem of Plenty.” [Listen to the message here.](#) **This past Sunday we continued on to part 3 of the blessings and woes,**

**and considered “The Problem of Pleasure” (Luke 6:21,25).** These verses throw mourning and rejoicing against one another. We will see the reflection of this passage in Psalm 126, 1 John 2, and 1 Corinthians 7. [Listen to the message here.](#) **This Sunday, July 23, we think about The Problem of Popularity, from Luke 6: 22-23,26.**

**Sunday School meets 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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