



On the Same Page

“in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.” (James 1:21-22 NASB)

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.**

The Information/Action Ratio

Sunday, August 20, 2017

We live in the information age. We are bombarded with news from all angles. Now, what are we supposed to do with it?

We hear about the president's tweets. What are we supposed to do. Well, nothing. We hear about North Korea and Russia. What are we supposed to do? It's not that it doesn't concern us. There is just nothing for us to do. The stock market goes up, or down. Someone tells us why, though I doubt they really know. And we do what? Nothing. We watch the weather, and there, we may alter our plans. Though the forecast is pretty sketchy, so we don't always pay too much attention.

We are being trained in our culture to receive information and to then take no action. [Neil Postman in "Amusing Ourselves to Death"](#) makes the case, strongly, that it is all entertainment. The videos of people doing dumb things, or stupendous things, is entertainment. The harping and carping about politics is entertainment. The horror of nuclear war is, perversely, more entertainment. The media offers it, and we demand it. And then we do .. nothing.

So then, perhaps, on a Sunday (or whenever), we go to a church worship gathering and, on a good day, Scripture is read and applied. Here we go. More information. And what do we do with it. Well, we often do what we have been trained to do with it, all through the week, and for our whole lives. We hope that it makes a brief impression, and then we move on to .. lunch.

A common theme in Scripture, as with parents, is to remind readers and children to “pay attention.” [Jeremiah's words](#) are only one example out of a thousand: “Listen and give heed, do not be haughty, For the LORD has spoken.” If I could paraphrase, God is saying, “Pay attention to what I have to say. Don't think I'm saying this merely so that you can be entertained. I will hold you accountable for your response.” God is concerned with my information/action ratio. What I actually do in response to God's Word matters to Him, and it makes a difference for me.

I'm not going to change the world. I will not slow the flow of information, or cause it to be more deliberative rather than eye-catching. But I will do this. I will implore you to regard God's news as a message that is qualitatively different than all the rest of the news which is merely noise. Take some time. Turn off the TV or put away the phone. Open God's Word, and enter a completely different world in which the information/action ratio matters.

Martin Luther, "The Estate of Marriage" (1522). Though not yet married himself, Martin shows the difference between the Bible's teaching and Church teaching on marriage and divorce.

"if you would like to take a wise vow, then vow not to bite off your own nose; you can keep that vow. If you have already taken the monastic vow, however, you should yourself consider whether you belong in those three categories which God has singled out ([Matthew 19:12](#)). If you do not feel that you belong there, then let the vows and the cloister go. Renew your natural companionships without delay and get married, for your vow is contrary to God and has no validity, and say "I have promised that which I do not have and which is not mine."

Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 153.

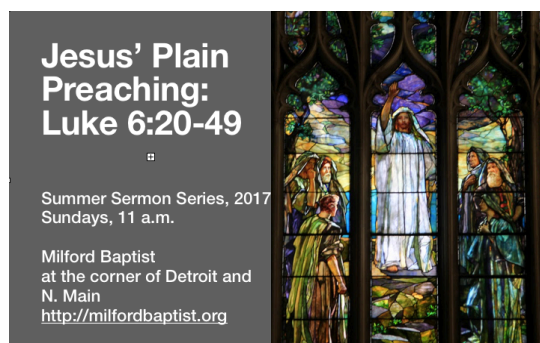
News and Notes

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

September is Coming!

- **Sunday School kickoff is Sunday, September 10, 9:30 a.m., as we seek to teach more children, gather and influence our youth, and grow the fellowship and knowledge of our adults. Plan to join us.**
- **Awana begins Wednesday, September 13. Please see John Dickey about how you can help**

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



Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.

Our Summer Series is "Jesus' Plain Preaching", from his Sermon on the Plain, found in Luke 6. Last Sunday's message was called "The Blind Leading the Blind," from Luke 6:39-42. We discovered the impossibility of being of use to others before we ourselves are healed.

[Listen to the message here.](#)

This Sunday, we move on to another word picture, where Jesus speaks of good and bad trees producing good and bad fruit, and then applying that image to our own hearts (Luke 6:43-45)

Sunday School meets each Sunday morning, 9:30 a.m. Our adult class is studying subjects related to the morning message (this week, the vine and branches, from John 15); there is a class available for youth; the children's class is reviewing books of the Bible, and key characters found in each (this week, Joshua).

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