

MSBC NEWS

A CONNECTION TO GOD & EACH OTHER

Soli Deo Gloria

From The Pastor...

Life Lessons From The Death Bed

The Abolition of Loneliness

A few years ago, I had the privilege of serving as a chaplain for a local hospice. My job was to attend to the spiritual needs of dying patients and their families. This may seem like an overwhelmingly depressing work...but that was not the case at all. In fact, it was a powerful and profound life and ministry-altering experience. That is, spending several hours each week with those on their death beds provides a heightened clarity about life and love.

In particular, I became acutely aware of two things that are true for us all at all times:

1. This life is coming to an end.

This is so obvious, and yet so quickly forgotten. Understandably, we constantly distract ourselves from this truth. But there is wisdom in numbering our days. As Moses says: "Teach us to number our days so that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12)

Think about it: every day we are one day closer to losing everything here on this earth, and one day closer to giving an account for our lives. This awareness gives us a greater intensity and focus to our lives so that we will attend to the things that matter most.

Even secular psychologists who deny the existence of anything outside this life still acknowledge that there are certain tasks that each of us ought to address before we die. Namely, saying the following to the appropriate people in our lives:

"Please forgive me."

"I forgive you."

"Thank you."

"I love you."

Of course, we knew this already from the Scriptures. But it's still nice to have them concede to some of the truth that we profess. Love is not about fixing problems but bearing burdens.

2. Love is not about fixing problems but bearing burdens.

The aim of hospice is not to fix anything. It is understood and accepted that the patient is going to die and the family is going to grieve. The goal now is to make sure that they are not alone in their suffering. This particular hospice has a protocol called "By Your Side". Whenever a patient was close to death, the staff and volunteers would take turns keeping watch so that the patient would not die alone.

You see, death and grief are not problems to be solved; they are storms to be weathered. And they can be weathered...when we do it together. It is remarkable what we are able to endure when we know that we are not alone...and it is pathetic how frail we are when we feel abandoned. Love is fellowship: weeping with those who weep, rejoicing with those who rejoice, bearing one another's burdens. We cannot banish pain and sorrow, but we can work together to abolish loneliness.

In a very real sense, we are all on hospice. Every one of us is fading away like the grass. So let's take these lessons to heart...even when it appears death is a long way off.

- Pastor Michael John

Meetings/Gatherings/Groups

- March 1 - Sunday Night Series in chapel 6 pm
- March 8 - Pizza, Salad & Bricks, 12 pm
- March 8 - Sunday Night Series in chapel 6 pm
- March 15 - Deacons meet at noon in office
- March 15 - Sunday Night Series in chapel 6 pm
- March 17 - Tuesday Prayer Group in library room 11:30 - 1 pm
- March 22 - Sunday Night Series in chapel 6 pm
- March 24 - Tuesday Prayer Group in library room 11:30 - 1pm
- March 28 - MSBC Work Day, Details TBD
- March 29 - Sunday Night Series in chapel 6 pm
- March 31 - Tuesday Prayer Group in library room 11:30 - 1pm
- April 4 - Women Encouragers Brunch 9-11 am
- April 5 - Palm Sunday
- April 12 - Easter Sunday

Summer Missions & Outreach Opportunities in 2020

- Trip to Africa June 14-28 Cost: \$2500 to be raised

Tentative Schedule:

- June 14-16 Travel to South Africa
- June 17-21 Ministry in Mozambique
- June 22-25 Sports Camp in South Africa
- June 26 Free Day (Safari?)
- June 27-28 Travel Home

Requirements: passport...Parental permission and Participation in Preparation for minors...must be at least 15...able to meet with team for several meetings beginning in March

- Trip to Canada: (July or August)

Cost: about \$100 (depending on the number of people & vehicles)

VBS or Sports Camp with kids at Living Hope Church in Halifax,
Nova Scotia

- Outreach Opportunities in Amesbury

Amesbury Days Kids Day in the Park (Last week in June)

VBS or Sports Camp or other (July or August)

If you are interested, please contact Pastor John.



Please send newsletter articles to our Communications Assist, Dorothy Purdy at her special address: msbccom37@gmail.com.

If you have any suggestions or feedback regarding the newsletter or the weekly email, please feel free to let Dorothy know at the email address above.



Youth Group 2020

Meets on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm for fellowship and both spiritual & physical food. Open to all youth in grades 5-10. For details please contact Caryn Ahlstrom.

SAVE THE DATE, WOMEN'S RETREAT

May 15, 16,17 at the cottages

Sign ups to come.



TUESDAY PRAYER GROUP...March 17, 24, 31

All are welcome meet at the church library room on the third, fourth and fifth Tuesdays of the month at 11:30-1:00 pm.

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Kristen Rosengart and Jeff Price who were married.



WELCOME NEW CHURCH MEMBERS!

Voted in at the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2020:

Dolores Loynd, Claudette Fredette, Robert Roy and Jeremy Moynihan

Women's Encouragers Brunch

Saturday, April 4 from 9-11am

All women are welcome for good food, good speaker and good fellowship. Bring a friend!





**Pizza, Salad & BRICKS
Yes, BRICKS!**



Sunday, March 8, 2020

After worship in Friendship Hall

There will be a short presentation regarding the proposed memorial brick fundraiser while you enjoy pizza and salad.

Hope to see you there!

MSBC Work Day on Sunday, March 28

Details to come, keep an eye out for more information in our weekly email.

Sunday Night Series 6pm in Chapel

Happening Now Until March 29

How to Talk about Your Faith: Do you have trouble talking about your faith with family and friends? Join the club! We all need help. Even the Apostle Paul asked the church to pray for him so that He can speak this Gospel clearly and fearlessly. (Ephesians 6:19-20 and Colossians 4:4) This will be an 8-week series that we hope will encourage and equip each us. Lessons from Greg Koukl's Tactics.

April 19 – June 7

How to Grow in Your Faith: Now that we've come to faith in Christ, how do we continue in our growth? And how can we help each other grow? This 7-week series will focus on what it means to be a disciple of Christ and how we can help make disciples for Christ.

PRAYER CORNER...

Please contact church office to have your request and/or results printed in the newsletter at 978-388-0930 or email msbcsec@verizon.net.

The Importance of Christian Voting

In today's culture, there can be no ordinary Christian. We must be wise, fearless, and not swayed by public opinion. God calls us to reject evil and do what is good. This is our test, especially when it comes to voting for a political or law that goes against our faith and moral beliefs. We cannot depend on our government to follow God's laws. It is up to us as Christians to vote for candidates who align with His will, especially when it comes to defending human life.

God's Word tells us, "Do not conform this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God" (Romans 12:2).

Every vote matters. Each of us can make a real impact when we register and vote in every election. With over 90 million Christians in America today, think of the impact we could make at the polls. Research shows that as many as 25 million failed to vote in the last presidential cycle and as many as 72 million do not vote in local elections. How can we fight for our beliefs if we are not showing up to vote.

What would our country look like if Christians everywhere voted for Christian values?

John Adams our second president warned: "A Constitution of Government once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty once lost, is lost forever." Abortion is legal today in our nation, but together, we can right this wrong. There is too much at stake, please vote and encourage others to vote in the upcoming elections this November.

For more information visit MyFaithVotes.org.

Source: <https://www.barna.com/research/notional-christians-big-election-story-2016>

This article was published in the PCC Winter Newsletter 2019.

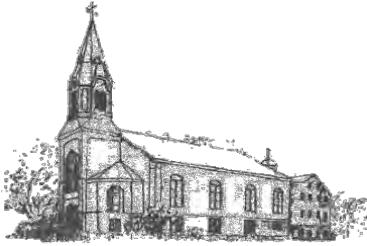
2020 Election Deadlines

March 3, 2020	Presidential Primary Election
September 15, 2020	State Primary Elections (voting for: US Senate, US Reps, State Senate, State Reps, others)
October 14, 2020	General Election Voter Registration Deadline
November 3, 2020	Presidential Election Day

MARKET STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

37 Market Street
Amesbury, MA, 01913

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020



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TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

WORSHIP WITH US	FIND US
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Sunday's at 10:00 - 11:30 am

Cable TV:

ActTV12

Thursdays 4:30 pm & Fridays 9:00 am

Haverhill 22

Sundays at 7:30 am & 5:00 pm

Radio:

WSEW 88.7 FM - Sundays 9:00
am "Unchanging Grace"

www.wordradio.net

www.msbcnews.org

Sermons Archive:

www.msbcnews.org/sermons

(for current sermons, visit the home page)

Facebook: [Market Street Baptist Church](#)

CONTACT US

Phone: (978) 388-0930

Rev. Michael John (Pastor)

mejoh.msbcb@gmail.com

Dianne Cole (Office Admin)

msbcsec@verizon.net

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am -
12:00 pm

Friday 11:00 am - 2:00 pm