

April 2024

# Garden Gleanings

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

## Kids Sing for Easter

The Pre-School through Elementary School Sunday School classes shared three songs with the congregation on Palm Sunday. They sang *For God So Loved the World*; *Alive, Alive*; and *Everybody Ought to Know*. Thank you to all their Sunday School teachers and helpers and Jenny Loyd and Cindy Huxman for their help in leading the kids in worship.



**Daniel Lee**  
**HUXMAN**

**8 pounds**  
**10 ounces**  
**21 inches**

**April 9**  
**2024**  
**2:29 pm**

Parents: Bryson & Grace • Siblings: Enora & Colton  
Grandparents: Gary & Marci Huxman



# Young Christians Weekend at Silver Dollar City

Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:17 found 4 -7<sup>th</sup> grade girls (Jenna, Brenley, Fiona & Laurel), 4 - 9<sup>th</sup> grade boys (Brett, Josh, Treston & Austin) and 4 sponsors (Lindley, Kayla, Chris & Julie) loading up in two vans to head to Branson, MO. Young Christians Weekend at Silver Dollar City was the destination!

Over the weekend, 5 of the 8 kids tried roller coasters for the first time and most were fans of them! They all braved water rides and stepped out of their comfort zones.

Between rides, the guys attended a session called: "Men built to Conquer" - Reclaiming the ground that the enemy and culture has stolen, leading the way God intends for us to lead, Dig in the Word and find footing in the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. - with Caleb Gordon.

The girls attended: "Women of the Word" - Reminding the girls that we are women of the Word - not of the world. And that there is a great adventure waiting for each of us as we abide in our Creator. - with Ashley Robbins

As the park closed for the evening, we gathered at the Echo Hollow Amphitheater for a session with speaker, Shay Robbins and to hear Leanna Crawford and Mosaic MSC in concert.

After a full day at the park, we headed back to the hotel and the kids played a round of mini golf and swam in the outdoor (unheated!!) pool before bed.

Sunday morning found us up, bright and early, to attend the Sunday morning worship service in the amphitheater. We heard Crutchfield and Consumed by Fire in concert and an encouraging message was brought by Adam Donyes.

There was time for just a few more rides and then it was back to the vans to head for home. We are so thankful for each student who went, Chris & Julie's help, safe travels and for the beautiful weather that we had the whole time we were there.





# ADULT/CHILD PRAYER MINISTRY

## SUMMER of 2024

EXPANSION to the Adult/Child Prayer Ministry

PRAYER OF JABEZ ...

“THAT GOD WOULD ENLARGE MY TERRITORY”

(prayed through a spiritual lens, not one of materialism)



I CHRONICLES 4:10



**NEW FOCUS**

*We plan to introduce a new child/ren to your territory!!*

**Coming in LATE SUMMER:**

**New FACE/New Prayer Card**

**New Prayer Opportunity**

**New Relationship and Mentoring Opportunity**

**As This Transition Eventually Takes Place This Summer**

Your current child/ren of our church prayer ministry  
will ALWAYS be close to your heart and should be!!

You will want to continue to casually connect and pray  
for the child/ren you have built a special bond  
with over the past year, but your new focus will ultimately be  
on the new child/ren introduced to you!



*Garden*  
COMMUNITY CHURCH



# Vonnie's Views

Recently on a walk with my 8-year-old grandson, the topic of discussion turned from robots to idols. He asked me to describe world religions that use idols for worship. As we talked about various religions that have idols, I asked him if he knew that the Bible talks quite a bit about idols. I reminded him that when he was about 4 years old, his favorite passage (one we read every time he came over for a couple of months) was Isaiah 44. At that time, we affectionately referred to it as the “idol passage.” He, of course, had forgotten—it was half a lifetime away for him!

Isaiah 44 describes a blacksmith and a carpenter who use metal or wood to make an idol. Isaiah describes the carpenter’s process in detail: marking the outline, roughing it out, shaping it & finishing it. Then Isaiah tells us the carpenter used the remainder of the wood to build a fire for warmth and cooking.

Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal; he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, “Ah! I am warm; I see the fire.” From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, “Save me! You are my god!” They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand. No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, “Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat, and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?” Such a person feeds on ashes; a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, “Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?” (Isaiah 44:16-20)

On another night, unable to sleep, I listened to Psalms with the YouVersion audio Bible, Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. But their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. They have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell. They have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but cannot walk, nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them. (Psalms 115:2-8)

A few days later, my Bible-reading plan took me to 1 Corinthians 10 where I read Paul’s warning to flee idolatry (vs 14). In 1 Corinthians 10:20, Paul says, “the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God...” While idols can’t move, talk, or see, idol worship is not innocuous, idol worship is, in fact, demon-worship.

As these similar passages popped up within a few short days, the topic of idolatry seemed to be following me! I was curious what God was saying to me today through this. So, I began by asking, what is idolatry? Of course, worshipping an image is something I’d never do. According to Webster, idolatry is “the worship of idols or excessive devotion to, or reverence for some person or thing.” An idol is anything that replaces the One True God.

If I don’t worship images, do I maintain idols of a different type? Are there things I prize more than God? Sometimes it’s hard to tell—because I have it justified in my mind. A quick look at a few things proved eye-opening. How am I spending my “free” time? Do I spend it mindlessly scrolling, being lazy, or resisting serving others? Guilty. What thoughts occupy my mind? Are my thoughts of me, how others perceive me or how I can attain status? Guilty. Where is my treasure? Is it the size of my retirement account, health, or recognition? Guilty. Do you notice what’s at the center of each of these? ME—not God!

Each of us has a heart that is easily captured by things like possessions, careers, hobbies, sports, goals, greed, cravings, and innumerable other things. Some of the things we idolize are clearly sinful. But many of the things we idolize are good. When anything takes the place in our heart that should be occupied by God, it is an idol. Even an idol like this is fueled by our enemy—the thief that comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Things that replace God cause us to feed on ashes—unappetizing, right? Idolatry of any type leads to a deluded heart as we follow a lie—the lie that anything other than God will bring deep satisfaction and true joy.

How can I pursue God and enjoy life, create projects that make me proud, pursue goals, and enjoy downtime? Scripture tells us that, whatever we do, we are to “do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31) and that we are to serve God only (Deuteronomy 6:13; Luke 16:13). A few ways I thought of that will help me do this are: time with the Lord in His Word daily, memorizing the Word, keeping a prayer journal, being present and active in my church, listening to praise music, accountability with believing friends, and asking the Holy Spirit to convict me when I veer toward idolatry by failing to do all for the glory of God.





## Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

**Memory Verse: Galatians 6:14—God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world.**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Praise God for Who He is - Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, Protector.	<b>2</b> Thank God for never leaving you.	<b>3</b> Pray for our church to grow in wisdom & love for God.	<b>4</b> Pray for unity in our church, keeping our eyes on the essentials.
<b>5</b> Pray God protects us from deception & only truth is taught here.	<b>6</b> Praise God for parents diligently teaching their kids the Word of God.	<b>7</b> Pray those listening to Harvest Radio & All Nations Radio hear the Word and are changed.	<b>8</b> Pray kids & youth choose friends that are good for them.	<b>9</b> Pray for Elwyn & Linda. Harvest Radio, dealing with personnel, solar equipment, support.	<b>10</b> Pray for the sick and dying and their families.	<b>11</b> Pray God uses military chaplains to spread the gospel & help young people.
<b>12</b> Thank God for the daily things - sunshine, flowers, crops, hobbies, health.	<b>13</b> Pray for Ivan and Mary. Energy, wisdom, health needs, giving guidance.	<b>14</b> Pray God would remove the blinders & and many would see Him as He is.	<b>15</b> Pray those in workplace work as unto God, and not for self or others.	<b>16</b> Pray for transition to summer months for families, wise us of time, guard their minds.	<b>17</b> Pray for James and Angela Goossen. Retreat center, translation work, discipling.	<b>18</b> Pray God would bring those to our church that need to be here.
<b>19</b> Pray for those you know are lost to receive Christ & be saved.	<b>20</b> Pray for hearts quick to confess & repent, humble hearts.	<b>21</b> Pray for Joe & Denise Goossen. Ministering locally, encouraging believers in Ukraine.	<b>22</b> Pray for believers in government to stand strong & a body of believers to stand with them.	<b>23</b> Pray for Josh & Camila Goossen. Coffee shop, personnel issues, discipling, parenting.	<b>24</b> Pray we grow in our understanding of the Holy Spirit & what it means to have Him indwell us.	<b>25</b> Pray for those giving care to loved ones to have patience & comfort.
<b>26</b> Pray for a clear understanding of what God has saved you from and for.	<b>27</b> Pray for Daniel & Krissy Hansen. Parenting, decisions, sowing truth.	<b>28</b> Pray God helps us to let go of things we hold most dear that we shouldn't.	<b>29</b> Pray that God would use you for His glory.	<b>30</b> Pray for lives characterized by purity and integrity.	<b>31</b> Pray for Peter & Rachel Hansen. Fruitful ministry locally & in helping missionaries overseas.	

# New Hope News

*Happenings at New Hope Shelter - April 2024*

## STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

How are things at your Church? Terrible. How are you feeling? Awful. How are things at Home? I want to get out. It is very easy to get into the habit of complaining and murmuring. The news is full of encouragement..... the War in Ukraine, Famine in Africa, the Border Crisis, Climate change, Water shortages, the list goes on.

Where does the complaining Spirit take us. We become depressed. We isolate because we think no one cares. We continue to internalize and repeat the bad news. If we still have friends, they are full of bad news too. At times in my life, I have been there. I remember one Sunday when a Pastor friend preached a sermon that I have never forgotten. He said, "When the waves are about to swamp your boat, keep hanging on." I cried that day and I have never forgotten it. I have had several opportunities to share that with others. In fact, I am impressed with the fact that there are some people out there who need to hear these words.

The alternative is to start counting your Blessings like the old chorus goes. Psalm 150:6 says "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord." I praise the Lord for the man in his 80's who invited me to his house for dinner and gave me a gift. And I thank God for the woman in her 80's who planted beautiful flowers in our planters at the Shelter. I also thank the Lord for the woman who served us recently at the Shelter with a sweet spirit after getting a devastating diagnosis from her doctor. I am thankful that many of you are still able to pray and to uphold the New Hope Shelter in prayer. This morning, I want to direct you back to the words of Psalm 150:6. Be encouraged this week.

We Love You, Brian Bisbee

## THE DEDICATION AND RIBBON CUTTING ARE OVER

We enjoyed a Great time at the Ribbon Cutting with the Newton Chamber of Commerce on Friday, April 5th. We had a Community Dedication on Sunday, April 7th which was standing room only. Several hundred people had the opportunity to tour our new Shelter. If you would like a tour, please give Brian or Marilyn a call at 316-283-7711 and we will be happy to arrange one for you or for a group.



## APRIL IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

We are always looking for good volunteers. If you would consider being a volunteer, please give Marilyn, our Volunteer Coordinator, a call at 316-283-7711. If you love to mow and use a weed eater we are looking for you.

### HE CAME TO KANSAS LOOKING FOR LOVE WITH AN INTERNET GIRLFRIEND

Guess what? It didn't work out and he ended up at the New Hope Shelter—broke. He wanted to go back to Florida and get his job back again. He needed a bus ticket home. We didn't give him a handout. We hooked him up with a job. He was able to get a bus ticket and some money in his pocket. Thanks for providing a place for him.

### SPRING INTO ACTION

At the April 7th Dedication a young woman by the name of Laura spoke. She came out of jail to the Shelter last year after being jailed for her Meth. Use. She got a job in a toxic waste plant and worked hard. She saved her money and moved into a place of her own. She has now gotten a raise and a promotion. She has also been reunited with her 5-year-old daughter who was in foster care. Would you consider supporting the New Hope Shelter monthly to help women just like Laura put their lives back together again? We need four new monthly supporters starting this month. You can send a check or give through our website [www.newhope-shelter.org](http://www.newhope-shelter.org)

### FINANCIAL THOUGHT

The people of America are increasingly Car-poor. 62% of all used cars are now financed and 80% of all new cars are financed. Tip: move in the direction of getting your car paid off quickly. When you don't have a vehicle loan, save for a car you can buy with cash. Keep it well maintained and make it work for you rather than you working for it.

*Current  
Needs  
List*



8 ½ x 11 Copy Paper  
Laundry pods  
Milk  
Sliced cheese  
Lunch meat  
Paper towel  
Ordinary napkins

Wal Mart and Dillons Gift-cards  
Ibuprofen  
Tylenol  
30- and 55-Gallon trash bags  
Kleenex  
All-purpose cleaner

**Our mission at New Hope Shelter, Inc. is to provide a sanctuary for those experiencing homelessness in Harvey, Marion, McPherson and Butler counties by uniting the local church into a nurturing community which restores hope through a growing relationship with Christ.**

**It is through the love of Christ we share with those in need of hope.**

**Executive Director - Brian Bisbee**  
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