



The eFree Press

Sheboygan Evangelical Free Church

November 2017

Volume 24, Issue 11

Missionaries Serving Around the World

Avant

Awana
Tim & Sherry Thomas

CRU
Ryan and Holly Menzer

The Evangelical Alliance Mission

Fellowship International Mission

Global Serve International

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
Bob and Deb Wolniak

Literacy and Evangelism Int'l
Bob and Mary Emily Mulloy

Ethnos360
Rich and Karen Brown
Derrick and LaShawn Dobbs
Lloyd and Mary Wapp

Pioneers International

ReachGlobal

Ed and Janet Pollasch
Nubako and Claudine Selenga
Lonnie and Debbie Smith

Wycliffe Bible Translators
Jon and Stephanie Weiss

Partner Missionary Organizations

Anchor of Hope Medical Center

Campus Life

Evangelical Child & Family Agency

Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

**Check the church directory for
contact info on all missionaries
and their sending agencies.**



Ladies — Herald the Joy of Christmas!

We warmly welcome women of all ages to the 2017 Ladies Christmas Brunch which will be held on Saturday, December 2 at 9:30am. This is a beautifully engaging way to enter into the joy of Christmas as guests take in the sights, sounds, and tastes of the season. It's also the perfect opportunity for outreach to seeking friends and family.



Our two theme rooms will feature a whimsical Gingerbread theme. The Multi-Purpose Room will house 45 additional beautifully decorated tables that will delight and inspire.

Tickets for the general public go on sale on Sunday, November 5 between services in the Welcome Center. Cost is just \$10 per ticket. Our menu this year features a delicious Apple Cranberry Spinach Salad with chicken, Carrot Coriander Soup, a homemade roll, and spiced cupcakes. This year's guest speaker is Jennifer Slenk, a *Revive Our Hearts* ambassador from Holland, Michigan. Her message will encourage and challenge your heart with the Gospel message. Please be in prayer for her as she prepares for this fantastic outreach.



Celebrate at the *FALL* Body Life Update

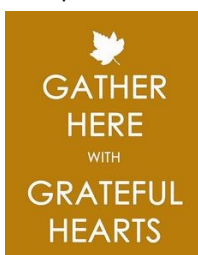
The November 12 Body Life Update will be full of celebrating! We'll hear what God has been doing in realizing the vision for campus expansion, how God is working in several ministries, and how God has blessed us over the past 20 years through the work of Pastor Jon and Nikki MacDonald.

We'll begin the evening with a chili supper at 5:15pm followed by a 6pm gathering to hear more details about God's blessings. We'll conclude the evening around 7:15pm with a cake reception and presentation in honor of Pastor Jon & Nikki.

As usual, childcare for children in Kindergarten and below will be provided for the time period following the meal.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Our annual Thanksgiving Eve Service, held on Wednesday, November 22 at 6:30pm, will focus on expressions of thanks to God for His loving-kindness and grace at work in our lives. The service will include a time of corporate worship, accompanied by an acoustic band, and a time for open sharing.



An offering designated for Love in Action (our church's benevolence ministry) will be received. Additionally, please consider bringing box mixes and packaged items to stock our church's Food Pantry.

GriefShare Conducts *Surviving the Holidays* Seminar

Many people grieving the death of a family member or friend dread the holiday season, especially the first year. Thoughts of social gatherings, family traditions, and obligations leave them feeling anxious and overwhelmed.

To help those in our church and community who are in this situation, a special seminar entitled *Surviving the Holidays* is being held by our GriefShare ministry on Saturday, November 4 at 9am.



The seminar features practical suggestions and reassurance through video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and other people who have experienced the holidays after the loss of a loved one. Topics to be discussed include dealing with hard-hitting emotions, what to do about traditions, how to survive social events, and where to find comfort and strength.

Those who attend will have the opportunity to share their concerns and feelings in small group discussions and will receive a Survival Guide filled with practical tips, encouraging words, and exercises for daily help through the holiday season.

There is no cost for this seminar and we are encouraging the public to attend. If you know someone who would benefit from this, please invite them personally, or even offer to attend with them. There will be refreshments available throughout the event. Pre-registration is not required, but is appreciated. Questions? Contact the church office (452.6520 or secretary@e-free-family.com).

Opiates Alert!

**Forever
Faithful**
Generations Loving Him

The Opiate Crisis is plaguing our nation and community! Pain-relieving drugs cover the gamut of use, misuse and addiction affecting all ages. Doctors Sam P. and Kari V., both from our church, will share the stage to discuss this epidemic at the Forever Faithful potluck/program on Thursday, November 2, from 6-8pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. Worshipful songs will be brought by Bob and Jane J.

Please sign up in your *Equip* class or on the Welcome Center bulletin board. You won't want to miss this critical topic!



Happy Birthday/Anniversary in November

Omitted for security.

This and That

As **Daylight Savings Time ends**, remember to turn your clock back 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 4!

Student Ministries will NOT meet on Wednesday, November 8 due to a Leaders Meeting.

The next **Hand-in-Hand Adoption Ministry** gathering will be Friday, November 10 from 6:30-8pm.

Please note the following changes due to Thanksgiving: **No Awana or Student Ministries** on November 22. The **church office will be closed** on Thursday, November 23.

Men — Tickets for the annual **No Regrets Men's Conference** at Elmbrook Church in Milwaukee go on sale at 8am on Saturday, November 18. Consider getting a group of guys together and take in this day of encouragement, support, and enrichment in God's Word. Tickets sell out quickly! Visit www.noregretsconference.org/ for more details!



November 1

Parents Night

*Operation Christmas Child
(continues)*

November 8

*Operation Christmas Child
(concludes)*

November 15

God & Country Night

November 22

NO CLUB

November 29

Light Up the World Night

Honoring Pastor Jon & Nikki MacDonald

Way back in November 1987, a young man and his wife, along with two very young sons, moved back to the Sheboygan area from Columbus, OH to be the second full-time Youth Pastor at this church.

Jon & Nikki brought new ideas that were surprising to many, like tea parties with high school girls to develop and strengthen relationships, and developing ways for teens to serve as an integral part of the church body. Along the way, they welcomed a 3rd son, a dog and, in 2016, a daughter-in-law.



Jon stepped into the newly-created role of Pastor of Family Life & Discipleship in late 2011, after the passing of Executive Pastor Mark Steele. Less than two years later, Nikki was hired as the first Hospitality Coordinator, using the gifts she had formerly displayed in youth fundraisers, to benefit the entire church body in decorating, expanding the church Welcome Ministry, and coordinating receptions for weddings, funerals and other events.

This article has only touched on some of the many blessings this church has experienced through the ministry of Jon & Nikki MacDonald. Come celebrate their leadership and servanthood at the November 12 Body Life Update.

Do You Need a Reminder Not to Forget God?

"Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes...lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when...all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God..." (Deuteronomy 8:11-14 ESV).

Whenever the fourth quarter of the year approaches, do you ever look back at what's happened in the past year, as well as begin to think and plan for the coming year? We've been reminded from time to time that if God says something, we should pay attention — and if He said it more than once, we should really pay attention. So, maybe we really need to pay attention to this.

Look back at God's gracious and rich provision over the past year. In your workplace and with the individuals and ministries you get to serve. In your relationship with your spouse and children. In your church. In relationships with friends and acquaintances. Personally, in your devotional and prayer life. How has your relationship with God deepened? Even in challenges like surgeries or car accidents or job losses or breaking relationships. Even there, God has been present and has provided as He promises.

Now look ahead at what is coming in the next year. Opportunities to continue to serve and grow along with our co-workers in the Body. Are we looking forward to how God will cause growth in each of us next year? And yes, there will be challenges, but God is both good and faithful, and we can have peace and rest in that knowledge.

How about you? Can you see God's hand in the past year? Are you excited about the year to come? Do you need a reminder not to forget God? May we be thankful for His good provision, and anticipate with hope His faithfulness in the days to come. May we be faithful and obedient to all His commands.

Excerpted from a blog by Paul Anderson, CIF

Districts Youth Conference 2018

Students in grades 6-12 are invited and encouraged to attend the next Districts Youth Conference on January 5-7. The early bird registration price is \$110, with form and money due by Wednesday, November 1. After November 1, the cost increases to \$140. The final deadline for registration is Wednesday, November 22.

Please turn registration forms and money in to the church office or Pastor Aaron Brown. Checks should be made payable to the Sheboygan Evangelical Free Church.

Milestone in Church History

Due to deterioration and safety issues, the bell tower was taken down last month. Thank you to Doug R., Larry H., Phil R., Steve E., and Scott's Excavating for all of their work in this process.

Bricks from the bell tower, as well as one of the bells, have been saved for church history purposes. The hope is to display these in the future as a reminder of the rich history of this church and to celebrate all God has done and is doing!



The eFree Press is the monthly newsletter of the eFree Church.

- To submit articles for future issues, contact Kayla Kautzer, Editor (kayla.k@e-free-family.com) or Briana Ringel, (briana.r@e-free-family.com). We reserve the right to edit for space and clarification purposes.
- The eFree Press is primarily distributed via email. If you'd like to join the email list, please contact Briana Ringel (briana.r@e-free-family.com).

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