



April E-Free News

Pastor's Pen

I trust our time spent considering the book of Colossians has been a blessing to you, as it has been for me and my family. The challenge to exalt Christ properly is the most significant of any we will ever face – yet the reward for doing so is beyond measure. Will we stop striving long enough to be made complete by the all-sufficient, all-supreme Savior, who is Christ the Lord?

Of course, Paul's letter to the Colossians is not the only place we see Jesus exalted in this way.

The entirety of Scripture points to Him as our Hope and our Redeemer. Later this month, we will begin a series of messages from the book of Ruth entitled: Readied and Redeemed, where we find a picture of the redemption that only Christ can offer. Indeed, this is much more than a story about the love and faithfulness of a Moabite woman. This is about the need we all have to lie down at the feet of our Redeemer in full surrender to His will – that we too might be saved.

Matt Harman

As Johnson Oatman wrote in his famous hymn:

I ask not for the highest place, but find a spot more sweet;

Where God bestows on me His grace, at my Redeemer's feet.

Come joy or pain, come weal or woe, in Christ I am complete;

My highest place is lying low, at my Redeemer's feet.

April 2015

Mark Your Calendar

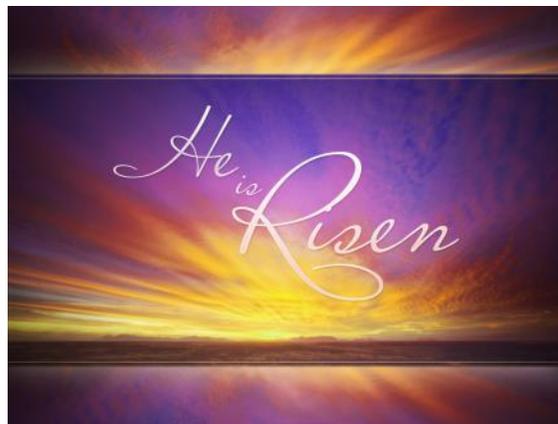
- April 6th - MOPS
- April 6th - Centershot Archery begins
- April 11th - Anchored Paintball Skirmish
- April 12th - Culture Clash
- April 19th - Readied + Redeemed, new sermon series in Ruth begins
- April 20th - MOPS
- April 29th - Servant Leadership Institute

Anchored Youth Schedule

- April 5th - No Meeting; Happy Easter!
- April 11th - Paintball Skirmish
- April 12th - Culture Clash
- April 19th - Regular Meeting
- April 26th - Regular Meeting

Anchored – Sunday Nights from 5:45 PM - 8:15 PM

Contact KJ with any questions
KJ@MontroseEFree.org



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Dan Krug - Protecting our Children

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it” (Proverbs 22:6). The Lord gives us strong admonition about the discipling process. We are to start as early as possible because one of the best ways to scatter “Godly seed” in the world is disciple children who will grow into adults who will be salt and light for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. This responsibility happens first and foremost in the home (Deuteronomy 6:4-7), but it also happens in the loving context of Christian community (Hebrews 10:24, 25) as we proclaim the Gospel and God’s truth for life (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

As we minister to our children, teaching and modeling truth goes hand-in-hand with providing a safe environment in which to learn. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we should be setting the pace for our society when it comes to the care and protection of our children. Protocols, systems, and training should be put in place that enhance safety and effective instruction, and we should always look at this as an investment rather than an expense. Rest assured, church leadership and all of those who serve in children’s ministries care deeply about our children and take seriously the responsibility of protecting our children and the welfare of the entire congregation.

A new child protection law has been enacted that calls for increased efforts concerning background checks and the reporting of child abuse as of July 1, 2015. Thus far, we have been ahead of most in implementing these types of safeguards; however, the new law will require us to renew all of our current background checks and process new volunteers in a different way. The law requires that employees and volunteers who work (or apply to work) in direct contact with children and youth submit documentation from the following:

1. Pennsylvania State Police criminal record information,
2. Child abuse history certified by the state police as to whether the person is named as an alleged perpetrator in a pending child abuse investigation, or a perpetrator of an indicted or founded child abuse report; and, depending on the status of your Pennsylvania residency,
3. Federal criminal history record information with a full set of fingerprints.

While compliance with this law may cause some momentary inconvenience in the months ahead, it is intended to foster an even safer environment for the children here at Montrose E-Free. Next month, we will be asking our parents, guardians, and volunteers to attend an informational meeting and training session that will further explain the implementation of our Child Protection Policy. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns in regard to these changes, please feel free to contact me (Pastor Dan) at any time.

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KJ Ozolins - Training our Teachers

Although the remnants of snow on the ground may lead you to think otherwise, summer is just around the corner! While summer means many different things, at Montrose E-Free, we will be kicking off our summer ministries with Vacation Bible School the week of June 22-26. We are extremely excited about having children from across the community joining us for SonSpark Labs, an interactive and engaging experience that shows how even the scientific laws that are at work around us point to our great and awesome God and His plan for saving His people.

Why am I talking about Vacation Bible School when there's still snow on the ground? Because if you're planning on helping with VBS or anywhere else in our children's ministries, we want you to be fully prepared for this incredible opportunity. As Pastor Dan has mentioned, we are taking the new child protection laws as a chance to revamp the training that we offer all those who work in our children's and student ministries. While we often think of students as those who are currently enrolled in school, I firmly believe we should all be lifetime learners and looking for opportunities to continue to grow in how we bring glory to our great God.

One of the greatest hesitations I get from people who are interested in serving in children's ministry is that they don't know how to get involved or feel ill-equipped to teach children. We are currently working on putting together a comprehensive teacher and helper training program, including a thorough classroom management policy. This will allow our teachers and to be fully equipped to effectively minister to the students in their care. In addition, it will provide parents with appropriate expectations for how their children will be received and cared for in their various classes.

To kick off these new policies, we will be gathering both parents and teachers together for a time of fellowship, questions and answers as well as a thorough training for anybody working in children's ministry. Our goal in all of this is to be provide a safe environment for our children to learn about the good news of Jesus Christ, so please keep your eyes and ears open for details regarding this upcoming training. I look forward to speaking with many of you about these new policies as we put them into place and providing you all with the tools that you need to effectively minister to the children of our church and community.

VBS Coming June 22-26, 2015
9:00 AM – 12:15 PM Each Day
@ Montrose E-Free



April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6am Men's Prayer 9:30am Ladies Inductive Study 5:30pm Seder	2 6:30pm Mosaic Pieces	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter 9:30am Worship Service	6 9:30am MOPS 6pm Centershot	7 8am Ladies Prayer	8 6am Men's Prayer 9:30am Ladies Inductive Study 5:30pm Faith Family Night	9	10	11 8am Anchored Paintball Skirmish
12 9:30am Worship Service 6pm Culture Clash	13 6pm Centershot	14 8am Ladies Prayer	15 6am Men's Prayer 9:30am Ladies Inductive Study 5:30pm Faith Family Night	16	17	18
19 9:30am Worship Service 5:45-8:15pm Anchored	20 9:30am MOPS 6pm Centershot	21 8am Ladies Prayer	22 6am Men's Prayer 9:30am Ladies Inductive Study 5:30pm Faith Family Night	23	24	25
26 9:30am Worship Service 5:45-8:15pm Anchored	27 6pm Centershot	28 8am Ladies Prayer	29 6am Men's Prayer 9:30am Ladies Inductive Study 5:30pm Faith Family Night - SLI	30		

Birthdays

- 1 - Destiny Sterling
- 2 - Mitch Clinton
- 2 - Dave Farley
- 4 - Madeline Mitchell
- 5 - Grace Kocak
- 7 - Deb Mead
- 8 - Clayton Mead
- 9 - Craig Weyandt (m)
- 10 - Aidan Draper (m)
- 11 - Katelyn Farley
- 13 - Ron Nash
- 15 - Tori Auckland
- 16 - Michael Nash
- 17 - Mary Ring
- 18 - Jason Auckland
- 22 - Kenny Cuomo
- 22 - Jerry Pennay Sr.
- 23 - Bruce Korty
- 24 - L.J. Upright
- 28 - Melissa Davidson
- 28 - Bob Earl
- 29 - Daniel Fahringer
- 30 - Lynn Clark (m)
- 30 - Sam Roszel

Anniversaries

- 15 - Jamie & Jessie Holbert
- 20 - Jerry & Carron Wood

(m) - Missionary