

Missionary Messenger

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Loneliness and Koinonia

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Each one must examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. Now if we judged ourselves properly, we would not come under judgment. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world. ~ I Corinthians 11:23-32 (BSB)

I have been studying what Scripture has to say about our spiritual fellowship that we are supposed to have with other Christians. The Greek word for this type of fellowship is "koinonia". I have been showing all of you how our Koinonia is the blood in the body of Christ, which is the church. I have taken us through studies that clearly show that the terms: body and blood of the Lord are used in three distinct ways. The first is the actual physical body and the literal blood of Jesus Christ. The second is the symbolic body and blood of the Lord in the elements in our communion ceremony. The third is more of a mystery. We are clearly told that the Church of Jesus Christ is the body of Christ. The blood is the mystery. I am convinced that the blood of the Church is the Holy Spirit interacting from believer to believer through relationship. Another word for this interaction is Koinonia!

A clear symptom, in the church, of lack of spiritual fellowship, i.e. Koinonia, is the rampant loneliness that has become prevalent in the US Church. A recent article in Christianity Today stated that the Christians who have confessed the feeling of loneliness is not that much different from those who do not profess to be Christians. [The Riddle of Church Loneliness | Christianity Today](#) Some of these findings did have a lot to do with the shutdown that was caused by Covid. However, the statistics taken after the pandemic still have not changed as much as they should have.

Because of all of this I have been continuing my series on Koinonia. Please make plans to join me on Sunday mornings as we examine what the Bible has to say about our spiritual fellowship.

In Christ, Pastor Ken

For references please also see this article. [31% of U.S. Adults Report Feeling Lonely At Least Some of Each Day - Barna Group](#)



Remember to pray for our students, teachers, staff, and parents as they start the new school year this month. Pray for safety and a smooth adjustment.

Thank you for the prayers for the Shift Conference last month. It went well. Here is a letter from our new conference president.

"Dear Missionary Church,

I am honored to be writing you for the first time as president of this incredible family of churches. I am both humbled by your trust in me and excited to see what God has in store for us.

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and my family to you and ask you to pray for us and our church as we make this transition. I hope to get to know as many of you as possible over the next couple of years! Also, I was asked to share a brief word at the final session of last week's SHIFT National Conference. I wanted to share that with you, too, so that you can get a glimpse of the vision we have for the future and also experience the powerful time of reconciliation, prayer, and worship that we ended the week with.

As we move forward into the next season of ministry, I can't wait to share the many great stories of what God is doing across our nation and world! Be sure to follow us on Instagram and Facebook, and please send me photos and stories to share of what God is doing in your church and your region!

Looking forward to seeing you soon,
Rodney"



SIXTH ANNUAL MISSIONARY CHURCH



Free Admission

September 18-19, 2023

Life Community Church, Fort Wayne

The theme this year is "Unceasing Prayer".

Go to <https://mcusa.org/prayerawakening> for more information.



UPCOMING
YOUTH EVENT

NERF battle

Where: **Manchester Missionary Church**
806 IN-114, North Manchester, IN 46962

When: **Sunday, August 13th** from **2-6pm**
(Food provided following event)

What: Bring your Nerf Gear if you have some, we will divvy extras if you do not.



CONNECTION NOTES:

**From the Pew: Don't be a Pew Rider!
The Ministry of the Pew.**

The synonyms for pew are bench, seat, slip, and stall according to Thesaurus.com. The word originated in the 14th century and originally meant "a compartment in the auditorium of a church providing seats for several people". (Merriam-Webster.com)

Now move the definition several centuries forward. We view the pews as a place to sit. Pews are a place of comfort while we sit and hear about God's Word, about His message. Yes. That is true. But if you really stop to think about it, it becomes a little ironic, or maybe, a lot ironic! We sit in comfort while we hear a message designed to get us out of our comfort zone and serving God! We sit in comfort when we should be serving in humility!

I read an article recently about how we can break out of this comfort Pew mentality. It lead me to consider ways I can humbly serve our congregation in our church auditorium. I wanted to offer up some of those ideas for us to consider.

One such idea is that, even if I don't have a role in the Sunday service, I have a role in welcoming others to the service. Can I reach out my hand and tell someone, whether I know them or not, that it was good to see them in church? If someone comes to church that I don't know, can I walk up and ask their name and say hi? If someone seems reluctant to connect to others, can I take the chance to smile and say hi? And if there is one who seems troubled, can I offer to pray for them, right there and/or through the week?

The second greatest commandment Jesus gave us was to love others like we love ourselves. Pastor has been speaking a lot about koinonia, believers fellowship, community, and connection. I fully believe that this trait is vital to the life of the local body of Christ, the church. The test of our koinonia may very well be whether we can leave the

comfort of our pews to step out in the humility of service to love one another as Christ decreed.

Let's see if we can get a little uncomfortable for Christ this month!

Sue

CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

2023/2024 School Year Start Teacher Breakfast: Thursday, August 3 @ 8a - in the Gather Room.

Thank you for all the supplies you have provided. Please remember all food for the breakfast is due at the church by Wednesday evening.

Ladies on the Move: Saturday, August 5 @ 8:30a

We are going to explore Middlebury with lunch at Das Essenhaus. Please let Sue know by Friday 4th if you plan to go.

Telling Room: Tuesday, August 8 & 22 @ 5:30p

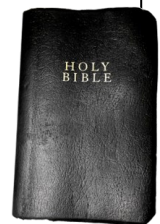
Come connect and share what God is doing in your life.

Gather @the Fire: Sunday, August 13 @ 5:30p

We will be making pudgy pie pizza's. Come join us for a very relaxing time of connection.

Memory Verse of the Month!

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. (BSB)*



Who Are We?

Pastor: Ken Sistrunk 260-229-5949 (cell)
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Elders: Dave Jackson (vice-chairman),
Tim Baker, Jon Gnagy

Directors:
Outreach: Sue Howard
Stewardship: Tim Baker
Worship: Jon Gnagy

Secretary: Joanne Sistrunk
manchestermissionary@gmail.com

