

stay connected

We connect people to Jesus and help God change their lives.



Run with Endurance

by Pastor Nate Crandall

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

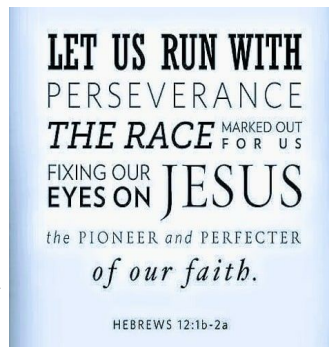
Hebrews 12:1-2

Endurance is the word for this season. We don't know when this crisis and the accompanying social distancing, shelter in place, safer at home directives will be over. The changes which have been placed on us all have created stress, confusion, and bunch of emotions. We haven't traveled this way before, but we will get through it in a little while and become stronger in the process.

I have been a runner since I was a teenager. One of the things that you learn as a runner is that the more you check your watch for time and distance, the longer the run seems. It's always better to focus your attention on your breathing, your technique or most importantly on your goal. It makes the time seem to go faster and it helps you run better as well.

You may be tempted to check all

of the conditions and the news about the health crisis, but all your digging will not make it go away one bit faster. But if instead you follow the instructions of Hebrews 12, you will find that you will grow in spiritual strength and endurance while you wait for it to be over. The Lord endured the cross because he was looking forward to the joy of being with his children forever. His wasn't looking at the pain but at the promise.



Let me encourage you today to take advantage of this surreal experience. Look at it as a gift from the Lord to weed out the non-essentials in your life. These are the things that get in the way of your daily vision of the Lord Jesus. Instead of being anxious about when things will go back to normal or worrying about if you will be infected with the virus, concern yourself with what the Lord wants to do in you this season. If you fix your eyes on him, I know that he will speak to your heart. Look at him instead of the stuff. When you keep your eyes on him, that's where true life, peace and satisfaction is found.

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The Lord is Risen!

**Join us for Easter
and Communion
online!**

**April 11th at
10:30 a.m.**

Go to

www.theconnecting.church/worshiponline

Even Though the Building is Closed, the Church is NOT Closed

Join us for worship online!

Our service begins at our usual time of 10:30 a.m.

Go to www.theconnecting.church/worshiponline for how to connect online to our worship service, Grow Groups, Bible studies and ministries.

Grow Groups

Join our study taught by Nick Kersten, *Unweaving the Old Testament*, at 9:00 a.m. online by using the Zoom app. Go to <https://zoom.us/j/7653356374>. Want to call in? Dial 312-626-6799. When prompted, enter the meeting ID#: 765 335 6374.

Want to join our Church Membership class already in progress? We are just on week 2 of our 8 week class, so it's not too late to join. Go to <https://zoom.us/j/8586020079>. Class starts at 9:00 am.

Getting the most out of **WORSHIP ONLINE**



Get out of bed and get dressed

It will help put you in the right mindset.

Do your normal Sabbath morning routine

except for "Get in the car, we'll be late".

Gather together as a family

Remove distractions. Worship is a family activity.

Quiet activities for the young children.

Watch on your largest screen that can stream

It will be more engaging like you are there.

Sing along and participate

Sing loud and proud. Look up scripture. Take notes.

Song lyrics and sermon notes will be available at theconnecting.church/WorshipOnline

Sermon Talk Back – Sabbaths at 3:00 p.m.

Join the online discussion with Pastor Nate to talk about the Sabbath morning message. Download the Zoom app and go to <https://zoom.us/j/7653356374> at 3 p.m. on Sabbath afternoon. To kick-start our discussion, each week a leading question will be in the Friday Update. If you don't get the Friday Update email, please email Janet at churchoffice@miltonsdb.org.

Chat with Pastor Nate – 3:00 p.m. daily

This is a stressful time for us all. Want to see some friendly faces?

Go to <https://zoom.us/j/7653356374> at 3:00 p.m.

and connect with Pastor Nate and anyone else who joins in.

There's no need to feel like you are all alone!



Pie and Praise – Sabbath April 4, 4:00 p.m.

WE WILL BE MEETING ONLINE VIA ZOOM!

Do you have a "YES GOD!" story to share? Then let's share it together!

Make sure to download the Zoom app and then go to

<https://zoom.us/j/7653356374> at 4:00 pm on April 4th.

Although our pies may be virtual, our praises will be powerful!

Plan to make this a part of your Easter season as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Prayer Focus – Pray Like Jesus Prayed!

by Renee Sanford, Prayer Coordinator

For the last two months we have focused on pressing on to know the Lord. We approach the celebration of the resurrection with turmoil all around us. What comfort we can find by fixing our eyes on Jesus. The night before He died to save us, he prayed for his disciples. Here are prayers based on His profound prayers for us:

Thank you, Precious Savior that

- We are and will always be with Jesus and will see more and more of His glory
- We are saved, made holy and forgiven, and completely in your care
- We have received eternal life – knowing the one true God and Jesus Christ who he sent
- We belong to Jesus and to the Father
- The love of the Father for the Son is in us



Help us remember to pray for ourselves and for others that

- Our faith would not fail
- We would strengthen and encourage others
- We would not enter into temptation
- Our wills would be aligned with and yielded to yours
- We would obey out of love and trust
- The Father and Son would be glorified through us and that we would receive glory from Jesus
- We would know God's character and nature – all that Jesus chooses to reveal
- We would know the truth that Jesus spoke and keep God's word
- We would be protected from the evil one and from the world by the power of Jesus name
- The joy of Jesus would be fulfilled in us
- We would be one with Jesus and the Father, intimately known and knowing
- We would be sanctified – set aside as holy for your service
- We would be able to live in the world but not be of it
- We would be sent into the world as Jesus was
- The world would observe our lives & hear our words and so know that the Father sent the Son
- The world would see the great love the Father has for us

If you would like the full list of His prayers for us with scripture references, please contact me! I'd be happy to share.



POWER OF PRAYER

Awana Grand Prix Races On! *By Angie Mullen, Awana Director*

Boy are we glad, in light of all the events that happened in the days immediately following our Awana Grand Prix, that we were able to hold our annual pinewood-style car race as we have for the last 12 years. 40 cars were entered in this year's race and the Fellowship Hall was filled with much excitement joy as the cars reached the finish line. We are so thankful for the many, many people who helped make this event a memorable experience for the families that participated. Pastor Nate shared a crystal clear gospel message and we are trusting that God will use those words to open minds and hearts for those who have not yet made a decision to follow accept Jesus' gift of salvation.



Here are the results of the 4 categories of races.



Cubbies winners: Cade Kersten – speed and Sydney Rotzoll – design



Sparks winners: (left to right) Lainey Smerud – 2nd place design, Drake Gunder – 2nd place speed, Mason Loofboro – 1st place speed, Austin Douglas – 1st place design



Open Class winners: Tal Kersten – speed and Genna Mullen – design



T&T winners: (left to right) Sophia Kersten – 2nd place speed, Emma Smerud – 1st place speed, Ellie Green – 2nd place design, and Morgan Anderson – 1st place design, not pictured.



Announcing Camp Wakonda Dates

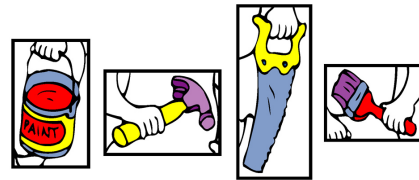
VBS
No Camps on 4th of July Week
4th-5th-6th Grade Camp
7th-8th-9th Grade Camp
10th-11th-12th Grade Camp

June 22 – 26
June 28 – July 4
July 5 – 10 (Sun.-Fri.)
July 12 – July 19
July 19 – July 26

Registration Forms & Counselor Applications are online at theconnecting.church/wakonda

Calling All Wise Guys

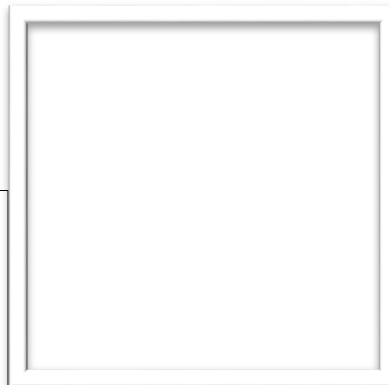
Sunday, May 3rd from 8:00 a.m. – Noon
at Camp Wakonda
Stay tuned for further updates and details!



Awana Zoom meetings are Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. The Zoom meeting will include pledges, songs, games, and a Large Group message. And we will be able to see and talk with each other! Awana Small Group Lessons are on YouTube for clubbers to watch at a time that's good for your family.

The ZOOM meeting ID is 858 602 0079

YouTube links for Small groups are on the Milton SDB Church Awana Club Facebook PAGE (not Group).



Collision Meeting on Zoom
on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m.
The ZOOM meeting ID is 765 335 6374.



Operation Christmas Child April Items

We will resume our collection when we can gather again at the church.

- Non-Liquid Hygiene Items:** toothbrushes, small tissues, mild bar soap, wash cloths, brushes/combs, fun band aids, lip balms
Extra Accessories: hair clips, bows or ties, girls' bling, watches, toy jewelry, stickers, lipstick, compact mirrors, children's underwear or shoes

Germany to Sri Lanka and Back *by Nathaniel Muench*

When we flew to Sri Lanka on March 3rd, the virus hadn't gotten as big yet and there were still no reports of it in Sri Lanka, which meant I could eat rice and curry with my hands without getting sick.

We were 5 in total, John from New Zealand, Marlon and Andrea (who now live in Sri Lanka full time), Naomi and me.

The first week we spent traveling around the



coast, connecting with people and surfing. There is one small skate park (more of just a ramp) in the south and I talked a bit with the guys who built it and owned it. A couple days later I met with a friend that Zac worked with in Dubai who opened a hostel in the south. It was so encouraging hearing his story of how God led him and his wife there and the way He is continuing to use them.



After a few days there we headed to Arugam Bay. This is the village we stayed on the last trip to Sri Lanka. Marlon and Andrea had rented a house there that we would be fixing up and getting in order for ministry. We arrived on the 14th with the plan to stay a week.

The next morning we went to church and got a bite to eat and headed home. We got a phone call and then a knock at the door. The locals of the village had gathered the night before and told the people who we were renting the property from that we needed to leave because they thought we were bringing the virus to them since there was no other tourists there. They told us we could go to the hospital in Colombo (the capital city) about a 9-hour bus ride away and get a paper saying we didn't have the virus and then they would welcome this back. This wasn't much of an option though because Andrea was fighting a normal cold. But to keep good relations we needed to leave. Within the hour we were on a bus to another location 8 hours away in the central north.

We stayed there a night. Then the government shut down the area, so we headed south to a mountain village and stayed there a couple days.

Things started getting worse – the news said the United States borders were shut. The European Union shut theirs too. Propaganda was being blasted in the streets. People would cover their faces when we walked by. If you knew any Italians or South Koreans in the hotels or locals hostels you were required to turn them in to the police because the virus was in Italy and Korea.

We decided we would try and fly back to Germany and New Zealand before they shut down the airports, so we booked a flight for Friday the 20th. We took the long bus to Colombo Thursday the 19th and later that day the army came in and shut down the village and all the tourist went south.

We (John, Naomi and I) got to the airport only to find that all flights were canceled. There was no way out! We were praying and praying, not sure what to do. The airport was filling up with angry travelers.

We tried getting ahold of embassies and talking back and forth with parents. Germany was saying all Germans should return home. Things were getting more and more heated.

Naomi and I were able to get one of the only 2 flights out that night back to Germany via the middle east. John was still stranded for 30 more hours before he flew out Saturday night to the United Kingdom. John said when he left they were planning on the airport shutting down and the country had gone into a mandatory quarantine. Marlon and Andrea went to the south to camp out with some Sri



Continued on page 7

Zac in Spain *by Renee Sanford*

This update was prepared in early March – before Spain went into lockdown due to the coronavirus. As of mid-March no one could leave home without permission even to go to the grocery store, pharmacy or doctor. Please keep praying for Zac's safety and for wisdom. Every Monday night we meet at a local pool hall to spend time with the Calling All Skaters family and skater friends we have met. Two of the guys we've been getting to know are Matt from Michigan and David from France. Over the past couple of months, they've heard the Gospel multiple times. They are both searching for answers. Please be praying for them.

This is a picture of some of the skaters that come to the bible study.



God has been teaching me about freedom in Him. It's so it easy for me to become overwhelmed with the decisions I need to make here. What if I make the wrong decision? But God recently told me, "I'm pleased with you, and I trust you to make decisions." It's quite freeing to know that I can simply live life and make decisions knowing that He trusts me and will turn everything out for good. One of the things I need to trust Him for is my Spanish visa – which requires insurance. Over the past month I've visited the insurance office ten times (!), simply trying to purchase insurance. Finally I got through all the hoops – so now I am waiting for government approval.

The biggest decision I am facing is whether or not to cancel the upcoming Discipleship Training School that we've been planning for this April due to the coronavirus. I know that if God wants this school to happen, it will. Please be praying for wisdom over the decision we need to make.

Praises:

- We are building relationships with local skaters and have gotten to share Jesus
- God is still present and still speaking
- Praises that God has given solid community

Prayer Requests:

- Wisdom for the next steps to take with the school + for the 6 confirmed students & 2 staff
- Matt & David, for their salvation
- For our visas to get renewed and no complications
- There is a soccer DTS here ready to leave for outreach, but due to the coronavirus, they're unable to leave. Please pray for wisdom and direction over the leaders

Germany to Sri Lanka and Back, *continued*

Lankan friends while the drama passed. I was a bit nervous getting back into Germany since they shut their borders to all foreign tourists. We had a layover in Dubai and I had to show papers to get on the plane to back Germany proving that I wasn't a tourist. As I looked

around before boarding the flight everyone had their passports out and I was the only foreigner on that flight. Upon arrival in Frankfurt, the airport was so desolate and there were very few people there. I was praying hard that I would be allowed to leave, and as I approached the desk for immi-

gration, I had no problems at all. I made it. Praise God!

Now the state of Bavaria where I live has 2 weeks of quarantine. Thank you all for your prayers. I am praying for you.

Nathaniel



April

BIRTHDAYS
& ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Nathaniel Muench
- 2 Gary Groelle
- 5 Jon Cruzan
- 6 *Randy & Marcy Kersten*
- 11 Corbin Kersten
- 13 Marcy Kersten
- 15 Elizabeth Camenga
- 16 Melissa Lade
- 17 John Harris
- 19 *Jim & Linda Lyke*
- 21 Lindsey Call
- 24 Isaac Harris
- 29 Mickey Johnson
- 29 Pam Adams

Bulletin Board

April Scripture Memory Verse

Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf! Psalm 66:5



Day for Refugees May 23rd

Guest speaker, Rev. Andy Samuels, Chief Executive Director of the SDB Missionary Society will be sharing about the refugee situation in Uganda. *Stay tuned for more details.*

Devon Oasis Diaper Drive

We are extending our collection of diapers – sizes 3, 4 and 5 – and baby wipes for Devon Oasis. When life gets back to "normal", we will send gather the rest of the diapers and send them to our partner in ministry for those refugee families in need.

Don't forget about the Deacon's Fund!

If you have a need please contact Pastor Liz at (608) 289-3029 or pastorliz@miltonsdb.org.

We can help out a bit if you are having needs because of the Pandemic. Likewise, if God has richly blessed you and you are able to contribute to the fund, now is the time! We expect there may be increased needs within our church family. You can mail donations to the church office. Thank you for your generosity as we love one another.

Men's Breakfast

All men are welcome to join in this time of study and fellowship.

Led by Pastor Nate.

Meets every Weds. at 6:30 a.m.

Zoom Virtual Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/7653356374>

Third Thursday Prayer

April 16th, 6:30 p.m.

Zoom Virtual Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/7653356374>

A time to pray as the Holy Spirit leads – for our church, our families, our communities, the world. Prayers for God's will to be done are powerful!

Capital Campaign Update

As of February 29, 2020

Starting Balance	\$ 2,505.00
Total Income	\$35,762.24
Total Expenses	\$14,430.44
Fund Balance	\$23,836.80



If you feel led to take one of the envelopes still on the money wall for March or April, just call or email Janet in the Church office.

Focus on Funds

as of February 29, 2020

General Fund Balance	\$11,947.70
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$66,449.72
Feb. Undesignated Income	\$17,900.75
Feb. Total Income	\$25,239.40
Feb. Expenses	\$19,427.09
Denomination Giving YTD	\$ 2,622.00

April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
<div style="border: 1px solid purple; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Sabbath Sunset Times</p> <p>April 3 7:25 p.m. April 4 7:26 p.m. April 10 7:33 p.m. April 11 7:34 p.m. April 17 7:41 p.m. April 18 7:42 p.m. April 24 7:49 p.m. April 25 7:50 p.m.</p> </div>			1	2	3	4
			6:30 Men's Breakfast - Zoom 9:30 Ladies Bible Study - Zoom 6:25 Awana - Zoom 6:30 Collision - Zoom	9:30 Ladies Bible Study - Zoom		9:00 Grow Groups - Zoom 10:30 Worship - Facebook/YouTube 3:00 Sermon Talk Back - Zoom 4:00 Pie & Praise - Zoom
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Chat with Pastor Nate 3:00 p.m. Daily on Zoom https://zoom.us/j/7653356374</p> </div>			6:30 Men's Breakfast - Zoom 9:30 Ladies Bible Study - Zoom 6:25 Awana - Zoom 6:30 Collision - Zoom	9:30 Ladies Bible Study - Zoom		9:00 Grow Groups - Zoom 10:30 Worship - Facebook/YouTube Easter Celebration, Communion 3:00 Sermon Talk Back - Zoom
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			6:30 Men's Breakfast - Zoom 9:30 Ladies Bible Study - Zoom 6:25 Awana - Zoom 6:30 Collision - Zoom	9:30 Ladies Bible Study - Zoom 6:30 Third Thursday Prayer - Zoom		9:00 Grow Groups - Zoom 10:30 Worship - Facebook/YouTube 3:00 Sermon Talk Back - Zoom
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			6:30 Men's Breakfast - Zoom 9:30 Ladies Bible Study - Zoom 6:25 Awana - Zoom 6:30 Collision - Zoom	9:30 Ladies Bible Study - Zoom		9:00 Grow Groups - Zoom 10:30 Worship - Facebook/YouTube 3:00 Sermon Talk Back - Zoom
26	27	28	29	30		
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Director of Children's Ministry:
Angie Mullen

Prayer Coordinator:
Renee Sanford

Outreach Coordinator:
Linda Lyke

Parish Nurse:
Barb Green

Camp Wakonda:
Pastor Nate Crandall

Communications Coordinator:
Joel Osborn



"I have
seen
the **Lord!**"

JOHN 20:18, NIV