

get connected

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



Good Friday is the day that Christians everywhere remember the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The pandemic has provided a unique opportunity this Good Friday for us as Seventh Day Baptists to join together across North America and even around the world. On April 2nd at 7:00 pm CST, join with your SDB brothers and sisters for the first ever, fully bilingual English/Spanish, virtual Good Friday service.



You will hear devotions from Pastor Helmer Umana of Iglesia Cristiana Bautista del Septimo Dia, Pastor Johnmark Camenga of the Lost Creek Seventh Day Baptist Church, and Pastor Andy Samuels, Director of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society. In addition, musical guests who represent our diversity as SDBs (including our very own Brandon Crandall) will be sharing songs which highlight the Lord's sacrifice on the cross.

You will not want to miss this! For more information and for links to tune in to the service, please visit www.seventhdaybaptist.org/goodfriday."

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RESURRECTION CELEBRATION Worship and Communion

Sabbath, April 3rd
10:30 a.m.

In-person and online

<https://www.youtube.com/theconnectingchurch>



New Study for Spring Sabbath School!

by Pastor Liz Green

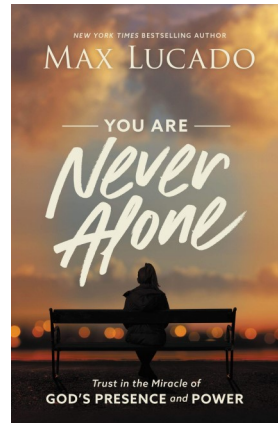
We will finish the Lee Strobel study ***The Case for Easter*** on Resurrection Sabbath, April 3. Then we will have a one week review of Nine Arts on April 10. Starting on April 17, we will begin a six week study by Max Lucado, ***You are Never Alone***.

When life feels depleted, does God care? I'm facing an onslaught of challenges, will God help? When life grows dark and stormy, does God notice? I'm facing the fear of death,

will God help me? The answer in the life-giving miracles in the Gospel of John is a resounding *yes*.

In *You Are Never Alone*, Max will help you:

- Realize that Jesus is walking with you and lifting you out of your storms.
- Dwell in the grace of the



cross, the miracle of the empty tomb, and the assurance of restoration power.

- Believe that God is your ever-present source of help.
- Recognize that you are never without hope or strength because you are never, ever, alone.

Today, take courage that you are stronger than you think because God is nearer than you know.

Prayer Focus for April

Loving and Serving Our Neighbors *by Renee Sanford*

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:30-31)

In our Grow Group, we were challenged by Andy Stanley to ask "What does love require of me?" Well, one thing (see the scripture above) is that God requires us to love our neighbors. In the sermon series on Joseph, Pastor Nate called us to gladly serve. Now that it's spring, we can get out and about more. So for our April prayer focus, let's ask God to show us ways to love and serve our neighbors.

LORD, help us know our neighbors – their names, their interests, their needs.*

- Make us good neighbors to everyone that we meet – let us see the best in them and desire the best for them.
- Remind us that everyone we meet is precious in your sight – made in your image.
- Help us notice, love and welcome our neighbors into our lives.
- Show us ways to bless our neighbors – through our prayers, our conversation and our actions.
- Let us seek peace with those we live near – give us grace to bear with any discord. Send your Spirit to guide us in reconciliation.
- Make us faithful in praying for our neighbors.*
- Open the doors for spiritual conversations with our

neighbors – guide us in asking questions and listening to our neighbors.

- Give us opportunities and boldness to share how we are experiencing the goodness of God.
- Show us where you are at work in hearts and lives of our neighbors, so we can come alongside and connect them to Jesus – helping God change their lives.
- Let us be salt and light in our neighborhoods.
- May you be glorified in our relationships with our neighbors.

*Many of us don't know our neighbors. This is a great "app" – that will help you get to know them and guide you in praying for them: [website @blesseveryhome.com](http://blesseveryhome.com).



Announcing This Year's Dates

Vacation Bible School (Grades K-3rd)
June 28 – July 2, afternoons

Intermediate Camp (Grades 4th – 6th)
July 5 – 10, Monday – Saturday

Camp Collision (Grades 7th – 12th)
July 11 – 18, Sunday – Sunday

More details coming soon!



April 2021	
7	Club
14	Club
21	Club
28	Last Club Night
May 5	Awards Night



April 2021	
7	Collision
14	Collision
21	Collision
28	Pizza Night

The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations

Jesus as well as his disciples, were intentional in engaging spiritual seekers and walking with them on the discipleship journey. Using Jesus' example, these 9 Arts open doors for drawing spiritual seekers to Christ.

You can think of the nine arts in groups of three:

Getting Ready: Noticing, Praying, Listening

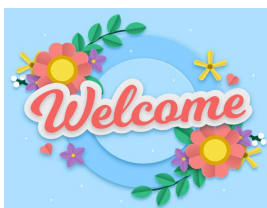
Getting Started: Asking Questions, Loving, **Welcoming***

Keeping It Going: Facilitating, Serving Together, Sharing



*Featured Art: The Art of Welcoming by Linda Lyke

It is no surprise that the Art of Welcoming follows the Art of Loving. Being Welcoming requires loving. What is welcoming? We often define welcoming in our culture as “inviting someone to dinner.” However the New Testament



term for hospitality or welcoming means “lover of strangers.”

Another definition includes reaching out to people I don't have a lot in common with. Am I making you uncomfortable? Well, I hope so – and I am also! Jesus was all about going against cultural norms, making people feel uncomfortable.

Look at the scripture:

Luke 15:2 *Jesus was eating with sinners and tax collectors and the Pharisees said, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”*

I have to be honest, it's a lot more comfortable to hang with people who think and look more like me.

How can I apply this Art to my everyday life? Welcoming does not have to be complicated.

With masks on these days, we have an advantage of only looking at eyes, not being distracted by more. Look someone in the eyes, warmly welcome them as someone made in the image of Jesus. Be open, non judgmental, a caring presence.

The simple act of getting curious about the gas station clerk and asking a question is welcoming them into conversation.

Or I challenge you to talk to someone at church or at work that you don't know very well.

Think of where you are every day: at work, in school, in the store, in your neighborhood and home. Or on Zoom! Who does God bring into your life and how can you welcome them?

An example in my own life: Jim and I felt welcomed, loved the first time we came to our church – and here we are 18 years later. Everyone was so friendly. Growing up Catholic, I thought very differently than what was being taught in this church. But because of the welcoming atmosphere, we didn't run the other way.

Another example: I have been trying to welcome a young woman who has many messes in her life by just listening and showing her Jesus' love. She is a difficult person to love, I admit. But God has placed her in my life for a reason.

Welcoming or hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. God is the one who does the changing. When someone is struggling and needs a friend, are we a “gateway” to them being introduced to Jesus? Sometimes this does not come naturally so we have to be intentional and practice it – practice makes perfect, right?

Learn from the participants in the 9 Arts Grow Group

by Carl Greene, Executive Director of the SDB General Conference USA and Canada Ltd

Some of the participants in the 9 Arts Grow Group last fall wrote about the impact of the class. Carl Greene shares how various arts, including the Art of Listening, reflected on his training in listening and how God uncovered a blind spot in his life.

A problem that I learned about through 9 Arts was actually a blind spot concerning listening. I am trained in listening through pastoral training, chaplaincy training, and organizational development training. At my current vocational work, I purposefully listen in my administrative roles for building collaborative frameworks and truly celebrating people. Finally, as a relatively new neighbor after moving a couple years ago, I am intentionally asking ques-

tions of the people around us to truly get to know them and open the door for conversation that scratch deeper surfaces than the weather. I have been applying lessons learned from my study of missional church and relationship evangelism. Yet, this study uncovered a large rock that was out of place in priorities.

In discussing some of my strengths with my coach, he asked me how I am doing at listening to my family – the people closest to me. The brake lights came on in my mind at this point. I am so intentional about listening in a variety of places in life, that I am tired of listening by the time I get to the sanctity of my home. I want to be able to be heard by the time I get home, and have not been as effective

a listener as God has called me to be. I believe that something that the 9-Arts book helped to uncover is the art of listening, as well as a sensitivity to the Spirit's leading. The part of the Spirit's leading (connecting in with praying) requires that I am emotionally and spiritual-ly healthy. If I am not healthy, I will not notice, let alone listen. I am striving for healthier rhythms of listening in my various roles to ensure that I am not simply looking to be heard when I get home.

So, I guess I really like the conversational rhythm that the 9 Arts Book provides, along with the need to be mindful of the multiple spheres of influence that I am vested in. This is especially true at home and with the people that I am closest to.

Your Chance to Serve at GIFTS *by Linda Lyke, Outreach Coordinator*



The mission of GIFTS is to show Christ's love to homeless men in Rock County by advancing renewal and hope through a unified Christian effort.

What is different this spring about our church's involvement in GIFTS? You can volunteer to serve the meal or do an overnight again!! By the time our church's week

arrives, all the men staying at the shelter will have had their second COVID vaccine.

Here's what you need to know:

Our week to serve/provide meals at the shelter is **Mon., April 19 to Thurs., April 22.**

Sign up to bring the food items. Food is donated by our church and Pam Adams makes a delicious meal each of those nights. Two to three volunteers are needed to serve the food. Volunteers arrive at 6 p.m.

One person is needed to pick up donated salad and rolls from Texas Roadhouse at 5:45 p.m. on each of those evenings.

Two volunteers (a married couple or two men) are needed to stay the night only on Monday, April 19th. Volunteers arrive 7:30 p.m.

Sign up at the Welcome Center or email our church office so you can participate by donating food for our meals or to volunteer.

World on Mission

by Linda Lyke, Outreach Coordinator

In “World on Mission” each month I share a bit about what we learned in the *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* class – because God calls ALL of us to have a part in his mission.

What is his mission?

“God is on mission to be loved, served and worshiped by people from all humanity.” (Perspectives Study Guide - PSG, page 4)

Earlier this year in our Andy Stanley Grow Group class, called “*Christian, It’s Not What You Think*,” God reminded me of something I learned in Perspectives class. Pastor Andy spoke of the Prodigal Son, and how upon his return home, his father says, “Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.” (Luke 15: 23-24)

Rewinding to last August, Renee and Caleb Sanford and my husband Jim and I traveled to Milwaukee to a mosque to bring the diapers and school supplies which our church had collected. The Rohingya Imam (leader of Muslim worshipers) and his family invited us to their home. Some of them were butchering a cow on the porch as we entered their home. This meat was to be eaten at a celebration for their daughter’s engagement the next day. This reminded me of the fat-

tened calf in Luke 15. In Perspectives, they taught us that when there is something in their culture that links to the scriptures, this can sometimes be a “light bulb” going on to the truth of the Gospel. This is called “redemptive analogy.”

The term, redemptive analogy, is explained in the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement Reader in an article by Don Richardson, page 430:

When a missionary enters another culture, he or she is conspicuously foreign. This is to be expected but often the gospel is labeled as foreign too. How can it be explained so that it seems culturally right?

The New Testament approach is to communicate by way of redemptive analogy. Consider this example.

The Jewish people practiced lamb sacrifice. John the Baptist proclaimed Jesus as the perfect, personal fulfillment of that sacrifice by saying, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” This example is a redemptive analogy to bridge the Jewish culture to Jesus as Messiah.

When some charged that Christianity was destroying Jewish culture, the writer of Hebrews showed how Christ actually fulfilled all the central elements of Jewish culture – the priesthood, tabernacle, sacrifices, and even the Sabbath rest.

We call these redemptive analogies because they facil-

itate human understanding of redemption. Their God-ordained purpose is to pre-condition the mind in a culturally significant way to recognize Jesus as Messiah.



Our church's prayer is that redemptive analogies like these will bring many Rohingya to Christ. God is the ultimate connector to our spirit's understanding that He is the one and only Savior. A few examples of redemptive analogies to the Rohingya could be:

Share stories of how God has made a family for them, starting with making Abraham's descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. God is relational, building families up. These can be huge biblical bridges, because of the Roh's strong sense of family, and also with the Rohingya's cultural support of widows and orphans and of those less fortunate – also biblical truths. Since the Rohingya practice a form of Sunni Islam with many Sufi folk elements, like worship of pirs (saints), shrines and magic, they do believe in a spiritual world. It would not be a great

Continued on page 9

What's Up with Zac at YWAM Barcelona?

by Zac Muench

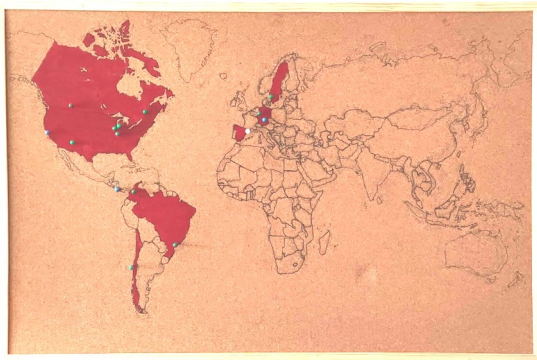
Youth With A Mission Barcelona focuses on art as well as skating.

Because we left our building, we recently hosted our first-ever "*Creatividad en la Calle*" or "Creativity in the Streets." We only had a handful of markers, brushes, and spray paint. Each person found a piece of garbage – yes, garbage – to create a piece of art. We had 13 people there, three of them were new and they really liked it! People actually made some really beautiful things.



Isaac (left) and me (right) at *Creativity in the Streets*

I've been working on a world-wide map of Calling All Skaters – to show our progress, help us see where we want to go, and guide our prayers for each other. We're sharing the names, locations, and contacts of our friends so that people in the skate community can find someone in their region of the world and get connected.



Calling all Skaters locations map

If you would like to check out our weekly "Homie Highlight" post, go to Instagram: callingallskatersofficial and "Homie Highlights" in the highlight section.

Praises & Prayer Requests

- Kat, a regular at our events, continues to seek God – please pray for spiritual growth and visa approvals (she had to go back to Cyprus and is w-a-i-t-i-n-g)
- Claire (from France) also is asking good questions – recently she fell and injured her back. Thanks for praying!
- We're so glad people enjoy the art nights – help us share the love of God with them

- We're moving forward with the "Homie Highlight" vision – LORD help us connect with Christ-centered skaters around the world.
- We're asking prayers for Leo – an American skater raised in Central America – for openness to the gospel.
- And for a new location for our YWAM base – and all the financial support of each of us so we can operate at full capacity.



Some flavors of Spain for me, Kat and Claire (two women who come to our Bible studies seeking to know more about Jesus)

2021 Operation Christmas Child

April Items

Here is a list of items to donate for Operation Christmas Child for the “item of the month.” However, if you see an item at a bargain price, grab it. Place items in the trunk in the back stairway.

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



Operation Christmas Child: The Republic of Georgia

Our church's 281 boxes, packed in November of 2020, were shipped to Georgia, a former Soviet republic in Eastern Europe. It's on the Black Sea, borders Turkey, Russia and Armenia.

According to Pray for the World, 3.3 million of the 4.2 million people in Georgia are Christian, however, only 65,000 of those are evangelical. The fastest growing religion there is “non-religious,” those who claim no religion. How can we pray for the Republic of Georgia and those children who received our boxes?

Pray for peace, and for positive social, economic and political changes. There has been political unrest where inter-ethnic conflicts displaced many people. Pray for less corruption and more democratic reforms, and for the people to continue to be open to Jesus.

Pray for access to God's word and that many find the truth of the gospel through it. The Georgian Orthodox Church stretches back to AD 150! But some have compromised on the truth, following the church

as an expression of nationalism rather than an active spiritual faith.

Pray for the Protestant Church. Since independence from Communist rule in 1991, the Protestant church faces opposition from parts of the Orthodox Church. Pray for mutual respect between the Orthodox and other churches and for all churches to put aside their own plans, and to work together for the benefit of the Kingdom.

Pray for spiritual needs of ethnic minorities:

Abkhazians: are mostly Orthodox, with a Muslim mi-

nority, though under the surface most follow more pagan practices.

Jews: have long known peace here, but now face increased prejudice. No known witness to them exists.

The Kish: are mostly Sunni Muslim; many live in poverty.

The Mingrelians: are largely non-religious in practice. The JESUS film was the first ever film in their language!

The Svaneti people: live in the west in remote mountain villages. Only 1 missionary couple is known to work among this unreached people group.

Major Defense Industry Facilities in Georgia



Bulletin Board

Restored for a Purpose

SDB Conference Theme 2020-2021
Scripture Memory Verse for April

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:31



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

Gospel Learning Communities via zoom

(regular Grow Groups will continue to meet every week)

Group	Day	Time	Host
Men's	April 12	7:30 p.m.	Pastor Nate
Ladies	April 13	9:00 a.m.	Renee Sanford
Men's	April 14	6:30 a.m.	Pastor Nate
		(meeting at Sharla's and zoom)	
Ladies	April 14	9:30 a.m.	Renee Sanford
Ladies	April 15	9:30 a.m.	Pastor Liz
Mixed	April 15	7:00 p.m.	Carl & Cindy Greene

Contact the event host listed or the church office for information on how to connect.

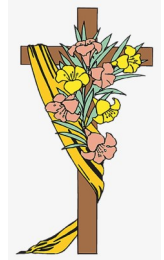


As your spring travel plans pick up, remember to purchase your **Kwik Trip** cards at the church office.

Focus on Funds

as of February 28, 2021

General Fund Balance	\$14,502.25
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$67,756.46
Feb. Undesignated Income	\$12,558.46
Feb. Total Income	\$14,771.54
Feb. Expenses	\$24,474.11
Denomination Giving YTD	\$ 795.30



Capital Campaign Update

As of February 28, 2021

Starting Balance	\$ 2,505.00
Total Income	\$73,445.74
Total Expenses	\$60,655.42
Fund Balance	\$15,295.32

World on Mission, continued

stretch to point them to the biblical Spirit of God, angels and demons, that Jesus is more powerful than any other spirits they may worship. These are a few examples of redemptive analogies, among others,

that could bridge the gap to Christ between the Rohingya's culture and the Bible.

Never cease to pray about your role in the Great Commission: Matt 28:19-20a *Therefore go and make disciples of all*

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						 Resurrection <small>SABBATH</small>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sabbath Sunset Times</p> <p>April 2 7:24 p.m. April 3 7:25 p.m. April 9 7:32 p.m. April 10 7:33 p.m. April 16 7:40 p.m. April 17 7:41 p.m. April 23 7:48 p.m. April 24 7:49 p.m. April 30 7:56 p.m. May 1 7:57 p.m.</p>				1 9:30 Women's Bible Study – zoom	2  GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 Good Friday Virtual Service	3 9:00 Sabbath School – zoom 10:30 Worship & Communion – Sanctuary and YouTube
4 	5 8:00 TOPS – Library 7:30 Men's Bible Study – zoom	6 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip – zoom	7 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study – zoom 6:25 Awana 6:36 Collision – Camp Wakonda	8 9:30 Women's Bible Study – zoom	9	10 9:00 Sabbath School – zoom 10:30 Worship – Sanctuary and YouTube
11	12 8:00 TOPS – Library 7:30 Men's GLC – zoom	13 9:00 Ladies GLC – zoom  Gospel Learning Communities <small>The Christian life cannot be lived in isolation, it is meant to be lived in community with other believers.</small>	14 6:30 Men's GLC – Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's GLC – zoom 6:25 Awana 6:36 Collision – Camp Wakonda	15 9:30 Women's GLC – zoom 7:00 Mixed GLC – zoom	16	17 9:00 Sabbath School – zoom 10:30 Worship – Sanctuary and YouTube
18	19 8:00 TOPS – Library GIFTS Night 7:30 Men's Bible Study – zoom	20 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip – zoom GIFTS Night	21 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study – zoom GIFTS Night 6:25 Awana 6:36 Collision – Camp Wakonda	22 9:30 Women's Bible Study – zoom GIFTS Night	23	24 9:00 Sabbath School – zoom 10:30 Worship – Sanctuary and YouTube
25	26 8:00 TOPS – Library 7:30 Men's Bible Study – zoom	27 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip – zoom	28 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study – zoom 6:25 Awana 6:36 Collision – Camp Wakonda	29 9:30 Women's Bible Study – zoom	30 	



April 2021

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Administrator: Janet Butler
E-mail: churchoffice@miltonsdb.org

Director of Children's Ministry:
Angie Mullen

Prayer Coordinator:
Renee Sanford

Outreach Coordinator:
Linda Lyke

Parish Nurse:
Barb Green

Communications Coordinator:
Joel Osborn



Online Worship

Our Sabbath morning worship service is available **live** on our YouTube channel. Go to <http://TheConnecting.Church/WorshipOnline> for the link.

We are also posting links to the sermon notes on that same page.

If you prefer, you can go directly to <https://www.youtube.com/theconnectingchurch>