

get connected

We connect people to Jesus and equip them to be his disciples.



It feels like summer is just getting underway and it is! Camp Wakonda is still in full session, the 4th of July is barely upon us and sweet corn season hasn't hit its peak yet. There is still plenty of summer left! But the work of planning for the fall is underway. We have been praying for the 2022-23 Awana year since April, asking God to provide the leaders we will need to run this ministry effectively. Now is the time to begin seeking where, how, who God will faithfully provide for these needs as we seek to join him in the work he is doing here.

Our Awana ministry has been blessed with a strong core of dedicated leaders who have literally been doing this for YEARS! They are all HEROES leading kids to the SUPERHERO - JESUS! We have a very veteran staff who lead our children each week, but in the past couple of years, it's been a "skeleton crew". These faithful men and women show up each week; some taking on more than one role to make sure everything is covered. The reality is, to be as effective as we can and meet the needs of the children who walk through our doors, WE NEED MORE HELP on Wednesday nights.



By Angie Mullen, Children's Ministries Director

I thought it might be best for you to hear from those in the trenches, meeting kids and loving them toward a relationship with Jesus each week. They can tell you why they are here, what makes them keep coming, and why they feel qualified to do this work much better than I can. I recently posed some questions to our veteran Awana leaders. Here are some of their brutally honest answers.

Why are you an Awana Leader?

"I am called to serve because I know we have a window of opportunity to share Jesus with children. It is fleeting, but we have the opportunity to plant seeds on Wednesday nights." - Michelle Crandall

"The need is great - laborers are few. Kids are growing up in a culture that is not only hostile to Jesus and His truths, but just plain hard. All sorts of pressures! They need Him! Jesus is our superhe-

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Not All Heroes Wear Capes, *continued*

ro.” --Deirdre Camenga

“The Great Commission is to go forth and spread the word. This is what we are asked to do. Being leaders also helps us grow in the Lord. Very often the focused scripture is a lesson we have studied before but we continue to have “aha” moments when we study it again and gain a whole new understanding.” - Kathy Crandall

Why are you qualified to be a leader?

“I am available.” - Deirdre Camenga

“We (Brandon and Kathy) probably aren’t any more qualified than the average person to teach the kids. You don’t have to be a professional. I, personally, feel I have a LONG way to go. I am an infant myself and appreciate the parents and other leaders allowing me to grow in my faith and understanding along with the kids. I am not afraid to ask Pastor Liz or Pastor Nate “What on earth are they talking about? I don’t get it!” I think this is how all teachers feel. We are never experts. Often I tell the kids as much and say I will check into it and we can talk about it next week. I think it makes it easier on the kids when they know their leaders don’t have all the answers and we all continue to grow and learn.” - Kathy Crandall

Our Awana Leader Job Description states “A leader needs to be qualified in the following ways: have trusted Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior, be growing in relationship with Christ, be walking with the Lord, be in compliance with the requirements of Safety in Ministry policies in our church and other requirements of church leadership, demonstrate an attitude that is attractive to kids.” Training is provided and as Kathy states, “We find our fellow leaders provide a network of support, nobody has the entire responsibility of kids from 6:30-8:00. We are definitely a team that works together.”

Ok, let’s get real here now. **Do you ever wish you could just stay home on Awana nights?** This isn’t the most positive question to ask when you are trying to recruit people to come join you, but I was pretty confident that I knew what the answers would be. I know even I find myself wishing every now and then that I could just stay home on a Wednesday night. Here’s what our veterans said.

“YES! I come anyway because the reasons why I want to stay home are pathetic. Once I overcome the inertia and get to club, the other staff and kids are energizing.” -Deirdre Camenga



“Sometimes I want to stay home because I’m tired or have had a long day. But I know the purpose for my going is too important.” -Michelle Crandall

“Brandon and I often wish we were staying home on Wednesday evenings. It seems the worst weather of the week appears on Wed. night, whether it is rain in the spring and fall or snow, bitter wind in the winter. Every single time we show up, spend time with the kids, and look at each other and comment in the car on the way home that we are glad we did it. (I must confess, however, that often 8:30 on Wednesday evening is our favorite hour of the week!) The kids’ enthusiasm and knowing we are God’s servants make all the difference.” -Kathy Crandall

What’s the best thing you’ve heard a kid say at Awana (serious or humorous)?

Two leaders shared the conversation that was overheard between 2 first graders as they were waiting for club to start. The young boy said to the others, “Do you know why there’s a funny smell in the church? It’s because they keep the dead bodies down the hall.” No wor-

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Not All Heroes Wear Capes, *continued*

ries, both children were assured there are no dead bodies here, but it sure gave us all a good laugh that night!

Two other funny moments from Kathy: "When asked what the bible was talking about when it mentioned God's love for us until the ends of the earth meant and the reply was "The ends of the earth is when the zombies come and invade the world". (The child was dead serious!) Then, the big question "How do you get to heaven? Do you ride in a jet?"

"One Sparkie recently turned around during large group time and said to me, "I was just talking to Jesus and I told him "I love you"! A few years ago we were getting ready to leave when our passenger told us she had to do something first before we could leave and she ran into the classroom and wrote in giant letters on the white board

"I LOVE JESUS". I wonder if these comments would have been expressed if these kiddos didn't come to Awana on Wednesday evenings?

(Listening to Hayden Rotzoll at the Koinonia concert recently definitely drove home the difference that Awana has made in her life!) - Kathy Crandall

Why would anyone want to be an Awana leader?

"Not only do we reap the blessings of knowing we are a part of what God is doing in these young hearts and minds, but we each are challenged in our own faith and walk with Jesus by what we see and hear at club each week. "... Mike Hoffman's messages are amazing. He almost always incorporates something in his (Large Group) message that I need to hear on any given Awana night." - Deirdre

Michelle sums it up best, *"Kids are genuine and honest. Their hugs and smiles light up a room. The best reason to be a part of Awana is the possibility of changing one child's life for eternity."*

We need more adults to experience the abundance of blessings you receive back when you are willing to show up on Wednesday nights and show the kids who Jesus is. Jesus is our Superhero, but kids need adult heroes to lead them to Him. Will you join our team of heroes? Ask God if He has a role for you this fall in our Awana club. If you feel Him nudging your heart just a little, talk to Angie Mullen or another Awana leader veteran about how you might become a part of our team of heroes!

"You all made quick work of packing the pencil boxes for the Rohingya school children in Milwaukee. Thank you!", Linda Lyke, Outreach



Summer Prayer Focus – Our Young People

By Renee Sanford, Prayer Coordinator

Yes – part of this is a repeat! Because we need to keep focused on praying for camp staff and campers! **LORD**, let 2022 be a joyful, life-changing summer!



Camp Discover – “We are Sheep” – Psalm 23 – Kathleen Holbrook & Doneta Osborn

Intermediate Camp – “Prayer” – Ephesians 6:18 – Pastor Nate Crandall & Angie Mullen

Camp Collision – “Are You Grounded?” – Matthew 13 – Pastor Nick Kersten & Larry Schultz

Leadership

- Spiritual preparation
- Full staffing
- Holy Spirit’s guidance
- God’s protection and peace
- Health, rest, focus & patience

Camp Wakonda Facilities and Support

- Protection for the property
- Many hands that are needed
- Smooth registration
- Safety indoors and out
- Funding for camp and campers

Campers

- Call young people to camp
- Remove any obstacles to full participation
- Prepare their hearts to worship
- Salvation!
- Spiritual growth & blessing!
- Faith, Friends and fun!
- Godly relationships & fellowship
- Help them remember and practice all they learn



And yes! Part of this is new – It’s not to early to be praying for the 2022-23 School Year!

- LORD, we ask for your blessing & peace on Milton’s Schools, the 660+ staff and 3,300+ students:
- May every home in the 100 square miles of the Milton School District be a place of peace and nurture where you are known as Lord and Savior
- May your word–your truth–penetrate & permeate our schools
- Let our schools respect religious liberty and biblical values
- Keep everyone safe and healthy!
- Meet the financial, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of families

- Encourage respectful relationships with teachers, parents, and students
- Guide Christian students to grow in wisdom and faith. Help them discern truth from falsehood where teachings conflict with Biblical values
- Bring unbelieving students to a saving knowledge of Jesus
- Provide wisdom and insight to teachers and administrators
- Give Christian staff and students opportunities to share their faith
- May there be grace and encouragement for troubled students
- Provide wisdom and courage for the School Board and administrators as they make difficult decisions with no easy answers
- Let support pour forth abundantly from the community

LORD, let Jesus be glorified the 2022-23 school year!

Camp Wakonda 2022

Registration forms are at the church Welcome Center and online at theconnecting.church/wakonda

**Intermediate Camp
(Entering Grades 4-6)
July 5 – 10**

Check in at 4:00 p.m.
on Tuesday, July 5th
Pick-up at 9:00 a.m.
on Sunday, July 10

Cost:
\$190 after June 4th
\$100 first-time campers

**Camp Collision
(Entering Grades 7-12)
July 10 – 17**

Check in at 4:00 p.m.
on Sunday, July 10th
Pick-up at 9:00 a.m.
on Sunday, July 17

Cost:
\$220 after June 4th
\$100 first-time campers



Camp Scholarships

Are you able to financially assist a camper this year with their camp registration? Just enter "Camp Scholarship" in the memo of your check or designate on an envelope or PayPal.



Worship @ Wakonda On July 2 at 10:30 a.m.

we will be worshipping together at Camp Wakonda. We will have chairs set up under the trees or you can bring your own lawn chairs. Following worship, please join us for a potluck lunch. We will provide hotdogs and buns, lemonade, and ice cream! Please bring a dish to share and enjoy some time with your church family. If you aren't able to attend, we will be attempting to live-stream the event, depending on the internet, and it will also be available later on YouTube.



Operation Christmas Child

This is the time to purchase **school supplies on and summer toys and clothing on sale.** Place donations in the trunk in the back stairwell. Thank you!

Summer Items: children's t-shirts, smaller flip flops, small slip-on sandals, smaller balls, uninflated soccer balls & pumps, jump ropes, summer toys, sunglasses, hats/ ball caps

School Supplies: pens/pencils, colored pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, markers, large notebooks, small notebooks (3"x4"), solar calculators, small coloring/picture/sticker books, erasers, dry paint sets, scissors, glue sticks, stamps/ink pads

Missions Month Action Plan

by Linda Lyke, Outreach Coordinator

Each week in June, you heard about God's mission to be worshipped and the pinpoint focus God has given our church in the Great Commission, making disciples of all nations. Remember that one third of all people in the world still are without access to the Bible, the Church and other believers. Many have still never heard the saving name of Jesus. Acts 1:8 says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Have you taken steps to participate in our church's mission opportunities in serving locally (Jerusalem), regionally (Judea/Samaria) and internationally (ends of the earth)? Here are opportunities to participate in God's plan in our church body:

June 4: Dylan Dodd's nine month missions trip to Costa Rica, Africa and South Africa

Pray: Support Dylan's trip monetarily and pray for his trip to be successful in sharing Jesus' message.

Donate: Online at www.experiencemission.org/sponsor/dylan.dodd

Or by making checks payable to "Experience Mission" with "dylan.dodd" in the memo.

June 11: Uganda – Children's World Impact partnering in Uganda for a self-sustaining poultry farm, where it is expected to give 20 women employment

Pray: for the project to thrive in Uganda and for all the details to fall into place.

Donate: to support ongoing ministry in critical need of funding. \$3,000 is needed to repair the orphanage building and \$2,400 for the support of refugees in that area.

June 18: Rohingya in Milwaukee, update on our adopted people group

Pray: about God's will for regular visits to our Roh friends in Milwaukee – monthly interaction, growing the relationship, and what the needs are.

Thank You: to those of you who were a part of packing school supplies

for the Rohingya children in Milwaukee in our ongoing partnership with Devon Oasis. More details to come on delivery to Milwaukee. Come with us!!

June 25: East Side Story – our local outreach to Milton East Elementary

Pray: that a champion/leader from our church would step forward to lead this project at Milton East

Sign up: to be a part of the East Side Team to make food or serve at special teacher meals, be a lunch buddy, do prayer walks, or help at school activities

In our ongoing support of missions through our church, purchase Kwik Trip cards and use Amazon Smile where proceeds benefit our church outreach programming. Call the church office for details.

The 2022 SDB Missionary Society's Gospel Feet 5K

The official day of the virtual competition is Sunday, July 31st. The Missionary Society is encouraging local churches to identify a location and time for their members and friends to do the 5K together. Contact the church office if you are interested.

Please register at [Gospel Feet 5K 2022](#). The cost to participate is a \$25 donation to the SDB Missionary Society.

This year's theme is "Building up the Temple," based on Ephesians 2:21: "In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord." All proceeds will go towards assisting SDB churches in Rwanda and Nicaragua.

You can order race t-shirts for an additional fee of \$15 by using this link: [Race T-Shirt](#).

A Heart for Missions? A Heart for the Lost

by Renee Sanford, Prayer Coordinator

Our missions month concluded this week, with Pastor Nate challenging us to ask God to break our hearts for what breaks His.

True confessions time – when I was first asked to participate in our church’s missions efforts (12 years ago), I did not have a heart for missions. I thought, honestly, the whole thing was boring and better done by others. I was convicted that, as a Christ follower, I SHOULD care. I just didn’t.

So I prayed – one of those short, “throw-away” prayers, along the lines of “OK, LORD, if you want me to have a heart for missions, please give me one.”

I did some “due diligence” – I read some missionary biographies (not boring!) and went to a Sabbath School class on Being a World Class Christian (not boring!) But I was still not passionate about it.

And then, one day, God did what only God can do. He shared His heart with me. I was grieving for my father and brother, who died without knowing the love of Jesus. How could heaven be heaven without the people I loved? And God made it clear – that pain, that grief, that was how HE, God, The Creator and King – that was how He feels about the millions of lost people all over the world. That

emotion, that truth, THAT is God’s heart for the lost. God used my grief to show me his passion.

And now I have a heart for the great commission – because lost people break God’s heart.

Have you asked for a heart for the unreached?

*If you want to read a more detailed account here’s a link to an article I wrote for the Sabbath Recorder:
<http://theconnecting.church/fathers-heart>

One Apple Lunch Bunch Service Opportunity - Aug. 8 -11

“Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:1-2

This scripture from Hebrews heads the Summer Lunch Program webpage for volunteers. It reminds us that as Christ followers, loving one another is a command.

Showing hospitality to strangers is one tangible way we can love others with the same love Jesus commands. Providing lunches to families to help fill a financial need or simply by giving caregivers a bit of a break by not having to

make lunch everyday this summer is a way we can show hospitality and love to strangers in our community.

The Milton United Methodist Church is once again leading this effort, but this year under different leadership, with a different volunteer format, and in cooperation with 3 other churches in our community, including our church.

Once again, our church will be preparing and serving lunches **August 8-11**. Are you able to help with this local service project **one or more days** that week? We will need a team of at least **4 people to prepare lunches at 10:00 at the**



Milton United Methodist Church. We will transport the lunches to Lamar Park (near Milton West) and **hand out lunches from 11:30-12:30.**

Please consider signing up to help with this simple opportunity to serve others. There are 3 ways to sign up - use the one you prefer best! Use this link to sign up: [Summer Lunch Volunteer Sign Up](#), contact the church office or Angie Mullen at 608-295-6484 or asmullen92@gmail.com or use the sign up sheet in the Welcome Center.

Q Place Update *by Jan Teat*

What a privilege to coach pastors and everyday Christians to learn how to start Q Place groups! It never gets old because God is always writing new stories!

This spring a couple came into my Q Place Coaching group extremely eager to learn. God had surprised them by suddenly filling their church small group with a lot of seekers, and they needed to know what to do with them!

Because of the pandemic, Adam and Jamie's small group had dwindled down to half its size. After they prayed for more group members, one of the leaders invited her cousin who had been in the New Age movement and had recently become a Christian.

After coming a few times, this baby Christian invited everyone she knew! Most of her friends were coming out of New Age or drug culture, and after some of them came, they invited their friends. Now, nine of these young adults in their late 20s or early 30s are coming on and off to the group. Six of these have at least one child from a past relationship. They bring their kids, and a babysitter helps *them* learn about Jesus. The kids like it and want to come back and even influence their parents to keep coming!

When Adam and Jamie told us about their group, my co-

coach and I were thrilled to know that God had prepared us to have a part in what He would do in these group participants' lives.

And I am so grateful for the vital part you play in stories like these! Through your support, encouragement, and prayers, Adam and Jamie (and many more like them) are being equipped to help people in many places along their spiritual journeys.

Beyond coaching Christians like Adam and Jamie, with your support I am also:

- connecting church leaders with Q Place resources for evangelism and discipleship
- training Christians to lead their own small groups in ways that can easily bridge to starting groups for seekers
- providing strategic leadership for our field and national teams

All of this means more people with Christians in their lives who are relating well with them and helping them find

Jesus through reading and discussing the Bible. As we coach Adam and Jamie, they are immediately applying what they learn. They appreciate having core values and guidelines that help them set the tone for their group and stay on track in discussions. They're glad to learn about resources that will fit their group over time.

They are encouraged to know that the Holy Spirit will use Scripture to open the group participants' eyes and help them see the good news of Jesus.

I am excited about what God will do in and through these people! As God continues to spread this ministry, there will be many more Adams and Jamies and groups like theirs. I am praising God to see this happening, and I am grateful that you believe in what I am doing and have come alongside as partners! Thank you!

Blessings,
Jan Teat
Q Place National Field Leader



Focus on Funds

as of May 31, 2022

General Fund Balance	\$16,063.41
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$54,563.70
May Undesignated Income	\$13,475.48
May Total Income	\$18,252.38
May Expenses	\$28,379.87
Denomination Giving YTD	\$ 6,300.00
Capital Campaign Fund	\$15,380.76



Milton SDB Golf Outing

Sunday, August 28, 2022

10:00 p.m. – Prompt 9:30 check-in
 Riverside Golf Course, Janesville
 \$33.50, 4 person scramble

Price includes 9 holes of golf with cart and lunch
 (bratwurst or hot dog, chips and drink).

This event is for everyone, 12 and older.

Please contact Rich Gallegos at 608-449-5640 with any questions. Pick up a form in the Welcome Center and turn it in to the church office with your payment (payable to Milton SDB Church, write “Golf Outing” in the memo section of your check). Please turn in your registration and payment by **August 20, 2022**

Take me out to the Ball Game!

Join us to see the Brewers play, plus a tail gate celebration.

Game: **Saturday, Sept. 10 @ 6:15**

Cost: \$30, includes park pass for vehicles

Leaving church parking lot @ 2pm

Tailgating will be a potluck event.

Please sign up to bring an item to share.

Water and soda will be provided.

Please bring chairs for tailgating and outdoor games.

Items needed: Grill, popup tents x2, Big cooler x1

Please sign up in the Welcome Center, or contact Matt Uglum at mattuglum@gmail.com or 608-322-6685.

Registration and your \$30 are due to Matt when you sign up, but no later than August 28.



- 6 Ken Johnson
- 6 Jackie Geske
- 7 Janet Butler
- 9 Samuel Skaggs
- 10 Frank Green
- 13 Linda Gilmore
- 15 Stephen Thorngate
- 16 Ellie Lubke
- 21 Scott Buchanan
- 22 Nick & Brittany Kersten
- 22 Nate & Michelle Crandall
- 24 Silas Geske
- 25 Jon & Sue Cruzan
- 30 Frank Perrino
- 30 Leif & Amanda Sykora




BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Deirdre Camenga
- 3 Frank & Deb Perrino
- 6 Connie Fisher
- 9 Chris Gallegos
- 13 Teresa Kersten
- 13 Joe & Karissa Bornemann
- 19 Evelyn Sonntag
- 19 Neil & Katie Lubke
- 20 Hayden Rotzoll
- 20 Robin & Brian Bliese
- 23 Lance Call
- 28 Carl Greene
- 29 Eric & Deirdre Camenga

July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10:30 Worship@ Wakonda
	Sabbath Sunset Times July 1 8:39 p.m. July 2 8:39 p.m. July 8 8:37 p.m. July 9 8:37 p.m. July 15 8:33 p.m. July 16 8:33 p.m. July 22 8:28 p.m. July 23 8:27 p.m. July 29 8:21 p.m. July 30 8:20 p.m.				Camp Discover- Ends Friday, 3:30 p.m.	
3	4 8:00 TOPS 	5	6 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	7	8	9 10:30 Worship
	Intermediate Camp - Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. - Sunday, 9:00 a.m.					
10	11 8:00 TOPS	12 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip - Sharla's	13 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	14	15	16 10:30 Worship
	Camp Collision - Sunday, 4:00 p.m. - Sunday, 9:00 a.m.					
17	18 8:00 TOPS	19	20 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	21	22	23 10:30 Worship
24	25 8:00 TOPS	26	27 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	28	29	30 10:30 Worship
31 Virtual 5K						

August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:00 TOPS	2	3 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	4	5	6 10:30 Worship
7	8 8:00 TOPS	9 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip - Sharla's	10 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	11	12	13 10:30 Worship
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> One Apple Lunch Bunch - Monday - Thursday </div>						
14	15 8:00 TOPS	16	17 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	18	19	20 10:30 Worship
21	22 8:00 TOPS	23	24 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	25	26	27 10:30 Worship
28 10:00 Golf Outing 	29 8:00 TOPS	30	31 6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom	<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Sabbath Sunset Times Aug. 5 8:13 p.m. Aug. 6 8:11 p.m. Aug. 12 8:03 p.m. Aug. 13 8:02 p.m. Aug. 19 7:53 p.m. Aug. 20 7:51 p.m. Aug. 26 7:42 p.m. Aug. 27 7:40 p.m. </div>		



**July / August
2022**

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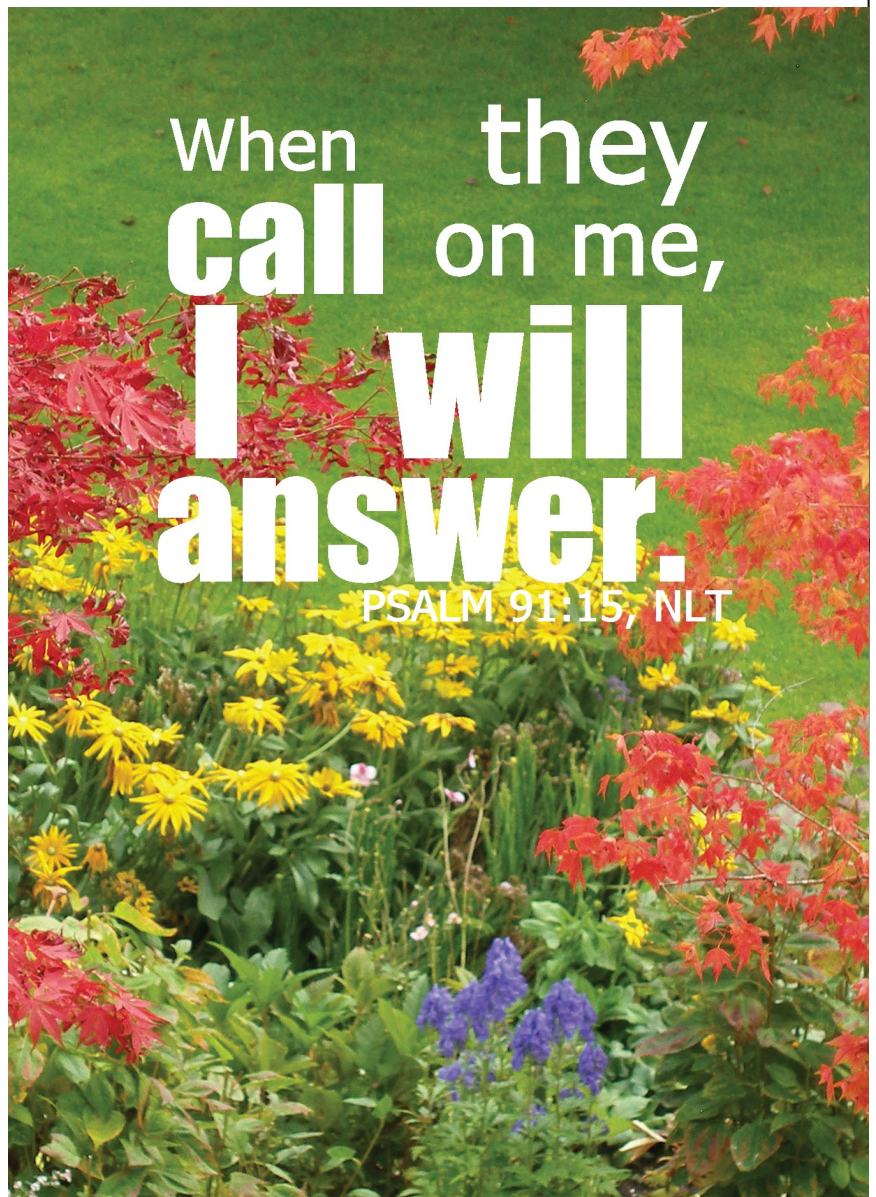
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Online Worship

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.