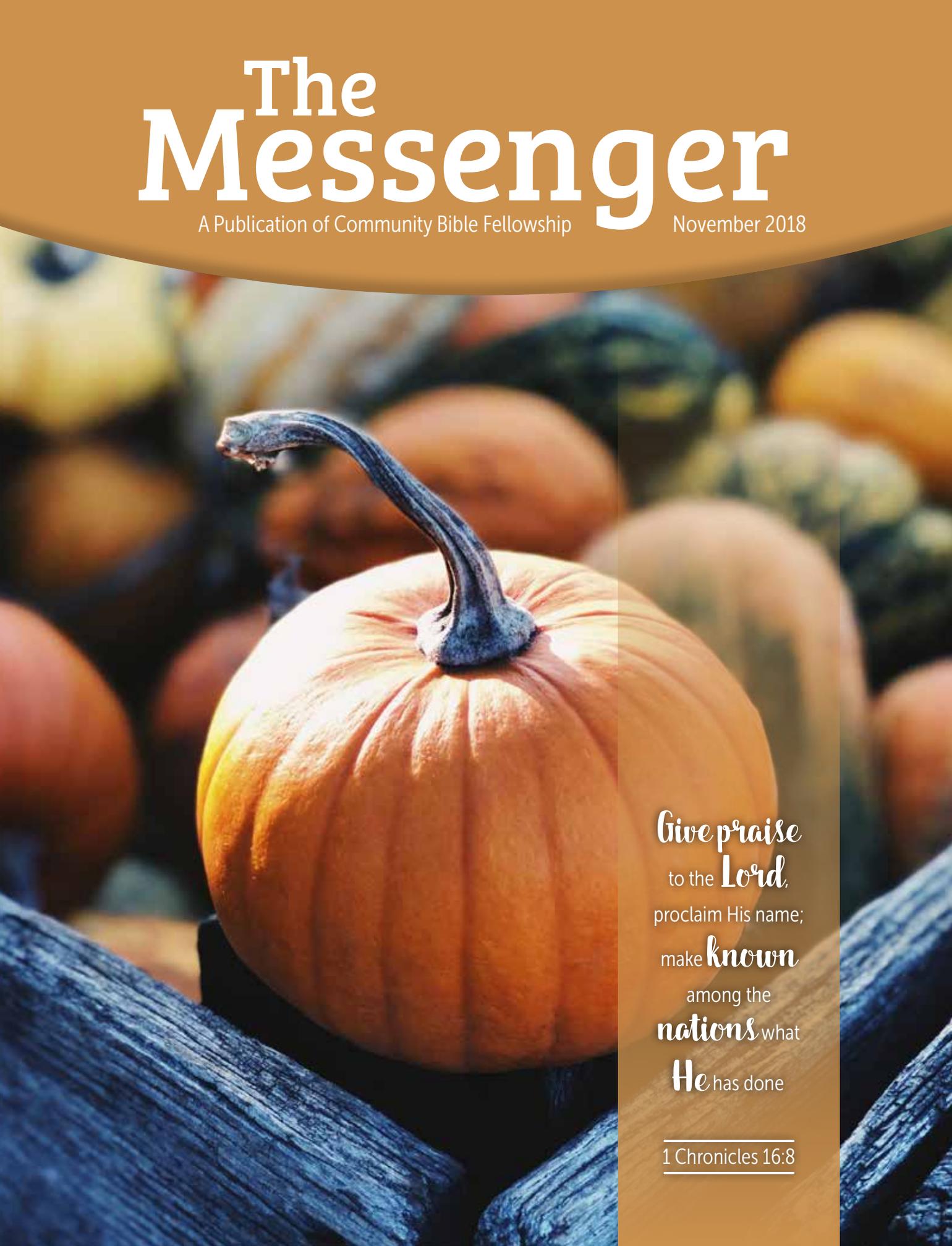


# The Messenger

A Publication of Community Bible Fellowship

November 2018



Give praise  
to the **Lord**,  
proclaim His name;  
make **known**  
among the  
**nations** what  
**He** has done

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1 Chronicles 16:8

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## Don't Miss Out!



### FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastor Search Committee is continuing to meet and work is now well underway. A profile has been posted on our church website detailing our church and community, and an advertisement for our pastor opening has been posted on a church staffing site. Applications have begun to come in, and the Committee is in the process of weeding these applicants.



### IT'S TIME TO FALL BACK!

Don't forget that Daylight Savings Time ends on November 4th. Be sure to "fall" back an hour before you go to bed Saturday evening.



### YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Calling all YOUNG ADULTS! The YA Bible Study is resuming. This Bible study group will meet at 2 PM on Sunday, November 4th and 18th, at 1931 165th Avenue, Aledo (please note this change in location). For more information, please see Nathan or Jeanette Sipes.



### 2018 VOTER GUIDE

2018 Voter Guides are available on the table in the east hall. God has blessed us by allowing us to live in this country. It is our responsibility to vote. Be sure to have your voice heard on Tuesday, November 6th.



### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting will be Sunday, November 4th, immediately following worship service. All members are encouraged to stay.

### MISSION OF HOPE ~ GUEST SPEAKER



Mark your calendar! John Short, a representative from Mission of Hope (based in

Texas), will be coming to CBF on Sunday, November 18th, to speak to our congregation during worship service. We'll be taking up a love offering during that time, and child sponsorship will be available. He's sure to bring a very enlightening message. Plan to join us.



### CANCELLATIONS

Due to Thanksgiving, both choir rehearsal and Bob Hoffman's The Book of James Bible Study have been cancelled for the evening of Wednesday, November 21st.



### OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

Our Christmas holiday missions and events will begin toward the end of November. The Outreach Team plans to have gift tags out around the Thanksgiving holiday. In the past, we've collected for the Crisis Center and Angel Tree. Be on the lookout also for that familiar Salvation Army bucket. A sign-up sheet will be available as the holiday season nears.

### COMING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON...

### HOLIDAY PHOTO BOOTH



Are you ready for the holidays? CBF is gearing up for it with something very different this year. We're planning to have a holiday photo booth set up every Sunday during Advent so that you can take some fun pictures

at church during this special time of year. There will be a selfie stick available each Sunday for taking your own fun photos, and Margaret Puckett will be available on one of those Sundays to snap a few pictures if you'd like a more professional photo taken. We're planning to add to the festive mood by offering hot apple cider on these special Advent Sundays. It'll be a great time to chat and connect with one another – and take some fun photos at the same time!

*The Christmas Dilemma*

**ADVENT 2018 ~  
The Christmas Dilemma**

"Nobody expected the arrival of a baby in Bethlehem to shake up their lives. But when that baby is Jesus, plans are rearranged, beliefs are challenged and ordinary people find their lives upended and forever changed." Join us each Sunday in December and on Christmas Eve as these biblical figures share their dilemmas surrounding the birth of our Savior.

*The Dilemma of Doubt*  
December 2

*The Dilemma of Saying Yes*  
December 9

*The Dilemma of Joy*  
December 16

*The Dilemma of Belief*  
December 23

*The Dilemma of Obedience*  
December 24





## Gullibility Virus

by Cajun Pauley

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The Institute for the Investigation of Irregular Internet Phenomena announced today that many Internet users are becoming infected by a new virus that causes them to believe without question every groundless story, legend, and dire warning (and symmetrical time announcement) that shows up in their In Box or on their browser.

The Gullibility Virus, as it is called, apparently makes people believe and forward copies of silly hoaxes relating to cookie recipes, E-Mail viruses, taxes on modems, postcards for child cancer research and the merits of melanza.

"These are not just readers of tabloids or people who buy lottery tickets based on fortune cookie numbers," a spokesman said. "Most are otherwise normal people, who would laugh at the same stories if told to them by a stranger on a street corner." However, once these same people become infected with the Gullibility Virus, they believe anything they read on the Internet.

"My immunity to tall tales and bizarre claims is all gone," reported one weeping victim. "I believe every warning message and sick child story my friends forward to me, even though most of the messages are anonymous."

Another victim, now in remission, added, "When I first heard about the Good Times virus, I just accepted it without question. After all, there were dozens of other recipients on the mail header, so I thought the

virus must be true." It was a long time, the victim said, before she could stand up at a Hoaxes Anonymous meeting and state, "My name is Jane, and I've been hoaxed." Now, however, she is spreading the word. "Challenge and check whatever you read," she says.

Internet users are urged to examine themselves for symptoms of the virus, which include the following:

- The willingness to believe improbable stories without thinking
- The urge to forward multiple copies of such stories to others
- A lack of desire to take three minutes to check to see if a story is true

T.C. is an example of someone recently infected. He told one reporter, "I read on the Net that the major ingredient in almost all shampoos makes your hair fall out, so I've stopped using shampoo." When told about the Gullibility Virus, T.C. said he would stop reading e-mail, so that he would not become infected.

Anyone with symptoms like these is urged to seek help immediately. Experts recommend that at the first feelings of gullibility, Internet users rush to their favorite search engine and look up the item tempting them to thoughtless credence. Most hoaxes, legends, and tall tales have been widely discussed and exposed by the Internet community.

Courses in critical thinking are also widely available, and there is online help from many sources, including:

~ Department of Energy Computer Incident Advisory Capability:

<http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org>

~ Symantec Anti Virus Research Center:

<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>

~ McAfee Associates Virus Hoax List:

<http://vil.mcafee.com/hoax.asp>

~ The Urban Legends Web Site:

<http://www.urbanlegends.com>

~ Urban Legends Reference Pages:

<http://www.snopes.com>

~ Datafellows Hoax Warnings:

<http://www.Europe.Datafellows.com/news/hoax.htm>

Those people who are still symptom-free can help inoculate themselves against the Gullibility Virus by reading some good material on evaluating sources, such as:

~ Evaluating Internet Research Sources:

<http://www.virtualsalt.com/evalu8it.htm>

~ Evaluation of Information Sources:

<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/~agsmith/evaln/evaln.htm>

~ Bibliography on Evaluating Internet Resources:

<http://www.lib.vt.edu/research/libinst/evalbiblio.html>

Lastly, as a public service, Internet users can help stamp out the Gullibility Virus by sending copies of this message to anyone who forwards them a hoax.

This message is so important, we're sending it anonymously! Forward it to all your friends right away! Don't think about it! This is not a chain letter! This story is true! Don't check it out! This story is so timely, there is no date on it! This story is so important, we're using lots of exclamation points!!! For every message you forward to some unsuspecting person, the Home for the Hopelessly Gullible will donate ten cents to itself. (If you wonder how the Home will know you are forwarding these messages all over creation, you're obviously thinking too much.)

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ACT NOW! DON'T DELAY! LIMITED TIME! NOT SOLD IN ANY STORE!

## Little Word, Big Difference

by Tony Evans

God says to give thanks in everything. That doesn't mean you need to give thanks for everything. You don't need to give thanks for that bad day. Or for that bad relationship. Or being passed over at work. Financial hardship. Whatever it is – you are not to give thanks for the difficulties but rather in the difficulties.



That is a very important distinction, and one I think we often miss. Giving thanks in everything shows a heart of faith that God is bigger than the difficulties and that He can use them, if you approach Him with the right heart and spirit, for your good and His glory.

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## Mercer County Mental Health Action Program (MHAP)

"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start."  
-Nido Qubin

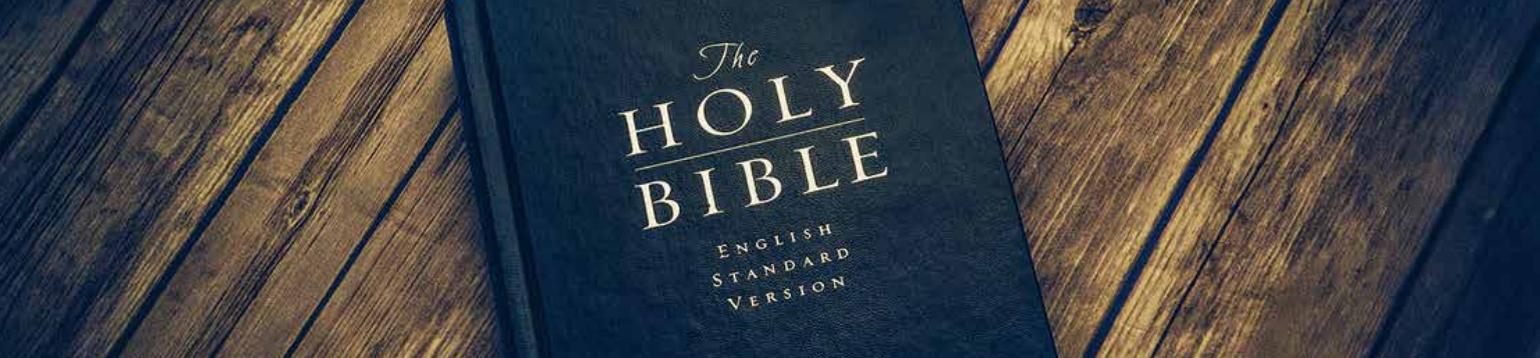
If you find yourself in need of mental health care this season, there is someone to help. Mercer County Health Department now has a mental health nurse navigator. This navigator is involved with identifying who might benefit from navigation services, scheduling and coordinating appointments for you, providing appointment reminders, providing one-on-one education, identifying barriers that may be keeping you from following through with your existing treatment plan, and bridging those barriers and gaps in a number of ways.

This is a free service for residents of the Mercer County community. Contact the Mercer County Health Department for more information.

Location: 305 NW 7th Street, Aledo

Phone: 309-582-7954

Email: [Krissy.Dixon@MCHDept.org](mailto:Krissy.Dixon@MCHDept.org)



The  
**HOLY  
BIBLE**  
ENGLISH  
STANDARD  
VERSION

## Jesus: The Simple Truth

by Richard 'Rick' Mason | [www.fevr.net](http://www.fevr.net) | 10 October 2016

Reading and understanding the stories of Jesus doesn't have to be hard work. Jesus is simple.

Jesus is simple to read and understand, although this may not have been your experience. You may have heard sermons at school or in church that have left you confused. You may have tried to read the Bible, but found yourself puzzled wondering what it's all about. You may glance at that big, black Bible on the bookshelf and think, "It makes no sense." Plenty of people have given up reading the Bible because it's just too hard. Can I encourage you by saying that Jesus really is simple to read and understand once you know what questions to ask.

### A Simple Question

Take the New Testament book of Mark, for example. Mark wrote the first 8 chapters of his book to get us thinking about who Jesus is. He wrote the last 7 chapters to get us thinking about why Jesus came. So if you start reading Mark with the simple question "Who is Jesus?" in mind, you'll be off to a good start.

### A Simple Start

I'll walk you through: Grab a Bible and open it to Mark 1:1-8 (use the contents page to find it), go to

Mark at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com) or read it below. Read it twice, as you'll understand more the second time.

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"—"a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Mark 1:1-8)

Now, the question. Who is Jesus? In first sentence, Mark tells us he's the Son of God. Simple.

### A Simple Truth

Next, Mark tells us that Isaiah said a

long time earlier that a messenger would come and prepare the way for the Lord. What's going on here? Well, Mark introduces us to John the Baptist - a man with a message. He must be the messenger Isaiah spoke about. John's message is that after John comes, someone more powerful than him will come - someone who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Who could this be? Now read verse 9 where Jesus appears on the scene. Jesus arrives after the messenger.

So. Who is Jesus? Mark is telling us that Jesus is the Son of God (we got that from verse 1). That Jesus is the Lord (since the Lord comes after the messenger in verse 3). That Jesus is the powerful One (from verse 7), and that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit (from verse 8). All that from just the first paragraph. Imagine what you might learn about Jesus from the rest of Mark's letter.

Why not read on in Mark? You'll meet lots of characters who are all trying to work out who Jesus is. Jesus' actions and teaching will give the clues to his identity. Even if you don't understand something at first, read on, it will become clearer.

## *Jr./Sr. High Youth Event Recap*

Much fun was had at the CBF Jr./Sr. High Youth Event on Sunday, September 16th at Young's Lake near Kirkwood, IL. Our youth enjoyed swimming, fishing and even a Cheetos tossing contest while at the lake. On the way home, more fun was found during supper at Pizza Hut and dessert at Dairy Queen.

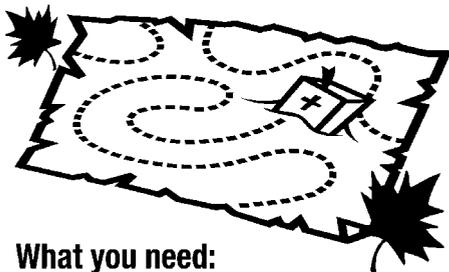
Roy, Mark, Rachel and Jeanette (our youth leaders) would like to extend a thank you to...

- Rick and Margaret Puckett for hosting the event,
- Steve and Angie Rourke for chaperoning,
- And our guests, Jed and Jen Dahl and family, for joining us!



# FALL SCAVENGER Hunt

Enjoy searching for seasonal aspects of God's creation!



## What you need:

- Family members and friends, divided into groups if desired
- Maps of local areas
- Lists of fall-related items (one per person or group)
- Digital cameras or smartphones
- Prizes

## What you do:

1. Hand out maps and lists of items (scarecrow, pumpkin, red leaf, squirrel, apple tree, pine cone, acorn, bug, bird, sunflower, etc.)
2. Instruct participants to walk through their assigned area, find and take photos of the items, and report back at a specific time.
3. When everyone returns, share your photos. Award prizes for the most items found, the most unusual item and so on.

Cover image courtesy of  
Aaron Burden @ Unsplash.com

## November Birthdays & Anniversaries

11/01	Dakota Romeiser	11/16	Amanda Voigts
11/05	Aiden Dowd	11/17	Ray Norton
11/06	Jenny Stropes	11/19	Dody Kelly
11/07	Matt Ewing	11/22	Danny Warren
11/08	Jordan Frieden	11/23	Kelsey Weir
11/08	Shaila Hudson	11/27	Randy Dixon
11/16	Andrew & Shaila Hudson		

## Mark Your Calendar

11/04, Sun | Annual Congregational Meeting | 11:30 AM | Sanctuary

11/04, Sun | YA Bible Study w/Nathan & Jeanette Sipes | 2 PM | 1931-165th Ave, Aledo

11/07, Wed | The Book of James Bible Study w/Bob Hoffman | 7 PM | Room N2

11/10, Sat | Family Movie Night | 6 PM | Sanctuary

11/11, Sun | High School Youth Group | 4 – 5:30 PM | Activity Room

11/14, Wed | The Book of James Bible Study w/Bob Hoffman | 7 PM | Room N2

11/17, Sat | Blood Drive | 7 - 10:30 AM | Chapel

11/18, Sun | YA Bible Study w/Nathan & Jeanette Sipes | 2 PM | 1931-165th Ave, Aledo

11/25, Sun | Jr. High School Youth Group | 5 – 6 PM | Activity Room

11/28, Wed | The Book of James Bible Study w/Bob Hoffman | 7 PM | Room N2

## CBF Financial Report – September

	MONTHLY	YEAR TO DATE
Total Income	\$17,845.14	\$158,135.07
Total Expenses	\$14,813.87	\$141,738.82
Net Operating Income	\$3,031.27	\$16,396.25



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