



## Pastor's Paragraph

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### The Day and The Hour

Every generation of Christians has looked for the soon return of Christ. Every generation has seen signs of the end times. The oldest apostle, John, said, "Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour." (1 John 2:18) Every generation has an antichrist that is working against God's purpose and is sowing chaos and wickedness in the world. Every generation has wars, rumors of wars, and other apocalyptic events that take place. Which is exactly what Jesus warned His disciples about: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains." (Matthew 24:7-8)

And, of course, there are always false prophets who try to predict exactly when Christ will return. This happens regularly. The dates are always based on Scripture. Although, they are always a twisted interpretation of Scripture! Perhaps you remember the events that took place in 1948 in Israel. There was war, and then there was the rebirth of the nation of Israel. That was definitely seen as a sign of the end times. Many predicted that the rapture was imminent. Forty years later, when I was in Bible College, there was a theory floated that Christ would return in 1988 because it was exactly one generation since Israel became a nation. Jesus had told his disciples, "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened." (Matthew 24:34) So, obviously, the rapture would occur in 1988! This is bad theology and a terrible misuse of the words of Christ. Of course, later, there was a lot of eschatological expectation around the turn of the century. You do remember Y2K, don't you? There was just something special about the end of one millennium, and the beginning of another. It had been 2,000 years since the birth of Christ, so surely God was going to do something big! Again, it was false prophecy. There have been many others since then. In fact, you may have missed one of them. It was in September of 2017, when there was an astronomical alignment of planets and stars that was very rare. A very similar alignment had occurred in 3 B.C. about the time of Christ's birth. And, it was very similar to the description in Revelation 12 about the woman and the child. Many saw this as a sign from God. He sent an astronomical sign the first time that Christ came, and so he sent another astronomical sign to announce the second coming of Christ. Again, September came and went without any rapture! Recently, the false prophets have been kind of quiet. I haven't heard much date-setting hysteria. I expect that it may ramp up in the next decade as we approach the 2,000 year anniversary of Christ's death and resurrection (about 2030).

Were the disciples wrong to expect the soon return of Christ? Are we wrong to look for current signs? Absolutely not! It is exactly what God wants us to do. We should always live with an expectation that Christ could return at any moment for us. It is precisely the way that Christians should live. We should not listen to the false prophets who predict a specific time. But, we should also not be lulled into complacency either! Jesus also said, "So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." (Matthew 24:44) If you are not expecting Him to return, then you are doing it wrong. And, you are in for a surprise! The rapture will occur when it is least expected. Right now it is quiet out there. Maybe a little too quiet! ~Pastor

# October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 AWANA Virtual Conference-8:30- Noon @ church
4 9:15 SS 10:30 Worship Communion 6 PM Prayer 6 PM Youth	5 7 PM Prayer  [Pastor's Day off]	6  Deacons' Mtg 7 PM	7  AWANA 6:30-8:00 PM	8	9   NARBC Ladies' Retreat @ WCBC	10 8:00 AM Trustees' Mtg
11 9:15 SS 10:30 Worship 6 PM Prayer 6 PM Youth	12 7 PM Prayer (Columbus Day) [Pastor's Day off]	13	14  AWANA 6:30-8:00 PM Popcorn Night! 	15	16	17
18 9:15 SS 10:30 Worship 6 PM Business 6 PM Youth	19 7 PM Prayer  [Pastor's Day off]	20	21  AWANA 6:30-8:00 PM	22	23   WCBC Fall Youth Retreat	24
25 9:15 SS 10:30 Mission- aries/Galbraiths 6 PM Prayer 6 PM Youth	26 7 PM Prayer  [Pastor's Day off]	27	28  AWANA 6:30-8:00 PM Store Night! 	29	30	31



Our AWANA Workers  
are invited to attend  
a virtual conference  
here at the church  
this Saturday,  
October 3rd, from  
8:30 a.m. to noon!



October 14th-Popcorn Night!  
October 28th—Store Night!

Missionary Guests  
Glen & Tammy Galbraith  
Sunday, October 25th

Quarterly Business Meeting  
October 18th  
6:00 p.m.

## WCBC Weekend Retreats!

Ladies' Retreat— Oct. 9-10  
Fall Youth Retreat— Oct. 23-24

## August Finances

### Balance Forward 8/1/2020

Deacon's Fund	\$3,446.46
Designated Fund	\$5,849.37
General Fund	\$48,345.22
Checking Account	\$57,641.05

August Income	\$18,634.72
August Expenses	\$19,778.96
Net Decrease	(\$1,144.24)

### Balance 8/31/2020

Deacon's Fund	\$5,196.46
Designated Fund	\$2,833.25
General Fund	\$48,467.10
Checking Account	\$56,496.81