



January 1, 2019

# THE JOURNEY

The twice monthly newsletter from Brown Deer Baptist Church, Brown Deer, WI.

*“Building people through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ”*

*“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, O God.” Psalm 42: 1*

**“Great is Your faithfulness”**

— Lamentations 3:23

2. Church News

3. From the Pastor’s Heart

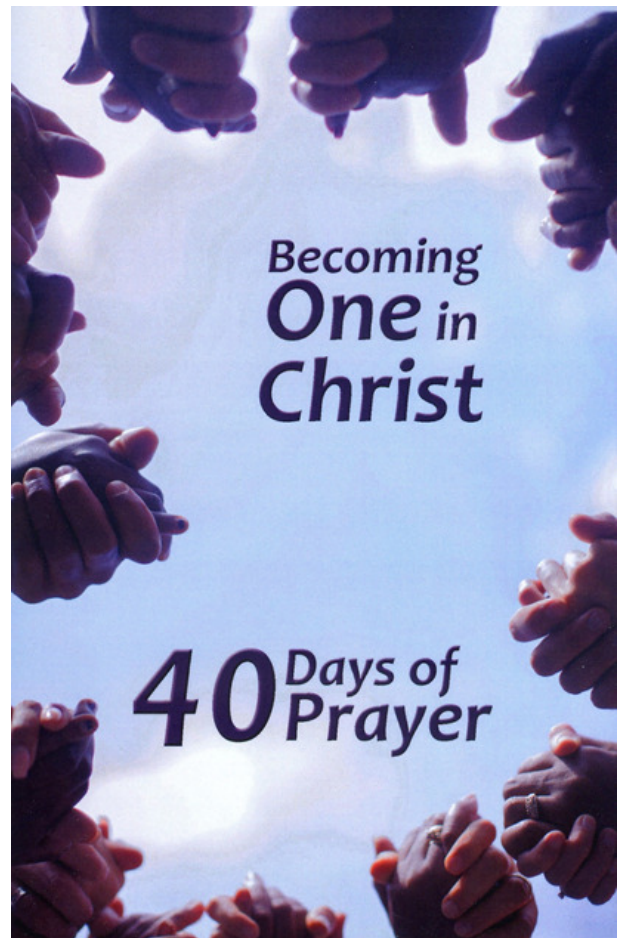
4. The church at Prayer

5. 40 Days of Prayer

6. A New Year Begins

*Ponder on This...*

**As we look ahead to the new year, let’s remember that God has always been and always will be faithful.**



## REGULAR SCHEDULE

Every Sunday morning at 9:15 we offer age appropriate Bible Study for everyone, birth through senior adults. Our goals include learning what God said to us, and how to apply His teachings to our everyday living.

At 10:30 on Sunday morning, following Bible Study, we join in lifting praise to God the Father as we worship Him together.

Following Worship there is opportunity to join in a short time of fellowship.

Wednesday evening at 6:45 our adults enjoy in-depth Bible study. While the adults are delving into the Scriptures our youth and children are learning about missionaries and what they do. They also learn how they can share the Good News with their friends.

## COMING EVENTS

- ◆ 40 Days of Prayer. See page 5 for more information
- ◆ Once again I am going to Israel with a tour group and need a ride to and from the Amtrak /Intermodal Station at 4th and St. Paul. On Jan 22, I need to be at the station by 11:00 am. On Jan 31, I will return to the station at 6:30 pm. PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR GROUP OF 30 PASTORS AND WIVES AS WE TRAVEL IN THE HOLY LAND.

## PRESCHOOL EXTENDED SESSION

We are taking children, 4 and under, into the early part of morning worship. After the children's sermon they are taken to the nursery for further age related activities. This helps to give them an easier transition into regular worship services. Remember that this is to be on call, maybe you will be needed or not.

Jan. 6 Veronica De Ridder La Tasha Hazelwood Nana Yaw Oduro

Jan. 13 Lizzie Mensah Sandy Kruchell

Jan. 20 Mary Krome Doug Bachert Kwame Nsiah

Jan. 26 Nana Nsiah Delmy Geiger

From the Pastor's Heart.....



*"I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised Him from the dead."  
-Philippians 3:10 (NLT)*

This Sunday (December 30) marks the 45<sup>th</sup> year since I gave my life to Christ. Just like in 2018, Christmas Eve in 1973 was on a Monday. As I heard the Christmas story from Luke's gospel that night, I had an encounter with God for the first time in my life. Though only nine years old, I knew about God and what Christmas was all about because I grew up in a Christian family. There was never a time when I didn't regularly go to Sunday school and worship. In fact, the pastor was a frequent guest in our home, so I thought I had all my religion in order. It was quite a surprise when God's power and Spirit began to overpower my head knowledge and reveal Himself to be real in a way I had never experienced.

The next few days were filled with me "wrestling" with God's Spirit in my heart. Jacob only wrestled with Him for a night, I had five days of it! I couldn't wait to see Pastor Joe Dennis before Sunday school that life-changing morning. He recognized that God was introducing Himself to me, shared the gospel in a way I could understand, and I surrendered my life to Jesus. There have been many other seasons in the past 45 years where I have had very real and intense meetings with God. But I have also had times in the spiritual desert where I cry out, "Are You there, God?" Yes, Jesus has promised to be with His children always. Yet, there are times when I lose the sense of God's presence because other things crowd Him out of my life. My guess is that you can identify with this too!

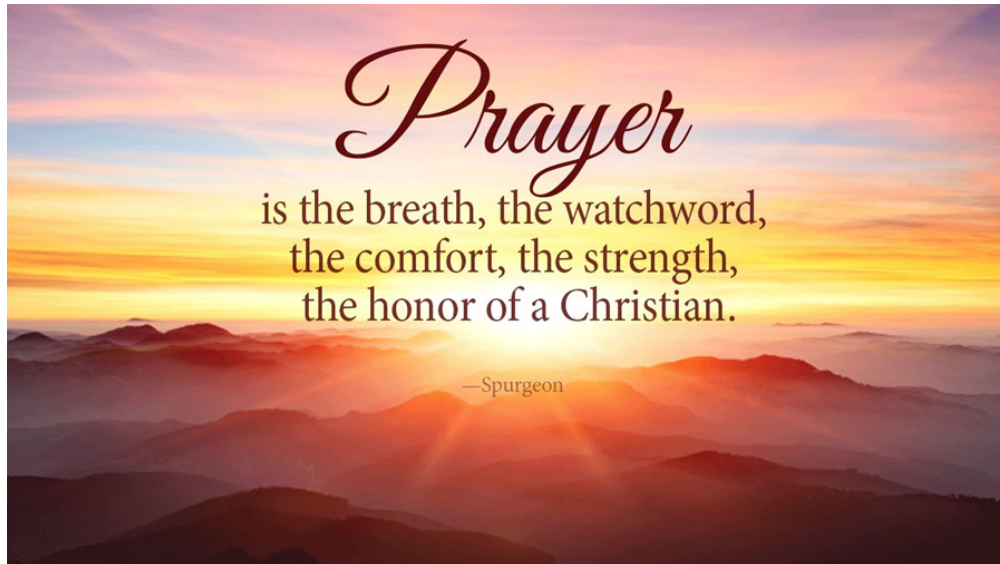
As I begin 2019 the cry of my soul echoes the words penned by the Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:10... *"I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised Him from the dead."* I am tired of knowing more about God and want to know God more! What about you? Will you also have a passion to know and experience God in 2019 like you haven't in a long time, or maybe never have experienced?

On January 1 our church is beginning 40 Days of Prayer.\* Will you join with me in this season of prayer seeking to know and experience God in a personal way? Will you cry out to God to reveal Himself to you in a new way? Are you desperate to have more than an intellectual faith?

Love and Happy New Year!

Pastor Larry

*\*40 Days of Prayer booklets are available in the foyer at the church. If you prefer, I can email the daily prayer devotional to you. Just send an email to [griffithcrew@gmail.com](mailto:griffithcrew@gmail.com) letting me know to add you to the email list or sign up on the email list next to the prayer booklets at church. The daily guide devotionals are written by pastors and leaders of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.*



#### OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Jim Geiger, Mary Krome, Kirk Quinbar, Ralph Green, Neal Hester, Travis and Becky Graf, Richard and Linda Hunter, Pastor's family. Family members as they care for and encourage those who are not well.

Spiritual empowerment and wide participation in 40 Days of Prayer.

#### FRIENDS OF CHURCH MEMBERS:

Friends who are seeking the Savior.

Friends and family members who need loving encouragement this Christmas season.

Safety on the road and in the air as people continue to travel during this holiday season.

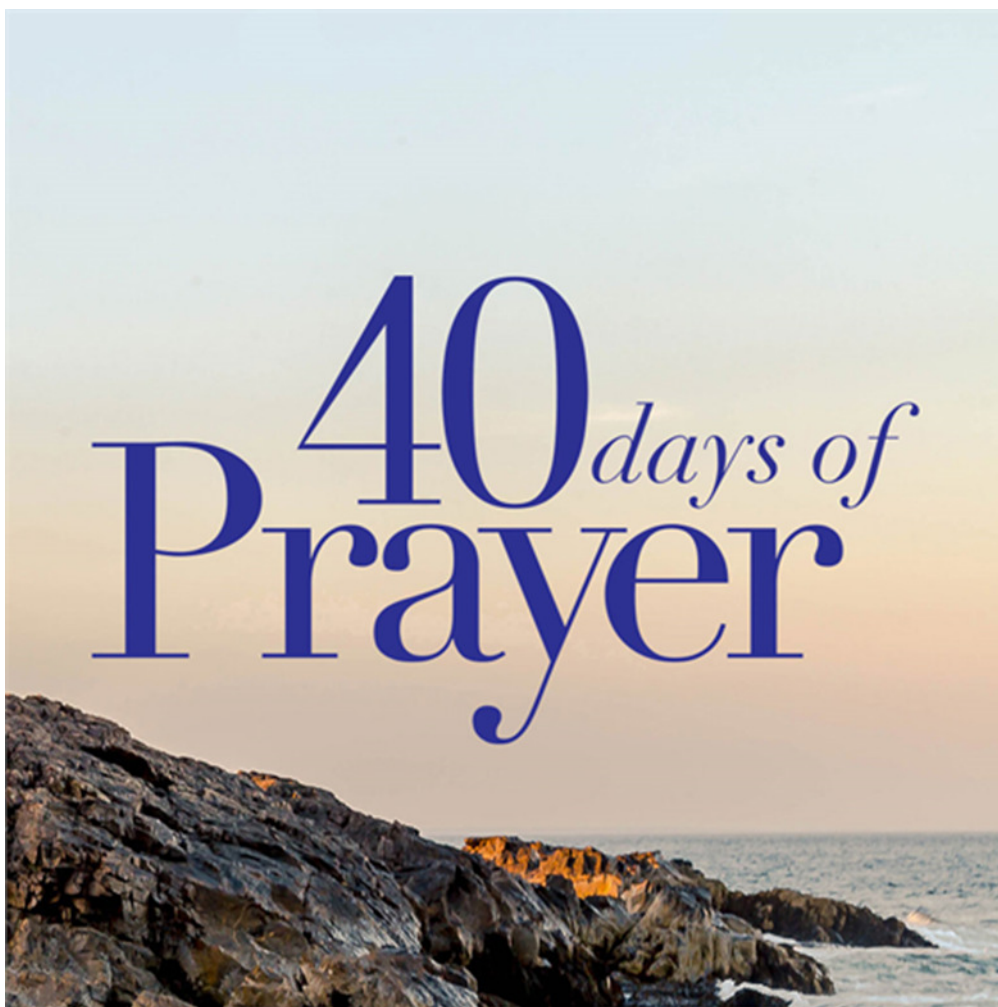
Judith Sagen and Leo Endel as they enable a group of pastors and their wives to walk in the footsteps of Jesus in the Holy Land later this month.

#### BEYOND OUR CHURCH BUILDING'S WALLS:

Spiritual awakening in our nation.

Missionaries and volunteers who take the Gospel around our nation and world.

First Responders in Milwaukee and surrounding areas as they meet difficult circumstances.



Prayer is a vital lifeline of conversation with the living God who made us and provided for our redemption. Prayer is the voice of faith, trusting that God knows and cares. It's not the words we pray that matter; it's the condition of our heart.

40 Days of Prayer starts January 1, 2019. The subject of this season of prayer is "Becoming One in Christ." Pick up a prayer guide from the table in the foyer or sign up to receive the daily prayer devotional via email on the list also on the table in the foyer.

"Let us join our hearts together as we journey through the *one another* passages of the New Testament. As we read and as we pray, may God make us one." (Leo A. Endel)

Announcement: we have a prayer retreat on Sunday, January 13. The youth and adult classes will meet together in the sanctuary to pray during the Sunday school hour. We will have a special worship service focused on praying at 10:30. Also, there will be a potluck lunch following the prayer service on the 13th.



new year  
new beginnings

May the new year bring you an abundance of amazing opportunities, beautiful moments, and joyful experiences. May your positive actions & attitude inspire others. May you be brave enough to take on and overcome rewarding challenges. May you find yourself in high spirits & excellent health. May you love with all your heart and find peace in even the most turbulent of times. May the love you give always find its way back to you multiplied. And may you forever be filled with the hope & strength necessary to make your dreams a reality.

-Zero Dean -