



PASTOR'S NOTES

Lessons from Nehemiah: Unsung and Unknown Heroes

Nehemiah 12:27-47

Our experience with God is very different from that of the ancient Jews. We don't go to a temple or any specific location to meet God. Instead, God has come to us in Jesus Christ, Immanuel, and through faith in him, he entered us, making our bodies the temple of his Holy Spirit. Jesus made this point clear when responding to a woman of Samaria. (John 4:20-26)

When we are immersed in Christ Jesus by faith and he indwells us, we can truly worship God, regardless of the location.

Jerusalem was God's chosen location for worship—his name was upon that city. But what is a city without people?

1. Zerubbabel came with the first wave of returning exiles and rebuilt the temple.
2. Ezra led the second wave, bringing spiritual reforms.
3. Nehemiah brought the third wave, rebuilding the walls and encouraging people to repopulate the holy city.

Now the leaders of the people lived in Jerusalem. And the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in Jerusalem the holy city, while nine out of ten remained in the other towns. ² And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered to live in Jerusalem. (Nehemiah 11:1-2 ESV)

Nehemiah's ultimate goal wasn't to rebuild a wall but to establish community, security, and vitality in the holy city, which required people. But urban renewal is difficult.

1/10th population: 1) Some were chosen by casting lots. 2) Others were compelled in their hearts.

The second group lived generously and graciously, volunteering to complete the work of God at the cost of their own comfort. These were the unknown and unsung heroes of Jerusalem.

They bore a great responsibility to reinvigorate the city and establish homes, commerce, community, and ongoing security.

MeadowBrook functions best not because of its leaders with titles or people who lead on platforms but because of the unsung and often unknown servants compelled by the Holy Spirit to seek the best for others rather than themselves.

Our unsung heroes make up far more than 1/10 of our membership.

To the glory of Christ, many in this church have embraced the mind of Christ to live and serve humbly (Phillippians 2:3-4).

The city needed not only inhabitants but also capable people willing to serve the Lord and his people well. Among the list of names, we find some notations.

By his Spirit, God calls out and stirs people to accomplish everything necessary for community, worship, and ministry. Individually, we are talented and capable people. Collectively, we are the effective body of Christ, ministering well to others and advancing the kingdom of God.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7 ESV)

Hold to these truths:

God grants and empowers every Christian with the means to serve valiantly. Manage it well.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. (1 Peter 4:10 ESV)

God's gifts granted to you make you valuable to this church but not necessarily famous.

"Some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary."

(1 Corinthians 12:22 NLT) For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. (Hebrews 6:10 ESV)

Serve not for the applause of people, but work for the honor and fame of the Lord.

²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:23-24 ESV)

Though often unheralded now, your ministry will be eternally rewarded.

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done." (Revelation 22:12 ESV)



MeadowBrook CHURCH

Sunday, April 21, 2024 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com

school of the prophets 2024

The School of the Prophets is an annual conference encouraging and supporting pastors and church leaders. MeadowBrook is privileged to host this year's event, which will take place tomorrow from 9:00 AM to 3:45 PM. Be in prayer for these church leaders as they take time to be refreshed in their faithful service to the Kingdom.

Here are some ways you can be praying for this event...

- » Pastors will be encouraged in their ministry
- » They'll be better equipped to preach and lead their congregations
- » They'll grow deeper in their love for Jesus and his people
- » This will be a meaningful time of worship and fellowship with other pastors



CONNECT

people to Christ
and His church

COFFEE HOUR

TODAY
10:30 AM at CAFE '59

If you are new to MeadowBrook, Pastor Randy and ministers would like to get to know you, share the mission of MeadowBrook and answer any questions you may have.

We hope you will join us today, immediately following our worship service!

MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON

Next Sunday, April 28
11:45 AM - Conference Center

Lunch for anyone considering membership. We'll walk through our doctrine, beliefs, and ministry practices.

(Prerequisite for membership)
Register at Guest Connections or mbchurch.com/connections



Tea Party

For Moms & Daughters

SATURDAY, APRIL 27
10AM in the Kids' Theater

for Girls K5 - 5th grade

Register on the MB App or mbchurch.com

GRADUATE Sunday

MAY 19

ALL High School SENIORS, please REGISTER for our Graduate Sunday online at mbchurch.com. We will recognize our graduates during the 9AM Worship Service and have a special dinner that evening at 6:30 PM. For more info, email matt@mbchurch.com.



KIDS' CHOIR SPRING MUSICAL

THE GREATEST HYMN ON EARTH

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 ★ 6:30 PM



GROW

them as disciples
and equip them to

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY
8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 am - Kids Worship Live - Kids' Theater
10:30 am - Life Group
10:30 am - Coffee Hour - Café '59
11:45 am - Women's Spring Gathering at The Well - Gym

MONDAY, APRIL 22
9:00 am - School of the Prophets

TUESDAY, APRIL 23
9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Dining Hall
10:00 am - GriefShare - Conference Center

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24
5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Dining Hall
(Chicken Fajitas, Salad with Jalapeño Dressing, Chips & Salsa, Fresh Fruit; Kids: Tacos, Chips & Salsa, Fruit)
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 312
6:30 pm - Adult Bible Study on Job, Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Middle School Worship, High School Worship, Worship Ministry Rehearsal

SATURDAY, APRIL 27
10:00 am - Tea Party for Moms & Daughters - Kids' Theater

KIDQUEST 2024

THE SAME GOD

MALACHI 3:6

JUNE 3-6

9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

for Kids who've completed Kindergarten - 5th Grade

Registration is Open!
Visit mbchurch.com or the MB App to register

If you're interested in serving as a class leader (no teaching required) or would like more information, please contact Vickey at 256-390-7834 or vickey@mbchurch.com.

"I am the LORD. I do not change."
Malachi 3:6

2024 BIBLE READING

April 21 - Exodus 25-27	April 25 - Exodus 33
April 22 - Exodus 28-29	April 26 - Exodus 34
April 23 - Exodus 30-31	April 27 - Exodus 35-36
April 24 - Exodus 32	

Bible reading plans are available at Guest Connections & Ministry Central



SERVE

through missions,
ministry and worship



the well
WOMEN'S MINISTRY
SECRET SUPPER
Ladies' Night Out

THURSDAY, MAY 9 ★ 5:30-8:00 PM
Register on the MB App or at mbchurch.com



MIDDLE SCHOOL
WHITE WATER CAMP

JUNE 12-14
Cleveland, Tennessee

For students finishing 6th-8th grade

Register at mbchurch.com or on the MB App



HIGH SCHOOL
SMOKY MOUNTAIN
RETREAT

JULY 8-11
Townsend, Tennessee

For students finishing 8th-12th grade

Register at mbchurch.com or on the MB App

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kathy Clayton, Larry Gillis, Rob Morris, Brett Yancey, Kyle Hughes, Tony Howell, Andrea Love, Tommy Thompson, Bob Cross, Bart Watts, Brinley Corbin, Margie Martin, Melissa Griffin, Martha Vaughn

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruettt, Vernon Tull, Pam Findley, Lanette Albright, Chris Burnette, Lloyd Matthews, Landon Cunningham, Max & Denise Dover, Lola-Ruth Adams, Wes Burnett, Tom Simmons, Danny Maddox, Frank & Peggy Brizendine, Wayne Wood, Anna Moore, Tom Bentley, Mallory Dunn Bramlett, Kathy Thompson, Susan Mize, Aiden Beck, Derell Reaves, Tony Fleming, Bennett Tucker

- Frank Duke - Riverview
- Susan Mize - UAB
- Tom Simmons - Encompass Rehab
- Carolyn Parker