

PIONEER

CONNECT

JANUARY 28, 2017

STORM

FINDING JESUS IN THE
GATHERING DARK

3

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WELCOME

to Pioneer

Welcome this morning to worship here with us at Pioneer Memorial Church. If you have joined us here these past two Sabbaths, you will notice that some things have changed. One of the most noticeable changes is the weather outside. Just last week the weather could lead one to believe that summer was around the corner, but this week we have seen winter return. It is not just the weather that changes, everything in life continually changes.

Many of our own lives are in transition. Some changes are good, others are ominous. Some changes are sought, other changes catch us by surprise. In life we search for constants in a world of continual change. And this morning we invite you to join us as we worship an unchanging God. We invite you to cling to the One who is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

–Ben Martin

 PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH 8655 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103		
OFFICE HOURS Monday – Thursday (8 to 5) • Friday (8 to 12)		PHONE – 269.471.3133 FAX – 269.471.6152
LIVE STREAMING www.newperceptions.tv Sabbath 11:45 AM	ONLINE www.pmchurch.org www.newperceptions.tv	RADIO WAUS – 90.7 FM Sabbath 11:30 AM
 NOMINATING REPORT Scan this code to view the most recent Nominating Committee Report.		 FIND A SABBATH SCHOOL

FIND IT HERE

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WE WORSHIP 2

11:45 AM Service



THE COMMON SWIFT'S UNCOMMON LESSON

BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

I listened to a fascinating report by Charles Osgood on his “The Osgood File” this week. Researchers at Lund University (Sweden) have been studying the flight patterns of the common swift, that black ubiquitous bird (about the size of a barn swallow) found across Europe and the United Kingdom. Scientists have long expected that swifts spent much time in flight, but not this much!

Mounting tiny electronic sensors on 19 swifts, biologists began tracking their flight time. And when the numbers were

compiled over a period of two years, they discovered that the common swift can spend up to ten months in the air. Without stopping! Fly an airline from Chicago to Sydney, and you’re looking at over 17 hours in the air (without stopping). But these small creatures are now tracked spending two months shy of a year in constant flight. (Researchers did note a possible half a percent of those ten months on the ground in the event of storms, et al.)

Ten months of non-stop flying? When in the world (or above the world) do

they sleep? The embedded sensors on the swifts indicate that at both dusk and dawn these small birds ascend to 10,000 feet and stop their wing flapping, as they begin a long slow glide earthward. Those two glides (an hour in length each) apparently are the “power naps” that provide the swifts with enough rest each day to keep flying. For ten months.

“Lead researcher Anders Hendenstrom, professor of biology at Lund University, said: ‘It’s mind-boggling that they can stay airborne for 10 months without needing to come down. Most of the time there is

a trade-off between energy use and life: live hard and die young. But these birds live quite long, up to 20 years, so somehow they have beaten this rule” (www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2016/10/27/common-swift-sets-new-record-by-staying-airborne-for-10-months-a/).

The lesson for us? If you’re not sleeping through these first days of the New Year, then you well know that our world (this civilization) is navigating some of the most turbulent times in memory. The mini-storms across the planet are fast merging into a global storm of eventually epic proportions. “We are on the verge of a stupendous crisis” (*Education* 179). No wonder Jesus with prescient foresight warned those living near the end:

“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be

always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:34-36).

Again and again He admonishes His followers to “watch and pray”—and in this case “be *always* on the watch, and pray.” Is the Master suggesting that like the common swift we “fly” without sleep? Hardly. But He is clear enough that living in a predicted time of epic storms will necessitate a commitment to extended praying. Living

in this nation and world, we have long passed the “business as usual” demarcation. Welcome to the “watch and pray” storm zone.

If you would like to join with others in collectively watching and praying, **Pioneer now offers two “watch and pray” zones each week: Wednesdays at 7:00 AM (Youth Chapel) and 7:00 PM (Sanctuary).**

Pastors will be on hand to guide and join this “watch and pray” experience. I hope you will either begin or end your Wednesdays praying with us. But not just on Wednesdays, rather like the swift let’s keep our hearts ascending to our God and Savior all week long, interceding for those we love, for those we know—for this storm-bound church and world.

Let us *swiftly* “watch and pray.” ■

LIVING IN THIS NATION AND WORLD, WE HAVE LONG PASSED THE “BUSINESS AS USUAL” DEMARCATION. WELCOME TO THE “WATCH AND PRAY” STORM ZONE.

You can follow Pastor Dwight’s blog at www.pmchurch.tv/blog.

BAPTISM:

PREPARING FOR THE RELATIONSHIP

BY BEN MARTIN

When one thinks about his or her decision for baptism we all have different stories. For those of us who have grown up in the church, however, the stories begin to become more uniform. The decision was made at a week of prayer and then one joined a baptismal class with his or her pastor and at the end of this class one was ready for baptism. This article will focus on what one should do to prepare a child for baptism.

In order to do this one must first agree on what baptism is. Baptism is a symbol of many things, it is a symbol of ending a life of self and beginning a new life with Christ. It is a symbol of joining His body, the church. Most importantly, however, baptism is the ritual that demonstrates a commitment to a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ.

What then do studies have to do with a relationship? There are some who believe that because baptism is about committing to a relationship with Jesus that studies don't need to be part of baptismal preparation. This however requires one to separate Jesus from the doctrines. Jesus and the cross are at the very center of every one of the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Therefore Bible studies become foundational to developing a lifelong relationship, because the beliefs of the church are the best picture we have of who God is.

If Bible studies are an important preparation for baptism and the decision to

choose a lifelong relationship with Jesus, who is best equipped to study with the young? There are three basic categories of people who are often involved in baptismal preparation: pastors, teachers, and parents. Pastors are often sought because of the theological education that they have which leads people to believe that this qualifies them to better explain the truths. The next category is teachers who, although they may or may not have the theological education of a pastor, have learned the art of teaching. The third category is parents; although one can become a mother or father without any particular education there are qualities that equip a parent to be the best person possible to prepare a child for a lifelong relationship with Jesus.

Parents spend much more time with children than do teachers or pastors. Reggie Joiner in his book, *Think Orange*, demonstrates that pastors connect with children on average 40 hours a year while parents have on average 3,000 hours a year with their children. If the goal is passing on a relationship rather than information, then every moment is time to deepen the relationship.

Parents not only have the most access to their children, but each and every person is the product of his or her parents. Children inherit the way they think from their parents. The questions a parent has had or is having about God are more than likely the same questions their child will also have.



Parents also have the unique ability of teaching their children through both thought and action. As children hear the lessons they can also see the ways in which these beliefs are lived out in one's life in a practical way. This is real discipleship!

Parents however can often feel ill-equipped to be the primary discipler of their children, and this is how churches and schools are best suited to assist. It is by home, church, and school all working together with the shared goal of raising children in an environment where they develop into disciples that we can truly transform this generation. After all, is this not exactly what Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is about? "Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." ■

Ben Martin is the pastor of Youth Ministries here at PMC.

SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

Please write
"PMC Operating Expense"
on your tithe envelope.

WE WORSHIP

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Opening Voluntary

Praise to the Lord • Johann Walther

Introit

We Are Singing, for the Lord Is Our Light • Traditional South African Melody

Call to Worship

Ben Martin

Merciful God, we are bound by the cords of your compassion.

Let us live in your garden, Lord. We will till and keep it as your people.

We come to worship God, who is the True Vine.

Teach us how to remain connected so that we might bear good fruit!

Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow • 2

Invocation

Dwight K. Nelson

Hymn of Praise

Praise to the Lord • 1

Congregational Prayer

Choral Call to Prayer

Choral Response to Prayer

Ben Martin

A Future With Hope • Mark Miller

God Calls To Us • Mark Miller

Worship in Music

*I've Been in the Storm So Long
Traditional Spiritual / Jeffrey Ames*

Tithes & Offerings

Michigan Advance Partners
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light • Wayne Wold

Children's Story

Scripture

John 15:1,4-5 NIV • Larry Adams & Julie Logan

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

Remain in me, as I also remain in you.

No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine.

Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Hymn of Preparation

Chief of Sinners • 295

Sermon "STORM: Finding Jesus in the Gathering Dark"—3 • Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card

Hymn of Commitment

The Savior Is Waiting • 289

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Praise to the Lord • Martin Shaw

PRESIDING PASTOR: Ben Martin; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Andrews University Choral Union; Stephen Zork, director

MUSIC ALIVE

A REFORMATION HALLMARK

As we approach the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's "95 Theses," we have this week a hallmark of congregational singing—a chorale melody in a particular form. How does this relate to Luther? It does so because such a chorale was a frequent vehicle for carrying out his desire to foster congregational singing in worship. The form itself presents music (A), repeats

that music (A), and concludes with largely or completely different music (B), for an AAB overall form. One can see this in hymn no. 1 ("Praise to the Lord"), where the word "creation!" concludes the first "A" and the word "salvation" concludes the second "A." The hymn melody for "A Mighty Fortress" (hymn no. 506), attributed to Luther, is also in this form. ■

WE STUDY

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Song Service	Jimmer Mun
Opening Hymn	<i>O Zion, Haste</i> • 365
Welcome & Prayer	Judy Aitken
Scripture Reading	Romans 10:14, 15 • Delia Snide
Special Feature	“Lemonade and Biscuits: Inspirations for Reach’s Orphanage in India” • Bruce & Gail Hackworth
Offertory	<i>Make Me a Channel of Your Peace</i> • Mark Hayes
Bible Study	“The Personality of the Holy Spirit” • Classes
Theme Song	<i>Make Me a Blessing</i>

Make me a blessing; make me a blessing.
Out of my life may Jesus shine.
Make me a blessing; O Savior, I pray.
Make me a blessing; to someone today.

“Make Me a Blessing,” Ira Bishop Wilson
©1924, Renewed 1952 Word Music, LLC; Used by Permission. CCLI License #392652

Benediction	Jimmer Mun
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ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
OFFERTORY: Peyton Ware, soprano; Rachele Gensolin, piano

WE WORSHIP 2

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

As We Begin

Praise to the Lord • Johann Walther

We Are Singing, for the Lord Is Our Light • Traditional South African Melody

Praise

Praise to the Lord (1) • Blessed Be Your Name • Made For Worship • I Will Exalt You

Prayer

Ben Martin

Choral Call to Prayer—*A Future With Hope • Mark Miller*

Choral Response to Prayer—*God Calls To Us • Mark Miller*

Tithes & Offerings

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light • Wayne Wold

Children's Story

Bible Reading

John 15:1,4-5 *NIV*

Worship in Music

I've Been in the Storm So Long • Traditional Spiritual / Jeffrey Ames

Sermon

"STORM: Finding Jesus in the Gathering Dark"—3 • Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card

The Savior Is Waiting • 289

As We Depart

Praise to the Lord • Martin Shaw

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: José Bourget; ORGAN: Kenneth Logan

GUITAR: Ivan Uriegas; PIANO: Joshua Goines

VOCALS: Sinegugu Katenga, Jay Oetman, Jamila Sylvester, Ivanna Ticar

WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Andrews University Choral Union; Stephen Zork, director

SUBMIT announcements by emailing bulletin@pmchurch.org or by going to www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit. Requests must be received **Monday by 5:00 PM** for consideration.

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING
PMC Operating Expense

SUNSET TODAY • 5:53
SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY • 6:02

PIONEER PULPIT

| 02 • 04 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

“STORM: Finding Jesus in the Gathering Dark”—4

| 02 • 11 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

“STORM: Finding Jesus in the Gathering Dark”—5

FINANCIAL FEATURE

MICHIGAN ADVANCE PARTNERS

Today's offering is designated for MAP. Local conference development funds are given and used for such needs as youth camps, academy expansion, camp meeting facilities, and other local conference endeavors which require additional funds of a non-tithe nature. For Michigan Conference this offering supports eight aspects of the church on the conference level including evangelism, building programs, Camp Au Sable, camp meeting, and education. Make a decision to become a Michigan Advance Partner and commit to support this offering through systematic giving.

Visitors' Dinner

Join us today after second service in the PMC Commons (downstairs) for a home-cooked vegetarian meal.

First GO Project of 2017

TODAY • 3:00 PM
PMC PARKING LOT

Join us for a chance to appreciate and minister to our elderly as we visit a nursing home in Stevensville. Transportation will be provided for the first 15 students who show up at the PMC parking lot at 3 PM. Otherwise you can meet us at the nursing home at 3:30 PM (4368 Cleveland Ave, Stevensville, MI 49127). We hope to see you there!

Family Vespers

TODAY • 5:30 PM
YOUTH CHAPEL

This evening we will watch and discuss a video on prophecy, "The Blueprint: Earth's Final Movie," by Ivor Meyers.

Thank You

Thank you church family for all your support during this time of loss. Special thanks to all that assisted with the service, prayed, hugged and fed us. We are looking forward to Jesus' return.

–The David Hodge Family
(Jeannette, Rolene, & Ronda)

PMC Game Night

TODAY • 7:00 PM
PMC COMMONS

All students and members are invited for a fun evening of games and food! Bring your favorite game and join us!

Young Artist Concert

TODAY • 8:00 PM
HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The AU Orchestra and winners of the annual Young Artist Competition will present a concert. Admission is free.

Digging Deep Sabbath School

SABBATHS • 10:30 TO 11:30 AM
SEMINARY BUILDING (N310)

Want to be fascinated by the Word? Are you a young adult/student at Andrews University? Would you like to become so fascinated with the biblical text that reading it becomes, literally, a highlight of your day? Join us every Sabbath morning as we study entire biblical books. Bring your Bible and your curiosity.

Adventurer Teacher Needed

The Adventurer Club is looking for a teacher to work with our Helping Hands class. Please contact us for more information at adventurers@pmchurch.org.

Care for Cuba

Help equip Cuban pastors and Bible workers with crucial resources like technology, transportation, and ministry materials. Checks paid to your church should be marked "Cuba" on the tithe envelope. Visit CareforCuba.org for more info or to donate online. For more info (mdivstudy-tour@andrews.edu or 269.471.3538).

ARM Annual Dinner

TOMORROW • 1:00 PM
ANDREWS ACADEMY COMMONS

Join us for our annual ARM dinner. Andrews Academy has always appreciated the prayers and support that ARM has provided and would like to thank you by having our students prepare a meal and program for you. Come enjoy a great luncheon followed by music and inspiring testimonies by the students. This dinner is open to all retirees.

Mommy (and Daddy) & Me

TUESDAYS • 10:00 AM
PMC NURSERY

This is a fun group for kids (0-5 years old) and their parent or caregiver to enjoy friendships and activities together. Each week will include playtime, songs/stories, and crafts. Come make new friends and have fun with your children!

House of Prayer—2 Sessions

WEDNESDAYS • 7:00 AM/7:00 PM
PMC SANCTUARY

Join us morning (Youth Chapel) or evening (Sanctuary) for group praying—bring your Bible, bring a friend.

Media Team Volunteers

The PMC Media Team is looking for volunteers—people willing to help in multiple areas including with the PA/audio systems, operating cameras for the telecast, and putting together and operating the sermon graphics. Experience is welcome but not necessary. Take this opportunity to discover what happens behind the scenes of a global media ministry. For more information and on-the-job training, email mediateam@pmchurch.tv.

GROW More Hope in 2017

Lead a GROW Group between February 20 and April 30, 2017. It's as simple as 1, 2, 3. (1) Think of a subject or activity that you are passionate about. (2) Invite at least 2 others to join you. (3) Sign up at www.pmchurch.org/grow. Help us grow more hope, community, and friends for Christ! For questions or ideas, contact Pastor Sabine at growgroups@pmchurch.org or 269.471.6153.

Because We Care

If or when you are sick or may have to go to the hospital, PMC wants to support you. Feel free to call the church office (471.3133) and let us know if we can pray for you and/or if you would like a pastoral visit. And if you want your name on the printed prayer list or mentioned in the pastoral prayer, please let us know.

Financial Peace University

FEBRUARY 23 • 6:30 TO 8:00 PM
PMC YOUTH CHAPEL

When was the last time you had peace about your finances? Join us as we learn biblical principals to help manage personal finances through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. The average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in the first 90 days! For more information or to register visit www.pmchurch.org/financialpeaceuniversity or call the church office at 269.471.3133.

Get Our E-Letter!

Receive PMC's e-Letter, Pioneer Midweek, for weekly updates about church life, events, and more! Subscribe today at www.pmchurch.org/newsletter.

South Bend Christian Homeschool Co-Op

Join us twice a month to enjoy chapel together, public speaking practice, hands-on projects, reading with friends, and more. We also participate in field trips and Bible labs. For more info, contact Monica Nudd at monjac720@gmail.com.

AU Mission Trip to Haiti

On March 17, 27 students will be flying to the city of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, during spring break. They will be building an addition onto an orphanage, providing a medical clinic, and putting on a VBS program for the children. Your financial support would be greatly appreciated as they go to be Jesus' hands and feet. You can donate by going to www.andrews.edu/go/give/2cm and in the instructions box write, "Students Haiti."

Upcoming Concerts

Looking for some excellent music to enjoy? The Howard Center presents two upcoming concerts:

JANUARY 29 • 7:00 PM

Finding Favour, a popular Georgia-based Christian recording group, will feature songs from their debut and self-titled album.

FEBRUARY 12 • 7:00 PM

The Vienna Boys' Choir, composed of boys between the ages of 10 to 14, perform an encompassing range that includes Medieval, motets and lieder, and compositions by Mozart, Bruckner, Gluck and Schubert.

More Announcements

For more PMC and community announcements, please visit our website at www.pmchurch.org/announcements.

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TRANSFORMING
THIS **GENERATION**



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