

The Harvester

New Life Christian Church
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Paul Vale, Minister

August 2019

Sunday Morning is for Worship Only

(copied/adapted)

I was talking with a friend of mine who asked me to hold him accountable for a number of things in his life, among them being church attendance. He gave me permission to call him out when he missed on Sunday morning.

He missed this past Sunday morning. I called him up. “Hey man, I missed you on Sunday. Everything okay?” “Yeah,” he said. “I had a ton of laundry to do. I worked all day Saturday and didn’t have any time to get all my stuff done.” Hmmm. This conversation was not moving in a good direction, because I could feel the hardcore coach in me rising up. I’ve always hated excuses and justifications, in both sports AND faith.

“Yeah, that sounds pretty rough,” I said. “Sunday morning is a great time for doing stuff you could do any other time of the day. Or week. Or month.” “I know, I know, I was being bad,” he said dismissively.

“Really?” I said. “You’re giving me the ol’ brush off? You told me to hold you accountable on this, so I’m going to. Let me ask you a question. How many hours are there in one week?” He thought for a minute. “168.” “Yep. You get to worship God with your church family for just one of those per week. 1/168th of your week to unplug from the rat race, get alone with your church family, and worship the God who gave everything for you.”

“You only have 52 of those per year,” I continued, “so this is what I need you to do. I need you to adopt a ‘Sunday morning is for worship only’ mentality. It’s not a day where you wake up and decide if worship is one of *many* things you could possibly do that day. I need you to start thinking of it as a sacred time – a time that is off-limits to everything else. I need you to start thinking of it like you would a UK basketball game.”

“A UK basketball game?” he asked. “Yep. I see you on Twitter a few days before each game posting your expectations, opinions, thoughts, etc., about the Big Blue Nation. You’re bought in. You’re committed. I would imagine that if you work the entire day before a UK basketball game and had laundry to do, you wouldn’t do laundry instead of watch the game. Why? Because several days, maybe weeks, in advance, you decided. You spent the days before the game preparing to watch it.”

“You need to do the same thing with Sunday morning worship. Decide in advance that Sunday morning is for worship only. Nothing, and I mean nothing, gets in the way. Worship is not one option among many for Sunday morning. It is THE option. If you are a Christian, worship with your church family should be one of the top two or three priorities in your life. Nothing – laundry, sports, laziness, family gatherings, work around the home – gets your Sunday morning.”

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Now I realize this is revolutionary. I mean, totally revolutionary. I have never been challenged in my life to prioritize Sunday morning as for worship only. I have never been challenged to prepare myself in upcoming days for Sunday morning worship. I've never even given it a thought.

However, I'm challenging the Body of Christ to give Sunday morning over to God. And never take it back.

I'm calling the Body of Christ, people who call themselves Christians, to unapologetically and ruthlessly guard Sunday morning. But I'm also going to challenge you to step it up even further.

(1) Consecrate Saturday night for preparation. Pray for non-Christians who are struggling. Pray that they would find their way to your church. Then invite them. Pray for the Holy Spirit to be powerful at your church the next day.

(2) Get to church early. Don't fly into the church parking lot on two wheels twenty minutes late. Get to the church twenty minutes EARLY. Spend time before the service praying over each seat. Pray for the person who will be sitting there. Pray for the words of Scripture to comfort and challenge. Pray that the worship time would move them. Pray for your leaders, for the volunteers, for the children that will be there.

(3) Parents, pray for your children. Pray that they would encounter God in a real and relevant way during their time at the church gathering.

(4) Expect the miraculous to happen. Have we so belittled the power of God that we no longer expect miracles when we are together? Expect that a drug-addicted person will experience freedom during that hour. Expect that a struggling marriage will be healed during that hour. Expect a non-believer to submit his or her life to Christ during that hour. Is anything too hard for God to accomplish?

Seen through this lens, Sunday morning takes on an entirely new shape and form. Definitely not something that you would miss so you could do a load of laundry.

(copied/adapted)

Elders/Deacons Cook-out



Elders and deacons, Paul is going to grill out for you on August 31st. Please come to Paul & Susie's back deck at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 31st, for an evening of good eats and good conversation.

New Church Update

The church has not yet been demolished due to unforeseen circumstances, but we *are* still making progress. This sign went up this past week!



The new demolition date is scheduled for August 21st. Please keep praying for the new church project!

10 WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH:

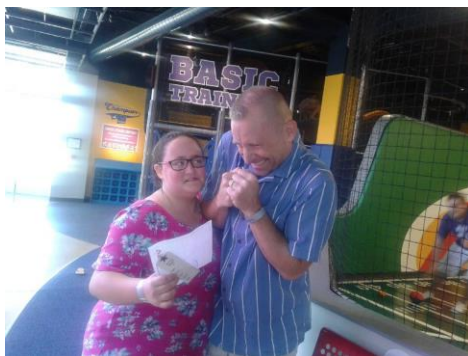
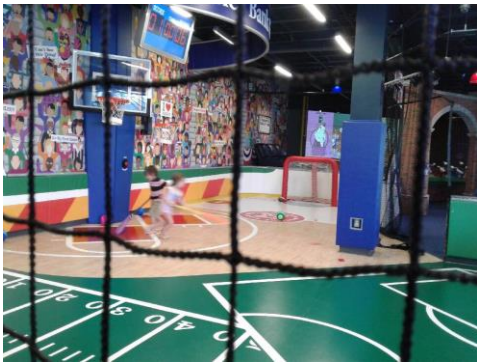
1. Attend Regularly
2. Give Generously
3. Love Radically
4. Bring Others consistently
5. Volunteer Joyfully
6. Share Jesus willingly
7. Fellowship purposely
8. Show up energetically
9. Pray fervently
10. Encourage Faithfully

KIDZ BLAST

Kidz Blast is going great! The kids are loving it. And we've got an amazing team of adults and teens who are working with the kids.

Each Sunday during the Worship Service, kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade have their own time of singing, lesson, crafts, etc.

During the second hour of Kidz Blast, the kids enjoy Sunday Funday – various fun-filled activities, like this recent trip to the Mascot Hall of Fame!



Upcoming Sunday Fundays: 8/11 – Splash Pad at Wolf Lake; 8/18 – Games Day at church; 8/25 – Pool Party at Paul & Susie's; 9/1 – Movie Day at church; 9/8 – Playground Fun; 9/15 – Cookout/Pool Party at Paul & Susie's

Youth News

Here's another grad we forgot to mention. Congrats to Dominic Pagan who graduated from Purdue with a degree in Sociology.



We were so fortunate that, even though we were unable to attend a week of CIY this year due to finances, CIY graciously allowed our high schoolers to attend the final worship service at the end of a week of CIY at Wheaton College a few weeks ago. It was awesome, and the kids were very happy to be able to attend. CIY even comped our pre-worship meal. Thank you, CIY! We'll be back for a full week next year for sure!



Teens, we have only three more Monday night pool parties/Youth Groups: August 12, 19, and 26. We hope to see you there!



Church Kick-off

Our church fall kick-off will be Sunday, September 22nd. Mark your calendar, and plan now to be in attendance that day. Our worship service will be followed by a potluck.



Stats

June 2

Attendance 148
Offering \$2,801

June 9

Attendance 142
Offering \$2,114

June 16

Attendance 110
Offering \$2,732

June 23

Attendance 134
Offering \$3,222

June 30

Attendance 151
Offering \$2,866

Baptisms in 2019: 1

Sunday Schedule:

10:00 Worship Service
10:00 Kidz Blast (K-5th)
11:00 Donut Fellowship
11:00 Sunday Funday (K-5th)
11:15 Adult Bible Fellowships

August



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4 Kidz Blast Sunday Funday Mascot Hall of Fame, 11:00	5 Teen Pool Party, 7:00	6	7	8	9	10
11 Kidz Blast Sunday Funday Splash Pad, 11:00	12 Rylie Wienke Leslie Perez birthdays Teen Pool Party, 7:00	13 Josalyne Medina birthday	14	15	16	17
18 Kidz Blast Sunday Funday Games Day, 11:00	19 Teen Pool Party, 7:00	20	21 Halliar anniversary Demolition Day	22	23	24
25 Kidz Blast Sunday Funday Pool Party, 11:00	26 Barb O'Drobinak Andrew Wilson birthdays Teen Pool Party, 7:00	27 Ken Luebbe birthday	28	29	30 Brett Wienke birthday	31 Kayla Brown birthday Elders/Deacons Cook-out at Paul & Susie's, 5:00

We are a non-denominational Christian church. We follow the Bible and have no other creeds.
Each Sunday we worship together and partake of communion.

Sunday schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship Service; Kidz Blast for Grades K-5th; attended nursery for ages 2-5
11:00 a.m. Adult Bible Fellowships; Sunday Funday for Grades K-5th

We Believe:

- that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the final authority for all matters of faith. (*2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Rom. 15:4; Heb. 4:12*)
- that God is the creator of man and all things. (*Gen. 1:1; Acts 17:24-28*)
- that man willfully sinned and, as a result, is lost and without hope apart from Jesus Christ. (*Acts 4:12; Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:7*)
- in the deity of Jesus Christ (that Jesus is God in human form), and in the trinity (God is three in one – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit). (*John 14:9-11; Matt. 3:16-17*)
- in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. (*Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:34-38*)
- that Jesus Christ, God's only Son, is the Messiah, the Savior of the world. (*John 3:16-17; 1 Peter 3:18*)
- that Jesus died on the cross, and that salvation comes by grace through the blood of Jesus Christ. (*1 Cor. 15:3; Eph. 2:8-9; Matt. 26:28; Rom. 5:8-11*)
- that three days after His crucifixion, Jesus came out of the grave in bodily form, and then ascended into heaven. (*Luke 24:36-43; 1 Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:19*)
- that the Bible teaches that God's plan of salvation is to hear God's Word, to believe His Word to be true, to repent of the sin in your life, to confess that Jesus is God's Son, and to be immersed in baptism. (*Luke 13:5; Rom. 10:9-10; Luke 24:45-47; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:1-7; 2 Peter 3:9*)
- that the Holy Spirit dwells within every Christian. (*John 16:5-15*)
- that Jesus Christ is going to come back one day. (*John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:14-18*)
- that heaven and hell are real, and that there is coming a day of judgment when all people will be held accountable for their behavior; the saved will inherit eternal life; the unsaved, eternal separation from God. (*John 5:28-29; John 6:47; Rev. 20:10, 15; Rev. 21:2-5, 27*)
- that the church is the body and Bride of Christ, founded on the Day of Pentecost, consisting of all Christians everywhere. (*Matt. 16:13-18; Acts 2:14-47*)

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