



WL Family News

NOVEMBER 2019

Church News

Showers

● **The friends and family** of Pam Miller invite the ladies of the church to a come-and-go bridal shower for her on Sunday, November 17, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the courtyard. Pam is registered at Target, Menards, Warsaw Cut Glass, and Bed, Bath & Beyond. Contact Angie Heinsman or Sherri Snow if you have questions.

● **The friends and family** of Tricia Hummel invite the ladies of the church to a come-and-go baby shower on Sunday, November 24, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space at The Hub. Tricia and Chad are expecting identical twin girls in February. She is registered on Amazon. Contact Helene McNulty at 574-453-7243 if you have questions.

Wedding

● **The Jeffreys and Shennum families** would like to extend an invitation to the WL church family to attend the wedding of Gabe Shennum and Brenna Jeffreys on Saturday, November 9, at 2:30 p.m. in the Worship Center of the church. The reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

WL Kids



● **Did you know** that between the ages of 10-15 children's brains develop more than any other stage of life? Did you know teens and preteens learn best through interaction and activity? Because of that, WL Students and WL Kids have launched a joint venture called *Cryptic*.

This 6-week series on Wednesday nights for our 5th-8th graders began October 30 and will run through December 11. *Cryptic* meets during our normal SPLASH and Epic times (6:45-8:15). Our students will be choosing from a variety of activities to experience with their small groups. It might be anything from weaving to car repairs to hair braiding to survival skills. Students will learn how hobbies and skills are a way we can glorify God. Leaders will be teaching and modeling how they incorporate their faith through these skills. Students will also participate in a small group Bible study on these evenings.

Pray for the health needs of:

Carol Maurer	Larry Unruh
Leila Humberd	Jonathan Walter
Wayne Snider	Millie Pacheco
Mark Sharp	Joyce Loebis
Charles & Alice Koontz	Nancy Zellner
Ann Lakes	Jim & Tina Bauer
Michelle Phelps	Jim Morrison
Art & Nancy McGinness	Paul Wright
Roseann Heisler	Bethany Fluke
Annette Coenen	Claudia McCray
Michael Marsh	Jean Wallace
Phyllis Roberts	Miriam Bryant
Carolyn Brady	Amy Sparrow
Tom Julien	Maddie Silveus
Jamie Pringle (brother of Janelle Leitch)	

Reaching Our World Locally

Here are some ways WL individuals, families, Life Groups, or an ABF can help showcase God's love to our community. The global mission of the church begins with our neighbors and friends. For more info, contact Pastor Dave at drank@wlgbc.com or the person listed below:

✓ **We Care Warsaw**, our 12th annual day of helping meet the needs of people in our community, is Saturday, November 16. Visit www.wecarewarsaw.com for a list of ways to *volunteer* and suggestions of items to *donate*. **Donated items may be dropped off at the designated areas in the main building (entrance and courtyard) and in the Gathering Space at The Hub.**

A laptop computer is available at WL Central in the courtyard where you can sign up. WL Central also has (1) invite cards in English and Spanish for you to distribute to people in the community, and (2) a flyer about hair stylists/barbers for you to distribute to your connections in the community who may be willing to donate their time to complete the team of haircutters (not needed to be licensed but some experience is necessary). Contact Cindy Yocum at the church at cyocum@wlgbc.com or 267-6623. **Know anyone who can interpret Spanish? WCW always needs more interpreters to help our Hispanic friends feel welcomed. Contact Pastor Dave.**

✓ **Fellowship Missions Pizza/Bingo Night:** This monthly event hosted by WL will be **Saturday, November 23** at the FM homeless shelter from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Just bring a plate of dessert (cookies, brownies, etc.). Interested? Contact Judy Yeager at jayeager@earthlink.net

Summary Report on the Biennial Review of Pastor Bruce Barlow

✓ **November 23 Parent Training Class**, “Behavior Detectives: Trauma and Its Effects on Children:” While this is especially designed for foster parents (with three hours of training credit), it can also be beneficial for all parents, caregivers, educators, social workers. Presenters are WL’s Stacy and Darren Gagnon, founders and directors of the non-profit organization, “Lost Sparrows” (www.lostsparrows.org). The class will be held in The Hub auditorium from 9:00 a.m.-Noon. We need the WL family’s help in getting the word out to their friends and connections in the community. Flyers are available at the Info Center to hand out to those you think could benefit from the class.

✓ **Fellowship Missions Thanksgiving Meal**: Help the homeless residents have a great meal on Thanksgiving Day. You can help bring the prepared items and drop them off at the shelter front desk on *by noon on Wednesday, November 27*. For a complete menu list: <https://perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=IYBY4624>.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Nadine at the shelter at ngibbs@fellowshipmissions.net or 274-268-9555, ext. 104.

✓ **Jefferson Elementary**: Our adopted neighboring school will be having their second monthly “Empowering Parents” class night on **Thursday, November 21**, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The topic is “Communication,” and the presenters are WL’s Tim and Brandi Wright. *There is an opportunity to help Pastor Dave and others with children’s games in the school gym that evening.* Interested? Contact Pastor Dave. Please—and thank you!

✓ **Habitat Resale Store**: Volunteer opportunities available each Friday and Saturday, anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Contact WL’s Matt Abbitt at matt@kosciuskohabitat.org who is the new manager of the store located at 3970 Corridor Dr., Warsaw.

✓ **Kosciusko County Jail Ministry**: Join WL’s Peggy Owens, assistant chaplain at the jail, in leading various parts of the weekly Sunday worship service for female inmates. **When**: Sunday at 7:45 a.m. and ending between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. (three identical services are held back to back); **Who**: female young adults or older. Only one additional person other than Peggy can serve each week. Contact Peggy at munkao10@gmail.com

✓ **Combined Community Services**: One of WL’s local partners has a volunteer opportunity to help as a front desk receptionist for several hours. (CCS is located near the YMCA.) Contact WL’s Ann Myers who works at CCS at amyers@combinedcommunityservices.org

✓ **ENL Thursday class** from 10:00-11:30 a.m. needs an additional child care volunteer. Volunteer once a month on the same Thursday of the month, twice a month, or each Thursday. Contact WL’s Cassie Wanty at cjwenty@gmail.com or 574-380-0179.

The Board of Overseers completed the review of Pastor Bruce with discussion at their meeting on October 15. The review process included a survey and a self-evaluation written by Bruce. A total of 86 surveys were submitted. These were completed by overseers, pastors, office team, the Discipleship Counseling Team, and 57 others in the church family. The self-evaluation and survey results were reviewed and discussed with the WLGBC Human Resources Group, the Pastoral Team, and the Board of Overseers.

Summary of comments submitted on the surveys:

- *Bruce would grow in effectiveness if . . .* there were comments on preaching, leadership, delegation, and setting clear expectations of staff.
- *Bruce should invest more time and energy in . . .* there were comments on church vision, structures, counseling, people care, and mentoring.
- *In coming years until Jesus returns, our church’s best impact in our community will come in . . .* there were comments on Bible teaching, counseling, meeting people needs, greenhouse for training young leaders, and student ministries.

Here are some excerpts from Bruce’s self-evaluation:

- Last June marked thirteen years in the role of Lead Pastor. God has blessed our church family with a great team of overseers, pastors, support staff, and ministry leaders.
- My perspective on family struggles and dependence on God has grown and deepened through all that has happened in our family since last summer.
- Ministry highlights the past 38 months include:
 - ✓ the updated “Vision, Values, & Initiatives” brochure;
 - ✓ the “Imagine The Potential” generosity initiative;
 - ✓ progress in stewardship education, intentionality about offerings in our worship services, offering training and help to those who want to take next steps in generosity;
 - ✓ leadership through a large number of staff transitions has been essential. Retirements, departure for other positions, and new roles add up to ten significant changes. That’s a lot of shifting and changing in just a three-year period.

One purpose of our pastoral reviews is to identify areas of effectiveness and areas of challenge to be addressed. Takeaways from the process and growth goals for the next two years include:

- investment in younger men and couples;
- review, revision, and updating of a number of our policies and our Constitution;
- revise and update the pre-marital counseling process, instituting mentor couples;
- take next steps in opening Discipleship Counseling to those connected to someone at WLGBC but not attenders themselves;
- complete implementation of a WLGBC Safety Team—procedures, recruitment, training, and equipment.

