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We live in a toxic culture and are being negatively influenced by the pollutants we inhale. True for our lungs, but also true for our soul. This month our church is taking a Soul Detox. This study is helping us identify ways in which we may be susceptible to the harmful thoughts, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors rampant in our world. Week 1 of our study focused on Lethal Language. I was reminded of the following article I wrote a few years ago. Take an updated look:

Is your breath repulsive?

By Pastor Kurt

Is your breath repulsive? You know how it is when after eating a hearty meal it stays with you all day. Every time you open your mouth some offensive or repulsive odor escapes. Sometimes the hardest brush or the strongest mint just cannot touch it. It is bad enough when someone realizes their own fowl breath, but even worse when one has no idea. The co-worker who after drinking a pot of coffee seems to always talk real close. How about the nurse who likes to smoke or the dentist who just ate lunch? Couldn't concentrate to your coach or teammate in that close huddle? Ever held your breath until someone was done talking, or made an excuse to leave the conversation? Wish you had a mint to offer? Without a doubt all of us have been on both sides of these bad breath scenarios.

To my surprise I found out Job had bad breath. While reading this ancient book I laughed as I came across these words, *"My breath is offensive to my wife, I am loathsome to my own brothers"* (NIV). Another version reads, *"My breath is repulsive to my wife, I am loathsome to my own family"* (NRSV). Check it out in Job 19:17.

Here is the point. Are you perhaps knowingly or unknowingly offending or repulsing people by the words you say, the jokes you tell, or slurs you make? Have you ever really stopped and listened to what you are saying to your wife or husband in that fit of anger? What tones and tempers are you expressing? Were your children in the car when you peeled off those four letter words to the car that pulled out in front of you? Did you ever think that Polish people, gays, blonds, or Catholics might not be laughing when you get to the punch line? Have you ever considered that your words have the power to wound far deeper than sticks and stones? Would Jesus be laughing or say the things we do? Do our words follow the Philippians 4:8 rule?

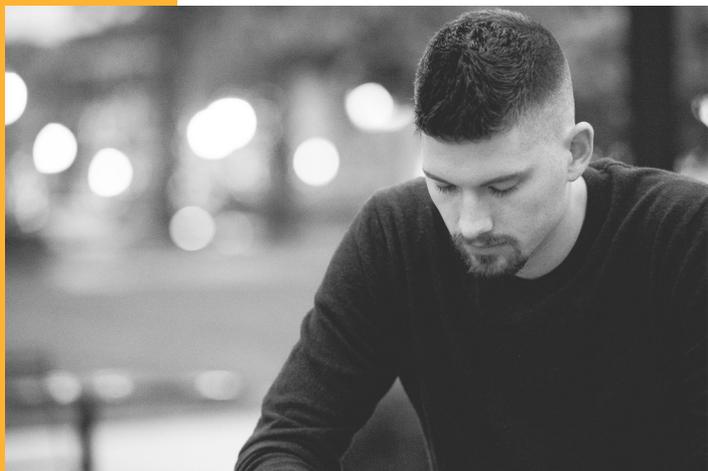
When we open our mouths we let out what is deep within our soul – our bitterness, our insecurity, our wounds, our pride, our problems, our filth, our pain. Does our mouth reveal our need for a soul detox?

So, the next time you brush your teeth, ask yourself if you also need to brush your heart or soul. Pray as David prayed, *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting"* (Psalm 139:23-24).

What Jesus has to say about "bad breath":

"Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man `unclean.' For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man `unclean'. Matthew 15:16-20

THE GRACE OF SHAME



Have you ever thought of shame as a grace; that is, a gift of God? In their book *The Grace of Shame: 7 Ways the Church Has Failed to Love Homosexuals*, authors Tim Bayly, Joseph Bayly and Jurgen von Hagen point out that increasingly churches are downplaying the shame of sodomy because our culture is becoming increasingly accepting of it. However, it is God in His Word who has ordained the shame of sodomy and lesbianism (see, for example, the account of Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction in Genesis 18-19; see also Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Timothy

1:10). In the authors' words, "God did so to people living in times and places every bit as sexually perverse as our own."

The authors state, "Beyond faithfulness to the words of God, though, why speak of sodomy's shame? Because those repenting of sodomy and lesbianism experience shame as God's grace. We (the authors) have received emails thanking us for noting sodomy's shame through our word use. Those repenting of these sins thank us for helping them feel proper revulsion toward their temptation. Shame helps these precious souls flee their temptations. The Holy Spirit's language is not hate speech, but the kindness of God that leads to repentance." The authors quote another individual in saying that just like authority, matter, energy, and risk, shame can't be eliminated. It's just transferred from one place to another. "Thus Christians who condemn the shaming of sodomy and lesbianism are not actually repudiating shame. They merely transfer shame from sodomy itself to Scripture's words which condemn sodomy; from those who commit sodomy to those who by faith speak of sodomy in the language of Scripture." In other words, they ascribe shame to those who speak against sodomy, and to the Scriptures that speak against it.

After they sinned, Adam and Eve tried to transfer their shame; Adam blamed Eve and God for giving Eve to Adam, and Eve blamed the serpent (Genesis 3:12-13), and as their descendants we've been operating the same way ever since. If I'm caught in the wrong, too quickly I try to cover it up and blame the person who pointed it out. When we speak to others about their sins, whether it be the sin of sexual relationship outside of Biblical marriage or other sins, we should not be surprised if an attempt is made to transfer the sin's shame to us for bringing it up. And by the same token, when we sin, we should realize that the shame we feel is God's kindness leading us to repentance. Godly shame is indeed a grace.

"...just like authority, matter, energy, and risk, shame can't be eliminated. It's just transferred from one place to another."

Ron Burns, Discipleship Coordinator

TEAM JAMAICA UPDATE

Thank you for your donations at the Third Sunday Lunch, and for your continued prayers as we prepare for this mission trip. We have \$15,000 left to raise. If you need help with a home project in exchange for a donation, please call the church office with the details, and team members will contact you about a time to get the work done. Thanks again!
—Team Jamaica



If you would like to make a donation by check to the team this can be done by writing "Team Jamaica" in the memo line and placing the check in the offering plate or dropping it off to the office. To make an online donation or to support an individual team member directly, please contact the office for further instructions.

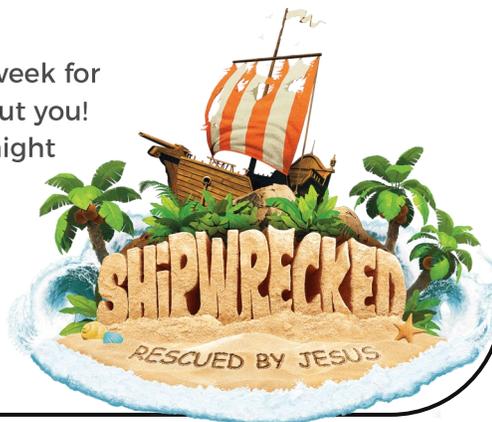
SAVE THE DATE

Calling all kids (age 4-6th grade) and kids at heart! Coming up this summer at Vacation Bible School—We're going to get *Shipwrecked* together and learn how Jesus rescues us! We hope you'll reserve the evenings of July 29-August 2 and join in the fun!

Kids: Ask Jesus to help you look for opportunities to invite someone to VBS this year.

Adults: We can't make this a successful week for our church family and community without you! Please begin praying about where you might help serve at VBS.

Questions? Contact Lisa Rice (lisa@nmfbc.org) or a member of the Children's Discipleship Ministry



MISSIONS AND
OUR REACH



Children's Discipleship

WINTER GO FOR THE GOLD ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE! We will be totaling our attendance each week in February. If we reach our attendance goals in Garden 3-K and LOFT we will have a special Gold Medal celebration party in March! Be here each week at 9:15 and 10:30 to help us win!

Garden

Nursery and Two year olds: Parents: Please continue to label any items you bring with your child such as a diaper bag, pacifier, sippy cup, etc. This helps us keep your things together and your child happy. J Also, if you have not filled out a registration form for your child, please pick one up from your child's room, fill it out, and return it to the helpers there or the church office. This gives us useful information as well as how we can text you if we need you during a church service.

3-K's: This month in the Garden 3-K's we will be learning that Jesus can do anything! See if your child can tell you what amazing things Jesus did in the Bible Story each week.

LOFT

This month in LOFT and elementary classes we will be finishing our winter theme focusing on God's love for us. We will learn how Jesus heals, prays, and preaches.

LOFT Winter Memory Verse and Challenge:

John 3:16 (NIV) For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres....

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Kids can recite memory verses the last two weeks of February for prizes. J

KIDS FOR CHRIST ICE SKATING!

Have the winter Olympics got you wanting to try skating?

All 5th and 6th graders- be watching your mailboxes and the LOFT bulletin board for final details. We will be traveling to Fort Wayne to ice skate this month. Plan to dress warmly and invite a friend!



VOLUNTEERS: Club RIOT and Kids for Christ will meet the first three Wednesdays in March for kids age 4-6th grade. **ParentConnect** will be held during Club RIOT for parents. Please be praying about how you can serve in this important outreach.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

9:15-10:15 AM, SUNDAYS

The JH class meets in the front part of the Fellowship Hall.
HS meets in the back of the Fellowship Hall.

6:15-7:45 PM, WEDNESDAYS

Combined Youth Group meets in the Fellowship Hall.
Friends are always welcome to join us!

SUPER BOWL PARTY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

High School Party @ Tim and Tawn McLaughlins, 1505 Villa Court.
Junior High Party @ Bill and Carol Colletts, 7402 N 400 E.
Guys bring something salty; ladies bring something sweet.

IGNITION WEEKEND RETREAT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16 TO SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

For JH and HS Students. Cost is \$70.

**Payment and Waiver Form must be turned in by Sunday, February 4.*
Leaving @ 4:00 pm from the church on Friday. Back by 11:30 am Sunday.

FIFTH QUARTER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

NEW LOCATION!

An Outreach Event for all 7th and 8th Grade Students.
After the Varsity Basketball game,
Fifth Quarter will be held in the Junior High Gym.
Ends at 11:00pm. Still costs just \$1.

ENGAGE CONFERENCE

JULY 16-20, 2018

It's time to start planning for summer!
Lock in the lowest student rate of \$150
by turning in your forms and \$50 deposit by April 29.

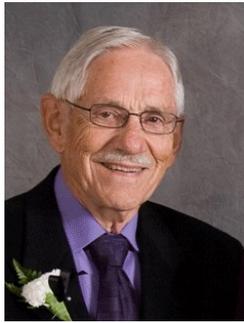
SYMPATHIES

We extend our sympathies to the family of Led Benton at his passing on December 25. Services were held at McKee Mortuary.

We offer our sympathies to the family of Mike Sturgeon, long-time friend of Karen Eiler, at his passing on January 6. Services were held at McKee Mortuary.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the North Manchester Chamber of Commerce 2017 Citizen of the Year—Warren Garner! We already knew he was a special guy but we're thrilled to see him recognized by this organization as well. Be sure to offer Warren your congrats the next time you see him!



THANK YOU

The family of Bonnie Hoover would like to say "Thank You" for your sympathy, prayers, thoughtfulness and kindness at a time when it was deeply appreciated. We are grateful to those who have provided food, sent cards and remembrances of serving with mom many years ago. First Brethren was where mom sewed (and knitted) many seeds of faith. Whether it was making peanut brittle in the church kitchen or trips to Lost Creek, Kentucky, she was blessed to have served alongside each of you. She will be greatly missed. Thank you.

Thank you so much for the very generous gift to LIFE Center. What a blessing it is to have you as a partner in our ministry! Please know you are helping us to reach so many in and around Wabash County.

Sincerely, Cheryl Meyer, Executive Director

Thanks everyone for the visits, cards, and most of all the prayers at the passing of my mother.

Sincerely, Joann Hill

WEEKLY PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Prayer Room

The Prayer Room is located just outside the sanctuary door to the children's wing. Except for Wednesdays when it's Lisa's office, the Prayer Room is available for prayer whenever the church is open. During each of the Sunday morning services, someone is praying in there for you, the congregation of FBC.

We would like to encourage everyone to choose a Sunday and a service and sign up to pray there. Sign up is on the bulletin board beside the Prayer Room.

Prayer Cards

The ivory prayer cards in the pews are available for any prayer requests. You may place the card in the offering plate or leave it in the church office.

Prayer Service

A prayer service is held each Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the library. It consists of guided prayer time and spontaneous scripture reading. Adults, teens, and kids welcome.



LifeLine offers screenings that go beyond your annual physical at an affordable price. They will be at First Brethren on Thursday, January 8. Please call 1-888-653-6450 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners to register and receive a special \$10 discount.

February

Birthdays

- 1- Carol Collett
- 2 - Jason McIntyre
Mac Yarnelle
- 3 - Brisa Jones
- 4 - Lila McCann
- 5 - Dave McIntyre
- 6 - Joyce Walters
- 7 - Linda Immel
Isaiah Burlingame
- 8 - Heather Lauer
- 9 - Terry Sites
Harrison Nettleton

- 10 - Beletu Stout
Elijah Harting
- 11 - Nicole McKee
- 13 - Randy Moore
- 15 - Donna Beaver
Ed Egner
- 16 - Bill Bellinger
Annette Clifton
Dane Simcoe
- 17 - Kent Coble
- 18 - Robin Shepherd
- 19 - Kay Bellinger
Ava Simcoe
- 23 - Darren Callaway
- 25 - Cara Blocher

- 28 - Myrl Frantz
Dominic Lincoln
Sarah Longanecker
- 29 - Steve Kennedy

Anniversaries

- 7 - Chris & Wendy Frantz '15
- 9 - Kim & Marcy Pratt '91
- 13 - Jason & Abbie Richards '16
- 14 - Martin & Rhonda Hernandez '04
Bob & Sue Craig
- 24 - Matthew & Diana Nettleton '96
- 25 - Shaun & Estella Callaway '12

February

- 5 2 Chron. 11-12
- 6 13-14
- 7 15-16
- 8 17-18
- 9 19-20

- 12 21-22
- 13 23-24
- 14 25-26
- 15 27-28
- 16 29-30

- 19 1-2
- 20 3-4
- 21 5-6
- 22 2 Thess. 1-2
- 23 3

- 26 Ezra 1-2
- 27 3-4
- 28 5-6

March

- 1 7-8
- 2 9-10

WINTER WEATHER SERVICE INFORMATION

In the event of weather related situations, changes to our services will be posted on our church website and facebook pages. We will also list changes/cancellations on the WBCL radio station (90.3 FM) and WANE TV station (Channel 15). You may visit their website for complete details.

VOLUNTEER INTEREST SURVEYS

136 people have filled out these surveys so far and have given our ministry leaders a great new pool of volunteers to call upon. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to fill these out—we appreciate your willingness to serve! If you have not yet completed the survey copies are still available in the church office!

I have
LOVED
you
 with an
everlasting
love.
Jeremiah 31:3

LOOKING
AHEAD
MARCH

PRESCHOOL EXPLORATORY MEETING

Monday, February 19 at 7pm. In the sanctuary. We are hopeful that the Lord is speaking and moving and continue to pray for His leading and all of our obedience to what He is asking of us individually and collectively.

Join us to talk about options – and we have some exciting news to share as well.

Questions: Call Chris Metzger at 901-9176.

1st–18th
 Brethren Way of Christ and Faith
 Quest Weekends

29th
 Evening Communion Service



D6 DAYS

A FREE 2-day online event for preschool teachers, youth workers, pastors, volunteers and parents. On February 12 & 13 you are invited to join thousands of others and hear some great Christian speakers. For more information or to sign up visit <https://d6family.com/d6days-2018/>

BRETHREN WAY OF CHRIST

What if you devoted three days to spend time with Jesus - learning more of His love and truth, seeking His will for your life in a very encouraging atmosphere, and making new Christian friends along the way?

This is offered in the Brethren Way of Christ, which consists in part of a free three-day weekend (Thursday evening through Sunday evening). The spring weekends are coming up in March. Is it time for you to attend? Start thinking and

praying about it now. If you would like more information, please see Mark Hill, Steve Searles, Cindy Pyle, Heather Winger or a pastor. Informational brochures and applications are in the gathering area. You can also visit brethrenway.wordpress.com.

**Is it time for
you to
attend?**

WORSHIP BASED PRAYER TRAINING

IHOPE (Indiana House of Prayer & Equipping) has the mission of equipping the church to become the house of prayer that God says we are to be called. They will be coming to Common Ground Prayer Ministry in Wabash (formerly Hesychia House of Prayer) every Tuesday from Feb 20-April 10 and bringing their worship team to facilitate the 8 weeks of worship based prayer. They will focus on praying the scripture, praising God, allowing God to minister to us and then ministering to each other and finally praying for the community and for the needs of the community. For more information contact Common Ground by phone (260-571-2774) or email praywabash@gmail.com

IN EVERY PLACE

THE **111 MANDATE**

Raising up 100+ altars of worship & prayer to Jesus

*"From the rising of the sun
to its going down,
my Name will be great
among the nations, and
IN EVERY PLACE
incense will be offered to my Name...
for my Name will be GREAT
among the nations,
says the Lord of Hosts." Mal 1:11*

IHOPE...INDIANA HOUSE OF PRAYER & EQUIPPING

Each Sunday
 (Unless Otherwise Specified)
 Worship Services 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.
 Adult Classes 8:00 a.m.
 Youth/Adult Classes & LOFT 9:15 a.m.
 Children/Adult Classes 10:30 a.m.

February 2018

Each Tuesday
 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study @ Timbercrest
 6:30-7:00 p.m. Prayer Service
Each Wednesday
 6:15 - 7:45 pm JH & SH Youth
 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study @ Timbercrest
Each Saturday
 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
 7:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 6:30 pm WMS @ M Lounge	6 9:00-11:00 am MOPS 7:00 pm DLC	7	8 8:00 am-500 pm LifeLine Screenings in the Fellowship Hall WinterJam	9	10
11	12 6:00 pm. Outreach 6:45 pm ADM	13	14 5:45 pm Nurture	15 6:30 pm Prison Ministry	16	17 8:00 am-3:00 pm BWOC Team Mtg.
18	19 7:00 pm Pre-K Meeting	20 9:00-11:00 am MOPS 7:00 pm DLC	21	22	23 9:00-11:30 pm 5th Quarter	24 All Day Kitchen in Use
25 12:00-3:00 pm Team Jamaica Meeting	26	27	28			

First Brethren Church
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February



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