

# NEWSLETTER

April 6, 2025

## BREAKFAST & CONNECT

We'd love for you all to join us next Sunday morning for Breakfast & Connect before the worship service. Several families have already signed up to bring egg bake. Feel free to bring something to go along with it if you'd like, but more than anything, just bring yourselves. We'll start serving breakfast at 8:00 AM on level one – aka the basement. By the way, there's a ground-level entrance at the back of the church if you all need it.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 14th (Following Worship) Creative Planning Team
- April 18th, 6:30 PM- Good Friday Communion
- April 20th, 9:00 AM – Easter Service

## UPCOMING PROJECTS

We need your support and prayers. Can you give or volunteer?

- Easter Mailer to Monroe
- Phase 1 – Painting inside and out – \$2000
- Phase 2- Nursery and Hosting Space – \$2000
- Phase 3 – Basement Carpeting – \$2500
- New Signage



## PLACES TO CONNECT

**Wednesday Night, 6:30 PM** Prayer Connection  
Contact: Jon Dunwell (515-325-7001)

**Thursday Morning, 6:30 AM** Men's Study  
Contact: Arlan De Hear (641-204-1693)

**Coming in May – Wednesdays, 6:30 PM**  
at church & on Zoom – Haggai, Building God's Church

## PRAYER BREAKFAST

**Thursday, April 17, 2025 • 7:15 – 9:00am**

**Speaker: Dr. Erwin W. Lutzer**

Gateway Church has a table (10 tickets). Please let Pastor Jon know if you would like to attend.

The Iowa Prayer Breakfast is a Maundy Thursday celebration that brings together people from all walks of life to mark the beginning of the Easter weekend. The event features Scripture readings, performances by local vocalists and musicians, an inspiring message from a keynote speaker, and prayers for the state.

Attendees enjoy a hearty breakfast and the company of friends and colleagues. Doors open at 6:45am and the event starts at 7:15am.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Got a prayer request? We'd be honored to hear from you! You can share it with us in three easy ways:

- **Text/Call:** 515-325-7001
- **Email:** [thebowtie84@gmail.com](mailto:thebowtie84@gmail.com),
- **Visit:** [www.gatewaychurchmonroe.com/prayer](http://www.gatewaychurchmonroe.com/prayer).

Whatever works best for you!



## I WANT TO KNOW...

Visit [www.gatewaychurchmonroe.com](http://www.gatewaychurchmonroe.com) for updates, information, past messages, to submit prayer requests, and to view the weekly bulletin.

## GET INVOLVED

If you have questions, suggestions, or want to serve, please reach out to us:

- [thebowtie84@gmail.com](mailto:thebowtie84@gmail.com)
- 515-325-7001
- [www.gatewaychurchmonroe.com](http://www.gatewaychurchmonroe.com)

## 5-Minute Confession Exercise for Devotions

### Preparation (30 seconds):

Find a quiet space where you can focus. Take a few deep breaths to calm your mind and heart. Invite God's presence by saying a short prayer, such as:

"Lord, I come before You now. Open my heart to Your truth and grace. Help me to see myself as You see me."

### Step 1: Reflect on Your Day (1 minute)

Think about your actions, words, and thoughts since your last time of confession (whether that's a day, a week, or longer). Ask yourself:

- Where did I fall short of God's will?
- Did I hurt anyone with my words or actions?
- Were there moments I chose my own way instead of God's?
- Don't rush—let the Holy Spirit bring specific things to mind. You might recall impatience, a harsh word, a selfish choice, or neglecting time with God.

### Step 2: Confess to God (2 minutes)

Speak to God honestly, either aloud or in your heart. Name the specific sins that came to mind. Be real and humble, trusting in His mercy. Here's an example to guide you:

"Father, I confess that today I was impatient with my family. I spoke harshly when I should have shown love. I also ignored Your nudge to pray this morning because I was distracted. I'm sorry, Lord. I know these things separate me from You, and I don't want that."

Take your time. If nothing specific comes up, confess generally:

"Lord, I know I sin in ways I don't even see. Search my heart and show me where I've gone wrong."

End this step by asking for forgiveness, resting in 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

### Step 3: Receive God's Forgiveness (1 minute)

Pause and let God's grace sink in. Picture Jesus on the cross, taking your sins upon Himself. Hear His words: "You are forgiven." Thank Him for His mercy. You might say:

"Thank You, Jesus, for dying for me. Thank You that my sins are washed away. I don't deserve it, but I receive Your forgiveness."

Sit in that truth for a moment—don't rush past it. Let it bring peace to your soul.

### Step 4: Commit to Change (30 seconds)

Ask God for strength to turn away from those sins. Make a simple commitment:

"Lord, help me to be patient tomorrow. Guide my words and keep my heart close to You."

Trust that He's already working in you to make you more like Christ (Philippians 1:6).

### Closing (30 seconds):

End with a short prayer of gratitude and surrender:

"Father, thank You for Your love and forgiveness. I give You my day, my heart, and my life. Lead me closer to You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Take a final deep breath, and carry His peace with you.

## Message Notes