

December
2023



HIGHLIGHTS:

- Live Nativity
- Church Board Meeting Notes
- The Greatest Place to Grow Up
- Misc Announcements and Classified Ads

Wilson Seventh-day Adventist Church

LIVE NATIVITY TOUR - 2023

Friday Dec 15 and Saturday Dec 16

Tours start anytime between 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM EST

Location: Wilson SDA Church

N13902 County Rd 551, Wilson MI 49896

Questions: Call or Text Dana Zinke at (906) 399-7208

Kids Corner!

**Have fun making Christmas crafts
while you are waiting for your tour to begin!**

**Enjoy a warm meal and drinks
with family and friends! Everyone is WELCOME!**



Notes from November Church Board meeting

Several items from the latest elders' meeting were shared with the board. Notably:

1. The idea of making Wednesday evening an "all church night" with most groups that meet weekly meet on that night – prayer meeting with options of format, Pathfinders, Adventures, others such as deaconesses, deacons. The idea of serving a supper would relieve pressure at homes of getting in a meal between work and meeting. Having multiple groups meeting could minimize the number of evenings a week that church leadership folks would have to be away from family.
2. Forming a worship committee to help with order of service issues, to explore ways to have each service have a coordinated theme.
3. The church-owned rental houses are currently without a landlord. The building committee has had to assume that role. Anyone who is willing to do any of the needed improvements or repairs is asked to check with Aaron Berger.
4. A representative from Michigan Broadband made a presentation to the board:

"Michigan Broadband Services will donate \$75 for each new fiber application we receive in our serving area, within your community, between November 9 and December 31, 2023. Installation is free during this time period."

This means that if one of our members urges another member or neighbor to sign up, Michigan Broadband will make this donation to the church. All donations will be paid after the services are installed.

Benefits also include increasing the value of your home should you ever decide to sell. Also, fiber optic-based internet service provides significantly faster internet speed to the home while also improving service reliability.

Don't forget about our ongoing Rada fundraiser. They have a great selection of knives and kitchen utensils that are a great gift or just a great new addition to your own supply!

If you shop online please use the link above, or you may search for **Wilson SDA Jr. Academy** at <https://radafundraising.com/pages/select-your-fundraising-group> .

If you prefer a catalog, please contact Brandee Groleau! She is also willing to help you with your orders.

The funds raised will go directly towards finishing our school gym project so that our school can function at its greatest potential for our students and teachers. Please help us meet this goal!

RADA Cutlery Fundraiser for the WJA School Expansion
<https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=1820058.87e8e7>
or call Brandee Groleau (906) 399-9247 (call or text)

The Greatest Place to Grow Up

by Pastor Jim Hakes, August 2007

I was at the funeral of a friend. He and I graduated college together. That made this funeral uniquely personal. I console myself with the fact that he was a little older than many of us graduates; he was married and had children when he came to college, so when we graduated, I was 22 and he was in his early 30's. Still, this was personal.

As I was sitting in this big crowd of people, yet very much alone with my own thoughts and feelings, one of my friend's family members said something that jarred my thoughts even further.

My friend and I grew up worlds apart. I am as country as they come – a farm boy until my family moved to a city – the big city to me, yet the whole of the city had no traffic lights. The unincorporated little city we moved to was as far away from a chain grocery store in miles as our house was from the grocery store when we lived on the farm. Such was my life until graduating from college with the same said friend. Yes, I was your all-American country boy, so American that my national ancestry is hopelessly mixed up.

My friend and college classmate whom we were all remembering at the funeral was a full-blooded Italian who grew up in the Bronx, New York. I didn't know his growing up world and he didn't know mine.

Then at the funeral one of his family members had the audacity to say my friend had the privilege of growing up in the greatest place for a kid to grow up on earth, playing on the streets of New York.

I couldn't believe my ears. I blinked, shook my head and woke up out of my introspection about death so young and my own mortality.

"He said what?" I thought. "Did I hear right? No, I couldn't have heard right. There is no way growing up on the streets of one of America's largest cities could be as great a place to grow up as the farm with the animals and the tractors and the wide open spaces, and aunts and uncles and cousins and, and, and. . ."

I was pondering this when my friend's nephew stood up to preach the funeral homily.

He joked about being Italian and New York and the New York accent and the big extended Italian family. That's when it hit me. My friend and I did share a commonality of growing up in the greatest place, even though worlds apart. Regardless whether rich or poor, city or country, and regardless of nationality or ancestry, anybody who has had the privilege of growing up in a loving family, supported by family who loves them, has grown up in the greatest place in the world.

When God created family, He gave us the greatest gift. I grew up in the greatest place to grow up, because my family loved me.

Blessings,

Pastor Jim



PARTNERING FOR A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Michigan Broadband Services is excited to present an opportunity to partner with the Wilson Seventh Day Adventist Church to help connect your community with high-speed fiber internet.

Michigan Broadband Services will donate \$75.00 for each new fiber application we receive in our serving area, within your community, between November 9th and December 31st, 2023.

All donations will be paid after the services are installed.

We are looking forward to providing our fiber internet to your community. We feel that this will continue to open doors for new opportunities.

We will conduct business in a manner that is consistent with the values of your members and your community, it's that simple! It's a double win when you help share the word!

906-639-5000

www.michbbs.com

Miscellaneous Announcements & Classified Ads



Boerschinger Boy Baking

Making bread to order
call 906-639-3632
Ask for Zebulun



Whole Bay Leaves

\$1 for 0.1 oz dried or 0.25 oz fresh
Packaged fresh to order



Call Ivy Netzel
(906) 639-2979
While supplies last

Country Life

We are deeply sorry for the loss of Carol Savage who recently passed away. As many of you know, Carol coordinated the monthly bulk orders of Country Life food for the community for many years.

Going forward, your Country Life orders can be made online at www.countrylifefoods.com or you can call Country Life at 269-236-5011 to place your order. You can get free shipping on all orders over \$99 (excluding tax). You should receive your order within 5-7 days per FedEx.

If you are unable to order online, or need to place an order under \$99, you can contact Nancy Messersmith, and she will place your order with her monthly order to ensure the free shipping.

Please call Nancy if you have any questions
906-466-5543.



Eggs for Sale



Chicken \$3 doz

Duck \$3 for ½ doz

Call 906-639-3632
Ask for Ezra

If anyone finds this container, please return it to Nancy Messersmith. It was left in the school kitchen a couple weeks ago. Thank you!



Gourley Township Historical Society meets the first Thursday of the month, October through April. Meetings are held at the township hall and at member residences. Our next meeting will be Thursday, December 7th. Come have a good time talking about old times in Gourley! Contact Ivy at (906) 639-2979 or ivynetzel@gmail.com for info.

Christianity is not primarily a moral code but a grace-laden mystery; it is not essentially a philosophy of love but a love affair; it is not keeping rules with clenched fists, but receiving a gift with open hands.

(Brennan Manning, The Ragamuffin Gospel, page 214)