



VENTURE
CHURCH NETWORK MIDWEST

THE CENTRAL CONNECTION September 2021



"We are an organization of churches that is committed to the mission of Christ to multiply disciple-making churches through evangelism, leadership training, and connection with other like-minded churches."

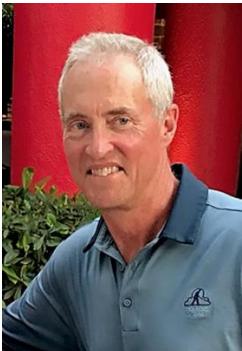
[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Religious Exemption for Vaccines

Can believers claim a religious exemption in the workplace or educational institution where some companies or authorities are requiring their employees to get vaccinated in order to keep their job?

I have been receiving some calls from churches whose members are asking if there is a viable stance of religious exemptions because they object to being forced to take the Covid 19 vaccine. The obvious second question is what is the role of the



church in helping out people who are asking about getting a religious exemption? [Read More](#)

*Pastor Brad Little, Regional Executive Director
Venture Church Network Midwest (CBNC)*



VENTURE CHURCH NETWORK A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Applying the Bible to Every Situation

Strongly held beliefs and values are no longer abnormal in our world. Many have their own philosophies and explanations on how they view the world, and it seems that in today's cultural climate, you'll be met with a lot of anger and outrage if you don't agree. While we believe that we ought to hold strongly onto God's word, the Bible teaches us that we must do so with humility. For more **click on the photo** below:



*Dr. Dave Whitaker
President
Venture Church Network*



Network Vlog- The Unchanging Word of God

Being a part of the Venture Church Network means your church is committed to being biblically focused. Our churches preach the Bible, live our lives according to the Bible, and hang on to the Bible that gives us hope and assurance for the future. All of the Bible is

absolute truth, and it doesn't change. It's so exciting being a part of network excited to preach and teach the word of God! By being instructed in the word of God and focusing on the Bible, we can worship God, enjoy fellowship together, and share the goodness of Christ with those in our circle of influence.

The Bible says we are gifted to encourage and serve others. It teaches how to live — how to interact with people, how to forgive, how to comfort others, and how to pray.

For video click picture below:



Pastor Jim Smith, Director of Pacific Church Network

[Read More](#)



Are You Ready To ENGAGE?

Tuesday, September 28, 9:00am (CST)

with an alternative repeat session

Wednesday, September 29, 3:00pm (CST)

ENGAGE: Preaching the Gospel to Ourselves and Our People

Theme: The Essential Nature of the Gospel for Believers

Text: Philippians 2:5-8

Presenter: Dr. Brad Little

The Purpose of ENGAGE is to address gospel and missional critical issues and challenge our thinking related to pastoral ministry, leadership and the purpose of our churches.

The Goal of ENGAGE is to continue to become gospel-centered, grace driven, biblically anchored churches passionately committed to fulfill the mission of Christ.

WATCH FOR YOUR ZOOM INVITE COMING SOON!

AROUND THE REGION... .

Run With Endurance

With School back in session, my Youth Ministry is in full swing. This year is especially exciting as schools are much more open than last year. I have my calendar packed full of the games, matches, meets, and shows students are involved in that I am now able to attend in person. With my calendar very full of youth events, I am reminded of that the writer of Hebrews encouraged believers to “strip off every weight that slows us down,” in our walk with God. Now, while this is addressing sin in our lives, I also see that a full schedule is not a mark of being faithful to God.

My encouragement to all youth leaders is to be intentional with youth events, but to keep our personal walk with God first. Our students have the world telling them being busy is a mark of success. We need to demonstrate a life of balance and of putting importance in our time with God. How have we arranged our own schedules to place time with God as most important and not let other things weigh us down?



In Christ,
Chuck Babbitt, Youth Pastor
Bloomer, Baptist Church, Bloomer, WI
youth@bloomerbaptistchurch.com

Lessons From COVID

-by "Bobber Bill" Abeler, Executive Director, Camp Lebanon, Burtrum, MN

Class is still in session, but Camp's leadership has learned valuable life-lessons amidst the COVID crisis.

Pandemic panic was already growing among registered quilt guests when Minnesota Governor Tim Walz on March 17, 2020, closed down all places of public accommodation. What ensued were three months of quiet as all remaining spring sessions and rentals were cancelled. On May 21, 2020, all summer youth events were also officially nixed. Our Registrar cried all day! [Read More](#)



Camp Lebanon's 40' x 100' Chapel Tent, a gift from donors to enable near-capacity youth sessions, was a big hit with both youth and family groups this summer.

The Pastor & His Money



A Theology of Poverty



I don't have a better name for it. If I were to talk with you privately, I might call it a ghetto mentality, a poverty mindset, or a misunderstanding of how God tells us to relate with the material world. In the end, I believe they are roots of bad stewardship theology. I am aware that many simply have very little margin between paying for necessities and their income, but I have related with far too many pastors who give this appearance, but something else is at work – a theology of poverty. [Read More](#)

Pastor Rob Buhl, First Baptist Church, Whitehall, WI



Associate Pastor Position Available:

Calvary Baptist Church in Eau Claire, WI is looking for an Associate Pastor. If this is something that interests you, click below. Applications are being accepted until October 8th.

[See More Information and Apply](#)

Celebrating Big 'little' Blessings

Counting our blessings and saying a prayer for these little guys and their families.

Congratulations!



Callum Athanasius was born April 25th, weighing 8lbs 4oz. Parents are Brandon and Amy Cooper. Brandon is pastor of Cityview Church in Elmhurst, IL and Board Chairman of VCNMidwest. Callum was welcomed home by his big sisters, Ceely, Adiel, Brielle & Charis.



Tryson Charles was born February 20th. His parents are Chuck and Adrienne Babbitt. Chuck is the Youth Pastor for Bloomer Baptist Church in Bloomer, WI and the Cluster Leader for the VCNMidwest Youth Pastor Collaboration. Older siblings are Titus, Rebekah, Carolaine & Zoey.



VCNMidwest Office Will Be Closed for Vacation

The VCNMidwest administrative office will be closed September 13-17, reopening Tuesday, September 21. Brad Little will be available that week on September 13 & 14, but will be out of the office the remainder of the week.



**Be a Good Samaritan
to Our Afghan Neighbors**



The scenes of evacuation and withdrawal from Afghanistan elicit many thoughts and emotions. As the humanitarian crisis continues to unfold before our very eyes, WorldVenture finds itself uniquely placed to share the hope of the good news and meet the immediate and long-term needs of Afghan refugees. And we're asking you to join our multitude of disciples, compelled by the love of God, to show the love of Jesus to our displaced Afghan neighbors.

Jacob is one such Afghan neighbor. With a tragic story that includes a difficult, war-torn past, a time of service to Allied Forces in Afghanistan, and a surprising divine appointment . . . [Read More](#)

[Click Here to Help Afghan Refugees](#)



Venture Church Network (CBAmerica) Chaplaincy

Fun Run for the Son: All American Chapel Team hold Heaven-Class Event

On Saturday, 3 July, All American Chapel Protestant Service hosted a 4 Mile Family Fun Run on Fort Bragg. For weeks leading up to the event, we advertised at the chapel and on social media. We built out a course going through some of the on-post neighborhoods, where some of our chapel families turned on their sprinklers, blasted music, and encouraged the participants along the way. At the finish line, some of our team ran a snow cone machine and handed out snacks. We had



special stickers with the chapel logo to hand out as “swag,” and the top adult and youth finishers received a prize. The response was phenomenal. [Read More](#)
-by Sean Callahan, Army Chaplain at Fort Bragg, NC



Rev. Randy L. Brandt, Chaplain, Colonel, USA Ret.
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SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT . . .



The Seven Most Common Challenges for Churches in the Second Wave of COVID

"Do you remember the excitement when the data began to point to a waning of COVID? Hospitalizations were down. Deaths were declining. Offices and stores were reopening. Masks were coming off. Crowds were gathering again. And then the second big wave of COVID came." [Read More](#)

-by Thom Rainer, [Churchanswers.com](#)

4 Wins When a Leader Takes an Extended Break



"Leading is sometimes thrilling and sometimes painful, but it is always tiring. Continuing to push through the grind of leadership results in exhaustion and diminished health – physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Exhausted leaders make poor decisions and tend to get frustrated more quickly. Time away to read, rest, think, and play can rejuvenate the leader."

[Read More](#) -by Eric Geiger, [Churchleaders.com](#)

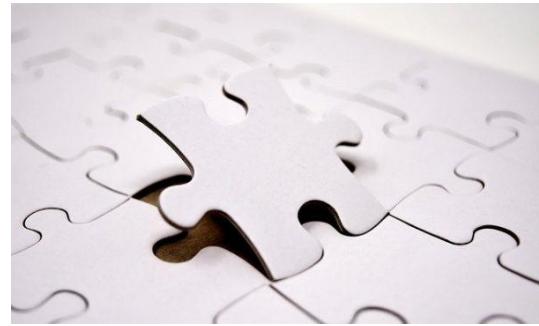
Venture Church Network Midwest (CBNC) CLUSTER GROUPS

Illinois

To Be Decided

Iowa

Tuesday, September 14, Noon
*Meeting at Squaw Creek Baptist,
Marion, IA
Jay Jentink, Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar
Rapids, IA
319-396-3233 office@calvarycr.org*

**Michigan**

Wednesday, September 22, 9:30am (Eastern time)
Virtual Meeting - Zoom
*Allen Grover, Ganson Street Baptist Church, Jackson, MI
517-740-8961 pastorallen@gansonstreet.org*

Northern Minnesota/North Dakota

Tuesday, October 5, 1pm (Central time)
Virtual Meeting - Zoom
*Josh Emmel, Faith Baptist Church, Kenmare, ND
218-368-9292 emmel.josh@gmail.com*

Central Minnesota

Monday, September 20, 10am
Meeting at River of Life Church
*Steve Schoenwald, River of Life Church, Hastings, MN
651-437-3965 sdschoenwald@gmail.com*

Southern Minnesota

Date to be set for October
*Walt Moser, First Baptist Church, Luverne, MN
605-254-3092 PastorWalt.Moser@gmail.com*

Wisconsin

Thursday, September 16, Noon
Meeting at Season's Cafe, Barron, WI
*Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI
715-723-1054 wlcj12@hotmail.com*

VCNMidwest Youth Pastor Collaboration

September meetings are in person

IA-September 14, Noon at Squaw Creek Baptist, Marion, IA
WI-September 16, Noon in Barron, WI
MN-September 20, 11am at First Baptist Church, Long Prairie, MN, lunch to follow
Chuck Babbitt, Bloomer Baptist Church, Bloomer, WI
515-230-0774 youth@bloomerbaptistchurch.com

NEED DIRECTION, NEED A RESOURCE???

Check out some of the services of Venture Church Network Midwest/CBNC here.

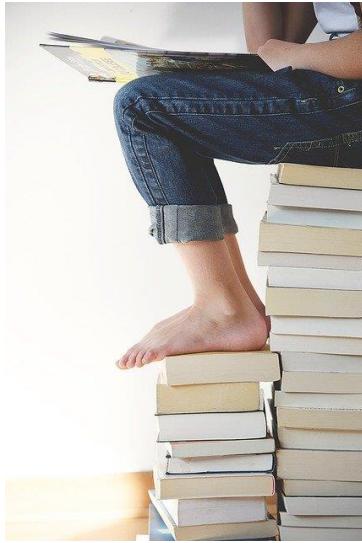
Other items can be found by visiting our [website](#)
or contacting Brad Little, Regional Executive Director.



[Free Demographic Report](#)

[Background Check Resources](#)

[Natural Church Development](#)
[Church Assessment Tool](#)



[Henry C. Spicer Scholarship Awards](#)

[Listing of All VCN Midwest \(CBNC\) Churches](#)

[Compensation Guidelines for Pastors & Staff](#)



[501c3 Tax Exempt Status
for Associated Churches](#)

[Interim Pastor Services
Through IPM](#)

[Retirement Information](#)



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All articles and submissions are the view of the individual writer and are not necessarily the official position of Venture Church Network Midwest.



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