



VENTURE
CHURCH NETWORK MIDWEST



THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

June 2022

"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

The Killing of our Children



The killing of 19 elementary school children and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas was a nightmare beyond nightmares. It seems far beyond our imagination and our human limits to imagine someone would do such a thing. Families are understandably inconsolable over the horrific events inflicted upon their children and families in a senseless shooting. It is, of course, the deadliest elementary school shooting since Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut about a decade ago. Apparently, the gunman acted alone but initiated this horror by first shooting his grandmother and then posting threats on

social media before he crashed his grandmother's vehicle at the elementary school and began executing everyone in his pathway. [Read More](#)

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



Hello!

My name is Gina Perry, the new Administrative Assistant for Venture Church Network Midwest. I was born and raised near Cleveland, Ohio, and met my husband, James, while we were both attending college in Illinois. We moved to the Cedar Rapids area in 2016 when James was called to serve as Senior Pastor at Creekside Bible Church. We have two daughters, Faith and Lydia. I have spent the majority of my adult life in secretarial and academic roles, so the new adventure here at VCNMidwest really excites me. I enjoy traveling, decorating, watching my girls in all their many games and performances, and being involved in our church. I look forward to serving the Lord alongside the churches and people of VCNMidwest.



Tuesday, June 28, 9:00am (CT)

with an alternative repeat session

Wednesday, June 29, 3:00pm (CT)

WATCH FOR YOUR ZOOM INVITE COMING SOON!

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.

The Mission Behind A Mission Trip

It is mission trip season! Whether you are doing a local, long distance, or an overseas mission trip, there are always plenty of planning and details to work through. Do we put more thought

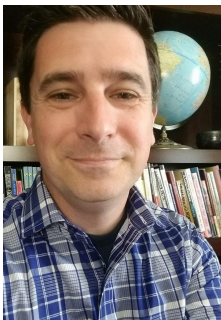


into the detail of the mission trip than on the reason for taking one at all? I mean more than helping a community or running a V.B.S.? I was challenged with this question early on in my undergraduate Youth Ministry class. Are mission trips just something expected to do, or is there a theology behind the mission trips we take? [Read More](#)

*Chuck Babbitt, Youth Pastor, Bloomer Baptist Church
VCN Midwest Youth Ministries Director*



Teaching My Kids About Money



My oldest daughter graduates from high school tomorrow (May 27). We've been putting aside a little here and a little there in a college savings account and in November (or so) I was feeling exceptional wise. The return on my investment was looking excellent. Today, that account has dropped in value by 30%. It's mildly depressing. I had a small inkling that I should sell enough of that mutual fund to take advantage of what I now know was a peak. But I didn't – I have been so committed to refrain from panic all of these years, why panic now. [Read More](#)

Pastor Rob Buhl, First Baptist Church, Whitehall, WI

PLEASE PRAY for the Following Churches in Transition:



First Baptist Church - Collinsville, IL
First Baptist Church - Colfax, IA
First Baptist Church - Sibley, IA
River of Life Church - Hastings, MN
Faith Baptist Church - Kenmare, ND
Calvary Community Church - Lancaster, WI

Would He Have Ridden a Motorcycle? – Chaplain Reaches Bikers for Jesus

The Christian Motorcycle Association has a pamphlet with the title; “He Would Have Ridden a Motorcycle.” The inside text continues...

“Jesus The Biker: He was a lot like you and me. The government didn’t like him. The church thought he was weird. His friends were few. What friends he had, denied him. He was persecuted by hypocrites. He hung around people like you and me, not the goody-two-shoes Pharisees. [Read More](#)
-by Shawn Taylor, Motorcycle Chaplain, Phoenix, AZ



Rev. Randy L. Brandt, Chaplain, Colonel, USA Ret.
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WE HAVE MOVED!

The VCNMidwest Administrative Office has moved. Please update your records with our new contact information.

Address: 1410 44th Street, Marion, IA 52302
Phone: 319-830-6478

Venture Church Network Midwest CLUSTER GROUPS

Illinois

To Be Decided

Iowa

No meetings during the Summer
Jay Jentink, Calvary Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA
319-396-3233 office@calvarycr.org



Michigan

Thursday, June 16, 2:00pm (ET)

Meeting by Zoom

Allen Grover, Ganson Street Baptist Church, Jackson, MI

517-740-8961 pastorallen@gansonstreet.org

Northern Minnesota/North Dakota

To Be Decided

Central Minnesota

Monday, June 28, 10am (CT)

Meeting at River of Life Church, Hastings, MN

Dan Vesta

651-468-1045 dkvesta@sbcglobal.net

Southern Minnesota

No meetings during the Summer

Walt Moser, First Baptist Church, Luverne, MN

605-254-3092 PastorWalt.Moser@gmail.com

Wisconsin

Thursday, June 16, Noon (CT)

Pizza Ranch, Eau Claire

Wade Duroe, Crossroads Church, Chippewa Falls, WI

715-723-1054 wjlc12@hotmail.com

VCNMidwest Youth Pastor Collaboration

Thursday, June 23, 10am (CT)

Meeting by Zoom

Chuck Babbitt, Bloomer Baptist Church, Bloomer, WI

515-230-0774 youth@bloomerbaptistchurch.com

NEED DIRECTION, NEED A RESOURCE???

The [VCNMidwest website](#) has answers to many of your questions. Not finding what you need, contact the VCNMidwest Administrative Office or Regional Executive Director, Brad Little.



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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.

