

Hello Church Family,

A friend recently shared with me a sobering article about young people leaving Christian churches. You can read this article here:

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2018/09/09/young-christians-are-leaving-church-here-s-why.html>

According to the article Pew Research polled a growing group of young people identified as the “religious nones” --those who don’t identify with any religious group. The vast majority are ex-Christians under the age of 35.

Unfortunately, Seventh-day Adventist churches are not immune to the same issue. That’s why we are focusing on “Growing Young.” We want to try to stop this drift of our young people towards leaving the church. (And hopefully drawing young people in!)

Based on an earlier 2016 study by Pew, the real reason for the loss of these young people: ***“In this study, most ‘nones’ said they no longer identified with a religious group because they no longer believed it was true.”***

Why is that? Among many similar answers ***“Lack of any sort of scientific or specific evidence of a creator”*** really stood out to me. This makes me think of a verse in the Bible: *“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV).*

While it is not possible to empirically *prove* that there is a God the same could be said for the idea that there is no God. What we should be able to present to young people with gentleness and respect is evidence--good evidence-- that appeals to reason but leads to faith. This discipline is called “Christian apologetics.” It is both the *science* and *art* of answering questions about God, faith, Christ and the Bible by using reason and evidence.

To help us all better understand how to communicate about these things with people who don’t have confidence in the Bible we must rely on some evidences outside the Bible that God has provided like nature and reason. I will attempt to regularly share things in this newsletter that will help us all be better equipped to communicate on this level with an increasingly secular generation. If you find something you think would be of value to share with others in this newsletter, be it a website, YouTube link, article or book recommendation and review please share with me and perhaps we can put this in the newsletter.

I will end with a word of caution, however, regarding this field: *“There are many cases where men who have defended Christianity against skeptics have afterward lost their own souls in the mazes of skepticism. They caught the malaria, and died spiritually. They had strong arguments for the truth, and much outside evidence, but they did not have an abiding faith in Christ. O, there are thousands upon thousands of professed*

Christians who never study the Bible! Study the sacred Word prayerfully, for your own soul's benefit."

--The Review and Herald April 20, 1897.

The foundation of all our research and influence must be the spiritual faith-union with Jesus Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit obtained through prayer and the continual surrender of our will to Him.

See you soon,
Mike

Here's a quick look at a lot of Chapel Oaks information. Have a satisfying Sabbath and a wonderful weekend!

SABBATH, September 15

Pathfinder Leadership Retreat..... through Sunday

9:30 a.m. – Sabbath School

10:45 a.m. – Worship Service

12:30 to 3:00 p.m. – Health & Garden Club Meeting

3:30 to 5:30 p.m. – Cantata Choir Practice

5:00 p.m. – McRoy Memorial at West Lenexa

5:30 p.m. – RENEW Sabbath Vespers*

7:00 p.m. – Haystack Potluck

SUNDAY, September 16

Pathfinder Leadership Retreat ends today

10:30 a.m. – Health & Garden Club Meeting, Part 2

***Join us for an evening of worship and fellowship to close the Sabbath** on September 15 at 5:30 p.m. Following vespers there will be a haystack potluck.

<https://mealtrain.com/ey2v92>

If you pre-ordered one of these new books on Adventist beliefs at the special price, they are now here. Simply contact Donna McMillen; they will be at her home for payment and pickup.

Seventh-day Adventists
BELIEVE

An exposition of the
fundamental beliefs of the
Seventh-day Adventist Church

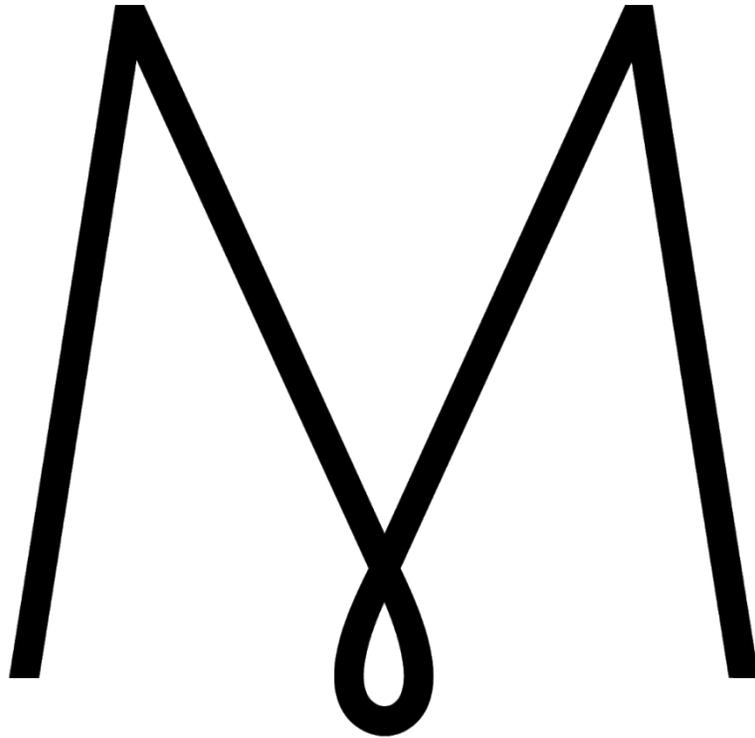




Six Core Commitments for Growing Young

1. ***Unlock Keychain Leadership:*** Instead of centralizing authority, empower others--especially young people.

Please join us Sabbath, October 6. for a discussion of the application of Growing Young principles to Chapel Oaks. This will take place from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. following potluck. You will be welcomed to join any one of six discussion groups led by a young adult--Keychain Leadership, Empathy Today, Jesus Message, Warm Relationships, Prioritizing Young People, Being Best Neighbors. If you are going to attend the Growing Young retreat and you have young children who will need child care, please call Becky Barts or text her the information to register them. We will need to know how many children and their ages. Thank you for helping us be prepared.

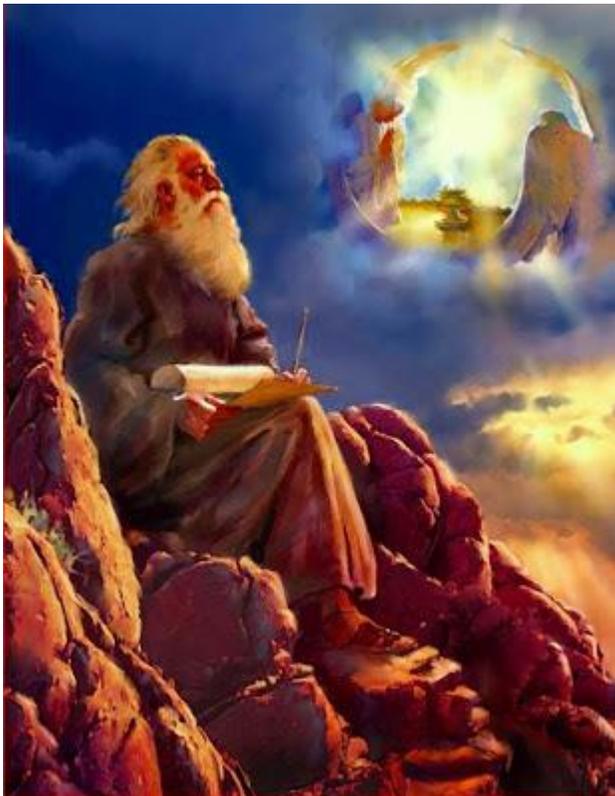


CHAPEL OAKS MOPS

MOPS first meeting of the season took place this week and the Activity Center was bubbling with enthusiasm and warmth. A total of forty-four moms attended the Tuesday night meeting including mentor moms. Twenty-five of those women were SDAs, nineteen were not. There were two Catholics, one Lutheran, four non-denominational, one LDS, and ten unchurched. What a blessing to be able to connect with and minister to precious influencers of the next generation!



Discoveries in Revelation Seminar



Chapel Oaks: Tuesday Evenings 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

September 4 through December 18.

This Week's Topic: The Seven Churches Part 1

Praying Together with H.O.P.E. (House Of Prayer Everywhere)

Join us for H.O.P.E on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. The Wednesday night format has changed. We spend several minutes studying the gospel of John before we pray.

"The summing up of the benefit of prayer is that devotion that leads to faith in God's promises. This faith is the key that opens the divine treasury, is the hand by which we

appropriate to our use the richest gifts of God. The prayer of the contrite heart unlocks the treasure house of supplies, and lays hold of omnipotent power.” --Signs of the Times June 18, 1896



Next Steps for Your Circle of 8 you are praying for:
Send them a subscription to Signs Magazine.



For more information, online articles or to subscribe click here:
<http://www.signstimes.com/>

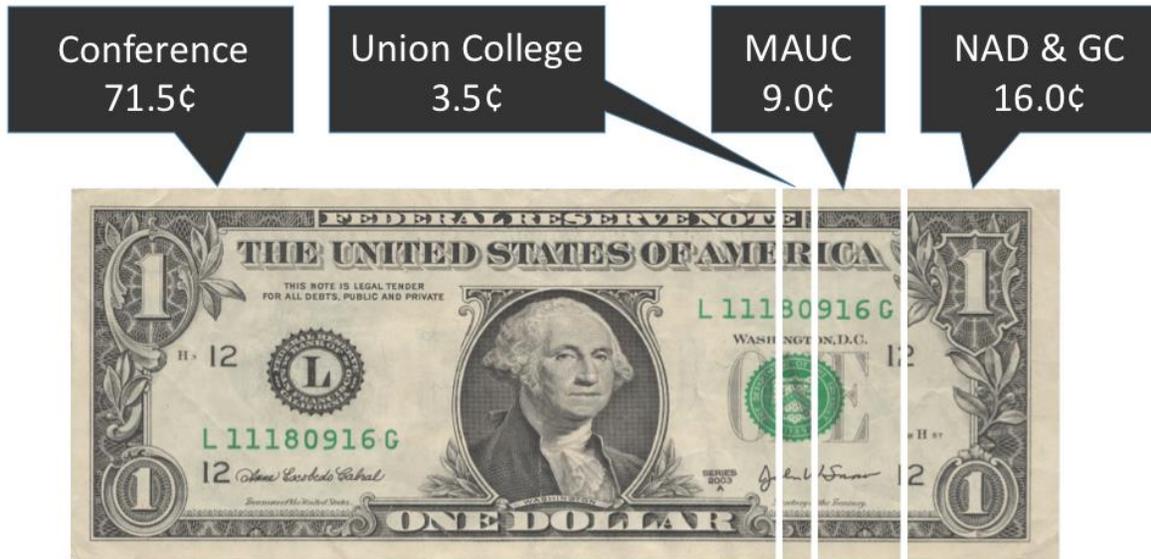
**Adventist Radio for Kansas City: *Reach KC Radio*
102.9 FM from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. nightly**

You can tune in from the Web here: <http://www.kcxl.com/>. There is the possibility of purchase of FM 99.3 with the major dollars coming from outside of our conference. Please pray about this! You can now give to support *Reach KC Radio* through Chapel Oaks. Just mark your donations *Reach KC Radio*.

Please keep us updated on your contact information! We want to keep you informed through email, texts, or calling-posts. The easiest way to keep us updated is to click on this link: chapelooks.org Then click "Member Info. Update".

How are Tithe Dollars Distributed by the KS-NE Conference?

Conference Tithe Dollar



MAUC: Mid America Union Conference

NAD: North American Division

GC: General Conference

Note: Tithes do not support our local church budget, but God's message continues to be proclaimed and our world church exists and is growing because of tithes!

Did you know you can return your tithes and offerings online?

Click this link: chapeloaks.org, then click on the tab "Offerings (Adventist Giving)".

"Adventist Giving" App

You can find it at the Google Play store or the App Store on your Apple device. Simply type "Adventist Giving" into the search bar.

Adventist Giving blog provides giving information to members. You can check it out at: AdventistGivingNews.com.

Need More Information?

Bulletin Attached

Visit the Chapel Oaks website at: chapeloaks.org

Firearms at Chapel Oaks

If you conceal and carry a firearm, the same state laws apply inside our church as any other public building. However, if you are an employee or elected officer of the church you are completely independent in your liability for use of your weapon. Conference policy explicitly states that you are not covered under their policy for liability.