



THE  
CHURCH FOR  
**GOD'S GLORY**  
2025 CONFERENCE

*Hosted by*



**The Church**

**for**

**God's Glory**



## Schedule

8:30 AM	Registration – <i>Please be sure to check in!</i>
10:00 AM	Session 1, David Huffstutler: “The Church for God’s Glory” (Ephesians 3:20–21)
11:15 AM	<i>Fellowship Break</i>
11:30 AM	Session 2, David Stertz: “How Your Church Can Best Care for Its Missionaries
12:25 PM	<i>Fellowship Break</i>
12:40 PM	Session 3, Randy Hockema: “No One Like Him: How an Assistant Pastor Serves His Church for the Glory of God” (Philippians 2:19–24)
1:30 PM	<i>Lunch Break (local restaurants)</i>
3:15 PM	Session 4, Michael Riley: “Preaching the Glory of the Gospel” (Romans 1:1–6)
4:15 PM	<i>Fellowship Break</i>
4:30 PM	Session 5, Andy Hudson: “Is It Better to Bury or to Burn? A Biblical Look at Cremation”
5:30 PM	<i>Fellowship Break</i>
5:45 PM	Session 6, Steve Thomas” “Every Pastor Is an Interim Pastor” (Selected Scriptures)
7:00 PM	Dismiss

## **Speakers**

### **David Huffstutler & Randy Hockema**

David and Randy serve as pastors for the First Baptist Church in Rockford.

### **Andy Hudson**

Andy has served as the senior pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Janesville, WI, since March of 2019. He holds degrees from Pillsbury Baptist Bible College (B.A.) and Central Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div., Th.M., and Ph.D.). He has served as a professor at Pillsbury Baptist Bible College and Maranatha Baptist University and continues to serve as adjunct faculty for various Christian institutions. He is a published author and speaks regularly at other churches and Christian conferences. He and his wife Deb have raised three children.

### **Michael Riley**

Michael Riley has been the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church since March of 2012. Before coming to Wakefield, he served at Central Baptist Theological Seminary of Minneapolis, Minnesota and International Baptist College of Chandler, Arizona. Pastor Riley received his undergraduate education in Bible from Bob Jones University, his Master of Divinity from Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, and his Ph.D. in apologetics from Westminster Theological Seminary in Glenside, PA. Michael and his wife Alicia have six children. (Bio courtesy of Calvary Baptist Church)

### **David Stertz**

Pastor David Stertz was born and raised in southern Wisconsin. At age five, he was converted through the gospel ministry of his father who is also a pastor. Having a desire to do so at age sixteen, he set a course in his life to pursue pastoral and preaching ministry.

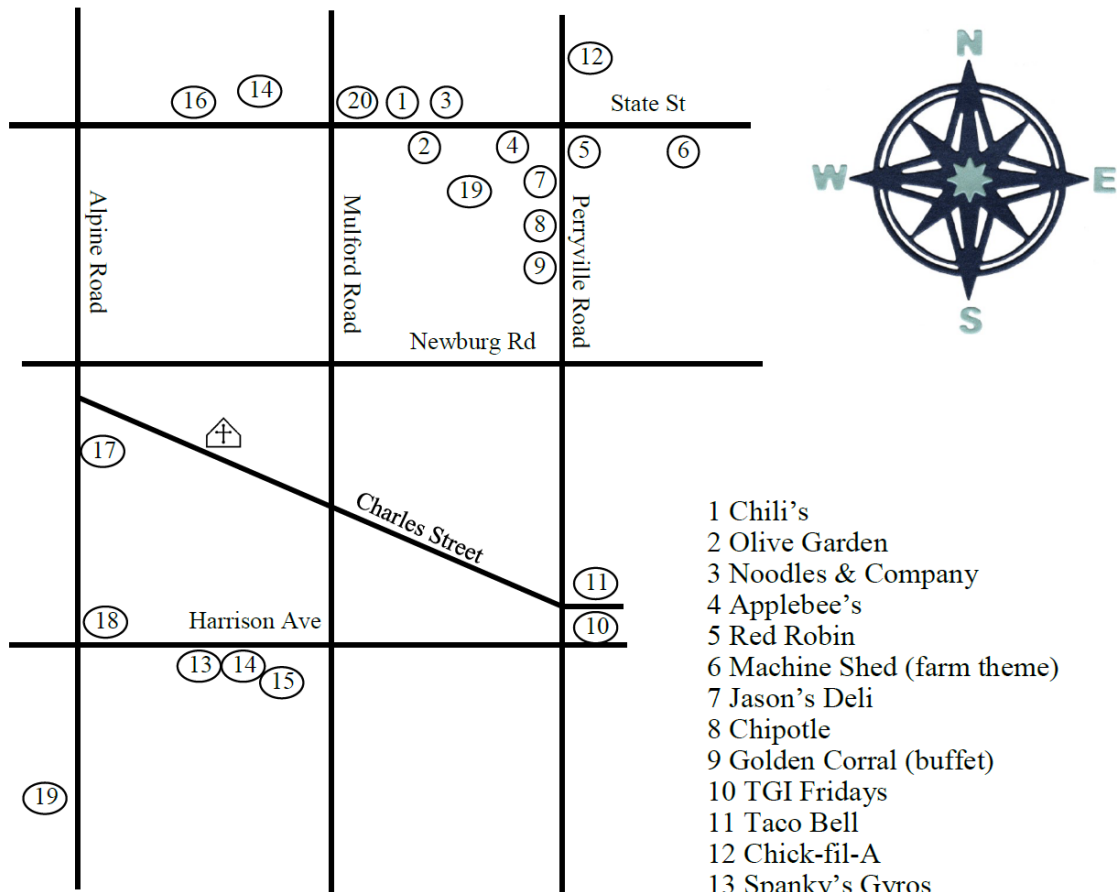
As a result, he earned the Biblical Studies degree at Maranatha Baptist University and a Master of Divinity at Central Baptist Theological Seminary. During his time at Maranatha, he met his wife Casey and they were married. In 2005 he accepted the call to Sunrise as an Assistant Pastor and was later called as Senior Pastor in 2010. Since coming to Sunrise, David and Casey have been blessed with six children. (Bio courtesy of Sunrise Bible Church)

### **Steve Thomas**

Steve has served as pastor of Huron Baptist Church in Flat Rock, MI, since 1983. He holds the Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees from Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary and the Doctor of Ministry degree from Ligonier Academy. He is a Bible expositor and displays a passion for the clear, accurate, and relevant communication of the word of God. He serves as an adjunct professor of homiletics at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Plymouth, Minnesota. He also travels annually to the Far East to help train pastors. Pastor Thomas and his wife Sheree have two daughters and six grandchildren. (Bio courtesy of Huron Baptist Church)

# Local Area Restaurants

*map not drawn to scale*



*Note: You cannot turn left onto Charles if going south on Alpine, and you cannot turn left onto Alpine if going west on Charles.*

- 1 Chili's
- 2 Olive Garden
- 3 Noodles & Company
- 4 Applebee's
- 5 Red Robin
- 6 Machine Shed (farm theme)
- 7 Jason's Deli
- 8 Chipotle
- 9 Golden Corral (buffet)
- 10 TGI Fridays
- 11 Taco Bell
- 12 Chick-fil-A
- 13 Spanky's Gyros
- 14 Culver's (State or Harrison)
- 15 Sunrise Family Restaurant
- 16 Tom & Jerry's (burgers, gyros)
- 17 Alpine View Restaurant
- 18 Pizza Hut
- 19 Beef-A-Roo (burgers)
- 20 Portillo's Hot Dogs

*There are many more restaurants nearby than the suggestions above.*

## Doxology

Praise Father, King enthroned in light;  
Who works His will with strength and might;  
Glory to Him, His people sing;  
From Him, through Him, to Him all things.

Praise Son, High King and Royal Priest;  
Eternal God and Prince of Peace;  
Honor to Him, His church and bride,  
By His blood saved and sanctified.

Praise Spirit, Gift from heav'n above,  
Whose grace and joy is life and love,  
Esteem to Him, all ye indwelt;  
By Him the pow'r of sin expelled.

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711; David Huffstutler, 1982–  
Music: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551; attr. To Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

Session 1: David Huffstutler  
“The Church for God’s Glory”  
Ephesians 3:20–21

## Session 2: David Stertz

### “How Your Church Can Best Care for Its Missionaries”

#### **Introduction:**

- Challenges for Pastors

#### **I. Biblical/Philosophical Foundations:**

#### **II. Some Practices for Care:**

a. Soul Care

b. Financial Care

c. Deputation/Transition Care



Session 3: Randy Hockema  
“No One Like Him: How an Assistant Pastor  
Serves His Church for the Glory of God”  
Philippians 2:19–24

Session 4: Michael Riley  
“Preaching the Glory of the Gospel”  
Romans 1:1–6

**Introduction: A theological affirmation of eternal generation**

**The Gospel of God...Concerning His Son**

Romans 1:1–7

**Declared to Be the Son of God in Power**

“Son of God” is a title that applied to many people/beings/groups:

1. The angels (Job 1–2, 38 [also Genesis 6:1–4])
2. The nation of Israel (Exodus 4:22; Hosea 11:1)
3. Adam (Luke 3:38)
4. David’s royal heirs (2 Samuel 7:14)

Jesus’s declaration as the Son is linked to the Father’s raising of him.

1. “was raised” (repeatedly throughout the NT)
2. Psalm 2; Acts 13:33
3. Philippians 2:5–11
4. Matthew 28:16–20

**The Obedience of Faith Among All Nations**

**Conclusion: The glory of the gospel is Christ himself**

## Session 5: Andy Hudson

### “Is It Better to Bury or to Burn? A Biblical Look at Cremation”

It is impossible to thoroughly address all of the issues related to cremation in a single session. I promise you that I will not answer all of your questions. My goal in this session is to provide several principles that form a framework for making decisions regarding the care of dead bodies. Consider the following principles:

1. **It matters what we do with the body after death.** The body is part of the image of God in humans. The body is not the shell that holds the person. It is part of the person. Therefore, the body has dignity or sanctity. That dignity remains after death.
2. **Nothing done to the body after death prevents bodily resurrection.** We can do nothing to prevent God from fulfilling His promise of eternal life in glorified bodies.
3. **Scripture gives no universal mandate regarding the care of the body after death.** All information in Scripture regarding the care of the body after death is descriptive. Scripture seems to describe some flexibility in the care of the body after death.

4. **Our care of the body after death makes a statement about our theology.**  
We ought to be clear what cremation (and burial for that matter) communicates in our culture. What is communicated can change in different cultures and times.

**\*Practical suggestions for guiding saints through decisions about care of bodies after death:**

1. Realize that you, as shepherds, may not even be consulted in the decision-making process.
2. Offer your assistance but don't force your preferences. Honor the choices of the deceased and the family of the deceased as much as possible.
3. Teach the personhood of the dead body—encourage proper care of the body after death.
4. Teach that death is the penalty for sin—encourage mourning over celebration.
5. Teach the hope of the resurrection—encourage options that support this hope.
6. Talk to local funeral and crematorium directors so you know what options and advice the saints will receive when they employ the services of these businesses.
7. Pray for and comfort the saints no matter what they decide about the care of the body after death.

## Session 6: Steve Thomas

### “Every Pastor Is an Interim Pastor” (Hebrews 13:7–14)

Text: Hebrews 13:7–14 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>9</sup> Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. <sup>10</sup> We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. <sup>11</sup> For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup> So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. <sup>13</sup> Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. <sup>14</sup> For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

Introduction: Hebrews 13:8 contains a well-known, well-loved, oft-quoted declaration: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*. Too often it appears as a proof-text in discussions of the immutability of Christ. While Christ *is* immutable, the author of Hebrews did not write these words to make that point. A closer look at the larger passage reveals that verse 8 serves as a hinge that links together verse 7 and what follows in verses 9-14. The author’s concern was the preservation of the truth of the gospel of Christ across generations (yesterday, today, and forever). The paragraph as a whole teaches us that . . .

**Today’s take-home truth:** *For Christ’s sake, we must stand as the nexus between the past and the future.*

#### **I. Yesterday, God entrusted us to the care of spiritual leaders.**

- A. The Word of God was their source of authority.
- B. The Word of God was their central priority.

#### **II. Today, God calls us to continue the work they began.**

- A. Think of them with kind regard.
- B. Carefully ponder the value of their life’s work.
- C. Then, mimic their faithfulness.

**III. Tomorrow, God commands us to persevere in the message we received from them.**

- A. Persevere because Christ never changes. 8
- B. Persevere because Christ's opponents abound. 9
- C. Persevere because Christ alone can save. 10-12
- D. Persevere because Christ secures our hope. 13-14
  - 1. Stand with him though it is difficult. 13
  - 2. Stand with him because this place is not our home. 14

## Evaluation Form

Regarding this year's conference, please make any comments on the schedule, speakers, topics, snacks, facilities, etc. Please feel free to offer your suggestions for topics and speakers in future years as well. We strive to do our best and appreciate your feedback! Thank you!



*If you'd prefer an online form, use your phone to scan the QR code, and it will take you to an online form.*

Please describe yourself: Pastor \_\_\_\_ Deacon \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_

Age: Under 18\_\_\_\_ 18–24\_\_\_\_ 25–34\_\_\_\_ 35–44\_\_\_\_

45–54\_\_\_\_ 55–64\_\_\_\_ 65 or older\_\_\_\_

*Please tear this page off and hand it in with your name badge at the end of the conference.  
Thank you for allowing us to minister to you through the conference!*

