

WEFR – 88.1 FM – Erie, PA
Issues/Program List
“COMMUNITY BRIDGE”
A 5-Minute Program Heard Saturdays*
at 7:25 AM and 7:55 PM
January – March, 2024

DATE	ISSUE	GUEST AND DESCRIPTION
January 6, 2024**	**	<i>** WEFR’s local edition of Community Bridge did not air as regularly scheduled due to technical difficulties.</i>
January 13, 2024	Illiteracy and Literacy Programs	<p><u>Host:</u> Cindy Tang <u>Guest:</u> Michael Evans, Executive Director, Kalamazoo Literacy Council, (Kalamazoo, MI). www.kalamazooliterarycouncil.org <u>Description:</u> The Kalamazoo Literacy Council provides programs to help adults learn reading and computer skills. Parents struggling with illiteracy often repeat the cycle with their children because they cannot teach their children, with 13% percent of adults in Kalamazoo County at or below the 4th grade reading level and about 1 out of 8 adults struggle with literacy. They have weekly literacy classes for ages 18-to-80 years old, with the working age 25 to 64 yrs. old. It is vital today to have digital skills and be able to use a computer, smartphones, tablets, and digital devices. The Council helps adults get their GED, in addition to literacy classes.</p>
January 20, 2024	Foster Care and Support for Youth in Erie	<p><u>Host:</u> Cindy Tang <u>Guest:</u> Heather Filson, Program Supervisor, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Family Services, (Erie, PA). www.fsnwpa.org <u>Description:</u> The Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) program seeks to reduce risk factors for children and to increase factors that will protect them, including for children in the foster care system. There are many challenges facing kids today, as opioid misuse is growing and the home can become unsafe. In some cases, the state takes the children away from the home and places them in foster families. Sadly, it is difficult to find foster parents to take care of children because of the time commitment and many other issues. BBBS provides an outpatient clinic with psychiatric doctors, nurses, and therapists. Many in-home services are provided and mental health, family behavior therapy, functional family therapy, and multi-systemic family therapy is available. They have a waiting list of 50.</p>
January 27, 2024	Senior Citizens’ Food Needs and the Economy	<p><u>Host:</u> Cindy Tang <u>Guest:</u> Donna Cook, Executive Director of Senior Citizen Care, Charleston Area Senior Citizens Center, (Charleston, SC). www.seniorcitizncenter.com</p>

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		<p><u>Description:</u> Twenty to 25 percent of the elderly have no family support and cannot get jobs; this food insecurity affects seniors but there are solutions. For example, the Charleston Area Senior Citizens Center has Meals on Wheels and an emergency food pantry. They serve one thousand meals per day and described their typical client.</p>
February 3 and March 30, 2024	Food Insecurity and Food Distribution in Pennsylvania	<p><u>Host:</u> Cindy Tang <u>Guest:</u> George Matsik, Executive Director, Philadelphia Share Food Program, (Philadelphia, PA). www.sharefoodprogram.org <u>Description:</u> The Philadelphia Share Program is one of the largest food banks in the nation and it distributes food to 100 pantries in the region, including churches. Food insecurity has increased due to the USDA cutting the supply, so there is more need for them to purchase food. Many more people are being served than in 2019. Semitrucks with food go to eight hundred schools in the area and they have implemented a type of door dash system.</p>
March 2, 2024	Economy and Impact on Children: “Duo for Diapers” in Pennsylvania	<p><u>Host:</u> Cindy Tang <u>Guest:</u> Redmond and Jack Thomas, Duo for Diapers, (Philadelphia, PA). www.DuoforDiapers.org <u>Description:</u> Three hundred and fifty thousand people in Philadelphia live in poverty, with many not being able to afford basic needs, which includes diapers for parents. Half of Americans cannot afford diapers for babies. Food stamps often pay for food and 16% of food stamp recipient’s incomes are spent on diapers. There is a need for diapers for babies/toddlers in the toughest neighborhoods in Philadelphia. Jack and “Red” have created an awareness campaign and to date, have donated nearly 10,000 diapers to agencies in inner city Philadelphia. The diapers are collected and are distributed by local churches.</p>
March 9, 2024	Youth Need Education and Support	<p><u>Host:</u> Cindy Tang <u>Guest:</u> Matthew Lynn, CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of Kalamazoo, (Kalamazoo, MI). www.bcgkalamazoo.org <u>Description:</u> Kids today are far more advanced in technology, however the COVID pandemic impacted their emotional health and they are now learning to self-regulate and self-manage. Matthew discussed the emotional, social, and economic differences between kids now and 20 years ago. The youngest</p>

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		members have the greatest needs and need to be solid with the three R’s: reading, writing and arithmetic. Any child is welcome into its after school educational program and he invited people to drop in. They are in need of volunteers and money.
March 16, 2024	Quality Daycare Crisis Impacts Youth and Parents in Erie	<u>Host:</u> Lauren Keatley <u>Guest:</u> Amanda Shields, Marketing Director, Trinity Center, Bethesda Lutheran Services, (Erie, PA). www.Bethesda1919.org <u>Description:</u> Data show nearly 60 percent of Erie’s children ages 5 to 15 years live in poverty. Parents of these children need quality daycare, a luxury they cannot afford. The Trinity Center in Downtown Erie is taking on the childcare crisis with fun and productive after-school programs and evening events for children, youth and their families to live healthy and productive lifestyles. Their resources include preventative services, homework help, a safe drug and alcohol-free environment, drumming art, and music services. The older kids especially enjoy the recreational activities such as playing basketball with the local police officers. They learn life and social skills, cooking, and even banking. They also have a computer lab gymnasium, and kitchen. They serve snacks and hot meals after school. During the summer, they offer breakfast, a snack, and lunch.
March 23, 2024	Children and Fighting Illiteracy	<u>Host:</u> Lauren Keatley <u>Guest:</u> Deb LaRoche, Low Country Program Manager, Reach Out and Read South Carolina, (Charleston, SC). www.reachoutandread.org <u>Description:</u> Nearly 40% percent of South Carolina’s fourth graders read below grade level. Once students fall behind, it’s hard to catch up and succeed in school and life. To foster literacy, Low Country with Reach Out and Read South Carolina team gives pediatricians new books to give children ages birth-5 years at each wellness visit. Doctors coach parents in reading to their child. A child’s brain is 85% developed by age 3 and if no one reads to the child, they know 30-thousand fewer words than peers. Beyond vocabulary, reading with a child develops security, critical thinking, doing well in school and more. A clinician shows how their responses match with their brain development when a child is read to it foster bonding and self-worth, developing the brain, resilience and critical thinking.

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January 6, 2024	<p style="text-align: center;">Developing Good Habits and Stronger Relationships</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(25 minutes)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Shaunti Feldhahn, Author of <i>The Kindness Challenge</i>, Social Researcher, and Speaker, (Norcross, GA). https://shaunti.com/; www.jointhekindnesschallenge.com <u>Description:</u> The Apostle Paul says in Philippians 4, “do not be anxious about anything,” but that is much easier said than done, especially when it comes to money. Most couples (92%) have some degree of conflict or tension around money. When couples argue or disagree about money, what is really going on deep down within? There are five different factors that determine couples’ response to money-related conflicts. One of the factors discussed was, “we don’t value what the other person values.” Shaunti discussed how couples can communicate their needs and values to each other to better understand what the real issue is in a money conflict. In a marriage relationship, learning to be financially responsible and creating a budget is great, but if a spouse is not on the same page with creating a budget, that can make being financially responsible frustrating. Finally, Shaunti explained the importance of kindness in all relationships and encouraged taking the <i>Kindness Challenge</i> and then employing the following steps: nix the negative, practice praise, and be generous to start the new year with good habits and stronger relationships.</p>
January 13, 2024	<p style="text-align: center;">How to Build Stronger, Safer Neighborhoods in America</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(25 minutes)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Reverend Markel Hutchens, CEO, MovementForward, Inc., <i>Faith and Blue Movement</i>, (Atlanta, GA). https://faithandblue.org/ <u>Description:</u> Strong communities are built through mutual respect and understanding. Law enforcement and faith institutions are key pillars of each community, and when they work together, neighborhoods thrive. Faith and Blue was inaugurated in 2020 by MovementForward, Inc., working with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) at the U.S. Department of Justice. The ties that bind officers and residents must be reinforced if neighborhoods are to be built where everyone feels safe and included. Faith-based organizations are key to building these bonds because they are not only the largest community resource in the nation, with 65 million participants in weekly events, but because they are as diverse as our nation. Moreover, they speak to Americans’ shared conviction that we are our</p>

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		<p>brothers' and sisters' keepers. Faith and Blue seeks to facilitate safer, stronger, more just and unified communities by directly enabling local partnerships among law enforcement professionals, residents, businesses, and community groups through the connections of local faith-based organizations to re-calibrate police-community relations.</p>
January 20, 2024	<p>School Choice and Curriculum Options: Creating A Biblical Worldview for Youth</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(25 minutes)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Reverend Joel Maus, Superintendent of <i>Smithtown Christian School</i>, (Smithtown, NY). https://www.learnwithscs.org/ <u>Description:</u> Parents in America are concerned about the rise of nonBiblical ideology in public schools and erosion of parental rights, spurring many families to seek a model of education that prioritizes parental involvement. Rev. Maus shared that school choice is important in that it allows parents to choose what school they desire their child to attend, despite any financial constraints. For 40 years, Smithtown Christian School (SCS) has been a place where faculty, staff, and administration are committed to preparing the youth of today to be the leaders of tomorrow. SCS is a faithful, caring community, in the midst of an unstable and confusing world, where students are educated to think Biblically, serve effectively, and lead Christ-centered lives through academic excellence and spiritual growth. At SCS, parents have the opportunity to see their children encouraged to pursue academic excellence so that through their careers, passions, and daily lives, students can effectively glorify God and minister to others.</p>
January 27, 2024	<p>Investing in the Kingdom: Faithful Stewardship through Legacy Planning/Gifts</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(25 minutes)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Brian Miller, Private Wealth Advisor, the <i>Bahnsen Group</i>, (Nashville, TN). www.thebahnsengroup.com <u>Description:</u> Despite inflation impacting everyone's lives, Gallup's latest polling finds that slightly less than half of U.S. adults, 46%, have a will that describes how they would like their money and estate to be handled after death. Planned giving professionals have been waiting over 20 years for legislation that would allow donors to fund charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts with funds from their IRAs without negative tax consequences. A retirement plan can be a tax-efficient and simple way of including your favorite charity in your estate plan. A charity that is named as the beneficiary does not pay income or estate taxes on the</p>

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		distribution. In short, the new "Legacy IRA" rollover into a gift annuity more than pays for itself, and most of the tax benefit is immediate. Providing these contributions support the Gospel and provide a tax benefit to consider when paired with a ministry aligning with your heart and the Bible.
February 3, 2024	<p style="text-align: center;">Providing Hope Beyond the Food: Fill Your Local Food Pantry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(25 minutes)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Pastor Howie Mann, Outreach Director, <i>Lighthouse Mission</i>, (Suffolk County, NY). https://www.lighthousemission.com/ <u>Description:</u> The Lighthouse Mission exists to feed the hungry and help the homeless by sharing God's love with people in need in practical ways. Food insecurity is defined by the United States Department of Agriculture as the lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life and it is impacting the entire nation. For example, according to a New York State Department of Health report on food insecurity, about one in four adults (24.9 percent) in New York State experience food insecurity. Within New York State, the percentage of adults who report that they are food insecure varies by county and ranges from 11.2 percent to 39 percent. Whether caused by unemployment, poverty, and income shocks, which can prevent adequate access to food, or other reasons, Lighthouse Mission is committed to feed the poor, but their goal is to empower people to overcome poverty and live purpose-filled lives. Pastor Howie encouraged each individual to be aware of the needs from their local pantry and encouraged financial or nonperishable item donations, or for a church or small group to volunteer time and effort to gather food items or finances in the local community.</p>
February 10, 2024	<p style="text-align: center;">Helping Older Adults Prepare for Natural Disasters</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(~27 minutes)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Marcus Coleman, a Senior Official for the <i>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</i> and <i>DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships</i>, (Washington, DC). www.ready.gov/Older-Adults <u>Description:</u> Disasters and emergencies can affect anyone at any time, but older Americans are often left more susceptible to damaging consequences, especially if they are living alone, are low-income, have a disability, or live in rural areas. Seniors are more at risk due to scarce financial resources, isolation, and problems with mobility; therefore, it can be hard for seniors to</p>

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		<p>prepare for disasters. It is essential, then, for seniors and the people who care for them to give a lot of thought to how best to respond to natural disasters. They should, ideally, plan and prepare for them. “Take Control in 1, 2, 3” Campaign encourages older adults, emergency managers and all those who work with and support older adult communities to take three simple steps: 1) assess needs, 2) make a plan, and 3) engage support networks. FEMA has also created a Disaster Preparedness Guide for Older Adults that provides checklists and questions to answer under each step and is specifically designed for older adult communities. These include but are not limited to: learning about the types of disasters within their specific communities and signing up for electronic alerts, building a kit to be prepared for disaster at any time, and engaging friends, family, and caregivers in plans, ensuring they are each aware of specific needs during an emergency. Taking appropriate precautions can not only help mitigate risk and danger but help save lives.</p>
February 17, 2024	<p>Health Care Options for Christians as Critical Care Costs Rise</p> <p>(~28 minutes)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Katy Talento, Veteran Policy Advisor, Epidemiologist and Executive Director, <i>Alliance of Health Care Sharing Ministries</i>, (Washington, DC). http://ahcsm.org/ <u>Description:</u> Many Americans are skipping appointments, not getting prescriptions filled or simply are getting emotionally stressed by all the inflation and a mounting stack of bills. In fact, according to the American Psychological Association’s annual Stress in America survey, 87% of Americans say that the rising prices caused by inflation are a significant source of stress. Lower-income, younger adults and women are the most likely to report delaying care. However, Christians don’t have to face delays due to the combination of skyrocketing premiums plus high deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs: Health Care Sharing Ministries are more affordable monthly than health insurance, leaving far more in a family’s pocket to manage other out-of-pocket costs. Health Care Sharing Ministries (HCSM) should not be confused with health insurance. When members go to a doctor or hospital or incur a medical cost, they submit the bill to their community through the ministry. The community regularly shares big-ticket items like treatments for cancer or heart disease. Members pray for other members, send shares to assist with bills,</p>

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		and often mail cards and letters of encouragement. HCSM provide a way for Christians to share not only financial costs of medical care but also to convey and to receive spiritual and emotional encouragement from other believers.
February 24, 2024	Emotional Health and the Importance of Male Role Models for Boys (30 minutes)	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Mark Hancock, Author of <i>Why Are We Sitting Here Until We Die?</i> and CEO, <i>Trail Life USA</i>, (Belton, SC). https://www.traillifeusa.com</p> <p><u>Description:</u> Going to school to learn should be the focus for students in America, but verbal and physical harassment is a continuing problem for students of all ages. The statistics paint a troubling picture: one in five high students ages 12-18 years reported being bullied during any given school year; approximately 160,000 teens reported skipping school to avoid bullying; and students who say they are frequently bullied score lower in reading, mathematics and science than their peers. Factors that cause boys in particular to bully other children are 1) the lack of a male role model in a young man's life and, 2) boys inherently process emotions differently than girls. Boys need action, activity and purpose to channel their emotions in positive and constructive ways, yet these are the very elements denied to boys during school. Boys are hard-wired with a drive for action, risk and adventure. As the largest Christ-centered, boy-focused scout-type organization in the country, Trail Life USA offers a dynamic mentor-led program that nurtures spiritual growth, teaches life lessons, and molds boys to become bold, courageous, godly men. They offer activities such as camping, hiking, and outdoor activities help build deep relationships and provide a special context for leadership, problem-solving, conflict-resolution, and character-building. Find or a start a local troop today!</p>
March 2, 2024	How to Best Love Children in the Foster Care System (25 minutes)	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Dr. Sharen Ford, Director of Foster Care and Adoption, <i>Focus on the Family</i>, (Colorado Springs, CO). https://www.waitnomore.org/</p> <p><u>Description:</u> There are over 319,000 children currently in U.S. foster care who are unable to stay with their temporary families. By the age of 17 yrs., more than half of youth who are removed from their homes will have some encounter with the legal system – either through arrest, conviction, or detention. To add to</p>

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		<p>this complicated issue, many states do not have enough foster homes for the number of children who need them. This has led them to be “housed” in jails and offices. Restoring order and routine to children who have been removed by authorities is crucial in their developmental process. Focus on the Family has designed, “Wait No More,” a Foster Care and Adoption Program, to raise adoption awareness and recruit parents for children and youth in the U.S. foster care system. Their desire is to see local church members “step up” to welcome these children into their homes. This is an achievable goal because the number of church congregations outweighs the number of children in need. Local congregations are perfectly placed to make a big impact on children in foster care in this country. Wait No More inspires and mobilizes the Church to do its part to extend the love and hope of Christ to these children. An integral part of their program is a recruitment event called Wait No More: Preparing Hearts and Homes for Kids in Foster Care, which is coordinated in partnership with local and state child welfare officials, adoption agencies, ministries, and local churches. Whether becoming a foster family or supporting those who are fostering, each person can support U.S. youth in foster care.</p>
March 9, 2024	<p style="text-align: center;">New Hope for Trafficked Survivors (25 minutes)</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Jeanne Allert, PhD, Executive Director, <i>Institute for Shelter Care</i>, (LaGrange, KY). www.instituteforsheltercare.org <u>Description:</u> Human trafficking is an affront to foundational values—that everyone is created equal and has the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It erodes our communities, weakens the rule of law, and undermines our national security. Every year, millions of people are exploited within and across borders. Many victims are exploited for commercial sex, adults and children alike. In 2023, the Institute sought to hear from the survivors themselves about their experiences in recovery. Specifically, given that 66% of trafficking shelters in the U.S. identify as Christian programs, they wanted to find out how various faith practices were helping—or hurting—survivor progress. They received 158 responses nationwide and the findings were overwhelmingly positive. This report provided them with an understanding of how various faith practices are offered in these programs, and how—in their own</p>

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		<p>words—survivors have experienced spiritual growth and healing as a result. Scripture can change the life of a victim because it replaces lies about his or her identity with hope and a future. Jeanne shared a story of a woman who had rejected Bible study offerings at the shelter but then decided she wanted to know more about Christ and gave her life to Christ. To get help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888.</p>
March 16, 2024	Christian Outreach to Trafficked Survivors	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Jeanne Allert, PhD, Executive Director, <i>Institute for Shelter Care</i>, (LaGrange, KY). www.instituteforsheltercare.org <u>Description:</u> Sexual exploitation is a national problem, and it will take each person doing our part in our own communities to raise awareness and solicit change. Christ followers have an opportunity to share the love and forgiveness they have experienced with trafficking victims, sharing the gift of time and listening. Some of the ways to join in the fight against human trafficking: 1) offer prayers for the shelter leaders, dedicated staff, and resilient survivors who stand at the frontline of this battle; 2) be a force of change in your community by volunteering at a local shelter, as time and dedication can make a life-changing difference for those seeking refuge and support; 3) be equipped with the knowledge and tools to fight trafficking effectively, using your voice to advocate against sexual exploitation. Other ways to help are to offer support to individuals struggling with pornography, become a guiding light for vulnerable children in your community, or make a lasting impact on the lives of families and children by becoming a foster parent or offering respite care. Finally, consider igniting a movement in your church or community by organizing a human trafficking awareness event.</p>
March 23, 2024	Passover Implications to Palm Sunday and Easter for Christians	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Rev. Malcolm Hedding, International Spokesman and Board Member, <i>International Christian Embassy Jerusalem</i>, (Murfreesboro, TN). https://malcolmhedding.com/ <u>Description:</u> Christians in America and throughout the world are preparing for what is one of the most important celebrations of the year; the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (after his crucifixion and burial). Leading up to this triumphant celebration is Palm Sunday, which is connected to the ancient Israeli celebration of Passover that is read about in the Old Testament of</p>

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		<p>the Bible. Sadly, many in today’s American society do not seem to be aware of the Biblical events of Jesus’ death, crucifixion, burial and resurrection, even in our country where the Bible is freely available. Rev. Hedding said that teaching children of the strong Biblical connections between Passover and what Jesus did for humanity on Good Friday are powerful. It is important to note that both the Apostle Peter and John the Baptist refer to Jesus as the Lamb of God. By this imagery, they take us back to the Passover story where the blood of a lamb saved the Israelites from destruction (Exodus 12:21-23). This is precisely what Jesus has done for all of us! He has saved us from the Destroyer or the wrath to come. Rev. Hedding shared how individuals, families, and churches can celebrate Christian Passover meals to remember and share the Gospel with the next generation as Easter approaches.</p>
<p>March 30, 2024</p>	<p>Equipping Parents and the Church to Hide God’s Word in Children’s Hearts</p>	<p><u>Host:</u> Jenny Burkhiser <u>Guest:</u> Charles White, Retired Christian Preschool Teacher of and Editor, www.bibleparent.com, (Topeka, KS). <u>Description:</u> In the U.S., the Church is losing 86% of the children raised in church and yet only 15% of ministers regarded Sunday school as a leading concern. About 83% of Christians make their first commitment to Jesus between the ages of 4 and 14 yrs. and yet one out of four churches has closed their Sunday School, with the decline increasing every year. God’s commands for parents can be found in Deuteronomy 6:5-9: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And “these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Charles noted that the essence of God’s commands to parents is to surround their children with Bible verses: on their walls and windows, doors and bedsides, pockets etc. His website provides many free resources, including daily Bible verses, calendars, and coloring books, for churches to reproduce and give to parents in their own “Bible Makeover” at home to bring children up in the instruction of the Lord.</p>

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January 3, 2024	Assistance for the Hearing Impaired	A hearing-impaired Pennsylvania couple is helping to lead a ministry for the hearing impaired in their community while breaking down false stigmas attached those with hearing impairment.
January 4, 2024	Community/Police Relations	An Atlanta non-profit is using barbershops as a way to bring police officers and community members together.
January 5, 2024	Need for Blood Donations	Marcos Perez has helped thousands of lives by donating his platelets every two weeks for the past 37 years. This wonderful act of kindness was inspired by the very transfusion that saved his life when he was born prematurely.
January 8, 2024	Pro-Life Advocacy	A pro-life coffee company has donated nearly \$300,000 to pregnancy resource centers nationwide to enable them to continue serving as a “shield and protector” to pregnant women.
January 9, 2024	Serving the Needy	A church congregation in Pennsylvania gave out gift cards worth \$50 each to all the employees of a local grocery store, while also helping to pay the bills of 200 customers.
January 11, 2024	Christmas Generosity to Area Hospitals	Now we all need a good hug sometimes, and one Milwaukee man made sure that children in 5 area hospitals got huge “bear hugs over the holidays.” Since starting the <i>Bear Hug Project</i> , Noel has provided the comfort of over 500 stuffed bears to hospitalized children this past Christmas.
January 16, 2024	Bibles in Schools Educate Youth	What began as a prayer walk outside a Virginia school has grown into a global ministry that distributes Bibles to school libraries.
January 17, 2024	Child Safety/Rescue	One of America’s finest rescued an 8-year-old girl from Vermont who had fallen through the ice while playing with her siblings!
January 19, 2024	Community Engagement	An abandoned neighborhood in Detroit came alive, all thanks to an empty lot, a fire truck full of water, and a local mother with a big heart. Kaytea Moreno-Elst saw the lot and thought it would be a perfect place to build an ice-skating rink.
January 22, 2024	Shoveling Snow for the Elderly	A delivery driver went above and beyond his duties to shovel a snow-covered driveway for a man who has been in a wheelchair for two decades.
January 24, 2024	School Debt Lightened by Incarcerated	When a high school student needed help paying his tuition fees, an unlikely group offered a helping hand: prison inmates.
January 25, 2024	Church Feeds Families Worldwide	Volunteers at a Tennessee church recently packed more than 101,000 meals to be delivered to hungry families worldwide.

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“FAMILY NEWS TODAY” with Jason Frentsos
A 2-Minute Program Heard Weekdays
at 5:57AM, 6:57AM, 7:57AM, & 8:57AM Eastern/Mountain
at 4:57AM, 5:57AM, 6:57AM, & 7:57AM Central/Pacific
January – March, 2024

DATE	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION
January 29, 2024	Kind Neighborly Gesture	For years, Colorado resident John Holtz used to only clear the snow in front of his home. But one day, he decided to go an extra block with his snowblower and that decision made a big impact in this neighborhood.
January 30, 2024	Helping the Elderly Without Heat	The Gallatin Police Department went the extra mile to assist a 72-year-old woman during last week's freezing temperatures in Tennessee. The story began when the police received a distress call from a resident whose heating system had failed. Sgt. Woodard, determined to help, mobilized a team of officers and reached out to a firewood supplier in the community. Despite the usual cost of firewood, the supplier selflessly donated it to the woman. The officers then delivered the firewood to her home, ensuring she could stay warm.
February 1, 2024	Foster Care	Entering the foster system can feel like a hopeless situation for a child and that's why one North Carolina organization is building free homes for foster families in an effort to keep siblings together in their own home communities. <i>Fostering Hope</i> helps build community support for foster parents and ultimately works to keep families together.
February 5, 2024	Finding a Lost Wedding Ring	In a remarkable display of dedication and teamwork, a South Carolina Sanitation Crew dumped its entire garbage truck load on the ground to find a woman's diamond ring!
February 7, 2024	Walk for Cancer	When three young sisters learned that their mother was diagnosed with breast cancer back in 2017, they knew what steps they had to take to help--and it started with their two feet! Sisters Samantha, Lauren, and Emilie Scalise organized the 2.7-mile <i>Stride for Survivors Walk</i> as a tribute for their mother, Stephanie, and as a way to help other families gain access to life-changing resources!
February 9, 2024	Child Rescue	The Auburn Massachusetts Police Dept. announced the rescue of a missing 12-year-old child in the freezing cold, thanks to the heroic efforts of K9 (canine) named Biza!
February 12, 2024	Trapped Dog Rescue	In a heartwarming rescue off the coast of Texas, a U.S. Coast Guard team discovered an unexpected passenger during a routine inspection of shipping containers. The team couldn't believe their ears when they heard scratching sounds coming from one of the containers. As they opened it up, a small furry face poked its head out – a DOG was trapped inside!
February 13, 2024	Free Prom Dresses for Young Ladies	A Texas church has made it easier for hundreds of girls to participate in their high school's prom night by allowing them to choose a gown from among thousands, all for free.

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February 14, 2024	Valentine’s Day Widow Outreach	A North Carolina woman is celebrating Valentine's Day by delivering hundreds of flower arrangements to widows.
February 16, 2024	Waitress Given Generous Gift	In just an extraordinary display of kindness and generosity, a customer left a staggering \$10,000 tip for a waitress at a Cafe in Benton Harbor, Michigan!
February 20, 2024	Staff Appreciation Trips	Sometimes one just knows when God blesses oneself with a wonderful staff. And that’s the case for restaurant owner in New Hampshire.... she’s showing her appreciation for her employees by taking them on vacations every year.
February 22, 2024	Assisting Rescue Animals	A pilot is giving rescue dogs a “golden ticket” out of overcrowded shelters with a new lease on life.
February 26, 2024	A Miracle Recovery	A mother’s love sparks a miracle, helping a woman wake up from a 5-year coma.
February 29, 2024	Leap Day Celebration	A group of people born of Leap Day bonded online and now they’re embarking on a cruise to celebrate their birthdays.
March 1, 2024	Puppy Rescue Results in Services	A small puppy dumped on the side of the street now has a future as a beloved service dog.
March 4, 2024	Police Assistance for the Needy	A Police Officer arrests a delivery driver, and then goes out of his way to finish delivering his order.
March 6, 2024	Battling Loneliness	A Utah senior center is battling loneliness with a 60,000-piece jigsaw puzzle.
March 7, 2024	Library Fee Forgiveness	A pet-friendly initiative is taking a Massachusetts community by storm. The Worcester Public Library just introduced "March Meowness: Felines for Fee Forgiveness."
March 8, 2024	K-9 Rescue	A terrifying search for a little boy in Michigan ended with a joyful reunion, thanks to a canine (K9) hero.
March 11, 2024	Kindness to Neighbors	An anonymous coffee lover demonstrated love for his neighbors by paying for \$4,000 worth of coffee and doughnuts.
March 13, 2024	Aiding the Homeless	In a heartening display of compassion, a Georgia police officer is being honored for his selfless act towards a homeless man out in the cold.
March 16, 2024	Starting A Prayer Wall for Youth	At Whitley County High, the issues of mental health and suicide had become a growing concern among the students, including “Sophy.” Sophy is a member of the student-led Christian organization, <i>First Priority</i> , and so she started a prayer wall to encourage herself and her friends after watching a popular trend on social media.

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March 18, 2024	Unexpected Generosity to Small Community	A man with no car and no furniture passed away with a big secret, leaving his small town with millions.
March 21, 2024	Tornado Relief Effort	Three teams from a Cincinnati relief organization have responded to the areas devastated by tornadoes.
March 25, 2024	Student Adoption	A student was adopted by her principal after getting suspended. Kentucky Middle School principal, Jason Smith, opened his heart and home to a troubled student, changing the trajectory of her life.
March 27, 2024	Sanctuary for Urban Families	Amidst the bustling streets of Harlem, a small storefront serves as an oasis for children and families. <i>Grandma's Place</i> is a quaint book and toy shop, which thanks to its owner, Dawn Martine, has become a beacon of hope and community!
March 29, 2024	Autistic Entrepreneur Inspires	An entrepreneur with autism is inspiring others with his pretzel business. Marcus Moore, a business owner in Annapolis, is inspiring people with autism and other disabilities. Marcus started his business "Moore Crunch" last October for two simple reasons: he likes snacking and he likes pretzels.