FCC NEWSLETTER

The Official Monthly Newsletter of The Faith Community Church - New Richmond



FGG INFO UPDATE SURVEY

All surveys need to be submitted by January 8th

We are asking that each adult in the home completes a survey. Our hope is to use the collected information to communicate more effectively, connect our church body, and provide studies, events and classes during times that accommodate a majority of our church family.

We appreciate your time!

Click **HERE** to start!

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kidzone

THE KIDZONE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WAS A SUCCESS!!

The Gift of Gifts

Our KidZone Kidz had so much fun sharing their Christmas Program with you all! Thank you to everyone that helped them prepare with their verses and songs! It is a beautiful thing to hear our young church singing to our Lord and reading of the Word and we pray that it blessed you as it did us! We are also pleased to report that at no point did anyone fall off the stage or break their glass jar! Thank you for joining us!















chaos

GHAOS WINTER RETREAT 2023

January 27-29 @ Camp Forest Springs

Students! CHAOS Winter Camp 2023 is happening on January 27-29, 2023 at Camp Forest Springs. **SIGN-UP IS FULL**, but if you'd like your student to attend, please reach out to Pastor Noah (noah.burnett@homeforever.org) to get them signed up on our standby list. The packing list will be available at CHAOS meetings on Wednesday or upon request. Please note that we will be leaving first thing in the morning on Friday, January 27th. Students will need to arrange to miss one day of school for the event.



DISCIPLE6

Sundays 5-6pm

Disciple6, our exciting new discipleship group for students interested in growing in the knowledge of God through Christian community, meets on Sundays from 5-6pm! Over the course of 35 weeks, we will be learning a WIDE variety of subjects from apologetics and church history to issues students may face in our schools today including gender identity, ethics and evangelizing to other faith groups. Cost is \$5 (to cover the cost of books).

Looking for a way to help??? Consider rallying a group of friends to help provide a meal for the 15-20 students that attend D6 weekly! For more information, please contact Pastor Ben at benehomeforever.org.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHAOS

FCC Student Ministry | 6-12th Grade

We will be scaling back the time frame on Wednesday nights! Youth group will now be ending at 7:30pm instead of 8pm.

Every Wednesday **6pm-7:30pm** @ FCC. Dinner is provided! For more information and access to the CHAOS calendar, visit <u>fccnr.org/chaos</u>.

Reach out to Pastor Noah noah.burnett@homeforever.org

CHAOS NEW YEARS PARTY

January 4th, 2023

On Wednesday, January 4th we will have a new years party in lieu of the canceled Christmas party.

Our CHAOS kids will be having a New Years Dinner and games that may involve prizes....

WEDNESDAY MEALS: HELP NEEDED!

FCC Student Ministry | 6-12th Grade

We need some more slots filled for our Wednesday night meals! Details: You provide the food for 100 students, we will have everything else covered: water, paper products, serving utensils, etc. are all on site! The kitchen is also available to use. We eat at 6pm sharp.

Check out more details and sign up here!



happenings

ASK FIRST: PRAYER AND WORSHIP EVENT

January 7th | 8-9:30am

Join us on Saturday, January 7th from 8–9:30am here at FCC to prepare our hearts and spend some time in prayer over our community, staff and pastoral search. Light refreshments will be served.



PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

January 7th | 11am-2pm

Join us on Saturday, January 7th from 11am-2pm for a Pickleball Tournament at Starr Elementary School in New Richmond.

Minimum age to attend is 14. Cost \$10 per player. Light refreshments will be served.

Register <u>here</u> or text Todd Albert at 715–497–6569



Antil now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:24

SENIOR LUNCH & BUNGO

January 16th @ Noon

Inviting all Seniors to attend a Soups and Chili Potluck Luncheon on Monday, January 16th at noon in the FCC Cafe.

Please bring your favorite soup or chili to share, and enjoy the fellowship of other "seasoned" saints.

We will also be playing some Bunco!
Please comment what you are able to bring!

SIGN UP HERE!



WOMENS EVENTS

See <u>Page 7</u>

See all that's happening with the Women's Ministry on <u>Page 7!</u>

faith training

THE PROMISE SERIES Q&A

January 22 @ 12:30pm

Come out on January 22 at 12:30 (following service) for an afternoon panel and Question and Answer (Q&A) on the Holy Spirit, featuring Dave Mobley, Peter Bergeson, and Pastor Stuas our moderator.

As a fitting conclusion to our current preaching series on the Holy Spirit entitled "The Promise," we will be tailoring our next Faith Training teaching event to questions you may have regarding the Holy Spirit and how He operates according to scripture!

Lunch will be provided. Please bring a suggested lunch donation of \$10.

RSVP will be required at FCCNR.org Sign up today!

LIFE OF DAVID: A STUDY THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

February 2023

Announcing the next Faith Training course: The Life of David!!! Have you ever wondered where the Psalms came from? Wanna know more about why it was a BIG DEAL that Jesus was called the Son of David? Do you like donuts (or muffins)?!! Well then, come out and join us, starting in February 2023, for our next excited theology class covering the life of David (the good and the bad), a study through 1–2 Samuel, 1 Kings, the Davidic Psalms, and in many other places throughout scripture!

Sign up will be available online, contact Pastor Ben at benehomeforever.org for more information!



A WALK THRU ROMANS

February 2023

Also beginning in February, we will be offering A Walk Thru Romans!!! Considered by some to be the greatest letter ever written, join us for eight weeks as we explore the Apostles' letter to the church in Rome.

Sign up will be available online, contact Pastor Ben at benehomeforever.org for more information!



connect with FCC



GOVENANT MEMBERSHIP GLASSES

January 28th | 9am-12pm

If Faith Community Church is your home, and you want to become a Covenant Member with us, please <u>SIGN UP HERE</u> and we will get you connected to the next steps of completing your journey.

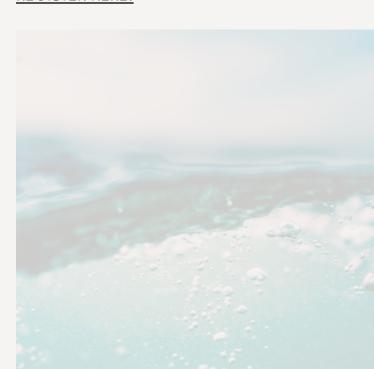
BABY & CHILD DEDICATION ORIENTATION

January 8th | 10:15-10:45am

Join us on Sunday, January 8th from 10:15am-10:45am for Baby and Child Dedication Orientation. We will be meeting in the Family Room (the room right by the cafe) at FCC!

If you have any questions, please email Bobbi at bobbi.blanchard@homeforever.org

REGISTER HERE!





BAPTISM ORIENTATION GLASS

February 5th during 2nd Service

Baptism is a public testimony identifying a believer with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we take this step of being baptized we are making a public statement to our church family that we have been born to newness of life through Christ.

Orientation class will be held on Sunday, December 5th during second service, and Baptisms the following Sunday. SIGN UP HERE!

View our position on Baptisms.

women's ministry

WOMEN IN THE WORD

The Promised One-Seeing Jesus in Genesis

Sign-up for the next study, "The Promised One-Seeing Jesus in Genesis" by Nancy Guthrie. This is an 11-week study offered on two different days/times:

- Tuesday evenings from 6:30–8:00 pm from January 17 through March 28. Led by Stephanie Langer in room D3. <u>Sign-up here</u>. Contact Stephanie at stephanie.langer@homeforever.org for more information.
- Wednesday mornings from 9:00-10:30 am from January 18 through March 29. Led by Rochelle Haugen in the Café. <u>Sign-up here.</u> Contact Rochelle at haugen@frontiernet.net for more information.

Please order your books early so you have them in time for the first session.

LADIES TIME OUT

Every Third Wednesday

Ladies Time Out Christmas party was a great success. Those who could make it despite the weather and sick kiddos enjoyed a morning of coffee, treats,

a fun sock exchange, and great conversation.

Our next gathering is Wednesday, January 18th from 9-11am. Women of any age and stage are welcome to join, & coffee and childcare are provided! LTO meets the third Wednesday of every month to connect women. You are



always encouraged to invite a friend.

Contact Christa Poole at christa.poole@homeforever.org for more info!

THE INVITATION RETREAT

January 20-22

The Event Team and Teaching Team have been hard at work preparing for the retreat in January. Our teachers for the weekend include Melissa Evans, Sue Kostroski, Dave and Brenda Mobley, and Stephanie Langer. There is still space available. Won't you join us for a weekend retreat of spiritual refreshment, relaxation, fellowship and recreation? Our weekend theme comes from Matthew 11:28 where Jesus says, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Four teaching sessions include worship, lectures, break out group discussion time and time for personal reflection and prayer. Enjoy free time for rest, recreation and fellowship. Oak Forest Retreat Center January 20–22, 2023. Registration closes at the end of the day on January 8. More info may be found at the Connection Point or on our Events page at fccnr.org/events. Contact Sue Kostroski at sue.kehomeforever.org for more information.



ALL WOMEN EQUIPPED BLOG

fccnr.org/womens-ministry-blog

Check out the Women's Ministry Blog! Subscribe to get updates on the <u>Women's Ministry Page</u>.

encouragement

PRAY FOR THE ST GROIX VALLEY LEAD TEAM

Uganda Trip: January 5th-14th

Pray for the St Croix Valley Lead Team trip to Uganda January 5-14. The team (Larry Szyman, Mike Evans, and Stu Dix) will be meeting with 70-80 prospective pastors from 6-8 different tribal/language groups in order to finalize the two training cohorts that will begin a three year course of study in March 2023. This will be FCCNR's third round of training pastors and church planters in northern Uganda, a work began in 2015 in partnership with Tutapona, Training Leaders International and the churches of the St Croix Valley Lead Team.



THE PRICE OF A GREAT PASTOR

"Any church may have a mighty man of God for its pastor, if it is willing to pay the price, and that price is not a big salary, but great praying." — R. A. Torrey

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Be Thou My Vision by Jonathan Gibson

Every Christian knows the importance of a daily quiet time with the Lord. But anyone who's been a believer long enough has likely experienced seasons that feel more mundane or routine, leading to aimlessly skimming a couple of Bible verses or praying the same prayer over and over.

In Be Thou My Vision, Jonathan Gibson has created a 31-day liturgical guide designed to provide structure to the daily worship of individuals and families. Each daily reading includes a call to worship, adoration, confession, assurance, creed and catechism, the Gloria Patri, a prayer of illumination, Bible reading, intercessory prayer, and the Lord's Prayer. Designed to be read in 15-20 minutes a day, this beautifully produced liturgy will give readers focus and purpose to their daily quiet time while teaching them historical prayers, creeds, and catechisms that point them to Christ.



ministries



RUBY'S PANTRY

Every Third Thursday

This is a great opportunity to serve your community! Our next distribution is Thursday, January 19th from 5-7pm at the Armory. Volunteers arrive at 4pm and can sign up at fccnr.org/events. Want to give the gift of a share this season? Grab a slip from our Giving Tree in the foyer or ask the Connection Point.

Contact Chuck at chuck.olson@homeforever.org



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

fccnr.org/womensministry

The FCC Women's Ministry exists to equip women to be disciples who plant the church.

There's a lot going on in the Women's Ministry. You can find all the information you need on the Women's Ministry page at fccnr.org or on Page 7.

Contact Stephanie at stephanie.langer@homeforever.org

MEN'S MINISTRY

Wednesdays 5-6am / Saturdays 7-8am

Men's ministry is a group of men coming together to study and discuss scripture.

We are currently working through Genesis. D1 @ FCC. Join us!!

Contact Paul at paul.warner ecustomtruck.com



PRAYER MINISTRY

Sundays @ 8am

You are invited to join the Prayer Team! Join us for our time of prayer on Sundays at 8am in D3.



Questions? Contact Peter Bergeson at pgbergeson@gmail.com

SMALL GROUPS

You can't live the "Christian life" outside of Christian community.

At FCC we believe that real connectedness and change happen best in small groups. Please get involved in a small group if you aren't already!

Contact Noah at noah.burnettehomeforever.org

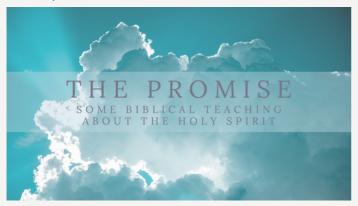


housekeeping

GURRENT SERMON SERIES

The Promise

We're teaching through a series on the Holy Spirit called "The Promise: Some Biblical teaching about the Holy Spirit." This series will run from through January 22nd.



2022 GIVING STATEMENTS

Giving Statements

Giving Statements will be available on January 22nd in the foyer at church.

If you are unable to pick up your giving statement, we can provide a digital copy for you!



FINANGIAL UPDATE

Fiscal Year-to-Date

(000s)ActualBudgetedGiving217253Expenditures248266

Christ Jesus is the one who died-more than that, who was raised-who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Romans 8:34

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

The Whole Story of the Bible in About 16 Verses

Following the storyline of the Bible as God reveals the fundamental truths of his plan to rescue his world and reconcile his image bearers.



GIVE

fccnr.org/give

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

CONNECT

We are the Church.

Join us every Sunday morning at 9:00am or 10:45am. Stay up to date with what's going on and follow us on Facebook!



@fccnewrichmond



efaithcommunitynr

upcoming events @ FCC

J A N U A R Y	29 CHAOS Winter Retreat Worship 9 & 10:45am CHAOS Discipleó 5-6pm
Communion Sunday 9 & 10:45am CHAOS Disciple 6 5-6pm	31 Women's Bible Study 6:30pm-8pm
Wednesday Men's Study 5-6am <u>CHAOS New Year's Party 6-7:30pm</u>	F E B R U A R Y
Men's Study 7-8:30am <u>Prayer Event 8-9:30am</u> Women's Ministry Planning Meeting 10:30am-12pm	Men's Study 5-6am Women's Bible Study 9-10:30am CHAOS 6-7:30pm
8 Worship 9 and 10:45 Child Dedication Orientation 10:15-10:45am in Family Room CHAOS Discipleó 5-6pm	Men's Study 7-8:30am
10 HAPPY BIRTHDAY BEN SEPULVEDA	Worship 9 & 10:45am <u>Baptism Orientation Class</u> 10:30am-12pm <u>CHAOS Discipled 5-6pm</u>
Men's Study 5-6am <u>CHAOS 6-7:30pm</u> Elder Meeting 6:30pm	Women's Bible Study 6:30-8pm
Men's Study 7-8:30am Women's Ministry Planning Meeting 10:30am-12pm	Wednesday 8 Men's Study 5-6am Women's Bible Study 9-10:30am CHAOS 6-7:30pm Elder Meeting 6:30pm
Worship w/ Child Dedications 9 & 10:45am Coffee Hour Between Services	11 Men's Study 7-8:30am
16 Senior Lunch & Bunco 12pm in Cafe	Worship w/ Baptisms 9 & 10:45am <u>CHAOS Disciple6 5-6pm</u>
17 Women's Bible Study 6:30-8pm	Women's Bible Study 6:30-8pm
Men's Study 5-6 am Ladies Time Out 9-11am Women's Bible Study 9-10:30am CHAOS 6-7:30pm	Men's Study 5-6am Ladies Time Out 9-11am Women's Bible Study 9-10:30am CHAOS Worship Night in Amery
19 Ruby's Pantry 4-7pm	16 Ruby's Pantry 4-7:30pm
20 Women's Retreat	18 Men's Study 7-8:30am HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOAH BURNETT
21 Women's Retreat Men's Study 7-8:30am	Worship 9 & 10:45am w/ Covenant Membership Inductions Coffee Hour Between Services Covenant Meeting 5-7pm
Women's Retreat Worship 9 & 10:45am Faith Training: The Promise Q&A 12:30-2:30pm CHAOS Disciple6 5-6pm	21 Women's Bible Study 6:30pm-8pm
24 Women's Bible Study 6:30-8pm	Wednesday Men's Study 5-6am Women's Bible Study 9-10:30am CHAOS 6-7:30pm
Men's Study 5-6am Women's Bible Study 9-10:30am CHAOS 6-7:30pm Elder Meeting 6:30pm	25 Men's Study 7-8:30am
27 CHAOS Winter Retreat	26 Worship 9 & 10:45am CHAOS Disciple 65-6pm
28 CHAOS Winter Retreat Men's Group 7-8:30am Covenant Membership Class 9am-12pm	28 Women's Bible Study 6:30-8pm

from the Lead Pastor Search Team

ASK FIRST PRAYER & WORSHIP EVENT

This month we will be hosting: Ask First: Prayer & Worship Event Saturday, January 7th, 8–9:30a.m.

Please join us as we seek the Lord together in the New Year.

Let's spend some time worshipping the Lord through song and asking Him to be with us this next year. If prayer is new to you or you are intimidated by praying out loud, come anyway. There will be leaders to guide our time of prayer. We will focus on praying for our body of believers, our staff, our community, the new pastor God has for us, and his family. Light refreshments will be served.

"Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full." John 16:24

"Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd." Numbers 27:16-17

~TAMMY WHITE, LEAD PASTOR SEARCH TEAM



from the Elders

ELDER MENTORING

The elders continue working through a study entitled Biblical Eldership by Alexander Strauch. This study deeply looks at what scripture says about church leadership, specifically elders. We chose to do this study as part of the mentoring process for our two elder candidates, Randy Kostroski and Dave Mobley, but also to ensure that all of us have a good understanding of Biblical eldership based on the scriptures. We must always set our personal opinions aside and align with God's word. (Proverbs 3:5-6: 5Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.) Church government has taken many forms in our culture and the world for various reasons, but what does the Bible say about it. What should church government look like at Faith Community Church based on God's word? We will answer these questions through prayer and the study of God's word.

FURTHER STUDY

We are also studying the bible through a devotional at our elder meetings. We are currently in the book of Ephesians. In addition, we recently finished a devotional of the book Zechariah.





HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Finally, as we head into the new year, I am very hopeful for the things God has in store for us. Not that I think everything will be what we have envisioned it to be or that our plans will work out perfectly, but God's plans will work out perfectly. The sovereign God of the universe is in control of everything, and He will use us to glorify His name here in New Richmond, Wisconsin, and around the world.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Romans 11:36

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

theology

WORSHIP - SOUND DOCTRINE & PROPER SETTING

NOAH BURNETT

If you are active in the worship music realm of social media, you will have probably heard about a page called "worship fails". This brilliant idea is a video collection of wrong notes, voice cracks, and failing equipment all during live worship sets. These people are highlighting the "realness" of serving on a worship team, and the fact that most of the time someone is going to slip up.

This is a lighthearted thing, a comedic break. But the term "worship fail" really lends itself to talking about some major problems in modern Christianity, especially if we worded it as a question like "Where are we, as Christians, failing in our worship?" And that's what I want to look, at with, for you a bit. Not how our musicians need to do better on any given Sunday, but about what we all actually think "worship" means, and if we actually do this in our corporate gatherings.

Most people, when asked "what is worship?," would respond along the lines of "music" or "singing to God," which is not incorrect necessarily. But imagine you ask someone "what is food?," and they say "Pizza!" Would you not look at them a little funny? Yes, pizza is food (as music is worship), but to call worship "music" would be just as odd as limiting food to just pizza. Instead, the correct answer would be "food is all sorts of different things that we eat in order to have energy and be healthy (probably...)." In the same way, worship is not just music, but it is the mechanism by which we attribute worth to God, whether in working, or eating, or singing. It is the underlying motivation in all that a Christian does.

So we know that it's not just music, but let's talk about what the goal of musical worship is, specifically in the gathering of believers on any given Sunday.

...WORSHIP IS NOT JUST MUSIC. BUT IS THE MECHANISM BY WHICH WE ATTRIBUTE WORTH TO GOD. WHETHER IN WORKING. OR EATING. OR SINGING. IT IS THE UNDERLYING MOTIVATION IN ALL THAT A CHRISTIAN DOES.

If you were to look at the lyrics to some of the songs people are singing, you may think that the goal of musical worship would be to make ourselves feel better about... ourselves? A lot of these "top of the billboard" songs that mainstream churches are singing don't really tell us much about who God is; there may be a vague reference to His "goodness" or His "power", but you will often notice that those descriptors are preceded or followed, not by an explanation of how or why God is those things, but about how those things directly benefit us. Here's kind of what I mean:

"Your goodness is running after, running after me **ME**"

"The battle belongs to you lord, **I'M** gonna see a victory!"

"There's no mountain you won't climb up... coming after **ME**"

"I'M gonna sing, in the middle of the storm, louder and louder you're gonna hear MY praises roar"

You get the point. These songs are more about what God can do for me, or what I can do for me, than they are about God. Now I'm NOT saying that there is never a time for these songs, or that these songs are inherently wrong. I think that if you are a discerning Christian you can sing these songs in times of personal worship (car, shower, on a run, etc.) but they should not be considered staples in our corporate worship.

On any given Sunday morning, we have no idea what different types of believers we have in

theology

the gathering. It's probably safe to say that there are new, or immature believers, or that there are people who don't fully understand what the gospel is (unbelievers). To the people in those categories, the lyrics above can be extremely misleading because those people aren't in a place to spiritually discern what the meaning actually is.

To the mature believer, "There's no mountain you won't climb up... coming after me" means that even the insurmountable debt of sin that God held against us, even that mountain of sin that I am currently struggling with, Jesus overcame, and did so in pursuit of me. This is a fine understanding, yet still may be too personal and self-focused for a Sunday gathering.

To the immature believer "There's no mountain you won't climb up... coming after me" could mean that Jesus loves me so much that He is going to cure my mom's cancer, or that the "mountain" of financial debt I have, He's gonna get rid of it for me. The truth is, **God can most definitely do these things**, but imagine if you were the brand new believer who thought they just heard that Jesus is going to fix their biggest problem... and then He doesn't (not the way they wanted Him to anyway).

You see, these songs aren't heretical, or sinful in and of themselves, but they are not painting a clear picture of who God is for people who don't already know Him. The more our songs point to us rather than God, the more likely we are to be able to impose our own, misguided, meaning onto them.

THE MORE OUR SONGS POINT TO US RATHER THAN GOD, THE MORE LIKELY WE ARE TO BE ABLE TO IMPOSE OUR OWN, MISGUIDED, MEANING ONTO THEM.

If you are a believer, I would implore you to take a closer look at what you are listening to, and to make sure that you aren't forming your theology (your understanding of God) around songs that



don't have good theology. And the only solution to this is to test everything against scripture. If a song you are singing leads you to believe something about God that scripture doesn't support, stop listening to that song. If you are not in tune with your Bible, even singing songs with sound theology will be tricky.

Bottom line, when we gather together to worship in song we are not doing so primarily to be emotionally aroused by our favorite tune, rather we are **offering up a sacrifice to God**. When we sing the truth of the gospel, we are encouraging one another, and are attributing to God the praise that He is due. The gathering is not about us, or what we "get out of it"... It is about the bride of Christ magnifying their Savior. So, let's make sure we are doing that with songs that build us up in truth and sound doctrine.

Here are some songs that I will be introducing this year, and that I think will serve us well in this way:

- Yes And Amen (Ephesians 1) Shane and Shane
- Psalm 42 (I Will Praise Him Again) City Alight
- Almost Home Matt Papa & Matt Boswell
- Ancient Of Days CityAlight
- Who Is Like The Lord (Ps 113) Sovereign Grace
- Praise To The Lord Shane & Shane