

COVENANT MEMBER MEETING

Sunday | February 11th, 2024 | 12:30-2pm
Agenda/Notes Prepared by The Staff & Elders of FCC

WELCOME | RANDY & CHRISTA

- Welcome & Opening Prayer (Randy)
- Handouts on table (Christa)
 - Covt list printout for address/phone/email changes
 - Special Occasion update form
 - Prayer Chain Sign-Up
 - Member Prayer Rosters are available on tables and office
 - Directory Information Form (for members, are available on tables and office)

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS | STEVE

- Introduce new members: Steve brought all new members that were in attendance up front to introduce themselves. We welcomed 15 new people into Covenant!
- Steve encouraged members to introduce themselves to our new members during the meal.

MEAL AND FELLOWSHIP | STEVE

- Steve released our new members and their families to go through the line first.
- Announce kiddos ages 0-3rd Grade can be excused to KidZone after the meal.

EXECUTIVE UPDATE | PATRICK MOSTEK-Speaking for Chuck and Deacon Team (Ministry Team)

- Patrick Mentioned Covenant Removals
 - Tucker Hennlich (Worship Leader at different church)
 - Karen Klescewski (Found another church & is faithfully attending)
 - Johnny and Laurie Larrabee (Found another church to faithfully attend)
- Shared some wins!
 - Ribs and Bingo had over 100 people in attendance, Ruby's Pantry continues to serve over 200 families each month, our women's ministry event just had 50+ women come out for a time of fellowship and worship.
- Deacon updates: See pages 3-6 (Mike Eastep spoke about Small groups and gave a handout which is included below)

FINANCIAL UPDATE | ED DOMENZAIN (speaking for Ron Hansen as he is on vacation)

- Our budget continues to look good. No concerns.
- Mortgage has \$398,000 left.

ELDER UPDATE | ALL ELDERS

- Introduced Bryan Stangl as an Official Elder. He was prayed over by the Elders and with the Church members.
- Tutapona: Steve Langer announced that we were making sure all of our missions align with our mission statement of “making disciples who plant the church”. That being said, it has been decided to discontinue our financial support as a church for Tutapona. We will still provide donations over the next 4 years, decreasing 25% each year. Steve encouraged everyone to still give to them personally and reiterated how much we love them.
- Steve Langer announced that Sonshine Learning Center (who is currently renting the KidZone area of our building) has started construction of their new building which will take roughly 9 months.
- The Elders gathered last week to discuss future plans. Steve went through some of the items that were discussed, and what their future plan looks like:
 - 1. Bible Literacy
 - Generate an elders statements/papers on gender, sexuality, marriage, and biblical roles
 - Generate an elders statements/papers on missions
 - Start adult Sunday School classes.
 - Using Pastor Patrick’s books for small groups.
 - 2. Kid’s/ Youth Ministry
 - Begin Sunday School (once we have access to the Sonshine side of our building again, we will work that into our Sunday routine)
 - Find a youth director (Matt T is doing great, but has found he doesn’t have the time to continue. We are looking to hire someone for next year)
 - 3. Men’s Ministry
 - Find the Men’s ministry leader.
 - Have two intentional events. (e.g. Wild game night, Men’s weekend retreat)
 - Teach on specific subjects that are vital to biblical manhood.
 - How do I follow God as man?
 - How do I disciple my family?
 - How do I love my wife?
 - How do I discipline my kids?

LEAD PASTOR UPDATE | PATRICK MOSTEK

- Peter Bergeson & Dave Mobley were given the titles. “Pastor Emeritus”
 - (When a Pastor retires, they can be given the honorary title of “Pastor Emeritus”, which is given in recognition of exceptional ministry and is a sign of the congregation's high regard. In many cases, a Pastor Emeritus title is honorary and confers no Pastoral responsibilities or expectations.
- Our Bible Presentations will be this Sunday! Children in grades 2-5 will be presented with their very own Study Bible! If you have not heard from Bobbi about this event, please reach out to her as soon as possible.

CLOSING PRAYER | PATRICK

Deacon Reports

Prayer Team - Peter Bergeson:

The Prayer Team led by Peter Bergeson consists of more than two dozen FCC individuals committed to praying for God's power, love and glory to be displayed in and through each part of the church family.

We do this through:

- Prayer Corners:

At the close of each Sunday morning worship service, members of our team are available to pray with anyone who comes forward with a need or a concern.

- Prayer Chain:

The back of the weekly Connection Card is for prayer requests. These can be deposited in the donation slots as you leave the worship space.

- Weekly Prayer Gathering:

Each Sunday morning we host a time of prayer for our church, our leaders our missionaries and our activities. We also pray for any specific needs we are aware of. This time is open to everyone, not just members of the Prayer Team. We meet in Classroom D-3 at 8:00 AM each Sunday.

- Quarterly Special Prayer Emphasis:

Every quarter we plan and lead a time for the whole FCC family to gather to sing praise to God and to seek his filling, direction and healing for us as individuals and as a church body. In January, this emphasis took place in our Small Groups.

Administrative Assistant - Christa Poole:

As the admin for our church my day to day never really looks the same. I am so encouraged with the continuing development of all of our ministries, new teams being added, and the amount of progress being made in creating a steady and firm foundation for our church! It is truly a privilege for me to have this job, and to work alongside the staff and ministry leads to help them be successful in whatever way I can.

One of the big projects I am working on is getting a Church Directory off the ground for our members. We have so many new faces in our church body, that we want this to be a way we can familiarize each other with names and faces, have contact information available, and hopefully grow together as a church. We have a website chosen that not only provides online access through a website or an app, but also allows for easy updates and the ability to print an updated copy at any time! Be on the lookout for more information on what we will need from you, photo options, and when printed Directories will be available for purchase!

If you ever need anything or have any questions about Faith Community Church, please don't hesitate to ask!

KidZone - Bobbi Blanchard:

I'm really excited to share that as part of our commitment to coming alongside our Faith Families as they raise up (little) disciples who plant the church, we are going to be presenting 2nd-5th graders with a personalized study Bible! We hope that this is not only a Bible that they will grow with and use for many years to come, but will also be a helpful tool in each parents' ministry of discipleship in their home. This is a significant (though incredibly worthwhile) investment this year as we get all of our upper elementary students a Bible, but in the future will be something we present to just our incoming 2nd graders. Bible presentations will be done by our KidZone leaders and take place during services next Sunday, the 18th.

Missions - Dave Hoffman:

The Missions Team has been working behind the scenes for the past year to renew and refine our missions endeavors at Faith Community. We are looking for missions partnerships that reflect our core value of making and multiplying disciples. Our desire is to engage the whole congregation in the missions efforts of FCC. We are working to find missionaries and missions partners that we as a church can invest in through prayer, regular communication, investment, involvement, and possibly even serving with onsite. Seeing God work in other parts of world encourages us and challenges us to greater faith for what He can do here. We want to grow in our love for the lost around the world and around the corner. Look for more information in the weeks and months ahead!

Womens Ministry - Stephanie Langer:

Goals for this year include

- 1) Revisit and update the Mission, Vision, and Values of the Women's Ministry to ensure that we are beginning with the foundation of the Gospel and building the ministry from there in all we do.
- 2) Connect with the women who have completed mentor training and are either leading groups or waiting for ladies to mentor for the purpose of ensuring that we are grounded in the Gospel and intentionally and accurately sharing the Gospel within our groups.
- 3) Create a succession plan for the leader of the Women's Ministry by year end 2024. I pray that God will call a woman who will come alongside me to be mentored and trained to take over as Women's Ministry Leader by November 1, 2026.

CHAOS - Matt Tunistra:

We just finished our quick study in the book of Philippians. We focused on finding Godly joy in every circumstance.

To close out the year with Chaos, we will be working through Lifeway resources curriculum for the Gospel Project. There are 13 lessons in the curriculum and 11 Chaos meetings left, some of them will need to be combined. There are three units: I am with you always, you will be my witnesses, Every Day the Lord Added to Their Number.

Special thanks to all of the faithful volunteers that show up week in and week out to help shepherd young hearts!

Welcome and Hospitality Team, Sue Kostroski

The team is seeing many new people visiting our church. Since the first of the year attendance has been as follows: **Jan. 7th 327 | Jan 14th 375 | Jan. 21st 344 | Jan. 28th 338 | Feb. 4th 284 | Feb. 11th 361** | Many of our guests stop by the Connection Point and we have helped to Connect them to the many active ministries in our church. Some visitors have been connected with; small groups, the Ladies book club, ladies time out, GriefShare and Ruby's Pantry just to name a few. Many have filled out the Connect Card to learn more about our church or to request prayer. God is moving in our church! He is bringing people to hear the truth of His Word being taught. May we always shine the light of Christ in our Community as we seek to warmly welcome those who walk through our doors.

Faith Training - Dave Mobley:

During these months since I began to serve as the Faith Training Ministry Leader, I have had time to consider how Adult Education classes best function alongside our mission and ministries. I have identified 4 major areas that comprise the Faith Training Leader's areas of emphasis.

1. Identify teachers in our church body.
2. Equip teachers
3. Encourage teachers.
4. Identify curriculum in collaboration with Elders, Staff, Ministry Team, and Small group leaders.

The local church is built up when teachers are identified and have an opportunity to teach. Some may need more hands on equipping while others may need resources or administrative assistance. All will need to be encouraged. There is no Faith Training without teachers.

But a close second is the overall scope of curriculum. I do not believe this is a one man decision but rather a collaborative effort. Pastor, Elders, Staff, Small group leaders, and the Ministry Team should give input. One example would be that a small group leader wants to have his small group take a class on how to study the bible. The FTraining leader would then work to provide a class and teacher to meet that need. In this way the Faith Training classes work alongside our church to help make disciples who plant the church.

Small Groups - Mike Eastep:

(Mike shared this handout at the Covenant Meeting)

Words of encouragement from Faith Community Church Small Groups Feb 2024

Our group has been together for more years than I can remember. Last fall, it looked like our group would be coming to an end. There's been some changes in members' lives (good changes) over the last year that I thought might send members in a different direction. When I sent the invites out for starting back up last fall it surprised me that everyone was ready to start back up. Since then, we have had a new member join. This has shown me that despite how I feel or perceive things, God is always working in the background for his good. I was feeling the study group had run its course. God showed me that the work isn't complete. I help to encourage all to lead faithfully by God's guidance. Pray for guidance and be obedience let him lead, and he will. Be reminded that God's plan is not our plan. This has been shown to me so many times over. May God bless you all. (Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.)

One of our group members has a wife with Dementia. He has shared their struggles and the struggle of placing her in a nursing home. Recently, they've had an opportunity to move into a facility in New Richmond. This has been a bit of a process and there was a low percentage of her getting a bed in that facility. Through much prayer and work on his end, they are now in that facility. He has been very grateful for the support and is so excited that she is now closer and being well taken care of.

We have gained 3 new members recently! We are quite excited to hear new voices and worship with new believers. While winter isn't always easy to meet, our group has been fairly consistent, and we are getting used to knowing each other. Praise God for believers!

Our group has a great mix of old timers and newcomers, with several new people joining our group in 2023. I am amazed on a weekly basis of how God uses his people to encourage and strengthen our small group, and how he uses us to bless others in our church family. In 2023 we have had several group members, and immediate family members, with health issues and the many ways our group members have cared for each other with prayer, meals and encouragement is overwhelming.

So blessed by our small group and thankful for each one. Love the servant hearts and how each one cares for another. Was also incredibly blessed by the week of prayer and committing our entire small group meeting that week to prayer. We plan to do it once per quarter.

In our Group we write down our Prayer Requests each week. Looking back over several years we can see where so many of our prayers have been answered in God's loving kindness; for surgeries to be successful, for cancers to disappear, for children and grandchildren to accept Jesus into their lives, for God to guide someone's life in a job search - God has been so abundant in so many ways in His Grace and Goodness and Mercy and Love!

We have been encouraged by getting to know the families in our group. They welcomed us with open arms and it has been a highlight of our week to gather with them all. The majority of them are not covenant members of FCC so it has been great to hear from them, to understand where they are coming from and how they came to Christ. One of the members of our group, when sharing very sensitive and hard trials she has been going through remarked, "You guys are my family. I know I am loved by you." We praise God for this kind of fellowship and look forward to continuing to grow in our love of the Lord and one another.