# FCC NEWSLETTER

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



## WEEK OF PRAYER January 7-13

"And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:31)

In early January we will have the opportunity to join together in our small groups for a concentrated time of prayer. We will plead for God's hope, direction, healing, outreach, boldness and power for us as individuals, as a church, and as part of a worldwide movement of the gospel.

An outline will be provided to our small group leaders to use. Those who are not in a small group are invited to gather at FCC on Thursday, January 11, from 6:30– 8:00 pm for a one-time session of prayer.

### WHAT'S IN OUR LATEST ISSUE:

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a letter from Pastor Patrick

## **DEAR FCC FAMILY**:

I want to start off by telling you how happy I am to be your new pastor, and how excited my family and I are to be part of this congregation. We have truly been overwhelmed by the love of God that has been demonstrated through your care, generosity, and hospitality. We were supported at every point, from our move here to becoming acclimated to our new home. We are truly thankful for all of you!

I have been asked on several occasions what I plan to do. As I begin my tenure here at Faith Community Church, I have attempted to spend time listening, and I want to learn from the saints that have been serving and ministering here for years. FCC has a godly heritage of making disciples who plant the church, and I want to honor that history as we seek to be faithful in the present, and as we look forward to fruitfulness in the future.

I also recognize that our church has been through a turbulent period of leadership turnover. I have listened while several of you have shared with me just how painful that was. Some of you have even shared your hesitancy about fully reengaging. I cannot change the past, but I would love the opportunity to earn your trust and rebuild credibility. On behalf of the Pastors and Elders, the goal of the leadership of Faith Community Church is to exemplify transparency and Christian integrity in all we do. Our goal is reconciliation and the restoration of unity around the truth of the gospel, but that can only happen through love, humility, and patience.

As we move forward, let me share my simple plan: preach, pray, love and stay. I begin with preaching because it is the word of God that drives the church. In 2 Timothy 4:2, Paul commands Timothy, "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching." The word of God is our final authority, not the opinion or preference of any man. In my meetings with members of the staff, I have told



them "We are not going to lead this church through personality, because I don't have enough personality to do that. We are going to be a people of the book."

Second, prayer is a fundamental part of a New Testament Church. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." To that end, I have encouraged all of the Elders, the Deacons and the staff to regularly be praying through our membership rolls. We will also be starting a prayer chain that members can sign up for. I truly believe that any fruitfulness that FCC will have in the future starts with, and will be sustained, only through prayer.

Finally, if our lives are not marked by love our ministry is meaningless. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13:2, *"if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."* Love is the necessary fruit of real Christian faith. My desire is to lead our church in loving God, loving one another, and loving the lost.

I remember hearing a wise old preacher saying, "We overestimate what we can do in a year and underestimate what God can do in five." No growth happens overnight. Change takes time, and as a sinful man, I won't always do things in the right way, so I am asking for your patience. But my plan is to be here for many years, and my prayer is that over time the Lord would grant His favor to our church.

Pastor Patrick

operation christmas child

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

#### 9,745 boxes sent

This is what 9,745 shoebox gifts look like! With the miracle of multiplication, about 97,745 people will hear The Gospel through these "GO" (Gospel Opportunity) shoebox gifts.

#### **New Richmond FCC:**

Contributed a total of 424 shoebox gifts; had 35 volunteers serve over National Collection week just in NR, for a total of 211 volunteer hours; our NR drop off welcomed 42 people from our community/local churches who brought another 561 shoeboxes for a total of 985 shoeboxes collected at FCC New Richmond.

**Western Wisconsin** has 6 drop off locations; had 128 volunteers serve 547 volunteer hours; loaded 645 cartons containing 9,745 shoebox gifts into two semi trailers!

We had two different people stop in that were looking for a new church home. One person heard of our location on KTIS, and didn't realize there was a drop off in NR. She currently attends Eagle Brook but is wanting something closer to home and will be checking us out in the future.

Paul had a great conversation with the other person. A guy looking for a new church, I heard "Come on back! Let's worship together!"

Want to be in the loop for all things OCC? Email Jackie: **shoeboxgr8joy@gmail.com** 



<image>





## womens ministry

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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

Visit our website here: https://www.fccnr.org/womensministry

Email Stephanie Langer HERE stephanie.langer@homeforever.org

Check out and subscribe to our blog here: <a href="http://fccnr.org/womens-ministry-blog">http://fccnr.org/womens-ministry-blog</a>

Follow us on Facebook here: https://www.facebook.com/FCCWMnr

## WOMEN IN THE WORD

Sara and Bobbi will lead us through our next study: "The Wisdom of God" book 4 of Nancy Guthrie's 'Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament' series. We will have morning and evening studies beginning in January. Dates and times will



be announced soon! Watch the Event page for sign-ups. Want to order your book ahead of time? Here is a link: **<u>BOOK 4</u>** 

## **JINGLE MINGLE RECAP**

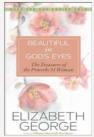
We had more than 25 ladies come out to FCC for a night of fun and fellowship for our "Jingle Mingle" event. Jan Hoffman did a beautiful devotion, we enjoyed an amazing spread of food, we played a quick game of Speed Friending to get to know each other, did a Grinch Gift Exchange, and so much more. Thank you to all who planned, organized and set up for the event! What a great blessing it is to have this time with Christian friends and our church family!



## MOMENTS THAT MATTER

### Monthly Book Club:

We are taking the month of December off to enjoy the holiday season. Join us in the New Year on January 20th to discuss our next book "Beautiful in God's Eyes: The Treasures of the Proverbs 31 Woman" by



Elizabeth George. Copies are available in the bookstore for \$11. We meet from 10 am-Noon in the cafe. Read the assigned book and join in the fellowship and discussion. **SIGN UP HERE!** 

## LADIES TIME OUT Christmas Party

Join us Wednesday, December 20th for our next gathering – our annual Christmas Party! If you are able, bring a fun pair of socks filled with \$10 in goodies for an exciting Christmas Game! If this is a hardship for you, just let the office know and we will cover you so you can still participate. If you are able, please bring your favorite brunch item or Christmas Treat to share!

LTO is an opportunity for ladies of any age and stage to get together for fellowship and 'do life' together. Ladies meet EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month from 9-11am in the cafe here at FCC. Coffee and childcare are provided! Bring a brunch item to share if you are able!

Please contact Christa Poole for more information at **christa.poole@homeforever.org** 



children's ministry

## **KIDZONE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

### "JOY!"

Mark your calendars, invite the aunts, uncles and grandparents, and get your cameras ready for December 17th as the KidZone Kids share the Good News of great JOY during both services!

#### **Parents!**

Your children in grades 4k-3rd have been doing a fantastic job in KidZone practicing the song "Joy" by Seeds Family Worship. As we get closer, please use this link to help them practice at home:

#### https://youtu.be/xKM\_pq542P4?si=RJtYG-2gbmUy5caA

Children in grades 4th and 5th should have received a verse assignment and be practicing their verses in the book of Luke. If they have not received one, please contact Bobbi as soon as possible!

Don't forget! Practice is on Saturday, December 16th from 9:30-11am in the Worship Center! Parents are not required to stay on site, but are welcome to.

Director of Youth Ministry Bobbi Blanchard bobbiblancha<u>rd@homeforever.org</u>



## CHILD DEDICATIONS Sunday, January 7th

In dedicating a child to the Lord, we are acknowledging God as Creator and Lord. Parenting is not possession, but a stewardship entrusted by God. The child placed in our care as parents and a church family is given as a trust (see Luke 19: 11-27). Dedication is a very intentional act of faith, surrendering back to God that which is His. (Romans 11:36). Are you considering this next step? Review our Child Dedication Handout https://www.fccnr.org/nextsteps and sign up for the upcoming orientation on January 7th! We can discuss dedication for your child(ren) and prepare you for Child Dedications taking place on January 14th.



### PASSOVER CELEBRATION

Here are our kindergarten and 1st graders learning about the Passover celebration described in Ezra 4-6. Thanks to our amazing KidZone leaders for their creativity in sharing the Word with our littlest church!



Faith Training - Modates and Plans

## WHAT IS FAITH TRAINING AT FCC?

Faith Training is all about making Disciples. We provide teachers and learning opportunities for those who hunger to know more. In order to give everyone an opportunity to attend, we offer some classes as one-time meetings, and others as weekly classes which meet on different days and times of the week.

Some of our classes explore specific books of the Bible, and others take us into Scripture to understand our own spiritual experience (theological formation). Pastor Patrick said we all have a theology: who we think God is and what Christ has done for us.

Other classes are more about living the Gospel out in parenting, work, and our world, while others will explore the history of the Church and what we can learn from the past. But, all of it is about growing in the Gospel and making disciples.

2024 Faith Training Opportunities are coming together. Though some details are not finalized yet, I wanted to let you know what we do know:

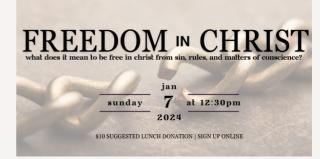
**UNPACKING THE GOSPEL TREASURES** will begin Sunday morning January 14. The class will be held from 10:30am-12:00pm in the Family Room across from the café. We will be studying justification, redemption, reconciliation, sanctification, and several more biblical concepts that comprise the many treasures of our salvation in Christ. Pastor Dave will be heading up this class which will run for 6 weeks. We have a limit of 20 people so don't wait until the last minute to sign up!

#### LINK TO REGISTER: HERE





As an introductory kick-off to the Gospel Treasures Series, We will meet January 7 after church (12:30) for lunch and teaching. One of the Gospel treasures is on **Freedom in Christ**. What does it mean to be free in Christ from sin, rules, and matters of conscience? All are welcome! A donation per person is appreciated to help cover lunch expenses, but don't let the cost stop you from signing up. **LINK TO REGISTER: HERE** 



Another offering in 2024 will be THE MINOR PROPHETS will be taught by Pastor Peter Bergeson. As of now the class will meet Tuesday nights from 6-7:30 pm (look for specific dates in future posts).

We have a couple of other offerings in the works, but we are waiting on details.

2024 looks like a good year to go deeper in the gospel of our Lord!

Pastor Dave

book review and parade

## "THE OLOGY: ANCIENT TRUTHS, EVER NEW"

#### By Marty Machowski

The Ology: Ancient Truths, Ever New" by Marty Machowski would make a great Christmas gift for your child this year! It is a resource that will definitely be used over and over again. Aimed for children ages 6 to 11 but designed in such a way that it could be used by the whole family for devotions or curriculum.

This gospel centered book takes big doctrine and makes it simple enough for a child to understand. It does this without watering down the truth. Beautiful illustrations, engaging questions and interesting stories will keep any child's attention. I highly recommend this rare find.

Melissa Evans

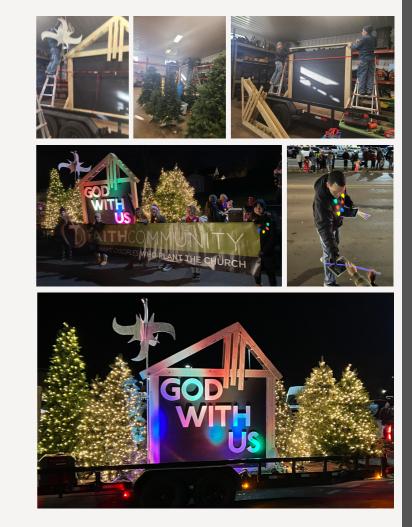
## GOD WITH US

#### Hometown Holiday Parade

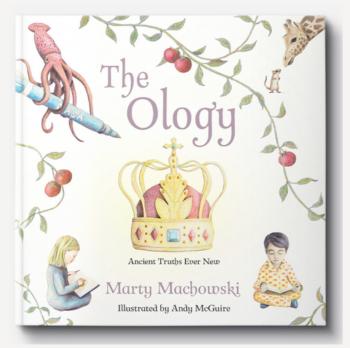
Ever since New Richmond starting doing the Hometown Holiday Parade, Faith Community Church has had faithful volunteers who have signed up to create something that SHINES the light of Jesus to the community. This year was no different. Tawnya Unruh and Katy Everett took the reigns this year and came up with a beautiful design. And, with the help of Randy Kostroski and Zac Evans, they made it a reality! Thank you to those who created, planned, drove, walked in the parade, and handed out invitations to our Christmas Eve services!

#### Matthew 1:23

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us")



Link to order: Click **HERE** 



hands and feet

## GRIEFSHARE Friday Nights from 6-8pm



Many people are grieving and reluctant to attend a group. It may be difficult to make the effort when you want to deal with pain privately. We want to assure you that this is a group that is totally devoted to helping individuals recover from the deep hurt of loss. When you attend you will meet people who can relate to what you are going through. There is an excellent participant guidebook for you that is filled with helpful tools to assist in this season of grief.

There are 9 more sessions in this current series... 9 more times of offering hope and encouragement to you or someone you know who could benefit from this ministry.

We meet on Fridays, 6:00 to 8:00 pm in room D3. We will take a holiday break December 22 and 29.

REGISTRATION: Where: Faith Community Church Contact: Rita Baker Email: **rutabagamail@yahoo.com** Phone: 801-699-1709 Link to register: **GriefShare.org** or **fccnr.org** 

## HERE TO SERVE T-Shirts for Sale

We have NEW serving t-shirts available for \$5 in our bookstore! Feel free to wear them on the days you serve, and for different events around FCC! Faith Community Church shirts are also available!



## **COMMUNION** TEAM

### The First Sunday of Every Month

Did you know that we have a faithful team of volunteers who serves every first Sunday of the month preparing for our church family to take part in the Lord's Supper? Thank you to our wonderful communion team!



## PRAYER TEAM Every Sunday Morning

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.

Questions? Contact Peter Bergeson at **pgbergeson@gmail.com** 



sign ups

## **CHAOS MEALS**

#### Wednesday Nights

CHAOS meal are back for high school students and we need your help to make this happen!! We have 3 different options as to how you can support this ministry this year:

- OPTION #1: If you are a group that wants to prepare & serve a meal for a given date – please sign up for the date you wish to do so, and comment what you will be bringing! We ask you come and are ready to serve by 6:30 on the night of your sign-up.
- 2. **OPTION #2**: If you or your group or business, would like to sponsor a meal (estimated cost of \$100), we will buy the food and prepare it for the students. Just drop your donation off in the office at FCC. Cash or GC to Walmart or Aldi are great!
- 3. **OPTION #3:** If individually, you are able to donate food for a particular menu, we will have a grocery list for what is needed! Please have donations dropped off at FCC by 3pm on the TUESDAY before your meal. You can leave them with the front office or leave in the ministry exchange/staff kitchen.

If you are interested in donating meat, eggs, or other food that we could incorporate into making a future meal, please let us know. If you have any questions or would like to help- please contact:

- Amy Eastep: 612-770-7817
- Becky Lease: 715-781-3835
- Tawnya Unruh: 715-338-4312
- or email info@homeforever.org

More information can be found <u>HERE!</u> The sign up can be found <u>HERE!</u>





DISCIPLE6

Thank you to everyone who has signed up so far to bring goodies for the D6 kids on Sunday nights while they dive into God's word and what it means to live out their faith! If you are interested in providing snacks for about 25 students and leaders on Sundays at 5pm, please **sign up** today!

If your student is interested in participating in this AWESOME study, or if you would like more information about the D6 curriculum, please contact Luke Mossbarger at **info@homeforever.org** or **register** your kids online. Anyone in grades 6th-12th are welcome.

## COVENANT MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

### Join the FCC Family

We have had a great number of people expressing interest in becoming Covenant Members here at FCC. Keep an eye on the events tab of the website to see when our next classes will be, or email the church office anytime if you feel like this is the next step you want to take! Here are the next dates:

- Tuesday, December 12th: LINK
- Thursday, December 14th: LINK
- Saturday, January 13th: LINK



sign ups

### SEASONED SAINTS Senior Lunch Christmas Party

Our Seasoned Saints gather every second Monday of the month here at FCC to fellowship and eat together, and get to know the other seniors in our church! This month, our seniors had their Christmas Party!



Register **online** to be added to our "roster" for updates and more! We meet again on January 8th!

Jan 8 | Feb 12 | Mar 11 | Apr 8 | May 13

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

#### Wednesdays 5-6am / Saturdays 7-8am

We currently have 2 groups of men coming together who have a passion to study and discuss and digest the Word of God. We invite anyone to join us on Wednesday and Saturday mornings!!

#### Contact Paul at paulw.occegmail.com



### PRAYER CHAIN Sign Up Online

We here at Faith Community Church believe that any fruitfulness that FCC will have in the future starts with, and will be sustained only through prayer. If you are a Covenant Member of FCC and would like to be added to our new Prayer Chain, please sign up **HERE!** 

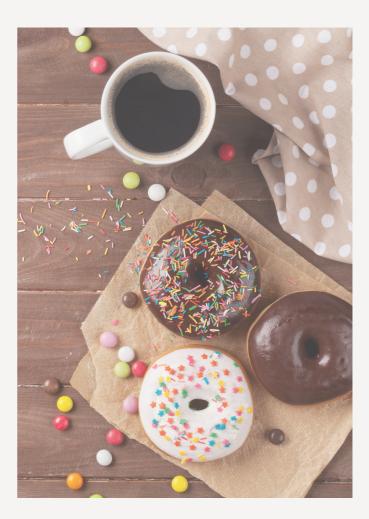
## SMALL GROUPS

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

At Faith Community Church, small groups serve as our primary vehicle for the care and discipleship of the church that God has entrusted to us. Let's get you connected! Contact Mike Eastep at **maelk4egmail.com** 

We are still in need of more small group leaders! If you love the Bible and have a desire to be a part of and lead an intentional community of believers, please contact Mike Eastep.

COFFEE HOURS: In 2024, our Small Groups will be taking over our monthly coffee hours! Not only will this be a great opportunity for them to serve together, but it will also serve as a way for our church body to get to know one another a little better! If your small group hasn't signed up yet, please do <u>HERE</u>!



## loved and lost

### CHRIS NELSON Let's love on Kerri

It is with great sadness that we announce the loss of Kerri Nelson's husband, Chris. FCC now has the great privilege of loving on and caring for Kerri and her family during this difficult time. There will be an open house on Sunday, December 17th from 3-4:30 here at FCC in the D Rooms.



#### LINK TO SERVE

If you would like to help provide items for the Open house, or assist with set up and cleanup, please sign up on the link above.

#### LINK TO DONATE

If you would like to financially help Kerri during this transition, please consider donating on her Go Fund Me page.

Please keep the Nelson Family in your prayers!

#### Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" The Lord of hosts is with us the God of Jacob is our fortress.

## LOVE EVERY MOMENT Michelle Eral: 1968-2023

This last weekend, FCC also hosted the funeral for Michelle Eral who recently lost her battle with cancer. Over the last few months we have got to witness first hand all of the ways that God has worked in her, witnessed her Baptism, watched her love the moments in life, while navigating the hard ones, and truly show what it means to be filled with hope and peace even in the hardest of times. Please keep her husband, Joe, and their children in your prayers.

- If you wish to watch the beautiful service, here is the link: <u>CLICK HERE</u>
- Michelle's Obituary: LINK
- Michelle's Baptism Testimony: CLICK HERE
- Michelle's story was also covered on ABC's world news: CLICK HERE for the Facebook Link





upcoming events @ FCC

## **DECEMBER 2023**

- 1st: **Church Decorating Day 10am** GriefShare 6-8pm Women's Ministry Jingle Mingle 6pm
- 2nd: Men's Study 7-8:30am
- 3rd: Worship 9 & 10:45am with Communion New Member Inductions at both Services Covenant Member Meeting 5pm
- 4th: Kings & Prophets Class 6-8pm
- 6th: Men's Study 5-6am Women's Bible Study 9-10:30am CHAOS 6-8:30pm Elder Meeting 6:30-7:30
- 7th: Red Cross Blood Drive 11am-7pm Women's Bible Study 6-7:30pm
- 8th: GriefShare 6-8pm
- 9th: Men's Study 7-8:30am
- 10th: Worship 9 & 10:45am Disciple6 5-6pm
- 11th: Seasoned Saints Lunch 12-2pm
- 12th: HAPPY BIRTHDAY PATRICK! Covenant Member Class 5:30-8pm
- 13th: Men's Study 5-6am CHAOS 6-8:30pm Elder Meeting 6:30-7:30
- 14th: Covenant Member Class 12-2:30pm Women's Bible Study 6-7:30pm Bible Quizzing 6-8pm
- 15th: GriefShare 6-8pm
- 16th: Men's Study 7-8:30am KidZone Christmas Program Practice 9:30-11am Women's Ministry Planning Meeting 12-1:30pm
- 17th: Worship 9 & 10:45am KidZone Christmas Program at both services Coffee Hour Between Services Open House for Chris Nelson 3-4:30pm Disciple6 5-6pm

Please note:

The FCC Church Offices

will be closed the week

between Christmas and New

Years. Please call or email if you need anything!

- 18th: Ministry Team Meeting 6-8pm
- 20th: Men's Study 5-6am Ladies Time Out 9-11am CHAOS 6-8:30pm Elder Meeting 6:30-7:30 Christmas Choir Practice 8pm
- 21st: Ruby's Pantry 4-7pm Bible Quizzing 6-8pm
- 22nd: NO GRIEFSHARE
- 23rd: Men's Group 7-8:30am
- 24th: Christmas Eve Worship 9 & 10:45am Candlelight Service 5pm
- 25th: Merry Christmas
- 27th: Men's Study 5-6am **NO CHAOS**
- 28th: Bible Quizzing 6-8pm
- 29th: NO GriefShare 6-8pm
- 30th: Men's Study 7-8:30am
- 31st: Worship 9 & 10:45am New Years Eve NO D6

## SAVE THE DATE JANUARY 2024

- Dedication Orientation between services (Sign up online!) Freedom in Christ Class 12-2pm (Sign up online!) 7th
- **Covenant Member Class 9-noon** 13th: Women's Ministry Craft Day (Sign up coming soon!)
- 14th: **Baby and Child Dedications (both services)** Coffee Hour Between Services Faith Training Class Kicks off (Sign up online!)
- Ruby's Pantry 4-7:30pm (Sign up coming soon) 18th:
- 20th: Women's Book Club 10am-noon
- 28th: Baptism Orientation (Sign up coming soon!)

### GIVE

#### fccnr.org/give

You can give online or in the offering boxes just outside the sanctuary doors! Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

## FINANGIAL UPDATE

Month of Oct	to <b>be</b> tual	Budgeted	+/-
(000s)	59 53	55	+4
Giving	55	59	-6
Expandituras			

Expenditures

Because of your generosity and faithful giving, many of these classes, events and opportunities are possible. Thank you!

#### The Treasure Principle

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

### CONNECT

#### We are the Church.

Join us every Sunday morning at 9:00am or 10:45am for in person services. Stay up to date with what's going on and follow us on Facebook, or catch up on services you have missed on our YouTube channel!



efccnewrichmond

<u>afaithcommunitynr</u>

<u>efccnr.org</u>

christmas

## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Service Times are shown below. Postcards are available in the foyer to invite your friends and neighbors!



## CHRISTMAS CHOIR Sign Up <u>HERE</u>

Our Christmas Choir will be singing during our Candlelight Service on Sunday, December 24th at 5pm. We will have one practice on Wednesday, December 20th at 8pm! If you wish to join us, sign up online!



merry christmas from the staff and elders  $\ast$ istmas! lerre THE STAFF AND ELDERS OF FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall call his name Jumanuel which means, GOD WITH US MATTHEW 1:21