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# FCC NEWSLETTER

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The Official Monthly Newsletter of Faith Community Church - New Richmond



## ENCOURAGEMENT

**Brother Lawrence**

"The time of business does not differ with me from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were on my knees."

## WHAT'S IN OUR LATEST ISSUE:

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## RUBY'S PANTRY

### Every Third Thursday of the Month

Our July distribution served almost 200 families! Did you know that FCC receives a small portion of each share to use towards blessing people and families in the community? We were privileged to bless several families this month who are dealing with both physical and spiritual needs. What an amazing gift from God to be able to do that!

Our next distribution is Thursday, August 17th from 5-7pm at the Armory. Volunteers arrive at 4pm to build shares and load vehicles, all while getting to know each other and serving the community! The sign up can always be found at [fccnr.org/events](http://fccnr.org/events) early in the month. Want more information? Email Chuck Olson at [chuck.olson@homeforever.org](mailto:chuck.olson@homeforever.org) to have all of your questions answered!



## 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 & Acts in D1 @ FCC. Join us!!

Contact Paul at [paulw.occ@gmail.com](mailto:paulw.occ@gmail.com)



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

### Shoebox Recipient Event | Sept 10th

Invite your friends & neighbors and join us on Sunday, September 10th at 6:30pm for a journey to South Asia with Justin Thomas as he shares his inspirational life story of receiving the first gift of his lifetime, an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. Hear firsthand how this simple gift touched Justin's heart and shaped his life. In addition to his heartfelt story, you will learn how you can be part of making a global impact, go on a mission, and bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth - all without leaving the US.

Inspiration | Information | Light Refreshments  
Prizes | Fun

Reserve your spot and a Free Shoebox [HERE](#) or check out the [events tab](#) for more info.

Speaker presentation will be most enjoyed by those 12 years and older.

Email Jackie: [shoeboxgr8joy@gmail.com](mailto:shoeboxgr8joy@gmail.com) with any questions.



## PRAYER MINISTRY

Sundays @ 8am

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



Questions? Contact Peter Bergeson at [pgbergeson@gmail.com](mailto:pgbergeson@gmail.com)



## BIBLICAL COUNSELING

### Help Needed

Faith Family! Do you possess a strong confidence in your knowledge of God's word? Do you have a desire to help both fellow believers and the lost wade through the challenges of sin and the freedom found in the redemptive and sanctifying power of our Lord Jesus Christ? Then join our growing team of Biblical Counselors!

We need faithful, available, and teachable Christians to address a huge need in our church and our community. If you think the Lord may be calling you to serve in this area, please reach out to Pastor Ben at [ben@homeforever.org](mailto:ben@homeforever.org) to learn what the next steps are for you to join the team! It's gonna be great!

## GRIEF SHARE

### Friday Nights This Summer

We have been offering a grief support group that meets weekly every Friday at 6pm (through August 18th), using the GriefShare Study. This is a group led by some awesome, Godly trained leaders who have the desire to help you work through the intricacies of losing someone you love. Please go to the [events page](#) to sign up for the group. There is no cost to attend, donations for the books will be accepted.



## SMALL GROUPS

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

If you are not a part of a small group yet here at FCC, you are greatly missing out on God's beautiful plan for His people. Small groups are weekly gatherings of people for prayer, study, fellowship, accountability, training, and mission. 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 [maelk4@gmail.com](mailto:maelk4@gmail.com)

**We are 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.**



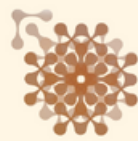
## DISCIPLE6

**Brown Year Coming This Fall Meals Needed**

Parents (and Students)! We need YOU to partner with us to provide meals for our D6 students on Sunday nights! If you would be interested in joining the rotation of volunteers making meals for about 25 students and leaders on Sundays at 5pm, please contact our staff at [info@homeforever.org](mailto:info@homeforever.org) or sign up [HERE](#).

Also, if your student is interested in participating in this AWESOME study, or if you would like more information about the D6 curriculum, please contact Pastor Ben at [ben@homeforever.org](mailto:ben@homeforever.org). Check out the full schedule on the next page!

# disciples schedule



## DISCIPLE6

### 2023-2024 Schedule: Brown Year Faith Training Youth Discipleship

DATE	TOPIC	PAGE
Oct 1	The Old Testament Christ and the Disciple .....	Page 1
Oct 8	Humanity .....	Page 75
Oct 15	Sinfulness .....	Page 80
Oct 22	Salvation .....	Page 85
Oct 29	God's Purpose of Grace .....	Page 90
Nov 5	The Bible and Science .....	Page 7
Nov 12	God's Existence, Part 1 .....	Page 13
Nov 19	God's Existence, Part 2 .....	Page 19
<b>Nov 26</b>	<b>NO D6: THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	
Dec 3	A Biblical View of God and Nature .....	Page 192
Dec 10	A Biblical View of God and Man .....	Page 200
Dec 17	A Biblical View of Civilization .....	Page 206
<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>NO D6: Christmas Break</b>	
<b>Dec 31</b>	<b>NO D6: New Years Break</b>	
Jan 7	Know the Culture .....	Page 25
Jan 14	Know the Author .....	Page 31
Jan 21	Find the Principle .....	Page 37
Jan 28	Compare to the Rest of Scripture .....	Page 43
Feb 4	Relating to Parents, Part 1 .....	Page 49
Feb 11	Relating to Parents, Part 2 .....	Page 56
Feb 18	Relating to Friends, Part 1 .....	Page 63
Feb 25	Relating to Friends, Part 2 .....	Page 69
Mar 3	The Old Testament Basis for Evangelism and Missions ...	Page 120
Mar 10	The New Testament Basis for Evangelism and Missions ..	Page 126
Mar 17	The Use of Scripture in Evangelism and Missions .....	Page 132
Mar 24	The Use of Prayer in Evangelism and Missions .....	Page 138
<b>Mar 31</b>	<b>NO D6: Easter Break</b>	
April 7	Suicide and Self-Harm .....	Page 102
April 14	The Discipline of Facing Difficult Trials .....	Page 168
April 21	Premarital Sex .....	Page 108
April 28	The Strength of Humility .....	Page 175
May 5	Homosexuality .....	Page 96
<b>May 12</b>	<b>NO D6: Mother's Day</b>	
May 19	Understanding the Bible .....	Page 180
<b>May 26</b>	<b>LAST DAY PARTY</b>	

**D6 meets on Sunday evenings from 5-6pm in D3!**



# women's ministry

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

[fccnr.org/womensministry](http://fccnr.org/womensministry)

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

There is a lot going on in our Women's Ministry. You can find all the information you need on the **Women's Ministry Page** of our website!



Contact Stephanie at [stephanie.langer@homeforever.org](mailto:stephanie.langer@homeforever.org)

## WOMEN IN THE WORD

### Memory Verses

As a reminder, we are focusing on Scripture memory. Committing God's Word to memory and hiding it in our hearts grows our intimacy with God. It allows us to continually remember and meditate on the Word of God. Each Monday a new verse to memorize is posted on our **webpage** and **Facebook page**. Our current verse is Revelation 4:11:

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

Watch for our next verse on August 14th!



## DISCIPLE HER

We have two dates coming up for Disciple Her. The first is an informational session on August 20th following the second service. This session is for any women or girls ages 12 and up who are curious about discipleship and mentoring. We will discuss what it means to be a disciple as well as what it means to make disciples and what it means to be a mentor. I hope to see you there. Sign-up on the event page.

Then on September 9 from 9:30-11:30 in room D3, we will offer training for any new or existing disciple-makers/mentors.

## MOMENTS THAT MATTER

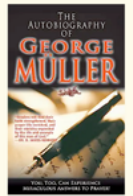
### Back to School Prayer Walk:

All are invited to our Back to School Prayer Walk! Today, more than ever, schools need our prayers. Whether you pray by yourself or gather a group to pray with you, remember that prayer is doing something! God covets the prayers of his people, and our educators, administrators and students need our prayers for their schools.

We will be gathering on Sunday, August 27th at the church at 6:30 to go and pray at our area schools before classes resume for the year. This is open to everyone in Faith Community Church, and we would love to see families coming with their children to pray for the schools. Guided prayer points will be available, so you can take them home and continue to pray throughout the school year.

### Monthly Book Club:

Join us on August 19 to discuss our next book "The Autobiography of George Muller". We meet from 10 am-Noon in the cafe. Read the assigned book and join in the fellowship and discussion.



## ALL WOMEN EQUIPPED BLOG

[fccnr.org/womens-ministry-blog](http://fccnr.org/womens-ministry-blog).

Don't forget to check out and subscribe to our blog! [Women's Ministry Blog](#) (All Women Equipped) | FCC - New Richmond ([fccnr.org](http://fccnr.org)).

## LADIES TIME OUT

### Every Third Wednesday of the Month

This 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.

During the summer months, Ladies Time Out will be having park dates! August 17th we will be meeting at Mary Park where there

is a new park, walking trails, restrooms, pavilions with picnic tables, and a large grassy area, pickle ball courts, and a lake for fishing! Bring water bottles and a snack if bringing your little ones!



Please contact Christa Poole for more information at [christa.poole@homeforever.org](mailto:christa.poole@homeforever.org)

# PRAYER LIST

## For Our Missionaries

- TLI (Mike Evans, Stu Dix, Peter Bergeson and Larry Szyman) in Uganda and the surrounding area
- Tutapona (Carl Gaede, Todd Hennlich)
- St. Croix Valley Lead Team (Church Planting)
- Converge Worldwide/Great Lakes
- Charlie Gess (Tijuana, Mexico)
- Clay Gess (Cru, Thailand)
- Matt Larson (Gothenburg, Sweden, TLI)
- The Converge, Radius and Chrstar Missionaries active in Asia
- Gary Sandman (Los Canelos, Mexico, Feed My Lambs Int)
- Pastor Antonio Moxnay Chavajay (Guatemala)
- Jody Carrell (Edinburgh, Scotland, Converge)
- David Suennen (Cru, Orlando, FL)
- Pastor Edwin Onen (Uganda)
- Pastor Lovejoy Tirivepi (Zimbabwe)
- Operation Christmas Child

Also, please pray for two members of our Mission Team, Aaron Livingston and Paul Warner. These men have agreed to travel to Uganda to observe and assist the work of our mission partners at Tutapona and Training Leaders International (TLI). They will be our eyes and ears, prayerfully considering new ways we can expand our presence and support for the work God is doing in Africa.

## MISSIONS

[fccnr.org/missions](http://fccnr.org/missions)

Church, please continue to pray for our very own Charlie Gess, and his family, as Charlie commits to serving the missionaries of Mexico Caravan Ministries in Tijuana, Mexico this summer. Charlie is coordinating efforts to provide local families with shelters, while pressing in the truth of the Gospel to the people of Tijuana, and the groups from all over the United States that are joining in the work. Charlie can receive letters of encouragement and support at this address during his time in Mexico:



**Mexico Caravan Ministries**  
**ATTN: Charlie Gess**  
**555 Saturn Blvd. Ste. B-510**  
**San Diego, CA 92154**



# AN UPDATE TO CHURCH AND SUPPORTERS

**Charlie Gess**  
**Mexico Caravan Ministries**  
**July 1, 2023**

Hey everyone, I just wanted to reach out to all the people supporting me and provide a little information into everything that is going on down in Tijuana! Right now, it is Saturday, and we always have today off, so we just went to the city center and got some coffee (sat in some traffic) and got back to do some devotionals and reading. So far, it has been an amazing time, and I am so grateful I have all of you supporting me to make it possible. Since being at MCM I have grown so much in my faith, character, and knowledge of my savior.

There has certainly been amazing moments of fun and fellowship, but I want to share a few key concepts that really convicted me and I think will be eye-opening for a few of you as well.

### 1. Obedience

The first topic the speakers addressed that struck me were the ideas of obedience in our life. Oftentimes, we can get caught up in trying to do what is right for the Lord, without letting go of our grip on this life. We can get so caught up within everyday life and lose our eternal mindset. Most of us know there are some major ways in our life we still need to fully commit to the Lord, yet we think if we can avoid that one big thing and just obey some of the easier commands, we are being obedient. The quote that hit home was that "halfway obedience is simply disobedience" (pretty sure it was Spencer who said that). A perfect example of this is the rich young ruler.



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# missions

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He followed every rule, yet simply could not follow Christ and give up all his possessions. Whether this is loosening your grip on your financial situation, on your time, or even your plans, God is not looking for some of your reliance but all of it. A few practical ways that I am trying to work on are keeping the Sabbath holy, being more generous, and devoting my plans to Christ and whatever He has for that.

## 2. Direction and a call

The next major idea that made it into my journal a few times was the fact that almost everyone is praying for direction or a call in their lives. But did you know you can actually figure out your "call" pretty darn easily? There are two types of calls, an internal call and external call. The internal call comes from the Bible and reading scripture daily and understanding the will of the Father. This internal call is then confirmed by the external call of the church body and other members of Christ (it is extremely important the external call is not confirmed by random friends and people you might trust, because if you search long enough someone will always confirm what you are doing). Therefore, read your Bible consistently and understand the heart of your heavenly Father and confirm that with the external call of the church. This is the way in which the Holy Spirit often works.

## 3. Love

Lastly, something I discovered as a unifying theme throughout almost every message and Bible reading is love. Would you guess that? Seems pretty obvious. I could so easily get entangled within all the work I am doing I forget why I am doing it. Building houses for pretty poor families is a great thing but 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 is crystal clear that if we do not have love we are pointless, our words are pointless, and our actions are pointless, even if they are amazing! This is honestly very difficult. I probably smash my hand with a hammer at least six times a build and get frustrated with the speed of the project because it is a million degrees (only like 80 degrees by the grace of God, which is still way too hot) and I am hungry, but I need to remember that I am doing it because I love the Lord and I love what he loves. This is such an easy trap to fall into, so I would encourage you to all pray for a desire to be reminded consistently by the Spirit of your 'why' behind your actions.

Go into every situation with a loving spirit. Give lovingly, take out the trash lovingly, do your work, your school, emails, phone calls, serving, eating, and disciplining, do it all with love; for if you have no love, you gain nothing.

Thanks for reading that, and if you didn't thank you for supporting me anyway! I know it was not the easiest thing to sacrifice your time, prayer, and finances, but you have all done so incredibly lovingly and I am greatly encouraged by that. Being at MCM has realigned my perspective on this earth towards the Lord and I am so thankful you all supported me and got me here. After my time at MCM (absolutely wild to think I am halfway done already), I am heading back to the University of Northwestern St. Paul to get butchered by soccer tryouts and pursue a business degree. I have had a lot of doubts about why I would get a business degree, but God has had a plan throughout all of it. To get the Gospel into any of the closed off countries right now, it is imperative to go into these countries and regions with a business concept. I look to hopefully graduate in 2025 and will most likely be heading to Ethnos 360, which is a missionary training school. Afterwards I look forward to going wherever Christ might be most glorified.

As I look forward to all that God has in store for me, I am really challenged by the fact that I need to have love be the motive behind all my actions, desires, and goals. I have fallen short of this so much this summer but have also grown so much by focusing on this challenge.

Please continue to pray that I can keep this mindset in order to bring glory to God alone by lovingly serving all those I encounter. Additionally, I would love if you could be praying for health for all the staff, we have been getting sick a lot which is not fun. Lastly, prayers for continual loosening of my grip and hopefully yours on this fleeting life which we often grip so tightly onto. We are people who have been bought by the blood of Christ and our time and plans are now fully His now that He owns us!

Thank you all, I am so blessed to have such a strong foundation in Christ which I can depend on!

Soli Deo Gloria  
-Charlie (Lorenzo)

# faith training

## FAITH TRAINING FOR FALL 2023/SPRING 2024

For more information about how you can participate in our classes, or if you are interested in exploring the opportunity to participate in this ministry, please contact Pastor Ben at [ben@homeforever.org](mailto:ben@homeforever.org).

### **FALL 2023**

#### **John (1-3 John):**

Day: Sundays

Dates: Sep 24 - Dec 10, 2023

Time: 12-2PM

Location: D3

Length: 12 weeks

#### **Kings & Prophets (An Old Testament Survey):**

Day: Mondays

Dates: Sep 11 - Nov 27, 2023

Time: 6-8pm

Location: The Worship Center

Length: 12 weeks

#### **Knowing the Bible's Story (Theology):**

Day: Tuesdays

Dates: Sept 12 - Nov 7th, 2023

Time: 7-9pm

Location: Worship Center

Length: 9 weeks

### **SPRING 2024**

#### **James (Be a Hearer AND a Doer):**

Day: Sundays

Dates: Feb 11 - April 12, 2024

Time: 12-2

Location: D3

Length: 12 weeks

#### **The Judges (An Old Testament Survey):**

Day: Mondays

Dates: Feb 12 - April 29, 2024

Time: 6-8pm

Location: Worship Center

Length: 12 weeks

#### **Understanding and Communicating Narrative and Law (Genesis - Exodus):**

Day: Tuesdays

Dates: Feb 13 - April 9, 2024

Time: 7-9pm

Location: Worship Center

Length: 9 weeks

### **FAITH TRAINING ONE-TIME EVENTS** **SUNDAYS AFTER 2ND SERVICE**

#### **1st Quarter - Jonah Was a Prophet**

Date: Aug 27, 2023

Time: 12-2

Location: Worship Center

LUNCH PROVIDED



#### **2nd Quarter - The Arian Crisis (and a History of Heresy)**

Date: Dec 3, 2023

Time: 12-2

Location: Worship Center

LUNCH PROVIDED

#### **3rd Quarter - From the Pulpit: Faith Training Inspired by Sunday Teaching**

Date: Feb 4, 2024

Time: 12-2pm

Location: Worship Center

LUNCH PROVIDED

#### **4th Quarter - Then and Now (A Comparative History of the 1-2nd Century Church)**

Date: May 5, 2024

Time: 12-2pm

Location: Worship Center

LUNCH PROVIDED





# fun fest

Faith Family! We raised over \$5,000 towards the CHAOS Mission to Mexico in 2024!!!! In the process, our family had an AMAZING time working the FCC Food Booth at Fun Fest 2023. The fried oreos were delicious, the beef plates were next level, all while our family had a chance to hang out together and invite the people of our community to join us for service in the Beer Tent that Sunday. Thank you for being a HUGE part of what God is doing to provide a way for our students to serve Him and learn more about His Great Commission.



# THANK YOU!



# happenings and housekeeping

**IT'S A SUMMER PICNIC!**

<b>1 Indoor Service @10AM</b> 	<b>Outdoor Baptisms</b> 	<b>Cookout and Yard Games</b> 	<b>Ice Cream Treats</b> 
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Register online if you want to be baptized! A required orientation will be on Sunday, Aug 6th.

**August 13, 2023**  
Faith Community Church  
New Richmond

Bring a side dish to share if you are able! Meat, chips & beverages will be provided!

## CHURCH PICNIC!

### Help Needed THIS Sunday

Join us this Sunday, August 13th for our Summer Picnic! We will be having ONE indoor service at 10am, outdoor baptisms to follow, a cookout with ice cream treats, and some fun in the front lawn with yard games! Join us for a day of worship, fun, encouragement, and fellowship!!

Want to help? Bring a side dish to pass (meat and desserts will be provided), or sign up **HERE** to help set up/clean up, grill, serve food, help with games and more!  
We can't wait!

## CURRENT SERMON SERIES

### For Your JOY

Our current sermon series, taught mostly by Pastor Dave Mobley, is called "For Your Joy - Walking in the Love of God" and will be wrapping up on August 20th. This sermon series was focused in 1 John and covered themes such as confidence, discernment, life eternal, and love!



## SAVE THE DATE

**September 17th**

We have an exciting day planned for Sunday, September 17th!! Join us for our 2nd Annual Ministry Fair which will take place between and after services! Take the time to walk around, get to know your ministry leaders, and learn about all of the ways you can get involved, serve, and get connected!



We invite the whole church to come back in the evening for our All-Church Covenant Meeting. We will talk about all of the exciting things happening here at FCC, take a look at the year ahead, give you the opportunity to meet with Ministry Leaders, and celebrate all of the things God is doing here at FCC!

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### Fiscal Year-to-Date

(000s)	Actual	Budgeted	+/-
Giving	630	697	-67
Expenditures	716	744	-28

## 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!

 [@fccnewrichmond](https://www.facebook.com/fccnewrichmond)

 [@faithcommunitynr](https://www.youtube.com/fccnr)

## GIVE

[fccnr.org/give](https://www.fccnr.org/give)

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



# upcoming events @ FCC

## AUGUST EVENTS

- 1st: VBS 5-7:30pm
- 2nd: Men's Study 5-6am  
VBS 5-7:30pm  
Elder Meeting 6:30pm
- 3rd: VBS 5-7:30pm
- 4th: VBS 5-7:30pm  
NO GriefShare Tonight
- 5th: Men's Study 7-8:30am
- 6th: Worship 9 & 10:45am w/Communion  
VBS Program at Both Services  
Baptism Orientation during 2nd Service
- 8th: Counseling Team Meeting 6:30pm
- 9th: Men's Study 5-6am
- 11th: Grief Share 6-8pm
- 12th: Men's Study 7-8:30am
- 13th: Worship at 10am  
Outdoor Baptisms  
Church Picnic
- 16th: Men's Study 5-6am  
Ladies Time Out Park Date 9-11am  
Elder Meeting 6:30pm
- 17th: Ruby's Pantry 4-7pm
- 18th: LAST Grief Share Meeting 6-8pm
- 19th: Men's Study 7-8:30am  
Ladies Monthly Book Club 10am-noon  
WM Planning Meeting 12-1:30pm
- 20th: Worship 9 & 10:45am  
Disciple Her Training 12-2:30pm
- 23rd: Men's Study 5-6am
- 26th: Men's Study 7-8:30am
- 27th: Worship 9 & 10:45am  
Jonah Class 12-2pm
- 30th: Men's Study 5-6am
- 31st: KidZone Leader Meeting 6:30pm

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 3rd: Worship 9 & 10:45am w/Communion
- 4th: Labor Day
- 6th: Men's Study 7-8:30am  
Elder Meeting 6:30pm
- 9th: Disciple Her Training 9:30-11:30am
- 10th: Worship 9 & 10:45am  
KidZone Kick-Off  
OCC Speaker Event 6:30pm
- 11th: Senior Lunch Kick-Off  
Kings & Prophets Class 6-8pm
- 12th: Counseling Team Meeting 6:30pm
- 13th: Men's Study 5-6am
- 14th: Happy Birthday Steve Langer
- 16th: Men's Study 7-8:30am  
Women's Book Club 10am  
Women's Ministry Meeting 12pm
- 17th: Worship 9 & 10:45am  
Ministry Fair  
All Church Meeting 5pm
- 18th: Kings & Prophets Class 6-8pm
- 20th: Men's Study 5-6am  
Ladies Time Out 9-11am  
Elder Meeting 6:30pm
- 21st: Red Cross Blood Drive 11am-7pm  
Ruby's Pantry 4-7pm
- 22nd: Red Cross Blood Drive 9am-4pm
- 24th: Worship 9 & 10:45am  
John Class 12-2pm
- 25th: Kings & Prophets Class 6-8pm
- 27th: Men's Study 5-6am
- 30th: Men's Study 7-8:30am  
Women's Ministry Meeting 12-1:30pm



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# search team update

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## LEAD PASTOR SEARCH TEAM UPDATE

Hey church family! Just wanted to give a quick update on where things stand with our search. As of July 21st, we had around 130 applicants for our pastoral posting. Of those 130, about 24 of them entered the interview process with Chemistry Staffing. Of that 24, 6 of them were potential candidates.

A word of caution was shared with us about that number of six, with the way the process is set-up with Chemistry Staffing it can change daily. Candidates can apply and be quickly moved into that candidate pool, or they can be moved out of the candidate pool as they go through the various interviews required for candidacy.

Chemistry Staffing requires three interviews with their staff prior to an application becoming a viable candidate for our church. They compare them to our church profile. They evaluate things like, theology, personality, culture, skill, and several other criteria. In fact, there are 125 data points that they try and match between the candidate and our church. Their goal is to surface a pastor who will be with our congregation for at least the next 5-10 years.

Back to that number of six and the caution surrounding it, once a candidate emerges from that group. The candidate will prepare a written packet and submit that to the search team. We are committed to having a minimum of 2 conversations with each candidate. The goal of these conversations is to determine personality and whether this is someone who would do well with our church family.

After those two conversations, a single candidate should emerge for Faith Community Church.

I know that there has been a consistent call to prayer since we began this search. I, like many of you, have grown weary of the waiting and the pleading with the Lord for clarity and wisdom. As I write this to you, we do not have any names to pray over, or candidates to evaluate. We are in a time of waiting but have absolute assurance that our King remains on the throne and forever unchanged.

As we wait, allow me to share the hope found in Hebrews chapter 14: 14-16,

*"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,[a] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (NIV)*

Continue to pray with us in earnestness, even in our weariness. Our High Priest knows and understands, we must continue to cry out to Him who has made us right with God. By His Grace Alone!

Blessings,

Matt Tuinstra

