
FCC NEWSLETTER

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



INTRODUCING... FAITH TRAINING!

Read more on page 3

We are pleased to announce the launch of Faith Training! We'll cover a variety of topics in sessions that last for a few weeks. Sessions will cover a range of topics from the challenges of marriage to the deep mysteries of God's nature - and lots of subjects in between. We'll cover the essential, the practical, and the still more practical and talk about how to follow Jesus in every arena of our lives. To attend Faith Training, RSVP for the session you want at the Connection Point or at fccnr.org/events. Read more on page 3.



WHAT'S IN OUR LATEST ISSUE:

- 2 - Covenant Member Meeting
 - 2 - 2021 Year End Giving Statements
 - 2 - Events Team
 - 2 - Men's Ministry
 - 2 - Women's Ministry Game Night
 - 3 - Faith Training Continued...
 - 3 - Book Recommendation
 - 3 - KidZone
 - 3 - Winter Picnic & Chili Cook Off
 - 4 - Worship & the Word
 - 4 - Baptism Orientation
 - 4 - CHAOS Student Ministry
 - 4 - Small Groups
 - 5 - Prayer Team
 - 5 - Ladies Time Out
 - 5 - Finance Update
 - 5 - Ruby's Pantry
 - 5 - Give
 - 5 - Connect
 - 6 - From the Elders
 - 7-9 - Elder Devotional
-

COVENANT MEMBER MEETING

Sunday, February 20th @ 5pm

Our next Covenant Meeting will be on Sunday, February 20th at 5pm. We will have a potluck so please bring a dish to pass!

2021 YEAR END GIVING STATEMENTS

Thank you for your generosity!!

2021 Year End Giving Statements have been e-mailed out. If you did not receive an email or would like a paper copy please contact Jodie Ryan at jodie.ryan@homeforever.org.

JOIN OUR EVENTS TEAM!

Contact Noah at noah.burnett@homeforever.org

Help us with events and large gatherings happening at church by setting up rooms, tables, and chairs, as well as helping with technical needs.

"I like how being a Small Group leader keeps me praying for others that I might not think about. I love to see others serving Jesus and loving each other as well. Being in the word together gives awesome and different perspectives."

-Small Group Member

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 have started by going through a book that helps us better understand what Gospel is.

Connecting with the ministry is super easy. We meet every Wednesday at 5-6am and Saturday at 7-8am in the D Rooms. Both times go through the same material at the same time. Wednesday leads and Saturday follows- meaning if you missed Wednesday the following Saturday will go over the same material. We have already started meeting, but jumping in is easy.

Both groups will get together periodically as one.

This ministry is not set up as an outreach for men to get involved with physical needs of the church, those needs would be directed to Chuck.

Contact: Paul Warner
paul.warner@customtruck.com



WOMEN'S GAME NIGHT

February 4th @ 7pm

Join the fun at FCC in the Cafe for a Women's Ministry Game Night! If you would like to, please bring snack to share and a favorite board game. We'll see you at 7pm on Friday, Feb 4th!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY
GAME NIGHT

FEB 4
7 PM

@ FCC IN THE CAFE

If you would like to, please bring a snack to share and a favorite board game!

FAITH TRAINING CONT...

Upcoming Faith Training Sessions:

Faith Training - Essentials

A conversation about essential Christian ideas
Saturday Nights 6:22pm. D2 at FCCNR
March 5,12,19,26; April 2, 9

Faith Training - Christian Parenting

Sunday Mornings 10:22am. D2 at FCCNR
March 6 - An Intro to Parenting
March 13 - Parenting Littles
March 20, 27 - Parenting Kids and Pre-Teens
April 3, 10 - Parenting Adolescents (Teens & Adult Children)

Next Faith Training: June 11/12- July 9/10

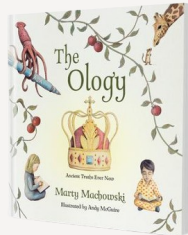
BOOK RECOMMENDATION

The Ology by Marty Machowski

The Ology is a stunningly illustrated beginner's theology book to help kids of all ages understand who God is and how we, as his children, relate to him.

Available in the lobby!

Arranged within a traditional systematic theological framework, each truth in The Ology is also connected to the larger redemptive story of Scripture. This storybook of systematic theology takes abstract concepts in the Bible and makes them easier to understand with the use of creative examples, illustrations, and analogies.



KIDZONE

We make (little) disciples who plant the church.

We have had the privilege of welcoming many new families to KidZone this last month. If you were one of them, or if you haven't yet had a chance to pick up the Gospel Story Bible by Marty Machowski to follow along with us at home, it is now available in the bookstore just outside the Worship Center. You will also find some other great resources there for your family! Also, we were grateful for the opportunity to provide you with a family devotional for Christmas. If you did not receive one, please make sure to ask for one at the KidZone desk!

You are the primary teachers in your child's life but we know what a great responsibility that can be. Therefore, it is our mission in KidZone to come alongside you in discipling your family. Let us know how we can support you! It is our privilege to answer questions, provide resources and encourage you and your family on the narrow path.

WINTER PICNIC & CHILI COOK OFF

More info @ fccnr.org/events

The 11th annual chili contest an Outdoor picnic at Turtle Lake in Somerset, WI will take place on Saturday, Feb 12 from 11am-5pm.

For those who like to skate, we have a hockey rink. For those who like to chill out, bonfire is waiting. For snow tubers, we have tubes and a challenging hill with two jumps. Spectators enjoy watching the tubers wipe out and the broomball players collide. We have the brooms and ball for those willing to risk it all.

Everyone at the party votes on their favorite chili and a trophy is awarded.

If you normally leave a potluck dinner with a full crock pot of chili, don't worry. You can bring something else to share or just bring a positive attitude. The goal is to connect with people we may not know and get to know those we do know better.

Address: 2036 77th Street
Somerset, WI 54025

If you have a question or concern, call Toni @ 715.410.5193 or Todd @ 715.497.6569

11TH ANNUAL WINTER PICNIC & Chili Cook Off

Join us for many winter activities: broomball, skating, snow tubing, and a bonfire. Bring some chili or another food to share!

Feb 12 | 11AM-8PM | Turtle Lake
2036 77th Street
Somerset, WI 54025



[more info at fccnr.org/events](http://fccnr.org/events)

WORSHIP & THE WORD

Behold Him

The Worship Initiative, Paul Beloche

*Jesus, Son of God Messiah
The lamb the roaring lion
Oh be still, and behold Him
Jesus, alpha and omega
Our God the risen savior
Oh be still and behold him.*

There are many religions that recognize Jesus as an actual historical figure. They attribute to Him things like being a "great teacher" and having amazing moral standards, but as we know, these "good" attributes don't even scratch the surface at describing who Jesus is.

This tends to happen in our current culture especially. We believe that we have to water down the Gospel because we think that the full-on message of Jesus, who He is and what He's done, is going to be either offensive or unbelievable to the world around us. But that's the thing, Jesus' message is radical. The gospel is offensive to a fallen and sinful world.

The chorus of this song declares who Jesus actually is. It proudly proclaims all the "unbelievable" things about Jesus to be true. He is not just a good teacher, He is the Son of God. He was not just a nice man that lived a short life and died a terrible death, He is the beginning and the end, the risen from the dead savior.

When we join together in this anthem of our faith, we are joining in with centuries of church choruses. When we proclaim these truths about who Jesus is, we are setting our anchor, not in some culturally acceptable nice-guy Jesus, we are planting our anchor in THE Christ. The one who is worthy of all praise and honor, Jesus our savior.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."
Revelation 1:8

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

"And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" Revelation 4:8

BAPTISM ORIENTATION

Feb 6 during 2nd Service in D1

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.

Go to fccnr.org/nextsteps to check out the Baptism resources. If you want to take the orientation, register at fccnr.org/events. Baptisms will be held during both services on Feb 13.

CHAOS STUDENT MINISTRY

FCC Student Ministry

Please join us every Wednesday. Middle school (6th-8th graders) will meet from 6-7:30pm. High school students will meet from 7-8:30pm. You can find the CHAOS schedule at fccnr.org/chaos.

Questions? Contact our Pastor of Student Ministries, Ben Sepulveda at ben@homeforever.org

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 Stu Dix at stu.dix@homeforever.org

REFRESH

From our Prayer Team

Let's ask the Lord to refresh us. As a person in the Lord and as a Church. Refresh our spirits and countenance so to encourage our brothers and sisters in the Lord, to be a refreshment to those who don't yet know Jesus. So that all that we do glorifies the Lord.

2 Corinthians 7:13: Therefore we are comforted. And besides our own comfort, we rejoice still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

Rejoice and prepare our hearts for what is to come, a new year, a new vision, and a new Pastor.

Rejoice always. 1 Thessalonians 5:16 and Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

LADIES TIME OUT

Every Third Wednesday

Join us at Faith Community Church in the Café every third Wednesday from 9-11am for Ladies Time Out. This is a time for ladies of any age and stage to hang out together and enjoy some treats and conversation. It's a fun "time out" for everyone and great way to connect!

Childcare is provided.

FINANCE UPDATE

From Jodie

We saw a downward trend in giving from August through October, followed by strong year-end giving in November and December. We're currently on budget as a result of both this shift/increase in year-end giving and below-budget spending.

Monthly Giving Needed
\$60,416.67

Monthly Giving Received
August Tithes: \$52,908.08 (-)
September Tithes: \$47,049.33 (-)
October Tithes: \$51,050.19 (-)
November Tithes: \$69,047.26 (+)
December Tithes: \$99,746.30 (+)

RUBY'S PANTRY

Every Third Thursday

This is a great opportunity to serve your community! Thursday, February 17th from 5-7pm at the Armory. Volunteers, please arrive at 4pm.

Questions? Email Chuck at chuck.olson@homeforever.org

"We have a newer believer in our group who struggles with Bible reading and the ladies in the group have wrapped arms around her in gathering for a Bible study (beyond the small group meeting) to read/study with her every week. I find the "meet-you-where-you-are"ness in this seemingly small gesture/activity by our ladies to be super valuable and encouraging to see."

-Small Group Leader

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



@faithcommunitynr

FROM THE ELDERS

LEAD PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE

To recap, just before the Christmas the elders made the decision to work with the P3 organization in our search for a new lead pastor. The elders met with Mandy Johnson of P3 on January 5th and she gave us a presentation about the P3 organization and answered numerous questions from the elders. Parallel to this the elders have been working to finalize the membership of the lead pastor search team. As of this writing the team is complete and will consist of eight members. There will be two representatives from the elder council, and six representatives from our faith family – three women and three men. We are still working out a few details, but we should be able to announce the team members in the next week or so.

The first meeting for the lead pastor search team will be held on February 8th, and will include Mandy Johnson from P3.

As we move forward, our search for a lead pastor is a process that will need to be bathed in regular and intentional prayer. The search team will covet your prayers as they go about their work so pray for them regularly and often! Also, in addition to the lead pastor search team, the elders would like to ask that all of you pray for:

- The members of our faith family, both current and future
- The man that God has been preparing to lead us as our next lead pastor and his family.
- The faith family that our new lead pastor will be coming from.

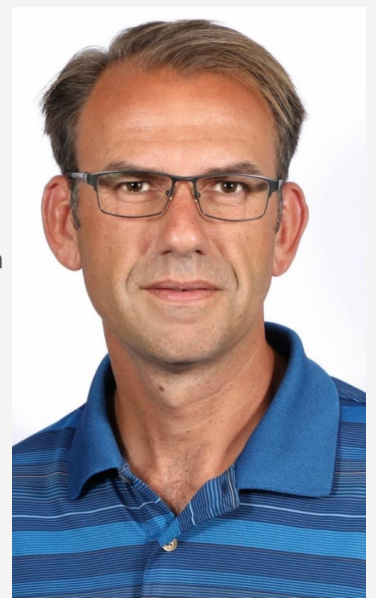
As always, if you have questions, the elders would like to encourage you to reach out to one of us. We would love to connect with you! God's blessings to you all,
Steve, Craig, Steve, Randy, and Jason

INTRODUCING JASON ANTON

At the start of December Jason Anton began sitting in with the elders as he explores a potential call to serve as an elder at Faith Community Church. Jason and his wife Melissa, along with their family, have been attending Faith Community and serving here for a number of years. Still, you may not have had the opportunity to meet him yet so I asked Jason to share a little of his story so that you can begin getting to know him better. – Steve Haugen

Hello faith family! My name is Jason Anton. My wife, Melissa, and I have 7 children Joshua, Caleb, Hannah, Elizabeth, Selah, Hope and Jeremiah. We have lived in New Richmond for 14 years. Melissa and I grew up in Woodbury, MN, where we went to high school together. We have been married for 24 years. For the last 25 years I have worked at Wilson Tool International in White Bear Lake, MN. I have had several roles there and am currently an Assistant Manager of Operations. We have been covenant members at FCC since 2014. Over the years here, I have had the privilege to serve on the small group lead team, the hospitality team, youth group, the pastor search team, and food teams on several occasions.

I know many of you, but the Lord blesses us with new families at FCC every week. Please stop me if we haven't met so we can get to know each other. And please consider praying for Melissa and I as we pursue God's leading. I have been and will continue to pray for all of you!



AN ELDER DEVOTIONAL FROM HABAKKUK

HABAKKUK 1:1-11

Elder Scripture Study

Most recently the elders have been studying the Old Testament book of Habakkuk. Below is the opening devotional from that study. We pray that it may serve to strengthen and encourage you.

Note on pronunciation: Most people accent the name on the first syllable, but accenting the second syllable is preferred in English. In Hebrew the last syllable is accented - Ha-ba-KOOK.

The name Habakkuk may mean to embrace or wrestle. This meaning is appropriate as Habakkuk wrestles with God as he speaks of his plans to punish his wayward people.

Habakkuk is a man who loves his people and his country. He is deeply distressed by the moral and spiritual rot that he sees all around him and he knew that Judah was edging closer and closer to total destruction because it was continuing to break the laws of God. In his anguish Habakkuk cries out to God:

HABAKKUK 1:1-4

1 THE ORACLE THAT HABAKKUK THE PROPHET SAW.

HABAKKUK'S COMPLAINT

**2 O LORD, HOW LONG SHALL I CRY FOR HELP,
AND YOU WILL NOT HEAR?
OR CRY TO YOU "VIOLENCE!"
AND YOU WILL NOT SAVE?**

**3 WHY DO YOU MAKE ME SEE INIQUITY,
AND WHY DO YOU IDLY LOOK AT
WRONG?
DESTRUCTION AND VIOLENCE ARE BEFORE
ME;**

STRIFE AND CONTENTION ARISE.

**4 SO THE LAW IS PARALYZED,
AND JUSTICE NEVER GOES FORTH.
FOR THE WICKED SURROUND THE
RIGHTEOUS;
SO JUSTICE GOES FORTH PERVERTED.**

In his complaint Habakkuk has two main, accusatory, questions for God - How long? And Why?

How long does Habakkuk have to cry out for help? How long will it be before God will hear him? How long does Habakkuk have to point out the violence around him? How long will it be before God elects to save? Why does God make Habakkuk see iniquity and sin? Why is God idle, turning a blind eye to that sin?

Habakkuk accuses God of willfully not hearing his cries, of willfully not saving (presumably both himself and his people), of being idle and ignoring obvious and unrepentant sin. He complains that the Law of Moses is paralyzed and that there is no real justice and that which is called justice is perverted.

NOTE: To understand the sin and depravity that surrounded Habakkuk and caused him such anguish go to 2 Kings and read chapters 21 to 23, where the sins of the people of Judah are described and God's anger at those sins is told.

You might think that Habakkuk is either very bold or very foolish. But, how often are we like Habakkuk? - not that we are prophets, but rather that we see the sin and things that are wrong all around us and we grumble against God and complain. We see people behaving sinfully or with wicked intent and we are offended when they are not punished according to our design, or our schedule, or at all. How often do we think that God must not care, or that he doesn't see the things that we see? How often, in frustration or even anger, do we question and doubt whether God hears us at all?

But, we need to remember God DOES hear us!

PSALM 18:6

**IN MY DISTRESS I CALLED UPON THE LORD; TO MY
GOD I CRIED FOR HELP. FROM HIS TEMPLE HE
HEARD MY VOICE, AND MY CRY TO HIM REACHED
HIS EARS.**

PSALM 34:17

WHEN THE RIGHTEOUS CRY FOR HELP, THE LORD HEARS AND DELIVERS THEM OUT OF ALL THEIR TROUBLES.

1 PETER 3:12

FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE ON THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN TO THEIR PRAYER. BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

When we lift our voice in complaint to our Father how does God respond? Is he harsh in return? Does he become impatient with us and lash out at us? No, he does not. And he did not with Habakkuk either.

HABAKKUK 1:5-11

THE LORD'S ANSWER

5 "LOOK AMONG THE NATIONS, AND SEE; WONDER AND BE ASTOUNDED. FOR I AM DOING A WORK IN YOUR DAYS THAT YOU WOULD NOT BELIEVE IF TOLD.
6 FOR BEHOLD, I AM RAISING UP THE CHALDEANS,
THAT BITTER AND HASTY NATION,
WHO MARCH THROUGH THE BREADTH OF THE EARTH,
TO SEIZE DWELLINGS NOT THEIR OWN.
7 THEY ARE DREADED AND FEARSOME;
THEIR JUSTICE AND DIGNITY GO FORTH FROM THEMSELVES.
8 THEIR HORSES ARE SWIFTER THAN LEOPARDS,
MORE FIERCE THAN THE EVENING WOLVES;
THEIR HORSEMEN PRESS PROUDLY ON.
THEIR HORSEMEN COME FROM AFAR;
THEY FLY LIKE AN EAGLE SWIFT TO DEVOUR.
9 THEY ALL COME FOR VIOLENCE,
ALL THEIR FACES FORWARD.
THEY GATHER CAPTIVES LIKE SAND.
10 AT KINGS THEY SCOFF,
AND AT RULERS THEY LAUGH.
THEY LAUGH AT EVERY FORTRESS,
FOR THEY PILE UP EARTH AND TAKE IT.
11 THEN THEY SWEEP BY LIKE THE WIND AND GO ON,
GUILTY MEN, WHOSE OWN MIGHT IS THEIR GOD!"

God responds to Habakkuk...think about that for a moment. God responds to Habakkuk! Is God

some remote being, far removed from his people and ignoring their pleas? No, he is not! Instead, he is active and personal, moving directly in the lives of his people. There are many examples of God speaking to his people in Scripture - Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, and Paul to name but a few.

Here, God speaks directly to Habakkuk and tells him that he has heard his cries and that he is already begun to do something about it. God says that he is going to do a work that Habakkuk "will not believe" and he reveals that **He** is raising up the Chaldeans (Babylonians) and He is going to use them to punish his people for their depravity.

2 KINGS 21:10-15

MANASSEH'S IDOLATRY DENOUNCED

10 AND THE LORD SAID BY HIS SERVANTS THE PROPHETS, 11 "BECAUSE MANASSEH KING OF JUDAH HAS COMMITTED THESE ABOMINATIONS AND HAS DONE THINGS MORE EVIL THAN ALL THAT THE AMORITES DID, WHO WERE BEFORE HIM, AND HAS MADE JUDAH ALSO TO SIN WITH HIS IDOLS, 12 THEREFORE THUS SAYS THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL: BEHOLD, I AM BRINGING UPON JERUSALEM AND JUDAH SUCH DISASTER THAT THE EARS OF EVERYONE WHO HEARS OF IT WILL TINGLE. 13 AND I WILL STRETCH OVER JERUSALEM THE MEASURING LINE OF SAMARIA, AND THE PLUMB LINE OF THE HOUSE OF AHAB, AND I WILL WIPE JERUSALEM AS ONE WIPES A DISH, WIPING IT AND TURNING IT UPSIDE DOWN. 14 AND I WILL FORSAKE THE REMNANT OF MY HERITAGE AND GIVE THEM INTO THE HAND OF THEIR ENEMIES, AND THEY SHALL BECOME A PREY AND A SPOIL TO ALL THEIR ENEMIES, 15 BECAUSE THEY HAVE DONE WHAT IS EVIL IN MY SIGHT AND HAVE PROVOKED ME TO ANGER, SINCE THE DAY THEIR FATHERS CAME OUT OF EGYPT, EVEN TO THIS DAY

In verse 6 - 11 God goes on to describe the Chaldeans, their violence, power, and their might. He concludes by saying "Then they sweep by like the wind and go on, guilty men, whose own might is their god!" Judah cannot, and ultimately does not withstand the onslaught from the Babylonians and Judah is destroyed and her people are taken into captivity.

The main ideas to note in this passage are that God hears us when we speak to him, and God will answer us. Although, he will answer in his time and in a way that he knows is best for us

While God spoke directly to Habakkuk, now God speaks to us in the person of His Son. How does He do that? The Lord speaks to us through His Word. Christ IS the Word, as we read in John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Do you long to hear the voice of God? Do you want to hear from the Lord so that He might direct you in your life? Do you want to hear His tender words of comfort when you are suffering or grieving? Read God's Word! He will speak to you through His Word loud and clear when you read His Word with a willing heart to obey what He says to you.

I found this quote from Matthew Henry about Habakkuk's conversation with God.

"WHEN GOD SEEMS TO GONNIVE AT THE WICKEDNESS OF THE WICKED. AND TO GOUNTENANCE IT. BY SUFFERING THEM TO PROSPER IN THEIR WICKEDNESS. IT SHOCKS THE FAITH OF GOOD MEN. GOD HAS REASONS FOR THE REPRIEVES OF BAD MEN AND THE REBUKES OF GOOD MEN; AND THEREFORE WE MUST BELIEVE THE DAY WILL COME WHEN THE GRY OF SIN WILL BE HEARD AGAINST THOSE WHO DO WRONG AND THE GRY OF PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER IT."

-MATTHEW HENRY

"GOD HAS REASONS FOR THE REPRIEVES OF BAD MEN AND THE REBUKES OF GOOD MEN: AND THEREFORE WE MUST BELIEVE THE DAY WILL COME WHEN GOD, HAVING HEARD OUR LAMENTS AND OUR PRAYERS WILL MOVE AGAINST THE WICKED AND RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL PREVAIL."



**TRUST
IN THE
LORD!**