
FCC NEWSLETTER

The Official Monthly Newsletter of Faith Community Church - New Richmond



FUNFEST 2023

July 13-16

Faith Family! We need YOU!!!! Come out and join us for an EXCELLENT time working the FCC Food Booth at Fun Fest 2023. We will be making delicious fried oreos and beef plates, all while hanging out together and inviting the people of our community to join us for service in the Beer Tent that Sunday. All proceeds from the event will go towards the 2024 CHAOS Mission Trip to Mexico, so let's show up! It's gonna be great!!!

For more details on the event and to sign up to serve, visit the sign-up on the [event page](#), talk to a staff member, or visit the connection point on Sunday mornings!

WHAT'S IN OUR LATEST ISSUE:

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HOLINESS STRENGTHENS UNITY

By: **Matthias Lohman**
Article from **TABLETALK** | June 2023
Digital Article [HERE](#)

What does the pursuit of holiness have to do with church unity? More than many Christians might think. Church unity will grow if we are serious about the pursuit of holiness. Or to put it the other way around: if we neglect the pursuit of holiness, the unity of the church is threatened.

Church unity is the big theme of [Ephesians 4](#). In this chapter, the Apostle Paul first challenges Christians to be “eager to maintain the unity” (v. 3) and then explains that Christ has given to His church shepherd-teachers, among others, with the ultimate goal that “we all attain to the unity of the faith” (v. 13). In the third section of [Ephesians 4](#), beginning in verse 17, Paul goes on and exhorts the Ephesians to “no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.” Christians should put off their old self and instead should “put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (v. 24).

And then Paul goes on to show how the pursuit of holiness will help to do what he called for in the two previous sections of [Ephesians 4](#)—namely, to “maintain the unity of the Spirit” (v. 3) and to “attain to the unity of the faith” (v. 13).

- Christians should avoid falsehood that hinders the growth toward the unity of the faith. Instead, they should speak the truth on which the unity of faith can grow (v. 25).
- Christians should avoid behavior that harms others (such as stealing). Rather, they should be working so that they can share with others (v. 28). Such acts of kindness and generosity will certainly strengthen church unity.

- They should avoid corrupting talk that is so often the cause of church division and instead should speak words that build others up and thus strengthen the unity in the body (v. 29).
- Finally, Paul writes in verse 31, “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.” Again, it’s obvious how all this will destroy church unity. Instead, he calls Christians to “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave” them (v. 32).

All these challenges are ultimately a call to holiness. If Christians pursue holiness, it will strengthen church unity. On the other hand, when Christians neglect the pursuit of holiness, the unity of the church is severely threatened.

God’s Word calls us to be holy as God is holy, and Christ wants His church to be one as He and His Father are one. Both in holiness and in unity, the church should reflect the triune God.

In this way, the church will be a display of its Lord and God. May this be true of our churches.



Rev. Matthias Lohmann is pastor of the Free Evangelical Church in Munich, Germany, and chairman and founder of the German gospel partnership Evangelium21.

RUBY'S PANTRY

Every Third Thursday of the Month

Our June distribution served almost 200 families! Special thanks to Teens for Christ and SF Insurance who brought a crew in to serve! Our next distribution is Thursday, July 20th 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 early in the month. Contact Chuck at chuck.olson@homeforever.org for more information!



Teens For Christ



SF Insurance

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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, or head to [page 5](#).



Contact Stephanie at stephanie.langer@homeforever.org

MEN'S MINISTRY

Wednesdays 5-6am / Saturdays 7-8am

Men's ministry is a group of men coming together to study and discuss scripture. We are currently working through Genesis & Acts in D1 @ FCC. Join us!!



Contact Paul at paul.warner@customtruck.com

MISSIONS

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



PRAYER LIST

For Our Missionaries

- TLI (Mike Evans, Stu Dix, Peter Bergeson and Larry Szyman) in Uganda and the surrounding area
- Tutapona
- St. Croix Valley Lead Team (Church Planting)
- Converge Worldwide/Great Lakes
- Charlie Gess (Tijuana, Mexico)
- Matt Larson (Gothenburg, Sweden, TLI)
- The Converge, Radius and Charstar 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

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

GRIEF SHARE

Friday Nights This Summer

Faith Community Church is offering a grief support group that meets weekly on Fridays 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 [FCC Events Page](#) to sign up for the group. There is no cost to attend, but donations for the books will be accepted.



Brown Year Coming This Fall

Parents (and Students), we are planning to gather on July 30th for a midsummer party and check in before the new school year! If your student participated in D6 last year, or you are interested in joining us in the fall, please reach out to Pastor Ben for more details regarding time and location for the event! If you would like information about the Fall (brown year) and all of the new topics we will be able to cover together, if you are interested in your youth participating in this AWESOME study, or if you would like to volunteer to lead/provide a meal, please contact Pastor Ben at benhomeforever.org.

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



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.

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 benhomeforever.org to learn what the next steps are for you to join the team! It's gonna be great!

women's ministry

WOMEN IN THE WORD

Memory Verses

As a reminder, we are focusing on Scripture memory for the Summer. 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 Psalm 86:5, "For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you."



ALL WOMEN EQUIPPED BLOG

fccnr.org/womens-ministry-blog

Check out the Women's Ministry Blog! A new entry was just added that focuses on encouragement! Subscribe to get updates on the [Women's Ministry Page](#).

DISCIPLE HER

Stay tuned as we make plans for our next training and mentoring opportunities. Are you interested in being a mentor or having a mentor? Let us know by completing this very short survey: [Disciple Her Survey](#).

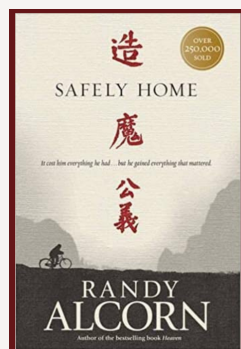
MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

Saturday, July 15th

Join us on July 15th to discuss our next book "Safely Home" by Randy Alcorn. We meet from 10 am-Noon in the cafe. Read the assigned book and join in the fellowship and discussion.

Aug Book: The Autobiography Of George Muller

(Some copies will be available in the FCC bookstore!)



MOMENTS THAT MATTER

Regressive Dinner Recap

On Saturday, June 24th, around 30 ladies enjoyed a fun time of fellowship and food at our first Regressive Dinner. We met in the Lobby for Mocktails before we mixed and mingled through our other 3 courses of Dessert, Main Meal, and finally Appetizers. Thanks to colored cups and plates, we were with a different group of ladies for each course. Lots of fun conversation, getting to know each other, and spiritual connections resulted from the evening... along with much laughter! Remember - sometimes it is okay to enjoy dessert first! We look forward to more activities throughout the summer months to deepen connections with each other and to enjoy the bond we have with our sisters in Christ!

LADIES BEACH DAY

Saturday | July 22nd | 10am-2pm

Join us Saturday, July 22 from 10am-2pm at the Wendts on Magic Lake for a day of relaxation and connection. For more information and to register, head to the [Events Page](#) of the website.



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! July 19th 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



TRUNK SALE REGAP

We had a great turnout for our First Annual KidZone Trunk Sale, and raised \$400 for the sensory room we are hoping to open in the Fall! It was great to see our littlest church serving with their families!



VBS - 2023

Tuesday-Friday | August 1-4



We are in full Vacation Bible School planning mode! This year we will be traveling back in time to the Jerusalem Marketplace while Jesus is there!! Join us August 1st through 4th from 5:00-7:30pm.

VBS is an incredible outreach opportunity for our community and we typically welcome over 100 kids, and their families, to Faith Community Church. This takes a LOT of supplies and volunteers!

Join us in sharing the gospel by signing up to serve **HERE!** We still need youth helpers, an instrument craft shop leader, an MC, Barnyard leaders, and lots of people for set up and clean up!

Haven't signed your kids up yet? No problem! Sign up **HERE!**

We also serve dinner each night to volunteers and attendees! Can you help with supplies? Keep an eye out for the VBS giving tree in the lobby! :)

Also, do you have any of the following items to help up transform the lobby into the Marketplace? Items can be dropped at the church office during business hours, or left outside the door. **IF YOU WANT YOUR ITEMS BACK, PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY ARE CLEARLY LABELED WITH YOUR NAME.**

Help us transform the lobby into...



- **Sheets!**
 - **Solid colored, flat sheets**
- **Tents!**
 - **10X10 pop up canopy tents**
- **Baskets**
- **Terracotta Pots**
- **Woven Blankets**
- **Large Potted Plants**



Parents and caregivers, we would love to welcome you to "The Well". Join us anytime during VBS for fellowship and refreshments in the cafe and be refreshed!

The Well

Parents! Come, be refreshed at "The Well" during VBS with snacks and fellowship!

John 4:14
but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.




SUMMER KIDZONE

A few slots left!



There is just one slot left to serve this summer! Sign up **HERE** if you are able to serve! Thank you to all who have served our little church so far!

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.

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

Prayer Ministry

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

**Prayer & Worship Night
Sunday, July 9th at 6PM**



James 5:16 instructs us to pray for one another. On July 9th we will gather to do that very thing. Prayer request cards will be tucked into the bulletins and available on Sunday mornings. You are invited to write a request on the card, and put it in the donation slot or in the receptacle designated for that purpose in the lobby. These requests will be prayed for during our Sunday evening gathering on July 9.

That evening we will also hear a couple of lay people share about what God is doing in their lives. And we will get an update from the pastoral search team. Singing will be led by Zac Evans. We have much to pray for. Please come and be a part of this time as we approach God's throne of grace with confidence.

As we pray for one another, it is fitting to remember the prayer that the apostle Paul offered for the members of the church in Ephesus (1:15-23):

15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my

prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Peter Bergeson



now hiring

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

Part-Time Position: 20 hours/week

LINK

The Director of Youth Ministries exists to equip teenagers to delight in and obey Jesus Christ. This position will provide leadership and oversight for student ministry programs and processes at Faith Community Church of New Richmond, WI (middle school and high school students).

Qualifications:

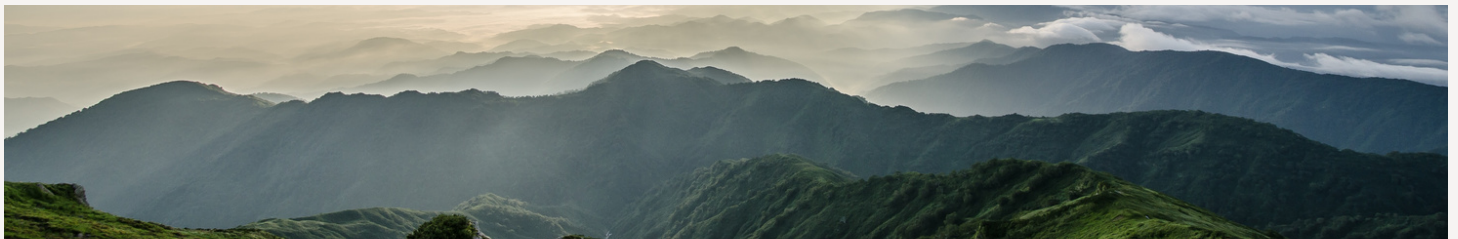
Minimum Qualifications:

- Fulfills the character qualifications of a pastor/elder in 1 Tim 3
- Has a personal ongoing intentional pursuit of Jesus (John 15)
- Has a personal intentional pursuit of others for discipleship in his personal life
- Is a team player, is personable, and has a servant's heart
- Fulfills the requirements of FCC covenant members as outlined in the membership covenant
- Theologically and philosophically aligned with FCC leadership (Reformed)
- Continual development in the form of personal reading and outside training
- Ability to adapt past training and experience into FCC culture and needs
- Is able to adjust to changing job roles
- Professional level skills and experience in system organization
- Ability to help define and protect the overarching vision, and mission of FCCNR

Student Ministry Responsibilities:

- Teaching the Scripture
- Weekly Contact with students at school events
- Weekly Contact with students through appointments
- Recruit, background check, and equip/train leaders for Youth Ministry
- Organizing events (Camps, Missions Trips, Outreach)
- Developing/ providing gospel-centered content
- Develop systems of discipleship and missional opportunities
- Communication, organization, planning
- Administration duties: organizing the weekly youth gatherings, communications to/for leaders, etc....
- Engage relationally with youth leaders, shepherd them, and provide them with encouragement and appreciation
- Other shepherding and teaching responsibilities as they arise.

If interested in this position, please send your resume to: chuck.olson@homeforever.org
Know someone who might be a good fit? Please share the [job posting](#) with them!



EYE FOR AN EYE

Pastor Dave Mobley

One of the difficult questions regarding forgiveness of others is whether forgiveness eliminates the pursuit of justice. Whether we are familiar with the Bible or new to it we have likely heard the phrase “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” If this is the baseline for living in a just society, how does it work when we forgive others for personal offenses? Is it a biblical justification for retaliation against the people, institutions, and governments that do harm?

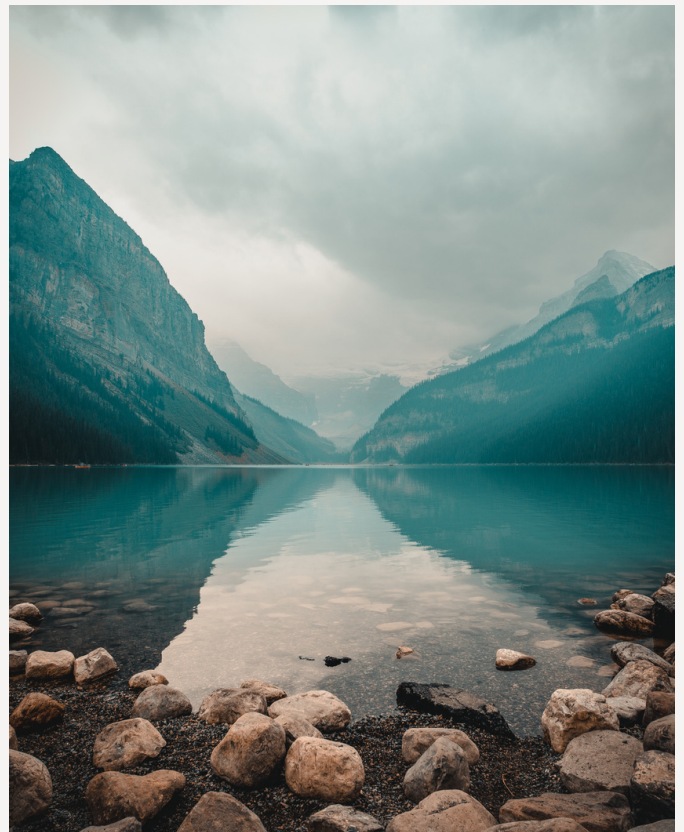
I have been going slowly through the late Tim Keller’s new book, entitled *Forgive*. He seeks to help us answer this question as he points us to Jesus radical teaching on loving our enemies. “You have heard it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.” (Matthew 5:38-42) But Jesus’ teaching seems to contradict the Old Testament teaching in Exodus 21:23,24- “But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth....” As God was establishing His people by various moral, civil, and religious rules, this speaks to a bottom line of justice. However, Keller suggests that the reason for this rule of law was to “limit” revenge and retaliation. Before society adopted laws, justice was carried out by families and tribes.

If we think back to what we know of the wild west, we will recall in our history that wrongs were often made right only by the people involved. But this easily veered into revenge and retaliation which went far past “eye for eye” and has led to the pursuit of feuds and vendettas which stay around for generations. Justice would need to be served in Israel with like punishment but revenge and retaliation became a form of oppression and injustice if it went beyond.

In Leviticus 19:17,18 we read; “You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.” So while eye for an eye provided guidance to a nation seeking justice, this does not apply to personal relationships or any and all wrongdoing.

So, what is Jesus saying to us when He says “do not resist the one who is evil”? The New Testament makes clear that God is against evil (1 Peter 3:12). The church is to resist the devil (James 4:7). We are to discipline those within our churches who are unrepentant in sin and evil (1 Corinthians 5:13; Revelation 2:2). We are told to struggle against evil (Ephesians 6:12). We are told to confront for the purpose of reconciliation those who have wronged us personally (Matthew 18:15-18). It seems clear we are not to let evil have its way.

What Jesus teaches and illustrates with 4 instances in His teaching is that we are not to retaliate. Keller states, “...while resisting evil, Christians are not to target the wrongdoers to hurt them or their reputations just in order to pay them back. In every one of Jesus’s case studies He calls believers to NOT respond to wrongdoing with fury, hurt pride, and vengeance.” We must be careful to guard our hearts from any response which springs from defensiveness for our reputation and a desire to hurt in return. We must not let our desire to be proven right, overcome right responses. Whether we react in words directly to the offender (face to face or in written responses) or indirectly in conversations with others which carry the same intent (suspicions, slander, gossip). It goes without saying that when we do we have now offended not only them but God.



Wisdom from Pastor Dave

Recently Brenda and I had a chance to meet with an engaged couple and offer freely what we have learned in our own marriage over the many years. We shared that 20 years or so into marriage we needed to grow in how we communicated in conflict. We were made aware of research which indicated that communication in conflict was the single greatest factor in divorce. This awareness led to adopting some specific skills like calling a timeout for 24 hours before agreeing to return to a subject that had aroused tension. Before we began doing that I would have won the argument and Brenda would have run! This weakened our relationship. Giving ourselves those 24hours to reflect strengthened our ability to resolve conflict and made us even closer.

How we communicate in conflict arises in all sorts of relationships for the people of God. What is your go to strategy for communication when you are hurt or in sharp disagreement with a brother or sister? From what Jesus taught we know personal retaliation is never appropriate. If anger and tension are high what might a time out do to make the conversation productive and restorative? It might give time to let the Holy Spirit and His Word inform my perspective on the disagreement. In this time before we speak, we can ask some key questions of ourselves. Am I currently loving the person I am angry towards? Am I willing to be proved wrong? Am I willing to forgive even now before I meet with the person? Is my desire to be proved right more important than my relationship with this person and God?

Over the years one particular verse has greatly helped us when we are tempted to retaliate to a wrong. It's found in Romans 12:21- Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

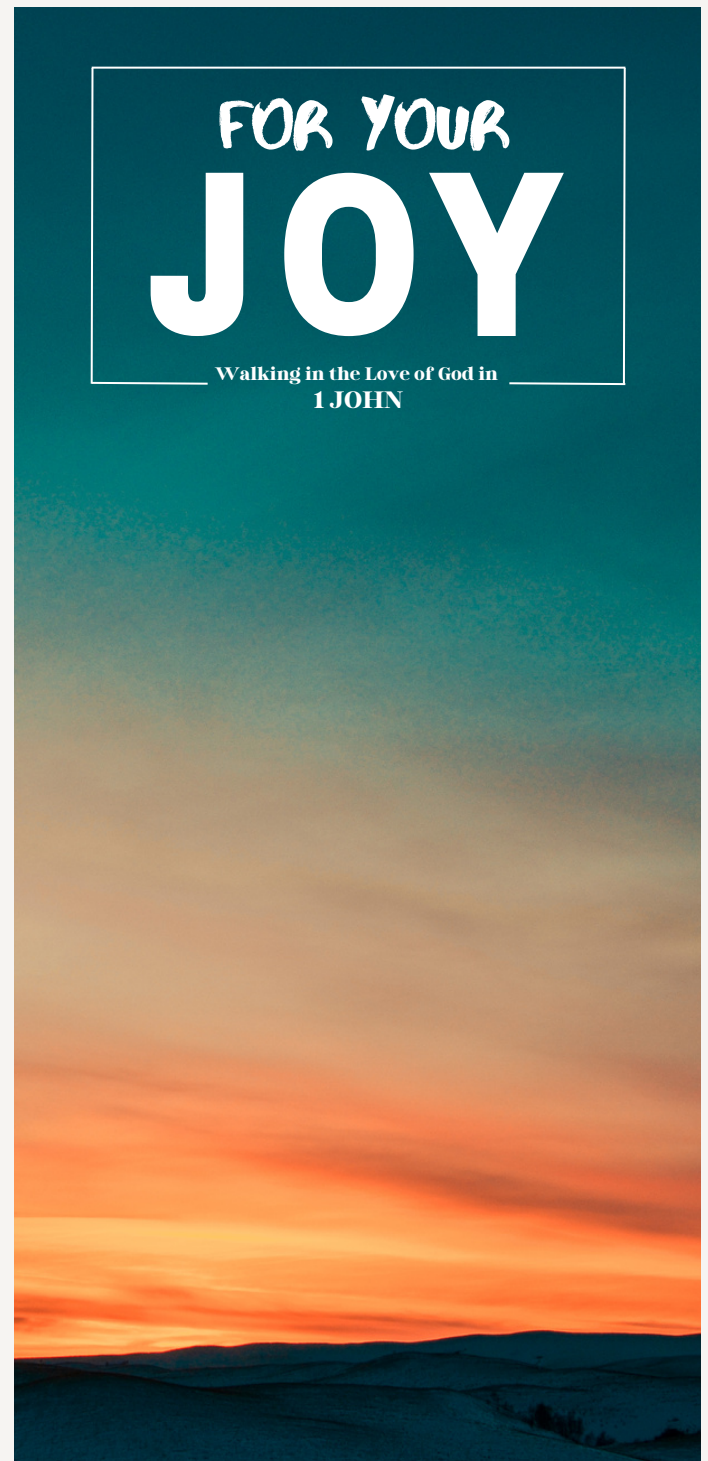
This is only one aspect of our command to forgive as we have been forgiven in Christ. If you have any interest in reading Keller's book and interacting with others who are reading it, please contact me and we will try to work out a way to set something up.

Dave Mobley

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 run now - August 20th. This sermon series will focus in 1 John and will cover themes such as confidence, discernment, life eternal, and love! Join us at 9am and 10:45am all summer long!



BAPTISM ORIENTATION

Sunday - August 6, 2023

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

Orientation class will be held on Sunday, August 6th during second service, and Baptisms will be the following Sunday, August 13th, during our special outdoor baptisms and church picnic. Please register [online](#) so we can connect with you!

IT'S A SUMMER PICNIC!

1 Indoor Service @10AM 	Outdoor + Baptisms + 	Cookout and Yard Games 	Ice Cream Treats
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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!

SAVE THE DATE!

Church Picnic - Sunday, August 13th

Join us on 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, chips and beverages 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!

FUNFEST

To Help Youth Missions

Not only do we need help with the Food Booth as mentioned on [Page 1](#), we also want to encourage you to invite your friends, neighbors and anyone else to our Annual Beer Tent Service.

This service will be held on Sunday, July 16th at 10am in the Beer Tent behind Champs Bar & Grill. It is a super casual way to expose people to the Word of God and a community of believers!

[LINK](#) to serve at the Food Booth

[LINK](#) to share information about the Beer Tent Service on July 16th!



BLOOD DRIVE

Thurs & Friday | July 20th & 21st

FCC will be hosting a Blood Drive on Thursday, July 20th from 12-6pm, as well as Friday, July 21st from 9am-3pm. Search for the blood drive at redcross.org and choose your time slot!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE AT FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
July 20th | 12-6pm
July 21st | 9am-3pm
Sign up online at redcross.org

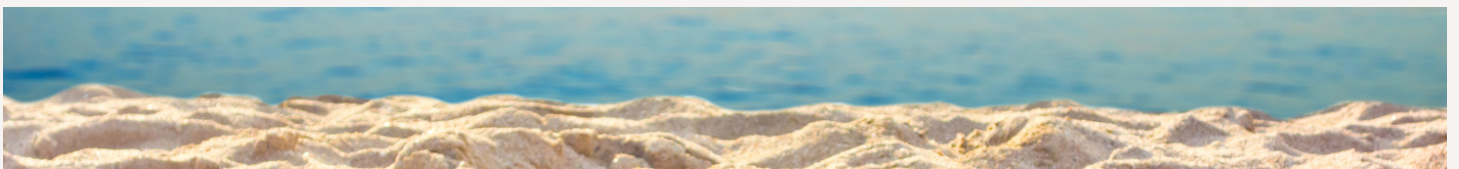
upcoming events @ FCC

JULY EVENTS

- 1st: Men's Study 7-8:30am
- 2nd: Worship 9 & 10:45am w/Communion
- 4th: Happy Independence Day!
- 5th: Men's Study 5-6am
Elder Meeting 6:30pm
- 7th: Grief Share 6-8pm
- 8th: Men's Study 7-8:30am
- 9th: Worship 9 & 10:45am
VBS Leader Meeting 12:15pm
Prayer & Worship Night 6pm
- 12th: Men's Study 5-6am
- 13th: Fun Fest Food Booth
- 14th: Fun Fest Food Booth
Grief Share Meeting 6-8pm
- 15th: Fun Fest Food Booth
Men's Study 7-8:30am
Ladies Monthly Book Club 10am-noon
- 16th: Fun Fest Beer Tent Service 10am
Fun Fest Food Booth
- 19th: Men's Study 5-6am
Ladies Time Out Park Date 9-11am
- 20th: Red Cross Blood Drive 12pm-6pm
Ruby's Pantry 4-7pm
- 21st: Red Cross Blood Drive 9am-3pm
Grief Share Meeting 6-8pm
- 22nd: Men's Study 7-8:30am
Women's Beach Day 10am-2pm
- 23rd: Worship 9 & 10:45am
Coffee Hour Between Services
- 26th: Men's Study 5-6am
- 28th: Grief Share Meeting 6-8pm
- 29th: Men's Study 7-8:30am
Covenant Member Class 9am-noon
- 30th: Worship 9 & 10:45am
Disciple6 Day at Magic Lake 3-7pm

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
- 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
DH 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

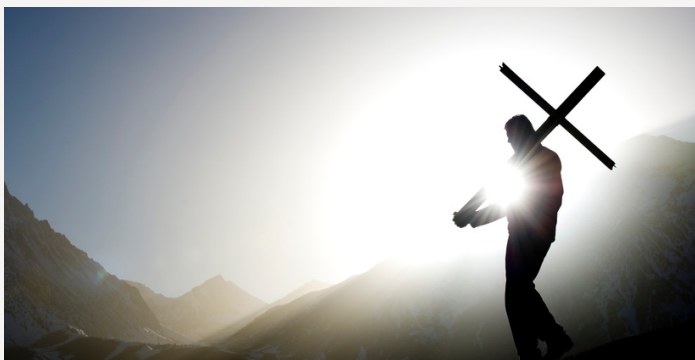


WHY AM I HERE?

I ask myself that question frequently, it may be time to do it again now. Not the all-encompassing philosophical question of "Why do I exist?" but a simpler question. Why do I attend Faith Community Church?

It may fall under the umbrella of the broader question, "Why do I attend church at all?" Or, "Why do I want to be part of a local body of believers?" But I need to narrow it down to the simpler question: "Why am I here at Faith Community Church?" When Sue and I started attending FCC, we had just moved to New Richmond and our first priority was to find a church home. When we were thinking about it and discussing where we would start, of course, we decided it needed to be a gospel centered, Bible believing/teaching church. The messages being preached had to be true and faithful to the Word of God. After watching a few sermons on-line (at the height of Covid) we were satisfied that Faith Community Church was accurately presenting the person of Jesus Christ. Who He is and what He accomplished on the Cross, as well as what He taught.

Then once we started attending in-person we were hoping to find a body of believers who genuinely lived their faith and had truly submitted their lives to Jesus. We found this also to be true of FCC as we were warmly welcomed into this family as fellow heirs and brothers and sisters in the Lord. We were soon introduced to ways in which we could serve and began experiencing God's limitless blessings through the relationships we were building here. We were further validated in our choice to attend and become members as we witnessed the desire of the people here willing to selflessly serve in so many ways. We feel that through our common faith in Christ with Faith Community Church we are part of something so much greater than ourselves.



Though the previous paragraphs seem to answer the question, "Why am I here?", they don't go deep enough to truly measure not only my motivations, but more importantly my spiritual health. So, I ask myself some additional questions such as;

Do I find Faith Community a place where I can wash someone else's feet?

(Humbly serve others selflessly) And then I read John 13:12-17 "When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.)"

Is Faith Community Church a place where I can love others as Christ has loved me?

(John 13:34-5 - A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.)"

Is it a place where I come to grow in my spiritual walk and break bread with fellow believers and pray together?

(Acts 2:42, 44 - And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers ... And all who believed were together and had all things in common.)

Is it a place I come to give generously of my time, talents and finances?

(Acts 4:32 - Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.)

Am I attending FCC to learn what it means to be a true follower of Christ?

(Matt 16:24 - Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.)

from the Elders continued...

If I can answer yes to all of these questions about why I am attending Faith Community Church, praise God!

OR...on the other hand I must be very careful of my own selfish and prideful attitudes creeping in and changing my motives.

Am I here because I feel my needs are being met, even if I am not as involved as I could be or not at all? Am I here because I like the worship music? Which is fine, but what if it changes? Am I here because I agree generally with most of the congregation? But what happens when there is disagreement? Put simply, I need to check what my motivation for attending or belonging to FCC is. Is it selfless? Or selfish? Where do I look when circumstances seem to push against my moral and spiritual foundation? Inwardly? Or do you seek God first? When I am shaken, do I rely on the sovereignty of God? Or do I trust my own terribly flawed judgement and wisdom?

Do I really believe that what I believe is really real? Do I believe and trust in the God who says "Do not worry..." "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things (whatever you need) will be added to you."? And if I believe it, do I do it?

There is a story of the man who, before a large number of spectators, was walking a tightrope stretched across Niagara Falls. After going back and forth, he took hold of a wheelbarrow and did the same, pushing the wheelbarrow before him. The crowd was astounded and cheered loudly upon his completed round trip. When they settled down, the tightrope walker asked one of the men in the crowd, "Do you believe I could do it again?" To which the man replied, "Of course! You're the best I've ever seen!" At that, the tightrope walker said to the man, "Well then, hop into the wheelbarrow."

The age-old adage "Actions speak louder than words" really applies to our spiritual lives. It isn't enough to say we believe, but we must put our belief into action. Many of you are probably thinking right now about the verses in James 1:19-27. "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

Therefore, put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

I sincerely believe we are a congregation which truly loves God above all else. That we all serve out of our love for God and thankfulness for His great love for us. My prayer for our body is that we will seek to know our God more fully and love Him more deeply each day and all our service, love, caring for one another and identity is simply an outpouring of that depth of relationship. This, I believe, is the "abiding" which Jesus spoke of in John 15:5. I pray that we will never become a body of complacent "cultural Christians" who come to church out of a culturally influenced sense of self-righteousness, or because it is the right thing to do, or that it is just what we've always done or because we want people to think well of us.

Your elders are praying for you often. Sometimes individually and sometimes corporately. We love you and want to see everyone grow in their faith, as Paul wrote in Ephesians, "until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ." We are here for you. We would like to speak with you and build relationship with you so that we can serve you better. Please contact any or all of us if you have any questions regarding FCC, discipleship, small groups, ministries or anything else you may be burdened with or blessed by. We thank God that you are here, may God Bless Faith Community Church as we seek to serve Him.

Randy, Steve, Steve, and Bryan

LEAD PASTOR SEARCH TEAM UPDATE



The Lead Pastor position is once again posted! At the beginning of June, the team was able to get all our info submitted to Chemistry Staffing and the job posting went live once again. If you didn't read last month's update, we have started working with another staffing company called Chemistry Staffing. The team had a phone meeting the last week of May to finalize the job description information and really talk through what kind of Lead Pastor candidates we are looking for. Chemistry has been so great to work with and they have a much larger pool of candidates than the previous partnership. So now we wait again. By the middle to end of July, we should start seeing candidates that have gone through Chemistry's process. At that point, we will meet and interview them personally as a team. God willing, a candidate that is a good fit for FCC will be found.

The team is excited, and we know that God is continuing to move in this process. He has been so faithful this entire time. Please pray with us that God would bring the man He has for the Lead Pastor of FCC, pray for our FCC body as we continue to do ministry and life together, pray for the elders as they continue to lead, and pray for all the staff and ministry leaders that God has placed here.

As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please reach out to anyone on the team.

With great expectation,
Lead Pastor Search Team

COFFEE HOUR

July 23rd | Between Services

In efforts to provide an opportunity for our church body to connect, we have been having a monthly coffee hour between services. This has been a great time of fellowship, has provided an opportunity for 1st service attendees to meet 2nd service attendees, and hopefully has ignited some great conversations! If you typically attend 2nd service, come early and join us!

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!



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[@faithcommunitynr](#)

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.

The Cheerful Giver

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Fiscal Year-to-Date

(000s)	Actual	Budgeted	+/-
Giving	584	633	-49
Expenditures	653	667	-14