

March 2019

How Are We One-Anothering One Another?

There are nearly 60 “One-Another” statements in the New Testament. The plethora of statements gives us an obvious inside look at God’s heart for His church. It shows us that God designed us to be connected in a way that is healthy and helpful in our spiritual growth. We were created as relational beings in the image of a relational God. As the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit relate to one another in

disciples, if you love one another.	Christ accepted you, in order to bring PRAISE TO GOD.	ONE another.
ONE ANOTHER		
Be completely humble	Let us not give up meeting together, <i>as some are in the habit of doing,</i> but let us encourage one another	

perfect harmony and unity, God made us to relate to one another. This is especially true of the church, which He had the Apostle Paul describe as a body. This body may have many parts, but it is still one body. So, we are called into one-anothering! What does that look like? Let me offer a few thoughts about what this

may look like in a practical way. First, the New Testament tells us to **Love One-Another** more often than any other statement. Romans 12 tells us to be devoted to one-another in brotherly love. This statement seems to be very broad and perhaps serves as an umbrella phrase for other one-another statements. Gal. 5:13 tells us to **Serve One-Another** in love. This demands that we make it our business to be aware of others around us and seek to help them in whatever need they may have. Sometimes serving one-another is just an act that says I care about you, so let me wash your feet. You have a great opportunity to really practice this kind of care and servanthood through Life Groups. Who in your Life Group needs to know that they are loved and belong to the body? Hebrews 10:25 tells us to **Encourage One-Another**. We are in this together! As much as we may struggle each day to faithfully follow the Lord, our brother or sister in Christ needs your encouragement. We enter into their struggle to faithfully follow Christ and carry each other’s burdens (Gal. 6:2). Practicing the one-anothers is something we do intentionally. Who in your Life Group or D-Group needs you to send them a word of encouragement? That encouragement could be as simple as a timely word or a listening ear. Maybe that encouragement is taking a minute or two and praying with that person. There are many One-Another statements, but perhaps it would be good to just focus on these two for a moment. Let me challenge you to ask yourself these two questions:

Who in my life can I serve to help ease their burden?
Who in my life needs to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus?

Lift Training Coming in April



On April 13th Life Matters Worldwide will be providing a workshop on the LIFT Ministry. This workshop will include what LIFT is, why it is important in the local church, and how you as an individual can engage in the care ministry of others here at FBC. The training will be both informative and practical. We encourage anyone thinking about how they can use their desire to serve and care for others for the glory of God in the church to be at the Lift Training. The only cost for the training is your time! Be looking for the sign-up sheet at the welcome table toward the end of March.

2019 Mercy Deacons: Ray Kastanek, Mark Smoes, Don Green,
Jeff Kooistra, Scott Bruinekool



March 10 we will have a **Faith Path Legacy Workshop on Baptism and Communion**. The workshop will be held in Room 15 (at the bottom of the steps, near the pop machine).

This workshop is for parents, grandparents and mentors, who are interested in helping their child understand what baptism is and why we celebrate communion. We will look at ways to tell if your child may be ready to take the next step of baptism and/or participate in communion. We will have tools available for you to take home and use as conversation starters that will help you make sure that your child knows what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and what Christ says about being baptized.

This class is not a baptism class, but rather a platform to help parents better determine when their child may be ready to take the next step in their faith.

Next Workshop: April 14 Parent/Child Dedication (May 14 Dedication Service)

[Dis · ci · ple]

“Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children”

— Ephesians 5:1

We read our Bibles in order to meet with God. What is printed on those pages is not merely words, sentences, and paragraphs, but the very words of God. Without Scripture, we would not have any saving knowledge of God. But by his Word, God gives us everything we need for life and godliness. Scripture is not simply words about God. In it we hear *God’s own words*, words from his own mouth testifying to who he is and what he has done. Therefore, we do not read our Bibles to learn about God. We read our Bibles in order to meet with God.

God does not reveal himself solely in order to give us facts. He reveals himself in order to create a relationship. He reveals himself so that we might obey him. The demons hate God while having superb doctrine (James 2:19). Similarly, Jesus condemns many Jews for knowing the Scriptures and yet rejecting the One to whom all Scripture points (John 5:39-40). We cannot make the subtle but dangerous mistake of confusing intrigue about the Bible with knowing God himself. We cannot be content knowing about God.

All of this requires faith. We must be convinced that in the words printed on the pages of our Bibles God speaks. But when we submit to those words as the Word of God, the Word of our living Lord and our risen King, the Spirit will confirm that God is alive and active through his Word. This is a reality that takes place not only in the mind but in the heart. Only once it is established in our hearts does the Word of God become a force that transforms us. John Calvin put it this way, “For the Word of God is not received by faith if it flits about in the top of the brain, but when it takes root in the depth of the heart that it may be an invincible defense to withstand and drive off all the stratagems of temptation.” We know we have met with God when his Word becomes our secure hope in the face of life’s difficulties.

At FBC, we believe God wants us to know him, and we believe this happens only through hearing and reading Scripture. Perhaps you have never experienced Scripture in this way. I would encourage you to pick up a reading plan and schedule daily time to meet with God. Or better yet, join a D-Group, which will provide accountability to encourage you to spend time hearing from God.

I hope that if you’ve been a Christian for some time, this sort of experience describes your regular communion with God. Would you be willing to disciple others and help them come to know God through his Word as you have? Consider starting a D-Group and help others to meet with God regularly through his Word.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



FAMILY TAKE AWAY - FAITH

This month at the Faith@Home Center - the Family Take Away is on Faith. There is a fun Family Night activity for you to do with your family and 4 different Bible passages to read and discuss with your kids. Included in the flyer is everything you need for the Family Night activity, Just Add Water! There are also so helpful pointers and tips that will help you, as a parent, to grow your family's faith. **Pick one up today and have fun, while you grow your family's faith.**

Additional resources are also available at the Faith@Home Center that you can use to further help your family deepen their relationship with Christ. The books are for you to borrow and return, so that other families can enjoy them. All the pamphlets are available for you to take home and keep or share with others.

LOOKING AHEAD...



Egg Hunt April 20

We will be collecting candy for filling the Eggs, starting March 17. Candies need to be small, so that they will fit in an egg.

There will be a collection box in the foyer, for your

donations. We will also be looking for food donations for the Hot Dog lunch. There will be a sign up for that as well, beginning March 17.



VBS June 9-13 - SAVE THE DATE

This is always a special week - we have the opportunity to share to gospel with the children of our community. You won't want to miss this chance to serve!

FBC Youth

Ignited by Change - Fueled by Faith - Led by Passion

Hello church family,

"What is our only hope in life and death?" "What is God?" "How many persons are there in God?" "How and why did God create us?" These are all central questions to our Christian faith, and these questions have been the basis for our youth group since the beginning of the year. During the Fall of 2018, the youth leaders reviewed what we had been doing as a youth group. We determined there were some ways that we could improve what we do as a student ministry in order to focus more on discipleship. We implemented this change beginning in January. Our curriculum consists of 52 questions and answers that will guide us through the fundamentals of the Christian faith. These questions and answers are adapted from classic Protestant catechisms and confessions. This material has been published under the title *The New City Catechism* by Crossway and The Gospel Coalition.



We plan to focus on one or two questions a month and spend the entire month teaching, discussing, and applying that theme. Our goal is that every student who consistently comes to our youth group will be exposed to the central tenets of the Christian faith and understand how these doctrines affect their everyday lives. Each month we will introduce the question(s) for the month with a formal time of teaching. On the second week of the month, the students will study a passage of Scripture that relate to that doctrine in their small group. During the third week of the month, we will have a large group discussion on how what we've looked at throughout the month affects our everyday lives. I expect that this new format will help our students grow in Christ.

- Pastor Andrew



MISSIONARY CORNER



Matthew 28:19-20

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Our Missionaries do so much for the cause of Christ. We should be in prayer for each of them as they are out sharing the gospel around the world. I want to challenge you this month to pick one of the missionaries below and spend some time in prayer for them and if you feel led to write them a letter and let them know that you are praying over them.

Wolfgang and Kelly Grotendiek: 2204 146th Ave. Dorr, MI 49324

John and Paula Dannenberg: B.P. 9000, Bangue Central African Republic AFRICA

Bill and Sue Green: 3663 Wilson Rd., East Jordan, MI 49201

Steve and Sue Mayo: 40 Eltham Street, Blacktown NSW 2148 AUSTRALIA

Roy and Joanne Schwartz: 13 Middlebury Lane, Lincolnshire, IL 60069

Ron and Christine Self: San Jorge Village, Av. Del Sesquicentenario 4540, Manzana 27, Lote 7 (1613), Los Polvorines, Buenos Aires, Argentina

John and Marilyn VandenAkke: 965 Kilsquah Ct., Roanoke, IN 46783

Eric and Shirley Hossack: 1 rue Mozart, Res Claire Joie, 91700 Ste Genevieve des Bois, FRANCE

Rich, Karen and Ben Visser: 39, rue du Temple, 57270 UCKANGE, FRANCE

Jason and Kim Farmer, Kaleb, Noah, Micah, Katie: Mojave # 5, Res. La Loma, Tepic, Nayarit 63137 MEXICO

Tim and Laura Compton, Maddy, Savy, Katie: 610/91 Soi 5/1 Sinthanee 10, Rimkok, Chiang Rai, Thailand 57100

Andrew and Leah Postema, Grace, Rose, Wayne: Str. Budila 12, Apt DA1, Bucharest 024095, Romania

Michael and Monica Pasquale, Alex and Daniel: 4316 Kennilworth Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Building and Grounds

Greetings from Building and Grounds! It's March and we've survived the winter so far. It's quite possible that by the time next month's newsletter comes out we may have green grass and see the robins return!



It's always uplifting to me when one of our congregates volunteer to help maintain the facilities. I'd like to say a special thank you to Richard Dean. Richard called and asked if he could bring his tractor down to the parking lot and push back the snow piles that have been encroaching further and further into the parking spaces. In years past we've had to hire a company to help us out in this area. Anybody who knows Richard is aware of the enjoyment he gets spending time on his tractor! What a blessing to be able to utilize your gifts and time to benefit the church body.

If you have a desire to utilize your gifts and talents, please let me know. You may be surprised by the way they can be put to work.

While the cold weather is still here, please exercise caution when walking around the slippery parking lot and sidewalks. If you have concerns about any icy spots please let me know, and remember, Spring is just around the corner!

God bless,
Russ Race - Building and Grounds



Good Friday Service: April 19th @ 7pm **Egg Hunt:** April 20th @ 11am
Easter Services: April 21st @ 9am & 10:45am

Birthdays and Anniversaries March 2019

Birthdays		Birthdays		Anniversaries	
Mickey Bechill	03/01	Herb Whorley	03/16	Jim & Loretta Visser	03/04
Ernie Blanchard	03/01	Scott Zalis	03/16		
Anne Pasquale	03/02	Diane Gerard	03/18	Randy & Gloria	
Justin Laux	03/03	Betty Morlock	03/19	Ossewaarde	03/17
Paul Nelson	03/05	Leah Postema *	03/20		
Hunter Pham	03/05	Angie May	03/21	Phil & Diane Gerard	03/25
Kim Green	03/06	Neil Stiver	03/25		
Ellen Moore	03/06	Tim Kalee	03/26	Bill & Sue Green*	03/27
Mary Schreur	03/07	Terry Watson	03/26		
Kaily VanLaan	03/07	Rick Raimer	03/28		
Jerry Buckingham	03/10	JoAnne Schwarcz*	03/30		
Alan Onan	03/13				
Mike Sullivan	03/13	* Missionary			

March Reading Plan

Week 1 Starting on March 4	Week 2 Starting on March 11	Week 3 Starting on March 18	Week 4 Starting on March 25
Day 1: Heb. 10:19-25	Day 1: Heb. 10:26-31	Day 1: Heb. 9:32-39	Day 1: Heb. 11:1-3
Day 2: Mal. 3:16-4:6	Day 2: Deut. 31:30- 32:34	Day 2: Matt. 10:16-33	Day 2: Gal. 2:15-21
Day 3: Acts 17:16-34	Day 3: Psalm 94	Day 3: Matt. 25:31-46	Day 3: Matt. 8:1-13
Day 4: Eph. 2:1-10	Day 4: Matt. 5:21-30	Day 4: 1 Peter 4:12-19	Day 4: 1 Cor. 15:12-28
Day 5: Psalm 89	Day 5: 1 John 2:28-3:10	Day 5: Psalm 79	Day 5: Psalm 33

March Memory Verse: Hebrews 10:22-25

"22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

FBC Calendar: March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					10am: Prayer Shawl Ministry	7am: Basketball
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7am: Basketball 9am: Ladies Bible Study 6pm: Tae Kwon Do	10:30am: Play Date for MOPS 4pm: Missions Mt 6:15pm: Awana	7am: Basketball 5:30pm: Family Matters Mt 7pm: Children's Ministry Team Mt	7-9pm: Church Min. Conference	7am: Basketball 9am-4pm: Church Min. Conference
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7am: Basketball 9am: Ladies Bible Study 6pm: Tae Kwon Do	8:30am: Men's Bible Study 10:30am: Play Date for MOPS 6:15pm: Awana	7am: Basketball 9am: MOPS 7pm: Admin Mt 7pm: Mercy Mt	10am: Prayer Shawl Ministry	7am: Basketball
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7am: Basketball 9am: Ladies Bible Study 6pm: Tae Kwon Do	10:30am: Play Date for MOPS 6:15pm: Awana	7am: Basketball 11am: Prime Time 6:30pm: Ladies Coffee Break		7am: Basketball
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7am: Basketball 9am: Ladies Bible Study 6pm: Tae Kwon Do 6:30pm: Elder's Mt	8:30am: Men's Bible Study 10:30am: Play Date for MOPS 6:15pm: Awana	7am: Basketball 9am: MOPS		



**Anxiety does not empty
tomorrow of its sorrows, but only
empties today of its strength.**

Charles Spurgeon