

May 2019

Worship... What Is It? *By Pastor Jon Pickens*

Worship is the first step of our FBC Pathway and most people immediately think of our service on Sunday. Perhaps most people even think more narrowly than that and immediately think of singing. Have you ever taken the time to contemplate what the Bible has to say about worship? We know from the Scriptures that people worshipped as individuals at times, but for the most part, worship is spoken of in the context of a corporate setting. I have heard the phrase, "I'm going to get my worship on" playfully used, I am am sure I know what people mean by that, but I also think it takes away from one of the most beautiful things about worship... its corporate nature. We have a tendency to individualize everything, including worship. Even when we sing corporately to God, we most often use words like "I and my" instead of words like "us and we". We sing as if we are having a private moment with God, which is great in the right context; however, I wonder if we have downplayed the significance of a community in corporate worship lifting one voice to express our adoration and love for the Savior. One of my favorite scenes of corporate worship is in Revelation 7:9-12. John sees before him a great multitude of people representing every tribe, language, and nation standing before the Lamb (Jesus), and they were crying out in a loud voice "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" Then the angels, elders, and four living creatures joined them as they fell on their faces before God and worshipped Him. Their posture communicated their submission to One who is greater and their words expressed their adoration for their eternal God. They said, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Space doesn't let me explore this topic more, but here are at least a few observations:

3 Observations About this Worship Scene:

- It's a response to truthful revelation of God. It is when they are before the Lamb that these people respond. They have just come out of the great tribulation and now they are before their Savior. You can't help but respond by crying out in a loud voice affirming that salvation indeed belongs to OUR God. We respond to God through singing, giving, praying, serving, and even learning.
- This was not a bunch of individual worshippers expressing their personal affirmation, but a community of worshippers expressing together a great affirmation of God's salvific work! It is certainly ok to sing "I love you Lord", but there is something more profound and unifying for me to sing, "WE love you Lord". WE are His church and WE are crying out to God as a community of worshippers proclaiming Him to be OUR God. Corporate worship is not a place for private worship, rather it is a place for the community to cry out our shouts of adoration as one.
- We also see how their response affected their posture. They fell on their faces. Their whole being was responding to God. I tend to be leary of sensationalizing spirituality, but at the same time, we need to be open to natural and appropriate expressions of worship. We know there is such a thing as body language, so what are we saying by our postures in worship?

Corporate worship is a community response to God based on the truthful revelation of Himself!

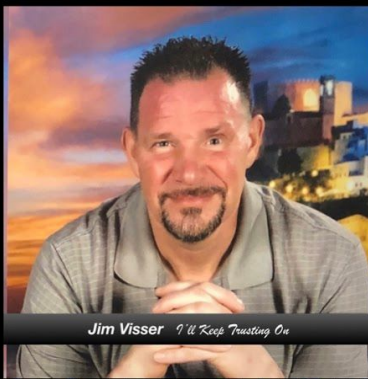
May Events



Daughter of the King Tea

On May 11th from 10am-12pm, women are invited to join other women from FBC as they connect with one another and explore what it means for a women to find her identity in Christ as a daughter of the King. You can plan to laugh, learn, and connect with other women. There will be light refreshments and tea served

during the event. So if you are a woman between the ages of 13 and 113, come and join us for this event. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center in the lobby of the church.



Concert and Hymn Sing

Sunday, May 19th

@ First Baptist Church of Lowell

Starts at 6pm

**Love offering taken to support the music ministry
of Jim Visser and The Thurstons**



May 12 we will have a **Faith Path Legacy Workshop on Prayer**. The workshop will be held in Room 15 (at the bottom of the steps, near the pop machine).

This workshop is for parents and grandparents who are interested in helping their children learn how much God wants to hear from them. Children have conversations with many people, but do they know how much God wants them to talk to Him. We want you to have the resources to help your children and grandchildren know that God is always available and ready to listen to them about everything. There will be several take home activities for your to immediately use.

New Workshops will begin in the fall!

EGG HUNT 2019

Thank you to all who helped, in so many ways, for the egg hunt. We had a great turn out - around 350 guests, as well as those who were volunteering. Our puppets shared the good news of Easter, kids enjoyed Easter crafts and a delicious lunch. They also were able to hunt for eggs. Thanks to all who helped to fill eggs - we ended up with nearly 6,000 eggs!! What a great weekend as we celebrate our risen Lord.



[Dis · ci · ple]

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

— Ephesians 5:1

We believe that Jesus transforms his disciples. A disciple not only receives new life at conversion; he or she is continually transformed more and more into the image of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. This happens as we come to know God more and more. Most importantly, this transformation occurs as a result of experiencing God’s grace. For example, Paul wrote this to Titus: “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age...” The grace of God not only brings salvation, but it also trains us to renounce ungodliness and instead live in a godly way. If we are to become more godly, we must regularly get in touch with God’s grace.

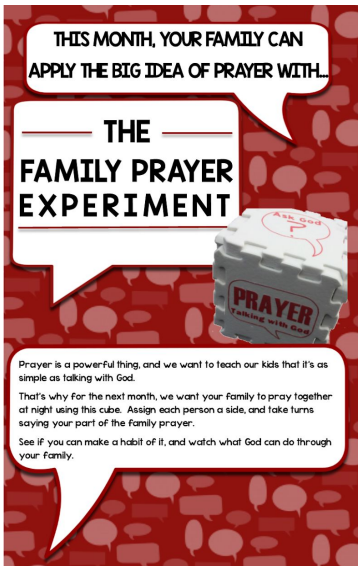


That is where D-Groups come in. Disciples of Jesus get in touch with God’s grace through the *means of grace* (i.e., “spiritual disciplines”). There are many means of grace, but D-Groups focus on four in particular: Scripture reading, meditation on Scripture, Scripture memorization, and prayer. We believe each of these should be regular practices in a believer’s life. Over time, these practices will give a disciple a deeper understanding and appreciation of God’s grace. Ultimately this is what transforms us into godly people. D-Groups meet in order to provide encouragement and accountability in the means of grace. A D-Group is a group of 3-6 men or women who meet together every week in order to share how each of them have been getting in touch with God’s grace.

However, many people find it difficult to get started in the means of grace or to stay consistent in the means of grace. D-Groups are so important because they provide important accountability. That is also why I will be coming to every Life Group during the months of May and June in order to lead a “Mock D-Group Workshop.” During our time together, I will lead you through a normal D-Group meeting. So during our time together, we will talk about how God has been speaking to you through his Word, how others can keep you accountable to living in line with his Word, and finally pray for one another. My goal is to give you an experience of what you can expect when you join a D-Group. As each one of us rejoices in God’s grace more and more, not only will we be transformed, but so will our church and our community.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

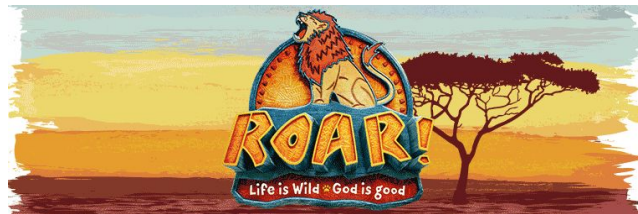
FAMILY TAKE AWAY - PRAYER



This month at the Faith@Home Center - the Family Take Away is on Prayer. We would like to help your family grow in their relationship with God - through prayer. The Family Take Away this month includes Bible passages to read with your family, as well as a cube that can be used to guide your family to pray together. Join us as we have conversations with God and let's see what God can do through us! **Pick up a Family Take Away and Prayer Cube today!**

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...



VBS June 9-13 - SAVE THE DATE

This is always a special week - we have the opportunity to share the gospel with the children of our community. Please consider volunteering to help out during this exciting week! There is a place for everybody - from behind the scenes to leading a group and everything in between. I am so excited to see what God will do through our church during VBS.

FBC Youth

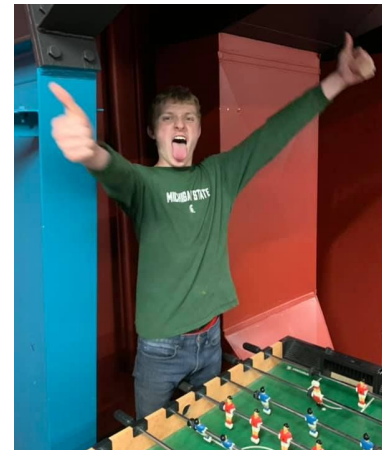
Ignited by Change - Fueled by Faith - Led by Passion

Hello church family,

I continue to be encouraged and excited about what God is doing in our student ministries at FBC. During the month of April, we asked the question, "What does it mean to glorify God?" The Bible often talks about glorifying God, but it can be difficult to know what exactly that means in practical, everyday terms. We talked about how we glorify God by by enjoying him, loving him, trusting him, and by obeying his will, commands, and law. I introduced the topic during the first youth group of the month. During the second youth group, we studied Deuteronomy 10:12-22 in small groups. That passage teaches us that our obedience to God comes as a response to his grace and love toward us. Because of his grace toward us, we can trust him and obey his commands. That brings glory to him. The following week we discussed this further in large groups. Then, the final week of the month, we spent a longer time in praise together. We also spent some time praying through Psalm 23 in small groups.

It is a great privilege to work with these students during such a formative time of their lives. Our leaders would love for you to be praying for us as we support families in their effort to disciple their children. Please pray that God would give all of our youth leaders wisdom and that the students at FBC would have an ever-growing, intimate relationship with King Jesus.

- Pastor Andrew



MISSIONARY CORNER

**Our Featured Missionaries this Month are
Wolfgang and Kelly Grotendiek**

Wolfgang was officially sworn-in to the USA, completing his migration to citizenship. This was a very long process so they are so thankful that it has finally come to an end. Now that they are able to travel freely again Wolfgang will be on the move. The Lord has given him an opportunity to help an aviation ministry that works in northern Mexico-territory which he is super familiar with. He will be flying their recently purchased aircraft from Michigan to Mexico. He will then meet up with the pilots there and begin training them in the plane on the bush strips. The guys will be building a radio station in the mountains within the ministry area and hosting a dental clinic in another area. Wolfgang will be hosting a pastoral training course as well. Please be praying for Wolfgang during the long flight cross-country as well as his time to be spent with fellow missionary aviators on the foreign field. Be also praying for Kelly while he is away.

Also if you would like to send them a note of encouragement or to let them know you are praying for them here is their information:

Wolfgang and Kelly Grotendiek
2204 146th Ave.
Dorr, MI 49323

Or

Email:wgrotendiek@gmail.com



Building and Grounds

Greetings from Building and Grounds!

It's really beginning to green up around the property at FBC! The grass has been cut and fertilized, overgrown bushes pulled out, and 40 tree stumps have been ground so that the mowers can now go right over the top of them. A genuine expression of thanks goes out to Joe Runstrom and Breyden Race for their initiative and hard work. It doesn't go unnoticed! If you would like to be part of the beautification and clean up of our facilities please let me know.



We recently voted to upgrade the parking lot lighting to LED fixtures, allowing us to illuminate the area safely and much more efficiently. I'm happy to say that the work is 75 percent of the way done and achieves our goal very well!



The sign in front of the church also received a much needed upgrade. It had several fixtures that no longer worked. They are now LED as well, and shine brightly!

May we shine in our community as brightly as these new lights do!

Sincerely,
Russ Race - Building and Grounds.

May Memory Verse: Hebrews 12:1-3

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

May Reading Plan

Week 1 <i>Starting on May 6</i>	Week 2 <i>Starting on May 13</i>	Week 3 <i>Starting on May 20</i>	Week 4 <i>Starting on May 27</i>
Day 1: Heb. 11:23-28, 35-38	Day 1: Heb. 11:29-35	Day 1: Heb. 11:39-12:3	Day 1: Heb. 12:4-13
Day 2: Ex. 1-2	Day 2: Ex. 12:33-13:16	Day 2: Eph. 4:17-5:20	Day 2: Prov. 3:1-12
Day 3: Ex. 3-4	Day 3: Ex. 13:17-14:31	Day 3: Phil. 2:1-18	Day 3: Deut. 8:1-20
Day 4: Ex. 7:14-9:35	Day 4: Ex. 15:1-21	Day 4: 1 Cor. 9:19-27	Day 4: Job 1:1-2:10
Day 5: Ex. 10:1-12:32	Day 5: Josh. 2 & 6	Day 5: Psalm 25	Day 5: 1 Cor. 5:1-13

Birthdays and Anniversaries May 2019

Birthdays		Birthdays		Anniversaries	
Curtis Benjamin	5/01	Dennis West	5/11	John & Bonnie Sinning	5/03
Christian Bechill	5/02	Linda Bramble	5/14	Carl & Gloria Miller	5/03
Herb Haines	5/02	J'Lynn Bruinekool	5/14	Robert & Deborah Watson	5/04
Trisha Nauta	5/03	Brook Mitchell	5/14	Mark & Mari Schmaltz	5/05
Amelia Naylor	5/02	Heather VanderHeide	5/14	Evan & Lisa Timmerman	5/09
Nancy VanLaan	5/03	Brian Mitchell	5/15	Kile & Brook Mitchell	5/10
Journey Crain	5/04	Bill Johnson, III	5/16	Randy & Darlene Riegling	5/14
Mera Burnham	5/06	*Kelly Grotendiek	5/17	Dan & Sharon Vosovic	5/15
Isabella Cramer	5/06	Caleb Pickens	5/17	Randy & Becky Wieland	5/16
Elijah Kiser	5/06	Dennis Kennedy	5/19	Chris & Mickey Bechill	5/17
Tori Runstrom	5/07	Alexis Higley	5/20	Steve & Teresa Kiser	5/20
Terry Ingraham	5/08	Silas Kooi	5/20	Austin & Ellen Kammeraad	5/21
Peggy Nelson	5/08	*Daniel Pasquale (M.K.)	5/20	*Jasson & Kim Farmer	5/25
Randy Riegling	5/08	*Karyn Visser	5/20	Steve & Mary Cooper	5/28
Brenda Nauta	5/09	Kendra McKay	5/22	*John & Paula Dannenberg	5/28
Ashley VanderHeide	5/09	Samuel Cramer	5/24	John & Lori Gerard	5/30
Chris Bechill	5/10	Connor Berrington	5/25	Andrew & Amy Bolcom	5/31
Jackson Dusendang	5/10	Noah Chipman	5/27		
Lindsey Cramer	5/10	Jeff Kooistra	5/30		
Dolly Johnson	5/11	Chris Smith	5/30		
*Ronald Self	5/11	Analyn Sullivan	5/30		

FBC Calendar: May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			10:30am: Play Date for Moms & Kids 4:00pm: Missions Team Meeting 6:15pm Awana Awards	7:00am: Basketball 5:30pm: Family Matters Team 7:00pm: Children's Ministry Team	10:00am: Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00am: Basketball
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30am: Morning Service	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 9:30am: Ladies Bible Study 6pm: Tae Kwon Do	9:00am: Men's Bible Study 10:30am: Play Date for Moms & Kids	7:00am: Basketball 9:00am: MOPS 7:00pm: Admin Mt. 7:00pm: Mercy Mt.		7:00am: Basketball 10:00am Women's Tea
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30am: Morning Service Parent/Child Dedication	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 9:30am: Ladies Bible Study 6pm: Tae Kwon Do	10:30am: Play Date for Moms & Kids	7:00am: Basketball 11:00am: Prime Time 6:30pm Coffee Break		7:00am: Basketball 10:30am Domino Promise Sewing Team
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30am: Morning Service 6:00pm: Hymn Sing w/Jim Visser and the Thurstons	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 9:30am: Ladies Bible Study 6pm: Tae Kwon Do .	9:00am: Men's Bible Study 10:30am: Play Date for Moms & Kids	7:00am: Basketball		7:00am: Basketball
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:30am: Morning Service		7:00am: Basketball 9:30am: Ladies Bible Study 6pm: Tae Kwon Do 6:30pm: Elder Bd Mtg.	10:30am: Play Date for Moms & kids	7:00am: Basketball 6:00pm: Megan Ritchie Bridal Shower		