

September 2019

## Joining Jennifer McGill in Her Cancer Battle! *By Pastor Jon Pickens*

In July, Jennifer McGill received news that she had Hodgekin's Lymphoma. She is the daughter of Nancy McGill, who recently joined the membership of FBC, and the sister of Jessica Rickert whose family have been attending FBC for over a year. The news of the cancer was obviously difficult to hear, and she will need the support of so many around her. Jenny has been on our prayer list from the time we first heard the news. However, we want to be able to support her in other ways. She is a single mom and is going to have difficult days ahead. She will need financial help as she will have medical bills on top of trying to support her son. While she has immediate family around supporting her, she will need more, and we would like to come around her and love on her. There are two immediate ways that you can help.

1. On **Sept. 14th**, Jessica Rickert is organizing a fundraising event taking place at FBC. It will be a laser tag event that is sure to be fun for the entire family, but will also help raise money for both Jenny and for the Lymphoma Research Foundation. More details of this event will be in the bulletin!
2. On **Sept. 15th**, we will take up a special love offering that will go to Jenny to help support her financially during her battle with cancer. So be in prayer about what the Lord would lead you to give to support her during this time in her life.



Luke tells us the story of four men wanting to lay their friend before Jesus for healing, and they could not get to Him, so they lowered their friend through the roof. That's how we want to come alongside Jenny and her family. We want to persistently and intentionally put her right in front of Jesus.

*"Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus."*

-Luke 5:18-19

## [ Dis · ci · ple ]

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

— Ephesians 5:1

To love is what it means to be Christian. To be a Christian one must love. A Christian that fails to love is a contradiction in terms. A Christian that resists love turns away from the very thing that makes them what they are as a Christian. We must first love God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength. We must also love our neighbors as ourselves. Love is what animates all Christian “outreach.” Just as a Christian can’t *not* love, a Christian can’t *not* reach out to others. To love is to turn away from our self-centeredness and open ourselves up to others. To love is to notice others, to listen, to care, and to serve. To love, according to the example of Jesus, is to lay down our lives for another (1 John 3:16).



During the months of September and October, we will be preaching about how we as FBC are called to reach our community and our world. During September, we will focus primarily on how we reach people right here in Lowell as a local body of Christ-followers. Then in October we will shift our focus to God’s work to redeem all the world and to save people from every tongue, tribe, and nation. I think it is important to remember that the foundation for all of this is love.

How will we become people who reach out to others? How will we be people who not only love people who are like us but who love even our enemies? Any country club loves its own members. No one, except a Christian, can love his or her enemy. Yet that is what we are called to do? We are called to reach those who are vulnerable, outcast, self-righteous, relativistic, and immoral. More strikingly, we are called to love those who do not love our God. Those are the people we are to reach.

How? Yes, to a Christian one must love. A Christian can’t *not* love. Yet there is something more fundamental to being a Christian. To be a Christian is to *be* loved. A Christian is a person who has received the unconditional, extravagant, gracious love of God. To be a Christian is to abide in the love of God (John 15:9). And it is because we are beloved that we must love. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:10-11). We love because we are beloved by God. And the beloved can do nothing else but reach out to others with compassion, grace, mercy, and, of course, love.

# FAITH @ HOME



This month at the Faith @ Home center we have a great back-to-school resource for your family.

As your kids head back to school, we want them to have the courage to do what is right, even when it is tough! Sometimes it is scary to go against the crowd and make tough choices. This month, we want your kids to learn that God is always with them and will give them the courage to do what is right.

The September "Take Away", gives your family four passages to read a discuss, together as a family. These passages are chosen to go along with what your children have been learning each week, in their classes. We hope that as you spend time in God's word, you will be able to remember these three points:

1. Remember the God love you
2. Choose to trust God no matter what
3. Love like Jesus

We want to help your family remember these throughout the school year. So we have provided a bag tag with these points on them.

These tags can attach to a backpack, hang in a bedroom or in a car. We hope that these tags will help your family remember to focus on God and "Have the best year ever"!

Praying that your family has the best year ever!



Promotion Sunday will be Sunday, September 8. This is the Sunday that all children will be promoted to the next grade level, at church.

- Children who are 3 years of age and older will attend the Older Preschool Class. Children who are 2-3 years of age will attend the Younger Preschool Class. Both classes are located near the downstairs Check-in area.
- Children who are entering Kindergarten will be promoted to the elementary program. They now will attend the worship service with their parents and will be dismissed for Children's Church.
- Children entering 4th grade will be joining their parents for the morning service. There will be classes for all children during Life Groups. All elementary age class are located just past the downstairs Check-in area.



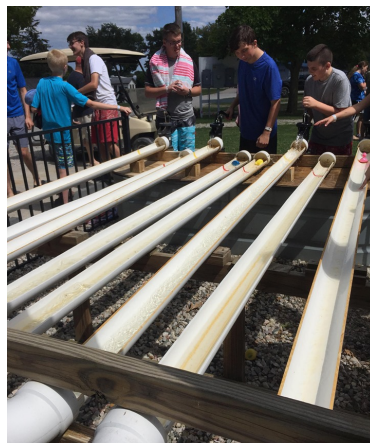
## FBC Youth

Ignited by Change - Fueled by Faith - Led by Passion

Hello church,

We had a busy summer in student ministries! We went to Michigan's Adventure, served for Love Week, went to Unity Fest, and had the Middle School Camping Trip. And that's not to mention our activities on Monday nights and a few other events here at the church. I want to thank all of our amazing youth leaders who intentionally build relationships with our students. It is such a joy to see them pouring into our students! Here are some pictures from this summer.

-Pastor Andrew





# MISSIONARY CORNER



On Sept. the 13th, Pastor Jon will be heading out of the country to spend a week with Andrew and Leah Postema, and then he will be flying to Thailand to visit Tim and Laura Compton. He will be seeking to understand their ministries better, encourage them as missionaries we support, and exploring possible ways that FBC could serve their ministries better. Developing long term relationships with a local church or two in a different culture is a great way to serve one another for the sake of the Kingdom. Pastor Jon wants to see FBC have a deeper engagement with global missions beyond our pocketbook. So pray for him as he travels and connects with both the Postema family and the Compton family.



## 2019 Missions Conference

Plan on joining us for our 2019 Missions Conference on Oct. 18-20. Scott Dunford will be our main speaker. He served the Uigher people in China for several years, and is now pastoring in San Francisco at Redeemer Church and is the West Coast Mobilizer for ABWE. Along with Scott, we will have missionaries who have served in Brazil, Jamaica, Czech Republic, and Togo. Here is a general schedule of the conference with more details to come.

Friday @ 7pm - Stories: God's Work Among All People (with the Showcase of Nations to follow)

Saturday @ 10am - Workshop on Missionary Soul Care

Saturday @ 6pm - Rev. 5:9 Night (Cultural foods, Customs, and the Gospel)

Sunday @ 9:30am - Worship Service (Celebrating God's Global Mission)

Sunday @ 11am - Missionary Share (5 sessions to choose from)

## Building and Grounds

Greetings from Building and Grounds!

The last few weeks of August have been busy around the grounds here at FBC. The gravel drive between the main parking lot and the office building received a much needed grading with a top dressing of crushed asphalt, black dirt was brought in to fix the grade along the roadside sidewalk, and an additional concrete slab was added for office building parking. It was an enjoyable endeavor to pour the concrete alongside a mixture of young men learning a new skill and the “old boss man” Randy Fleenor who headed up this project. Special thanks to Jason Runstom for lending your knowledge and muscle to the morning.

This past week the green carpet on the main floor of the church building was cleaned and I’m happy to say that with very little exception the coffee and drink stains



all came out! Please take caution to minimize the stains and please let me know if you do have a spill, especially anything with sugar in it.

There are still plenty of projects around the facilities that need to be accomplished. One project that I would like to see finished soon is the painting of the Outreach Building classroom. This room needs a lot of attention to the dents and dings in the walls prior to paint, as well as a coat of primer. This project can be divided between multiple people, taken as a project by several, or simply a single individual. Come see me and let’s talk!

Thanks for being part of the church body!

Russ Race – Building and Grounds.

## September Memory Verse:

**8** Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. **9** For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **10** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:8-10(ESV)

## September Reading Plan

<b>Week 1</b> <i>Starting on Sept. 2</i>	<b>Week 2</b> <i>Starting on Sept. 9</i>	<b>Week 3</b> <i>Starting on Sept. 16</i>	<b>Week 4</b> <i>Starting on Sept. 23</i>	<b>Week 5</b> <i>Starting on Sept. 30</i>
Day 1: Acts 1:1-11	Day 1: Col. 3:17-4:1	Day 1: James 2:1-26	Day 1: 1 Cor. 15:1-11; Rom. 1:1-6; 2 Tim. 2:8-9	Day 1: Gen. 12:1-3; Gal. 3:6-9
Day 2: Luke 24:36-53	Day 2: 1 Cor. 10:23-11:1	Day 2: Luke 10:25-37		Day 2: Gen. 22:1-19
Day 3: Matt. 28:16-20	Day 3: 1 Cor. 7:17-31	Day 3: Deut. 15:1-11	Day 2: 1 Cor. 9:19-23	Day 3: Ps. 67
Day 4: John 21:1-25	Day 4: Titus 2:1-10	Day 4: Lev. 19:1-18	Day 3: Acts 13:13-43	Day 4: Luke 2:8-32
Day 5: Acts 9:1-22	Day 5: Matt. 25:14-30	Day 5: Ezk. 18:5-13	Day 4: Acts 14:1-16	Day 5: Acts 3:11-26
			Day 5: Acts 17:16-34	

## Birthdays and Anniversaries September 2019

Birthdays		Birthdays		Anniversaries	
Lyz Compton (MK)	9/01	Tracy Sawdy	9/16	Stephen & Tricia Yonder	9/02
Dorothy Rhodes	9/02	*Ben Visser	9/16	Joe & Cheryl Runstrom	9/02
Teresa Kiser	9/02	Bob Berrington, III	9/18	Ben & Sara Gerard	9/08
George Watson	9/02	Robert Watson	9/19	Dave & Betty Deans	9/09
Maddie Hooker	9/06	Mark VanderHeide	9/20	Neil & Kathy Stiver	9/13
Joe Runstrom	9/06	Scott Bruinekool	9/21	Tim & Mary Daily	9/14
Andrew Bolkcom	9/09	Dawn Haines	9/22	Jim & Sue White	9/16
Dave Mersman	9/11	Steve VanLaan	9/23	J.R. & Willow Cramer, Jr.	9/17
Shane May	9/11	Janel Berrington	9/24	Roger & Ellen Moore	9/17
Kimberly Smith	9/11	Kennedy Mitchell	9/27		
*Kim Farmer	9/12	Patty Copeland	9/29		
Becky VanLaan	9/13	Rebekah Kooi	9/29	* Missionary	



# FBC Calendar: September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30am: Morning Service  No Life Groups	Labor Day  No Regular Programming	7:00am: Basketball  6pm: Tae Kwon Do	4:00pm: Missions Team Meeting  6:15pm: Awana Parent Orientation  7:00pm: Awana Leader Orientation	7:00am Basketball  5:30pm Family Matters Team  7:00pm Children's Ministry Team		7:00am: Basketball  8:00am: Elders' Planning Meeting  <b>Congrats! Trisha Nauta is getting married today!</b>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30am: Morning Service  12:15pm: Group Leader Training	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball  9:30am: Ladies' Bible Study  6pm: Tae Kwon Do	6:15pm: Awana Begins  9:00am: Men's Bible Study	7:00am: Basketball  7:00pm: Admin. Deacon Meeting  7:00pm: Mercy Deacon Meeting		7:00am: Basketball
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30am: Morning Service	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball  9:30am: Ladies' Bible Study		7:00am: Basketball  6:30pm: Coffee Break		7:00am: Basketball
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30am: Morning Service	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball  9:30am: Ladies' Bible Study  6pm: Tae Kwon Do  6:30pm: Elder Bd Mtg.	9:00am: Men's Bible Study	7:00am: Basketball		7:00am: Basketball
29	30					
9:30am: Morning Service  2:45pm: Green Acres Worship Service	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)					