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# FCC NEWSLETTER

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The Official Monthly Newsletter of Faith Community Church - New Richmond



## PRAYER WEEK

January 5-12

The first full week of the new year has been set aside for a focused time of prayer. All of our Small Groups are being invited to dedicate one meeting to praise God and to ask for His provision and direction for the months ahead. There is much to pray for: our families, our church, our nation, our Christian brothers and sisters around the world. To conclude the week, an all-church Prayer & Worship gathering has been scheduled for Sunday evening, (January 12th) at 6:00pm. We will meet in the D Rooms. Not in a small group but want to join us in prayer this week? See [page 2](#) for our prayer guide.

## WHAT'S IN OUR LATEST ISSUE:

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prayer

# FCC Week of Prayer

JANUARY 5-12

Our goal is to come together and pray “Kingdom prayers.” We want to prioritize the growth of God’s Kingdom and the advance of His gospel during our times of corporate prayers.

## Take a personal moment

- Ask God to convict you of any sin in your own life and repent of that sin. (Psalm 66:18-19, 1 John 1:9)
- What did God teach you in 2024? Thank God for all that He has provided.
- What are you trusting God for in 2025?
- Commit the coming year to the service of the Lord.

## Prayer Suggestions

1. Pray that God would help you to joyfully worship in Spirit and in truth. (John 4:24).
2. Pray that God would grant you fruitfulness in evangelism and outreach (Acts 2:47, Rom 10:9).
3. Pray that God would enable you to be more consistent and earnest in prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
4. Pray that God would reveal Himself to you through His word.
5. Pray that you would be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29)
6. Pray that the joy of the Lord would be our strength. (Philippians 4:4, Psalm 42:11)
7. Pray that God would provide for all our needs as individuals, families and as a church. (Philippians 4:19)
8. Pray for your family. (Col 3:18-21)
9. Pray for FCC leaders. (See below)
10. Pray for our missionaries (Eph 6:18-20) (See below)
11. Pray for three lost people in your life.

### Staff

Pastor Patrick & Janna Mostek  
Chuck Olson (Executive Pastor)  
Zac Evans (Worship)  
Bobbi Blanchard (Children’s Ministry)  
Christa Poole (Admin)  
Ron Hansen (Finance)  
Michael Hedges (Youth Group)

### Missionaries

Mike Evans, Stu Dix & Larry Szyman with TLI  
Operation Christmas Child  
Gary Sandmann with Feed My Lambs  
Pastor Antonio in Guatemala  
Carl & Julie Gaede with Tutapona  
Ruby’s Pantry  
The Persecuted Church

### Ministry Team

Mike Eastep (Small Groups)  
Peter Bergeson (Prayer Team)  
Stephanie Langer (Women’s Ministry)  
Jim Ruhl (Men’s Ministry)  
Dave Mobley (Faith Training)  
Kevin Mitchell (Counseling)  
Sue Kostroski (Connections & Hospitality)  
Dave Hoffman (Missions)  
Aaron Livingston (Trustees)

### Elders

Randy Kostroski  
Bryan Stangl  
Paul Olsen  
Zac Evans  
Patrick Mostek

JOIN US FOR A TIME OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP ON  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH AT 6PM IN THE D ROOMS AT FCC.

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# Pastor Patrick

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## GENEROSITY

Dear FCC Family,

In 2 Corinthians 8, the Apostle Paul brags that churches in Macedonia, *"...gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints – and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us"* (2 Corinthians 8:3-5).

Paul is writing to the church in Corinth about the generosity of the believers in Macedonia towards the needy saints in Jerusalem. They did all of this when, in all likelihood, the Macedonians had never met a single believer in Jerusalem. It was so shocking. It was so radically countercultural. It was also thoroughly Christian.

Generosity is a perennial hallmark of God's people in every generation. As one of the pastors at Faith Community Church, I have the unique privilege of getting to see what many don't. Like the Apostle Paul, I have a front-row seat to watch the church being the church. I get to watch the love of Jesus become visible through the actions of everyday Christians. It is truly a joy to behold! Allow me to share with you just a glimpse of what I have witnessed you do as Faith Community Church.

Over the last 6 weeks, you provided Christmas gifts to every one of the ninety students at a small Christian school in Guatemala. At the same time, you packed, prayed over, and sent 570 shoebox gifts through Operation Christmas Child. You also collected clothing for a Christian ministry to Native Americans on a reservation in South Dakota. Like the church in Macedonia, you are blessing people that most of you will never meet this side of glory.

Closer to home, you participated in compiling "Love Baskets" for families in our community that were unable to afford presents for Christmas. In total, we adopted 10 families with 28 children for the Christmas season. All of this was only possible through your kindness.

At the beginning of the Christmas season, I shared that a Christian family in town had lost their husband and father which had placed a significant financial strain on them. We read James 1:27, "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."

In light of this exhortation from the Scriptures, it was then announced to the congregation that the Elders and Pastors of Faith Community Church had decided to open the "James 1:27 Fund" through the month of December. That fund was open for anyone feeling led to give to the family in need. As I write this, that fund has collected thousands! When I was informed of the amount that had been raised, I was overwhelmed and humbled at the generosity of your giving hearts to others in need.

Also, (as if that wasn't enough) during the Christmas season, our church held a "Crafts, Cocoa and Caroling" event. While this may seem like a simple get-together for fun and fellowship, it was so much more than that. Members of the church went to both care centers in town to sing Christmas carols for the residents. We even had a fantastic brass accompaniment from the Gustafson family! I cannot tell you how important this is. Many residents have few to no visitors, even at Christmas. They are often overlooked and forgotten in a world that only asks, "what can you do for me?". And yet, our church cared enough to visit and sing to them, bringing handmade crafts and the love of Christ through their kindness. I wish you all could have seen the smiles on everyone's faces! We plan to make this an annual event and would invite you to join us next year – it was an absolute blast! The beauty of having a large group is that it doesn't matter how bad you sing. You can stand with me in the back.

Finally, Pastor Chuck has been assembling a Member Care Team in order to begin to regularly visit the members of our church who have been providentially hindered from joining us on Sunday mornings for worship. The goal is to care for people who cannot leave their homes, are stuck for a prolonged period of time in the hospital, or have become residents of a care center. When they can no longer come to church, it is the responsibility of the church to go to them. We believe this is what the love of Christ calls us to.

Like I said, these are just a few of the things that I get to see and wanted to share with you. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you! Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

In Christ,  
Pastor Patrick Mostek



## GRIEF SHARE

New Session Starts Monday, Jan 13th

Starting January 13th, GriefShare will be offering another series on Monday evenings from 6-8pm. This series will run for 13 weeks.

If you don't know what this is, GriefShare is a nationwide Christ centered program for those who have lost a loved one both recently or years ago. Beginning your 2025 with resolve to seek the hope and encouragement GriefShare is designed to offer is a positive step forward in the healing process.

One of our contributors said, "There are no shortcuts to grieving. We are going through the pain in order to heal, because pain does heal." -Dr Susan Zonnebelt-Smeenge

You can register on our church website or go to [www.GriefShare.org](http://www.GriefShare.org) for more information. You may also contact Rita Baker or Cal Gale here at FCC with any questions.

Link to register: [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org) or [fccnr.org](http://fccnr.org)



## PRAYER & WORSHIP NIGHT

January 12th

To conclude our prayer week of January 5-12th, we will be having an all-church Prayer & Worship gathering on Sunday, January 12th at 6pm. This gathering will be in the D Rooms.



## MEN'S MINISTRY

Quarterly Coffee Gathering

Join us for a morning to gather as Men of Faith and encourage each other to commit to daily devotions through reading programs, devotional books, or planning out your own systems. We will hear testimonies from men regarding their own journey of reading through the Bible in a year, what programs have been used, or what failures they have had and how to rebound. Let's use the new year as a "Fresh Start"!!!!

Day: Saturday, January 11th, 2025

Time: 7-8:30am

Where: FCC D-Rooms

**REGISTER HERE!**



## SAVE THE DATE

Men's Retreat

As we work out the final details, we encourage you to save the date for our Men's Retreat on March 21 and 22nd! Information will be out soon!



# children's ministry



We love seeing our KidZone alumni with their families during the holidays. We love it even more when we get to serve with them! :)

## CRAFTS, COCOA & CAROLING

We had a fantastic time at our first annual Crafts, Cocoa & Caroling event! Over sixty people got together to decorate cookies, make crafts and enjoy cocoa and cookies together before heading out to the Deerfield and the St. Croix Health Center for some caroling. Thank you to all who got together to make the fantastic cookies for this event (the ones we decorated, the ones we ate, and the ones we shared!). The overwhelming response was that we needed to do this again next year, so make sure to keep an eye out for it next December! What a wonderful opportunity to care for our local seniors while enjoying some great fellowship time together!



## CHRISTMAS IN KIDZONE

KidZone Kids celebrated Jesus' Birthday a little early on December 22nd with a party! Children's Church kids created a "birthday cake" for Jesus and had some popcorn for a treat, while Sunday school kids enjoyed lots of games, cupcakes and balloons with our emphasis being, Jesus' birth is the greatest gift of ALL!



Did you feel like it was a busy Christmas Eve at Faith Community Church? That's because it was! We went through 91 special Christmas "busy bags" for kids aged approximately 3-10. Praise God! Please pray for the children that received these bags. For the visiting children, and their families, to return. For the Lord to use the seeds planted at a Christmas Eve service to draw a generation to Himself and expand His Kingdom in New Richmond.



# children's ministry christmas program

## TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

### KidZone Christmas Program

This year, because of the changes to Sunday School and Children's Church, we needed to do our Christmas program practices outside of Sunday mornings. This meant we were able to create a program that included a play as well as singing that we shared with friends and family! A special thank you to Jill, Moriah, Emie, and Ethan Evans for all of their help in putting together, 'Twas The Night Before Christmas. Almost 30 Faith Community Kids participated in sharing the story of the very FIRST night before Christmas followed by refreshments and fellowship. If you didn't get a chance to attend this year, make sure to make time for it next year! It was a great opportunity to share the good news of our Savior's birth with all we know!



# women's ministry

## WOMEN IN THE WORD

### New 2025 Study

Our 12-week winter study of the Gospel of Mark began on January 8th. We are offering Wednesday morning and Wednesday evening studies as follows:



#### Wednesday Mornings:

Stephanie Langer is teaching the morning session from 9-10:30am which will run from Jan 8-Apr 30. The schedule and sign up can be found at this link: [Women's Morning Bible Study](#). Ladies are encouraged to jump in at any time. The morning session will also be taking a few breaks to participate in fellowship during Ladies' Time Out each month!

#### Wednesday Evenings:

Bobbi Blanchard is teaching the evening session from 6-7:30pm which will run from Jan 8-Apr 2. The schedule and sign up can be found at this link: [Women's Evening Bible Study](#). Ladies are encouraged to jump in at any time.

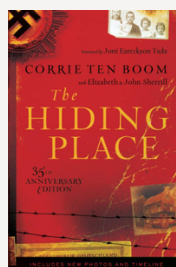
Registration for this study is \$7 which will include your book.

## MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

### Saturday, January 18th

Our monthly book club will be reading "The Hiding Place" by Corrie TenBoom for January. We will meet on January 18th from 10-Noon. A limited number of books are available in the FCC bookstore. Contact Connie with questions at 720-220-4180.

**The Hiding Place Description:** Corrie ten Boom was the first licensed female watchmaker in the Netherlands who became a heroine of the Resistance, a survivor of Hitler's concentration camps, and one of the most remarkable ministers of hope in the twentieth century."



January



February



March

## FALL STUDY WRAP UP

We finished up our Women's Ministry study on Matthew with a few gathering for a meal. It's not too late to sign up for our next study on Mark!



## SECRET SISTER

We're thrilled that Connie Schroeder has agreed to organize Secret Sister for us again this year! This is a lovely way to encourage and uplift another special lady through prayer. The program will run from January 12th to April 5th. During this time, feel free to send your Secret Sister notes, cards, and small gifts as a way to brighten her day. You can leave your items for your Secret Sister in the Ministry Exchange Room (next to the office), or you can mail your thoughtful messages as well. To wrap up our season together, we'll have a Brunch of Revelation on Saturday, April 5, from 10am to noon. This is the exciting moment when you'll finally meet your Secret Sister and share a special, heartfelt gift!

If you'd like to join in the fun, please grab a form at the Connection Point, fill it out, and return it by January 12th. We'll let you know the name of your Secret Sister on January 19th. If you have any questions or need anything along the way, don't hesitate to call or text Connie at 720-220-4180 or email [connieschroeder105@gmail.com](mailto:connieschroeder105@gmail.com).

Join us for:  
**SECRET SISTER**

January 12th: Return Forms Deadline  
January 19th: Find out who your "Secret Sister" is  
April 5th: Reveal Brunch

✦ Stop by the Connection Point to get started!

# women's ministry

## LADIES TIME OUT

Wednesday, January 15th

Ladies Time Out exists to provide an opportunity for ladies of any age and stage to get together for fellowship, encouragement and to 'do life' together. We hope these Christ-centered friendships will be a blessing to each woman who attends, and we always encourage you to bring a friend. Ladies meet EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY of the month from 9-11am in the cafe here at FCC and are encouraged to bring a little breakfast item to share if you are able! Coffee and childcare are provided! If you bring your small children, they will be watched safely in our new Education Wing! Please bring a water bottle for them. Please contact Brienna Schwartz for questions or more information [info@homeforever.org](mailto:info@homeforever.org).

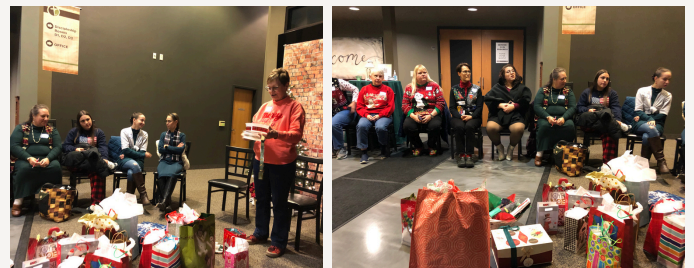
In December, LTO did their annual Christmas party & sock exchange. Thank you to all who came and made it a joyful celebration.



Miss Jamie, our faithful childcare volunteer, had the kids "riding the Polar Express" last month. Praise God for faithful and wonderful hearts like hers.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 7th, almost 30 ladies came out for a night of food, games and fellowship to celebrate the holidays! There was a fun gift exchange, devotion, and games to connect and get to know each other better. Thank you to all who planned and attended, and to all who stepped in to help last minute when some were sick! It is such a blessing to have and grow these beautiful relationships with Christ at the core.



## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The FCC Women's Ministry exists to equip women to be disciples who plant the church.

🌐 Visit our website here:

<https://www.fccnr.org/womensministry>

✉ Email Stephanie Langer here:

[stephanie.langer@homeforever.org](mailto:stephanie.langer@homeforever.org)

📖 Check out and subscribe to our blog here:

<http://fccnr.org/womens-ministry-blog>

📘 Follow us on Facebook here:

<https://www.facebook.com/FCCWMMnr>

## BUNGO GAME NIGHT

Sat, February 1st - [REGISTER HERE!](#)



Ladies 12+ are invited to join us for a fun evening of Bunco in the cafe here at FCC on Saturday, February 1st starting at 6:30pm! Bring along a snack to share, beverages will be provided, and there will be opportunities to win prizes!



# youth ministry

## IGNITE CONFERENCE

### For Youth and Leaders

We invite both our youth in grades 9-12, as well as anyone who enjoys working with youth, to join us for the Ignite Youth Conference in Des Moines, Iowa.

The goal of this conference is to equip and train students, youth workers, and volunteers with Biblical principles that will help each church or ministry towards reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The theme of this year's conference is FAITH!

**Dates & Times:** March 16-18, 2025

**Cost:** Early bird price is \$140 until JANUARY 31st. The price goes up to \$150 after that.

### What is included?

Cost includes your conference ticket and lunch on Saturday, hotel stay for 2 nights which includes a full breakfast both Saturday and Sunday morning, as well as a complimentary reception each evening from 5:30-7:30pm in their Sky Lobby atrium. This reception includes free beverages and snacks. Snacks include: trail mixes, fresh cut fruits/veggies, chips and dips, and more. (PLEASE NOTE DINNERS ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ARE NOT INCLUDED. Please send extra cash)

The conference will accommodate gluten free and vegetarian options.

### Chaperones:

If you are interested in being a chaperone for this event, your hotel and ticket will be covered!

More information about the conference can be found [HERE!](#)

[REGISTER HERE!](#)



## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM FCC YOUTH GROUP!



**MEALS! Our Youth Group LOVES the meals on Wednesday Nights! FCC Sponsors one meal a month, but we are looking to partner with you to help cover the rest! If you are willing to serve or deliver a meal for 50 kids on a Wednesday night, we would appreciate it! [SIGN UP HERE!](#)**



# verse of the month

## EPHESIANS 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith.  
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,  
not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Learn better to music? Here is a video to help learners, young and old: [LINK](#)



### MEMORY CARDS

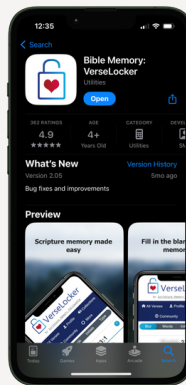
Our new memory verse card is available in the foyer for you to take home and use as a tool to help you memorize this month's scripture! They are located on a table as you exit the church. Hang them on your mirrors, tuck it in your wallet or your phone case, put it by the door... keep it handy to look at and memorize whenever you can!

### VERSE LOCKER

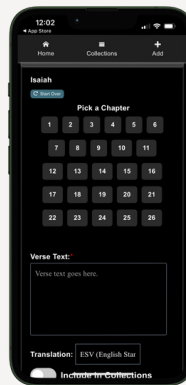
Looking for a new and useful way to learn your memory verse each month? The Verse Locker App is a great option!

Want to catch up?

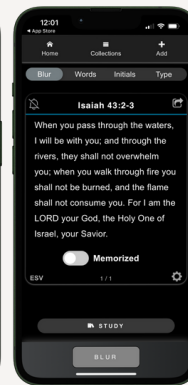
Head to our [website](#) to see all of our verses from the year!



Download the App [LINK HERE](#)



Choose your verse and edit as needed.



Start to memorize



Blur out more and more words until you have it memorized!

# sunday school

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Session 3 starting this Sunday - January 12th, 10-10:45am

**Option 1:** American Gospel Part 2

**Dates:** January 12th - February 16th

**Teacher:** Pastor Patrick Mostek

**Location:** Worship Center

**Description:** This class will be going through the American Gospel Christ Crucified video, and will also have a time of discussion and questions.

**Video Description:** The gospel message of "Christ crucified" has always been offensive. In our culture it is common for preachers to soften the offense of the cross, and the attributes of God that are displayed in the person and work of Jesus Christ. "American Gospel: Christ Crucified" explores how the paths of post-modernism and progressive Christianity lead to a different gospel, and a god created in our own image.



*"But we preach Christ Crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness..." (1 Cor. 1:23)*

Some Questions We Will Address:

- We often hear the phrase, "Jesus died for our sins." What does that mean?
- Is the God of the Old Testament the same as the God in the New Testament?
- Did God the Father kill Jesus?
- Can a loving God also express wrath?
- Why is hell necessary?

**SIGN UP HERE!**

**Option 2:** Know Your God Part 2

**Dates:** January 12 - February 16

**Teacher:** Dave Mobley

**Location:** D Rooms

**Description:** During part 1 we talked about the attributes of God which belong to God only. Part 2 we will be looking at attributes of God which we are called to reflect in Christ Jesus. One primary source for our class will be "In His Image" by Jen Wilkin. If you would like to get a head start, we have some copies available in the bookstore, and they will be available in class.

**SIGN UP HERE!**

## KNOW YOUR GOD - PART 2

Sunday School Class | January 12 - February 16 | 10-10:45am



Limited Copies will be available for \$5.00 during class.

**CLICK HERE** to order a copy online.

# the joy of serving

## COCOA CRAFTS AND CAROLING

### Recap by Sue Kostroski

Over 60 people joined this event on December 21st! We enjoyed a time of fellowship while we made ornaments to give to the residents at the Deerfield and at the St. Croix County Healthcare Center. The kids also decorated cookies. Preparation for this event began on Wednesday the 18th when 4 ladies gathered in the church kitchen to bake cookies. If you have ever seen the comedy play "The Church Basement Ladies", that was what our day was like. We laughed and talked and just had fun baking cookies together. Some of the cookies were packaged to give to the residents and some were set aside for the children to decorate. After fellowship and crafting, most of the group headed out caroling. They were a blessing to the residents, but they were also blessed to bring the joy of Christmas to others.

**[Check out the Recap Video HERE](#)**



## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

### Where will you jump in?

God is so good. He has wired us to serve and do good works!

Eph. 2:10: *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do.*

We are created to serve God and others, and we experience joy when we are fulfilling God's purpose for us. God also prepares for us opportunities to serve, like baking cookies, or making ornaments, or singing Christmas carols for shut-ins. There are many serving opportunities here at FCC. Here are a few:

- Greeting on Sunday mornings for the second service
- Coffee clean up one Sunday a month ([Contact Jamie Aune](#))
- Decorating the Church for the seasons and holidays ([Contact Katy Everett](#))
- Nursery help during church & Children's Sunday school teacher ([Contact Bobbi Blanchard](#))
- Youth Group Leaders & Meals ([Contact Michael Hedges](#))

**[Head HERE for other ways to get involved!](#)**

## JOIN THE HOSPITALITY TEAM

### Training/Info Meeting January 19th

If you are on the Hospitality Team or looking for a great place to start serving, we invite you to join us for a training and information meeting on Sunday, January 19th at 12:30pm here at FCC. Lunch will be provided! Please **[REGISTER HERE](#)** so we can order the right amount of food! Thank you!

**HOSPITALITY TEAM MEETING & TRAINING**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH**  
**12:30-2PM IN D-ROOMS**

FOR ANYONE ON THE TEAM OR INTERESTED IN JOINING!

PLEASE RSVP ONLINE SO WE CAN PLAN FOR FOOD

## VIDA REAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

### San Pablo, Guatemala

On Sunday, December 8, 2024, Pastor Antonio, accompanied by three church leaders of Vida Real, all traveled 2 hours to the village of Sipresales, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, for service at a new church plant of Vida Real. Four families will begin this church and their excitement of having a Bible teaching church prompted them to invite many people from the community, including the mayor, to attend their first service where Pastor Antonio delivered a message from the book of Luke 19:1-8.



L-R: Felipe Porón, and Pastor Antonio Moxnay, of Vida Real; Gregorio Álvarez, Isaías Ruiz, José Ruiz, members of the Sipresales church plant; Mateo Porón, and Masedonio Ujpan of Vida Real



At a church service held in a borrowed space in Sipresales on Dec. 29, 2024, Santo Ulajuj, a new believer, shared his testimony of how his life has changed since receiving Christ. Pastor Antonio refers to Santo's salvation as "the first fruits of the work". As Santo shared, a family came forward, knelt, and began praying - perhaps praying for God to enter their hearts as well. Pastor Antonio says, "God is good, it's time to sow the seed in this place."

### Pastor Antonio's prayer requests for this church plant:

- Pray for God to continue doing a mighty work amongst the people.
- For God to provide land and the provision to build a church building.

The first of its kind celebration meal was a huge blessing to the Vida Real church family's Christmas Eve service. Pastor Antonio would like to thank Faith Community Church for the kindness in providing this special meal which the adults & children loved, and a huge thank you for the gifts that were a delight to the children. You may notice from the photos that the bread was an extra special treat!



On December 31st, a service was held with unique music and many from the community accepted an invitation to attend. Pastor Antonio preached a message of "preparing the ground for the new harvest" based on Jeremiah 4:3. Once again, a special treat of bread was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Classes will begin for the faith-based school of Vida Real on January 10, 2025, with 16 teachers and an estimated 150 students in grades 1st through 6th grade. These students will be the benefactors of a loving, faith-based curriculum.

### Pastor Antonio's prayer request for the church and school:

- Pray for the teachers, that their faith may be eternal, and that God may provide everything needed.
- Pray that there may be a Christ-centered education in everything.
- Pray for Pastor Antonio to be able to serve well as both head of the school and pastor of the church.
- For God to provide sponsorship for all students with a desire to attend school.
- Health, safety and stamina for Pastor Antonio as he travels to San Pablo each day.
- Prayers for God's protection and provision, and the health and safety of his family: wife, Cata; children, Ana, Nancy (Erick), and Pedro (Liz); and grandchildren Ana, Jorge, and Hale



## PASTOR MIKE EVANS

### Training Leaders International

Pastors Mike Evans, Stu Dix and Larry Szyman will begin the journey back to Gulu, Uganda on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, for the first of 3 TLI teaching sessions for 2025. This faithful team of men will begin teaching the weeklong session of Biblical education to the current cohort of pastoral students on Monday, January 13. There continues to be no shortage of African men with a desire to learn how to teach the Bible and make an impact in their communities.

Mike also shared this exciting development in Africa: Just a few weeks ago, two of the Ugandan leaders, Pastors Benson and Sunday (trained by the team from Wisconsin), traveled to Kenya to join with two TLI staff trainers to lead a "taster" event for a potential new cohort in Kenya. Mike had no concerns about the giftedness of Benson and Sunday, but all wanted to see how the Kenyan leaders would receive Ugandan trainers. During the event, Mike received a message from a TLI trainer. He said, "The leaders here are grateful an American trainer and a Canadian trainer has come. But, they are celebrating that trained Africans have come to teach them!" Plans are now being developed for a cohort in Kenya next year that will include Ugandan trainers! PRAISE GOD!

### Ofu Loso:

Pastors Chandiga John, Ameku Godfrey, and the rest of the training team will take what they've learned through the TLI training into the Adjumani refugee settlements in January and February. Through support from Faith Community Church, these men will be able to give their students paper copies of this Biblical teaching. This is in addition to the Bibles FCC supplied in May of 2024. Having copies of this training will add another necessary tool for them to effectively share and teach the Bible. The pastoral students of Ofu Loso will then be able to share these valuable Bible education lessons with those in their own settlement community.

**Submitted by Jackie Warner  
FCC Mission Team**

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our area's shoeboxes were sent to the Samaritan's Purse processing center in Aurora, Illinois, where the boxes were processed and will be shipped to the following countries: Trinidad & Tobago, Suriname, Jamaica, Guyana, eSwatini, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Grenada, Belize, Republic of Congo, Mauritius, Madagascar and two "sensitive" countries.



We packed two semi-trailers so full, that a U-Haul trailer was rented in December, and the "leftover shoeboxes" were delivered to Aurora by a small group of people from our area. They served with volunteers from around the country processing shoeboxes for the countries of Malawi and Jamaica on the two days they volunteered.

Have you tracked the destination country of your shoebox gift? Look for the Operation Christmas Child map in the foyer area to map your box and see where past years boxes from Faith Community have been sent.

**Submitted by Jackie Warner  
Operation Christmas Child Volunteer**

## HOW TO EAT YOUR BIBLE:

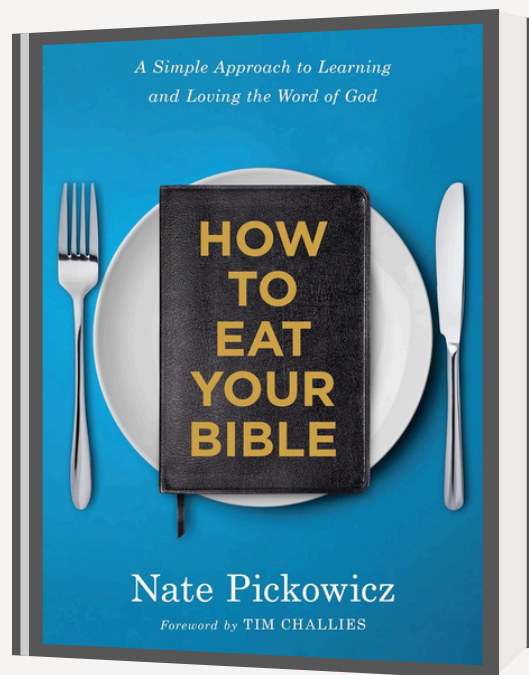
### A Simple Approach to Learning and Loving the Word of God

Over the last decade, each January, I have started a read-through-the-Bible-in-a-year plan. This has blessed me in big ways. I have grown in my understanding of the comprehensive story of the Bible, God's character, humanity's sinfulness and our need for a Savior. But, I have also noticed a tendency to forget a lot of details as soon as I walk away from my daily reading.

This year, I found myself hungering for a deeper grasp of God's Word. Something that sticks with me as I walk through my day, a help in setting my mind on the things above (Col 3:2). I want a more intense, intimate knowing of Christ. I don't remember how I picked up this book, but I am so thankful I did! In reading Nate Picowicz's book, "How To Eat Your Bible: A Simple Approach to Learning and Loving the Word of God", I found an author with a heart that mirrors my own.

Nate begins by humbly sharing his once lack of biblical knowledge and understanding that came simply out of his lack of thorough reading. He was starving himself, like so many Christians, and he felt lost. In God's providence, Nate was led to a long-term, in depth, study plan that changed how he drew near to God's Word. Instead of a quick in and out approach to verses, he began to dig in, consume the Bible with delight and ingest it for nourishment. He began to truly know the whole counsel of God in order to better know and obey God Himself.

"How To Eat Your Bible" is based on verses such as Jesus' words in Matthew 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" and Jeremiah 15:16, "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart". This book is short, informative and very practical. It explains why the Bible is infinitely important, how to get the most out of your reading time and ends with a flexible program for life-long study.



I gladly recommend this book, especially for those who are intimidated by the Bible, those who don't know where to begin or even for those who doubt that God's Word is all that it says it is - "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb 4:12). "How To Eat Your Bible" would also be a great companion book for those going through Pastor Patrick's discipleship book on the Bible. As the author says, "Learning to love God's Word is not just possible, it's doable".

**Melissa Evans**

“

“...my prayer for you is that your heart would ignite for the Lord, that your desire for His Word would consume your waking thoughts, and that your love for Christ would abound in all joy and thanksgiving.”

”

coming up

## COVENANT MEMBER MEETINGS

### 2025 Dates

Covenant Members, here are the dates of our 2025 Covenant Member Meetings! Get them on your calendars so you can join us for these quarterly gatherings. These meetings provide the opportunity to hear what is going on both currently and in the future with our ministries, hear from leadership, and spend time surrounded by your church family. We hope you can join us!

**February 16 | May 4 | August 17 | December 7**



## RUBY'S PANTRY

**January 16, 2025**

After much deliberation, prayer, and phone calls, we decided to cancel Ruby's Pantry last month due to weather, road conditions and to ensure the safety of our volunteers and patrons. So, we are really looking forward to distribution next week, January 16th. There are still MANY slots open to volunteer if you are able! **SIGN UP HERE!**

Looking for a way to stretch your food budget? For just \$25/share, Ruby's Pantry offers a variety of foods for you and your family. This ministry distributes food to over 150 families each and every month here in New Richmond, offers prayer, and shares the Gospel with everyone who comes through the line.



## SEASONED SAINTS

**Monday, January 12th**

Seasoned Saints will be gathering next Monday, January 12th for "Soup du Jour". Everyone is invited to bring their favorite soup or a salad. We will taste test and pass on the Golden Ladle to the winner.

If you aren't already receiving emails, **register HERE** to be added to our "roster" to be kept in the loop!

Want to help with hosting or sharing fun ideas for the luncheons held the 2nd Monday of each month? Please call or text Deb Jensen at 715-441-5004!

Last month our Seasoned Saints enjoyed some time of fellowship at the church and then headed out to The Deerfield to do some Christmas Caroling!



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEAL

**Tuesday, January 14th - 5-6pm**

You are invited to attend the Community Outreach Meal for Everyone - every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 5-6 pm.

This no cost meal is served monthly at:  
The United Methodist Church  
209 E. Second Street  
New Richmond, WI

This month, Faith Community Church is sponsoring the meal. We hope to see you there!





# love baskets

## THANK YOU!

Faith Community partnered with Love Baskets this year and it was a blessing to both the givers and recipients! We "adopted" 10 families with 28 children in total that were in need of some help this holiday season. Our small groups covered 19 kids and the church came around the remaining 9 and covered every single need. FCC and Ruby's Pantry also made a donation to each family, and shared the gospel along with an invitation to church to each of these 10 families. THANK YOU to all who donated to this local organization, and for your prayers over these families.

Love Baskets serves NR area families with gifts made possible through generous community donations, like the ones you provided!



All of the bags were sorted with gifts for each family to be picked up during Love Basket's distribution day!

## EMAIL

### From Love Baskets

Subject: We did it again!

With your help we blessed over 1,000 local children with a Merry Christmas!

We appreciate your commitment to the organizing, shopping and delivering of many bags of toys and clothes requested by the kids.

Love Baskets has been covering this need for over 30 years, currently partnering with our local Salvation Army and Toys for Tots groups.

Thank You for sponsoring needy families this holiday season, We hope to see you again in 2025.

We wish you a prosperous New Year.  
Stay safe,  
Deb & the Love Baskets Committee



## WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS GREAT OUTREACH AGAIN IN NOV/DEC 2025

# THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

## Current Sermon Series

After a brief sermon series going through the first part of Luke, we are back in Matthew! Join us as we delve into the gospel of Matthew to behold the glory of the person and work of Jesus Christ. It's all about Jesus!



# COVENANT MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

## Join the FCC Family

We have had a great number of people expressing interest in becoming Covenant Members here at FCC. Praise God! Keep an eye on the events tab of the website to see when our next classes will be, or email the **church office** anytime if you feel like this is the next step you want to take! Our next date is this week: Friday, January 10th from 5:30-8pm. Sign up online if you want to join the class: [LINK](#)

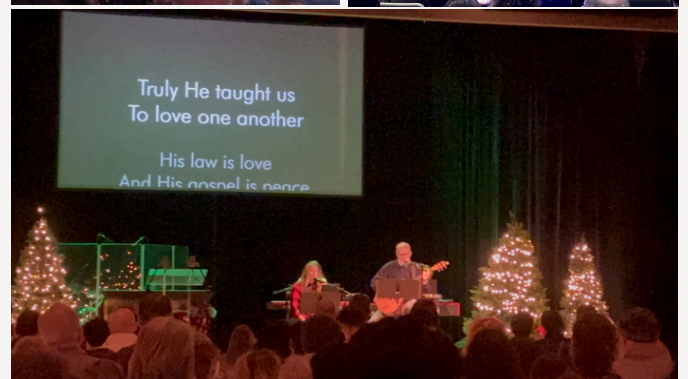
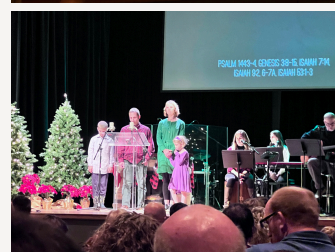
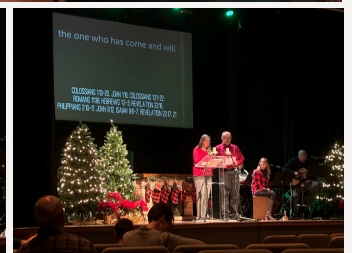
We have another class on Saturday, February 8th from 9-11:30am: [LINK](#)



# CHRISTMAS EVE

## Candlelight Services

We had 570 people in attendance for our Christmas Eve Candlelight services. It was a beautiful night of scripture readings and songs as we celebrated the birth of our Savior. Thank you to all who participated in the service as we welcomed many new and familiar faces.



**GIVING**  
[fccnr.org/give](http://fccnr.org/give)

Your generosity and faithful giving help Faith Community Church continue the mission of making disciples and provide the classes, events, and opportunities towards that mission. Thank you!

**Other Ways to Give: LINK**

**In Person:** Drop cash or check in the offering box located in wall by each door going into the worship gathering.

**Mail check to:** Faith Community Church  
1040 Paperjack Drive  
New Richmond, WI 54017

**Bill Pay:** Set-up your gift using your bank or credit union's automatic bill pay service, with payment directed to Faith Community Church at the address above. Most bill pay services allow you to set-up a recurring payment so your tithe and offering can continue uninterrupted.

**Tithe.ly App:** With features like easy recurring giving and QuickGive, it's never been easier to give. Download the tithe.ly app on to your mobile device. If you have already created an online giving account just 'Sign In' on the app with your account credentials. Otherwise click 'Create Account' and follow the prompts. When asked to find your church, entering FCC's street address "1040 Paperjack Drive" works best.

**Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity!**

**GIVING STATEMENTS FOR 2024 WILL BE AVAILABLE STARTING JANUARY 19TH, 2025.**

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**Month of November**

(000s)	Actual	Budgeted
Giving	52	61
Operating Expenditures	76	75

Our online giving platform, Tithe.ly, is easy-to-use and will allow you to make both one-time and recurring gifts with a credit/debit card or ACH transaction from your checking account. You can create your Faith Community Church online giving account in Tithe.ly by clicking [HERE](#). If you need additional help, the steps are outlined on our donor instruction page by clicking [HERE](#).

For more information, visit our Giving page or contact our support team at [giving@homeforever.org](mailto:giving@homeforever.org).



**The Cheerful Giver**

2 Corinthians 9:6-9




*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. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."*

**CONNECT**

**We are the Church.**

Join us every Sunday morning at 8:30am or 11:00am for in person services, and continue your knowledge of God and the Christian life by participating in our Sunday School hour from 10am-10:45am - All Ages are Welcome!

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!

-  [@fccnewrichmond](https://www.facebook.com/fccnewrichmond)
-  [@faithcommunitynr](https://www.youtube.com/fccnr)
-  [fccnr.org](http://fccnr.org)

# calendar of events

## JANUARY 2025

- 1st: **HAPPY NEW YEAR!! (Office Closed)**
- 2nd: **Trustee Meeting 6-8pm**  
**Worship Team Practice 6:30-8:30pm**
- 3rd: n/a
- 4th: **Men's Study 7-8am**
- 5th: **PRAYER WEEK: JANUARY 5-12**  
**Worship at 8:30am and 11:00am with Communion**  
**Coffee Hour 10-10:45am**  
**KidZone Christmas Party 12:30pm**
- 6th: n/a
- 7th: **Mission Meeting 6-8pm**
- 8th: **Men's Study 6-7am**  
**Ladies Bible Study 9-10:30am**  
**FCC Youth Group (Meal for ALL) 6-8:30pm**  
**Women's Bible Study 6-7:30pm**  
**Elder Meeting 6:30-7:30pm**
- 9th: **Worship Practice 6:30-8:30pm**
- 10th: **Covenant Member Class 6:30-8pm**
- 11th: **Men's Breakfast 7-8:30am**  
**Crochet Event 9am-noon**
- 12th: **Worship 8:30am and 11am**  
**Sunday School 10-10:45am**  
**Prayer and Worship Night 6pm**
- 13th: **Seasoned Saints Lunch 12-2pm**  
**GriefShare 6-8pm**
- 14th: **Community Outreach Meal 5-6pm**  
**Counseling Team Meeting 6:30-8pm**
- 15th: **Men's Study 6-7am**  
**Ladies Time Out 9-11am**  
**FCC Youth Group (Meal for HS) 6-8:30pm**  
**Women's Bible Study 6-7:30pm**  
**Elder Meeting 6:30-7:30pm**
- 16th: **Ruby's Pantry 4-7pm**  
**Worship Practice 6:30-8:30pm**
- 17th: n/a
- 18th: **Men's Study 7-8am**  
**Women's Book Club 10-noon**
- 19th: **Worship 8:30am and 11am**  
**Sunday School 10-10:45am**  
**Hospitality Team Lunch & Training 12:30pm**
- 20th: **Ministry Team Meeting 6-8pm**  
**GriefShare 6-8pm**
- n/a
- 21st: **Men's Study 6-7am**
- 22nd: **Ladies Bible Study 9-10:30am**  
**FCC Youth Group (Meal for HS) 6-8:30pm**  
**Women's Bible Study 6-7:30pm**  
**Elder Meeting 6:30-7:30pm**
- 23rd: **Worship Practice 6:30-8:30pm**
- n/a
- 24th: **Men's Study 7-8am**
- 25th: **Crochet Event: 9am**
- 26th: **Worship 8:30am and 11am**  
**Sunday School 10-10:45am**
- 27th: **GriefShare 6-8pm**
- n/a
- 28th: **Men's Study 6-7am**
- 29th: **Ladies Bible Study 9-10:30am**  
**FCC Youth Group (Meal for HS) 6-8:30pm**  
**Women's Bible Study 6-7:30pm**  
**Elder Meeting 6:30-7:30pm**
- 30th: **Trustee Meeting 6-8pm**  
**Worship Team Practice 6:30-8:30pm**
- 31st: **Elder Planning Night**
- 1st: **Elder Planning Cont.**  
**Men's Study 7-8am**  
**Ladies Bunco Night 6:30pm**

