



Life Together

Monthly Newsletter of
First Christian Church Wayne City
May 2020

Birthdays & Celebrations

- 5.3 Jayla Pendleton/Donna Talbert
- 5.8 Brianna Rainwater
- 5.10 Mother's Day
- 5.11 John Davis
- 5.12 Alivia Cook
- 5.13 Colleen Clayton
- 5.18 Meghan Hedden
- 5.19 Shannon Pendleton
- 5.24 Bennie Greenwalt
- 5.25 Brittany McCoy
Memorial Day
- 5.27 Shannon Withrow
- 5.28 Staci Mays
- 5.31 Marcie Caldwell

Calendar of Events

Online Services Always Available
Events to come soon.

Life as we know it has changed...your discouragement is understandable. A lot is happening in the world right now. Everyone is on edge. When will this pandemic pass? When can I go back to work? How will I pay my bills? When can we gather again? Perhaps your church isn't doing so well. Maybe you're tired, or disheartened. Maybe you're hurt.

Don't give up. The church is worth the effort.

Some churches fight, a lot. Hostile churches need someone to be the example. Show them how to fight *for* a church, not *with* a church. Be brave.

Don't give up. The church is worth the effort.

Some churches are the center of everyone's jokes. I don't think Jesus has ever-or ever will- ridicule a church. Jesus has a great sense of humor but the church is His bride. Every congregation deserves someone who will lovingly shepherd toward a greater purpose. Be resilient.

Don't give up. The church is worth the effort.

Some churches are immature. Churches don't disciple properly without a mature shepherd. Be determined.

Don't give up. The church is worth the effort.

It's hard, but worth it. The Groom is with you-always. He's built the church to overcome. Don't give up. You (the church) are worth it.

~Thom Rainer~

FCCWC would like to congratulate and offer prayer for our 2020 graduates!

Jordan Wheat - Frontier Community College
Travis Dickey - Wayne City High School
Kateland Finley - Fairfield Community High School
Jayla Pendleton - Wayne City High School
Dawson Robertson - Wayne City High School
Jesse Abbott - Wayne City Jr. High
Ashton Bullard - Wayne City Jr. High
Kayla Sexton - Wayne City Jr. High
Sam Williams - Wayne City Jr. High



I WILL GO
before you
AND MAKE THE
crooked places
STRAIGHT.



May! The month that is packed full of celebrations - Mother's Day, Graduation and Memorial Day! But, this year May is very different from years of past. We still have the opportunity to celebrate, but much more creatively. The challenge of COVID-19 has forced us to think outside the "norm" and pushed us into new frontiers. Change brings with it growth. Sometimes our lives have to be shaken up and completely rearranged to bring us where God wants us to be. We can either choose to go back toward safety or we can move forward in our growth. Growth must be chosen, again and again. Fear must be overcome, again and again. The question is, Are you up for the challenge where growth will lead us? The verse that comes to mind for me is Isaiah 43:19 (NIV) - See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

God values our growth. Until we are uncomfortable, desperate, and despairing, we often don't recognize and seek His power. During a crisis, we present our requests to Him in prayer pretty quick. But let's not forget to confess our sins or to praise and thank God for who He is and what He does in crisis or not. God is good, He has always been good, and always does good. Praying from this perspective will change what you expect from God (even in crisis) and will change how you love and worship Him.

We have been offered a window for a slower paced life. A quarantine reminds us how much we need meaningful, physical connection to the people we know and love. Instead of using technology as a social escape, use it for intentional interactions with others for the sole purpose of love and friendliness, and focus on real conversation.
(Galatians 5:22-26)

God gives us the power to live courageously, boldly, fearlessly in this life, when many things that surround us would tell us to be afraid. His truth whispers strong and sure to the deepest core of our spirits. All of that stuff on your mind? Give it to Him - again. Replace those fearful thoughts with His words of truth. And sleep in peace tonight. He knows what concerns you, He's got you covered!

Are you prepared for what God is going to bring us in May? NEW THINGS!!! We are so excited to announce our upcoming 'Drive In Worship' service coming this Sunday, May 3rd at 10:30 am. What a wonderful way to start May!! So, here are some important details to explain what this service will look like.

- 1) This is a no contact service, so everyone must remain in their vehicle at all times.
- 2) Please follow all instructions/directions given by people directing traffic/parking.
- 3) Church building will not be available for use of any reason, so please take care of any needs you (or children) may have at home before attending this drive in service.
- 4) Come prepared to Worship and Praise God for all His goodness!!

This is only the beginning of the new things that will be taking place in May. Watch for upcoming details of future events that are meant to share the Good News and God's Love with our community and beyond.

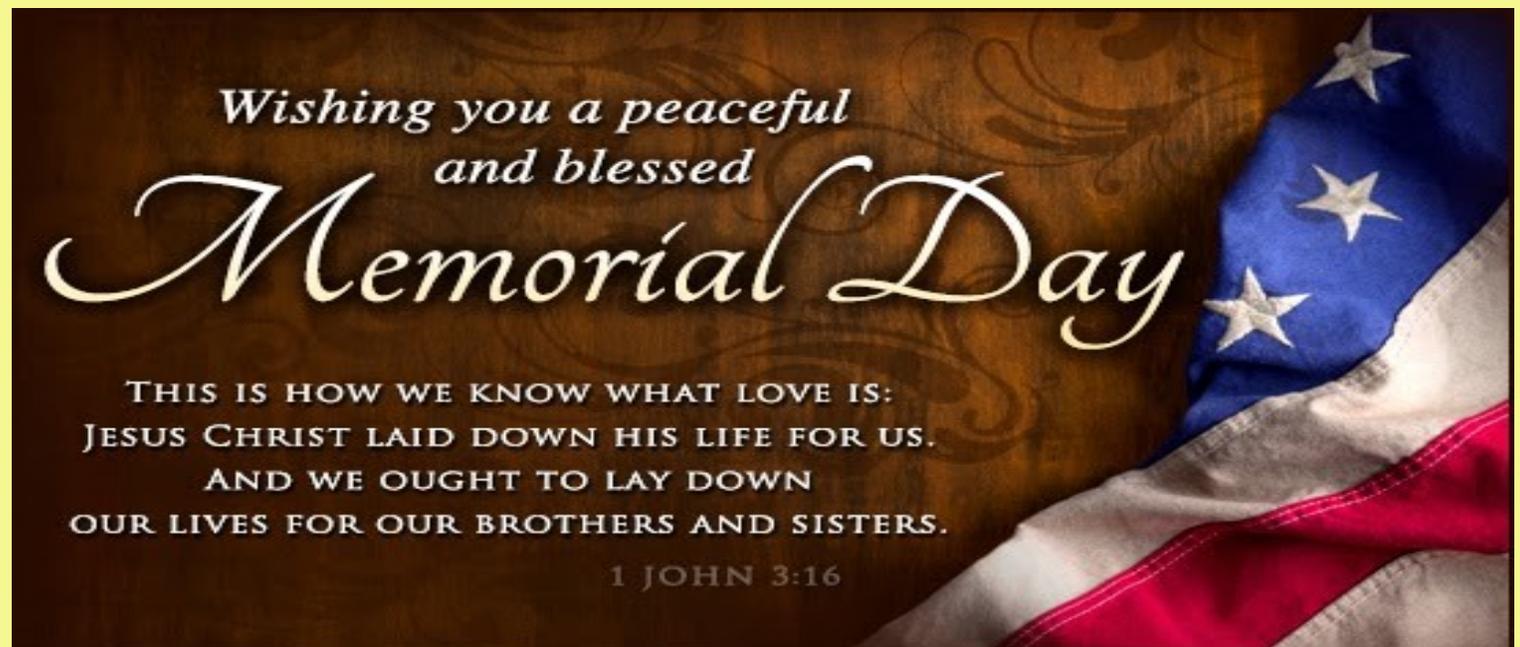


A Mother's Day Prayer

Dear Lord,

*Please watch over
and support all mothers
on earth and in heaven . . .*

*and help them to know how much
they are loved and appreciated
on Mother's Day and every day.*



Hello Church Family,

Our Pastor, Steve Griswold, asked me to answer a few questions and put my answers in writing for this month's newsletter. So here we go.

Question 1: Why and how I love our church?

Our church family has a lot to offer! I think we offer assistance and guidance to and for our community. We help individuals. We help families. We help at our school. We help anyone or a family who needs a funeral dinner. We help people in our church family when there is a crisis happening. And we also celebrate together when great things are going on. Jesus said in John 15:12, "Love each other as I have loved you." As long as we continue to love each other in the church family and strive to love our neighbor, everything will be okay. A way that we always show our love for each other is in our fellowship and time together. I love small group studies and I love the Men's Bible Studies in our barns. We cook, we eat, and we study! That is a great combination.

Question 2: What I miss most at this time?

Even though we have been able to reach each other and hundreds of other people outside the church by online services, nothing can replace the experience and the unity, while we worship together on Sunday mornings. I miss that! I miss getting together for Sunday School, which is before Worship. I miss the visiting we have before Sunday School. But on Sunday mornings it seems as though that the entire morning leads us to Worshiping together. What is Worship? Well, our lives should express Worship to God every day of the week. But Sunday mornings, Worship is when we come together as God's family of believers to sing praises and lift up His name. We are reminded each week on Sunday mornings who we are as Christians. We are reminded of our personal responsibility to live our lives to please our Heavenly Father. We are reminded to tell others about the beauty of knowing Jesus Christ. Those are just a few things that I really miss at this time.

Question 3: How excited I will be when we can get together again?

I am excited about the first Sunday we can come together again. Because we need each other! I want to say "Thank You" to a few people who have thought of my family over the past few weeks. We really have appreciated that. God wants us to be together for many reasons. We accomplish more when we are working, planning, and praying together. Another reason why I am excited about us all coming back together is because I think we are going to see new faces. While we have been away doing what we do, we have also touched lives. Hopefully those lives will want to know more about us, our church family, and how they can learn more about Jesus. Looking forward to seeing you all and also our new people.

Randall Shively

FCCWC Elder

From the desk of the Pastor

Waiting and sitting on Ready!

These days of uncertainty has caused many emotions and anxiety. Forty four percent of our country believes this epidemic is a wakeup call from God! Twenty nine percent see this as a Biblical "Last Days" event! God is speaking to people! Amen?

As statistics come in, Christians are the front line observers to pray for that open door to return to our church buildings and our ministries! Are we waiting and ready!

Ed Stetzer, a Christian writer and culture expert, is helping the local church by posting broadcasts and teaching plans for the "Launch" of the local church. Ed is also the co-writer of our "Breaking the Missional Code" books we are studying on Sunday nights at church.

Ed has listed four things we should do as we wait:

Pace yourself- this is a marathon not a sprint

Stop rushing through the pain- many are hurting and need us

Receive in addition to giving- allow others to bless you too

Spend time now doing things you need to do- rest/read/refresh

I know we are ready to "Launch" church life ASAP! Don't waste your time we have now by not taking care of ourselves first. It's not selfish; it's taking the time to renew ourselves before we move out into battle!

Battlefields that will be in our future will be depression, loss of loved ones, food needs, financial needs, counseling, mentoring, teaching, worship, and fellowship! God has placed all of us in this body to do the work that will be needed!

Galatians 6:9 "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

I'm waiting and ready like you... Continue to prepare as mighty soldiers together to minister to our community! Soon we move out!

Equip yourself,

Pastor Steve