

Welcome to Faith

March 27, 2022

Prayer Requests

RECENT DEATHS

Elizabeth Harrison's mother

OTHER

Nora Hopper

LOCAL COMMUNITY, NATIONAL, OR CULTURAL NEEDS

Missionaries & Christian Brothers/Sisters helping Ukrainian Refugees
The leaders and people of Ukraine and Russia

Mulch Madness

Join us Saturday, April 9, at Faith North from 8:30am-12:00pm. We will pull weeds, pick up trash, spread mulch, and more! If you are able, please bring wheelbarrows, gloves, garden & edging tools, or rakes. Signup online at www.faithlafayette.org/mulch and any questions email darthur@faithlafayette.org

Good Friday

Join us Friday, April 15, at 7pm at Faith East for our Good Friday service. All campuses are encouraged to join us for this special evening of worship as we consider the tremendous price paid for our redemption. faithlafayette.org/easter

Introduction to Faith

It's not too late to sign up! Introduction to Faith continues this Wednesday, April 6, from 6:30-8:00pm at Faith West. We are also offering classes at Faith East, April 27. Sign up online at faithlafayette.org/intro

Faith Community Institute

Faith Community Institute is a great way to connect with other people in the community, learn valuable life skills, and grow in your relationship with the Lord. We have a variety of classes that will begin Wednesday, April 13. Find more info and sign up at faithlafayette.org/fci

Church Family Night

Join us tonight at 5pm at Faith East for Church Family Night. New member/update photos will be in Jeremy Vegter's office from 4:15-4:45pm.

Last Week's Offering - \$58,557.25

Weekly Budget - \$74,195

Last Week Sunday Worship - 1,734

Children's Ministry

2^{YR} - 5TH grade

Pastor Trey and his friends will be uploading encouraging videos at faithlafayette.org/kidsvids.

You can find this week's online children's Sunday School lesson at blogs.faithlafayette.org/faithkids. You can use the ideas below to discuss the lesson as a family.

GOD DELIVERS DANIEL FROM THE LIONS' DEN

READ: ESTHER

ASK YOUR CHILD:

- How did Esther become queen? *The king selected her from among all the women of the kingdom.*
- How did God use Esther to protect His people? *God used Esther to intercede for her people.*

EMPHASIZE THIS PRINCIPLE: GOD PRESENTS US WITH REDEMPTIVE OPPORTUNITIES, AND WE SHOULD BE READY TO SEIZE THEM.

PRACTICE:

- Praise God for His sovereign care.
- Be courageous by doing right.

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK: NEHEMIAH 1-10

MEMORIZE FOR MAR 13-APR 10: ...IN REFERENCE TO YOUR FORMER MANNER OF LIFE, YOU LAY ASIDE THE OLD SELF, WHICH IS BEING CORRUPTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LUSTS OF DECEIT, AND THAT YOU **BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND, AND PUT ON THE NEW SELF,** WHICH IN THE LIKENESS OF GOD HAS BEEN CREATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS OF THE TRUTH. **EPHESIANS 4:22-24***

* PRESCHOOL VERSE IN BOLD

Caleb's Kin Fellowship

Join us for our monthly fellowship at 10am on Tuesday, April 5, in the Senior Living Clubhouse for an uplifting musical concert presented by FCS Ministry Chorale, a challenge from FCS Pastor/ Superintendent Scott Grass, and, of course, some fantastic food and fellowship. The cost is \$5 for the catered meal, but first-time guests eat for free (as do any seniors for whom the cost is a hardship). Questions? Contact Alisha Vegter (765) 350-0919 or Roseanna Beecher (765) 337-1699.

Caleb's Kin Activity

Make plans to laugh the night away while watching this year's FCS high school production, *You Can't Take It With You*. Caleb's Kin will be attending this three-act play as a group at 6:30pm on Thursday, April 7. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased, while they last, from Chris Blankenship: 765-430-4422 or sellpower@aol.com

Your Pastors

Steve Viars - Senior Pastor

sviars@faithlafayette.org
765.237.7550

Faith Church East 8:00AM

Johnny Kjaer - Student Ministries

jkjaer@faithlafayette.org
765.413.7927

Trey Garner - Children's Ministries

tgarnier@faithlafayette.org
765.237.2700

Faith Church East 9:30AM

Dustin Folden - Adult Ministries

dfolden@faithlafayette.org
765.418.7271

Brent Aucoin - Soul Care

baucoin@faithlafayette.org
765.714.6866

Faith Church East 11:00AM

Rob Green - Faith East

rgreen@faithlafayette.org
765.413.0442

Greg Wetterlin - Restoration

gwetterlin@faithlafayette.org
720.331.1035

Faith Church West 9:30AM

Josh Greiner - Faith West

jgreiner@faithlafayette.org
219.616.7745

Stefan Nitzschke - College Ministries

snitzschke@faithlafayette.org
765.409.2600

Faith Church West 11:00AM

Aaron Birk - International Ministries

abirk@faithlafayette.org
765.586.6767

Faith Church North

Rod Hutton - Northend

rhutton@faithlafayette.org
402.972.5298

David Mora - Northend

dmora@faithlafayette.org
443.489.6331

Growing in Gospel Gratitude
By Pressing Toward the Goal
Philippians 3:12-16

4 vital reminders for believers regarding the “one thing” of the Christian life

“One thing” paraphrased and defined from verses 8-11: I might know intimately and thoroughly my God and Savior Jesus Christ (v. 8, 10) in such a way that I choose by faith the beauty of Christ and His ways of righteousness (v. 9) - allowing me to experience true life amidst the sufferings of this world (v. 10) - which then makes my previous ways horrid to me (v. 10) - to arrive safely home (v. 11)

I. Humbling _____ - I Will Not Reach Fully the “One Thing” in My Lifetime

Philippians 3:12,13 - *Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect (mature)... Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet...*

- Humbling - the removal of my self-focus
- Process - a life-long journey after my conversion to Christ

“I have arrived” attitude - “The spiritually proud man is full of light already, he does not need instruction, and is ready to despise the offer of it.” (Jonathan Edwards, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards, Volume One*, chapter X, Part IV, Section 1)

“I have not arrived” attitude - In God you come up against something which is in every respect immeasurably superior to yourself. Unless you know God as that - and, therefore, know yourself as nothing in comparison - you do not know God at all. As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you. That raises a terrible question. How is it that people who are quite obviously eaten up with Pride can say they believe in God and appear to themselves very religious? I am afraid it means they are worshiping an imaginary God... Whenever we find that our religious life is making us feel that we are good - above all, that we are better than someone else - I think we may be sure that we are being acted on, not by God, but by the devil. The real test of being in the presence of God is, that you either forget about yourself altogether... (C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)

Growth in knowing Christ means a deepening awareness of how much I needed Him in the first place. Thus, I will have a continuing mindset of “I have not arrived.”

II. Reorienting Perspective - God’s “One Thing” Comes _____ My “One Thing”

Philippians 3:12 - *...so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.*

John 17:3 - *This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

My reorienting perspective starts with the vital reminder that my relationship with God never started with me, never came through me, never was a result of my initiative, but started with a gracious God taking hold of me so that I might know divine life and not eternal death.

John 15:16 - *You did not choose Me but I chose you...*

III. Focused Effort - My _____ of this “One Thing” Requires Decisive, Aimed, Urgent Energy

Philippians 3:12,14 - *...I press on... I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

“Press” - “to move rapidly and decisively toward an objective, hasten, run, press on.” (William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*)

A. Disregarding my _____ ways of life, pursuits, and identities

B. Reaching ever _____ my new life in the Gospel

“It could be said that ‘sanctification’ is merely the lifelong process wherein I joyfully surrender myself to God’s imputed righteousness and then do whatever this righteousness directs me to do. Indeed, God has clothed me with His righteousness. Now He wants this righteousness to master me.” (Vincent, Milton, *A Gospel Primer for Christians*)

“Crucifixion hurts... it is not merely death, but excruciating death. Nevertheless, I must set my face like a flint toward the cross and embrace this crucifixion in everything I do. I should expect every day to encounter circumstantial evidence of God’s commitment to my dying; and I must seize upon every God - given opportunity to be conformed more fully to Christ’s death, no matter the pain involved. When my flesh yearns for some prohibited thing, I must die. When called to do something I don’t want to do, I must die. When I wish to be selfish and serve no one, I must die. When shattered by hardships that I despise, I must die. When wanting to cling to wrongs done against me, I must die. When enticed by allurements of the world, I must die. When wishing to keep besetting sins secret, I must die. When wants that are borderline needs are left unmet, I must die. When dreams that are good seem shoved aside, I must die.” (Vincent, Milton, *A Gospel Primer for Christians*)

IV. Maturing Mark - A _____ of My Christian Maturation is Having This “One-Thing” in Ever-Sharpening Focus

Philippians 3:15 - *Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you...*

2 Peter 1:8-9 - *For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.*

How is it possible that we can begin to have a different and transforming focus in life from knowing and pursuing me, to knowing and pursuing God through Christ? Because God had a laser-like loving focus on us! Paul would say to Timothy:

1 Timothy 1:15-16 - *It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. 16 Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.*