

# November in photos

## ★ ONE ANOTHER MEALS IN HOMES...



The One Another Meals in Homes took place on November 8. The meal shown here was at Dee and Denny Foor's home.

While the adults gathered in homes, the children at the church enjoyed a puppet show performed by the East Peoria Methodist Church. Thank you to Richard and Carol Ritter for lining it up and caring for the children.

## ...★ CORRIE TEN BOOM... ..



The Women's Ministry hosted a brunch and program on November 7 featuring Corrie ten Boom. The presenter shared stories about Corrie's life from her book, The Hiding Place.

## ★ THANKSGIVING



Our Thanksgiving meal was well-attended and delicious as always! Thank you to everyone who helped.

## December Dates

- Sr. High Post Office 12/13 & 12/20
- Children's Christmas Program 12/13 @ 10:15 am
- Little Lambs Christmas Program 12/17 @ 6 pm
- Christmas Sunday Service 12/20 @ 9 am
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 12/24 @ 7 pm
- Youth Group Christmas Breaks 12/24 & 12/31

### Sunday Worship Services

Morning Worship 9 am-10 am  
J.A.M. (ages 3 - PreK) every Sunday  
K-3 Children's Church; 4-5th grades 1st & 3rd Sundays  
Communion served 4th Sunday  
Sunday School 10:30-11:15 am

### Youth Groups

Wednesdays  
Jr. High 5:30 pm Jordan McKinsey, leader  
Sr. High 7:30 pm Danny Kaupp, leader

### Pastoral Staff

Andy Huetten, Sr. Pastor  
Grant Stauter, Associate Pastor

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### Dear Church Family,

"Everything is permissible" was a favorite saying of a group of Christians in the first century Corinthian church. They exercised the freedom that they had by faith in Jesus Christ to eat meat sacrificed to idols, to engage in the feasts of the Corinthian culture, and to tip-toe the line of sexual immorality. The slogan was likely well-intended, as there were others in the church who were strict adherents of the Jewish law and even forbid sexual relations in marriage (see 1 Cor. 7:1). Those who loved to say "everything is permissible" were likely trying to get others in the church to chill out with their legalistic ways and to see that salvation isn't about rule keeping but about the grace of God which is received by faith in Jesus Christ.

When Paul writes to the Corinthian Church, he not only corrects the legalistic crowd, but addresses the liberty-lovers by citing—and adding to—their slogan. In 1 Corinthians 6:12, he writes, "Everything is permissible for me—but not everything is beneficial." *Everything is permissible for me—but I will not be mastered by anything.* Likewise in 1 Corinthians 10:23, Paul again exhorts, "Everything is permissible—but not everything is constructive." The Corinthians were looking for a law about what they could and could not do, but Paul directs them to a better way—the way of wisdom.

Law seeks to answer questions like, "Is it right or wrong?" or "What's wrong with it?", but wisdom asks better questions. The way of wisdom doesn't stop at simple right and wrong, but considers whether or not something is beneficial to one's soul and constructive to others. The Corinthians exercised their freedom in many foolish ways and failed to see that misguided use of freedom actually ended up enslaving them as well as hurting those around them.

One of the most prominent issues of our day which calls for the exercise of wisdom in order to mature in faith is the way in which we utilize technology. Though you may be getting tired of me talking about the effects of technology on the soul, it would be foolish to not think critically and biblically about the things that we devote hours to each day. Uncritical acceptance of *anything* in life is foolish. Rather than simply asking, "Is this permissible?" or "What's wrong with it?", we are much wiser to ask whether we are using tablets, smartphones, social media, email, and on-demand TV in a manner that is beneficial to our souls and constructive to the way we communicate, think, holiday, work, and play.

To this end, I ask you to seriously consider joining in a group "technology fast" here at church to start 2016. You may not need to do this, but for many of us in the church family, a dedicated time of restraint from various forms of technology which have "mastered" (1 Cor. 6:12) us is needed. A fast is a temporary vow to give

something up, in order to focus on something better. A fast is not legalism (though it could be), it's a self-discipline aimed at a greater good. If the following describe you, then you might want to consider joining in this fast:

- Do you regularly consume more than a half-hour of news each day?
- Do you find yourself instinctively clutching your phone?
- Do you find that you become judgmental of others when you look at their posts on social media?
- Do you have favorite internet sites that are regular time-wasters in your life?
- Do you binge-watch TV shows?
- Is TV or internet browsing a hindrance to communication with your spouse or family?
- Do you regularly interrupt conversations in order to respond to texts?
- How much time do you spend on video games/apps?
- Do you find yourself checking your phone first thing in the morning?
- Do you have any time in the week when you regularly refrain from checking email?
- Would family members or friends say you're on your phone too much?

Would it be wise for you to intentionally refrain from some element of technology in your life for a specified amount of time in order to evaluate how to use technology wisely? If so, you'll have an opportunity to commit to this technology fast along with the church body as we enter 2016 together. On Sunday, December 27th, those who wish to participate in the fast will be able to fill out a card describing what they intend to do (i.e. "I am committing to deactivate Facebook for one month", "I am committing to go without TV for one week", or "I am unplugging my xBox and putting it in the closet for one month") and place this card in the offering plate. The cards will be anonymous, but the various commitments will be compiled and put on a bulletin insert the following week so that we can spur one another on to love and good deeds.

Through this fast, it's my hope that God will guide us not merely in determining what is permissible, but that which is beneficial.

*Grace and Peace,*  
**Andy**

# Hospitality on Sundays

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Romans 12:13 ESV

The Hospitality Team takes cares of behind-the-scenes details on Sunday mornings. They are responsible for ensuring that Sunday morning gatherings are hospitable towards guests and promote fellowship with one another. They also assist in coordinating certain elements of the worship service.



Hospitality Team L-R: Kaylene Butikofer, Bev Nelson, Kelly Mool, Peggy Poppen, Erin Kaupp. Not pictured: Heather Gentes

## Welcome Center/Greeters

**Bev Nelson** coordinates the Sunday morning greeters. Greeters welcome people as they arrive at church and share information at the Welcome Center for newcomers or anyone with a question.

Contact Bev at [bnelson@gridcom.net](mailto:bnelson@gridcom.net) if you would like to be greeter.

## Communion Servers

**Kaylene Butikofer** finds 14 people to serve communion on the 4th Sunday of each month. Each person is assigned an position/area of the sanctuary.

Contact Kaylene at [kaylenebutikofer@hotmail.com](mailto:kaylenebutikofer@hotmail.com) if you would like to help serve.

## CD Ministry



**Matt Wenger**, along with Ben Klein, makes sure that CD's of the weekly service are made and available for anyone who missed a service or wants to give a copy to a friend. CD's are on the west foyer table.

Contact Matt at [mathewenger@yahoo.com](mailto:mathewenger@yahoo.com) if you'd like to help with this ministry.

## Nursery

**Kelly Mool** coordinates our Infant and Toddler nurseries for the worship service. All adults, age 18 and over, must consent to a background screening before they can serve in the nursery or in any child care capacity. Contact Kelly at 309-242-3560 if you can help.

Their responsibilities as outlined in the Policy Handbook are:

1. Coordinate servers and maintain supplies for coffee fellowship.
2. Coordinate volunteers to serve as Sunday morning greeters.
3. Maintain and supply the Welcome Center.
4. Provide volunteers and maintain supplies for the CD ministry
5. Provide ushers and other participants for worship services.
6. Organize a nursery for pre-school children during all worship services, ensuring that all church policies for the safety and protection of children are being followed.
7. Coordinate communion preparation and serving.
8. Provide flowers and/or seasonal decorations for the sanctuary when necessary.

## Ushers



**John McKey** recruits ushers for our worship service. Three ushers are needed on Sundays and they serve for a month at a time. They greet and hand out bulletins, take offering, and record attendance.

Contact John at [jmckey@gridcom.net](mailto:jmckey@gridcom.net) if you would like to help usher.

## Coffee Fellowship



**Ron and Marcia Mool** coordinate Coffee Fellowship. They recruit and train people to serve the coffee and juice as well as keep the supplies stocked.

The learning curve is small. Contact the Mools at 309-527-3924 to help.

## Little Lambs Thanksgiving



Little Lambs hosted a Thanksgiving feast for parents and grandparents.



Syrian-made Mini Stockings

# Christmas Giving to Bless Others

Looking for ways to help others this Christmas? Here are four ideas:

## Syrian Refugee Handwork

Katie and Shannon, our partners in the Middle East, work with Syrian refugee women. The women have formed knitting groups to make and sell items to help support their families. Their work is displayed on the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall and can be purchased during Coffee Fellowship in December. All proceeds go to the Syrian women. See Susan Laiming or Keri Hany with questions.

## Christmas for Local Families

COMMUNITY WELL is a non-profit in El Paso that runs a thrift shop and the El Paso Food Pantry. They are partnering with the EPG schools to provide Christmas gifts for local families unable to purchase their own gifts. Please contact them at 309-200-2775 or email [communitywell55@gmail.com](mailto:communitywell55@gmail.com) to sponsor a family.

## Lifesong for Orphans

The Lifesong Advent Calendars are available at the Welcome Center. Count down to Christmas with your children while teaching them to count their blessings and give to bless other children.

## Gridley Food Pantry

The Gridley Food Pantry distributes Christmas food boxes to over 75 families. Make checks payable to "Gridley Food Pantry," and give it to Barb Ringger or Maralon Stauter.



The Jr. High Youth Group canvassed Gridley for canned goods for the Gridley Food Pantry.

## Winter Weather Closings

We will send an email and post on Facebook when the church closes due to winter weather.

If you don't use email or Facebook, call the church office at 309-747-2299 and listen to Voice Mail. The message will tell you if a service is cancelled.

Youth Group activities are cancelled when EPG schools close or close early for weather.

Please don't venture out if it's unsafe! If we have services, you can listen online at: [www.christ-cc.org/#/listen-to-sermons](http://www.christ-cc.org/#/listen-to-sermons). There is also an archive of sermons online.

## Closing 2015



### Annual Reports

Ministry reports are due from Team Leaders by December 18. Annual Reports will be available January 10.

The Annual Meeting is January 17.

### 2015 Expenses

Submit receipts by December 29 to be paid under the 2015 budget.

### 2015 Giving

Submit checks and cash by December 29.

"Better is the end of a thing than its beginning..." Ecclesiastes 7:8



## Start 2016 with Perspectives

Perspectives is a 16-week study on God's heart for the nations. Each week a new teacher teaches the class on the biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic pieces of missions. Pastor Andy will teach the third week on January 26.

**Location** Grace Church, 1311 W Hovey, Normal. Meeting in The Crossings Building (youth facility)

**Class Date** Tuesday, January 12-May 3  
6:00 pm - 8:45 pm

**Cost** \$270 for certificate/audit  
Missions Team will pay 1/2

**Register** online @ [perspectives.org](http://perspectives.org)  
Pay with your credit card;  
Print receipt and give it to Keri Hany for reimbursement

**Questions?** Keri Hany, Missions Chair  
email: [office@christ-cc.org](mailto:office@christ-cc.org)

## December Birthdays

- 4 Isaac Porzelius
- 6 Linda Schoppet
- 6 Delmar Smith
- 9 Kim Edwards
- 9 Beth Carrion
- 10 Ken Hall
- 10 Tristan Mool
- 11 Dennis For
- 12 Susan Laiming
- 14 Ethan Jeffreys
- 14 Jacob Richard
- 14 Audrey Roth
- 17 Madison Rosenberger
- 19 Lois Klein
- 20 Spencer Mool
- 20 Drew Neal
- 22 Kaylene Butikofer
- 22 Hadley Welsch
- 25 Ben Klein
- 26 Lydia Stauter
- 27 Bev Nelson
- 29 Russell Erwin
- 29 Lily Wettstein
- 30 Karmelle Meiss
- 30 Hannah Wenger
- 31 Tiffney Palmer

## Anniversaries

- 4 Mark & Stacy Ludy
- 4 Kevin & Kathy Yergler
- 7 Ben & Lois Klein
- 7 Mark & Kaylene Butikofer
- 17 Danny & Courtney Kaupp
- 28 Steve & Lisa Barnhart
- 30 Derek & Sarah Meiss

## Attendance & Offering

11/1	321	\$ 8,191
11/8	330	\$ 9,906
11/15	354	\$ 7,173
11/22	336	\$ 6,028
11/29	336	\$ 8,584

Join us for our  
Candlelight service  
Christmas Eve at 7 p.m.

