

February

Missions Sunday School



The Missions Team started their first of four Sunday School lessons on February 22. The curriculum focuses on the meaning of Beautiful Feet and introduces the students to the missionaries we support.

Testimony/Baptism



Kevin Hilton shared his testimony of God's saving work in his life and was baptized on February 8. The church prayed for him afterwards.

Worship Team Brunch



A Worship Team Appreciation Brunch was held on February 15 to thank those who serve on the Worship Team on Sunday mornings. See the article inside on page 2 to learn about the preparations for Sunday's worship service.

Book Groups



The book groups only met three times due to winter weather, but all the groups concluded their study in February.

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 Sunday
 Communion served 4th Sunday
 Sunday School 10:30-11:15 am

Youth Groups
 Wednesdays
 Jr. High 6:00 pm | Sr. High 7:30 pm

Pastoral Staff
 Andy Huetter, Sr. Pastor
 Grant Stauter, Associate Pastor

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FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF GRIDLEY

United by common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

*Open Bibles One Another Beautiful Feet
 Spiritual Growth Authentic Worship*

MARCH 2015

Dear Church Family,

Do you remember when your parents gave you "the talk" about the birds and the bees? Awkward? Too much information? Not enough information? Or was "the talk" nonexistent in your upbringing? While some parents may have a graceful way of incorporating sex education into numerous ongoing conversations, many parents struggle to know what to say and when to say it. Often, parents say too little, too late. The task instructing children in God's good plan for sexuality may be uncomfortable, but it is too consequential to ignore and avoid.

I have not yet had to fumble for words in sensitive conversations with adolescent children because my kids are still very young. Thus, I'm by no means qualified to share "how-to" advice on this topic. However, I want to exhort each parent in the church to be proactive and diligent in teaching the next generation in the ways of the Lord. So here's my best shot:

1. Don't Avoid It. Children are going to learn something about sex from someone. Parents have the God-given responsibility to "discipline and instruct" (Eph. 6:4) and while it's easy to set-aside difficult tasks for later, parents are wise to proactively shape their children's worldview pertaining to sexuality. Even if you aren't sure how to go about instructing your child, decide today that you will not bury your head in the sand. To ignore the difficult task of sexual education is to do a colossal disservice to your child.

2. Start Early. It's never too early to start teaching one's children about God's design in any area of life, including sexuality. Very young children can see mom and dad embrace one another and say "Eeeewww, that's gross", which can be a teaching opportunity about moms and dads, marriage, and what good physical affection is all about. As a child progresses into elementary school age, parents have ample opportunity from T.V. shows, movies, and other media to instruct children about purity, fidelity, and why God's design is not restrictive, but leads to our joy. Such efforts do not guarantee that your child will make wise choices, yet it's much healthier than avoiding the topic until a few minutes before your high school student is heading out the door on prom night.

3. Proactively Protect Them. In addition to starting early in discussing sexuality, consider how you can be proactive in pro-

tecting your children's purity. Most three year olds know how to press buttons to open apps on an adult's smartphone, which means that at a very young age, many kids are only a few taps away from seeing sexual images. As they get a little bit older, it only takes an inquisitive kid (which is most every kid) and a search engine to see polluting and vile images. There are a number of filtering applications, routers, and software programs available today to cultivate a healthy tech-atmosphere in the home. If this is something you're interested in, I'd highly recommend searching for resources at pastor Tim Challies' blog (www.challies.com). It is foolish for parents to think that they can make an insular bubble around their children; however, it is equally

foolish for parents to take no proactive steps of protection at all. As Martin Luther once said, "You can't keep the birds from flying overhead, but you can keep them from making a nest in your hair."

4. Use Resources. We live in a resource-rich age with hundreds of excellent resources to help instruct children in the ways of the Lord. Focus on the Family provides a list of numerous books which can assist parents in the task of sex education, and if you're looking for help, their website could be a great starting point.

Additionally, in April there will be a free seminar called "Your Body, God's Plan" held at the Parke Regency Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington. The event is geared toward a fifth grade audience and covers sex education from a Biblical perspective. There is a parent orientation on April 12th at 6:30 p.m. and the seminar is held on the following two Sunday evenings (April 19th and 26th). For more information, please visit www.yourbodygodspan.com.

My hope is that what has so often been dubbed as a dreaded, awkward one-time talk could be redeemed by many families in our church in order that the next generation could understand, and see God's beautiful design in His creation.

*Grace and Peace,
 Andy*

Inside this newsletter:

- Pastor Andy's Letter
- Behind the Scenes
- 60th Annual Pancake Day
- First U News
- Milestones/Attendance
- February Photos

Behind the Scenes ● ● ●

Having gifts
that differ...
Romans 12:6

By the time Sunday rolls around, many people have already put in hours to make the morning run smoothly. This month we want to recognize a few of those folks who put in extra hours that go largely unseen by the congregation.

● Sunday School Superintendent

Lori Hardman has served as Sunday School Superintendent since 2011. She has worked closely with the Christian Education team, pastoral staff and the many teachers who have served. In March, she will pass the mantle of responsibility to Becky Roth.

Our previous constitution defined the Sunday School Superintendent duties this way: "On Sunday he/she will be the one who keeps the Church School program running efficiently and smoothly." There are many duties that must be done to ensure that Sunday School runs "efficiently and smoothly," and many of them take place on days other than Sunday.

Becky has some experience in this type of role. In 2012, she started our Sunday

morning class, *Jesus and Me* (a.k.a. JAM), for our PreK children. She purchased supplies, furniture, and curriculum, and since then has served as the leader of JAM, coordinating its Sunday activities. Becky will continue to lead JAM.

Special thanks to Lori who served faithfully the past four years. We've transitioned through many changes and she has proven to be flexible and eager to serve.

Since January, when we adopted the new constitution, the Sunday School is overseen by the Children's Ministry Team. Their objectives are defined in the Policy Handbook. Copies of the handbook are at the Welcome Center.

Superintendent Duties

- Finds teachers for classes
- Identifies classes and classrooms
- Helps choose and orders the curriculum
- Creates the Sunday School calendar
- Ensures that attendance is taken
- Stocks the CE office with supplies
- Works with teachers to help them be effective in the classroom
- Acts as liaison between teachers and Children's Ministry Team
- Communicates with teachers, church staff, parents, and others

● Worship Team

It takes a team of people to lead worship. You see the leaders and musicians but did you know they are backed up by a sound man, a projectionist, and someone overseeing the livestream to the Internet?

They have all spent hours in practice at home, a weeknight rehearsal session and an early morning Sunday rehearsal. And while you're in Coffee Fellowship, someone is making copies of the service on CD's (because someone else recorded it).

On February 15, Tammy Sanders, our Worship Coordinator, and some other behind-the-scenes workers—*Marcia and Ron Mool, Chris and Dave Zeller, and Chuck and Marsha Albritton*—served brunch to our worship team volunteers and their families.



Superintendent Transition: Lori Hardman will pass the baton to Becky Roth in March.



Worship Team: Drummer, Teron Fairchild with his dad, Tim at the brunch.



Worship Team: Audio Visual Gurus, Todd Morrison and Logan Maughan at a Wednesday night practice.

Looking for a place to serve?

Talk to these folks:

- Nursery:** Kelly Mool or Traci Kelly
- Coffee Fellowship:** Tiffney Palmer
- Communion Servers:** Kaylene Butikofer
- Ushers:** Tim Fairchild

60th Annual Pancake Day: April 11



Let's take trip back in time to about . . . oh . . . 1955. What was happening back then? Do you remember? The first McDonald's opened, Steve Jobs was born, and *Mr. Sandman* was the #1 song. Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat, Eisenhower was president and James Dean died. While those are all significant events, let's bring it down to a local level.

Does anyone know what happened in Gridley in 1955? Ok, that's a big question, a lot of stuff happened. I'll just tell you. Our church held our first pancake day fundraiser! For those of you trying to do the math, let's avoid the brain cramp. This year marks the 60th annual pancake day!

Pancake day is the perfect day of food, fellowship, and fun so mark your calendars for April 11th. We'll be serving from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm. All profits from pancake and sausage sales that day are donated to local charities like the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Pontiac or Life-Song for Orphans.

Obviously you should come out and have some pancakes that day, but there are also many volunteer opportunities as well. It takes a lot of people to make the day a success! Contact Denny Foor or Todd Morrison if you would like to help . . . and stay tuned for more information in the Sunday bulletin about ticket sales, pricing, and this year's charity. —*Todd Morrison*

First U News: Keeping Up-To-Date

Trackin' the miles to Jerusalem

Turn in your walking/activity miles so we can map our miles towards Jerusalem during Lent. There is a basket on the table in the Fellowship Hall for your "miles sheets." Pick up a fresh sheet to start your next week of walking.

News from "Down Under"

Brett is settling into life in New Zealand, living with the Flammers and enjoying being a part of their family. Here are some of the thoughts he shared with us in a recent email.



"I spend most of my time working to put together music and prepping for Sunday gatherings. This includes preparing music, practicing with the band, and preparing pro-presenter slides on the computer. Learning the mac computer and pro-presenter has been a little bit of a learning curve for me, but I'm working through it and starting to get the hang of it! Lots of time at this stage in ReChurch's life goes to meetings, so I spend a good portion of my week talking about vision and planning with the ReChurch staff which is good to listen in on.

"I haven't found much progress in nailing down a future long-term worship leader for ReChurch, but the church does have very gifted musicians who can lead worship if need be when I'm gone. I also know that ReChurch has made several connections that may lead to interns and residents coming over to help fill that role in the future.

"Thanks! Loving ReChurch but also missing my First U family!"

Directory Updates

The directory has been updated with the information that we have on file. If a change or correction is needed, please email them to office@1stu.org.

The online directory is on our website at www.1stu.org. It is password-protected. Please read the bulletin for the password. (This newsletter will be loaded to the website . . . don't want to display the password here!)

Paper copies of the directory are at the Welcome Center for those who don't have Internet access.

Chili Cook-Off: March 15

Calling all chili-makers! Our annual chili cook-off will be March 15 after Sunday School. See Brian Buchanan about entering your chili or helping that day. Call Brian at 309-262-0070 or email briandbuch@gmail.com.

March Birthdays

- 01 Lori Hardman
- 04 Lukas Krug
- 07 Anna Albritton
- 08 Lexie Kiefer
- 08 Tammy Sanders
- 09 Derek Meiss
- 10 Janet Rosenberger
- 11 Molly Erwin
- 13 Aiden Palmer
- 13 Shannon Rosenberger
- 13 Jonna Strauch
- 16 Tim Fairchild
- 17 Sam Poppen
- 17 Jeff Stoller
- 19 Phil Hartzler
- 22 Greg Allen
- 24 Maelee Palmer
- 25 Kain Gentes
- 26 Dee Foor
- 27 Paul Laiming
- 27 Carol Neuhalfen
- 27 Brianna Sanders
- 27 Brady Veselack
- 29 Blake Buchanan
- 29 Margie Stauter
- 31 Nadia Rosenberger
- 31 Vera Rosenberger

Anniversaries

- 03 Brad & Pam Neal
- 11 Al & Keri Hany
- 16 Tim & Tammy Sanders
- 23 Robert & Shirley Carr

New Birth in February

- 10 Leah Jane Swensen
- Parents: Judd & Sara Swenson
- Grandparents: Ron & Dee Cordes

Attendance & Offering

2/1	97	\$ 2,660
2/8	277	\$ 8,482
2/15	286	\$ 9,119
2/22	286	\$ 7,692

Check Out Our New Library Books!

A Compassionate Call to Counter Culture
by David Platt

The Pursuit of God
by A.W. Tozer

Prayer, Experiencing Awe & Intimacy with God
by Timothy Keller

Located on the table in the west foyer.