

Life Together

Wayne City Community

Enter the New Year with Thanksgiving

How will you start the new year? If last year was especially difficult or disappointing, it might be tempting to say goodbye and good riddance without a backward glance. But before you close the book on last year, consider taking a moment to reflect and be grateful.

Psalm 100 encourages us to enter God's gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise- not because our circumstances are good, but because He is. There's no better way to start the new year than to thank God for who He is and all He's done for us.

Thank God for your home, your car, or the job you love. Tell Him you're grateful for the air you breathe, your good health, or the family that drives you crazy. Tell Him thank you for giving you guidance and encouragement through His word in the Bible. And thank Him for sending His son Jesus to die a death He didn't deserve to give you the gift of eternal life that you could never earn.

When we thank God, we're recognizing His power, His presence, and His provision in our lives. It changes the way we perceive Him, and it changes the way we see our circumstances. Even when things are hard, it's impossible to sit and wallow in all the negativity when you're praising God. Giving God thanks forces us to turn from our inward pain and look up at Him. When our eyes are focused on Him, all we can see is His bigness, and it reminds us that none of our problems are too big for our mighty God.

By praising God first, we change how we approach God. Saying thank you for what we have before asking for something else allows us to align our hearts with His. It helps us find a posture of humility and removes our sense of entitlement so that even if we don't get what we ask for, we are reminded of His character, His promises, and His love for us.

Starting a prayer by thanking God is a form of surrender. It's a willing confession that it's not about us, but it's all about Him. It shifts our focus toward Heaven and deepens our affection for our God.

Take a moment to look at last year through the lens of gratitude. Tell God one thing you're thankful for today, even if it's something small. Maybe even commit to doing it weekly or daily. Write your list in a note on your phone, start a gratitude journal, or post it on social media so that you begin to more easily recognize His faithfulness in this new year.

Events and News

January Birthdays

- 1-4 Tammy Dickey
- 1-6 Paul Frazier / Jamie Wheat
- 1-10 Mary Payne
- 1-17 Cristy Buchanan / Jerry Caudle
- 1-19 Lois Hutchcraft
- 1-21 Judy Bailey
- 1-31 Gary Bailey

What are the benefits of God's presence?

Because He is with us:
We have nothing to fear

Because He is with us:
We have a guide to lead us

Because He is with us:
We are never alone

Because He is with us:
No situation is impossible

Because He is with us:
No enemy can defeat us

Because He is with us:
We can resist temptation

Because He is with us:
We always have someone who
Will listen to us

Because He is with us:
His help is always available

January

- 1-1 Happy New Year
- 1-2 Sun. School 9:30A Worship 10:30
- 1-5 Wed. Bible Study 6:00P
New High School "Quads" group 6P
- 1-7 Ladies of Grace 6:00P
Men's Meeting 6:30P @FCC
- 1-9 Sun. School 9:30A Worship 10:30
Leadership Meeting 4P
- 1-12 Wed. Bible Study Groups 6:00P
- 1-16 Sun. School 9:30A Worship 10:30
Calendar Planning Meeting 4:00P
- 1-17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 1-19 Wed. Bible Study Groups 6:00P
- 1-20 WinterJam Concert 6:00—9:00P
- 1-23 Sun. School 9:30A Worship 10:30
- 1-26 Wed. Bible Study Groups 6:00P
- 1-30 Sun. School 9:30A Worship 10:30



Children's Ministries

Did you know that FCC Nursery is growing? In the Nursery wing we recently added a second infant room furnished with a new baby bed and rocker for our newest arrivals.

Ever wondered what Missions

FCC Supports? Several!!

The Vine Radio

Oblong Children's Home

Western Wayne Center of Hope

Casey Brandt - RL Ministry

Christian College

We have a new Wed. night High School Group called "Quads"!

This new group will be led

By Steve & Rhonda Griswold.

For High Schoolers 9-12 grades

Located in the FCC Conference room.

Seek His Grace

It's quiet. It's early. The sky is still black. The world is still asleep. The day is coming.

In a few moments the day will arrive. It will roar down the track with the rising of the sun. The stillness of the dawn will be exchanged for the noise of the day. The calm of solitude will be replaced by the pounding pace of the human race. The refuge of the early morning will be invaded by decisions to be made and deadlines to be met. For the next twelve hours I will be exposed to the day's demands. It is now that I must make a choice. Because of Calvary, I'm free to choose.

And so I choose.

I choose love. No occasion justifies hatred; no injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love.

Today I will love God and what God loves.

I choose joy. I will invite my God to be the God of circumstance. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical... the tool of the lazy thinker. I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God. I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God.

I choose peace. I will live forgiven. I will forgive so that I may live.

I choose patience. I will overlook the inconveniences of the world. Instead of cursing the one who takes my place, I'll invite Him to do so. Rather than complain that the wait is too long, I will thank God for a moment to pray. Instead of clenching my fist at new assignments, I will face them with joy and courage.

I choose kindness. I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. Kind to the rich, for they are afraid. And kind to the unkind, for such is how God has treated me.

I choose goodness. I will go without a dollar before I take a dishonest one. I will be overlooked before I will boast. I will confess before I will accuse. I choose goodness.

I choose faithfulness. Today I will keep my promises. My debtors will not regret their trust. My associates will not question my word. My spouse will not question my love. And my children will never fear that their parent will not come home.

I choose gentleness. Nothing is won by force. I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice, may it be only in praise. If I clench my fist, may it be only in prayer. If I make a demand, may it be only of myself.

I choose self-control. I am a spiritual being. After this body is dead, my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will rot, rule the eternal. I choose self-control. I will be drunk only by joy. I will be impassioned only by my faith. I will be influenced only by God. I will be taught only by Christ. I choose self-control.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. To these I commit my day. If I succeed, I will give thanks. If I fail, I will seek His grace. And then, when this day is done, I will place my head on my pillow and rest.

Excerpt from Max Lucado - Let the Journey Begin

REACHING OUR NEIGHBORS – REACHING OUR COMMUNITY

There never has been a time like this. We all have seen and experienced so much in just the last couple of years. The interest in attending church on Sunday mornings is at an all-time low. And it's not just in Wayne City, Illinois. It's across our country. People now make up excuses for the excuses. I really don't understand how this could happen. If there ever was a time to be in church and focusing on God's agenda, it is now. Our church needs to be unified in our efforts to make a change. We should do something. And we plan to.

Here at FCC we have made a mediocre attempt at reaching our community and have not been too successful. And we are not alone. Most churches are having the same struggles. Many people we know have decided that attending church is not important.

So we now have a new plan. Please read and try to find your place to grow in this great church family.

First of all, let me give you just 5 scripture passages that point out to us that we should go and reach and teach. There are a lot more but let's just start with these.

Hebrews 10:24 – And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Romans 15:2 – Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.

1 Peter 4:9,10 – Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Philippians 2:4 – Let each of you look not only to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.

Matthew 28:19 – Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.

In January, yes very soon, members of FCC are going to kick off a new adult study series. What's really unique about this are the locations these studies are going to take place. There will be the two adult classes that are currently meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 at the church. Those two adult classes will continue at the church on Wednesdays. But there will also be a class south of Wayne City at Randall and Randa Shively's. There will be a class on Section Line Road at Steve and Rhonda Griswold's home. There will be a class in Bluford at Payton Sowa's home, which will be primarily young adults. And hopefully that young adult group will branch off and make two young adult small groups. And the seventh small group will be north of Keenes at Terry and Annette Koker's home.

The study guide we are wanting all the adults to use at the same time is called “FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH”. It consists of 13 lessons to help us grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Our agenda is to go to our neighborhoods and community to reach and teach them. We want to invite our neighbors into our homes or garages or wherever to build relationships and study God's Word together, primarily to reach and teach many people we already know. Each of these 5 – 6 homes who are hosting a class may offer their meeting on any day and any hour that works best for their particular group. Each class will have their own flexibility that works best for their group.

If so much of our community, which are our neighbors, are not going to attend church anywhere, then we can go to them. We want to offer a friendly, safe, and comfortable options for our neighbors to come to.

Let Us All Do A Part!

Randall Shively

From the Desk of the Pastor



Micah 7:7 NIV

But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD,
I wait for God my Savior;
my God will hear me.

2 Things that matter most in 2022

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.

³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:37-40 NIV

FCC Church! Let’s watch in hope, wait for God, and know He hears our prayers! Love God with all your heart, soul, & strength! Love our neighbors as we love each other!

It’s a NEW YEAR!

Here we GROW!

Pastor Steve