

MARCH 2022

Life Together

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH WAYNE CITY

Events & Activities

- 3.2 Fusion Group, Youth & Kids
6pm @ FCCWC
- 3.4 **Ladies of Grace 6pm** hosted
by Rhonda G
Men's meeting 6:30pm hosted
by Randall Shively
- 3.5 Kept Ladies Conference
@Central Christian Church
- 3.6 Sunday Services
- 3.9 Fusion Group, Youth & Kids 6pm
- 3.13 Sunday Services
Daylight Savings Time, Spring Forward
Leadership meeting 3pm
- 3.16 Fusion Group, Youth & Kids 6pm
- 3.20 Sunday Services/First Day of Spring
- 3.23 Fusion Group, Youth & Kids 6pm
- 3.25 FaithBuilders 6pm Devotion by Lacie Dailey
- 3.26 Wayne City High School Prom
- 3.27 Sunday Service Guest Speaker: Payton Sowa
- 3.30 Fusion Group, Youth & Kids 6pm



Friday
March 25th
6pm
FCCWC
Fellowship Hall

Meal, Devotion, Games, Fun
All adults welcome, Childcare provided

Let's Celebrate!!

- 3.7 Bev James
- 3.10 Sandy Wilson
- 3.12 Caleb Caldwell
- 3.28 Laura Moyer
Abby Bowsher



Daylight Savings
Time Begins!
March 13th
Spring Forward

Growing...by going beyond

We have all seen a toddler crawling around a room, eagerly eying furniture that can be used for leverage when the time comes for “pulling-up.” We have also seen that toddler reach the pull-up stage and move to walking “with no holds.” We then praise and encourage this behavior, as we should. We know that growth is only achieved by going beyond our present circumstances. What we sometimes forget is, that we (adults) need to grow also. That growth, though it may not be noticeable to the eye, is still very real growth. Let us consider some things we need to move beyond in order for us to grow spiritually...

Beyond Our Own Expectations. Our achievements will only be as high as our highest goals. If we aspire to be pew-warmers only, that is all we will be. Our minds will not be engaged in the private study of the word of God and our faith will not be challenged by the Word’s clash with the world in our daily life. We should not be content with “just being religious.” Here is a challenge for us: “Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children” (Ephesians 5:1). That should raise our goal.

Beyond Our Hurts, Losses, and Failures. There is no doubt about it, in this world we will have tribulation (John 16:33), or trouble. Persecution is to be expected (2 Timothy 3:12). Further, physical accidents and health failures occur regularly, as does death. Christians are not immune to any of these things. Therefore, when these occur in our lives, we must deal with them in a realistic, optimistic manner. This in no way minimizes the importance of our own health or of those we love. However, if we cannot accept the loss of something or someone that/who is truly gone from this life, we will suffer serious mental and spiritual consequences.

Beyond the Expectations of Others. We all have certain limitations. They may be in our physical makeup or circumstances. However we can move beyond some of those limitations. For example, we may hold a job that pays minimum wages. However, that does not mean that we, or the job, are insignificant. We can work enthusiastically at any job we may hold (Ecclesiastes 9:10). We can do the best we can with what God has given, and be satisfied in the realization that we have done so.

Growth, by its nature means moving beyond the present circumstance to even better circumstances. If we approach it in that manner, even the most disheartening of circumstances can be faced with courage and optimism.

Let us go beyond...and grow. If you’re looking for a Small group to help you grow, check out our Fusion groups!

Men of faith

...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord— Joshua 24:15

Joshua was a great leader, not only by giving good admonition but by his example. He told the people of Israel that, if they were not going to serve the Lord, it really didn't matter which false god they chose because one was just as bad as the other. But his public declaration was this: my decision is made, my mind is set, my house will serve the Lord. Sometimes fathers fail to make such a bold declaration and so leave their family struggling without the benefit of a committed leader.

We see from Joshua's life, both before and after this bold proclamation, that these were not just words that he spoke — this was a commitment that he lived. Much can be learned from this single-minded man of God.

When he was sent to spy out the land of Canaan, He and Caleb were the two who came back not only with a positive report about the land, but expressing confidence that with God's help they could possess it. He was not overcome by the influence of the majority report, the popular opinion, the "common" sense. He stood firm by his convictions. He was faithful and stable as a leader. He relied on God's promises and continually encouraged the people.

Joshua also showed concern for the next generation. He had the Israelites set up twelve stones as a memorial when they crossed Jordan so that, when questions would be asked about their meaning, parents could tell their children about God's great power in rolling back the waters. And Joshua served faithfully to the end. He did not bow out claiming he had already done his part earlier in life; he served till he died at 110 years old.

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Let us learn from his life of faithful service to make a commitment without wavering, to put God first in all things and to draw strength from His promises. As for Joshua, and his house, they boldly served the Lord.

Will this be your determination, as well?

Red Light, Green Light

And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will (Romans 8:27 NLT).

Walking with littles is often complicated. Bicycles may race down one side of the trail. Families, dogs, and children were in the other. Children rode scooters or skateboards. Runners raced by.

Trying to keep them safe didn't always work until we started playing a fun game.

Red light. Yellow light. Green light.

If they raced ahead or arrived at a curve or close to a busy street, I'd call out, "red light." Regardless of how fast they were going, they'd stop. Yellow light meant slow down. Green light meant go, go, go! Making this a game made it fun, but it also made it safer for them.

When life is overwhelming, we may not know what to do. We are tempted to run in one direction or another or have the opposite reaction and shut completely down. Then there's that limbo place where we want to go one way or another but are unsure which way to turn. So, we feel stuck.

Romans 8:27 reminds us, "And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will." The Holy Spirit knows the heart of the Father for us in each of these situations.

He knows when we should stop, go, or wait. That might be a sense of peace, or a feeling deep inside. Whatever it looks like, as we listen for His voice we receive a red light, yellow light, or green light that helps us in the moment.

Red light: Stop daughter. Let Me help you work through that emotion. It comes from a wounded place. If you react now, it will only create more wounds for you, and for that person standing in front of you.

Yellow light: This isn't your job, sweet daughter. Let Me do the work needed. I know you can't see what I'm doing but trust Me. That's all I ask of you.

Green light: Time to go, go, go! You are brave and strong. You can do this thing even though you are afraid. I'll show you the next step.

As we listen to the Holy Spirit, we are tuned into the heart of God – over that circumstance, over that moment, and over our lives. God knows that we wrestle with mixed feelings and that the direction is not always clear.

Thankfully, He also knows what is around the corner. We can be overwhelmed in the heat of the moment or join in with the heart of the Father, which allows us to put on the brakes, take that huge leap of faith, or trust Him as we wait for clear direction.

In all of these we are still moving toward our destination, but in the safety of His love.

What is God saying to you today about your circumstances? Red light? Green light? Yellow light?



That's how much I love you, Baby

My Dad was not a public singer but he sang songs to his kids and grandkids. One of those songs was "If I had a nickel" and part of that song said.... **That's how much I love you, Baby!**

His love for his family moved him to sing silly songs and be silly and to express his love to all of us!

I'm reminded of this special love from the book of Isaiah where we read from chapter 43, "Don't be afraid, I've redeemed you! I've called your name, You're mine! When you're over your head, I'll be there for you! When you are between a rock and a hard place, It won't be a dead end!

Because I am your God! I paid a big price for you! That's how much you mean to me!

That's how much I love you!

FCC sing songs of love and praise to Jesus!

FCC sing silly songs of love to your kids!

FCC I've called your name... You are Mine, God says!

That's how much I love you , Baby!