

July 2021 Newsletter

First Christian Church of Wayne City

Events and Happenings

7.2 Ladies & Men's Meeting @Caldwells 6 pm

7.4 Happy Independence Day!

7.4 Special Offering for Building Fund

7.10-13 Jr. High Church camp, bus leaves 10 am

7.11 Leadership Meeting

7.13-17 Sr. High Church Camp

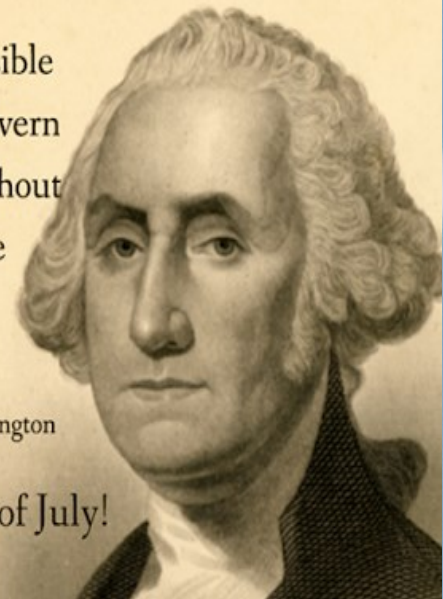
7.17 Worship Training

7.25 Back to School Bash

"It is impossible
to rightly govern
a nation without
God and the
Bible."

- George Washington

Happy 4th of July!



July Birthdays

7.2 Taylor Owens

7.7 Braeden Payne

7.7 Denise Smith

7.8 John Mark Hunt

7.10 Wesley Buchanan

7.10 Cheryl Buchanan

7.13 Becky Owens

7.15 Rhonda Griswold

7.18 Rocky Hedden

7.29 Jaycee Caldwell

7.29 Laycee Caldwell

7.31 Randa Shively

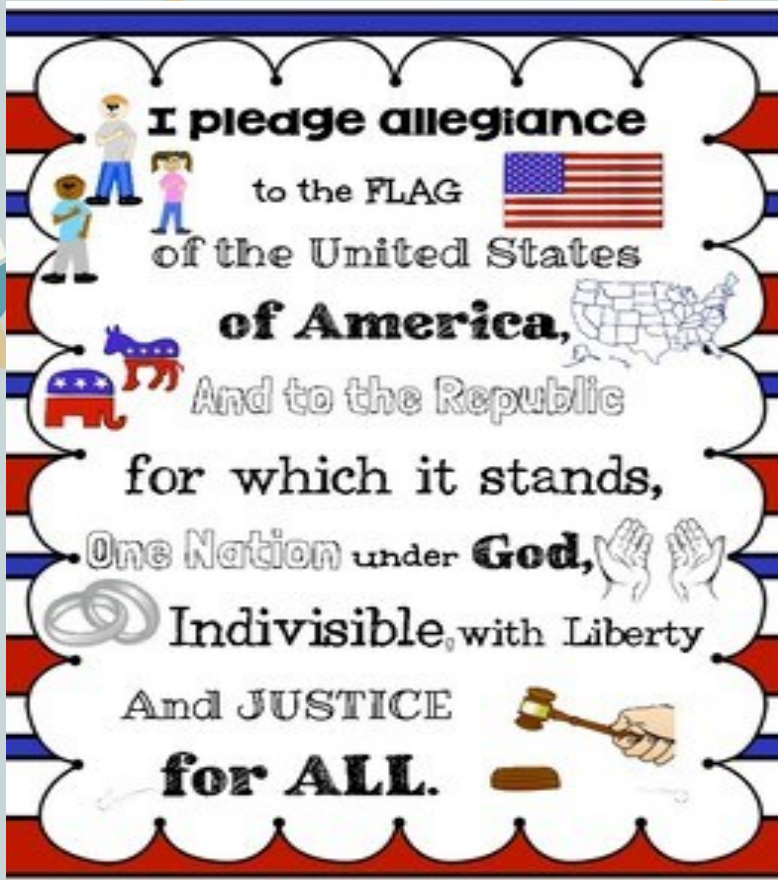
July Anniversaries

7.11 John Mark & Kateland Hunt

7.15 Rocky & Angie Hedden

7.25 Austin & Jayla Scott

Children's Church



CINNAMON SUGAR STARS *with Red, White, & Blue Fruit Salsa!*



- whole wheat soft tortillas
star cookie cutter
- a couple Tablespoons Butter
 - 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 Tablespoon cinnamon
- 1/2 cup chopped strawberries
 - 1/4 cup chopped apple
 - 1/4 cup blueberries

VINTAGE FAITH GWBA CAMP 2021

Jr. High registration begins in camp chapel Sat. July 10th, at noon. For those riding Church bus it will leave 10 am for camp and we are planning to stop for lunch along the way.



Impact Youth



Don't freak out!

Ever had the experience where just before something crazy is about to happen, someone has said to you, "ok, don't freak out, but..."

'Don't freak out' is my version of one of the most common commandments in the Bible – 'Do not be afraid', which appears a total of 365 times!

God often uses the phrase "do not be afraid, fear not, or don't be afraid" when he is asking someone to do something scary or something that they are not used to. Here are just a few examples:

DON'T FREAK OUT, even though you're going to go to war against a mighty enemy (Deuteronomy 20)

DON'T FREAK OUT, but you're going to cross The Red Sea (Exodus 14)

DON'T FREAK OUT, but I'm going to need you to preach the gospel to a hostile people (Acts 18:9)

God knows everything that has happened, everything that is happening, and everything that will ever happen in the future. We do not have to freak out about our future; because he already knows it, and we can trust his good plans for the world and for ourselves.

You don't need to be afraid because God loves you. God knows you better than you know yourself; he has numbered the hairs on your head (Matthew 10:30).

He knows what will happen to you tomorrow, and he knows what you've been through in the past. He has a plan for your life, and all he asks is for you to trust him, stick with him, and NOT freak out.

So, what does all this mean for you?

DON'T FREAK OUT about your future!

DON'T FREAK OUT about your life!

DON'T FREAK OUT no matter what challenges you may be facing

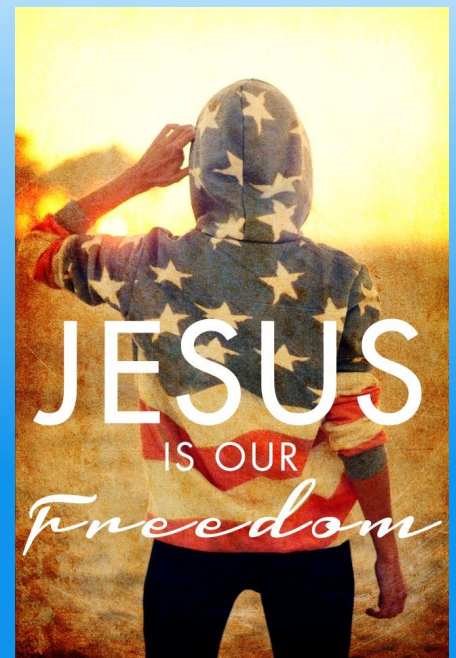
My encouragement to you is to replace freaking out with trusting in God. Be courageous, have faith, face life in prayer with God. He is a good God and will carry you through. You do not have to be afraid.

Movie of the Month!!



This faith-based comedy/drama film Small Group the Movie tells the story of Cooper and his wife, who move from California to the South to tackle an assignment that will change their lives forever.

PG –13



Thank you so much to the Impact Youth that volunteered their time during VBS this year! We had a successful program and your hard work was very valuable to help keep our program running smoothly. If you didn't get a chance to help out this year, keep next year in mind! These hours are also good for those who need volunteer hours for scholarships.

LAUNCH 2021 – IGNITE THE FIRE IN US

Are you ready to be ignited? Are you ready to be a true ambassador for Jesus Christ? I am ready and I plan to get more prepared. And you know what. We are going to do this together!!!

We must do this. Our community needs us. We have a message that is worth telling. We have a message that saves. This message saves lives, saves families, saves careers, saves the children, and this message also promises us eternal life. Wow! We have a great message to share.

Did you know that we are Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. It says that in 2 Corinthians 5:20. It's not optional. It is up to us to accept the responsibility or not. If each of us lack understanding then it's time to learn. If each of us lack determination then it's time to get motivated. If each of us lack passion then it's time to light the fire inside of us and get excited about sharing. It is our personal responsibility to be ready in season and out. It's not only the leaders of the church. It's not only the senior pastor. It's not only the evangelism team to accept this responsibility to share this great message. It is each one of us!

If you lack understanding. If you want to be motivated. If you want a passion for outreach. Plan to attend some training I will be leading beginning on August 8 @ 6:30 p.m. It is a few weeks away because this is something we must be prepared for. Our hearts and minds must be ready to learn about evangelism.

A strong outreach from our church family to all of our community requires action. And that action is coming.

*Randall Shively
Your Assoc. Pastor*

Why can't I see God?

From time to time, everyone struggles with feeling like God is nowhere to be found. Sometimes our prayers just don't seem to get "past the ceiling." We ask ourselves why God doesn't just show up in a way that we can see, touch, and hear Him like we do other people. We can see Him working in our lives and can talk with Him through His word and in prayer, but sometimes it's hard to understand why God still seems so hidden from us. After all, many people don't even think God exists! Why doesn't He just show up and prove them wrong by having a face-to-face with them like in the movie "Bruce Almighty?"

You're not alone

It's comforting to know that you aren't alone if you struggle with this. Any pastor can tell you about counseling people going through a crisis who have had to face this problem head on. Sure, some folks never seem to allow this problem to faze them. Generally, however, most people would likely say that they wish they could experience God's presence in more obvious ways. In fact, we see this same sort of plea throughout Scripture in passages such as:

In Job 13:24, Job pleads before God in light of the crisis he was in and suggests that God had distanced Himself from Job.

In Isaiah 45:15, Isaiah observes that God does hide Himself from His people at times because of their sin.

The writer of Psalm 10:1 asks why God doesn't make Himself known when evil men take advantage of God's people.

3 reasons for God's hiddenness

The Bible doesn't tell us all the reasons that God acts the way He does. It does assure us, though, that God's actions are based on His perfect nature. So, we can begin to think of reasons, which are consistent with His nature, that He might be hidden to a certain extent. Here are a few suggestions:

Hidden for our protection. Perhaps God hides because of how His presence would affect us. We know that if a man sees God fully, he will surely die (Exodus 33:18-20) and we also see examples, like that of Isaiah, of those who stand in the presence of the Lord and are utterly "ruined" by His holy and glorious presence (Isaiah 6:1-6). Isaiah's sin caused him to be overtaken by his guilt in this vision where he stood before the Lord. If God was to become fully present in the world, He would also judge the world by immediately ending the lives of sinners who are apart from Christ. His holiness will not allow Him to be in the presence of sin. Therefore, God's hiding Himself to an extent is an act of mercy as He postpones judgment to allow many people time to respond to the Gospel.

Hidden for the sake of relationship. God may hide because He wants a particular kind of relationship with us. What would be the effects of experiencing the fullness of God's presence in our daily lives? Would we still have free will? Consider this—if you had a personal policeman follow you around every waking minute of your day, would you ever commit a crime? You probably wouldn't even if you wanted to. At the least, you would act very differently than if he wasn't following you. Well, maybe God hides because He wants us to obey Him out of our love for Him, not because we are pressured into it just because He's standing over our shoulder ensuring everything we do is perfect. His hiding could be His way of giving us more freedom to choose to obey.

(etc.....)

Hidden so we might seek Him. Moreover, let's remember that God is a personal being who loves us. Rather than being constantly overwhelmed by His presence, maybe God wants to give us the opportunity to really long for and seek after Him. Someone once told me that God doesn't always put His cookies on the lower shelf. What they meant by that was that God sometimes puts the sweetest things in life, like being in His presence, at a higher reach to make sure that those who find Him really want Him. Of course, Scripture teaches us that no one seeks after God if left to themselves (Romans 3:11) but because God sought us, He give us the ability to affectionately seek after Him.

Are we looking in the right places?

The "signs" of God's presence in the world may look differently than we expect. Some people say "I just wish God would give me a sign that He's here with me". Well, it could be that He does but it's not what we want it to be. Sure, in some places and at some times God has made His presence known in over-the-top ways, like raising people from the dead. At other times, though, He makes Himself known by transforming people's lives and raising them from spiritual death. In both instances, God is making Himself known in powerful ways. The Gospel has the power to absolutely change people and this power should be understood as the presence of God as He works among us!

Are we blinded by sin?

Our sin can keep us from being aware of the presence of God. Paul seems to say in Romans 1:18-21 that everyone knows deep down that there is a God and we know certain truths about Him. However, it is the sinfulness of people that results in our "suppressing" this knowledge. This is not to say that some people don't really have doubts or questions about God's presence or existence, but rather that sin has an effect on people that can lead to us ignoring or pushing aside the truth. Sin always muddies the water between what is true and what is a lie.


What about Jesus?

When we see Jesus, we have seen God (Colossians 1:15). Studying Jesus' life provides us all the details about who God is and how He loves us. In Jesus, God came to walk among us and taught how we might be cleaned of our sin so that we can experience His full presence in heaven. Through Jesus' ministry, we see the Holy Spirit come and live inside the Christian, making the Christian sensitive to God's presence and making him more like Jesus. While we only experience the presence of God in somewhat limited ways now, it is because of our identity in Christ that we have access to God at all!

Finally, we look forward to a time when we will no longer feel like God is hiding. In Revelation 22:1-5, we see a future place of residence that has been healed of sin's effects. In the new creation, there will be nothing keeping us from seeing the face of God and there will be no more darkness because of the light of His face.

—- Written by Josh Waltman





2 Timothy 1:7

For God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power and love and self control.

Good day FCC,

Just as the scripture above says, God has not given us a spirit of fear. Fear comes from our enemy, satan. He likes to use all of his weapons against us, like fear, doubt, confusion, even excuses! But with God he has given us authority over these things through the Holy Spirit that lives inside us when we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We don't have to give into the tricks of the devil when he tries to put fear in our lives to make us afraid to even try certain things in the church. He tries to tell us, "You don't want to try that. You'll look foolish when you fail." But with God, He says, "I have given you strength and power!" Plus, He will be with us no matter what. And besides an attempt for and with God is never a failure. But maybe a learning experience to make the next attempt even better.

In the near future here at FCC, there are going to be new opportunities to get involved in new ministries, new activities, and more chances to share the love of Jesus with our community. So don't let satan lie to you and say that you can't, you're not good enough for that, or even you'll fail.

But remember the last part of the scripture above, not a spirit of "fear", but of "power" and "love" and "self-control".

I pray that as a church family here at FCC, that we will all come together and not be afraid to stand and share the good news of Jesus. Let's get excited again and reach outside these walls to bring more people (our friends and families) to the knowledge of Jesus our Lord.

God bless,

Eddie Owens





From the desk of the Pastor...

July 2021

Time Flies!

There is work to do!

We are now entering the second half of 2021! FCC is busy with many things! Each week we worship together, Study God's Word together, pray together, serve together, and give together!

We will receive our 2nd Love Offering for the needed repairs of our roof and AC unit on July 4th Sunday. If you are unable to attend that Sunday please mark your gift in an envelope marked "Building Fund Offering" and give it another time.

"For God did not give us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline." -2 Timothy 1:7 NLT

As we move into July may we be ready to do what it takes to serve our church!
Stand up! Stand up for Jesus!

Pray for our Camp! Pray for Financial blessings! Pray for outreach and evangelism!
Pray for Salvations! Pray for growth! Pray for our Leadership!
Pray for our Pastors!

PRAY BOLDLY!

Praying & Serving with you,

Pastor Steve