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## Calendar And Events

- April 3: Student Ministry Gathering (grade 6-12) @ 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Handke.
- April 6: Feed My Starving Children Meal Packing (Student Ministries) @ 4-6p.m.
- April 7: Sunday Worship Service @ 9:00 a.m., (Agape Meal; No Sunday School).
- April 10: Student Ministry Gathering (grade 6-12) @ 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Handke.
- April 13: Parenting The Text Generation Class @ 9:00 a.m., Feders Home.
- April 14: Sunday Worship Service @ 9:00 a.m., Sunday School. Palm Sunday.
- April 16-23: Pastor Kevin on Vacation
- April 17: NO Student Ministry Gathering (grade 6-12). Holy Week.
- April 19: Good Friday Service @ 6:00 p.m., Handke.
- April 21: Sunday Worship Service @ 9:00 a.m., Sunday School.
- April 24: Student Ministry Gathering (grade 6-12) @ 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Handke.
- April 25: Baptism Orientation class for parents and baptism candidates.
- April 28: Sunday Worship Service @ 9:00 a.m., Sunday School.



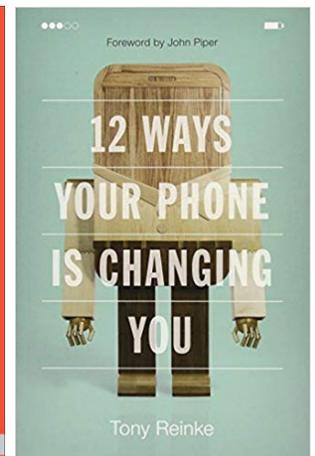
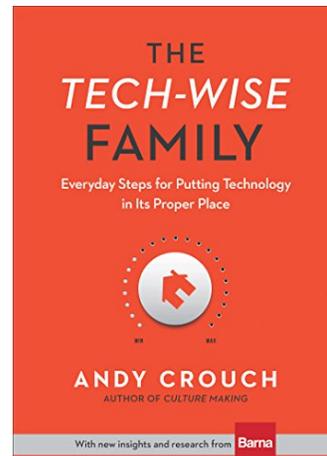
### Looking Ahead:

- May 22: Honoring our Graduates and Celebrating our Students @ Otsego Park.

## Resource Highlights:

### The Tech-Wise Family by Andy Crouch

This is a great book that is both theological and practical in nature written with families in mind. Andy Crouch understands the struggles that families face in integrating technology into their home life and discipleship.



### 12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You by Tony Reinke

This book gives excellent consideration to a very important question that many people are not even asking: how is the use of my smart phone changing me? Tony Reinke offers, you guessed it, 12 answers that are both theological and practical.

# Family Ministries Upcoming Events



Grade 6-12

Wednesday Nights at Handke - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Sunday School - 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 3**  
Stewardship - Money

**Wednesday, April 10**  
Bible Study - James 4

**Wednesday, April 17**  
No Gathering (Holy Week, Good Friday Service on April 19)

**Wednesday, April 24**  
Stewardship - Time



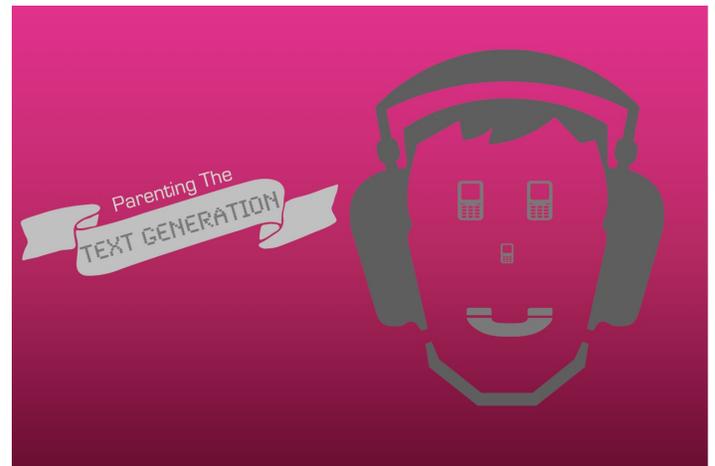
**Saturday, April 4** - Contact Pastor Kevin if you would like to pack meals with Feed My Starving Children on Saturday, April 6 from 4-6 p.m. Everyone is invited to the Feder's home afterwards for dinner and fellowship.

**Baptism Class, Thursday, April 25** - We will have our first Baptism class for those interested in getting baptized this Summer. Attending this meeting does not obligate you to pursue baptism. Parents and their son/daughter should plan to attend together. Please notify Pastor Kevin if you plan to attend. Church office. 7 p.m.

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## **Parenting The Text Generation** **Saturday, April 13. 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

This parenting class will wrestle with the never ending blessings and challenges that gadgets and screens pose for families. Parents will be led to examine both theological and practical considerations that will help them to understand how screens fit into our call to make disciples for the glory of Christ. Saturday, April 13 at the Feder's home, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Childcare available for \$5. Please RSVP to Pastor Kevin by Wednesday, April 10th.



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## **Honoring Our Graduates and Celebrating Our Children - May 22**

Please mark your calendars for a special night. On Wednesday, May 22nd GCF will be honoring our 2019 graduates and hearing from our children and teens about the things they have been learning in the 2018-2019 school year. We plan to meet at Otsego Park at 6:00 p.m.

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Joni & Friends Mission Trip (August 13-18).** We have the opportunity to serve with Joni & Friends this summer. We specifically need an adult female volunteer to help out. The summer camp allows parents of those with disabled children much needed rest. Those who participate will get useful training. Contact Pastor Kevin.

### A Prayer:

Father in heaven, we thank you for your steadfast love to your people in Christ Jesus. We deserve your wrath and instead we receive your kindness. We deserve your anger and instead we get your patience. You are filled with compassion and mindful that we, your people, are dust. For this we give you our deepest praise and gratitude and ask that you would shape us to be parents like you. Cause us to fix our eyes upon Christ and by so doing, may we see and behold a God who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. May your character extend through us to the next generation who will be able to rise up and bear witness to your love to yet another generation. May your name and your remembrance, O Lord, unify our hearts and may it be the purpose for which we eat and sleep and breath and speak. To you and you alone be all the glory, now and forevermore. AMEN.

### May 30th, 2019 is A Big Day...Do You Know Why?

If you were asked what day May 30th is and it was suggested the day was special in some way and you were not looking at a calendar you would probably say it was Memorial day. It isn't. But nice try. Some of you are already tapping your fingers on Google, thinking you can find the answer to this nail-biter faster than I will reveal it. Well, here it goes, it is Ascension day. That is right, the day that marks the 40th day of Easter (or 39 days after Easter Sunday).

In fact, some would argue, like John Calvin, that Ascension day should be one of the "Five Evangelical Feasts." By feasts I take it to mean a key celebration. Can you guess what the other four are? Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, and Pentecost. This covers the birth, death, resurrection, ascension of Christ and then the pouring out the Spirit of God. Well, we got 3/5...more than 50%. 60% to be exact but I am a theologian, not a mathematician (and who knew until now that they snuck a letter "e" in the middle of mathematician. Thank you for helping me realize this, spell check).

Whether we fatten up a calf and then roast it on May 30th or not is really besides the point. The important issue is whether or not we understand the importance of the ascension. And there is much. We learn a lot about Jesus Christ and his life and ministry but in all honesty, when have you ever really heard much of anything about the ascension of Christ? Compared to the resurrection, probably not too much. In fact, if the resurrection and ascension were siblings, we know which one would be the favored one. If ascension were the older or younger bother/sister to the resurrection, they would probably struggle with neglect and maybe low self esteem. It would be bouncing off the walls and getting into all kinds of trouble just to get a little attention. Well, today we direct the spotlight to the ascension of Christ as we get ready to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ. Assuming these two topics won't suffer any neglect this month, lets bring some needed attention to the forgotten sibling of the resurrection. Here are six reasons the ascension matters and you should teach it to your children.

*Visit the GCF blog to continue reading.*