



FCC is now having in person worship each Sunday at 10:30 am! For those who cannot attend, you are invited to watch Sunday's morning service with Pastor Erik Carlson on our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page. Tune in at **10:15am** by clicking on either link above.

*I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. Ephesians 1:16-19a*

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Faith Covenant Church,

Since we haven't had the normal ability to fellowship with one another, I wanted to take the opportunity this month to give you an update on how my family and I are doing since arriving here to Manistee.

We are feeling very settled in our home here. All of our boxes are unpacked save a few boxes of miscellany. The boys are doing as well as can be expected, considering how unusual the world is right now for school-age children. They bounce between saying they want to go back to school and hoping it never starts up again. For Lauren and my part, we can't wait for school to start again!

Lauren is preparing to finish her Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing this coming week. This is a major milestone for her and the accomplishment of something she has worked toward for many years. This degree will enable her to teach at a collegiate level if she desires, and has further developed her skills as a poet and writer.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all of you in the church family through phone calls and visits. For those I have not been able to connect with yet, please know I am continuing to work my way through as I'm able.

As many of you are, we are weary of the changes that COVID-19 has imposed on our lives and on ministry. Though things are far from ideal, my hopeful expectations for what God is doing and will do through our church have not diminished. Perseverance and endurance are major themes of the Christian life, but this pandemic has stretched us in ways we did not anticipate. With Paul, we try to consider these trials as pure joy as God uses them to deepen our faith and Christian maturity, but no one said it would be easy!

As we look toward 2021 let us take Paul's words to heart in Philippians 3:10-15a: *I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. 15 All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things.*

Grace, Peace, and Happy New Year,

Pastor Erik, Lauren and Boys



## PRAYER REQUESTS

CJ Steib, Dick & Carole Lindberg's grandson  
- *Healing from a serious accident.*

Bunny Lancaster

- *God's peace & strength while grieving.*

Tom Johns, Kathryn Stansell's husband

- *Healing and pain relief after back surgery.*

Mike & Sheryl Zimmerman

- *Mike's health and peace for Sheryl.*

ECHO His Love and the Safe Harbor program

- *God's provision and protection.*

Karen McCreery

- *Salvation for family members.*

The family of Carolyn's daughter in law, Julie

- *grieving the loss of her mother.*

## SAFE HARBOR

Thank you to the volunteers for Dec. 30th, Kristian Snyder, Sheryl Zimmerman, Michael Poirier and Bunny Lancaster. If you are able to help serve the Safe Harbor guests, please contact Joyce Reed! The schedule for January at this point has only one person providing a meal, and all remaining positions for all weeks are open! Joyce can be reached at: 510-5474



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join teacher Mike Woroniak for Adult Classes in the multi-purpose room each Sunday at 9:30 am.

## MOPS

Mothers of Preschoolers meet twice monthly! The first meeting of the year will be on January 21st in the evening. Contact Karen Tamel for more information on how you can join this group! 231.232518

## GENESIS BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, join us as we continue to explore the book of "Beginnings" where we witness the wonder of God creating the universe, the tragedy of humanity's fall into sin, and God's gracious redemption. Bible Study Fellowship walks through each chapter in Genesis, exploring God's Word in context. We resume study on Wednesday, January 13, where our focus for the remaining four months will be on the family of Abraham and three of his descendants - Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

Wednesdays

9:30 - 10:45 a.m. (in person at FCC)

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. (in person at FCC)

5:00 - 5:45 p.m. (discussion through Zoom)

Please contact Mary Griffiths (231-889-3157, gmgrif@gmail.com) if interested due to limited space and COVID restrictions.

## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FCC's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> (time tbd). Ministry Team Leaders need to have their team's annual report [emailed to Carolyn](#) by Sunday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>. Emails with the format template were sent to all team leaders & LT liaisons this past week. If you did not receive yours, please contact Carolyn right away.

All donations for 2020 must be received in the office or postmarked **no later than December 31, 2020.**

Carolyn will be out of the office from Monday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> until Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

## CONFIRMATION CLASS RESUMING

Eleven (11) weeks of class remain for Confirmation students to finish the class that stalled last Spring. Class will resume Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021 and students will graduate in the Spring. New students to Confirmation Class will begin in Autumn, 2021. If you have not already done so, please [email Pastor Erik](#) or call the office so he will know how many students will be attending. Classes will meet at 9:30 am during the Sunday School hour,

## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2021

The events of 2020 have made it clearer than ever that as Christians we cannot plan on an hour of church on Sunday morning to be a guarantee of a healthy and vibrant spiritual walk with Christ. It is time to be actively seeking to know Christ on a daily basis, if we have not done so previously. For an investment of 12 minutes or less each day, you can read through the entire Bible in one year!

Contact me, Kate, by email: [kateofficefcc@gmail.com](mailto:kateofficefcc@gmail.com) and I will happily send you a Reading Program for 2021!

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