

FAITH MATTERS

Weekly Newsletter for Faith Covenant Church of Manistee, Michigan

January 8, 2021

FCC is 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.

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.

Julie Hupp, Carolyn Zink's daughter-in-law, & Family

- Grieving the loss of her mom to COVID-19.

Eric Jensen, Randy Tomaszewski's brother

- Recovering from severe COVID-19 problems.

From ECHO His Love

- Randy & Lauren Schwarty who are medically compromised & struggling with COVID-19.

Sandra Tillotson

- Medically complicated dental issues. Also, her son-in-law has problems with his pancreas and kidneys.

Mike, Bev Johnston's granddaughter's friend

- Healing from a blood clot by his heart.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

FCC's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021 (time tbd). Ministry Team Leaders need to have their team's annual report [emailed to Carolyn](#) by this Sunday, Jan. 10th. If you need assistance, please contact Carolyn right away.

MOPS

Mothers of Preschoolers meet twice monthly. The first meeting of the year will be on Jan. 21st in the evening. Contact Karen Tameling for all the info: 231.362.3416.

SAFE HARBOR UPDATE

Thanks to Mert & Jeanne Youngberg, Michael Poirier, Rita Shipman (on call), and Bunny Lancaster for helping with Safe Harbor this week. For next Wednesday, Jan. 14th, we still need a Gatekeeper and Greeter. So far, this season has been pretty warm and we have served 13 guests, 11 of which have found housing! We expect a huge increase these coming weeks as the state's eviction protection goes away and the weather gets more severe.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The adult Sunday School class meets Sunday mornings at 9:30am in Room 1. You are invited to join teacher Mike Woroniak for this deep dive into Scripture. He will begin teach through the Book of John on Jan. 24th, so now is a great time to get in on this class.

To our Church Family, who have so often prayed for us,

We wish to thank you so very much. Believe me, we have felt your prayers! As I listened to Pastor Erik on Sunday, it made me realize that you are not only praying on our behalf, but you are giving us your LOVE. These two gifts make us realize how much we need each other. May you all be blessed as we have been!
Mike & Sheryl Zimmerman.



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. We meet on Wednesdays:

9:30 - 10:45am (in person at FCC)

10:30 - 11:45am (in person at FCC)

5:00 - 5:45 pm (discussion through Zoom)

Please email [Mary Griffiths](#) or call her at 231.889.3157 if interested, due to limited space and COVID-19 restrictions.

CONFIRMATION CLASS RESUMING

Eleven (11) weeks of class remain for Confirmation students to finish the class that stalled last Spring. Class will resume this Sunday, Jan. 10th 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](#) he will know how many students will be attending. Classes will meet at 9:30am, 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! Since 2021 has already begun, you will not need to be concerned about catching up since this program can be started at any point in the year. It's never too late! [Email me \(Kate\)](#) and I will happily send you a Reading Program for 2021!

YOUTH GROUPS

The Middle and High School Youth Groups have resumed meeting after a winter break. They are currently using RightNow Media's Francis Chan materials as the spiritual focus. High School students meet at the church on Sundays at 6:15pm. Middle Schoolers meet at 2:30pm on Wednesdays for an hour of homework help and then to have Youth Group at 3:30pm. Direct any inquiries to Devin Schweigert: 231.286.7751.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS THIS SUNDAY

Jane Kuriger has chosen to commemorate the belated birthday of Joyce Reed with flowers for the Communion Table. We appreciate Joyce for her wonderful servant's heart, love of God, and example of joy in service!

Please contact Mary Peterson if you would like to provide flowers sometime: 231.723.4370.

REGARDING EMAILS AND TEXT MESSAGES...

According to the FBI and Michigan State Police, scamming and phishing activities from thieves on the Internet is on the rise, and we all need to be mindful of messages we may receive asking for donations. We, the Staff of Faith Covenant Church want you to know that FCC will never solicit money, gift cards, or any money-related activity from anyone via email or text. If you receive a message of this nature, please call Carolyn, Kate, or Pastor Erik immediately.

Faith Covenant Church, 475 Eighth Street, Manistee, MI 49660
231.723.7173 | [Email the Office](#) | [Visit our Website](#)
Rev. Erik D. Carlson, Lead Pastor: Office: 231.887.4619 | Cell: 320.305.9304 | [Email Pastor Erik](#)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I know most of us have been greatly disturbed by the events that took place the other day in the capital. Many of us feel as though the nation we call home is fraying at the seams. We have grappled with multiple things this year that are bigger than us as individuals. Moments like these should put us on our knees in prayer. Please join me in a day of intentional prayer for our nation, its leaders, and for ourselves. I've included prompts for prayer below.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Erik

Pray for wisdom for our nation and its leadership.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

James 3:13-18

Pray for The Church

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned...

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:1-3;9-21

Pray For Perspective

*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.*

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.
Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

*Come and see what the Lord has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.*

*He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.*

*He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.*

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;

*I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."*

*The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*