



FAITH MATTERS

Friday, June 5, 2020

Weekly Newsletter for Faith Covenant Church of Manistee, Michigan

Dear FCC Family,

As questions swirl about with the changes in COVID-19 and how to bring the church together again, let us not forget that our Lord is in charge and is all knowing. We need to gather in prayer to receive the wisdom of our God.

The Leadership Team meets this coming Tuesday, June 09th for discussions on what and how the church may look like in the presence of COVID-19. I ask that each of you spend time that day praying for us as we work to unite the church again.

At this time, Faith Covenant Church will continue to be closed for Sunday worship services, all church activities, and entrance to the building through June 14th, 2020. We will be in communication with updates soon after that date.

Seek wisdom through the Holy Spirit. Unite us in spirit with our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray and read the Word of God each day. During this next, week do all this to rise up the spirit and body of Faith Covenant Church, and yourselves. Praise be to God.

Scott McKenney, Leadership Team Chairperson

Class of 2020



Amber Miller will be attending Ferris State University where she has been accepted into the radiography program.



Sara Thompson plans to attend Grand Valley State University in the medical field to become a physician's assistant.

FELLOWSHIP TEAM LEADER NEEDED

Faith Covenant Church needs a special person or couple who God is calling to minister through their Spiritual Gift of Fellowship. The Fellowship Team has many wonderful volunteers who enjoy the hands-on “labor of love” roles, and we all love them for it! And now, team leadership is necessary - one (or two) who will organize and coordinate the fellowship needs of our church. With the current state of closure and the arrival of a new Senior Pastor in the near future, the duties in the short-term are unknown. But there is plenty of time for training with Amy Holtgren & Kate Poirier, great ladies who have both previously filled the roles of Team Leaders and LT Liaisons! The church office provides support to the Fellowship Team by ordering supplies, providing necessary communications to the congregation, and providing assistance with financials. If you would like more information, or to volunteer, contact Amy Holtgren: 231.233.1231 or amyholtgren@yahoo.com.

We exist to help people KNOW Christ, GROW in Him, and GO to the world with His message.

MISSIONS UPDATES

RON & JANET ZIEGELBAUR: RAIN FOREST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, CAMEROON

Praise God that after months of planning and preparation, RFIS has been able to purchase a new back up generator which was delivered earlier this week. Praise God for good internet and technology that has allowed our students to take their AP exams (only 5 will have to retake them in June) and has enabled staff meetings via Zoom, and online courses, even if it is challenging for some of our students. Read more and see photos at:

<https://mailchi.mp/b7145dcae0d5/zs-april-prayer-update-3875601?e=04413053ac>

CHRIS & REBECCA VOGT (THE "VOGTRIBE")

Please continue to pray for our family. As we have been praying with many of you, we feel the urgency to pray all the more. The pursuit of God's glory among the nations is not something we have control over. God does! Please seek him on our behalf, our team, and our mission. Prayer is the greater work. It is not wasted time.

We had a considerable amount of water enter our home due to some ground surface water outside that was sitting up against the home. This is our rental home. When we ripped up the carpet we discovered that under the carpet the wooden tacks and nails were rusted, disintegrated and rotten meaning our master bedroom has been a haven for water damage for a long time unbeknownst to us. Most of you recognize that this doesn't mix with Rebecca's health and it's probably the reason why she hasn't fully recovered since our return, but has constantly been fighting fatigue and headaches, etc. She had to move out earlier this week to live with friends nearby. We are AGAIN in a place of having to surrender our plans and contemplate whether we can stay in this house as even today water was entering the house and soaking our carpets. We are at the mercy of insurance companies and their processes.

You guys, I can't tell you how discouraging it has been for us. If we are going to get back to our mission, we desperately need a time to just rest and reset, but due to the frequency of water issues and moving we just can't seem to find it. Who has major water and mold issues on three continents, in three countries, in three different climates? It's not normal, but as some mentors of ours reminded us yesterday, "our enemy is not very creative"; he does the same things over and over to try to discourage us. We really sense a spiritual battle and attack on our family. Would you all please pray for us? Psalm 28 was our prayer this morning as a family.

As of now, our number one goal is to seek the Lord and find rest and renewal before we can even contemplate a return to our mission. Our family needs that. We have probably felt more stressed in this last month than we have in a long while. Would you pray for His peace over us?

As we are continually reminded in the Word, God is a refuge, a fortress, a shield, a strong tower and a sure foundation. We believe this. We aren't afraid of trials, which we know God designs for our good, but we also know that our enemy is really annoyed with how God is working in the world. Please pray! Love to you all.

THE PROMISE FM

Submitted by: Pat Scott, Executive Director

You are vital to The Promise FM. Your prayerful support is critical to broadcasting the truth of Christ and the hope He brings. You're so important to those who, in this time of uncertainty, feel like they have no hope. With the current pandemic restrictions the ministry has a shortfall in funding. The Promise FM needs \$163,000 to continue shining the beacon of hope to the hopeless. In the next three weeks, to keep The Promise FM broadcasting truth and hope, we need to raise just over \$90,000 to meet our goal. Help reach that goal and Stand in the Gap for those who are not able to. To donate on-line, go to this web address: https://www.promisefm.com/donations?blm_aid=26420

DRIVE-THROUGH FOOD PANTRY - TOMORROW AT ARMORY YOUTH PROJECT (AYP)

Manistee County Great Day of Serving has confirmed, in order to manage COVID-19 risks, food and volunteers have already been sourced through closed groups for Saturday, June 6th, for the No-Contact Drive-through Open Food Pantry event starting at 9:00am in the Armory Youth Project (AYP) parking lot. **How can you help?** 1. Spread the word to those needing for assistance about this event on Saturday, June 6th. 2. To meet the on-going need, consider donating money and/or nonperishable food to local food pantries (i.e. ECHO His Love MANNA Pantry and Matthew 25:35 Food Pantry).

NEW FOOD BANK GARDEN: RAISED GARDENING BEDS AT ARMORY YOUTH PROJECT

Submitted by: Beth Markowski, Member of Spirit of the Woods Garden Club

I am a member of the Spirit of the Woods Garden Club and formerly a volunteer at Jesse's Garden. I am hoping that you will be interested in helping out with a new food bank garden. A lot of people are struggling to feed their families now due to the pandemic, so the need is probably greater than ever! Amy Wojciechowski, Director of the Armory Youth Project (AYP), has generously offered the raised bed gardens at the Armory Youth Project (AYP) to be used for produce for local food banks. There are 14 beds at the AYP that are in good shape. There is water and hose on site and a pile of soil if the beds need to be topped. It's also a great location with lots of sunshine and a fence to keep the deer out. Our garden club has \$50 budgeted for seeds/plants/fertilizer for community food bank gardens. We also have a couple of members willing to help with the planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting. I would be willing to coordinate – sending out emails and working with local food banks. I think we gardened at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesdays at Jesse's Garden, so I will throw that out as a starting point. I propose that we begin on Tuesday, June 9th, but I will try to get out there next week to start weeding. There is a lot of weeding to be done before we can plant! I would also buy plants by the 9th. If anyone has suggestions on what vegetables would be best to plant or avoid, please let me know. And if you have extra vegetable plants please let me know. But we can't do this without help! If you can help, please email me at markowski.beth@gmail.com or call me at 616.401.3387. If you know of anyone else who might help, please have them contact me. We'll proceed if there is enough interest. Thanks!

FYI from Shellee Seymour, FCC Missions Team Leader: If AYP is able to reopen for the summer, the youth will work with the Club volunteers to maintain the garden beds. Blessings!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Submitted by Kim Carlson, FCC Treasurer

May 2020 Year-to-Date Financial Summary

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Receipts:	\$ 117,641	\$ 126,875	\$ (9,234)
Disbursements:	\$ 80,173	\$ 116,348	\$ 36,175
Net:	\$ 37,468	\$ 10,527	\$ 26,941

Memo: General Fund cash = \$62,686 [60 day target = \$50,000]

In May, we received \$13,600 from the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program. This COVID-19 support revenue has helped us to generate a year-to-date surplus of \$37,468. Especially important, we are grateful for the gifts that are coming in so faithfully from the people of Faith! This is a huge blessing during this time of extreme uncertainty as we have reached and exceeded our targeted General Fund cash balance target. Wow!

Please continue to support our Church with your giving as you are able as we navigate this global pandemic. And most importantly:

KEEP THE FAITH!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thank you for continuing to support Faith Covenant Church through your tithes and offerings! More people are using our On-Line Giving Portal and those who have started using it are continuing to use it...proof that it is a convenient and easy way to give. You can access the giving portal via the link provided on our website:

<https://www.faithcovmanistee.org/giving>.

Or scan this QR code:



If you have questions about donating or need assistance with the giving portal, please contact Carolyn: 231.723.7173 or czofficefcc@gmail.com.

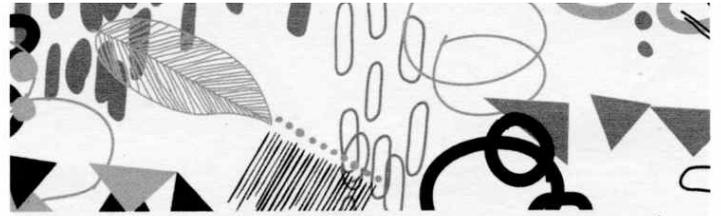
Thank You Notes



Dear FCC Family + Friends
I thank you so much for
making my 90th birthday so
special.

Seeing all of you was
so exciting; I didn't know
where to look first -
37 Vehicles just for me.
WOW!

It was an experience
I'll never forget.
You let your love
lights shine in a
great way and I
can't thank you enough.
God Bless you all.
Love + Prayers
Jean



Dear FCC Family + Friends,

Thank You all for helping
us give our Mom a
very memorable birthday.
She was thrilled to see
you all in the parade.

Thank You also for all
the cards. She received
90+.

You are truly a loving
caring church family.
Continue to stay safe
and healthy.

God Bless!
Linda, Greg + Wanda
Kinnan

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Mike & Sheryl Zimmerman - Sheryl's recovery from surgery & rehab.

Dick Rees - Vertebrae surgery on June 10th.

Dan Hankinson - Recently diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

Dawn Reed - Healing. Salvation.

Joyce Reed - Strength. Understanding.

Niki Yankee (Connie Watson's cousin) - Liver failure.

Linda Anderson - Abdominal cancer.

Everyone who has been impacted by COVID-19

Our Leadership Team

Our Pastoral Search Committee

The Pastor God has called for FCC