

The Columns



A few words from Marcus...

As Spring Break and Easter (and eventually nice weather and summer) approaches we always see an interesting dynamic in the church. Worship and group attendance goes UP and then DOWN, back and forth depending on the **Sunday**, the weather, and if school is out. And of course, we understand that people travel. We know people get sick. I'm not thinking about a given person or demographic group. It's just a fact.

For some people, they still haven't fully plugged back in from the pandemic. They may have returned sporadically but we rarely see them multiple times in a month or season.

Again, this isn't meant to point fingers or cause guilt. We just want people to reflect on the importance of worship attendance AND the church as a family they can count on and can count on them.

Here are SIX reasons why your participation is so important to the life of the church family:

1. It edifies you. The music may not be your favorite or the sermon may be boring but the Word of God is read, communion is served and Christ is exalted! Sometimes you leave a meal less than satisfied, but the food still nourishes your body as you digest it. The same is true when you regularly participate in corporate worship.
2. It provides an opportunity to serve others. When you participate in the life of the church you are helping others through prayer or needs that may come up that you can meet.
3. It quietly testifies to those who may be far from God. When your neighbors see you driving out of the neighborhood or the golfer drives by the full building, they are reminded of where they should be.
4. It provides a natural evangelistic opportunity. When you participate regularly, it's easier to invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to join you and learn about Christ.
5. It encourages other followers of Jesus. Seeing each other is an encouragement that we aren't in this alone. We gather as a family so we can be all that Jesus calls us to be when we are scattered. It spurs others on towards good deeds and love.
6. God commands it.

CONGREGATION MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting April 16th after second service to vote on an amended budget.

WEDDING SHOWER

For: Lauren Sparks and Cody Smith

When: April 23 after 2nd service

Registered at: theknot.com

From Our Director of Discipleship and Evangelism

Bob Tankersley

Practicing the Way of Jesus Together as Family

As we said last time, being a disciple of Jesus is an **apprenticeship**, not a Christian “degree program.” Jesus doesn’t call us to merely download enough Bible learning to be a good person - but rather walk with Him as He shows us how to cultivate His Kingdom in the places where we live, learn, work, and play.

The author, Hugh Halter, speaks about apprenticeship in his new book Righteous Brood: “As a professional house painter, if I wanted to teach someone the trade, I wouldn’t just hire a young man, pay him a small wage, and ask him to observe me painting for a summer. Sure, if he casually watched me from his seated position on the back of my tailgate for three or four months, he could probably explain some correct concepts about house painting to a friend. But if I wanted to make a real painter of this young man, I’d have to call him off the tailgate, give him absolutely every tool I had, and help him learn firsthand every aspect of painting. He’d have to get dirty, deal with his fears, take responsibility, and so on.”

Jesus calls us to the same life - maybe not learning to paint a house, but instead, to “get up off the tailgate” and join Him where He is already working. Sounds suspiciously like what Jesus did in the Gospels, doesn’t it?

This pattern of apprenticeship that we call **discipleship** is simple - yet it will take the rest of your life to practice! At FCC, we see a disciple of Jesus as “someone who is actively becoming more like Jesus by following Him in the everyday stuff of life.” I often say that I want to look, sound and act more like Jesus today than I did yesterday. And tomorrow, I want to take a step even further in His direction.

To make the idea of ‘practicing the way of Jesus’ a bit simpler to remember, we say that as disciples, we should **BE with Jesus, BECOME like Jesus, and DO what Jesus did**. Next month, we’ll break these three ideas down a little further.

I apologize for having to reschedule last Month’s “**Meeting God in the Dark**.” It has been postponed to April 16th from 2-5pm. Our film will be “**The Visitor**” - a story about a college professor who travels to New York City to attend a conference and finds a young immigrant couple living in his apartment. This is open to those in High School and older, and childcare will be offered. Please contact the FCC Office to register and let us know if you need childcare. Feel free to bring popcorn!

This month we also have our “**FCC Book Club**.” This month’s selection is “**What’s So Amazing about Grace**” by Philip Yancey. Our discussion will be on April 20th at 7pm. Here’s a little preview: “If grace is God’s love for the undeserving, he asks, then what does it look like in action? And if Christians are its sole dispensers, then how are we doing at lavishing grace on a world that knows far more of cruelty and unforgiveness than it does of mercy?” I hope you’ll join us.

Be WITH Jesus - Become LIKE Jesus - DO what Jesus did

From our Youth Director

Noah Durbin

This month has been filled with great joy in the youth ministry. I have been attending more of our students' events. Our students have great commitment to our group and extracurricular activities.

We are still in our Mark series and learning a lot. I have started a new teaching style that has led to better conversations. I am seeing how our students need to be challenged in their faith while seeing how they are already mature in certain aspects of their faith. For example, this last week we had a great conversation about the series of parables in Mark 4. I can clearly see that our students can see what Jesus is trying to present but sometimes have trouble connecting it back to the entire context or the deeper hidden truth. I am extremely proud that I do not have to stop and explain what basic meaning of something. Instead, we can spend more time explaining the deeper truth that will challenge all of us. There are some seminary students that struggle with the basic value of a teaching and are unable to evaluate the deeper truths. This shows the hard work our church and parents have done with the students prior to me getting here. But I have, also, seen great growth in students since I have started. Please pray for further growth, as sometimes a group may hit a wall or face a difficult passage and have a hard time finding the value of that passage.

I have been working hard on planning events for May and summer. I am trying to have something most weeks, but at the very least every other week. If you have suggestions, I am open to them because I am still learning what is in this area that our students will enjoy. But our major event, TEAMEffort Camp at Western Kentucky, has received many blessings since the turn of the year. We, now, sit with enough money to cover all the students and adults cost for the trip! I cannot express how thankful I am that our church expresses the importance of this event through radical generosity. There is no need to put more money towards our trip, trust me everything is covered and some of the extra stuff is also covered. Instead, please pray as I continue to plan and lead this trip. And for our students to have an encounter with the living God, who can change everything in their life. That is my only expectation for the trip. But the only way our students will have an experience with God and for me to stay strong in the gifts of the Spirit is through prayers of a mighty prayer army. Please join us as we prepare for the next three months, hard to believe it's only three months, leading up to camp.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Do you have a graduate this year? High School or College, we would like to recognize them. Please let us know and send us a current picture, future plans, degree, etc. You can email them to noahdurbin1999@gmail.com

From our Director of Children's Ministry

Ronda Roethle

Wow! It has been one whole month already. It has been an amazing and blessed time. One accomplishment for me this month is I think I finally know all the kiddos names!

What We Are Learning

The main thing we have been working on in all of our times together is the fact that we serve a Big God! He is all powerful, all sufficient, all loving, and all merciful, and He loves and cares for each one of us. We are also focusing on how God does everything with a purpose; including the birth and death of His Son, Jesus. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus we have forgiveness of sin. This is amazing! We look forward to celebrating this on Palm Sunday and Easter!

Our Wednesday night, Kingdom Kids have been learning about creation. It is a blessing to see the kids light up as they learn about, and explore, the wonderful world God has made.

Sunday School class just started a new series about God's people in exile. The kids ask amazing questions and are excited to learn about the lives of some of the prophets. We are also learning songs to help us increase and strengthen our faith.

Palm Sunday

The kids will be walking in with their palm branches. If we could have them do this for both services that would be great. Please let me know if you want your child to participate.

Save the Dates

We have two events to look forward to. One is our Kids Camp which is scheduled for June 9th and 10th at AdventureServe Ministries in Wilmore. This is open to kids who will be going into second grade through those who are finishing up fifth grade.

Vital Statistics

2023 Budget	\$393,773
Needed Each Week	\$7,573
Expenses thru March 22	\$72,634
Received thru March 22	\$103,462
In Person Worship Attendance 3/5	92
Sunday School	no Sunday School
In Person Worship Attendance 3/12	120
Sunday School	45
In Person Worship Attendance 3/19	153
Sunday School	45
In Person Worship Attendance 3/26	165
Sunday School	45

The other event is VBS, which will be June 26th through June 29th from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. We would love to have volunteers to help out and make this time a God-glorifying experience for everyone! It is a great way to use your gifts and talents to make a difference in a child's life. We will have more information for both of these events in the near future.

SYMPATHY

*The family of Anna Belle Phillips, mother of Serena Ordway – passed away 3-25-23

*Family of John Stephens, brother of Mary Ann Moss & Freda Demarest -passed away

PRAYER CONCERNS

Parker, nephew of Mary Beth Gaines Linder - cancer

Roberta, Dedre VanHoose's mother, health concerns

Hunter Armstrong – health concerns

Wayne Ball, uncle of Melissa Gregory - lymphoma

Bill Beverly – health concerns, home receiving physical therapy

Crystal Campbell – health concerns

Jessica Coleman - battling cancer

Nancy Cressman, Becky Warren's Mother - health concerns

Harold Duckworth, Mike's Dad – health concerns

Mike Faust – health concerns

Chris Gregory, Phil Gregory's bother - health concerns

Kit Hudson – health concerns

Jonathan Jones, Friend of Mike VanHoose - prostate cancer

Lisa Kendall, friend of Duckworth's - health concerns

Richard Kendall, father of Mark Kendall - health concerns

Carolyn Leet - health concerns

Sheree McGraw, mother of Ruth Anne Boyd - health concerns

Jeremy Norris, friend of Ordways - cancer

Savannah Ordway - health concerns

Jane & Tom Phillips - health concerns

Cathy Ritter, Missy Mix's mom - health concerns

Gary Sacra - battling cancer

Karen Starcher, mother of Jeff Starcher – health concerns

Laveda Taylor, Ken Taylor's mom - health concerns

James Traugott, father of Bonita Hill - health concerns

Kelly Trent – health concerns

Steve Ward - health concerns

Uncle of Heather Webber - kidney cancer

Larry Wheeler – health concerns

Jamie Williams, aunt of Ruth Ann Boyd - battling cancer

Remember Those Who Cannot Worship with Us on a Regular Basis

Ann Craig, Joan Ethington, Doris Green, Kay Hall,
Patty Olson, Clifford Young

April Birthdays

- 1 - Mike Kelly
- 2 - Lisa Lemons
Dean Akin
- 4 - Tressie Hird
- 3 - Eloise Wiley
- 5 - Mike VanHoose
- 6 - Layne Boyd
Lucas Nichols
Sharon Tankersley
- 8 - Connor Lariscy
- 13 - Allison Gentry
Mary Sue Mitchell
- 18 - Becky Warren
- 19 - Abby Webb
- 24 - Peggy Henry
- 27 - Teresa Kelly
- 28 - Ava Taylor
Sarah Simandle

If you know someone who should be added to our birthday list, please let the church office know so that we can celebrate their special day with them!

ALL CHURCH BREAKFAST

We will have an all-church breakfast on April 30th after the 9:00 service. There will be a sign-up sheet. Be looking for more details.

HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for 1-2 people to learn the ropes on running the sound at our 9:00am service. If you are interested or need more information, contact Marcus.

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GIVING BY CHECK

If you would rather mail a check that is good too.
Just send to FCC Versailles, 160 Lexington Street,
Versailles, KY 40383.

ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is available on our website
www.fccversailles.com. Just go to our website and
click on giving. From there just follow the prompts.

TEXT GIVING

Want to text your contribution? Just send a text to
859-214-6164. If you don't have an account set
up, you will be prompted to set up an account the
first time. After that it is easy...just type your
giving option and amount...i.e. Regular 5.00...in
the message. You will receive a confirmation text.