



### May

The flowers are out, the trees are budding and the days are warming up. What a great time to look at what is going on here at church and see if God may be calling you to a new opportunity.

### Prayer

The Prayer Team invites you to join them Sunday May 7 and Sunday May 21 from 9-9:45 am in the prayer room where they pray for requests from our church family.

The first Wednesday of every month is set aside for Fasting and Prayer for all those who feel led. This month Fasting and Prayer is on Wednesday May 3.

### Men's Breakfast

Saturday May 6 at 7:30 am at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute. All men are invited to come and enjoy for great food and fellowship.

### Baubles, Bangles and More

Saturday, May 6 9:00-Noon. Ladies of ALL ages are invited for a morning of crafting and fun. Make something special for a wonderful woman in your life. We will have special crafts for the little girls too. Bring a favorite snack to share and join us for jewelry and card making. You may get messy so dress appropriately!

### Ongoing Bible Studies

Women's study of Philippians meets Monday nights at 6 pm or Tuesday mornings at 9 am.

Men's Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 6:00 am.

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### Save the Date

- Baubles, Bangles and More-Saturday May 6
- Oil Change-Saturday May 13
- White Table Event-Wednesday May 24

## Opportunities



Our sanctuary will be open for prayer from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. This will be an opportunity for you come and pray as led for our nation as well as for whatever God puts on your heart. It will not be a service but an opportunity to come and pray for as long as you wish. There will be prayer guides available for you to use if you wish.

There are two group events in the Fox Valley that day as well.

7am-8am at Valley Baptist, 3600 N Chippewa, Appleton

Noon-1pm at The Family 1909 W Second St. Appleton

Please remember to pray for our nation on May 4 even if you cannot stop by church or attend an event.

### Women's Bible Study

Join us Mondays at 6 pm or Tuesdays at 9 am for a study series on Philippians. Just bring your Bible and share some time in the Word.

We discuss the Scripture, pray for each other and share together the victories and the struggles of being a believer in these days.

Contact Mary Noggle for details-734-0832.

### Sunday Morning Fellowship

Those of you who like to bake and are willing to share with the rest of us, are encouraged to sign up for one of the upcoming Sundays mornings. See the sign up sheet on the table near the doors. Thank you. Your ministry will be much appreciated!

### Missions and Outreach

The oil change is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-noon. We need volunteers to change oil and help serve in the kitchen. We also need people to just sit and talk with those who come to get their oil changed. Many of those we serve are in need of encouragement.

Breakfast items are also a need, as we like to provide a bite to eat for those that come. If any of these needs are something you can help with please sign up in the front foyer.

If you have questions please contact Tim and Sue Diestler 851-3104.

## Opportunities—continued

### Men's Breakfast



Saturday May 6  
at Golden Corral Grand Chute

7:30 am

Great food and even better fellowship.

All men are welcome.

Pretty Please... with a cherry on top  
Join us for

*Baubles, Bangles and More*

A Morning of Fun & Creativity  
Saturday, May 6 9:00 to Noon  
Crafting for ladies of all ages  
Bring a snack to share and join the fun



### *White Table Ceremony*

Wednesday May 24, at 12:30 pm

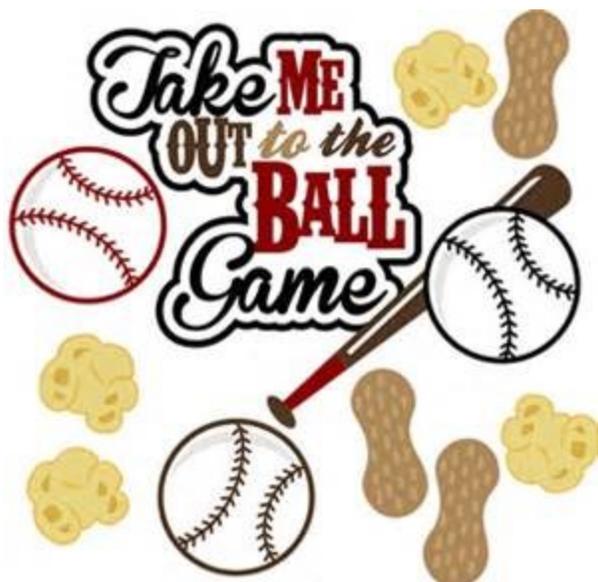
A special pre-Memorial Day event

All veterans are sincerely welcome to attend

Join us as we honor our heroes

For information or to register contact: [bookjunkie224@gmail.com](mailto:bookjunkie224@gmail.com)

### Timber Rattlers Event! Church Picnic!



Saturday July 22, 2017

Food, Fireworks, Fun!!

Come on out to the ballpark for some  
fun with your church family!

Saturday Night, warm summer breeze,  
ballpark gourmet eats and fireworks-  
does it get any better?

Details on prices and a sign up sheet  
will be available soon

## Elders Report

**Core Values** can be likened to “guard rails” that will keep us on track. We have determined that our Mission is “To lead all people in a growing relationship with Christ.” Recognizing that this is Christ’s desire for us, it then becomes our desire. How then are we to cultivate a growing relationship with Christ? Knowing what we value goes a long way in determining how we accomplish this and we need to cultivate those values.

As Elders we reflected on the Word of God, the Scriptures, and spent time in prayer and discussion, all the while trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit to determine our Core Values. We arrived at six Core Values.

**Biblical Truth** is basic to accomplish our Mission. God is Truth. His Word is Truth. Jesus has told us that He is “the way and the truth.” We can not grow in our relationship with Christ without Biblical Truth.

**Worship** is very much a part of our growing in our relationship with Christ. Worship is our response to God the Father for giving His Son who sacrificed His own life that we might have eternal life in Him.

**Prayer** is vital to growing in our relationship with Christ. There can be no relationship without communication. Prayer allows us to develop a close and personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray.

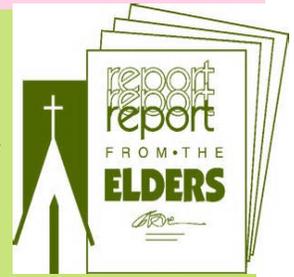
**Evangelism** is the tool (method) that we use to introduce people to Jesus Christ in order that they may enter a growing relationship with Him.

**Fellowship.** Just as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, are in perfect fellowship, so we too are to practice fellowship with one another. Our fellowship as brothers and sisters in Christ stimulates our growing relationship with Christ.

**Encouragement.** We all need encouragement as we grow in our relationship with Christ. Some days can be tough, even difficult as we experience life. Encouragement from a brother or sister in Christ helps us in maintaining our growing relationship with Christ.

Let us pray that these guard rails will keep us on track!

Gaylen Olson



### Pastor Greg's Office Hours

Tuesday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Thursday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

### Church Office Hours

Closed Mondays

Tuesday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Wednesday 1:30 pm-7:30 pm

Thursday and Friday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

## Youth and Children's Ministry

The children and youth are diving in the book of John. They will be hearing about Nicodemus, John the Baptist, the Samaritan Woman, and Zacchaeus.

### **Do you have the Gospel Project family app?**

It is a great resource! And it's free...download it today!

**The last day of Sunday School for children and youth will be June 4.** I encourage the children and youth to make a thank you card for their teachers. We are so blessed by them.

Thank you to Deb Schauland for painting the tree in the fellowship area! This project is still not complete, soon there will be a book case in the trunk of the tree. Have you noticed the leaves? One leaf per family, write your last name on the leaf. Leaves and markers are on my desk. The goal is to have all the last names of our congregation on a leaf, hanging on the tree.

The toddler room is also getting a fresh look. This project is almost complete.

### **May Ministry Donation Month**

This month we invite members of the congregation to donate items to the Children's and Youth Ministry Department.

Here is our list of items we would like donated:

- Construction paper, card stock, regular pencils, colored pencils, glue sticks
- Monetary donations to purchase a laminator
- Time donation to clean and organize the K-5 Classroom
- Snacks: goldfish, animal crackers, pretzels, Cheerios
- Board games for the Youth and Kubba a wooden yard game and/or other outdoor games suitable for teens
- Football, volley balls, Frisbees
- Bumbo seat and bobby pillow for infant room

Items can be dropped off in the office during office hours or placed in the Donation Box by the water fountain.

Contact Lisa for monetary and time donations

The Temptation to **Major** on What's **Minor** ...

How Our **Priorities** Become **Problems!**

Recently I've heard several people talk about being (too?) busy and there have also been a few who have asked me for advice in how to manage the stress that comes from having to juggle lots of activities. There should be few doubts that life is full of details

and most everyone must determine what details are the most important and require our immediate attention—technology is supposed to improve our ability to manage time, but in some strange way it has deceived us into thinking we can pack more into our schedules. I don't claim to be an expert on this, (and I wouldn't want anyone to assume that I have it all

figured out, because I realize & admit that I don't!) but I'd like to make a few suggestions that might provide some encouragement for all of us—including me. I've inserted a few good quotes as

pictures on the page to highlight things I've read about managing time and setting godly priorities.

One of the things that jumped off the page of several items I've read is that "busyness increases selfishness." Most people are very busy and the majority can't identify what causes them to become too busy. When our schedules become full, we tend to focus on ourselves and our listening skills decrease, our attention spans are shortened, and our genuine concern for other people drops to the bottom of our list.

Many people applaud the idea of "multi—tasking" and try to do several things at the same time. It seems important to note that studies and research have shown that in almost every case, multi—tasking decreases productivity, increases stress, and affects the quality of our work. In other words, it is normally best to get projects or tasks done one at a time, or in a sequence that doesn't cause us to become distracted by other things on our list while we are doing what needs to be done. (For instance, right now I have four different tasks on my list for this morning and I'm attempting to focus on this article without thinking about the other things I need to do. I must admit that this was a difficult lesson for me to learn.)

Here are some quick bullet points that come from scripture:

- (1) When anxiety strikes, it's always time to pray for peace & wisdom.
- (2) Whenever we become too busy to pray, we are too busy! When you pray, meditate on God's Word as well.
- (3) Consistently ask yourself if your schedule brings glory to God.
- (4) Set priorities that major on what most important. Try to avoid being bogged down by what's should be a minor concern.
- (5) Regularly set time aside for rest, relaxation, & refreshment.
- (6) Be flexible and make adjustments when something is urgent—but remember the tyranny of the urgent will become a destructive force when minor concerns become more urgent than they should be.

With prayer for God's glory & praise for His grace,  
Pastor Greg



"If we are busy in a hundred good things—even great things, Gospel things, glorious things—but don't sit at the feet of Jesus, we are busy in the wrong things." —Kevin DeYoung

"Normally it doesn't really matter how busy a person is—most of us will always make time for what's important to 'me'."

Set reasonable goals and always try to remember the big picture. What is the final goal and purpose of what you're doing?

## Missionary Update-Chris, Carrie, Caitlin and Nate Davis.



Greetings to you all from the University of Georgia.

You may wonder just what Athletes in Action is. We help sports-minded people think and live biblically at the intersection of sport and Christianity. We serve the athlete, coach, and spectator interested in allowing God to shape their thinking in every aspect of life, including their interaction with sports.

We want to engage the issues surrounding sport culture by opening a door for thoughtful but accessible Christian analysis of sports. We also want to offer daily spiritual content for those concerned with the redemption of both sports and those who love them.

We've just wrapped up 4 years at UGA and we're excited about what God is doing here.

**Praises...** We're moving along with raising additional support for our ministry. We've seen quite a bit come in this semester and we're optimistic that we can get this completed by sometime next fall.

Carrie has had a huge impact on the women she's been discipling this year. A few have become like family to us and we're both grateful for her role.

Our summer assignment will involve all of us this summer - which is huge. The past 3 years it's primarily been me (Chris) doing something but this year we'll serve at AIA headquarters in Xenia, OH working with the interns.

Our daughter, Caitlin is going into Pre-K next year at a great school... she loves being there and is really doing well.

**Prayers...** That God would provide the full support that we need by fall.

We would find consistent community of people in our church - we have a small group but a lot of times it meets when we're working and it's tough finding good consistent community with the stage of life we're in.

We would find some time to rest this summer - we'll be traveling a lot but we'll need to find time to rest. Safe travels over the summer - going to Ohio, Colorado and possibly Wisconsin. No accidents, no car troubles, we wouldn't get sick, kids behave on the plane rides.

God would raise up leaders on each of the teams we'll be working with next year and they would help establish small groups among the players on that team.

Thanks so much - we're very grateful for your support.

*Chris and Carrie Davis*

Our Mission here at Appleton Community EFC is to lead all people in a growing relationship with Christ.

Growing together in Christ we value:

**Biblical Truth**

We depend on the Bible as our source of authority in what we believe, what we teach, and how we live. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

**Worship**

We believe that we are created by God to worship Him. Therefore, we live in worshipful response to God's character and activity. (Psalm 86:11)

**Prayer**

We believe that daily prayer is essential in the life of a believer and as such we pray with expectancy knowing that God is actively involved in our world. (Colossians 4:2)

**Evangelism**

We believe in sharing the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ with honesty and humility. (Matthew 28:19-20)

**Fellowship**

We believe that accountability, caring and a sense of belonging are essential for each believer to grow in their relationship with Christ. (Philippians 2:1-4)

**Encouragement**

We believe we are responsible for caring for and encouraging one another. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)



**We're on the Web!**  
[applefreechurch.org](http://applefreechurch.org)

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Phone  
920-735-9971

When God delays in fulfilling our  
little thoughts, it is to have  
Himself room to work out His  
great ones.

Lilias Trotter