

### March Forward

Sunday, March 11 is when we move ahead into Spring. Set your clock one hour ahead before you go to bed Saturday, March 10. Here is what is coming up this month.

#### Prayer

The Prayer Team invites you to join us Sunday, March 11 and Sunday, March 25 from 9-9:45 am in the prayer room where we pray for our church needs.

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, March 7.

#### Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 3 at 7:30 am at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute. Join us for great food and fellowship.

#### Ongoing Bible Studies

Women's study of Judges will begin Monday March 12. Details on page 2.

Men's study Wednesday mornings at 6:00 and Sunday mornings at 9:00.

#### Awana

Wednesdays at 6-7:30. All children are welcome.

#### Youth

The second and fourth Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Join us for fellowship and a great study.



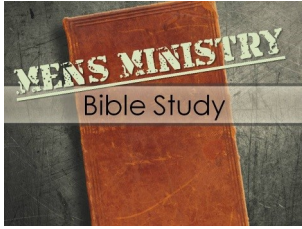
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### Save the Date

- Spring Serving Weekend April 27-29 (details on page 3)

## Opportunities



### Wednesday Morning Study 6-7:30AM

Set your alarm! All men are welcome to join us for our weekly Men's study. We will be doing a study by Patrick Morley. The study consists of a 45 minute video followed a small group discussion. Please join us whether you can make only one week or all of them as each study stands on its own.

### Women's Ministry Bible Study

Join Us!

Monday nights at 6:00 pm and Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am

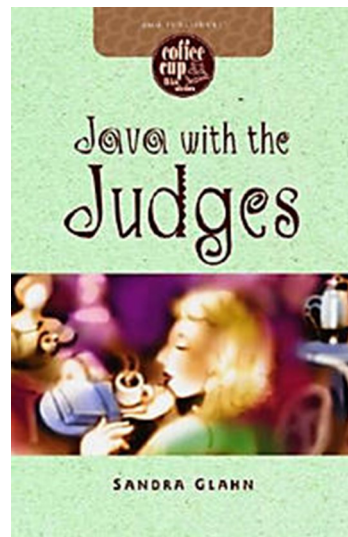
"Everyone did what was right in their own eyes."

Sound familiar?

By considering the lives of characters in the Book of Judges, we will see the urgency in doing what's right no matter the cost. Sandra Glahn skillfully applies the lessons from Israel's past to women today.

If you have ever wondered what ancient biblical history has to do with your life, you'll find that the principles and poignant questions presented here are relevant and clear.

This will be a twelve-week study. It starts Monday, March 19.



### Men's Breakfast

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 3 for Men's Breakfast. At Golden Corral in Grand Chute at 7:30.



Easter flower order forms are now available in the church office or on the lobby sign-up table. The flowers that you order will be used to decorate the sanctuary for our Easter morning service. After the service you can take them home with you to enjoy.

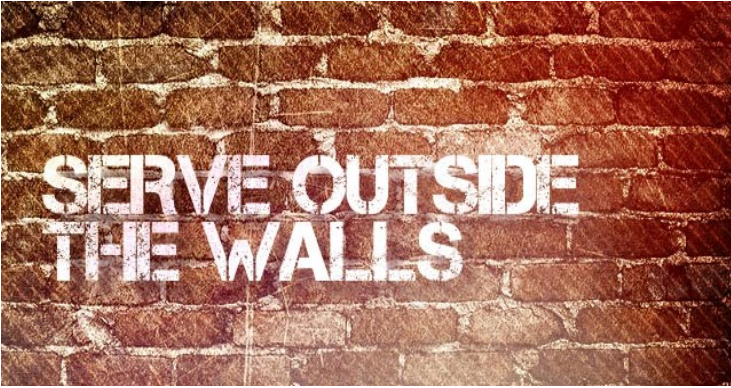
Include your payment with the form in an envelope marked Easter Flowers, which can be turned in to Mary in the church office or put into the offering box in the sanctuary. Please return orders by March 11th, so that the florist can reserve them for us at their greenhouse.

### Mission Collection for March

We will be collecting O'Reilly gift cards for our upcoming Oil Change. The cards will be used to purchase oil and filters from O'Reilly's Auto Service. We usually have 29-32 cars that come in. We pray with those who are open to prayer and this year plan to follow up with them.

Thank you for your generous giving. You are a blessing to our ministry and those we serve.

## Opportunities-continued



### Spring Serving Weekend

Please pray consider a trip to the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation the weekend of April 27-29. Cost is \$50.00. We will have groups leaving at 1:00 and 4:00 pm on Friday and we will return sometime late afternoon on Sunday. We will come along side the ministry of the Shack and help out with projects they set up.

Everyone is welcome to come; kids and adults. Those under 17 are free. All those 16 and under will need to have an adult who is responsible for them.

There is information and a release form on the table in the lobby. If you have questions please contact Tim

### Discipleship Notes

Alive in Christ

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Colossians 2: 6-7

Christ calls us to encourage and equip people so that we can all worship Him in an effective and impactful Christian life. In the last two months we have talked about the gospel of grace. Let us now consider how we may put our God given time and God given talent in this area of one to one encouragement.

Perhaps you are more familiar with the term mentoring, often used when a person shares one's life with another in helping that person to mature in his or her faith. This type of relationship can be very productive in the right setting and I would encourage it when the opportunity presents itself. However, we may not always feel comfortable to develop a mentor-mentee relationship. Let me suggest an effective alternative.

Barnabas is a good example of encouraging someone, his name actually means 'son of encouragement.' In Acts 9 is just a sample of how he encouraged Paul at the time of Paul's conversion. As believers in Jesus Christ through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit each of us have the attribute for coming along side of someone and encouraging them.

Is there anyone you see on a regular basis that could use some encouragement? Look for that person and ask if you can help by simply offering them a cup of coffee and some conversation. He or she will appreciate it and be encouraged.

Pastor Greg's message on Sunday Feb 25<sup>th</sup> included 'Our Responsibility to Rescue One Another: A Matter of Accountability' –based on James 5:19-20. While I had written this article prior to the 25<sup>th</sup>, I couldn't help but bring attention to his message in this month's article. If you missed Sunday's message, please listen to it online. Encouragement is part of the DNA of ACEFC. Folks we are talking discipleship in its most basic form. Thanks Pastor.

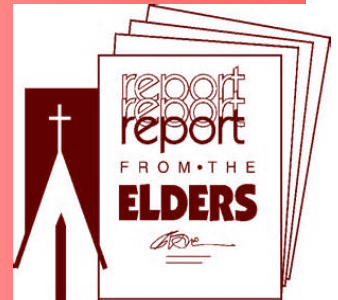
God Bless.

Tom Deason



## Elders Report

Well the days are getting longer now and warmer weather is just around the corner, bringing the promise of new life that springs forth this time of year. How appropriate this is as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. It has been a long winter though and a difficult one for many of our brothers and sisters. We have lost loved ones and faced many trials and hardships this past year and many of us are still continuing on the road to recovery. Please continue to encourage and care for one another as we go through this journey together. We seem to be at our best when serving one another. Let's be in prayer for each other always and please share any prayer requests. We have a number of wonderful people in our prayer ministry.



It's been reported to me that the annual pie in the face event went well with the AWANA kids. Thanks to Pam, Josh and Matt for taking one for the team. I've also learned that the Children's Church kids earned a special movie time (with popcorn) for remembering to bring their Bibles on Sunday mornings. A special thank you to everyone who teaches and cares for these little ones. I think that we've been blessed with the growing number of kids we are serving because of our faithfulness in ministering to them. Matt and Lisa and our youth group attended Districts again this year and it sounds like all went well. This is a fantastic group of kids and they are a blast to be around.

We look forward to seeing more new faces during our worship services on Sunday mornings as well as those visitors dropping their children off on Wednesday evenings for AWANA. Let's all make sure we go out of our way to welcome them and make all visitors feel at home. As an elder board one of the areas we wanted to focus on this year was making Appleton Community an inviting place for visitors as well as an inspiring place during our worship times.

With Gaylen and Tom stepping down as elders I am reminded of how blessed we've been to have them on the board. They bring so much experience and wisdom and will now impart those gifts in the areas of Discipleship and Missions. They are an inspiration to me. A big thanks to Tim for coming back on the board again. I look forward to him sharing his passion for our Missions effort. Speaking of missions, continue to pray for all our missionaries and check the board for updates. Let's also pray for our team that will be in Texas as you read this.

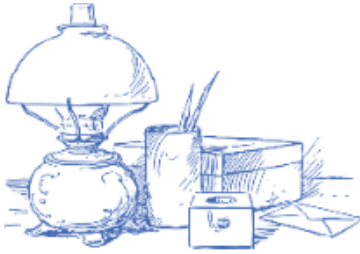
Women's Bible study meets Monday nights at 6pm and Tuesday mornings at 9am. They are currently doing James MacDonald's "Have the Funeral", a study on Forgiveness. It is very timely in that we are in the season of Lent. The men continue to meet on Wednesday and Sunday mornings going through a series by Robert Morley. I am encouraged about reports on our growth groups as well but I am sure Tom will keep us up to date there.

Keep the Light Shining ...in an evident way every day!  
Ted





## Some “Encouragement” from Pastor Greg



Recently there have been many times when I’ve been reminded that “everyone is emotionally wired in a unique way.” And in several conversations and discussions, I’ve found “the need” to remind both myself and others about this reality. For the most part, each person sees and experiences life differently—thus everyone thinks, interprets, feels, responds, reacts, establishes opinions, and develops memories in such a way that multiplies the necessity for all of us to be properly patient, sufficiently sensitive, and utterly understanding toward one another. Before I go any deeper into the rest of what I’m trying to say here, let me admit that I personally recognize that this is impossible without the power and presence of God’s Holy Spirit filling/controlling my life!

This need for “mutual understanding” toward one another isn’t new—but it seems likely that some of the factors that impact the need for action have increased the importance. Simply stated, the pressures we face from our society and the rapidly changing moral values make it more essential for us to realize how much emotional stress and strain everyone experiences. Even though we might not be as tempted to “give in” —or— “give up” in the battle over “right & wrong,” we all know people who have. There are so many sources of tension in our every day lives. There could be many biblical references that I might choose to use to help us, but this article is driven by my recent reading of 1 Thessalonians 5. Reading it prompted me to write this. Please notice what’s inserted in the box above. Read the whole section, and then carefully observe what’s in red from verses 14—17. The encouragement comes in six straightforward instructions. A summary idea for these instructions could be, “In the way we “manage and maintain” our personal relationships, one size doesn’t fit all.”

1 Thessalonians 5 <sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are in fact doing. ... <sup>12</sup> Now we ask you brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who labor among you and are called by the Lord to lead and admonish you <sup>13</sup> and show them proper respect and love because of their responsibilities. Strive for peace among yourselves. <sup>14</sup> And we encourage you, brothers and sisters, admonish the undisciplined, comfort the discouraged, help those who are weak, be patient toward everyone. <sup>15</sup> See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always pursue what’s best for one another and for all of you. <sup>16</sup> Always rejoice, <sup>17</sup> constantly pray, <sup>18</sup> in all situations give thanks. For this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. <sup>19</sup> Don’t suppress the Spirit’s guidance. <sup>20</sup> Don’t disregard biblical teaching and instructions. <sup>21</sup> But examine all things; hold fast to what is good. <sup>22</sup> Stay away and avoid any form of evil influence.

(1) “Admonish the undisciplined.” In everyone’s life, there are times when things spin out of control. That’s normal and it doesn’t necessarily begin with sin or wrong—doing. However, the way we respond to situations that evolve into something we can’t control might lead to a bad or sinful action/habit. (The discussion about discerning what we can and can’t control will need to be included in another article at another time. It’s valuable to learn, but for now let’s simply say we need to pray for wisdom about what we control and when we let go & let God!) We can all become “undisciplined” when we wander from the guidelines and instructions of God’s Word. When that happens, (like we studied in James 5:19—20) we should welcome a close friend or family member’s loving exhortation or warning to re—evaluate our actions and begin to obey the teaching of God’s Word. Remember it’s easy to wander or stray from the Truth whenever we become overwhelmed by the chaos and confusion of our culture.

(2) “Comfort the discouraged.” The words used in this instruction are clear and easy to understand when seen in the original Greek language. Paul is telling us to provide personal words of comfort and consolation to those who are easily overcome by painful thoughts or despair. There are moments when any of us might experience this—it’s best if we have people in our lives who can be trusted and with whom we can be transparent. That way we can be sensitive to the stress and struggles we face and we can provide words of comfort and consolation that will strengthen one another.

(3) “Help those who are weak.” This guideline from Paul seems to address the way we “support” those who have specific physical and spiritual challenges. The term for “help” literally means “to hold up with firm support.” We should provide stability and support for those with physical weaknesses (elderly people or those with special needs). The word that’s translated “weak” could refer to either a physical concern or one that is more “spiritual” in nature. There are followers for Christ who might experience a crisis of faith or a time when doubt, despair, skepticism, or cynicism sets in because of trials and troubles in life. We need to remain patient and persistent with one another in a way that supports and strengthens our relationships with the Lord and with each other.

(4) “Be patient toward one another.” Patient literally means “long—suffering,” but could/should be applied to say we should be willing to go the extra mile in our sensitivity and support for each other. Being alert, aware, and understanding of the challenges we face and trying to put ourselves into one another’s shoes. It’s true that those who are wounded sometimes wound others. Developing a sense of patience toward one another can break that trend and stop the cycle of hurt!

(5) “See that no one pays back evil with evil.” When I was a child, I probably heard the saying, “Two wrongs will never make one right!” This reference by Paul is saying this plus more. It’s reminding us that “retribution” & “retaliation” are likely to keep the conflict brewing and will lead to more problems. “Restoration, reconciliation, and restitution” will only come when one party of a struggle realizes that evil can never settle the score.

(6) “But always pursue what’s best for one another and for all of you.” Isn’t it amazing how logical and consistent the sequence of truths are in this passage of scripture? Literally this statement (always pursue) emphasizes the idea of “going after something with absolute intent and strong effort.” As members within God’s family of faith, our relationship with each other should strive for what’s best for each and every member of the family. Romans 12:9—21 also stresses that idea that we should give preference to one another within the family of God. Being cautious and careful that we never do this as a “show” or an exhibit that becomes artificial or hypocritical, we should treat one another in a manner that would make those outside the “family” want what we have. They should see the relationships within the Church and feel a sense of envy because they don’t have the same sense of support that the Holy Spirit enables us to have with one another.

Please let me know what you think as you read this. Let’s find time to discuss this and expand on the blessings we can enjoy when we strive to understand and support each other in the way Paul encourages us in this passage.

As always, with praise for His grace and prayer for His glory,

Pastor Greg

## Missionaries of the Month-Jim and Ginger Moore

For those of you who don't know us, we are Jim and Ginger Moore. We were sent out by Appleton E-Free Church twenty-one years ago to join Wycliffe Bible Translators. You have supported us all these years with prayer and finances, and we would like to say "thank you". Without you, our ministry would not have been possible. We are still involved in getting God's Word to people who do not have it. The following is a glimpse into my current projects.

Today I am working on a phone application. It is for a language community in Southeast Asia. The app will be free and contain Bible stories from the gospels.

Our hope is that this app will draw readers to the scripture phone app that we built last year. "Read N Grow" Bible story has given us permission to use their illustrations. Current trends tell us that to engage people with the scriptures on mobile devices we need to use more pictures and videos. Read N Grow's generosity makes our apps more useable and attractive. ***Pray that this language group (AM) will use these mobile apps, become followers of Jesus and grow in their faith.***



In March, I am traveling to Thailand to attend a conference on the use of media in missions. Many people from different organizations come from all over the world. I will spend most of the first week teaching website development and the second week attending meetings and networking with other organizations. This conference is a great place to meet like-minded people and collaborate on our ministries. It has resulted in partnerships that allowed us to teach many website workshops and generate mobile Scripture applications for many people groups. ***Please pray for those that have signed up for our pre-conference workshop, that we communicate effectively and***

***that all Scripture websites developed would go live while we are there.***

Ginger has moved to an "as needed" (PRN) position in the Emergency Department. The good news is that she is working far fewer weekends and only in minor care. ***Pray that she will find a good work balance.*** The down side to this is that it has resulted in a shortfall in our monthly budget. ***Please pray God would supply what is needed.*** Already God has encouraged us.

Natalie is still living in England and looking for a full time position teaching medieval literature. Recently, she interviewed with Baylor University in Texas. Francis (her husband) and Natalie would love to work and live there. ***Pray that she will get a job offer.***



Hiking with Francis's family

Mitch has just taken a job that lands him in California for several months. He will then be part of a new office in Raleigh, NC. ***Pray that he will adjust quickly and find a good church in Oakland while he is there.***



Mitch is on the left with his girlfriend Elizabeth

Abby and Sam are living in Greenville, South Carolina. Sam is commuting to Athens, Georgia, twice a week working on his PhD in Parks and Recreation. ***Pray for wisdom for them as they consider a move to Athens.***

## Youth and Children's Ministry

**The Power of Prayer!** Join us in praying for our children/youth. I send out my weekly emails on Wednesdays, so the dates are Wednesdays-Tuesdays. March children/youth to pray for:

**3/7:** Madi Ross (youth), Audrey Koszewa (K-5), Lofton MacDonald (Sprouts).

**3/14:** Mikel Rose (Lil' Sprouts), Grace Koszewa (K-5), Aliza Moran (Sprouts).

**3/21:** Maddy Moran (youth), Adalee MacDonald (K-5), John Moran (Sprouts).

**3/28:** Pray for specific child/youth God brings to mind and pray for the children/youth of our missionaries.

### Awana Schedule

- March 7-Regular Club (Help for the Homeless Drive)
- March 14-Superhero Night (Come dressed as a Superhero)
- March 15-Lucky Charm Night (wear green for St. Patrick's Day)
- March 21-Regular Club
- March 28- No Club



Time to Shop! Our AWANA clubbers are saving their points to shop at the AWANA store. We are looking for donations of small prizes such as small stuffed animals, games, school supplies, books, toys, etc. The AWANA store

will be April 4 and donations can be dropped off any time.

### AWANA Awards

Awards Ceremony! Everyone is invited to share in the excitement and join in on celebrating and recognizing our clubbers hard work this year. Mark your calendars for April 18 at 6 pm. Cake will be served following the ceremony.

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

Appleton Community Evangelical Free Church  
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Phone  
920-735-9971

### 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