

March Forward

Sunday, March 10 is when we move ahead into Spring. Set your clock one hour ahead before you go to bed Saturday, March 9. Here is what is coming up this month.

Prayer

The Prayer Team invites you to join them Sunday, March 10, Sunday, March 24 and Sunday, March 31 from 9-9:45 am in the prayer room where they pray for our church needs.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 2 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 the Ten Commandments continues through March. A new study will begin in April, the details are 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

We meet Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Join us for fellowship and a great study.

Minute-To-Win-It

Join us Friday, March 15 for an evening of fast paced action and lots of fun for everyone.

Missions Seminar

Saturday, March 23 9:00-11:00. Details on page 7.



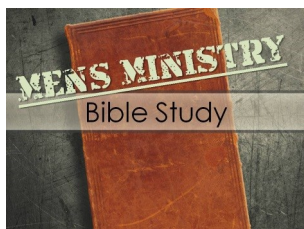
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Save the Date

- 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.

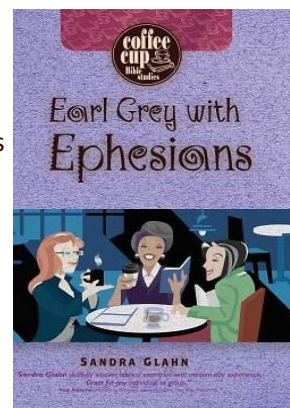
Women's Ministry Bible Study

Join Us!

Monday nights at 6:00 pm and Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am
Earl Grey with Ephesians takes readers back to first-century Ephesus to explore the answers Scripture provides to the questions "Who am I?" and "What am I here for?" as well as how to live in light of these great realities.

This will be a twelve-week study starting Monday, March 25. Cost is \$15.00. All women are welcome to join as we study this powerful book.

Contact Mary for details at 920-735-9971



Men's Breakfast

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 2 for Men's Breakfast.
Meet us at the Golden Corral in Grand Chute, 7:30.



The Nest

Tuesday March 12

7:00 pm

Spring is coming!

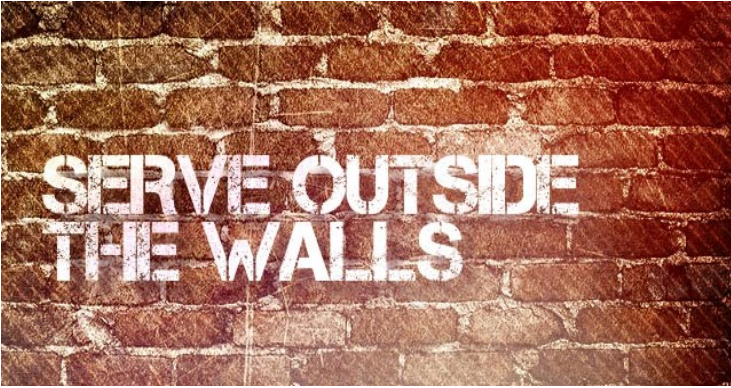
All women are invited to
join us for treats, fellowship, inspiration and fun.

baptism



Another baptism service is being planned
Please contact Pastor Greg if you are interested

Opportunities-continued



Spring Serving Weekend

Please pray consider a trip to the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation the weekend of April 26-28. We will be serving along side the ministry of The Shack. The Shack reaches out to those in the community who need Christ.

The cost is \$50.00. 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.

We will have a group leaving at 1:00 pm and one at 4:00 pm. There are release forms on the table by the entrance. If you have questions or are interested in going please contact Tim and Sue Diestler: (920-851-3104) or diestlerts@aol.com.

Discipleship Notes



The Ides of March (not eyes) is a day on the Roman calendar that corresponds to March 15 on our calendar. It was marked by several religious observances and was notable for the Romans as a deadline for settling debts. In 44 BC, it became notorious as the date of the assassination of Julius Caesar. You might be asking, “What does that have to do with discipleship?” Forgive me. Nothing, but I thought it was interesting.

In past newsletters I’ve emphasized the need to become more Christ—like in my spiritual walk and maturity. Looking at the basics, then, what is discipleship and what are the opportunities we have here at Appleton Community EFC involving discipleship that can make this happen?

What I’ve found to be the simplest and most descriptive meaning of discipleship is following pattern of our Good Shepherd, Jesus, and helping others do the same. Here are some of the specific opportunities we have.

God has revealed His attributes in “His Word.” Galatians 5:22—23 teaches us, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control; against such things there is no law!”

After looking at these two verses, let’s consider how we can work toward Christ—likeness. Here are some scenarios portraying individual discipleship.

1. Parenting is a very basic ministry of discipleship. Note Ephesians 6:4.
2. Discipleship also “happens” when we take the time to walk alongside someone in our church who has a need and try to help them grow into a growing relationship with Christ. See Ephesians 4:12—16.
3. Providing Christian education is discipleship.
4. Biblical counseling is discipleship.

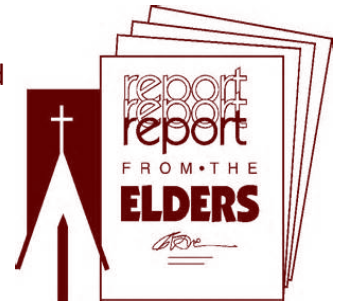
Each and every one of us has a role in this. Have you recognized it and are you putting it to God’s use?

In closing, Lola and I want to thank everyone for their prayers during this time of recovery. We are grateful for the cards, food, and general concern you have shown us. Praise God for our recoveries and the family of Appleton Community EFC.

God Bless,
Tom Deason

Elder Report

I had the privilege of attending my first AWANA Grand Prix last Saturday and enjoyed it thoroughly. Being there reminded me of the great group of volunteers we have with this ministry and we, as elders, are very grateful for all you do with these little ones. What an outstanding job Pam did presenting the gospel in Nascarese! It seems there was even a group of Pinewood veterans who had their cars on display!



Thanks to the Mission team for their time spent in Houston! I have not had a chance to talk with any of them yet but look forward to hearing what God did through them on their trip. I am sure they will be sharing soon on Sunday. How beautiful are their feet.

Rob had mentioned in the last Elders report that one of our areas of focus this year as elders is building up our ministry teams. We don't feel that our roles and the role of the ministry leads have always been clearly defined and we take responsibility for that. It is our goal to remedy that this year so our teams feel free to pursue the vision they feel God has placed in their hearts. A team of elders will be contacting our ministry teams to set up meetings to begin that effort. Our ministry teams really are the lifeblood of who we are. Speaking of the ministry teams, if you are looking for a place to plug in, please consider joining one of them. We always have room for more!

I am sure you have heard Pastor Greg or one of the elders mention that we want 2019 to be a year of encouragement for us. It is our wish that every person who walks through our doors on a Sunday morning, Wednesday evening or any other time would feel loved and encouraged, be they first time visitors or long standing members. We are commanded to be an encouragement to each other. Life is a marathon and it is not always easy. Jesus told us we would have troubles! Even now we have so many brothers and sisters going through difficult trials and we must be in the business of loving each other if we claim to walk as Jesus did. If someone leaves our church on Sunday morning and does not feel loved I am afraid that we have failed. And let us please remember what we are here for each other not only on Sunday mornings but at all times. Let no debt remain outstanding except for the continuing debt to love one another.

I would also encourage everyone to use the study guides that Pastor Greg has been providing each month. They are an excellent tool to use to expand upon the sermon series and reflect further into the word. Thank you, Greg, for your hard work on these.

Let's continue to give our all to the one who gave his all on our behalf!

Ted

Youth & Children's Ministry

As a society have we lost some simple life skills ... called manners and respect? Children need to be taught these skills and this can begin at a very young age. For example, in the Lil' Sprouts room, if a child can talk, they should be encouraged to say, "please" and "thank you." In the Sprouts room, they can say, "please, thank you, no thank you, and I'm sorry." These manners should be expected and always be reinforced in a positive way. In addition to this, our older kids should also be encouraged to put others first by letting someone else be first in line or eat the last cookie. It's just plain and simple: having good manners is being kind and respectful. As a believer, kindness should be a priority. We should set the bar high for our kids by showing and teaching them manners and encouraging them to be good role models for others. The world teaches our kids it's all about ME! But Jesus told us to love others as ourselves and to be kind.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." (Colossians 3:12)

What's Happening in March:

Lil' Sprouts: God made the animals.

Sprouts: The Wordless Book (the Gospel will be shared twice in March) Prayer, Mary and Martha.

K-5 Evergreens: Worship in the Wilderness, Exodus. Wondering in the Wilderness, Numbers.

Y.A.M's: Sunday School will finish the book of Exodus and then start the book of Numbers, God Guides His People.

Y.A.M's: Wednesday Night will continue using Witnesses, topics this month are Defend, Refuge, Unique, and Create.

K-5 9 am Sunday School: Will be starting in the New Testament using The Jesus Storybook Bible.

Did you see the new books and DVD's at the Tree Library? Check them out. Feel free to take the DVD's home for a few weeks.

Looking for some good parent/family resources? I have some in my office, come take a look... *Explore the Bible Devotional, Glorious God Glorious Gospel family devotional, Between Us Mom/daughter Devo, 10 Best Decisions Every Parent Can Make by Bill and Pam Farrel.*



Awana Schedule

March 6: Wear your regular uniform

March 13: Crazy Hair Night

March 20: Wear your regular uniform

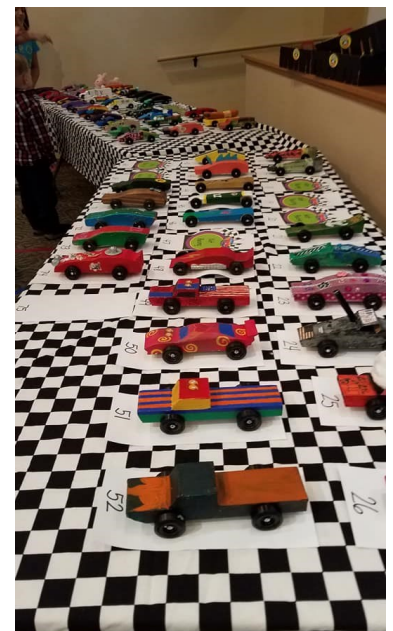
March 27: NO Club! Spring Break

Only six weeks left! It has been an amazing year for clubbers and all the volunteers.

Let's finish out the year strong. Check out the AWANA schedule on the left and don't miss a night! Pie-In-The Face is coming but there's still time to put money in the leader's jar of your choice.

Grand Prix: Thank you to everyone who participated in our event! Thank you to everyone who helped set up, run the event, and clean-up, etc. Everything went very smoothly! I'd list all of your names, but I'd likely forget someone and feel terrible. I appreciated everything, from moving chairs, shoveling snow, setting up tables- all of it. I couldn't have done it on my own!

Start thinking of who you might want to invite to build a car next year!





Some “Reflections” from Pastor Greg

Something We Should Celebrate!



THE INSPIRED WORD

During the first week of February each year Moody Bible Institute cancels their regular classes and holds a Bible Conference known as Founder’s Week. Typically it features some of the best Bible teaching you can find and this year the theme was “The Inspired Word.” I wasn’t able to listen (or watch on line) to every session, but the ones I heard were extremely encouraging, enlightening, and exceptional! Below there are five links embedded in a box for specific sessions that I would recommend for everyone to take the time to watch online. They will provide you with an amazing blessing.

One thing that these messages brought to my mind involves the manner and perspective with which we approach the Word of God in our personal devotions, during our Sunday worship services, or in a group Bible study (this includes me because I also need to examine my heart). Please carefully read/observe the insert of 1 Thessalonians 5:11—23 ... and then consider these questions to help us think about how we approach God’s Word:

1. Am I expecting to hear from God when His Word is being explained and His Truth is being “exposed” to me?
2. Am I willing to allow God’s Word to penetrate my heart and change my lifestyle?
3. Am I preparing myself in advance thru prayer?
4. Do I fall into the trap of going thru the motions and looking at these opportunities simply as a regular routine that takes place each week?
5. Am I more likely to hear a challenging principle, life lesson, or application and think how it would be more relevant for someone else than it is for me?
6. Do I tend to critique or evaluate the presentation or do I pay attention to the reality that God’s “inspired” Word is always profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training so I can become more adequately equipped as an ambassador for Christ?

Our society/culture is increasingly being influenced and impacted by anti-Christian philosophies that contradict God’s truth and corrupt people’s minds. It’s as important as it has ever been that we would pay close attention to what God has revealed to us in His Inspired Word of Truth, the Holy Bible! May God bless you richly as you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!

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

1 Thessalonians 5:11—23 ...Therefore

encourage one another and build up each other, just as you are in fact doing. Now we ask you, brothers & sisters, recognize those who labor among you, lead you in the Lord’s work and give you instruction and show them the respect and support they deserve with love because of what they do. Strive for peace and unity among yourselves. And we urge you brothers and sisters, admonish the undisciplined, comfort the discouraged, help the weak, be patient toward all. Make sure that no one pays back evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is best for one another and for all. Always rejoice, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks! For this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus, **Don’t ever squelch the work of the Spirit. Try to avoid being critical or showing contempt for the teaching and explanation of the Word. Instead examine all that is taught and hold fast to what is good.** Stay away from every hint of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself make you completely holy and may your spirit, soul, and body be preserved without blame at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Colin Smith https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZQ83HPU_5M

Colin Smith

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZQ83HPU_5M

Nancy Leigh DeMoss Wolgemuth

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8a8sHhQu-ac

Mark Jobe

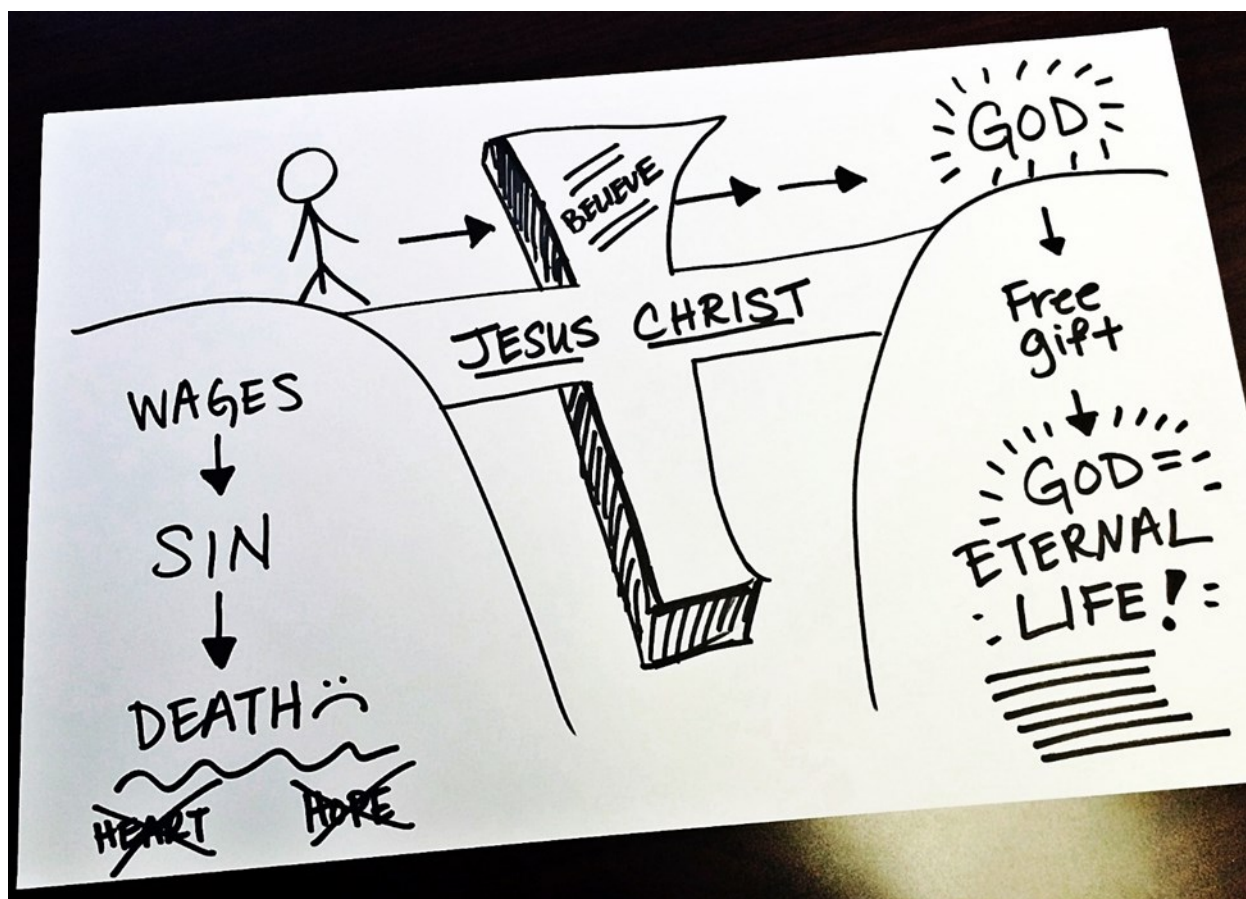
www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHdD2xXNd4c

Michael Rydelnik

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSY5xfRJ11I

Michael Easley

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ochOb5JSbU



Saturday, March 23
9:00-11:00 am

Come one come all!!

The Missions Committee is putting on a one morning seminar on how to share the Bridge Illustration. We will be showing videos on how to do it, answering questions that might come up, and practicing with each other. The Bridge Illustration is one of the most basic and easy ways to share the gospel message with friends, family and coworkers.

It was developed by the Navigators and has been used successfully throughout the world. Tracts and scripture cards will be provided as well as morning snacks and beverages. Come and learn how to share the gospel in an encouraging and non-threatening environment.

Hope to see you there,

Dean Pankow
Missions Chair

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

Appleton Community Evangelical Free Church
2490 West Capitol Drive
Appleton, WI 54914
Phone
920-735-9971

NO WINTER
LASTS FOREVER;
NO SPRING
SKIPS ITS TURN.

HAL BORLAND

Church Office Hours

Closed Mondays

Tuesday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Wednesday 11:00 pm-6:00 pm

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