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Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks about:



- Indoor Services
- October 4
- Reservations Online
- Overflow seating using live streaming!



Loving our neighbor even when they disagree

Story

There once was a man who decided to take a road trip from Wisconsin to California. As he was driving, he began to smell burning rubber. He thought it was odd but kept driving. A few miles down the road his check engine light came on. He knew it was his car that smelled like burning rubber and he needed to pull over. He saw a sign for an exit that led to a small town. This town had no gas station, so he pulled over in front of some houses. He checked his phone and realized he had no service in this town. He saw a house with a Jesus is King sign in the yard. The man was out watering his garden, therefore he decided to walk towards him. The man saw him coming so he dropped the hose and ran into the house. The man started yelling for the guy to wait! He just needed to use his phone to call a tow truck. The guy didn't stop. He thought about knocking on the door but saw another man walking down the street. As the stranded traveler approached the man walking down the street, the man quickly crossed the street. He yelled, "I just need to ask you a question!" The man yelled back, "I am a pastor at a church, and I have been talking to people all day. I just want to go home."

Defeated the man started to walk back to his car. He opened the hood and saw that his serpentine belt was almost gone. The tourist began to weep because he didn't know what to do. He was helpless. All of a sudden, a car pulls up and rolls down his window and asks what's wrong. The traveler explains the problem to the driver who says, "let me turn around and give you a ride to a bigger town 15 minutes down the road." As he is turning around the traveler notices the ANTIFA and Bernie Sanders bumper stickers on the car. He gets into the car not sure what to expect. As they are driving the man says this town has a hotel and an auto parts store. I will pay for your hotel tonight since the parts store is closed. First thing in the morning I will go to the parts store and buy the parts before I pick you up. Then we can go fix your car. As the tourist was walking to his hotel room the man says, "make sure to take advantage of room service since I am paying for the room."

What does this story mean?

Which of these three people do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who was stranded? It is the one who showed mercy. Therefore, we should follow his example. I have been meditating on the parable of the good Samaritan and thinking how it would sound in a modern day context (Luke 10:25-37). As Christians who do we think would be the most unlikely source of help? In our current climate we may think it someone on the progressive left. I hope the story left you a little irritated! That is how the religious leaders would have felt when they listened to Jesus tell them a story where the Samaritan was the person they are supposed to emulate.

John Piper helped me understand this parable. He says, "Jesus tells a story that changes the question from what kind of person is my neighbor to what kind of person am I? He changes the question from what status of people are worthy of my love to how can I become the kind of person whose compassion disregards status?"

This parable is supposed to cause self-reflection. It holds up a mirror to our life and forces us to confront areas where we are not loving our neighbor.

This can be applied to many different areas of our life but since it is election season, we should focus on those who disagree with us politically. This can be very hard because many of our core values are vastly different.

Application

1. Remember that all people are created in the image of God! This includes those with political differences. You can put any group of people you disagree with in that sentence. We shouldn't treat those with different views as less than human.
2. Have compassion on those different than you. The religious leader says, the one who showed mercy is the one who is the real neighbor. Jesus tells him to go and do likewise. Mercy and compassion go hand and hand. Compassion "disregards the status of the person we are showing compassion to. What are some hands-on ways you can love those different than you?"
3. Watch your words when it comes to talking about political differences.
 - a. Watch what you say behind closed doors. People are listening. Your kids are listening! Be kind and gracious when talking about people who have different beliefs. Even if those beliefs go against the Bible. Being kind and gracious is not mutually exclusive from speaking truth.
 - b. Watch what you say online! It is really easy to speak sinfully when we are in front of a computer screen. It is discouraging reading the comments on news articles. We also need to watch what news articles we are sharing. Sharing misinformation is also a sin. This means we should fact check before posting.
4. Pray for those who are different from you. Prayer is an incredible privilege that we have as Christians. Are we praying?
5. Share Jesus with those who are different than you. All people need to hear about Jesus. Sharing means that we have to get involved people's lives. This can be really hard when people are different from us, but it is possible.

CHRISTMAS IN THE SANCTUARY



I have prepared this year's sanctuary Christmas design. Installation is set for the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving (November 23rd & 24th), Lord willing. All of you who helped last year were truly a God-sent blessing. For those who would be available this year to help install it, please contact me to let me know when you'll be able to show up, so that I can plan accordingly. Once more, I would like to prepare our sanctuary as an environment that induces an attitude of worship upon entering. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve.

Gary Noggle
(920) 734-0832 garyalanog@gmail.com

Women's Ministry



The Fall Women's Bible studies have begun. We've had a few bumps along the way but have 30 ladies involved in our weekly studies. There are still some openings for the Wednesday morning Hebrews study at 10:00 a.m. and the Tuesday evening Bible Reading Challenge at 7:30 p.m. Join us for these exciting opportunities to grow in knowing God and His Word.

If you are interested please contact
Mary Noggle at menoggle@gmail.com or 920-851-8963.



The Nest



I just want to say how much we miss seeing all your lovely faces once a month. This is such a difficult time for all of us and I have been praying for each of you and also praying on how we should continue getting together. At this time, after talking with some of the elders and knowing what will come of church in the next few weeks or months, we will be taking a break from the Nest until we are able to safely get back into church and groups. Right now I am just focusing on each month because I am so excited to see all of you. If any of you have specific needs you want us to pray for, please reach out to myself or any other ladies at church.

Stephanie Zaruba



Youth and Children's Ministry

What's Happening in Growing God's Way Children's and Youth Ministries:

We have enjoyed having Children's Church outside, the kids are engaging, smiling, and learning! The plan is to move inside sometime in October, depending on the weather. Hopefully it will be possible to continue to meet outside for a few weeks in October. Once we are inside the children 2.5yrs-5th grade will meet in the Evergreen/Sparks room, we run it similar to how it was outside.



Detailed instructions will be coming on how we will do Children's ministry inside. We have taken extra precautions for meeting inside. All rooms and toys have been sanitized. There will be no snack or playing with toys in the Evergreen Room. Children will use a wet wipe or hand sanitizer before entering room.

Lil' Sprouts Room ages 6wks.-2yrs. will be reservations only. This room will have limited toys, and toys and room will be sanitized after service.



I'm praying for all of you, regardless if your children are in school or you are teaching at home, these are very trying times.....just remember God is in control.



We are excited to announce that we are attending **Fall Fest at Lake Lundgren Bible Camp**. This will be a weekend of friendship, fun, and spiritual growth.



Join us **Sunday nights from 6:00pm-7:30pm** at the church. Everyone is welcome!



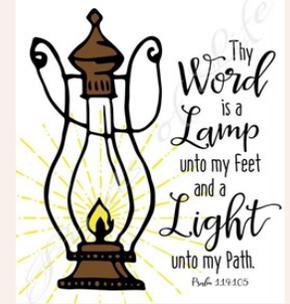
Virtual Awana is going GREAT! Zoom is working well and even though things look a bit different this year, we love seeing all of our clubbers and focus on learning God's Word.



Elders Report



Your Word is a light unto my path, and a lamp unto my feet (Psalm 119:105)

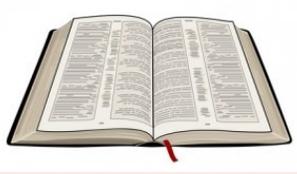


In the past six or so months our lives have taken on all sorts of obstacles to deal with a new kind of hidden foe, a microscopic virus. We have endured turmoil on a historic global scale, as the combinations of this pandemic, climate events, and the injustices and suffering of a sinful world have turned our lives upside down as we cope with disrupted routines of comfort, including loss of loved ones, jobs, income, homes, and security amidst fire, flood, hurricane, economic collapse and social upheaval. Indeed, the headlines are dizzying, and we can easily get caught up in it all. We barely have time to attend to essential daily routines, now that they include remote schooling, extra care as we do our shopping etc. We suffer from social isolation, craving the return of easy care-free visits with family and friends. And, there seems to be no near-term answer. Pandemics do end of course, but none of us has any experience to guide us through a multi-year change in what we have known as normal. We can respond by focusing, knowing that God calls us to be faithful, trusting, and seeking of His will in prayer, as He leads us along this challenging path of our lives. Despite all of life's turmoil, we can place all of our burdens on Jesus, and give thanks to God for the eternal security we have in the promise of the Gospel.

In adapting our ministry, the Elders, too, have been in prayer, seeking the Lord on all this, as we clearly have no accumulated wisdom on which to draw. What worked in ministry in the past is behind us; we seek new ways to experience community, to worship, and to serve as He matures us in our faith. A great big thank you to all of the hard, tireless efforts of Pastor Greg, Lisa, Ken, Nicole, Ruth, Roberta, our ministry team leaders, volunteers and fellow Elders. And a special thanks to Kayleen and Pastor Blake, stepping into a new role right on the cusp of the pandemic! Not an easy task for our teams, but a great thanks is due for their work to minister to all of us—our families, kids, youth, and growth group members as well.

As you are all aware, we are carefully planning efforts to meet once again indoors to worship on Sundays, and slowly adapt ministry efforts in a reasoned way to best assure everyone's health and safety against the invisible attacks of Satan, *and*, the virus. We prayerfully ask that everyone do their part to allow us all to comfortably gather together, to worship the Lord, and to be an encouragement to one another by our mutual presence. If we can all humble ourselves, and act respectfully and responsibly, with the tools noted above, we can, and will pull this off, despite our community's rather widespread and asymptomatic presence of this virus. It will enter our building, as it does businesses, schools and other gathering places. We pray to the Lord for protection and wisdom. Together, we can safely gather, and burnish our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing is new under the sun; our sovereign God has a plan and purpose for us, especially during this time, and may we glorify Him by our faithful lives, loving him and loving and caring for one another.

Rob Fox



Some “Additional Thoughts” from Pastor Greg

Prayer: A Precious Privilege & A Primary Priority

As I begin this article, I feel I should admit that I wrote about prayer for the June, 2020 newsletter and it was the emphasis of our sermon a couple weeks back in the current series from Jesus’ Final Instructions to His Followers (John 13—17). But, in preparing to write this month’s article, I couldn’t resist focusing more attention on the impact, importance, influence, and immensity of prayer.

Most everyone is keenly aware of how our society has been repeatedly riddled and rocked throughout this calendar year. The news cycle is spinning so quickly that we rarely have time to process yesterday’s headlines before we receive another set of sound bites to digest. Without any question or doubt, those of us who claim to be faithful followers of Christ should recognize the need to invest as much time in prayer as we can fit into our schedules. The exhortation from the Apostle Paul to “pray without ceasing” and God’s instructions in Psalm 46 for us to “be still and acknowledge that I am God” seem to be jump off the pages of Scripture. But even though we know in our minds that prayer is a powerful tool and a special privilege we’ve been given by God, I’ve heard many people question whether prayer is enough. Undoubtedly we should be consistently praying that God would give us the **wisdom** to do what needs to be done and also praying that He would give us the **willingness** to step up with obedience to do what His Word commands us to do. Whenever we make prayer a priority, no one can ever question whether we’ve done enough because it should lead to action on the part of God’s people!

Recently I read something I’d like to share with you. It was written by someone named Cameron Thompson. Apparently he was a friend of Billy and Ruth Graham. He wrote: (bold emphasis is mine)

“Men of God, whose prayers are recorded for us in the Bible, never read a book on prayer, never went to a seminar on prayer, never heard a sermon on prayer. **They just prayed!**”

Satan fears prayer because God hears prayer. Satan will stop at nothing to distract a person from praying or to get him to postpone praying or, failing that, to discourage him in his praying.

The center of power, it has been said, is to be found not in the summit meetings, the peace conferences, or the United Nations, but **where a child of God prays for God’s will to be done in his life, in his home, and in the world about him.**

We cannot pray and remain the same. We cannot pray and have our homes remain the same. We cannot pray and have the world about us remain the same. **God has decreed to act in response to prayer. ‘Ask,’ He commands us ... And Satan trembles for fear we will.**

William Barclay has said that *‘in praying for those we love we must remember:*

(1) the love of God wants the best for them;

(2) the wisdom of God knows what is best for them;

(3) the power of God can accomplish it!’

I’d like to close this with two related statements from A. W. Tozer and a personal comment from me. “We should always remember that without prayer you cannot win, and with it, you cannot lose ... Prayer becomes effective when we stop using it as a substitute for obedience.” —from Tozer. On a personal level, **it always amazes me when I realize that even though Jesus was God in human form, He had a strong dependence on prayer. If our Creator needed to pray in order to deal with life here on earth, how much more do I need to invest time in prayerful fellowship with Our Father Who is in Heaven?**

With prayer for God’s glory and praise for His grace ...

And as always, with prayer for our ACEFC family,

Pastor Greg

... in everything by prayer
and supplication with
thanksgiving let your re-
quests be made known to
God.

Missionary of the Month - Chris and Carrie Davis



Even in the wake of Covid, a quarantine and nearly all students at UGA taking online classes since March, we have still been ministering to a lot of students. In fact, I would say, from March through the end of June, I consistently met with more student athletes than I ever have during that time of year. Carrie also continued to meet with her girls along with juggling virtual



schooling for the kids through the end of the school year.

Our partnership with Jamaica has looked a lot different but we included the Jamaican staff and students in some virtual state-side bible studies with different partner regions.

While many students we worked with grew tired of a life spent on zoom and FaceTime, they still continued to show up each week for a virtual Bible Study on Joshua, or welcomed getting together one-on-one on a phone. Many missed the consistent interaction of being around each other for practice or games and this helped fill the void.

We talked a lot about the different ways the Lord fought for Joshua and the Israelites, drawing comparisons to our current situations. Whether we realize it or not, we need God fighting for us - whether we're in a pandemic or not.

This became especially true for Carrie and me over the past 6 weeks as both of us ended up getting Covid. Neither of us ended up in the hospital but we got hit pretty hard. I have recovered well, with the exception of not having much smell or taste. Carrie has had a harder time getting back to normal - she still experiences 'head fog', fatigue and can't taste or smell anything. Coupled with the start of virtual school for the kids as well as virtual and some distanced in-person ministry at UGA there's been a lot we've asked God to fight for. We're tired but still figuring out how to make life work.

The great news is that God has been with us in all of this. The kids had a great summer. They rode bikes with some friends 5-6 nights a week and we spent a lot of time together. They also haven't refused to do school online yet - which, I'm not sure if it was me, would be the case. Our ministry is also set up in a way that allows us to continue meeting with students even though we might not have as much in-person contact like we normally would - we get to equip them to reach their teammates in ways we can't right now.

We're grateful for you and would appreciate prayers for our continued health and recovery.



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)



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We're on the WEB!
appletonfreechurch.org



Church Office Hours
Closed Mondays
Tuesday—Friday
8:30 am – 2:30 pm

