



whatever you do
work at it with all your
as working for the Lord,
not for men.



COLOSSIANS 3:23

Welcome

FEBRUARY

Wishing you
a month filled
with love,
peace & joy.



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February 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10a.m. Women's Bible Study No Awana	6:30 p.m. Praise Team		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Lord's Supper Turkow Baby Shower After Church	6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship Study 6 p.m. Elders Mtg.	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. Awana	6:30 p.m. Praise Team		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship Study 7 p.m. "Chocolate" Nest	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. Awana	6:30 p.m. Praise Team		7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
"Let's Do Lunch" after church	6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship Study 6:30 Christian Ed. Mtg.	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. Awana	6:30 p.m. Praise Team		Mission Trip to Fort Meyers February 25-March 4
26	27	28				
	6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship Study				

Updates and Opportunities

SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM CHRISTINE HOOVER



Women's Bible Study

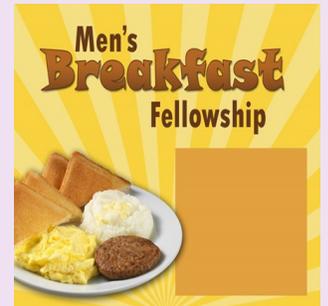
Join us Monday's at 6:00 p.m.
or
Wednesday's at 10:00 a.m. for this study
in the Gospel of Matthew.

Cost is \$15.00
Please contact the church office for more
details or to sign up. All women are
welcome!

Men's Breakfast: Save the Date



Save the date for **Saturday, February 18 at 7:30 a.m.** at church for our men's breakfast. All men are invited for a time of food, fun, and fellowship! Please contact Chris Matula or Chet Kamark with any questions!



Save the Date: Baby Shower for Jaclyn Turkow

February 5 after church in the *foyer*.
Baby Girl.
Lunch, games, fellowship, and fun.
Jaclyn's Registry is at Target

If you would be interested in helping with food or if you have any questions, please contact Shay at 303/993/9087.



The Nest

Come join us February 14 at 7:00 p.m. for a night of chocolate tasting, fellowship and fun. We will also be listening to a great message by a wonderful lady.



Come and join us February 19 at Pizza Ranch (5450 W. Integrity Way).

We have reserved a community room for after church so we can spend some time with one another after our church service. This is a nice opportunity to enjoy fellowship with others from our church family.



Growing God's Way Ministries

What's Happening in Grow God's Way Children Ministry this month:

Colossians 4:2 "Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart."



This month the children will be learning from the book of Ezra and Zechariah. Some of the topics will be; God delivered His People, The People rebuilt the Temple, and Zechariah Gave Hope.

Verse: Trust in the Lord. Jeremiah 17:7

Big Question this month: Can God be trusted? Yes, God cannot lie or ever be wrong, so we can trust whatever He has said.



Please have your child(ren) in the Evergreen Room, bring their Bibles to class. It has been great seeing the children find verses and read from their Bibles. The older ones pair up with the younger ones!



February is a great month to remember all of the people we LOVE and we sure love our Awana leaders! We'll kick off February by giving our leaders a night off!



Here's what's happening in February:

February 1st= **NO Club!** (Leader appreciation- make your leader a card or a note)



February 8th= Regular Club
(Bring your leader appreciation card/note)

February 15th= Valentine Night
(wear red/pink/hearts)

February 22nd= Regular Club



Join us Sunday nights from 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Everyone is welcome!



Elders Report—Andy Soto



“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” 1 Peter 1:3-5

Suppose for a second that you were given an extremely large monetary inheritance from a great Aunt. This inheritance is so massive that any money issues would be over if you wanted them to be. Would this change how you lived your life from that point on? Would it change the amount of pep in your step? Would it change the plans you would begin to make? I will admit, the thought of something like this would be exciting, especially as a Christian knowing the good that could be done with that type of resource. I want us to focus on 1 Peter 1:3-5 in light of these questions. Peter starts his writing by stating that he is delivering his message to the elect exiles that have been dispersed to different areas. He is offering encouragement to these people that are experiencing “various trials.” God the Father, through His great mercy, caused us to be born again through a living hope. The fact that we have been “born again” or “born from above” is caused by God himself as a demonstration of His great mercy on His elect. Peter writes that we are born again to a “living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” We have a hope as Christians that is alive, and powerful enough to defeat death! We have a hope to obtain an inheritance! What is the nature of this inheritance? Peter goes on to describe it by writing, it is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade. This inheritance, unlike the one I described earlier, will never corrode, decay, die or lesson in any way over time! It is undefiled. This inheritance is unblemished by imperfections, it is free of perversions, or stains of corruption. This Inheritance will NEVER fade away. It is a perpetual, eternal inheritance! This inheritance is reserved for you in heaven. Unlike the world’s empty promises, this promise will never cross you out or call and say, “sorry we double booked your reservation.” We are protected by the POWER of God Almighty through the gift and the means of FAITH, for a salvation ready to be revealed. As rebel sinners spared by God Himself through faith, how should we respond?? Do we plan our lives in light of this inheritance? Do we really dwell on this promise enough? How do we view our current circumstances? Do we really need to fantasize about earthly riches when our God has something better in store? This perfect inheritance is given to those whom God has caused to be born again. My prayer for us all is to bask in the goodness of our heavenly Father, walk with unshakable joy, and act with unwavering zeal for this mighty God who saves!

Andy.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant
mercy has begotten us again to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from
the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and
undefiled and that does not fade away,
reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by
the power of God through faith for salvation
ready to be revealed in the last time.*

1 Peter 1:3-5

Children's Church

Learning about Daniel — Eating carrots and drinking water!



Awana—Pastor Blake “Pie in the Face” Farewell



Church Happenings

Pastor Blake & Kayleen's "Open House"



Baptism of Maddy Moran





Like A Tree Firmly Planted By Streams Of Water Gaining Some Great Advice From Psalm 1 Finding Delight In The Light Of God’s Word



Even though my schedule changes quite a bit from day to day, every day there are several things that I always try to make part of my regular routine. I won’t go into all the details of what I do, but each day I invest time meditating on the truth of God’s Word and also, in preparation for spending time in prayer, I also try to acquaint myself with the headlines/highlights of the important news stories relating to certain topics that I believe are relevant to me as a pastor. However, I never want to become overwhelmed, or deceived, by what the news media presents. I try to strike a balance in what I feed my mind by maintaining a perspective that focuses on God’s sovereign rule, authority, and faithfulness to His promises. With this in mind, I’d like to invite you to please consider what Psalm 1 says:

- 1** How blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
- 2** But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His Law he meditates day and night.
- 3** He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season
And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.
- 4** The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.
- 5** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
- 6** For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.

The main emphasis of this psalm explains the best way to find satisfaction and fulfillment in life—it also gives us some excellent advice about how to navigate through the cultural chaos that results from sin. It portrays a vivid contrast between being drawn into the typical temptations that we face and being protected by allowing God’s truth to be a constant influence on the way we live our lives. Please notice the downward progression toward sin that’s illustrated in verse one. In other words, there are different levels of intensity leading to sin and there are three sets of three words used to paint this picture.

- (1) Walk > Stand > Sit.** First, you’re walking & you’re still moving, but it’s in the wrong direction. Next, you’re standing & you’re surrounded by sin. Then, you’re sitting & you’re comfortable under the influence of scoffers.
- (2) Wicked > Sinners > Scoffers.** At first, you’re with people who seem indifferent about God. Then you find yourself with those who enjoy violating God’s instructions; they fall short of God’s standards and influence you to join in. Finally you’re surrounded by scoffers, those who suppress & reject God’s truth.
- (3) Counsel > Path > Seat.** At the beginning, you simply listen to counsel & you start to be tempted by thinking improper thoughts. Next, you’re standing in the wrong path & participating in wrong behavior. Then eventually, you sit in the seat & become an active member of the wrong crowd who make fun of God’s truth!

As I write this and you read it, please understand that I don’t expect that anyone who has fully placed their faith in the Lord will make a choice to *deconstruct their belief system and take a seat along with the radical crowd of scoffers*. However, I have books in my library written by people who once wrote biblically-centered and theologically sound truths intended to honor the Lord and help others bring glory to God. But recent reports show that some of them have rejected what they once claimed to believe; one author has now published a manual teaching others how to deconstruct their Christian faith in the Good News of God’s gracious provision and walk away from it. I also firmly believe what Romans 8 says about the security of our relationship with Christ. So—in conclusion, let’s recognize the advice we see in Psalm 1. Let’s guard our minds from the counsel of the ungodly! Let’s stand firm against those who want to silence our witness for Christ! And finally, let’s find spiritual nourishment from God’s Word by meditating on it as part of our regular routine!

With prayer for God’s glory and praise for His grace, Pastor Greg

Mission of the Month—Abigail S.



Last semester we spent much time focusing on getting the language and also trying to share the g*spel in their native language. We had opportunities to join a local seeker b*ble study led by some workers from another organization, and this was a time of fellowship with believers and non believers getting into the word and doing a study showing the progression of how everything was pointing to the coming of J*sus from Genesis to the New testament. This b*ble study was truly an anointed time as we had the consistency of three girls going and many other friends joining at different times, but all of them came with a genuine heart to learn and understand what it is the b*ble teaches. You can continue to pray for these three girls who are going to that study, I will share their first initials: H, N, S.

At the end of the semester with Christmas, we had many opportunities to share about the good news of J*sus birth and why that was so important. We invited friends to come to our home for a Christmas party, where we played games, ate food, and shared the g*spel message through the story of the three wise men and the gifts they chose to bring to J*sus and what that signified as far as who His true identity was. The Gold indicated that He was King, The Frankincense indicated that He was to be worshipped as G*d and that He brings healing. And the Myrrh indicated that He would suffer and die, as he did on the cross. We were able to finish by inviting any of the 13 ladies present to join us this semester for a b*ble study at our home to learn more about what the b*ble teaches about J*sus and everything leading up to His life, death, and resurrection (like the one we were doing with these other women). Praise G*d that a few of the girls were very excited when we shared this and they would like to know when we get started(which you can pray as we hope to get started this February)!

So much more I could share, but I want to be intentional to share specifically ways you can be praying:

-Please be pr*ying for this seeker b*ble study that we hope to start, for the H*ly Sp*rit to be our guide and counsel in every step we take and for wisdom about the timing and set up of it all. We want our home to be a safe place for these ladies to hear the truth with clarity, so pr*y for a guard against the enemy trying to thwart girls from coming and from trying to cause issue with us hosting.

-February we will be having a national student conference with believing students gathering together to be equipped in their faith, encouraged in the Sp*rit, and mobilized to go where J*sus calls them. Please pray for the one friend we have coming from our city, A, that she and the other students coming would be filled up with the H*ly Sp*rit and would benefit from this time with peers. Pr*y this would be a historical time of seeing the future leaders in the faith unite on mission to seeing J*sus made known in their country.

-This March-April will be Ramadan, which is a month of obligatory fasting and praying for M*slims, it is the most important month for them. Please pr*y for us this semester that we can be vessels for people to encounter J*sus during this time, and also that J*sus would appear to many that are seeking to draw near to G*d, would they find J*sus! (it is also a very heavy month where people report having dreams of J*sus, so we continue to ask Him to do what only he can do in that! Come Lord J*sus!!!)

-Please pr*y for our team that we would continue to lean on the guidance and wisdom of the H*ly Sp*rit in all we do, and that He would unify us and help keep us aligned in His will for our time here. Pr*y we would fully trust G*d together and be iron sharpening iron, encouraging one another as brothers and sisters on this mission together.

-Please pr*y for our families as well, for protection over them from the attacks of the enemy and for endurance for us as we are apart and of course we begin to miss time together.

The L*rd is doing a new thing in this part of the world, Isaiah 43:19! He is faithful to continue to do His good works, and we pr*y G*d YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE, on earth/in this country/in our lives/in our families/in our communities, as it is in Heaven! I pray you all are doing well, and I look forward to seeing how G*d will continue to do immeasurably more in the months to come!

Blessings,

Abigail S.

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

'Love your neighbor



*as yourself.'
There is no
commandment
greater than these."*

~ Mark 12:31

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

