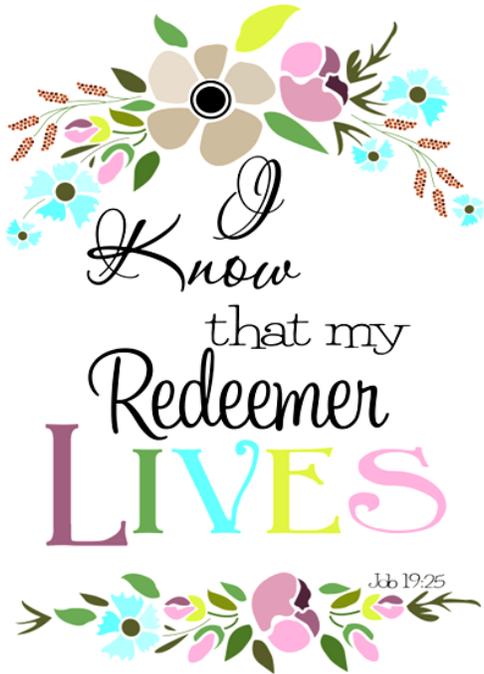


# MARCH



Spring forward!

Sunday, March 12 is when we move ahead into Spring. Set your clock one hour ahead before you go to bed Saturday, March 11.

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# Church Calendar

# March 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study No Awana	6:30 p.m. Praise Team		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ Zaruba's	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship 6:30 p.m. Elders Mtg.	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6-7:00 p.m. Awana	6:30 p.m. Praise Team		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
 6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ Zaruba's	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship 7:00 p.m. The Nest	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6-7:00 p.m. Awana	6:30 p.m. Praise Team		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
"Let's Do Lunch" 6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6-7:00 p.m. Awana	6:30 p.m. Praise Team		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6-7:00 p.m. Awana	6:30 p.m. Praise Team		

# Updates and Opportunities

## RightNow Media Access Free for You

We're excited to share that our church now has unlimited access to **RightNow Media**—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources (it's been called the "**Netflix of video Bible studies**"). This extensive library has **more than 20,000 videos** from leaders like Francis Chan, Jennie Allen, Matt Chandler, Dr. Tony Evans, and many more. RightNow Media has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. Just click on the link below or hover your phone's camera over the code and it will go to the registration page for our church's account.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/applefreechurch>



## The Nest

Join us for the Nest Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00 pm. This will be a time for fellowship and reflection as we prepare for Easter.

## Mission of the Month



We will be collecting NEW hygiene and cleaning items for local crisis agencies, February 12 – March 5, through "Help for the Homeless" hygiene drive. Please place your donations in the *Help for the Homeless* collection box located in the foyer by March 5. Most urgently needed items are soft toothbrushes, laundry soap, dish soap, garbage bags floor cleaner, disinfectant cleaner, soft soap, deodorant (unscented), razors, hand warmer inserts, foot warmer inserts, body warmer inserts, diapers & pull-ups ( sizes 4-6), wipes, shampoo, toilet tissue, paper towels, and tampons. Your donations will remain in this community.



## La Courte Oreilles Reservation Trip

The Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation trip is scheduled for April 21—April 23.

Please contact the Diestler's for the paperwork and details  
at [920-851-3104](tel:920-851-3104) or [Diestlerts@aol.com](mailto:Diestlerts@aol.com).



## Come and join us March 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 an 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 books of Esther, Nehemiah, and Ezra.

**The Big Picture Question** is: "How Should we feel when we sin? When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and want to turn from our sins because we love Him!"



**Verse:** We should feel sorry when we disobey God. 2 Corinthians 7:10 (We will talk about what Disobey means.)

Please have your child(ren) in the Evergreen Room, and 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!



Reminder if you would like to help out with VBS, please let contact Katrina or Lisa.

**VBS:** July 24-28 in the evening. We need 15-17 volunteers!

Children are our future leaders! Let's fill them with the love of Jesus!



February was a month of LOVE for Awana. We celebrated our leaders with a night off and some cards the following week. We LOVE all that our Awana leaders do for our club. A big shout out to Pastor Blake for taking a pie in the face as his final farewell! March brings our Missions week! No regular club March 1st, BUT we encourage our clubbers AND leaders to serve in some way this week. This could be shoveling snow, picking up garbage, donating to a charity, making a meal for another family, and the list goes on and on.



**It's time to sign-up for the Awana Grand Prix!**

**Sign-Up for the**

**Race Day: Friday, April 14th**  
Cars kits will be available beginning March 8th

5:30 Hot Dog Dinner  
6:00 Race!

Scan the QR Code to Sign-up to Participate!  
**Cost is \$7!**

**ALL Ages are Welcome!**

<https://acefc.churchtrac.com/connect?ei=W4ZJYE2>



If you're in Middle or High School, join us Sunday nights from 6pm-8pm. Most nights we meet at church, unless posted otherwise. We are happy to have you join us!

### WHAT WE DID LAST MONTH

The youth began February with a night of Broomball at Prairie Hill Park. The following week we celebrated the Super Bowl at the VanHouten's. We also began our study of Psalm 23, which we will continue into March.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

March 5th & 12th, the Zaruba's will be hosting Youth Group. We will have regular Youth Group at church the following two Sundays.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

On April 2nd, we are having our Mario Kart Tournament!! Invite your friends, and see who walks away with a first, second, or third place trophy! Prizes will be awarded!



## Elders Report—Desmond VanHouten



As believers in Christ, we all have a transformation story from when we accepted Christ into our lives and gave up being dead in sin. This story, our testimony, is an important aspect of a Christian life. Whether you were raised in a Christian home and developed a relationship with Christ at an early age or you were lost in the world for several years and redeemed by Christ later in life, your story of redemption has power. The Bible reminds us to *“sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”* (1 Peter 3:15 – NKJV) At any given point, we do not know how God is planning on using us. As Christians we need to always be prepared to testify for the reasons we have hope, and our personal testimony is a great place to start.

Your testimony gives credit to what God has done in your life. When you share your testimony, you are recounting facts of your life before God, how you came to understand the need for a Savior in your life, and the work that God has done since saving you. Your testimony gives credit to God by sharing how you were destined to bear the weight and penalty of your sins, sharing how your life was changed after inviting Christ to be the Lord of your life, and providing examples of how you feel Christ is with you even in the tough times. When Jesus was talking to His disciples about who can be saved, he reminded them that *“with men this [salvation] is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”* (Matthew 19:26 – NKJV)

Your testimony serves as a memorial for the times in your life when Christ has faithfully pulled you out of difficult situations. In the Old Testament, God was always encouraging the Jewish people to build memorials when He pulled them out of trouble. These memorials were to serve as a reminder of the faithfulness of God and to be an encouragement. Just as with the physical memorials, your testimony is a memorial that can serve to provide as an encouragement in your life. It can be an assurance during difficult times of the faithfulness of God provided during previous difficult situations. God was with you in the past and will not leave you now. Just like in previous times, God will provide.

Your testimony serves as an encouragement to others so that they too may find the love and salvation that can only be found in Christ. When Christ was teaching on earth, He used stories and parables to help other people to better understand His teachings. The examples through our testimony serve to help other people feel a connection and understand that they too can have hope, if they are lost. God created us to be relational and there is comfort in knowing that while we are all unique, others have also gone through similar situations. Because your testimony is personal and is based on facts, it is also difficult for people to argue against what Christ has done in your life.

Be prepared. Write down your story of salvation. Keep a copy to remember when times get difficult. Always be willing to share with other people. No matter how boring or bad our past seems to us, Christ has saved us. Through His salvation we have been forgiven by God and should be proud to share what He has done.

Thought starters for writing our your testimony:

- What was your life like before Christ? What was your situation and how did you live your life?
- When did you realize you needed a savior? Was there a particular low point?
- How has your life been since being saved?
- What examples from your life help show how Christ is with you?

## Children's Church



# Church Happenings

## Awana—



# Church Happenings

## The Chocolate Nest



## Turkow's Baby Shower



# Church Happenings

## Turkow's Baby Shower con't



## Youth Group Broomball



## Some “Additional Thoughts” from Pastor Greg

### *Recognizing the Foundation of Our Faith:*

### *The Truth, The Whole Truth, & Nothing But The Truth!*

Do you sometimes look around at what’s happening in our world today, and wonder, “Why?” —or— “How did so many things change from what seemed to be normal?” I’m hearing more and more people ask questions about how to respond to various concerns or to what others might be saying. In Philippians 4, the Apostle Paul gives us some wise and Holy Spirit–inspired advice about dealing with our anxious thoughts. These verses are quite familiar to most of us, but it’s always helpful to review this type of instruction from God’s Word.

**4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Try to be considerate and show a spirit of concern to everyone around you. The Lord’s return could be at any moment. 6 Don’t be controlled by anxiety, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, *whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.***

The ideas and information that fill our minds will always have a significant impact on our actions, attitudes, and anxieties. Even if a person only occasionally pays attention to the headlines presented by the news media, it’s probably obvious that our society is being riddled with many conflicting versions about the issues that are having an influence on our lives. Due to this, many, who typically might be interested or have a desire to know, have stopped paying attention. On a personal level, over the past 2–3 years, I’ve recommended that it’s probably wise to limit our intake of news and related commentary since it’s become overwhelming and it can influence our spiritual and emotional health if we fail to filter the things that could cause discouragement or fear to set in.

Taking a few moments to reflect on Paul’s advice in Philippians 4, here are some principles that we might find helpful in discovering some appropriate answers to our concerns about dealing with the changes taking place in our culture. I’m going to go backwards through this passage by looking first at verses 8–9.

**(1) Let you mind dwell on whatever is true** is one of the most relevant statements made in these verses. In a short, yet straightforward explanation of this, we might simply say, **“Saturate your mind with God’s Truth!”** Generally speaking we’re being inundated and overwhelmed with information. Specifically, information shouldn’t be regarded to be truth. It might be true, but it needs to be filtered using God’s Word, or some other means of establishing the trustworthiness of the source of the information. When our minds are filled with God’s truth, we have a firm foundation to discern, distinguish, and discriminate what’s wrong and what’s right—or—what’s false from what’s true! “We need to remind ourselves that God knows the truth and the closer we walk with Him, the more likely we’ll be kept from error.” (A quote from Erwin Lutzer in “No Reason to Hide: Standing Firm For Christ”)

**(2) Don’t be controlled by anxiety; instead pray for God’s peace!** Whenever worry, fear, or doubt begin to fill our minds, prayer is the remedy or resource we should set in motion. Knowing that God’s Spirit is present in our lives and that God has made many promises to aid and assist us in times of need, our prayers should focus on specific pledges God’s Word reveals to us. We can ask God to calm our emotions, strengthen our faith, and increase our wisdom.

**(3) Rejoice in what the Lord has done for us!** Paul isn’t asking or suggesting that we should be unrealistic about the challenges or concerns of life. Everyone faces times of discouragement. However, this instruction points out that it’s always helpful to look beyond our current circumstances to recognize/realize what’s waiting for us from our hope in Christ. For some, this is more difficult than for others, but we’re told often to keep looking up!

We should realize that the enemies of our faith have an agenda and at this point in history, they’ve developed a powerful platform filled with propaganda to deceive and distract us. Their main strategy seems to revolve around an attempt to convince everyone that “we can live by our own personal truth and be whatever we want to be.” But God’s Word is always the foundation of what true! Truth doesn’t change from person to person, culture to culture, or country to country. For faithful followers of the Lord, the strategy to combat this propaganda is to “saturate our minds with whatever God says is true!”

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

# Wycliffe®

February 2023

Dear Appleton E-free Family,



We're pretty excited that we are your "Missionaries of the Month of March"! What a great opportunity to tell you how much we value you as ministry partners! It was 26 years ago that Appleton E-Free sent us out to join Wycliffe Bible Translators and you have faithfully supported us all those years. Thank you.

We were sitting in the congregation when a JAARS pilot (from the Oshkosh fly-in) spoke of Wycliffe's need for computer personnel. Over the years, Jim has had different roles and assignments within the Wycliffe organization, all in support of Bible translation. We have lived in Singapore and the Philippines. Presently, we are in Waxhaw, NC, near the JAARS center, which is Wycliffe's technical center. Jim works remotely from our home as managing director of a company that partners with Wycliffe in the work of Bible translation. They provide access for language communities all over the world to translated Scriptures through websites and phone applications. In today's world, digital publishing is an easy, far-reaching means to transmit God's word. Even remote villages have access to phones and computers! For some languages, this is the only means of receiving God's word. Jim and his co-workers travel several times a year to countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America hosting workshops where local translators learn to develop websites and apps for their language communities. These give them immediate access to Scriptures as they are translated as well as other related materials - Scripture material, Jesus films, health information, etc.

Ginger retired from hospital nursing in 2020, but works part-time at the JAARS clinic. We provide medical care for missionaries and volunteers at JAARS. We help missionaries get to the field by providing physicals, immunizations and prescriptions needed in accordance with the country to which they are assigned. It's an exciting time helping people prepare for the field; the anticipation and eagerness they experience is contagious!

Please join us in prayer:

- Thank God for almost 500 new Bible translations engaged in 2022.
- Ask God to provide Bible translations for the remaining 1700 languages that don't have any of His word.
- Ask God to transform lives as people receive God's word in their own language.
- Thank God for the 4600+ websites and phone applications developed in over 100 different countries.
- Ask God for more face-to-face workshops this year.
- Ask God to provide us with new ministry partners to offset our recent financial shortfall. We are currently at 70%.

Thank you again for your part in bringing God's word to those who don't have it.

Jim and Ginger Moore

To learn more about our ministry click [here](#) for our website.

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)



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

