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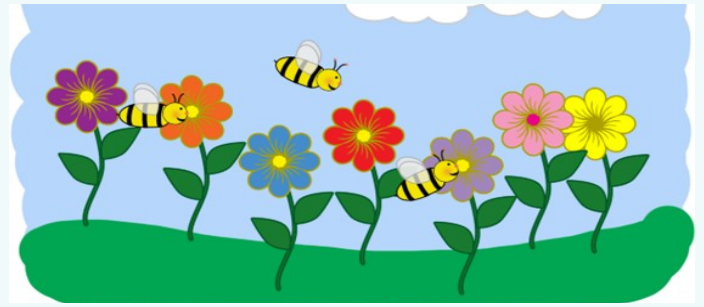
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THE LORD IS MY
STRENGTH
AND MY SHIELD;
My heart trusts
in Him,
& He helps me.
My heart
leaps for **JOY**
& with my song
I **PRAISE** Him.
Psalm 28:7



Church Calendar

April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	3	5	6
	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Christian Ed Mtg.	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6-7:30 p.m. Awana			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
All-Church Potluck 6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church	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 6-7:30 p.m. Awana			7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Lord's Supper Membership Class 6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church	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 6-7:30 p.m. Awana Awards Night			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
"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			
28	29	30				
6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ church	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Discipleship				

Updates and Opportunities



Men's Breakfast

Men, come and join us on **Saturday, April 13 at 7:00 a.m.** for a time of fellowship, fun, and food!



The Nest

"Look at the birds in the sky: They do not sow, or reap, or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them." Matthew 6:26

Join us Tuesday **April 9 at 7:00 p.m.** for the Nest, a time of fellowship, laughter and creativity.

We will be part of God's provision for His little birds as we make tea cup bird feeders. **No special skill required just the ability to use glue!**

All ladies are welcome.



Church Membership Class

Sunday, **April 14**, from 11:45-1:30 there will be a membership class offered, lunch will be provided. Please contact the church office if you are interested.



La Courte Oreilles Reservation Trip

The Lac Courte Oreilles Reservation spring trip is scheduled for **April 26—April 28**. The cost is \$50 per adult and families are welcome. Please contact the Diestler's for more information on signing up at [920-851-3104 \(Sue\)](tel:920-851-3104) or [920-851-9803 \(Tim\)](tel:920-851-9803)



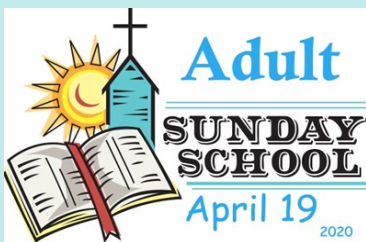
Adult Sunday School Topical Series

No Homework Bible Study:

Understanding Spiritual Gifts

A study developed by Kay Arthur, David and BJ Lawson

Begins Sunday April 14th, at 9:00 AM, in the adult Sunday school room.



Come and join us April 21 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.



Mark your calendars now with the dates for the rest of the year:

May 19	July 21	September 15	November 17
June 9	August 18	October 20	December 15



Church Happenings—Awana Grand Prix



April is our last month of Awana, but we will finish out strong. We have our "Pie-the-Leader" activity on April 3 at the end of club. All of the money raised goes to support Awana clubs in the public schools in Africa.



April 17 is our Awards Night! Join us in celebrating our wonderful Awana year.



Crazy Hair Night



Awana Night Fun with Miss Gail





They'll Know We Are Christians

1 Corinthians 6:17

But whoever is united with the Lord is one with Him in spirit.

The song written by Peter Scholtes in the 1960's has remained a favorite reminder to all of us.

We must pray for Unity.

We must walk hand in hand.

We must walk side by side guarding each man's dignity and saving each man's pride.

We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord (2 times)

And we **pray that all unity May one day be restored**

(Refrain)

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will **walk with each other**, We will **walk hand in hand** (2 times)

And together we'll spread the news, That God is in our land

(Refrain)

We will **work with each other**, We will **work side-by-side** (2 times)

And we'll **guard each man's dignity** and **save each man's pride**

(Refrain)

All praise to the Father From whom all things come

And all praise to Christ Jesus His only Son

And all **praise to the Spirit who makes us one**

(Refrain)



Women's Ministry—Amy Pankow

Dear Sisters,

More than anything else in my life, the Lord has used motherhood as a means to teach me that *interruptions are a ministry*. I still have much to learn – pressing needs arise minute by minute as a mother of young children, but even more so, they are compounding in many other areas of life, too. So many things in life need our attention, our response, our input, our ability, our willingness...

Missionary Janet Erskine Stuart reminds us that, "To be busy is to be engaged in an occupation which makes it inconvenient to be disturbed." Without realizing it, I can pridefully assume that I determine the course of my day; however, Jesus did nothing on his own accord, but only what the Father demonstrated (John 5:19).

As we're working through the book of John in the Women's Bible study, I'm seeing that Jesus' earthly life was full of interruptions – from his disciples, followers, skeptics, enemies... even the weather! Yet, He never acted flustered, moody, or annoyed in response. Elisabeth Elliot wrote, "He never made a fuss about anything. This spirit of peace can be in us who are in Him. We can learn to see every minute of our day as His, not ours; every task which we turn our attention to as belonging to Him, not to us; everything that interrupts 'our' work as His work."

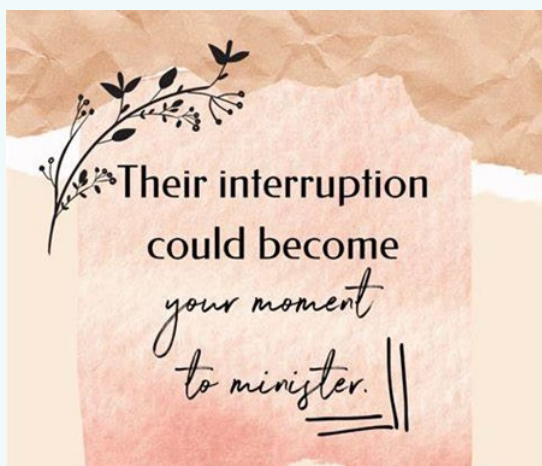
**Jesus shows us that interruptions aren't hindrances to ministry –
they are opportunities for ministry.**

I have been challenged by a short quote on the first page of Puritan Thomas Watson's book, *The Art of Divine Contentment*, where he wrote, "**While we are thinking how we shall live, we forget how to die.**" How to die to self in daily ways – like laying aside our preferences, being interruptible, and serving humbly. Jesus displayed a sacrificial, supernatural love through each of these examples. He laid down His free time, His plans, His personal comfort, His reputation, and His idea of convenience in order to serve others. Serving this way may feel impossible, but thankfully God empowers us with the energy and strength we need through the Holy Spirit. **He uses our imperfect servanthood to display His infinite love to those He's placed in our midst.**

Not only is the Lord sovereign over all the interruptions of our day, but sometimes He uses them to call us out of what we're doing *into what He wants us to be doing*. Don't underestimate the interruptions that happen throughout your day – you never know when they are going to lead to a divine moment that only God could orchestrate! He is using all of our circumstances to form us, mature us, and sanctify us into the likeness of His Son.

"The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's 'own,' or 'real' life. The truth is, of course, that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one's real life – the life God is sending one day by day."

~C.S. Lewis



My prayer is that we would be able to yield our hearts to our Heavenly Father's leadership, and to trust that He knows what is for our good. He has called us to worship and serve Him right here in the story – complete with all its interruptions – that He's written for each of us!

Let's be interruptible for His kingdom.

Your sister,

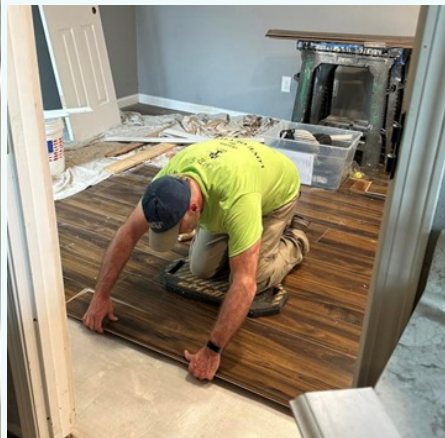
Amy



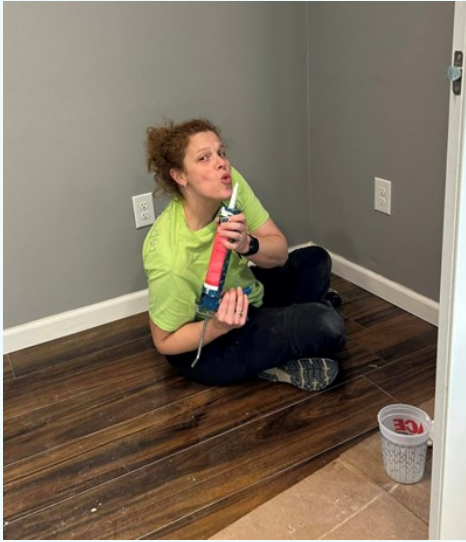
These misprints have all appeared in a church bulletin somewhere at some time. Enjoy!

- "To celebrate Easter, the women from the Ladies' Group will come forward and lay eggs on the altar."
- "At this time the ushers will eat the newcomers."
- "Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons."
- "The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon."
- "This evening at 7:00 p.m. there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin."
- "Next Thursday, there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get."
- "The choir will meet at the Larsen house for fun and sinning."
- "The 'Over 60s Choir' will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church."
- "Announcement to the Moms Who Care ladies' group: There will be no Moms who care this week."
- "Thank you Steve, who once again has worked hard to clean the pastor off the basement floor."
- "After the sermon: A moment of silence for prayer and medication."
- "Life groups meet on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM for food, fun, and fellowwhipping."
- "Ushers will swat the latecomers."
- "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a great chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands."
- "It's Drug Awareness Week: Get involved in drugs before your children do."
- "When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel."
- "Men's Prayer Breakfast. No charge, but your damnation will be gratefully accepted."
- "For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs."
- "The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning."
- "Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help!"

Church Happenings—Mission's Trip



Church Happenings— Mission's Trip con't



Church Happenings—Youth Group Mall Scavenger Hunt



Church Happenings—Youth Group



YOUTH GROUP: If you are in middle or high school, join us Sunday nights from 6pm-8pm. We meet at church, unless otherwise posted.

WHAT WE DID LAST MONTH

In March, we continued in the book of John. We begin each lesson with a Bible Backroads video that explores the scripture, history, geography, archaeology, and impact of John's Gospel within the New Testament. We also had a lot of fun during our Mall Scavenger Hunt. We may have been seen reenacting a national geographic documentary, having conversations with store mannequins, and praying with a store associate.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Date	Time	Location	Event
Sunday, April 7 th	11:30am (after church)	Church	Potluck!
Sunday, April 7 th	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Sunday, April 14 th	6pm-8pm	Church	Mario Kart Tournament!
Sunday, April 21 st	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Sunday, April 28 th	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group

ASSOCIATE PASTOR SPOTLIGHT: ANDREW AUGUST SELL



Tell us about your family: Married for 17 years. 4 kids: Elly (16), Ethan (15), Liam (13), and Finn (11). We have 1 big fat cat named Allister.

Favorite thing to do in your free time? Watch Dr. Who, play video games, and go on hikes.

Favorite food: Anything Asian.

What is your useless talent? I can whistle perfectly through my teeth and no one knows it's me.

What is the next place on your travel bucket list? Japan. 100%

What is the funniest thing your inner child wants to do? I've always wanted to get sick eating as many McDonald's Egg McMuffins as possible. When I was young, I thought I could do like 8. Now, two and I'm 🙄.

What music makes you happy? My daughter Elly and I are

super into obscure 60's and 70's jazz.

Tell us how you came to know Jesus as your Lord & Savior? I did the whole prodigal son thing pretty hardcore. God found me when I was in a pretty low place in my early 20s. He used an amazing woman, who I eventually marry, to show me what forgiveness really means.

What has God been teaching you this past year? I love this question. The biggest thing is that life goes slower when you go faster and life goes faster when you wait on God – even though it feels slower. His plan is bigger and grander than you could imagine, so "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Prov 3:5-6. But like, for real - Do it.

Church Happenings– Tessa Mlaker’s Baby Shower

To Our ACEFC Family

We would like to express our gratitude for the love and gifts that we were showered with last Sunday! What an incredible blessing it was to our family! Your generosity greatly touched our hearts and we could not be more thankful. Thank you to Shay and Amy for the time, effort and love that you put into planning and preparing this baby shower. Your love and care for the women of this church and their families is felt and truly reflects the love of Christ. Thank you!

The Mlaker Family



Church Happenings— Tessa Mlaker's Baby Shower cont.



Standing Strong Against the Schemes That Threaten Our Security!

Typically I pay close attention to the themes and topics that several trustworthy pastors and Christian leaders present in their media ministries (books, radio & tv broadcasts, and online). Based on my research, over the past 2–3 years, the two most popular areas of study appear to be spiritual warfare and Bible prophecy relating to what the scriptures describe as *The End Times*. On a personal note, I believe that these two topics are very closely connected to one another. Considering the warnings written by the apostles Paul, Peter, & John, we shouldn't be surprised, we should be equipped by wearing the spiritual armor the Lord provides for us.

In Ephesians 6, Paul instructs us “be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might by putting on the full armor of God, so that you'll be equipped to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ... For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.” Sometimes I'm saddened by what appears to be an indifferent or apathetic attitude within the Church about what this teaches. It's possible that we're providing opportunities for the adversary to distract and deceive us into thinking we're safe and secure from his schemes when in reality we're ignoring this essential exhortation. In 2 Corinthians 2, Paul is trying to explain that he realized there were times when he had expressed truths to the Corinthian Church that caused grief and sorrow. But that wasn't his desire. Notice what he said, “For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you.” Then he concluded this by reminding them that he was actually trying to protect them from the evil one, “I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, because we're not ignorant of his schemes.”



Based on this, here are three important recommendations that each of us should seriously consider:

1} God has given us what we need to stand strong and resist the evil in our world. While there are several biblical passages related to spiritual warfare, I believe the Lord doesn't want us to make this overly complicated. Romans 13:14 gives us a two-step explanation. “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.” First, trust in the victory Christ provides us through His death, burial, & resurrection. Second, with the help of His holy Spirit, commit yourself to prayerfully avoid sinful attitudes & actions. The Lord Jesus must become our Armor of Protection! We can't totally trust in Christ to save us until we clearly & completely comprehend that without His help every single moment we are absolutely helpless & hopeless!

2} Always remember: Once we've placed our trust in Christ, God's Spirit has taken residence in our lives. So as John wrote in 1 John 4:4. “You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”

3} But finally, we should acknowledge that spiritual warfare is a reality that we can't avoid. The battles we experience are not primarily against flesh and blood, but are against the powers of darkness spread by the evil adversary who tempted Eve (& Adam). It's important that we aren't ignorant of his strategies and that have an honest & humble awareness of our areas of personal weaknesses. Since the adversary prowls about like a roaring lion, looking for areas of weakness to attack us, it's beneficial for us to prayerfully ask for the Lord's strength to assist us in saying “NO!” to those desires that might lead us into temptation & trouble!

The corruption in our culture appears to be increasing and that even though, it's not pleasant to hear these warnings given in God's Word, it's becoming more and more necessary for us to be properly equipped!

Praying for God's glory and praising Him for His grace,

Pastor Greg

Mission of the Month—Lonnie & Debbie Smith



News from the Smiths in Marseille

In February the FEU and the Merlan Church sponsored a week of evangelism. This was much more low key than in previous years, but many good contacts were made. A special talk was given again this year by Hicham on Moses, that was well attended. Please pray for open hearts to the gospel.

A new family has also been coming to the Merlan Church that had to flee from Algeria to avoid a possible heavy prison sentence for distributing Bibles and Christian materials in that country. Long story short, the Merlan is taking financial responsibility for this family and is providing housing and other material needs. We're so thankful for the freedom we have, and for the opportunity the Lord has given the Merlan Church to again step up and be a great encouragement to this family. Please pray with us that their request for asylum in France will be accepted.

Please pray for Thomas and Christian who have heard the gospel message and have even studied the scriptures in discovery Bible studies, but who do not have a clear understanding of the truth. The ideas of the world and their own interpretations and expectations seem to be getting in the way. They really need our prayers.

It is Ramadan - March 10- April 9 - and this truly influences life in Marseille and around the world. The staff at the FEU has been planning special meals and get togethers serving N. African pastries and mint tea in the evenings when the fast is broken. Thank you for praying for excellent conversations and that the Lord would send them those who are searching for him.



VENEZ ENTENDRE L'HISTOIRE PASSIONNANTE

du Prophète
Moussa
& du serpent d'airain

ORATEUR : HICHAM M.E

ندعوكم لسماع القصة الرائعة
للنبي موسى والحية النحاسية

VENREDI
23 FÉVRIER 2024
à 20H

ENTRÉE GRATUITE
32, Bd Notre Dame de Santa Cruz
13014 Marseille
(Proche Campus Saint-Jérôme)

Jesus-Islam.fr



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)

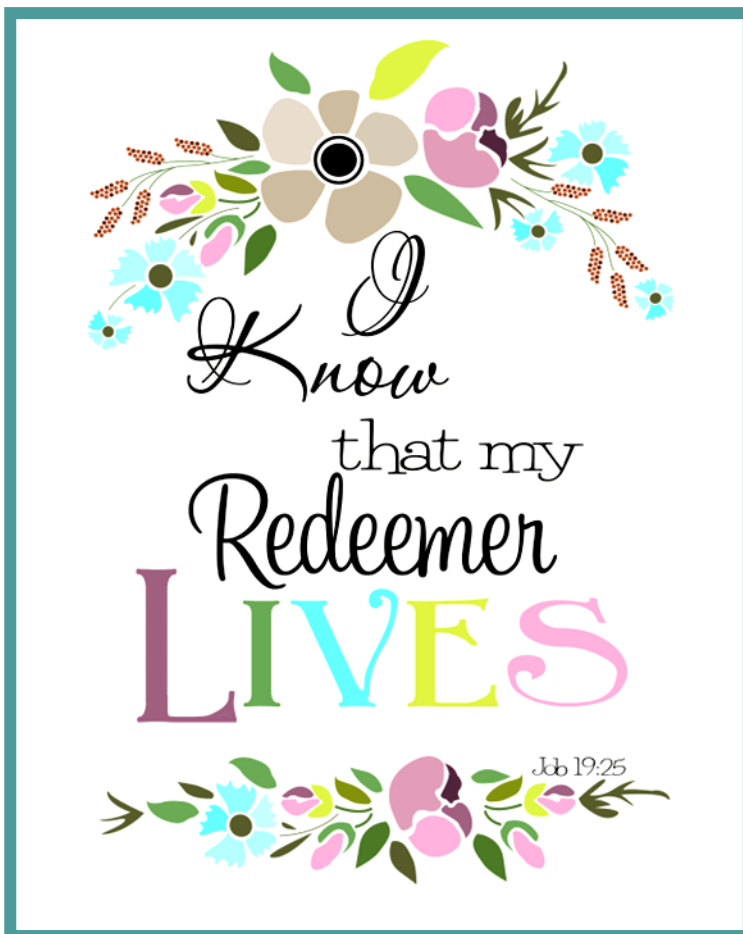
Encouragement

We believe we are responsible for caring for and encouraging one another. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)



We're on the Web!

applefreechurch.org



Regular Church Office Hours

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