



hello   
AUGAST

The word 'AUGAST' is written in large, colorful, stylized letters. The 'A' is green, the 'U' is a glass of orange juice with a smile, the 'G' is purple, the 'A' is a slice of watermelon, the 'S' is blue, and the 'T' is pink.

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# Church Calendar for August

# August 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ Church		6:30 a.m. Discipleship  6:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Lord's Supper  6-8 p.m. Youth Group @ Church		6:30 a.m. Discipleship	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study		6-10 p.m. Youth Group to Timber Rattler's Game	7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast  4-9 p.m. All Church Fall Potluck
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Baptism  "Let's Do Lunch"  No Youth Group		6:30 a.m. Discipleship  6 p.m. Elders Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Christian Ed. Mtg.	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1-3 p.m. Youth Group @ Diestler's "Slip & Slide Kickball"		6:30 a.m. Discipleship	6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study			

# Updates and Opportunities

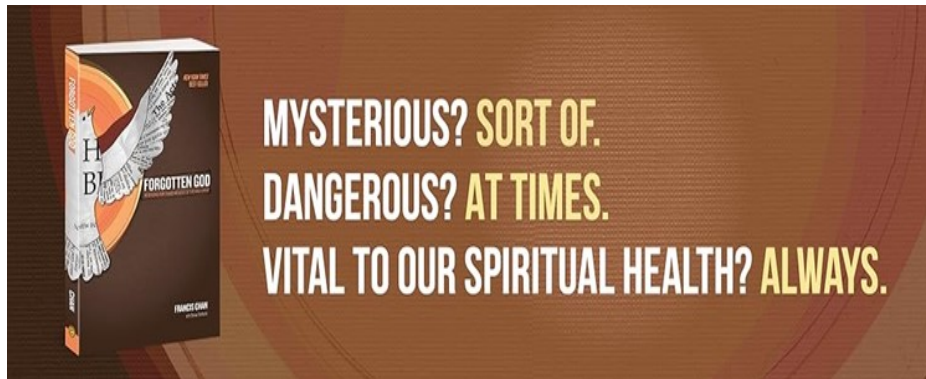
## Men's Breakfast: Save the Date



Save the date for Saturday, August 17 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!



## Ladies Fall Bible Study



"The world is not moved by love or actions that are of human creation. And the church is not empowered to live differently from any other gathering of people without the Holy Spirit. But when believers live in the power of the Spirit, the evidence in their lives is

supernatural. The church cannot help but be different, and the world cannot help but notice."

Join us this Fall for a study of the Holy Spirit using *The Forgotten God* by Francis Chan.

Details coming soon.

## All Church Fall Kickoff!

August 17<sup>th</sup> 4pm - 9pm

Join us for:  
fellowship, potluck, worship,  
games, face paint, bounce house

Don't forget your Lawn Chair!

## Coming Soon—Save the Date



Come and join us August 18 at Pizza Ranch (5450 W. Integrity Way).

We have reserved a community room for after church so we can spend some time eating and enjoying fellowship with one another.

September 15    October 20    November 17    December 15



## What's Happening in Growing God's Way Children's Ministry

The children have been learning about Paul and how he had been one of the leaders persecuting the church, but when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, all of that changed.



Paul became a follower of Jesus and would spend the rest of his life on a mission, telling others about the One he used to persecute. They learned that Jesus can truly save anyone.



Anyone who trusts in Jesus can be forgiven of their sins and be right with God.



Join us for...

# Awana Clubs

**Cubbies**  
Ages 3-4

**WEDNESDAYS 6:00-7:30**

**Starts September 11th!**

**Truth & Training**  
Grades 3-6

**Sparks**  
Grades K-2

**Puggles**  
Ages 2-3\*

\*Puggles is for Leader's children only

Calling all kids ages 3-6th grade! Join us for our fun-filled, Awana club! Registration for Awana 2024-2025 is now OPEN! **Awana kicks off on September 11th.** We meet weekly on Wednesdays from 6-7:30 from September through April. For more information and to register, visit our church website: <https://acefc.churchtrac.com/card/10>

We need Shepherds for our Sheep! If YOU or someone you know would love to serve as an Awana leader, please contact Pam at [appletonawana@gmail.com](mailto:appletonawana@gmail.com).

## Elders Report—Tom Wilhelm



By the time you see this, you will have received your elders' report regarding the survey. We are, as Pastor Greg says, beginning the planning for laying a foundation. Our goal is a vibrant church that God will be pleased with. Think of building a building. We need:

A building plan.

Trained workers who can build according to the plan.

Helpers to help the trained workers.

Commitment from everyone, dedicated to seeing the project through to completion.

Thinking of building a church, we need prayer, lots of prayer, seeking God's guidance. Yes,

God's healthy church requires contributions from each and every one of us; our time, talent,

energy, resources; a commitment to doing our part, even when things aren't going our way. And sometimes they won't.

Ephesians 2:10 *"we are (each of us, you and me) God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for (each of) us to do".*

As we continue to work with the survey results, including working with our consultant's recommendations, we see the beginning of an outline, a plan, for our – God's – church.

We have now been through a full day of elder training –

What does the Bible say about elders?

What does it mean to be an elder?

What are the responsibilities of an elder – to the body, to each other, to our ministry leaders?

How do we, individually, and as an elder team, fulfill our responsibilities?

We still have much to learn,

From you, the body,

From each other,

From our experiences as we travel this road together.

Will we make mistakes? Probably. Will we give our best? Absolutely! As we build that foundation, we must ensure that Christ is our cornerstone, solid, stable, trustworthy. And your elders need *you*. We need your help; your feedback, your input, your patience, your grace, your wisdom. As the foundation is being laid, those overseeing the project need to be planning, selecting workers who will do other tasks involved in completing the project of growing and equipping God's house, God's family, making God disciples. Mathew 28:19-20.

Each of us has a place in that vibrant church.

Once again, Eph 2:10: *"we are (each of us)...created...to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* What good works has God prepared in advance for you to do?

James 4:17 *"Anyone who knows the good he/she ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."* Do you know? Do you want to know? Recently, have you earnestly asked God? Recently, have you earnestly asked Pastor, an elder, someone else, to help you know the good works *"God has prepared for you to do?"*

One final thought – are you willing to do the good works God has prepared for you to do?" If you are willing to do that, yes, we can, together, make ACEFC a better church.

## Don't Let Sin Rob You Of Finishing The Race Strong by Amir Tsarfati

The Apostle Paul loved to use metaphors to describe the Christian life. His three favorites were that of a soldier, a boxer, and a runner. His use of each was specific to a point he was making, but overall, they each carried with them a common theme -commitment. The soldier must be committed to the battle, the boxer to their training, and the athlete to preparing for the race. We also see a recurring theme of sacrifice in these metaphors.

Hebrews 12:1-2 - "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

While the boxer and soldier may have weight training included in their preparations, the runner does not. Extra bulk and weight slow the runner's speed and the same is true for the spiritual application in Hebrews. Running the race with the extra weight of sin saps us of our endurance. The race that was once a joy becomes a burden and we become ensnared with other things. The Greek word translated "ensnares" means, "to stand still."

There's a vivid picture of this in Psalm 1: "How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. 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. The wicked are not so, but they are like chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish."

When someone finds himself walking in ungodly counsel, he will soon come to a standstill spiritually and even open the door for scorning what they once loved. Instead of being happy to go to church it becomes an obligation. Bible reading is viewed as inconvenient instead of inspiring. Spiritual growth comes to a halt.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 - "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."

Paul is not saying that if you break the rules, you lose your salvation. But rather, if you burden yourself with weights and sins - as Hebrews says -your effectiveness in reaching others with the truth is hindered. This is far more important than obtaining a perishable crown. Living in a way wherein your flesh is in subjection to the Spirit in all things is the most effective way to run with endurance.

We are nearing the end of the race and there are many hurdles and obstacles the enemy is putting in our way. Running through or jumping over them requires laying aside things that hinder us. We have all seen a long-distance runner who saves a kick for the end of the race - We're at that stage in ours. So, let's lay aside the endurance-robbing things of this life. Let's run strong as we near the finish line and the imperishable crown that awaits us!

Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus!



Amir Tsarfati is a former Deputy Governor of Jericho, Israeli tour guide, author, and the Founder and President of Behold Israel.

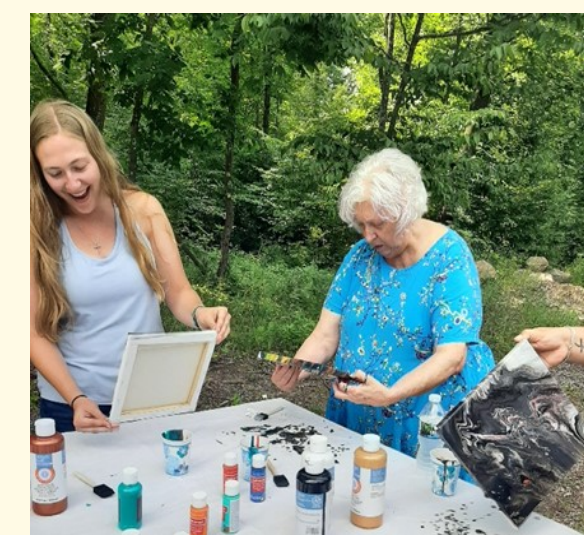
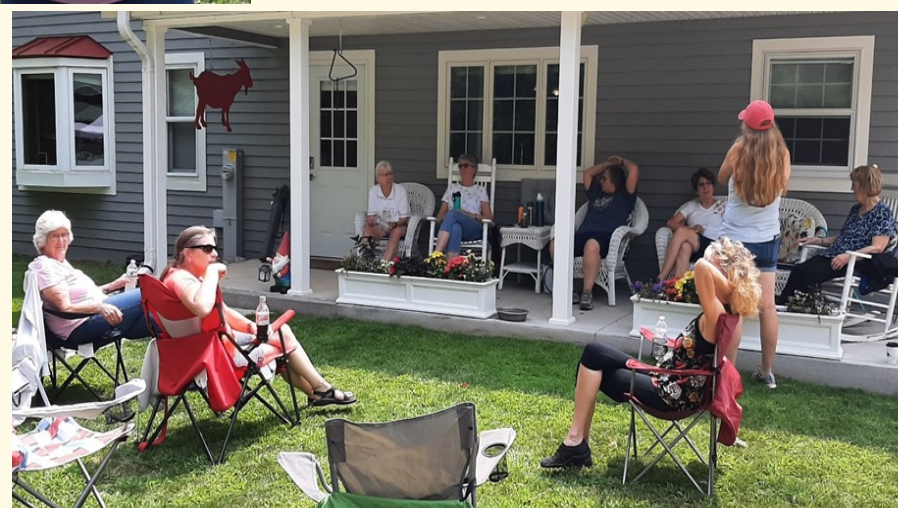
# Church Happenings—Baby Dedication of Andrew Lee Strasburg



# Church Happenings—Women's Retreat



# Church Happenings—Women's Retreat



# Church Happenings—Fellowship Night 2



# Church Happenings—Fellowship Night 2



# Church Happenings—Youth Group



# 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

We started the month with an outdoor water balloon fight and ended it with our annual Youth Group City Scavenger Hunt where each team competed to complete different missions and goals all to be the team with the most points. Pictures from the scavenger hunt will be included in next month’s newsletter. For our studies, we continued our trek through the book of John and expect to finish it this month (yay!).

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Date	Time	Location	Event
Sunday, August 4 <sup>th</sup>	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Sunday, August 11 <sup>th</sup>	6pm-8pm	Church	Regular Youth Group
Friday, August 16 <sup>th</sup>	6pm-10pm	Meet at Church	Youth Timber Rattlers Game
Sunday, August 18 <sup>th</sup>			No Youth Group
Sunday, August 25 <sup>th</sup>	1pm-3pm	Tim & Sue Diestler’s House	Slip ‘N’ Slide Kickball*

\*Weather permitting. Otherwise, no Youth Group.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: JOSEPH FARMER



**Grade:** 7th

**How long have you been attending youth group at ACEFC?** 3 months

**What do you see yourself doing in 10 years? 15 years?** In 10-15 years, I hope to have a family of my own. I don’t know what I want to do for a job yet.

**Favorite thing to do in your free time?** Karate, video games, and reading.

**Favorite Food:** Cheeseburgers

**What is your favorite memory from Youth Group?** Playing *The Purge* game.

**What is your favorite athletic activity and why?** Training for my black belt and going to the gym with my Dad. My goals are to become stronger, practice perseverance, and having the ability to protect myself and others should the need arise.

**What has God been teaching in the past year?** God has been teaching me to do what He wants me to do and not what the world wants me to do, even when it’s hard. I am learning to listen to the Holy Spirit and use discernment. Sometimes this means saying no to something I really want to do.



## Some Prayerful Thought's from Pastor Greg



### Focusing On Finding A Firm Foundation: Wisdom Says, "Build Your House On The Rock!" The Fear Of The Lord Is The Foundation

When I was a youngster in Sunday School, on many Sundays we would sing a chorus entitled, "A Wise Man Built His House Upon The Rock!" We were also very familiar with the Bible lesson from Matthew 7:24–27 that prompted the song. Jesus was teaching in this passage, and He said, "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a wise and sensible man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and doesn't act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. And its collapse was great!" As I've grown older, I've come to realize that even though the truth taught by this song/story involves some good, old-fashioned common sense, it also includes an essential principle that applies to something far deeper than the foundation for a physical house. (Pun intended!) Throughout the Bible there are many valuable and vivid reminders about the need for a firm foundation, and that sense of stability and security are only found in the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's take a closer look at two of these biblical exhortations and admonitions, especially since we consistently face a significant amount of cultural chaos from the sin-saturated society that surrounds us!

A great place to start would be Proverbs; if we would take an exhaustive look at all that's included in this valuable portion of God's Word, we'd fill several pages! So we'll take a careful and observant glance at Proverbs 1:1–7, emphasizing 1:7 and then move on Ephesians 6:10–20, focusing mostly on 6:10–13.

(1) Please grab your Bible & observe what Proverbs 1:1–7 says to us. Here's an analysis of 1:7. "The fear (**being reverent & respectful; a healthy sense of awe**) of the Lord is the beginning (**the starting place, foundation; or source; the controlling principle**) of knowledge (**understanding; wisdom; skill for living well**); fools (**those who mock or scoff at sin; people who need to be disciplined**) despise (**refuse to listen; to express hatred**) wisdom (**guidance for making good decisions**) and instruction (**warnings and advice about what might be harmful**). This verse contains a positive idea followed by an opposing statement. "Fear" includes not only an accurate way of thinking about God but requires an authentic relationship with YHWH. It's a love-filled reverence that prompts us to submit to the Father's will. It should lead to a desire not to sin against Him because His wrath is so alarming, and His love is so amazing. "Beginning" doesn't mean that the fear of the Lord is where one starts, but then moves on to another level of gaining wisdom or another means of learning. Instead, our reverence & respect for the Lord will always be the controlling principle, the firm foundation, where we build or develop a life of wisdom. If or when anything begins to control our minds, typically we'll begin to slip or fall into a sinful lifestyle. John 14–16 reminds us how the Holy Spirit guides us into the Truth!

(2) Now please read Ephesians 6:10–20, where Paul teaches about the necessity of wearing God's spiritual armor; this gives us a firm foundation that shields, strengthens, stabilizes, and secures us. It's not possible to go into a detailed explanation, but we should closely observe 10–11 & 13. "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ...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." "Be strong" encourages us to "allow the Lord to strengthen us" and "strengthen ourselves by trusting Him!" The purpose of taking hold & wearing the equipment that God provides helps us to withstand all of Satan's attacks. He tries to deceive us, divide us, distract us & destroy our ability to trust the Lord. In verse 13 Paul repeated himself because of the urgency of taking up God's provisions when we're surrounded by a culture that promotes so much evil. "The evil day" probably describes almost any day because every day when we face temptation is an evil day for the faithful follower of Christ.

I sincerely hope that this is an encouragement for everyone to do some soul-searching to determine whether our foundation is firm. I pray each day for the wisdom necessary to navigate through this culture in a safe and secure way. I'm also praying for everyone within our ACEFC family. The foundation we have is important. If we see any cracks in the walls of our homes, spackle might make it look better, but we might need to check to see if the foundation is the problem. The same is true for our spiritual lives!

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



### LOKER LOGBOOK

**Time Away from Congo:** Spending as month in **Uganda** with our maintenance team was a blessing for our family! John was able to both learn new skills and be a helping hand on an urgent and **heavy maintenance load**. Our family was refreshed by a change of pace: go-karting, worshipping in English on Palm Sunday and Easter, and sharing life with our teammates, the Snyder family.

**Education & Skills:** In our shop, John taught a **basics in electricity workshop**. For him, there have been many opportunities to teach practical skills in the community here. Joanne, Ethan, and Everett earned their **jui jitsu** white belts at the end of the year. This term, Joanne's students all completed research projects and read many novels! She loves **teaching and forming relationships** with the students and other teachers.

**The Moments That Make up Life:** Although my lettuce was temporarily buried in dust, a new well was dug by the end of the day! A huge blessing to end our 10 months with no city water. John marked a huge career milestone: **1,000 flight hours!** In times like these, we praise God and reflect what He has done to bring us this far. As God has blessed us with a lovely home, He's also brought **new friends** to fill it. Recently we were able to welcome a Congolese family. Sharing and learning from these new friends is a gift from God.

**A Tearful Homecoming:** I (John) had the opportunity to visit Banda, almost a two-hour flight into north central Congo, for a weekend in March. I learned about Wendy's ministry with AIM (Africa Inland Mission) and celebrated the ordination of five pastors, the culmination of at least six years of work for their theological training. I was fed by a brother in Christ who welcomed me into his home, and the church blessed me as I returned with gifts of food and poultry. It was a rich experience and a humbling blessing. Again recently, I was able to fly to Banda for quite a different reason. This time I made the flight with my colleague Dominic that allowed us to return eight young men who had been kidnapped by a militia group one year ago. They were between ages 12 and 18. Children like these are taken to be slaves in the forest and eventually become trained as part of the militia. My friend from their village explained that one of these boys was his student and was taken right after school one day. He hoped to help this former student catch up on his studies after the year away. It is hard to write the emotion I felt seeing them embrace and touch forehead to forehead, rejoicing to see one another again. **For these eight families, there was great joy**, and I am so grateful to have been the last part of their long journey home. Their route was a long voyage from Central Africa Republic through Kinshasa, Goma, Bunia, and finally home. Yet, from the group who were taken, 20 have not returned. It is always in front of us how hardship is present alongside blessing. God is allowing us to be part of some amazing stories, yet there are so many challenges that the people we serve alongside endure. As we started the plane and left them there, I was struck with the hope that this flight brought these rejoicing families, yet the heartache for those who wait still. As we continue the work before us, join us in praying Romans 15:13 for our brothers and sisters: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

### Prayer

- It is difficult to find the right balance of family life while traveling for extended times. Pray our family rhythms restore and strengthen us while away.
- This year several families are on furlough or traveling. This is leaving us short-staffed for a season.

### Praise!

By the time you read this, we will be standing on US soil! God has given us continued strength these past two years, and we are now taking our first furlough.

**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)



Appleton Community  
Evangelical Free Church  
2490 West Capitol Drive  
Appleton, WI 54914



Church Office Hours  
Closed Mondays  
Tuesday—Friday  
8:30 - 2:30

We're on the Web!  
[applefreechurch.org](http://applefreechurch.org)