



Building Up

See Romans 14:19

Pastor Kenny

The purpose of these quarterly Newsletters is to keep you informed and to help build up the body of Christ, His Church, by building up this congregation of His Church. We are told in Romans 12 to renew our minds and to be living sacrifices. I believe that the two, go hand in hand; that one Builds up the other, as a living sacrifice you offer yourself up to God each and every day, hour by hour, minute by minute. And since you are His, you seek to grow in your knowledge of Him *renewing your mind* as you seek Him through His word and prayer.

In Acts 2 that first Church devoted themselves to 4 things; The Apostles Teaching, The Fellowship, The breaking of bread, and Prayer. The Apostles teaching for us is what Jesus had taught them, what we now have in God's Word: The Bible. The Church of God Reformation Movement is based on the sovereign Word of God. We believe that the Bible is His inerrant Word to us, we make it our rule of faith, where the Bible is silent, we are to remain silent, we are not to conjecture, speculate, or make assumptions. Our fallback position should be "What does the Word of God say?" being sure that we look at in context of what was written, when, why, and to whom while also considering the "goings on" of that place and time.

The Gospel of John tells us that the Jesus is the Word made flesh. To disregard anything in the Bible, or to twist it to suit ourselves, is unbelief and the denying of Christ Jesus. Jesus is the head of the body His church and we should be practicing that Christ alone is Lord and following Him. Therefore, if we disagree with what is written we are disagreeing with our creator and with what was inspired by the Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21, 2 Timothy 3:16).

They also were devoted to The Fellowship, not to fellowship, but to "The Fellowship" one another! They were the Church, the blood bought, brothers and sisters in Christ, together – the body of Christ. As such they continued to meet together and were practicing the one another's of God's Word (Hebrews 10:24-25). They understood that all scripture was *breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). As should we!

And they were devoted to the breaking of bread, while there is controversy over whether this was sharing meals or communion, most believe that it was both, a sharing in meals together, and taking communion together in unity. And then there is being devoted to prayer (which we will look at next quarter!). In All of this they were building on what they had as individuals and as a congregation of believers.

If the church today would devote themselves to the same things as what that first church did, imagine what would happen; meeting on a daily basis to learn from God's Word, practicing the one another's while sharing meals and then joining in prayer and praise to God, somewhat like I imagine heaven is going to be. It is no wonder that they grew in number.

Now we can barely find the time to come together once a week for an hour or so. But when the people there saw them in fellowship with one another, helping one another, encouraging one another, and loving one another they wanted to be a part of it.

*Acts chapter 2:42-47 "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And **all who believed** were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and **having favor with all the people**. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."*

Imagine if those in our communities found out what we had as Christians, as Believers, our buildings would be full! But first the Church must awaken to our blessings and calling and empowerment to what God is building here. It has to start somewhere, and it has to start out of love and obedience to His will and Word. We have to realize what we have as a congregation of His Church and then build on that! And that means renewing our minds, thinking differently as we follow Christ, denying ourselves, picking up our crosses daily, crucifying the flesh, with its passions and desires, and being that living sacrifice—the living sacrifices we are called to be! Are you ready to step up and step out in faith, believing that you are a part of something better, that we are better together, and that together we can do all things that we are called to do? *"You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5)*

We are out of the pandemic. Are you prepared to "Go", are we prepared to fulfill our mission as a congregation of His church, building on the foundation that has been laid for us? How are you, as a part of this congregation, going to do that, how are you going to reach those who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior? They (those not of the Church) are looking for Truth. How can you share The Truth if you do not know the Truth of what you believe? Is it not time to renew your mind, to strengthen your beliefs, to learn new things from God's Word, making sure you know the Truth that you speak of, while building the knowledge you have?

This fall we will be offering Building Blocks of Growth (small groups) for you to do just that. These Building blocks will be at different homes and at different times with different subjects. And I am encouraging you to join one, as together we seek to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, and thereby build up the Body of Christ: His Church. So far, we are offering Building Blocks on Prayer, Experiencing God,

I will be doing a short 6 to 8 week Building Block study on apologetics, why we believe what we do, the subjects, so far, are; sin, salvation, the kingdom, the church, gifting, and End times this will take place after Church starting in September. This should be a 45-to-60-minute class.

Governance Board

Traci Spring

Here are highlights of what the governing board discussed or did the past three months:

New Church Software: Bonnie and Brock suggested the board purchase software called Church Teams. So far, so good! We appreciate them bringing this software to our attention.

Church Safety - Ring doorbell was installed and is proving to be a useful tool.

Energy Efficient Lights: New LED lights will be installed throughout the church to save money on our utility bills.

Work Day on April 29: Thank you to those that took time to help clean inside and outside. This was especially important prior to the Pastor Kenny's installation service. While cleaning, additional work was identified such as painting some of the walls in the sanctuary. Thanks to Jessica for volunteering to do the painting!

Installation Service on May 7: Thanks to all those that made this a memorable day for Kenny, his family, and our church family.

Background Checks: Brock is handling background checks for members that work with children.

Need for someone to lead Greeter Ministry: Thanks to Mark Carmoney for volunteering!

Have a special event that you'd like to hold at the church? If you'd like to have a birthday party, graduation party, baby shower, bridal shower, or other special event at the church, see Brock for the building request form so he can validate that the building is available.

Homework for the Governing Board Members: Pastor Kenny has asked us to read various books. A couple of the titles are *The Church Recovery Guide: How Your Congregation Can Adapt and Thrive after a Crisis* by Karl Vaters and *Small Church Essentials* by the same author.

Feel free to reach out to any of us. Please pray for us as well.

JR. Church

Bonnie Beeman

In Jr. Church class we have been continuing our way through the Bible and our timeline is wrapped halfway around the room! If you've not been in to see it, come on in and check it out. Ask one of our kiddos to tell you all about it!

As we focus on a God view each month, we are growing in our knowledge of who God is and how much he loves us. April's view was the connection between humility and God's character. We live in a "me-centered" world, where people act as if the world revolves around them. It can be hard to figure out how to be humble throughout the different circumstances we face. Thankfully, we don't have to figure this out on our own. When Jesus was on earth, He gave us the ultimate example of humility. Jesus is God, and He put that aside for us. Through His life and death, Jesus also showed us how to serve others and put them first.

Our May view was the connection between confidence and God's character. We learned that confidence is living like you believe God is with you. We talked about the idea that confidence is found in understanding how God is both big enough to create the universe, but also close enough to be right here with us. We are learning that we can trust God no matter what. We are created in God's image. And God loves us so much! Nowhere is this more evident than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And, when we trust Jesus with our life, the Holy Spirit is there to help us face whatever comes our way. We can respond to God's love and care with confidence!

The view for June was the connection between faith and God's character. We are learning that God has always been deeply involved in the world. We can see the evidence of God's hand when we look at all He created. We see God's love displayed through Jesus, who came to rescue us. We respond to God in faith, believing in what we can't see because of what we can see. We learned to focus on what we know to be true about God so we can have faith in what we can't see or fully understand. Then we can put that faith into action as we follow Jesus and show His love to the world.

I continue to be amazed at the insight and understanding that these kids have for God's word!



They are continually teaching me with their fresh ideas and thoughtful consideration of each story. Each and every one of them has been working really hard to hide God's word in their heart through our monthly memory verses. We earn a badge for each monthly verse, and our badges are proudly displayed on our wall in our room.

DAY OF HOPE AND FRESH FOOD

Laurene Sharkey & Jan Sorenson

Day of Hope served 21 people in the month of June. More volunteer will be needed as 3 of the regulars will be at camp meeting.

Fresh Food will start having fresh produce that will need to be packaged when the truck leaves. More volunteers will be needed.

Missionary Minutiae

Dawn Buchbinder

As most of you already know, Drew and Christine VanTiem have switched missionary organizations and are now with New International. They will be doing the same work, living in the same home, and ministering to the same community. Catch more details and stay up to date with their regular and inspiring newsletters that come via email. Ask Drew to be added to their email list: drewandchristinevantiem@gmail.com

Lisa and Moses Ndjomou are back in the states for another few months. Lisa is needing some medical care. Please continue to pray for them, their ministry, and their base back in Togo. Please consider financially supporting them, as well. Stay up to date with them via their email list: trustinginchristsname@yahoo.com

Don't forget, Church of God has a child sponsorship program. I've had a great experience supporting Jolive, including swapping letters and photos and getting updates from the workers who provide services to him and his community. Check out their website to start sponsoring: <https://www.childrenofpromise.global/about-us/>

ONLINE PRESENCE

We have been doing our best to be out on the world wide web for everyone. FWC has lots of ways to stay connected.

Facebook- www.facebook.com/GrassLakeFWC

We have a Facebook Group as well Grass Lake Family Worship Center Prayer and Announcements

YouTube- Grass Lake FWC

Website- www.grasslakefwc.com

Email- A weekly email is sent out to everyone in our directory on Thursday's. Check your Inboxes and Spam folders for it, if you're not, please let Brock know so we can get that worked out.

You of course are always welcome to visit 1901 Mt. Hope Rd, Grass Lake MI 49202 Sunday Mornings at 10am to see us live and in person.