

3rd Edition, 3rd Quarter 2023



FWC Family Connection

Building Up

"So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another" (Rom 14:19 NASB).

Pastor Kenny

We are, according to scripture, to be pursuing the things that make for Peace and the building up of one another. For the last few sermons in September, we looked at Waging Peace. We "Wage Peace" by being messengers of reconciliation (2nd Cor 5:14-62) Reconciliation brings Peace and as has been said "Love should be our motivation for waging peace". In a world that is divided in so many ways by so many things we need to be doing our best to build on the foundation that was laid down before and for us. *"...you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."* Eph 2:19-21

I did a short devotion with the Governance Board based on Proverbs 24:2-3 *"By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches."* A house can be a physical building or it can refer to a family or even an individual. Who is building your "house"? What materials are being used? We can build our own houses using worldly things or we can use the things of God's Kingdom allowing Him to do the building. This is your choice. When you choose to center your life on God, having faith, and trusting Him, you will receive spiritual blessing that build you up (your "House"), while also building up the body, *"the household of God"*, the Church.

When you center your life on God, focused and following Jesus out of love, you will naturally walk in obedience to His word. Jesus said *"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the*

sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” Matt 7:24-27 (Also see John 14:15)

We must use the knowledge we have and the wisdom that God gives us, to build on the foundation we have as individuals and as a congregation. There is a difference in wisdom and knowledge. Knowledge refers to the information and understanding that one has gained through study or experience. While wisdom is defined as the ability to discern or judge what is true, right, or lasting. “Knowledge is knowing what to say, wisdom is knowing whether to say it or not”. You can be very knowledgeable without having wisdom. But you cannot be wise without having knowledge. Wisdom is God given, James tells us in 1:5-8 *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*

With out knowledge and wisdom what we build will be unstable like a house built on sand (above). Gaining knowledge will take sacrifice and intentional investment of time and talents as we build on the foundation laid for us. You are to speak The Truth in Love, to grow more Christlike, doing our part so that the Church builds itself up in Love (see Eph 4:15-16). Wisdom will come as you, as a Believer, continually seek God in His Word.

The time we invest together after service is a part of our spiritual growth, a part of building ourselves up in love, it is a time that we must do our best to not take for granted and to participate in. If you are reading this as a recent guest to one of our service’s I encourage you to stay and enjoy the time of Fellowship, if you are a member here, I encourage you to continue to stick around and get to know the family a little better, and if you have not stayed, I would encourage you to do so!

The building materials of the Kingdom are Godly wisdom and knowledge, love, peace, faith, and grace are the tools we use in building. And in using those tools we practice the one another’s of God’s Word, building into our lives, and into the lives of others and thereby Waging Peace and furthering the Kingdom!

God’s blessing as you build on the foundation, we all have in Christ!

Shalom!

PK

Governance Board

Traci Spring

BUDGET WORK

In preparation for our annual business meeting in November, the board has spent 4-5 hours discussing and setting the budget for 2024. We want to be good stewards of the funds God is providing. In 2023, God has greatly blessed us through your generous tithes and offerings! Thank you!

Parking Lot

Using funds from the building fund, we were able to resurface and fix the driveway. We used a local contractor who ironically had done the driveway years ago and his father is a pastor.

New Printer

We approved the purchase of a new printer. This will help us save money on ink and any repairs that may be needed.

Annual Business Meeting



Sunday, November 12 has been set for the date for our annual business meeting and will occur immediately after church. We will vote as a congregation on the budget for 2024 along with one (1) new governing board member to replace Gary Ruggles as his term will be done at the end of the year.

Printed information will be available two weeks prior to the meeting for your review. Per our bylaws, the Annual Business Meeting shall be held at least

two (2) weeks prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year which is January 1.

Reminder of voting requirements:

Attendance at worship services for a minimum of six (6) months. This restriction may be waived by one's personal declaration of "membership" and with a voice-vote of approval by 2/3rds of the members of FWC present and voting.

All elections and budgets shall be by ballot.

(The following is not part of the Board Report – is there a section in the newsletter for Ladies Breakfast?)

Ladies Breakfast

Our women have been meeting once a month on a **Saturday** at 9AM to share food, fellowship and prayer requests. We've already seen prayers answered!

October 14's breakfast and gathering will be at Jayme's house.

On November 11, we will have a special guest speaker. Traci has invited Angelita Gunn to share with the group. Angelita is the Executive Director for AWARE in Jackson County and Traci is on the board for AWARE. AWARE provides shelter, counseling, and legal support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This will be at the church. Feel free to invite your friends to both of these events!



JR. Church and Preschool

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. July's view 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.

August's view was the connection between creativity and God's character. When we look outside and see the beautiful world around us, we're reminded that God is great, powerful, and creative. From the birds flying high in the sky, to the planets orbiting the sun, to animals scampering around the earth, everything we see points to God's immense creativity. Jesus used creativity in the way He told parables, performed miracles, and helped His followers understand more about what it means to be part of God's kingdom. On top of that, we're created in God's image. We can solve problems, create art and music, and design skyscrapers high into the sky. When we create, we reflect the image of God to the world around us.

The view for September was the connection between friendship and God's character. God created us for relationships. From the very beginning of the Bible, we see how important it is to have wise people in our life who help us understand how to honor God with our actions. When God sent Jesus, we were able to see the best example of friendship ever. Jesus showed us how much He loves us as He laid down His life for His friends. With His words and actions, Jesus showed friendship to everyone He met. We can reflect Jesus' love best when we take time to care for our friends.

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

Fall greetings. And what a beautiful fall it has been so far. I just wanted to give you an update on what is happening at our little church every third Monday.

Back in the spring we combined the Day of Hope Ministry with the Fresh Food Initiative.

We have been busy ever since then. We have served 15-20 people. But this last Monday, we filled 30 orders. I'm so thankful for the Copper nail group that funds our ministries. And I'm especially thankful for all our volunteers that come and help us fill orders, and pray with the people. God is doing something through these ministries. It's a chance to help our neighbors, but more importantly, we are building relationships and sharing the love of Christ with them. If you haven't been here to see what is going on, please consider coming. If you can't come, please pray for our clients and our volunteers.

Thank you,
Hope Ministries, Jan Sorenson

Missionary Minutiae

Dawn Buchbinder

Family Worship Center History Project

Hello, church family! We've noticed there is a lack of history/documentation of FWC baptisms, weddings, pastor time frames, etc. I'd like to take on putting this information together, but I need some help! I'll be inviting some of you 'old timers' over to our house this winter to put together time frames, names, dates, all sorts of fun stuff.

For everyone: if you were baptized or married at Family Worship Center, please let me know! If anyone has photos of the church or additions getting built, former pastors, weddings or baptisms, or other 'significant' events, please send them my way!

Thanks!

Dawn Buchbinder

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Missions Update

Moses and Lisa are back in Togo and excited that 12 students are enrolled in their upcoming School of Biblical Studies! They are asking for prayer for the students - their provision, health and well-being as they learn to study God's word. They're also asking for prayer for the mold still growing in their home, as well as their health. One of their girls has malaria! As always, please continue to pray for the school being built in their village. If you'd like to know how to contribute, please ask me and I'll fill you in. They belong to a non-profit organization, so if you need the tax break, they can receive that way, too. Consider a year-end donation and/or give as a gift in someone's name!

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.

Upcoming events

• Romans Bible Study is postponed until further notice.

• Prayer Meeting, Every Tuesday 6:30pm, FWC

• October 7, Saturday

Church work day, 8am, FWC

• October 14, Saturday

Ladies Breakfast, 9am, Jayme's home

• December 24, Sunday

We will have our normal service at 10am and Christmas Eve service at 4pm

• Martha's small group

Reclaiming God's Original Intent for the Church

Monday's, 6pm, FWC

• Jayme's small group

Draw the Circle

Sunday's, 12:30pm, Rutz home, size restricted to 8

• Dawn and Vern's small group

The Book of Acts

Starting Wednesday October 11, 6-8pm, Buchbinder's

• Starting October 1st Pastor Kenny will be moving into the Book of Colossians