



1st Quarter of 2024

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

First and foremost it is an honor to have served and to be serving here together with you. The past year has brought a lot of changes, at least for Mindy, Mom, and I; New home, new church family, and new friends. And we have grown through the process and challenges while learning new things, experiencing new places and are also growing to love all of you who have so blessed us with your acceptance, friendship, and love.

We as a congregation of God’s Church have also seen some changes, spiritual growth is taking place with our after-church classes and with our weekly growth groups, within the last quarter we offered classes after church on Sin, Salvation, The Church, Sanctification, and Faith. On April 7th we will start another round of classes which will cover, Grace, The Kingdom, Spiritual gifts, discipleship, and Christian Eschatology.

We have also seen the joining of Fresh Food Initiative and Day of hope into Hope Ministries, which is reaching the unsaved, as well as those who Know Jesus as Lord and Savior and may have drifted away. This outreach ministry is growing and we are expanding this ministry with the opportunity of prayer at each car. We will still offer coffee, pastries, prayer, and conversation to any and all that come inside for the household items.

During this coming year we are going to look at how we, each of us, can fulfill the Great Commission and in doing that fulfill the Great Commandment. If we are loving God, as we are commanded to, with all our heart, soul, and mind then the natural result will be to love others as God loves us, and to fulfill the 2nd part of the Great commandment, to love our neighbor as ourselves. (See Matthew 22:36-40)

Your neighbor is anyone you happen to be with at any given moment, your neighbors include, class mates, friends, those you live next to, co-workers, and family members. I

would encourage you to pick someone to pray for throughout the year and ask the Lord for the opportunity to witness to them and disciple them to Christ.

In order to reach our neighbors, we, as a congregation of God's Church, have to be out in our community. The first step is to make ourselves visible, to let them know we are here for the community, and not just another church in the community. At the end of this quarter on the 23rd of March we are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt that will hopefully be out in the community. Please be praying for a location to be open for this.

This Out Reach needs to be a whole church effort; eggs will need to be filled, help in the parking lot, hiding the eggs, donations, there will be something that you can do to help us reach out to our neighbors with the gospel. People don't care what you know until they know how much you care. Do we care enough to be out there? Do we as a congregation want to reach the lost, to disciple, to be the messengers of reconciliation that we are called to be as individuals and as a congregation of His Church?

In order to fulfill the Great commission, to reach the lost and make disciples, each of us as a part of the Church has to do our part in being a Church to the community. Most congregations invite people to come to their buildings for one thing or another; we need to see what we can do to make a difference to and for the community where God has placed us. The Easter Egg hunt is but one way that we can be reaching out. We are blessed to be already helping our community with Hope Ministries. Please let me know if you think of others.

Shalom

PK

Governance Board

Traci Spring

Dear church family,
What a blessed year we have had at FWC! God has been good to us.

Thank you to the many people that stepped up to serve in 2023. There are still some gaps so if you see something you would like to lead or be a part of, contact Pastor Kenny or one of the board members.

In this newsletter, you will find the results from the 2023 approved budget vs actuals. Highlights of the 2023 actual results:

- Tithing and gifts were 16% higher than budgeted.
- We were able to give over \$11,000 to other ministries and to those in need as part of our tithe.
- A new laptop was purchased for Jr Church.
- Curriculum was purchased for preschool and the Jr Church.

Thanks to the church for approving our 2024 budget at our annual business meeting in November and approving Laurene Sharkey as our newest governing member.

As Gary Ruggles' board commitment has ended, we want to thank him not only for this year, but for his many years of having a servant's heart, being faithful to God, remaining steadfast during difficult times, and providing wise counsel. We need one or more volunteers to coordinate the Spring and Fall cleanups as that is something Gary did.

Dawn Buchbinder has offered to pull together a history of FWC. So, if you have something that may be of interest, please share it with her.

As we look ahead to 2024, please pray for God to give us wisdom and insights that can come only from Him.

Respectfully,
Traci Spring, Board Chair

JR. Church and Preschool

Bonnie Beeman

Jr. Church

In Jr. Church class we have wrapped up this year of ministry. We have been diligently seeking to know God more and storing His word in our hearts. We now have learned 21 memory verses! We continue to test our memory of them as we add even more verses. Our badge holders are getting full!

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. October's view was the connection between integrity and God's character. We learned that God is always good. Since the very beginning, God has been faithful and true. If God makes a promise, God keeps that promise. We are created in God's image . . . and when we live with integrity, we reflect God's integrity. When Jesus lived on earth, He lived a perfect life and showed integrity in ways we can't because of our sin. Jesus makes it possible for us to live as new creations. Through the Holy Spirit, we are being transformed into people of integrity. Who we are in private should match who we are in public. When we trust in God, we can make the wise choice and be truthful in whatever we say and do.

November's view was the connection between gratitude and God's character. Gratitude sometimes feels like a lost art. Yet gratitude is an idea close to God's heart. Think about all of the Bible stories where people gave thanks to God. The Israelites celebrated God with feasts and festivals. The writers of the Psalms wrote songs of praise to thank God for being faithful. Throughout this month, we hope kids will learn to be grateful for everything God has done: for the world God made, for the promises God has kept, and for the new life God offers the world through Jesus. When we remember all of these things, we can always be thankful.

The view for December was the connection between Christmas and God's character. With the busyness of the Christmas season, it's easy to lose sight of why we celebrate in the first place. We forget that at the time of the first Christmas, God's people were anticipating a Rescuer who would come and save the world. That's what makes a countdown like an advent calendar so powerful. It allows us daily moments to stop and reflect on God, who loved us so much and sent Jesus to be our Savior. This December, we're "decking the halls" and taking the whole the month to focus on nothing but Christmas by celebrating Jesus, God's greatest gift! We can't wait to shine a spotlight on crucial moments in the story of Jesus' birth as we count down to Christmas. Because of Jesus, it's possible for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. As we take this month to count down to the fun of Christmas Day, let's take time to remember the reason we celebrate in the first place: Jesus, the greatest gift the world has ever known.

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. As we begin a new year of learning, I look forward to growing together through the fun and fellowship of our Sunday morning time!

Preschool

Starting last September, we were able to offer a preschool classroom once again. We use the preschool curriculum from Orange. Each month offers a new theme which focuses on one of the nine core insights and teaches one of three basic truths. Each theme features a new Bible story that reveals the basic truth about God. We play games, make crafts, and explore the wonder of the Bible. Each month we learn a new bible verse with hand motions to help us remember it.

September's theme, This Or That, was all about choices. An adult makes about 35,000 choices every day, but adults are not the only ones with choices to make. Children have their fair share of choices too—about 3,500 of them. Every. Single. Day. Should I eat this snack or that snack? Should I play with this toy or that toy? Should I do this and share or do that and keep it all for myself? Knowing that our preschooler's 3,500 daily choices will one day turn into 35,000 daily choices is why we want to teach preschoolers that, when they have a choice between This or That, they can trust that God knows what's best for them.

In October we became Super Kids and talked about being brave. Now is the time for our preschoolers to begin learning that God can help me be brave because the need to be brave— God-brave—will

only grow throughout their lives. What is God-brave? God-brave is the kind of brave that does the right thing even when others don't, . . . the kind of brave that stands up to seemingly impossible circumstances, . . . the kind of brave that trusts God during the darkest of times, . . . the kind of brave that looks to God to help us be strong and courageous, . . . the kind of brave that makes us SUPER KIDS—not because of what WE can do but because of what GOD can do.

November, of course, was about thanksgiving. We became part of the Parade Of Thanks. Thanking God for Who He is, what He has done, and what He has given us is something people have been doing for a very, very, VERY long time. You could say that the people in the Bible make up this super long PARADE OF THANKS . . . and it's up to us to keep it going! We want our preschoolers to continue this Parade of Thanks by teaching them they can thank God for everything—literally everything! Their light-up shoes, their new toy, their snack, their favorite rock . . . EVERYTHING!

For December, with Christmas in mind, we hopped aboard the Christmas Train, which carries the true story of Christmas. Christmas is such a special time of year! Preschoolers will experience a lot of excitement and wonder. We all do! But as they get older—and as we take time to stop and remember—we hope that the good news that God gave us Jesus will become the most wonderful part of Christmas.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to the preschool teaching crew! Without you investing in our children, we wouldn't have a preschool class. We have 4 teachers and 5 assistants, which is great! We are still in need of one more teacher for the months that have 5 weeks instead of 4. If you are willing, please see Bonnie Beeman.

Nursery

Our nursery volunteers are amazing! They are building relationships with our toddlers and babies and working to allow our moms to be in service. The love and attention that they lavish on our little ones is so appreciated. They read stories, play with toys, and just spend time with these energetic toddlers. Sometimes they are able to snuggle the baby so mom can play. Either way the impact is huge!

Just as with the preschool, we have enough volunteers to cover a 4-week rotation. But once again that 5th week in a month needs to be filled. If you are interested in serving on a 5th Sunday of the month, please see Bonnie Beeman.

DAY OF HOPE AND FRESH FOOD

Jan Sorenson/Laurene Sharkey

Proverbs 11:25 says- "A generous man will prosper, he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."

Hello, we hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and are preparing for a Happy Healthy New Year. I'm so pleased to inform you that the two parts of Hope Ministries are working well

together. Day of Hope is serving between 20-30 families. Each family seems grateful for the products and the prayer that we provide each time we meet. FFI- we were able to serve 40+ families in November. On top of the food, we decided to give out Meijer gift cards. We gave out 41- ten dollar gift cards to help each family to buy food for a Thanksgiving meal. We have been praying about how we can reach these families for Christ. We feel that God has given us an opportunity that we ordinarily wouldn't have so we decided that at Decembers FFI we would show up an hour early while people are waiting in their cars and go car to car asking if they had any prayer concerns. Some did and we prayed right then for them. Please pray for these families. And consider how you can be a part of what we are doing. Thank you all for your generosity this year. We can't wait to see what 2024 has in store.

Missionary Minutiae

Dawn Buchbinder

Greetings, everyone! Here are some updates from our faithful servants, Lisa and Moses Ndjomou in Togo and Drew and Christine VanTiem in Scotland. Remember, God called all of us to 'Go and share'. We should all take on the perspective of being missionaries in our 'village': workplaces, families, neighborhoods. If I reached out to YOU to share an update on how your missionary journey is going, what would you write in your letter? What is your missional focus? How is your personal faith journey? What fruit do you see from your efforts? How is God moving in your ministry? What are your mission's prayer/resource needs? My hope is to start asking some of you to do just this and start sharing YOUR missionary updates with our church family. Get ready :)

From Lisa and Moses:

Things have been incredibly busy here! The young man who got injured has had his surgery, so prayer for protection from infection and rapid healing. We are so grateful to God for his provision for the surgery and that this kind of surgery is an option in Togo. We have been extremely busy with all the regular things and then adding many trips to the hospital with Corneille and then searching the city's pharmacies for the supplies for the surgery. We are very tired and runny low on energy and brain power so we could use prayers for strength and energy as well as a slowdown in the pace of things. There has been a lot of sicknesses we have been fighting on top of it all so pray for health. Both the Discipleship Training School (DTS) and the School of Biblical Studies (SBS) have almost finished the first quarter of school. The DTS will head to 3 months of outreach after Christmas and the SBS will begin its second quarter of class. We need the Lord to provide financially for many of the students to be able to attend the next quarter. Please pray for provision and faith to be strengthened. The children's schools have been threatened to be closed several times this quarter but by God's favor we have remained open! Please pray for provision for the schools so we can begin the

building process soon!!!! I (Lisa) am feeling a bit exhausted physically and mentally lately so please pray for the Lord to strengthen and encourage me as I seek Him.

Blessing to you all!

Lisa Ndjomou

From Drew and Christine:

We are very pleased with how the first two months have gone in our new roles at New International (NI). Christine is leading a team of 7 in the development of TCK Care within NI. Drew is learning what is needed in terms of retreats and spiritual formation. Pray for Drew as he leads two soul care events in early January. One is for NI staff, and the other is locally for a local Christian charity. Pray for our local church as well, that God would lead us as we navigate some tricky situations. Drew is helping to facilitate some time to process things together as a church in January - pray that this would be fruitful and beneficial to the church. Also, we are thanking God for a really fruitful Giving Tuesday! Thank you for all you do to partner with us!

Worship

Jayme Reichanadter

Our worship ministry has experienced great growth! We have a full team of highly competent and committed musicians, able to enjoy a rotation schedule. **Please** see me if you are interested in being part of the team. Last year, we were able to purchase a larger screen for our lyrics, new microphones and new music stands. Additionally, we learned many new songs together including, Build Your Kingdom Here, Open Up the Heavens, So Will I, Gratitude, My Jesus and Same God.

But where external growth can easily be seen and measured, internal growth is not so straightforward. It is the cry of my heart to help you experience the presence of God in our worship service. Scripture identifies two types of God's presence. The first is His omnipresence. David testifies, "I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there, if I go down to the grave, you are there...even in the darkness I cannot hide from you" Ps. 139:7-8, 12. This is the presence of God that promises, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" Hebrews 13:5. The second is identified by Jesus' statement, "I will love him and manifest Myself to him" John 14:21. The word manifest is the Greek word *emphanizo* and means "to make apparent...to let oneself be intimately known and understood." This occurs when God reveals Himself to our mind and senses. "God is to be greatly feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him" (Ps 89:7) We will only find God's manifest presence in an atmosphere where He's held with the utmost respect and adoration.

On January 26, you are invited to enjoy a worship night with several other churches in the Ann Arbor area. Sounds of the City is a worship movement dedicated to creating unity within the Body

of Christ by ministering to Jesus alongside other local churches and celebrating diverse expressions of worship. SotC Worship Nights occur 4 times a year (every three months) at a church that has signed up to be a host. Jan. 26 will be hosted by 2/42 Community Church at 7pm. Please see www.soundsofthe.city for more information.

Then on February 24, our church will be holding a worship night of its own. We hope this will be the first of many meaningful worship-only experiences for you and your family. It reminds me of the song Be Enthroned. "We've come to join the song sung long before our lives, to raise our voice along Heaven and Earth alike.... Be enthroned upon the praises of a thousand generations" Please plan to join us for a night of singing new songs to the Lord. Set list to come.

Finally, the Seder Dinner is happening on March 24, Palm Sunday. This is truly a feast for the senses and a special history lesson in Biblical Jewish culture and the Feast of Passover, where it can be seen exactly where we derive our traditional Sacrament of Communion. This is a fully integrated service of teaching while seated at dinner tables, and sharing a full meal directly afterwards, while enjoying Jewish worship music. All are welcome!

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

•January 18, Thursday

Care Team meeting, 6pm, Jan S home

•January 26, Friday

Worship Night, Ann Arbor

•January 28, Sunday

Child Dedication, During Service, FWC

•February 24, Saturday

Worship Night, FWC

• March 16, Saturday

360 Conference, 9am, more info out soon

• March 23, Saturday

Easter Outreach, more info coming soon