



2nd 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)

We have been looking at the Book of James. James is about as blunt as you can get and speaks to us about Being Christians, not just with our words, but with, and in, our actions. *Be doers of the Word and not hearers only!* (James 1:22). The Word of God tells us that there is more to Being a Christian than our words and attending a church service once a week. Saying *"Go in peace, be warm and well fed"* (James 2:16) is not being a Christian. Faith without works is dead! If you are only a "Christian" on Sundays from 10 to noon then I am concerned that you will not hear *"Well done My good and faithful servant"* (See Matt 25:14-30, 7:21).

We call Jesus Lord and Savior, but is He really, do you truly mean it? Your actions speak louder than your words, Jesus said that a tree is known by its fruit, by what it bears. We also are known by what we bear, what we produce, both in our words and in our actions. Jesus said in Luke 6, *"For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"* vs. 43-46 (see also 47-49)

James has a lot to say on what we say and our actions lining up with our words. How are you—being a Christian—practicing the 59 one anothers of God's Word? I know that when we come together in obedience to God's Word (See Hebrews 10:24-25) that there are others that are different than we are, with different opinions, outlooks, attitudes, and even beliefs. I also understand that some of these people can rub us the wrong way (And, as hard as it is to believe, we may do the same to them!), but we are all called to bear with one another, to love one another, and to help one another, and that is impossible without the Holy Spirit and the love of God.

I was asked a long time ago what my purpose was and I had read, just a few weeks before, in a "Chicken Soup for the Soul" about a young man asked that same question. His response was "To get to heaven and take as many people with me as I can": I repeated those words. And I have tried to live them out to the best of my ability. As a Pastor/teacher/shepherd I believe that I am called to "equip the saints for works of ministry" (Eph 4:11-12). That too is a part of getting more people to be with me in Heaven. I believe James, in writing His letter, had the same thought in mind, to get people to Heaven. Not just get them saved but to get them to understand that they need to live out their faith in relationship with God and others. Because the reality is that none of us can save anyone else. We each must make a decision to follow Christ in faith or not.

I sometimes think that we can get so focused on getting people saved, that we lose our focus on our, and their, relationship with our Lord and Savior. Being a Christian is more than just following a set of rules, it is more than getting people saved, it is about deepening our love relationship with our Creator. As His Children we need to be seeking His will and not our own, we need to be growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, gaining spiritual wisdom, and doing so while being doers of the Word! That doing, is done out of Love for God, in the power of the Spirit, and it is walking in obedience because of the love we have for Him and one another. (John 14:15)

We need to keep our focus, grow in our relationship with God, with one another, be doers of the Word, and keep following our Lord. To that end; we will be starting up Building Groups in the early fall/late summer. This season we will be doing *Not a Fan* by Kyle Idleman. This is a 15-week study that will challenge you to consider what it really means to call yourself a Christian (Christ Follower). One of these Building Groups (BGs) will be meeting Wednesdays at 6:15 at FWC. There is a possibility for at least 2 more and I will keep you advised as things unfold.

We are looking at having a class for our youth during the sermon which will start in September. We will be having Experiencing God classes after service; one for our youth and one for our adults. The Experiencing God Classes will start August 25th so that the class can finish before Thanksgiving. It is my prayer that you will, even now, plan on attending at least one of these opportunities as together we *Build* our relationship and understanding of our Lord and Savior and strengthen our relationships with one another.

1st Thessalonians 5:11 tells us to *“encourage one another and **build up** one another, just as you have been doing”*. We do this *Building up* of one another as we study and learn together, as we get together and fellowship, and as we Worship and Pray with and for one another.

Speaking of Prayer; we are still encouraging you to come out and pray with us Tuesdays at 6:30 pm as we seek God’s will in the possibility of building on to what we already have. We are trying to prepare for the Growth we are praying for by putting in an audio/visual area behind the Sanctuary in a part of the Nursery (This is now marked out with masking tape). This will give us more space, place everything in one place for audio/visual, and do away with the noise from the amplifier in the Jr. Church class room.

This will prayerfully only be short term as we consider the building on of the rooms for our children that won’t be right out front. Children are the future of any Church and we want to be able to teach them while keeping them as safe as possible. *“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.”* Proverbs 22:6 and Jesus said, *“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”* (Matthew 19:14)

In all of this *“we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”* (Rom 14:19 NASB)

In Christ

PK

Governance Board

Traci Spring

Governing Board 2nd Quarter Update

Policy Work

One of the main functions of a board is to ensure that policies are in place and that they are followed and updated as needed. In late April, the pastor, some governing board members, and others went to a seminar in Flint all about *Bylaws, Policies and Procedures*. Sounds boring, right? But the presenter Josh Brandt made it understandable and engaging.

We are currently working on policies for job descriptions, building use, and weddings.

New Locks

You may have noticed that new locks have been added to some of the rooms in the church: preschool, children’s church, storeroom, and even the gates on the playground. This has been done to protect our property and our children.

Cleaning

Halle Reed has taken over cleaning of the church. We are thrilled that she has agreed to do this!

Tuesday Prayer Nights

Please join others in seeking what God has planned for our church.

Experiencing God

I am thrilled to hear the testimonies from Experiencing God. If you want to get closer to God, please consider joining the Fall group.

Finances

Here's the financial results for the period January 1 – June 30, 2024:

Actual Spending	Total Income	Gap
\$66,212.13	52,374.13	(13,838.00)

Keep us in your prayers

Please keep the governing board in your prayers as we seek to do His will and not our own.

Sincerely,

Traci, Board Chair

Areas of Responsibility

If you see gaps in the list below, contact someone on the board.

Spring Cleanup	Jessica Rutz	Adult Ministries	Pastor Kenny
Fall Cleanup	Jessica Rutz	Children Ministries	Bonnie Beeman
Lawn and snow removal	Vern Buchbinder	Cleaning Supplies	Jan Sorenson
General Supplies	Brock Tousley	Building Reservations	Brock Tousley
Kitchen and Potlucks	Linda Lape	Meal Coordinator	Jessica Rutz
Missions	Dawn Buchbinder	Church History	Dawn Buchbinder
Visitation	Pastor Kenny and Care Team	IT and Technology	Brock Tousley
Landscaping	Linda Lape and Renelle Brickner	Greeting	Mark Carmoney

JR. Church and Preschool

Bonnie Beeman

Children's Ministry

What makes a children's ministry awesome? Our amazing volunteers! Each week you'll find our volunteers serving our families by providing a safe, loving environment for our kids to learn about Jesus. Here's what's been happening this quarter.

Nursery

In our nursery, our toddlers are getting to know our wonderful volunteers. A quick peek into the nursery on a Sunday morning will bring a smile to your face as you see the fun that is being had by all.

You might witness the building of an epic block tower or a floor mat tent. You will be drawn into the story being read in a comfy chair. The laughter is contagious and the baby snuggles are the best! Even better, our mothers have been able to enjoy a sermon or two!

I'd like to invite **YOU** to become a part of our nursery team. We have two openings that need to be filled. We need a volunteer to serve the second Sunday of every month. We also need a volunteer for the 5th Sunday of September and December. If you are interested in more information about these serving opportunities, please see Bonnie Beeman.

Preschool

We have a new leader in our preschool ministry! Many thanks to Dawn Buchbinder for taking care of the summer schedule and preparing for each class!

Each month in our preschool class we focus on one of three basic truths- **God made me, God loves me, and Jesus wants to be my friend forever**. We use one of the nine core insights to look at how our Bible story relates to us. In April we learned about light, but not just any light.

We're talking about Jesus—the light of the WORLD—and how when we do what Jesus says, we shine. We shine the light of Jesus! We hope every time you and your preschoolers see a lamp or a star-filled sky, you remember that people were made to shine, and we have Jesus—the **light of the world**—to show us how.

May's **Little Red Wagon** theme was all about introducing preschoolers to God – **the One who loves them with a love that lasts forever**. When it comes to preschoolers and what they know about God, there are a few faith skills we want to make sure they have in their little red wagon. We want every child to know that they can hear from God, pray to God, talk about God to others, and live for God. We hope they will pull these faith skills around, wherever they go, for the rest of their lives. Then they can go with confidence because they have the faith skills needed for whatever comes their way.

In June we started a party that celebrates the **Good News about God!** And when God is at the center of our celebration, I can have joy all the time! It doesn't sound possible, at first, but then when we think about God . . . who God is . . . what God has done . . . how much God loves us . . . well, that is worth celebrating! **God is worth celebrating! All day, every day!** So let's Start The Party! It's time to celebrate the Good News about God.

Jr. Church

Our Jr. Church class continues to learn new memory verses and grow in understanding of God's character as seen through the **God's Big Story**. Each month we focus on a different God view and core insight. In April we looked at the **connection between patience and God's character**. Waiting is a part of life. Thankfully, we don't have to wait on our own. Through the Holy Spirit, God can help us experience the patience we need to wait well. After all, God is patient with us. God is in control and knows what's best for us. Even though God's people had been waiting for years for the promised Savior, at just the right time, God sent Jesus. Because

we're created in God's image; we can reflect God's patience in our lives. We can be patient when we remember what God has done. **We can lean on God's Holy Spirit to give us the strength we need to trust God and show patience with the difficult circumstances in our lives.**

In May's view, we saw the **connection between commitment and God's character**. Commitment is part of God's nature and how God interacts with us, keeping promises and putting plans into action. God's commitment to us is just one of the many reasons we can trust God no matter what. And because God's promises and plans came true in Jesus, we can be with God forever. We reflect God's character when we make a plan and stick to it. This month, we **helped kids discover that one of the best plans they can make is to commit to an ongoing relationship with Jesus**. We hope they commit to practicing their faith by reading God's Word, praying to God honestly and consistently, talking about God with others, and living for God in how they show love throughout the everyday.

Our view in June showed the **connection between joy and God's character**. Choose joy! This may be a commonly used phrase you've heard, but what does it actually mean? Joy is more than being

excited about the good things that happen to us. **Joy is an attitude—a decision to trust God no matter what is going on in our lives.** From the very beginning, God had a plan for the world. As we dive into the Bible, we'll discover God's plan for us and how God has been at work through it all. When we see and celebrate what God is doing, we can find true joy!

In the coming months we will continue to study God's Big Story to learn more about God's character and how we are to adjust our lives to live for Him.

DAY OF HOPE

Jan Otto/Laurene Sharkey

Day of Hope – Q2 2024

All is going very well with Day of Hope. We continue to get new people coming for food and into the building for home products. We have not yet received any fresh produce this summer, but continue to pray we will be receiving some in the coming months.

Copper Nail has been gracious enough to increase our funding as our bank a/c continues to dwindle with the increasing number of people receiving home products along with costs going up.

We are very appreciative of everyone that comes out to help with this mission as many hands make light work.

Thank you

Missionary Minutiae

Dawn Buchbinder

From Drew and Christine:

Last time we wrote, we were on our way to a gathering with other New International staff. It was a great trip! The experience itself was of great value, but it was also very important for our organizational roles. Christine was able to meet families in NI and Drew made strong connections with others who are like-minded in terms of wellness and soul care.

Unfortunately, at the end of the trip, we all caught the flu. Christine had already been struggling physically for a couple of months by then, but had managed well on the trip. However, getting the flu sent her back into the hospital (she's now had three hospital stays since February). She's continuing to struggle health wise, so please pray for strength, protection against other germs and viruses, a clear path forward for treatment, and for recovery.

Upcoming Visit to the US

We will be visiting the US in July and early August. This will provide Christine a good opportunity to see her medical team in Milwaukee, as well as allow Drew to see some of you in Wisconsin and Chicago. We will also be visiting Drew's family in Colorado. With our daughters' school schedule (only 6 weeks off for the summer break), it is hard for us to travel everywhere we'd like to on each visit to the U.S. We are grateful we'll be able to see some of you, but will miss the many we won't get to see! We'll be sending out a paper newsletter after the summer so that those we didn't see in person can have an update as well.

From Lisa and Moses:

Moses is flying to Michigan and will arrive Friday, July 12th. The School of Biblical Studies graduated at the end of June! All 12 students graduated! Many of them want to do a 2-month outreach where they will learn for 3 weeks how to teach and share the bible and how to study it with churches. Then they would travel Togo and maybe a neighboring country and share in churches doing week long programs. In order to do this, they need the finances to go so please pray for God to provide for them to do this outreach. Moses will start the first week of teaching on Monday if they have the finances.

My health is improving and we know now that my liver is just going to need time to heal fully. Pray for God to direct us in this season. Pray also for the wound of the young boy back in Togo that I was treating to finish healing. It is only oozing in a few spots and almost entirely closed over but it has been this way for 2 months now. A young woman is taking over to clean it and keep applying the cream and bandage since I have left. Boris believes that Jesus can heal his wound completely and he has seen how much God has already brought healing.

Love,
Lisa

Worship

Jayme Reichanadter

Our worship ministry is changing and growing as our church changes and grows, "evolving in pursuit" of the Father's presence. We have a small team of talented and committed musicians. **Please** see me if you are interested in being part of the team! All are welcome and all have unique contributions for the kingdom's sake. Some new music that has been introduced so far this year is Make Room, You Are Worthy of it All, Holy Forever and This is our 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. Jesus said the time is coming and now is when we will worship together in Spirit and in Truth. Hallelujah!

A couple weeks ago on June 28, our church shared an evening of worship music with Jayme and her friend Kristen Schneider, who exhorted us to reach across denominational lines and enter into the one thing we can all agree on, lifting high the name of Jesus. We will have another worship night at Family Worship Center scheduled for the fall. If you would like to hear your favorite worship song sung during our next worship night, please email me the name of the song and plan to join us!

Coming up, on Friday night, July 26 at 7 pm, you are invited to enjoy a night of worship with several other churches in the Ann Arbor area. It will be hosted by Radiant Church at 410 S. Maple Rd in Ann Arbor. Sounds of the City is a worship movement that started two years ago and is dedicated to creating unity and offering refreshment within the Body of Christ, by ministering to Jesus with other local churches and celebrating diverse expressions of worship, with a mixed group of worship team members and other local musicians. SotC Worship Nights occur four times a year (every three months) at a church that has signed up to be a host. Please see www.soundsofthe.city for more information.

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.Org

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:

• Sunday

- Every Sunday Apologetics class, 8:45am, FWC

• Monday

- Every Third Monday of the month. Day of Hope, 2pm, FWC

• Tuesday

- Every Tuesday, Prayer Meeting, 6:30pm, FWC
- Buchbinder small group, their home 6-8pm every other week, news members always welcome

• Friday

- Every Friday, Romans Bible Study, 6pm, FWC

• Saturday

- Every Second Sunday of the month, Ladies Breakfast, 9am, Usually FWC