



3rd Quarter of 2024

Family

Connection

Moving Forward

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

We have finished James and are now working our way through the book of the Prophet Hosea. Hosea Has talked about the future of all of Israel while still speaking to the immediate future for the northern kingdom. Both Hosea and James speak to us of obedience “*Be doers of the Word and no hearers only*” and the repercussions of disobedience with the destruction of all Israel (the Country) and their (the people) deportation to other countries. But still, in all of what has and is happening in Hosea, God is still loving them and calling them to repentance!

That call to repentance is still going out into all the world; and we, God’s Church, are called to carry that message of reconciliation, repentance, and restoration out into our communities and to the ends of the earth. That means we must be Moving Up and Moving Out. To condense this into one statement: Moving Forward, both in our relationship with God and others!

I have experienced being stuck, not willing or unable to move forward, and usually it is of my own doing. I am fearful of what will, or will not happen, I don’t think I am equipped to go there, do that, etc. or worse I am hanging on to something that is keeping me from Moving Forward, an experience, good or bad, that hinders me from being and doing all that God has for me.

We each, as I preach often, have to move out and move up in our journey in order to Move Forward, often that means letting go of something that is keeping us from the best God has for us. And sometimes that thing is, actually, something good that we are comfortable with and may even like. It could be anything that keeps me where I am, that hinders my or the congregation’s growth.

All of us must continue to move forward to not move makes us stagnant or dead, or at the very least sliding back. What God has for us is not behind, but ahead, not one of us has arrived, we all need to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. We are to strive to reach the goal of our salvation. Paul says it best in Philippians 3, *Not that I have already **reached the goal** or am **already perfect**, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead**, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God’s heavenly call in Christ Jesus. Therefore, let all of us who are mature think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this also to you. In any case, we should live up to whatever Truth (scripture) we have attained.* (CSB Vs 12-16 Emphasis mine)

Are you living up to the Truth you have attained? Are you Believing? Believing is putting into action your knowledge of the Truth, God’s word, the Bible.

I caution you to **stop here** if you do not want to be held accountable for the knowledge you are about to receive. As God word instructs us that Knowing the good you ought to do and not doing it is sin. (James 4:17)

The great commission is given in all 4 of the Gospels and in the book of Acts. We usually think of the verses in Matthew chapter 28 where Jesus said “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end*”

of the age.” He was speaking to His disciples (as a Believer YOU are a disciple of Christ), elsewhere Jesus gives the same message, in Acts He tells them and us that we are to be His witnesses, in John it was all the disciples that were gathered together when he told them “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you (Jn 20:21) this is the “Go” of the Great Commission! We are sent out into our communities. In Luke we find the two men from the road to Emmaus, the disciples, and those that were with them all together. Jesus told them to proclaim the forgiveness of sins in His name to all nations, (Luke 24:33-53, see also Mark 16:14-18).

You and I are called, commanded, and equipped and gifted to Go and make disciples, as is every congregation of God’s Church. There is no way around this each of us as individuals and as congregations have received the same commission. All Believers are to be disciple makers, yet we will do anything other than that, we will fix things, help people, volunteer, and throw money at just about any good Christian cause, but we won’t disciple another. Why? The reality is that this is not optional, it is a requirement for each, and every, Christ follower. We are to make disciples while being disciplined. Discipleship should never stop, that is, unless you have arrived.

We who are of the Church should be out there in our communities, in our workplaces, schools, social gatherings, etc. doing our best to make disciples, witnessing, and sharing the message of reconciliation! But most do not even attempt to be a part of “Moving Out” let alone sharing the Gospel and making disciples. We don’t have (make) the time, we feel inadequate, and/or we are afraid we will be rejected. Yet Jesus said He will be with us as we “Go” and do as He commanded (Read Mt 28:16-20 again). This is a conditional promise! We really need to get that!

Many of us used the outreach of the Community Worship night to invite, to witness, and to talk about The Church and Jesus, to be witnesses of the love and grace of God, to share the Gospel, not just with our words, but with our actions, not just in in our doing church, but by our being the Church, by our being disciple makers. Because as we “Go” Jesus is right there with us!! You and I cannot save anyone, but we are called to go out into the world and led others to Christ (make disciples).

One of the teaching pastors at Camp meeting said that he had been a college recruiter, that some came to the college he was recruiting for and some did not, but that He did his job and told them all about the college encouraging them in the process to join him and others, who were going to go there.

That is what we are called to do; tell others of God’s love, mercy, grace, and yes, His justice. The price was paid for the sin of the world, justice was served. Why not except the gift? That is the simplest way I can explain what making a disciple is, it is simply being out in the world and recruiting for Christ, for the Kingdom, leading them to Him, discipling them to Him. This is the mandate given to each and every congregation of His Church! To YOU, as a part of His Church!

The church that hunkers down and is more concerned for what makes the members happy and comfortable is not a church; it is a country club! We have a mission and that mission is to be accomplished by the Church not one or two people who serve in the church. We are commanded to be of one mind, to all be pulling in one direction, to strive together in doing what we are called to do.

How is what you are doing furthering the mission of the Church and our congregation? What step of obedience have you taken to Move Forward in your relationship with Christ and His Church as well as fulfilling your calling as messengers of reconciliation? I am fully convinced that until we come together, setting aside our differences, pray, and seek to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus we will not experience spiritual, numerical, or financial growth.

Detrich Bonhoeffer said “*Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship, and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.*” read that again, think it through. According to what you have just read are you a disciple of Christ?

Just to be clear; a disciple is first and foremost a student; Biblically, a follower of Christ, one that is commissioned to go and make other disciples just like the first **disciples of Christ** (Students or learners of Christ). Which is what we should all be, but if you take a look inside congregations today it would appear that many have “Reached the Goal” (see above) and have no need for further study or learning, no need to pursue as their “*goal the prize promised by God*”. Discipleship classes are 2nd only to Prayer meetings for low attendance. For instance, in our congregation of sixtyish or so we get about 8-10 people out for the Adult Discipleship class and on a good night about 7 for prayer. And our percentage is better than most! How can you share what you don’t know, how can you grow if we don’t come together to pray and learn as we are called to?

The original disciples followed Jesus continually for 3 years. They were taught to love their enemies, heal the sick, forgive others, raise the dead, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and liberate the oppressed (Matthew 5:23-38, 10:8, 25:31-46). They learned priceless lessons in humility, kindness, forgiveness, and grace as they did life together, with one another. Jesus modeled how to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry by living it out with them. Just as we are to be doing with the one another within our congregation of His Church. In Acts 2 the Church gathered daily and *they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers* (Vs. 42).

Philippians 2 and John 8:28-29 tell us how Jesus submitted His will to the Father, just as we are, to Him. This is a life-long process, contrary to what is believed by many none of us has arrived yet and not one of us is too old to take our next step in discipleship. Moses was 80 years old when he started his ministry and God kept him at it for 40 more years! Don’t let age or anything else keep you from doing God’s will now! Just because the World tells you that you’re done does not mean God is done with you. We need to ask ourselves Am I loyal to (committed) to Jesus Christ and His mission or to _____ (think ministry, group, person - that includes self - or activity).

One last thing: The church is the body of Christ, Dietrich Bonhoeffer in the Cost of Discipleship said “Since His ascension, (Jesus’s) place on earth has been taken by His body, the Church. The Church is the real presence of Christ. Once we have realized this truth, we are well on the way to recovering an aspect of the Church’s being what has been sadly neglected in the past. We should think of the Church not as an institution but as a person, though of course a person in a unique sense.” *For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.* (Romans 12:4-5) *From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.* (Ephesians 4:16 Please see 1 Corinthians 12:7, 12-31, Colossians 3:14-16). How are you helping “*to make the body grow*”? Are you joining with the body or separating yourself apart from the congregation?

It is time to Move Forward and grow into what we are called and empowered to be: His Disciples. It’s time to let go of what is holding us back, “Moving Forward, in the love and trust of our Lord and God! (*“forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead”*) Let us move forward together as the Church! Let’s be a church **to and of** the community and not just another church **in** the community! Let’s be The Church to the community, making disciples, growing in our relationships with God and one another, while being messengers of reconciliation! (See 2nd Corinthians 5:14-6:2)

In Christ

Governance Board

Traci Spring

Governing Board 3rd Quarter 2024 Update

God's Moving!

Thanks to Jessica for feeling God's calling to offer a class for our teens!

Thanks to Martha for painting exterior doors at the church.

Thanks to Jan, Kenny, Mark and Roseann for power washing around the church.

Thanks to Jeff Hackworth for installing a new flagpole.

Thanks to Mark and Roseann for taking down some dead spruce trees.

Thanks to Tammy for leading the First Aid and CPR class along with leading the study *Not a Fan*.

Thanks to Kenny for offering a Bible study each Sunday morning.

Thanks to John Reed for faithfully leading the Romans Bible study.

Thanks to all those who worked on the Community Worship Night. What a wonderful night of worship it was! I look forward to the next one!

We Need to Do More Outreach!

During discussion at our September governance board meeting, it became clear we need to do more outreach in our own community.

The Easter Egg Hunt and Community Worship Night are examples of how we're using funds in the Outreach budget to be out in the community.

Has God impressed upon you how we can help and be present in our community? Let Pastor or one of the governing board members know.

Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 24

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. This year our annual meeting will be on Sunday, November 24 after the service. Printed information will be available two weeks prior to the meeting.



As Dean and Jan have decided to retire from the board, we will be voting on two new candidates for the governance board during this meeting. I personally will miss having Dean and Jan on the board. They've faithfully served both God and this church for many, many years!

We will also vote on the 2025 budget.

Reminder of voting requirements:

In order to vote, you must have attended 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.

Financial Update

Here’s results for the period January 1 – September 30, 2024:

Total Expenditures	Total Revenue	Gap
\$101,623.11	79,875.16	(21,747.95)

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

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 mother’s 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 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 or fill out the Say Yes! card and place it in the offering plate.

Preschool

We have a new leader in our preschool ministry! Many thanks to Dawn Buchbinder for diligently working to make our classroom the best that it can be!

Our preschool class is currently in the process of picking a new curriculum that meets our teachers needs and fits our classroom dynamics. Stay tuned for future updates.

Jr. Church

Our Jr. Church class continues to learn new memory verses and grow in understanding of God's character as seen through **God's Big Story**. Each month we focus on a different God view and core insight. In July we looked at the **connection between joy and God's character**. 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. **We discovered 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 August's view, we saw the **connection between wisdom and God's character**. Sometimes it's easy to know what the wise choice would be. Let's say you're choosing between having expired milk with your cereal or eating some fruit and a sandwich. You probably aren't reaching for the milk! What about choosing to stay up all night when you have a road trip the next day, or getting some sleep because you're driving first? Every decision you make starts out with a choice. **We discovered that God is always there to help us make wise choices. God has given us people who can help us make those wise choices too.**

Our view in September showed the **connection between compassion and God's character**. Think back to a time when someone made time for you. Maybe that looked like caring for you when you were sick, or teaching you how to tie your shoe, making food for you, or teaching you how to read or learn a new skill. No matter what it is, when people make time for us, it can bring us joy. It's like a light shining on a dark day. Caring for one another isn't always the easy thing to do, but it certainly is what Jesus asks of us. When Jesus gave the command in Matthew 5 to let our light shine, it wasn't just to bring joy into each other's lives, but also to bring glory to God. **We are reflections of Who God is, and we discovered exactly how we can shine God's light.**

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.

New Teen Class!

A huge shout out to Jessica Rutz for providing our teens and tweens with a class that is geared toward their age group! The class started up the beginning of September and is using the Experiencing God for Teens study material. This study challenges the kids to get into their Bibles independently during the week and will help to grow them in their knowledge about God and draw them closer to Him.

DAY OF HOPE

Jan Otto/Laurene Sharkey

This ministry continues to be very strong.

This summer in addition to the food boxes, we received Milk, green beans and sweet corn. Our parking lot continually has cars parked before noon-time with our delivery being around 2pm. It is very apparent to us that people in our area are in need both food and person products.

We have been blessed every month with new people and typically have just enough boxes to serve those that have come to receive.

Copper Nail continues to fully fun this outreach for us.

Missionary Minutiae

Dawn Buchbinder

Children of Promise

COP is a child sponsorship program of the Church of God. It receives great ratings in Ministry Watch, so you can be assured that your donations are used to support children in supervised communities around the globe. Several FWC members already have sponsored children through COP. A COP representative is visiting FWC this December! Please be in prayer to consider sponsoring a COP child. It's a monthly donation that is far less than you are spending at the coffee shop every month!!!

Trusting God in the Healing-Lisa and Moses

Psalm 37:34

Wait for the Lord and keep His way, and He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

Greetings to all of you in the name of our precious Saviour Jesus! We are continuing to stay in Michigan and going to the doctors here in hopes of being able to return with Lisa being well and strong enough to handle the extra demands of living on the mission field in a developing nation. We will have to find other housing when we return as well. We are open to if the Lord has a new direction in missions for us to go into, but at this point we have not felt that our time in Togo is finished and continue to feel Him pulling our hearts to towards returning and continuing to be a part of all God has for Togo and beyond. During this time of healing we are asking God to better equip us for our return, or whatever He has for us, both spiritually and physically. We will hopefully have a time of returning soon but we have been advised that we should give my liver a year out of malaria to heal. Moses will be making a trip to Togo this winter but we feel Lisa and the girls should wait longer before returning.

The School of Biblical Studies that Moses has been leading on our base graduated in the end of June! We praise God for 12 students who completed the entire school of 9 months! They have been teaching young and old and everyone in between and we are rejoicing to see this happen. This is how transformation in a nation begins! Moses has been teaching the students and coordinating as much of it as he can from here and mentoring the staff there so that this outreach can happen. The evening SBS in the capital city of Togo that Moses has been leading for years is planning to run again this year and they have asked Moses to teach this virtually while they run things 'on the ground'. We are currently praying for Moses to travel to Egypt to teach in a DTS there for a week on the nature and character of God at the end of October.

We have a wonderful praise to share about Boris, the boy whose wound Lisa had been treating in Togo and who others have continued to treat after her leaving. As of this week after almost 8 months of our care and prayers (and 4 years of it not healing while going to a witch doctor) his wound is healed! The Lord has moved in Boris's life to bring him to Him and to freedom and healing. The healing took time but in that time God did so much more than heal an old wound, he healed his heart and relationship with God. We serve a faithful God to heal and save in His perfect time.

God has provided for us to finish the foundations of the school, but we need Him to provide yet for the rest of the building. Moses continues to help coordinate and make decisions regarding the new construction of the Mokpokpo schools.

Thank you for standing with us in prayer and support as we continue to serve the Lord and seek Him. If you have any questions please contact us. We also long to meet with whoever we can while we are here and are just waiting for Lisa to be a bit stronger and able to organize that. Lydia our oldest has been having strange staring or eye-bugging spells and so we are awaiting an appointment with a neurologist in December. Please pray for her healing and that if the mold exposure has caused this God would heal her of the mold. Pray for the provision of a vehicle while we are here. It is very easy to keep busy with what we are already committed to but we want to be sensitive to the Lord's leading in this season.

We cherish your prayers and support and thank God for you!

The Ndjomou's

Moses, Lisa, Lydia, Anna, and Grace

Drew and Christine

Dear friends,

We hope this newsletter finds you doing well. We enjoyed seeing many of you this summer while we were in the US. Sadly, we didn't get to see everybody, so if you'd like to schedule a time to catch up over video call, we'd love to!

- Thank God for a really good, short Soul Care Retreat that Drew put on for some emerging missional practitioners and church leaders.
- Drew has some more soul care events with New International coming up soon - pray that his Wellness team would make a significant impact in the organization as they build their work.
- Christine's TCK care team is starting regular parent calls on various topics. Pray these are well attended and make a difference to the lives NI's TCKs.
- We are in a position where we need to raise a bit more funds. Pray that we can do this from a distance!

Recently, we told you about Launch, the training program for emerging leaders in Scotland. Earlier this month, Drew led a 24-hour retreat for Launch participants.

Rest.
Refreshment.
The joy of being together.
A chance to breathe amidst the craziness of life.

These were all answers to the question, "*What are you taking away from this time?*" This short retreat was for Launch participants to connect with God, connect with others, and connect with themselves. As well as good content around leadership, team dynamics, mission, missional thinking, etc., there has been an emphasis on well-being and soul care throughout the entire Launch program.

We had a wonderful time together in extended prayer, focused discussion about the state of our souls, connecting with God, processing challenges, and having a slower than normal pace. Even if short, it was just what a soul care retreat should be!

Finally, please save the date for **Giving Tuesday** coming up on **December 3rd**. We'll give you more details in future newsletters.

We are so thankful for your partnership. Your prayers are a blessing to us!

In Christ,

Drew and Christine Van Tiem

Worship

Jayme Reichanadter

Jayme has an article that she would like to share with you.

The Body Language Of Praise And Worship

This is an abbreviated study of scriptural postures of praise. Jack Taylor says, "Praise is always active, assertive, demonstrative, and open. It is not passive, presumptuous, undemonstrative, or secretive. Wherever it is mentioned, movement, action, sounds, and songs are seen and heard." (The Hallelujah Factor, Nashville: Broadman Press 1983. All rights reserved. Used by permission.) Worship is an outward expression of our heart's devotion to God. Each child of the Father loves Him individually, but it is only natural for all the family to gather and express love to Him. Something magnificent happens in corporate worship. God frequently descends sometimes with a shout, sometimes on gentle wings of a dove.

Lifting hands is as uninhibited as a small child lifting her hands up to a favorite adult to be picked up and held close. Without being irreverent, sometimes it is a joyous "spiritual high-five" when victory and praise wells up in my heart. But I also defer to my Christian brothers and sisters who are not comfortable with this. I emphasize focusing on God, not on the form of outward worship expression. I lead groups that span all denominations. While it is true that I grew up a Southern Baptist, I am first and foremost a child of God's kingdom. I use the following worship statement to set the "ground rules" for worship time in groups I lead.

Worship Statement

Let's unite at the throne of God, giving Him the praise due to Him, worshiping in spirit and in truth in whatever expression of worship is natural and comfortable for you. The cross of Jesus unites all, or Jesus prayed a prayer in John 17 that we are willing to be the answer to. If we agree on the cross, let nothing else divide us.

When God's children meet to praise and pray together, all should feel able and comfortable to worship with us. We desire to walk in the balance of scriptural truth and love and deference for our brothers and sisters in Christ. There are many valid styles of worship based on the word of God. I am bound to none, and I exclude none. Freedom to worship in spirit and in truth means that we are free to reflect the love of our loving Father.

You may want to try some expressions of worship that are new to you. The Scriptures are full of the body language of praise. Only the enemy would shift your focus to the outward physical expression, when God wants you uniquely to focus on Him and lift your heart in praise to Him. Feel

free, not forced. Only the love of Christ should constrain you. Feel free to clap, to lift your hands, to close your eyes - or not.

Baptists, you need to know that when you say "amen," you scare the Presbyterians half to death. That is outside their comfort zone. They need to begin to get comfortable with it, because there will be amens in heaven, according to Revelation 5:14, 7:12, 19:4. In fact, Amen is one of the names of Jesus (Rev. 3:14).

You who are freer in worship, when you raise your hands, that is a beautiful picture of your childlike devotion to your loving heavenly Father, but Baptists are only comfortable doing that when the referee signals a touchdown at a football game. You are outside their comfort zone. Baptists, you may want to practice for heaven, because lifted hands are present there for eternity (Rev 7.9). The most frequent worship posture in heaven is falling on our faces before the throne (Rev: 4:10), while the heavenly hosts cry, "Holy, holy, holy." Open your heart in a new way to worship our worthy Lamb, perhaps with a new song (Rev: 14:3) during this time of worship. The only issue in this worship time is "He is worthy."

From Prayer Portions, by Sylvia Gunter

Online Presence

We do 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, 6pm, 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
- November 24, Sunday, Annual Business Meeting, FWC
- December 08, Sunday, Holiday Dinner, FWC
- December 24, Tuesday, Christmas Eve Service, 6:30pm, FWC

Experiencing God, looking at starting after the new year
Let Martha or Pastor Kenny know if you want to sign up.