



First Look

From Your Pastor

It is hard to believe that we are a month into Spring and that Easter has already come and gone. As the year continues to march ahead, I continue to be grateful and amazed at how God has been at work in individuals and in our fellowship.

I am grateful for the recent opportunities to worship and fellowship with our brothers and sisters at Ravenna Ave. We had a wonderful time together not only on Easter Sunday but also at our Maundy Thursday service. If you weren't here for Maundy Thursday, you missed out on a dynamic time in the presence of God. I hope that you will plan to be there next year.

weeks, we will be working our way through the book of 1 Corinthians. The challenges facing the church in Corinth were not all that different than what churches face today. Paul's letter not only addresses issues that weaken spiritual health but provides godly wisdom to strengthen and keep believers and the body of Christ healthy.

I am blessed to not only serve as your pastor but to serve alongside two gifted and called servants in Pastor Athena and Isaac. The rest of this newsletter spotlights the important areas of ministry they lead. I hope you will take a few minutes to read about what God is doing in our discipleship & worship ministries.

NOTE: Be sure to follow our **Facebook group and page** as well our **Instagram** account as another way to stay connected and up to date.



By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have begun a new preaching series called **Body Building**. Over the next several

In this newsletter: a spotlight on Discipleship & Worship

Pastor's update

Preschool,
Elementary &
Parent Pitstop

Youth
Young Adults

Senior Adults
Adult Sunday
School

Opportunities
to serve

Save the date

Pastor Tod

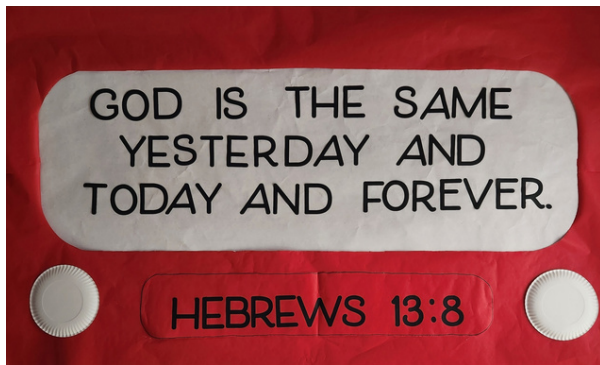
Celebrating Student & Family Ministries

Excitement is in the air as the Board of CE is **praying and discerning the leading of the Holy Spirit as we seek to strengthen our student and family ministries.** There is a renewed feeling of energy amongst the board as we strive to be obedient to His will and see God working in the lives of our families.

- I am encouraged to see your **consistent effort to gather to study the Word** in a small group, Sunday School and morning worship.
- I see you **joyfully serving** in new areas of ministry throughout the church.
- I see **contagious smiles** on the kids' faces and hear their laughter as they join their friends in Sunday School and Jr. Worship.
- I see **enthusiasm** in our teens as they practice a skit or work to prepare a lesson for their peers.
- I see you **embracing the "new"** to meet the needs of our young families in the church and in the community.

There is much to be thankful for and I am grateful to be serving Him alongside you!

Pastor Athena



Preschool, Elementary and Parent Pit Stop Classes

Our adults in Parent Pit Stop and the kids' classes were all **"GLOWING"** in **March** as we launched our *Grow at Home* initiative. Using the GROW Curriculum in Sunday School, our parents and kids now enjoy learning and living out their faith **as a family**. A special thanks to Cindy Chrin for creating each month's decor. We are grateful for the way Cindy makes the space visually exciting for our families!

This month, the kids and parents began the series called **"THROWBACK"**. Our families are looking at how trends have changed throughout the decades while the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels are unchanging. **Parents, as you review the Grow at Home resource, pull out your old photo albums** to show your kids what was trending in your world in the 70's, 80's and 90's.

Don't forget to pick up your
Grow At Home Resource
each month
or scan the QR code to get
it digitally.



In **May** we will begin **"One Small Step"**, which looks at the Book of Acts to learn from the first Christians as they took the first step of believing in Jesus, the next step of praying for others, and an even bigger step of trusting the Holy Spirit to make them bold to tell others about Jesus. **At home challenge: What step will your family take to share each lesson with a friend?**

Student & Family Ministry Celebrations cont...



YOUTH MINISTRY

The teens had fun showing off their dramatic side as they presented **The Easter Bunny Conspiracy** to the congregation. **Becca Mingo, Joey Phillips and Mallory Underwood** shared that you can have Jesus AND peeps at Easter. *We are grateful and excited to have Isaac working with the teens to develop this ministry and we are looking forward to other opportunities to incorporate drama into worship.*



This month, **Pastor George introduced the Sunday School series called, "ENOUGH"**. The lessons focus on how to create an environment in our families where we can all help each other win. There is a **Grow at Home Resource** available for parents, as well as a **You Version devotional** available for teens to further grow their faith.

YOUNG ADULTS

The Young Adults are gathering the **fourth Sunday of the month** at Pastor George's house for community as well as authentic conversation about the challenges of daily living out their faith in the current culture. This group began meeting during the holidays and continues to enjoy connecting & growing with each. **The next gathering is April 28th.** See Pastor George for a location address and the time they are meeting.



Additional Adult Sunday School Class

Pastor Danny's class meets Sunday mornings in the classroom off of the FLC. Currently they are in a **deep study of 1 Peter** to discover truth to help them live the way that Jesus has laid out for all His followers. **Looking to experience the benefits of digging deeper into the scriptures? Consider plugging in to this discipleship opportunity each week.**

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Our Sr. Adults meet in the Youth Room the **second Thursday of the month for bible study** beginning 10:30am. They also gather together for **lunch on the last Thursday of each month.** This ministry offers a great connection point for growing closer to each other through a shared meal and studying scripture. A huge thank you to Billie White for leading our seniors and for those who support this ministry by cooking each month.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN STUDENT AND FAMILY MINISTRY



NURSERY: There are **two opportunities** to serve our toddlers **during the Sunday School hour** from 9:30-10:30. See Kelli Jackson or Pastor Athena for details. We are asking for a one Sunday a month commitment.

KIDS' MINISTRY: We are looking for adults who love children and would like to be a part of a **new initiative** we are planning to trial **during the summer months**. Volunteers are needed to assist teachers with music, a lesson, and activities. We are asking for a **one Sunday a month commitment** during Sunday School or morning worship (your choice).

YOUTH MINISTRY: We are looking for **several teams of fun and energetic adults** to create community connection opportunities for the youth and their friends. With the support of Pastor Athena and Pastor George, each team would be responsible to plan and supervise **one event**.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S MINISTRY: We are looking for a man and woman to serve as a point person for these ministries. The goal is to plan opportunities for connection throughout the year.

WAYS TO SERVE IN WORSHIP

Tech Team - Computer, Sound, Website

In addition to our ongoing need for help with sound and computer, we would like to redesign and update our church website. Pastor Tod and Isaac have been working on the redesign, but would welcome additional help.

Share Your Testimony

Take 1-2 minutes to answer any of the following prompts:

Where have you seen God in your life in some way in the past 6 months?

What is one scripture that has been meaningful or challenging to you recently?

If you have been doing the scripture memorization challenge, how has it been going and what are you learning?

What are one or two recent things you are thankful for or want to give God praise for?

Videos can be recorded in either vertical or horizontal format. Once recorded, email to Isaac Winland (isaacwinland.fcog@gmail.com)

OTHER ONRAMPS FOR SERVING

Ministry Contact Person(s)

Jeff Whitely- **Trustees** (building & grounds), **Ushers**

Pastor Tod- **Council**

Pastor Athena- **Student & Families**

Isaac Winland- **Worship, Drama, Ordinance** (communion & more)

Carolyn Curry- **Greeters**

Pam Luli/Linda Martell- **Benevolence**

Joe & Mandee Scott- **Hospitality** (Sunday coffee spot)

Billie White/Mary McCracken- **Prayer Ministry**

Mandee Scott- **Share Line**

Renee Noland/Robin Rich- **Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer**



SAVE THE DATE

Rummage Sale- April 27th 9am-3pm

- **Set up** begins Sunday, April 21st and continues during the week **9am-2pm each day**.
- *The last day to drop off donations is Thursday, April 25th.*
- Volunteer during the sale by helping to **greet, assist, and thank our guests**.
- A **Clean Up Crew** is needed to box up items and clean the FLC after the sale from 2:45-4:30pm.

Mother's Day - May 12th

- Attend church with your mom and **snap a family picture at our photo booth**.
- All the women of the church will be honored and prayed over as we recognize the value of both biological moms as well as spiritual moms.

Cupcake Connection- June 2nd

- Join us in the FLC for a picnic lunch to **celebrate the end of the school year!**
- Everyone is invited to enjoy **lunch and cupcakes**.
- This would be a great time not only to connect with our young families of the church, but also with your prayer buddy that you had this past school year.
- More details coming soon!

Summer Preaching Series

- Join us in in June and July for a series drawing from the first songbook for worship.

