

AUGUST, 2022

IT TAKES A FAMILY

Monthly newsletter of Family Bible Church



I am writing this the weekend before I begin my sabbatical. Looking ahead I am excited for this time personally and also for you as the church. FBC is God's church and we all have an important part to play in it. Each role is of great importance; you are important. Find below some reflections and updates as I enter this time.

VBS

I was reminded of this reality of the entire body of Christ as I witnessed an amazing team, leaders, and children in Vacation Bible School this week. It truly was amazing and I am humbled to be a small part of it with so many other wonderful people!

I am processing the eternal impact of 30+ salvation and 30+ rededications to Jesus. This is a multi-generational impact that happened in four days because of so many people at FBC! Praise God!

BUILDING

A few weeks ago the membership affirmed and approved moving forward with construction of the new building. The building committee will regather at the end of this month and will work on the contract, site plan, bids, and shop for construction loans. Please pray for Doug Kiessling, chair of the building committee and his team as they prayerfully seek God in each step. Pray also for the deacons as they do so too.

FORWARD

The FORWARD campaign helped us take steps toward the building and the future at FBC. As you recall \$760,000 was pledged over the next three years. Since the beginning of this May, \$162,000 has already been given to the building fund representing 21% of our three year goal! This campaign also called us to each have a ONE. Over 220 ONES have been identified and are actively being prayed for and we are seeking to share life and Jesus with them. This past week at VBS, the children learned about having a ONE in one of the mission sessions and about 50 more ONES were identified.

STAFFING

As most of you know, our Creative Arts Pastor Jon has heard from God and is being faithful to that direction and will step out of his role at FBC. Would you please continue to pray for Jon and Angela and the right door will open for them? Jon will continue to serve FBC this summer.

A staffing committee has been formed and has been working the last month in unison with the deacons. The position Jon held was formed around his gifting and talents during his 15 years of service at FBC. To simply plug another person into his unique role is not a reality. Therefore, the staffing team has developed a short term plan that will be in place this fall (and maybe early winter). These roles are being shared among staff and volunteers. I am so grateful to those who have already stepped up and thankful for those who will step up and serve. The team is also developing a long term plan for 2023 and beyond. We are currently asking God to reveal what He desires and praying ahead for those He calls. Please note, this will be a process and the staffing team and deacons will continue to work together in the coming weeks and beyond. Thank you for your prayer!

SABBATICAL

On Monday July 18th I began my sabbatical. I am thankful the Lord knew it would be needed this year when I began as lead pastor over five years ago and asked for it to be in my job agreement after year five. I feel very blessed to have this opportunity personally and for my family. We will vacation, I will take a retreat with pastors I have never met, we will visit five different churches to worship and will have one-on-one time with each of my kids and Joanna. I am also very excited for you, the church. It will be good for all of us and know this is part of what God is doing in and around us at FBC. Your FBC staff and your deacons and your church family are here for you. I will return on Monday August 22nd. If you see me during this time...yes you can talk to me, please do!

God is doing a great work around us. There are so many ways we can speak of the goodness of God

Yes there is change...building, staff, world...yet in the middle of it all, God is good and consistent and working!

I encourage you, if you have any questions to please ask it. I direct you to ask someone who knows the answer or will get the answer whether that be staff or a deacon. We are happy to answer any question and desire to continue to be open and transparent (really!). Many have prefaced questions to me with “I’m not sure I can ask this...” Yes, yes you may.

Church you are loved.

I love you.

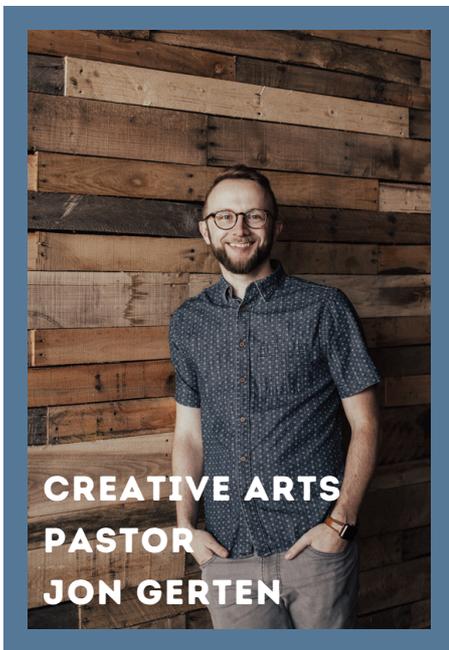
May the Lord bless you and keep you!

Kris

COMMUNICATION FROM FBC, Stay Up to Date

1. **Monthly Newsletter**-This emailed and can also be sent to you in the mail by requesting a copy from Mary at 269-781-8400 or mary@familybible.church.
2. **The Weekly**-The Weekly is an email published midweek, every week with updated information about groups, events, services, and more. Please contact mary@familybible.church to receive the Weekly.
3. **Social Media**-If you are on social media make sure to “like” us on Facebook and/or “follow” us on Instagram. Search “Family Bible Church”.

You can also find other information at: www.familybible.church and our church app (download Church Center)



Change

Recently I have been doing a devotion about transition. During this time of change for Angela and I and the church I have been leaning into God's presence.

Recently the devotional thought was this:

"Change challenges our sense of identity. We have to let go of old ways of defining ourselves, be they linked with our work, our age, our role or our relationships. Yet our identity in Christ is unshakeable - we are God's beloved children."

1 John 3:1 - See what great love the Father has given us that we could be called God's children - and we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it didn't know him.

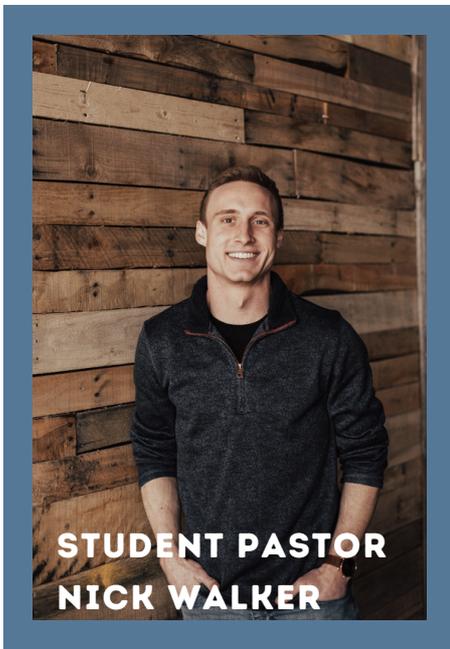
As I read this, I had the realization that much of my identity for the last 15 years has been in my job and in my talents. Even though my job and talents focus on ministry, it is easy to get lost in thinking my identity is tied into that.

As we make this transition into the unknown I find myself fearful and worried because I don't know what is next. I also don't know what my identity is outside of full-time vocational ministry. However, in this fear and worry, I am also extremely excited to see how God is going to give us new horizons and new opportunities for His glory!

We are told in John 15:1 - "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit.

I believe my family and I are in a season of pruning. While it is somewhat painful, we know that He is preparing us to bear His fruit.

I invite you to pray with us as we seek what's next. It's not easy trying to find a job at 37 years old, but I know God has it in control!



We recently had the opportunity to hear from several of our graduated seniors as they shared their senior talks with us and planned out the night of youth group. They did great! It's such a blessing each year watching our students grow and listening to what God has taught them as they've gotten older. I pray that each of our students chooses Jesus and makes their faith their own. It is up to us, church, to give them the tools and the encouragement they need to succeed as we celebrate them in their maturing. And it is up to parents to lead the way in that.

Speaking of parents, I'm really excited for something new and unique this summer, as we have a special Parent Youth Group on August 21st when the parents get to come to youth group and experience for themselves what it's really all about! We also have some other fun activities including a Kayaking Day on August 14th and Water Games on August 28th. Plus, we're joining Falam Baptist Church in Battle Creek for youth group at their church on August 6th (Saturday, 7-9:30pm)! Hope to have your high schooler join for all of these (and parents too on the 21st)!



Take a look at the world around you. How can you get involved in it? We spent time this past month in VBS talking about "Making Waves" as we seek to make a difference in the world around us and share with others what God has done. We have the perfect example before us of how Jesus got involved in the world around Him: He saw the needs around Him and He met them. Such a challenge to us as we too consider how we can not just remain bystanders but jump into action. Everything we do, good or bad, causes ripples. What impact are you having on the world around you?

It's been so good having our new 6th graders join us and we're excited for what's in store this coming month! We just completed our Middle School Serve Day as we got to help meet some needs here in our community. We've got Gross Games coming up August 2nd and Back to School Bash on August 16th, both great opportunities to invite friends and have some silly fun together, plus we get to hear stories of faith from each of our leaders on August 9th.

I trust that you are taking steps of faith to allow God to use you today for His glory and for the good of others. Let me know if you're looking for a way to get involved...the possibilities are endless!



VBS Thank You

Thank you to everyone who served at VBS as a leader and made the week possible for all God's kids! 142 kids present. Praise God for 38 first time salvations.

Awana: We are starting in September (start date TBA). A new team of leaders is needed. Contact Caye if interested.

Kids Wing:

We are creating the kids wing into a giant Ark! If you call FBC "home" this is the time we need your help as we prep the wing for a professional company to come re-design and decorate. Contact jon@familybible.church to help.

2nd Service Summer Changes will return to normal on September 4th.

We have had a great response to having elementary kids in service for worship this summer and it's given our leaders a break and a chance to re-group for the coming year.

We currently are looking for new help to lead elementary kids Kindergarten-5th Grade for the school year. This commitment will go from the fall of 2022-the end of school year 2023 and will be a rotation. (Unless leaders would like to commit for more often)

Special Thanks to PreK and Nursery leaders who have kept things the same for this age group.

Parent Call Sign in Sanctuary:

We now have a sign to call your child's number in service. If we need a parent your child's number will flash on the sign over the side stage door in sanctuary (over Exit Sign). Please keep your tags handy just in case.



Operation Christmas Child

Shoeboxes will be available Sunday, Oct 2 in the coffee bar area. They are due back to the church by Nov 6. Shipping is \$10. These boxes share the gift of Jesus' love and bring Christmas to children all over the world. Please contact Karen Saltzman with any questions whitetailfarms@hotmail.com.

BIRTHDAYS

August 2022

- 1 - Abram Messner
- 2 - Claude Laing, Ronald Kelley
- 3 - Allison Leathead
- 6 - Drew Kersjes, Heather Fazekas
- 7 - Cora Keiper, Ellie Munden, Gary Tichler, Sandra Schulte
- 8 - Fred Bean
- 10 - Michelle Parks
- 11 - Mark nail
- 14 - Michelle Albrecht
- 15 - Aiden Alegria, Greg Jarratt
- 17 - Cindy McFadden, Jillian Albrecht, Niki Van Lente
- 18 - Nathan Zebolsky
- 22 - Alaina Dysinger, Dasha Laing, Noah Kue
- 24 - Sherrie Kelley, Tanya Newland
- 30 - Alysa Sanford, Rochelle Groeneveld
- 31 - Brenda Mills, Lynda Smith