

MAY 2023

IT TAKES A FAMILY

Monthly newsletter of Family Bible Church



FORWARD Revisited

You may have noticed a few changes that have occurred at Family Bible Church as construction has begun. After more than fifteen years of discussion, prayer, and planning the building is being constructed. Recently, I shared with the site superintendent it still does not feel real to me. However, today I watched a team pouring footings for the foundation of the new building.

As the project progresses we invite you to continue to be involved in four different ways. First, stay up to date by reading the Weekly and/or checking the construction update area on the temporary wall in the lobby and kids wing. Second, pray. Pray for wisdom for the building committee, safety for the workers and things to go to plan. Third, serve. Help will be needed this year and next with various projects. We want to have teams assembled and ready to serve. Please contact the office or David Mead to help. Fourth, give.

One year ago we introduced the FORWARD Campaign and it was an amazing success because of you! 120 households committed, \$760,900 was pledged over three years toward this project. We are thrilled to report over 48% have already come in! Most importantly 219 ONE's were identified and committed to. A ONE is someone not following Jesus, local to your context, and you rearrange your life to spend time with them (be and share Jesus).

Since the FORWARD Campaign Began (May 22'-May '23) against previous year (May '21-May '22) overall Sunday attendance is up 23%, children attendance is up 36% (nursery up 77%). Most importantly life change has occurred. In the last year we have witnessed 21 baptisms and 58 salvations and rededications. People coming to life in Jesus!

During the campaign last May we said we'd return to it one year later and many of you have received a letter and new pledge card from us in the mail recently.

We invite you to pray and identify your ONE again or for the first time. Maybe your ONE received Jesus, you will focus on a different ONE, or you will name a ONE for the first time.

We also invite you to make a financial commitment. Maybe you already pledged and need to decrease or increase your pledge. Maybe you did not pledge last May and want to be a new pledge. Maybe, nothing was being built, and you were waiting to see if it was going to happen, or you were new to FBC and still investigating or maybe you were not here at FBC.

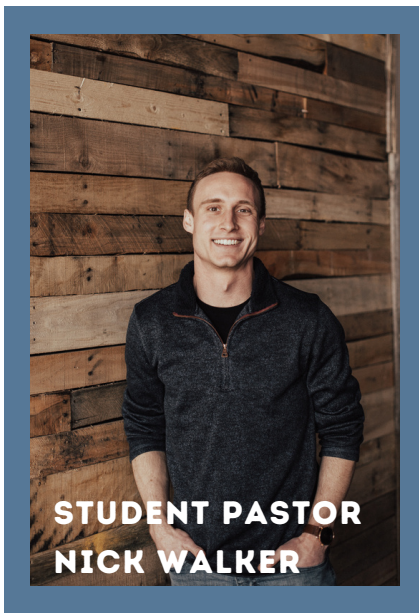
The previous pledge (last May) and savings will get us more than halfway there for the total project cost. What if we could pay the building off in full and avoid longer debt? I'm trusting God to move through us at FBC and others in our community to pay this off ASAP.

If you'd like to learn more, we invite you to one of the two vision dessert nights we will host. They will be ninety minutes in length. These nights will give you an opportunity to better understand our vision (the why) and also be a part of a question and response time.

- Sunday April 30th, 6:05-7:35pm FBC Youth Room
- Tuesday May 2nd, 6:05-7:35pm UNION (102 W Michigan Ave, Downtown Marshall)

This is all about Jesus as we develop, serve, and reach as followers of Jesus. People are the focus and reason. Jesus in Acts sent His followers out into the world. They also gathered for teaching, fellowship, meals, prayer, met needs, and worshiped together. People matter.

We continue to follow Jesus as He calls us forward.



"Good leaders lead with vulnerability."

"Good leaders serve others."

"Good leaders give up the good things in order to focus on the best things."

"Good leaders follow Jesus."

"Good leaders share their story with others."

These are all things we've discussed this past month as we've embarked on our leadership journey. It brings to mind Paul's famous line: "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). We can't hope to be good leaders if we aren't ultimately following the example of Jesus and following others who are following Him. Being a good leader isn't as much about who you're leading as it is about who you're following. Are you seeking after Jesus? Are you desiring to know Him more and allowing the Holy Spirit to make you more like Him? Follow after Him, and He will take care of the rest.

I appreciate everyone who has shared this past month on leadership and I look forward to watching our students plan out and lead youth groups this month, entirely on their own! If you aren't taking steps towards Jesus and towards others, then I encourage you to do just that!

Opportunity To Give & Upcoming Events

Our high school students are taking a mission trip to New York City this July and they need your help! Do you have any work projects around the house that you need help completing? Hire some students for a few hours and donate towards their trip! It's a great opportunity to see your project completed and support them too as they seek to serve God and others this summer and beyond! Email me at nick@familybible.church if you're interested in putting them to work.



On Sunday mornings for the past several weeks, we've been talking about GROWING in our faith. Spring is a time of new beginnings, growth and seeing things bloom! These concepts are great teaching tools when discussing with children how we can follow after Jesus in our daily lives. We've had fun creating and growing our own chia pets, observing plants and flowers

beginning to sprout up in flower beds and gardens around our homes and communities, and have shared stories from our own planting, farming and gardening experiences. During our opening session last Sunday, Ross Williams (4th/5th Grade Teacher) shared a great illustration with kids that beautifully connected our conversations about growth we can see in the ground to growth we can see in our Christian lives.

THE CHURCH = GOD'S GARDEN

READING THE BIBLE = GROWING INSTRUCTIONS

ASKING JESUS INTO YOUR HEART = THE PLANT

LOVE YOURSELF & OTHERS = THE FERTILIZER

GROWING IN FAITH & GOING TO HEAVEN = THE HARVEST

The kids at FBC are growing fast in more ways than one! It is exciting and humbling to be a part of their faith journey and to watch them rise up as strong young followers of Jesus!



May BIRTHDAYS

5.4 Deb Schwan, Fred Chapman
5.5 Elliana Cummings, Rob Surber
5.7 Caye VanZandt
5.8 Dan McFadden
5.9 Denise Glassburn
5.10 Daphne Cape, Lauren Robinson
5.11 Elliana Olds, Malachi Ferrall
5.12 Anna Wray, Doris Locke
5.14 Mary Marshall
5.15 Brendan Parks, Jackson Wray, Jerry VanDorpe, Seth Jones
5.17 Cheryl Grimes, Emily Dingee, Kenyan Smith
5.19 Beverly Lawrence, LJ Pierman, Matthew Zeisser
5.22 Mitch Konkle
5.23 Matt Parks
5.24 Mary Fedders, Stacy Meister
5.25 Jerry Avery, Luke VanDorpe
5.27 Shavon Milne
5.28 Benjamin Hobbs
5.31 Eli Messner

COMMUNICATION FROM FBC, Stay Up to Date

- Monthly Newsletter-This is 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.
- 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.
- 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)

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your many prayers, cards, visits, transportation to/from dialysis and special care while I've been so ill. I felt I was on the brink of death and God answered your prayers on my behalf. Thank you.

I'm now living at Marshall Comfort Care (former Maplewood) - assisted living, yet I have hopes of being back in my own home. If that doesn't happen God has still shown Himself to be faithful and I am greatly blessed. I also hope to rejoin you in worship soon.

Again I thank you for your love and prayers. I have a ways to go to be back to my old normal. I am experiencing how wonderful it is to have you as family.

Richard Wilson