



Connecting Everyone, Everywhere,
Everyday with the love and message

www.faithfreestanley.org



VINCE MILLER CHRIS BROWN MARK BATTERSON CORY DEMMEL
ALBERT TATE STEVE SONDERMAN STEVE CARTER ROD HAIRSTON

Terry Sonnetag will be hosting breakout sessions, "Leaving the Land of Slavery" and "Living in the New Land." Terry came to Christ through our ministry and now pastors North Hope Church in Aurora Minnesota.



NO REGRETS MEN'S CONFERENCE 30th ANNIVERSARY

8 am-2 pm, February 4, 2023. Tickets on sale now. Don't miss the 30th anniversary, one-day event everyone is talking about! With top speakers and thought leaders; live worship, challenging stories and group discussion.

Connecting with Pastor Matt

Who is your counsel?

*The ear that listens to life-giving reproof
will dwell among the wise.*

*Whoever ignores instruction despises himself,
but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence. Proverbs 15:31-32*

When was the last time you sought counsel from someone? How do you approach making decisions? I am not talking about little decisions that are part of our regular days, but decisions where you have some indecision. Our quick answer is, "I will seek God for the answers" and that is 100% accurate. But how does God answer and guide? According to Scripture, often it is by the counsel of others. I have often over the years been asked by others what I would do in certain situations? I have been asked advice on life changing decisions. I take these conversations seriously. I take them seriously because I know the humility it takes to seek counsel and also what is at stake. Also, that my words carry some degree of weight when I give advice to others. I suspect those who seek counsel from me do so because I am a pastor. I understand my position gives me some credibility. All the more reason to provide godly counsel. When seeking counsel, position alone is never given as a lone guideline in Scripture. There are crucial factors we must consider when seeking advice and counsel. These questions must be considered if we want to get the clearest and most biblical counsel.

Who do we go to for counsel? What does the Bible say we should look for in those we seek advice from?

How much weight should you give to the words of counsel given to you? When decisions need to be made in your life whose counsel carries the most weight in your life?

When counsel is needed for your future, marriage, parenting, work relationships or even daily living dynamics it is essential you get good counsel.

The good news is the Bible gives us very clear guidelines for who to seek counsel from.

Proverbs 11:1-5 says:

*The LORD detests dishonest scales,
but accurate weights find favor with him.*

*When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
but with humility comes wisdom.*

*The integrity of the upright guides them,
but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.*

*Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath,
but righteousness delivers from death.*

*The righteousness of the blameless makes their paths straight,
but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.*

I find helpful direction here. In a general sense I am not to give my eyes or ears to counsel that is:

- Prideful (v2)
- Dishonest (v1)
- Inconsistent (v3)
- Worldly (v4)
- Wicked/ungodly (v5)

This requires me to think through who I'd consider seeking counsel from. There are even more specific guidelines given for seeking counsel. I encourage you to look up the passages associated with each guideline.

Regarding Counsel:

Listen to the Godly (Proverbs 15:28; 26:24-26) Simple go to God's people for counsel. Seek someone who will go to Scripture with you.

Do not listen to the angry. (Proverbs 14:29, 16:32; 22:24)- Someone who can't control their anger is one who can't often control their words. There is not the discipline of control or restraint which makes any advice suspect.

Listen to the Gracious (Proverbs 10:21; 12:18) – Those who balance grace and truth.

Seek those who listen and give measured words. (Proverbs 11:12; 13:3; 25:11; 29:20) The person who says "I don't know let me think and pray on it" is wise. It is not volume of words but the wisdom in the words.

Seek Counsel from those who encourage you to seek the counsel of others as well. (Prov. 15:22, 24; 11:14)

There will be many times we will and should seek the counsel of others. This is one way God guides us and answers our prayers. Yet it is dangerous to seek advice and direction from the wrong source. Listen to the guidelines of Scripture and I have no doubt God will give you clear guidance and greater appreciation for the ways He leads.

Together with you in the journey,
Pastor Matt

Come learn more about Faith EF Church
Discovering Faith Class
1/21/23 from 8:30-10:30

Connecting with Pastor MP

CONNECTING WITH PASTOR MP

2022 is coming to a close. I'm not sure about you, but for me the year has flown by! It seems like just the other day we were kicking off the year by bringing the youth to the Districts Youth conference. Now here we are getting ready to celebrate the birth of our savior!

It's been a fun year! It's been a year of growth. It's been a year of reflection. Throughout the year, I've seen many of the youth take their faith to new levels. I've seen many of them getting into the Word and asking good questions. As a Youth Pastor, nothing gets me more excited than to see students engaging in their faith and making it their own.

As I look ahead to 2023, I'm excited to see where God continues to lead us. In addition to our regular Wednesday night meetings, we will be offering students a chance twice a month to dive deeper into their faith. We'll be looking for opportunities to not only understand God's Word on a deeper level, but discussing what it looks like for us to live it out. God is doing some BIG things and I'm excited and humbled to be able to be a part of it.

The pie auction was a BIG success! Thanks to all who participated!



Children's Ministry

“Jesus, the Savior of the World,” Christmas Program was held Sunday, December 11. God moved in mighty ways as prophesy, the manger story and salvation message was presented. The children were excited and did an amazing job. There were some children that got sick and were sad to miss. We thank all who filled in for them.

A Christmas Party was held for Jesus during our usual Wednesday Kid's Connection, December 21.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a Happy New Year filled with hearts dedicated to following Jesus.

A Psalm of David (16:11) “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

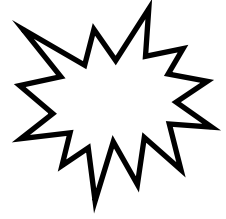
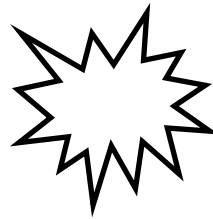
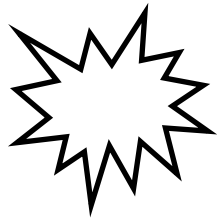
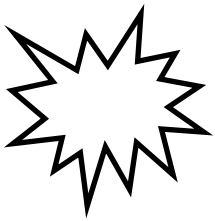




Men's Prayer Breakfast will be:

January 7 at FEFC in the fellowship hall at 7:30 am.
Come 30 minutes early to help cook breakfast.

Our February breakfast will be part of the annual Men's No Regrets Conference of which Faith Free will be hosting a Satellite Center. This conference will be held on Saturday, February 4th at church. Coffee and rolls will be on at 7:30. Lunch will also be served.



Connection Groups

January 8 after
worship service.

Tuesday U

Every Tuesday at 6 pm. At
FEFC in conference room.

Resources in the Foyer for you and or someone you may be ministering to:

- **BIBLE**, English Standard Version , version used here at FEFC. The Bibles are located in the bookcase in the foyer.
- **BOOKS:** 1. "Now that I'm a Christian", What it means to follow Jesus, by C. Michael Patton,
2. "Not Like Me", "A Field Guide for Influencing a Diverse World by Eric Michael Bryant .
3. **Living a Life of True Worship** by Kay Arthur and Bob and Diane Vereen
- **Pamphlet**, "Bridge to Life" to help with evangelism.
- **Devotionals (daily Bible readings with stories of encouragement:** "Our Daily Bread", by Our Daily Bread Ministries, on table in foyer and "Begin the Journey with the Daily Office, Remembering God's presence throughout the day," by Peter Scazzero, located in the book shelf in the foyer.
- **Guidelines for Protecting Purity**
- **Baptism, an expression of your Faith**
- "Child Dedication" flyer

Also, FEFC does have a library located north of the foyer.

Women with Purpose in Chippewa at the Fill In Station.

11:30 am Wednesday the 18th of January.

Scan the QR code with your phone to go to the website

for more information or visit

www.lh.wwwpi.org



Women's Ministry
brunch January 14, 2023
at 9 am in the fellowship
hall here at the church.

Scan the QR code to get your own sign in credentials for **RightNow Media** which our church holds a subscription for. It is a wealth of devotionals and kids videos and just such a great encouragement to me as a Christian, wife, mom, grandmother and working woman. But there are a lot of really neat things on here. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do!



Here is the Link:

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/faithevan>

Or you can enter this text Code: FEFCW to 49775

Sisters in Christ finished our first bible study before Christmas. We will be having a New Year's Kickoff Brunch at Aroma Café in Thorp on January 6th at 9:30 am. We will then be starting our next study on Friday, January 13th. We start at 9:30am and finish at 11:00am. Our next book we will be going through is "Life Lessons from Daniel & Esther" by Max Lucado. Each lesson stands alone which is great if you can not attend every Friday morning. We are a friendly, welcoming group striving to learn more about God and how we can follow him more closely with a genuine relationship. We welcome new ladies to join us on Friday mornings! If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Denzine at 715-773-2444.

Our website has been undergoing some new design changes, however, some updates have been made to the resources page and you should definitely check it out! Lots to see on other pages at:
www.faithevan.org



- 1/13-15 District Youth Conference
- 2/4 No Regrets Men's Conference Event
- 2/18 Date Night
- 3/11 Mental Health Seminar
- 5/13 Children's Derby
- 6/25-7/1 Youth Missions Trip, Knoxville, TN

Celebrate Your Marriage Date Night

2/18/23 at 6 pm

Featuring Jordan & Sheila Skiff

\$35 a couple

Come and celebrate your marriage with us!

Church Cancellation Policy and plan

Wednesday night activities:

Decision Making: Pastor MP and Laurie Natzke will make decision. Communication will be via flocknote and Facebook.

Sunday services:

Decision making: Jerry and Pastor Matt will make the decision to cancel or not.

Communication: Lori flocknotes; Jeanie will send email and Facebook post; Loren contact WWIB.

Other events:

Decision will be made by event coordinator and communication cascaded by event coordinator.

Principles of Christian Stewardship

I find there is often a missing piece to the discipleship of believers, and it is Christian stewardship. Either many are not being taught how to steward the resources they have or perhaps there is a devaluing of living with stewardship mindset. You see according to Scripture God's people are always living differently in regard to the money and resources they have. There are a couple basic principles that every believer should get a grasp on if you want to be an obedient follower.

The beginning of stewardship is recognizing who has ownership. In the absolute sense we own absolutely nothing. God owns absolutely everything. Since this is true a question quickly surfaces. What does God the owner want me to do with what is His money and resources. This is a great question to ask continually. You and I must remind ourselves what we have is not ours. Tithing and offerings are one way we worship our gracious God. I am astounded by how many Christians don't tithe. As stated above it may be they were never taught to or maybe it is worldly living and selfish priorities. Either way God is not worshipped in your life through godly stewardship.

Biblical stewardship requires an attitude of gratitude and generosity – Since all we have is from God, we must give thanks to Him. The OT teaches us over and over the hard consequences God's people faced because they were ungrateful and grumbled because of what they didn't have. When we are truly grateful for all we have and recognize God is the source we can live with open hands. Instead of seeking to get we desire to give. There really is freedom we gain from stewardship living. The freedom from allowing the stuff of life and its pursuit to hold us in bondage.

I encourage you to look at how you are handling your money and resources. Start with evaluation your tithes. Are you honoring God with how much you tithe. It appears there is a clear pattern of 10% being the ground floor of giving. How are you doing regarding tithing? Then ask is there someone God wants me to bless with what I have or can give? Be open for divine opportunities.

Honor God by Making biblical stewardship a part of your discipleship.

January

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9 Prayer 10 Service Communion	2	3	4 6 Youth Group 6 Kid's Connection	5	6 9:30 SIC at Aroma Café in Thorp	7 7:30 Men's Prayer Breakfast
8 9 Prayer 10 Service Connection Groups	9	10 6 TU	11 6 Youth Group 6 Kid's Connection	12 6 Elder Meeting	13 9:30 SIC Districts	14 9 Women's Ministry Districts
15 9 Prayer 10 Service Districts	16	17 6 TU	18 6 Youth Group 6 Kid's Connection	19	20 9:30 SIC	21 Discovering Faith 8:30-10:30
22 9 Prayer 10 Service	23	24 6 TU	25 6 Youth Group 6 Kid's Connection	26	27 9:30 SIC	28
29 9 Prayer 10 Service	30	31 6 TU	1 6 Youth Group 6 Kid's Connection	2 6 Elder Meeting	3 9:30 SIC	4 8-2 No Regrets Men's Conf.