

Connecting Everyone, Everywhere,
Everyday with the love and message of
Jesus Christ.

# YOUR CONNECTION

# **Easter at the Theatre**

Community Celebration
Easter Morning, April 17, 10:00

# **In This Connection**

Together as a Family — Pastor Matt
Faith of Students Bloom— Pastor MP
Faith Rose Dedication to our Lord
Bible Camp 2022
10 Ways Christians Can improve Mental Health
What's coming up
Calendar



# **Connecting with Pastor Matt**

Together as a Family

My mind has been drawn to Acts 2:42-47 lately. The passage reads:

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

<sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

I can't help but notice the repetition of the word "together". What a great word this is. It implies so much, not the least is that, we need each other, and we need all to be the family God desires. There is no dynamic in the Bible of a lone ranger mindset. We see this in verse 43 "everyone" and in verse 44 "All believers were together...". Not simply geographically, but even more, spiritually together in Christ.

The early church wasn't perfect, and neither are we here at Faith. This reality emphasizes the truth we need each other. An important part of the early church's evangelistic efforts is what they were before a watching world. We demonstrate Christ in our midst by the way we are "together'. Our bond is Christ. The love we share is from Christ. Our hope is Christ. Every gift in the church is from Christ. We exist together so He would increase, and we might decrease. Let us never forget the corporate aspect of our witness.

Lesslie Newbigin states in his book, *Strange Days: Life in the Spirit in a Time of Upheaval,* "all the statistical evidence goes to show that those within our secularized societies who are being drawn out of unbelief to faith in Christ say that they were drawn *through the fellowship of the local church."* 

That is the togetherness of being in Christ that has that type of impact.

There is another element that must be embraced as well. We live in a cold, cynical, evil, and divided world. We are surrounded by lonely people both outside and inside the church body. God has made a place where every believer can find warmth, shelter, support, friendship, strength, and hope. It is the togetherness of His church where this is found. Every believer is a part of this. Every believer has a responsibility toward one another. As we care for each other God brings a great warmth to our relationships and gatherings.

In my many years of ministry I have encountered those far more critical of others' failures to love then their own. This has created a "come and serve me" mindset that undermines the togetherness Jesus created and calls us to build up. When we consider the question," whose job is it to care for those in the church?" The biblical answer is for each of us to say, "I am". When we each love on each other the warmth among us is unmatched in our communities! The elder board is reading a book together called "Feels Like Home" by Lee Eclov. Lee seeks to help churches rediscover the church as a family. We have been greatly encouraged and challenged. I would like to end this with a quote from Lee's book, he says it better than I how important the impact of us being together as God's family.

"When God's household loves one another. There is no place better, no place safer, for a storm- tossed soul than among us."

Considering that let us continue to seek ways to love, serve, care, and encourage each other so together we become the family God desires.

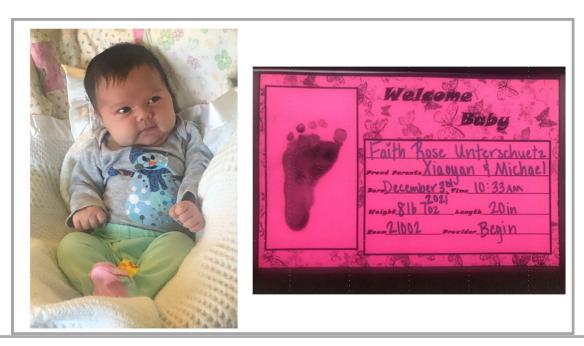
# **Connecting with Pastor MP**

I know it's hard to believe right now, but spring is just around the corner! After the cold winter that we've had, I know that is something that we are all looking forward to. One of the best parts of Spring is watching flowers bloom. Over the past few months I've had the privilege of watching the faith of our students bloom much like the flowers of the Spring. You're probably thinking to yourself "wow Pastor MP that is a really cheesy analogy" and you'd be right. I make no apologies for that, haha.

Over the past two months I've seen a desire amongst our students to dig deeper into their faith and understand what it really means to follow Jesus. Not only that, but they have shown a yearning to share their faith with their friends! God is doing big things through our young people!

Matt Peters (Pastor MP)

# **Baby Dedicated to our Lord**



Faith Rose Unterschuetz dedicated to our Lord, Sunday, February 20, 2022. Faith is the daughter of Michael and Xioayan Unterschuetz and sister of Benji, Joy and Esther. We all praise God for this precious gift from God. To God be the glory. She is precious and very much loved.

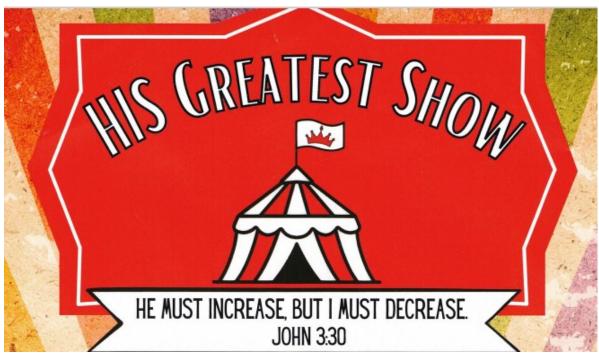
### **Child Dedication**

Anyone else wanting to dedicate their child to the Lord, please call the office.

There are flyers in the foyer.



2022



Youth Camps 1st—12th

Flyers in the foyer

**Scholarship Available** 

# **10 Ways Christians Can improve Mental Health**

Pray – 1 John 5:14 – First approach any problem

Journal - Psalms

Lean on Community – Galatians 6:2-12

Eat Well - Proverbs 23:20-21

Read Your Bible – John 16:33

Practice Gratitude – 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – Studies over and over show value

Exercise Regularly – 1 Corinthians 3:16

Practice You Spiritual Gifts – 1 Peter 4:10 – Serve

Rest – Genesis 2:2 – True relaxation from outside voices

See a doctor – Proverbs 11:14 If struggles reach point of self-harm; Need to take this step

# **What's Coming Up and Resources**

# <u>Aspire</u>

One night full of laughter, learning, stories & music

1 night—3 hours just for women
Friday, April 8 Valleybrook Church, Eau Claire

Brochure in the foyer
See Lori Czubakowski for more information

# **Annual Meeting**

After Pot Luck Sunday, March 27

# **Men's Prayer Breakfast**

Saturday, March 5 At Aroma Café in Thorp

### Resources

Check out the resource tables in the foyer, including free Bibles.

# Pot Luck

8:45 Prayer in overflow room 10:00 Worship Service **Pot Luck after the service** 

### **Connection Groups**

After the service March 13 For all ages

# **Women's Ministry**

Saturday, March 12 9:00 in the fellowship hall

# **Women with Purpose**

Empower, Equip, Encourage Women to
Lead Balanced, Purposeful Lives
At the Eagles Club in Lake Hallie, 11:45 to
1:00 on the 3rd Wednesday of every
month (September-May). Cost for lunch is
\$15. For list of speakers and more
information see flyer in foyer.

# **Baptism**

Want to follow Jesus in baptism? Pastor Matt would love to meet with you. FEFC believe that the Water Baptism (preferably by Immersion, Matthew 3:16) is an ordinance to be observed by the church during this present age. It is however, not to be regarded as means of salvation (1 Corinthians 11:23-32, Acts 2:41). Please find more information about baptism in the

# March 2022

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2

Saturday	5 7:30 Men's Prayer Breakfast	12 9:00 Women's Ministries 3:00 Easter Event team meets at theatre	19	26 8:30-10:00 Membership Class	2
Friday	4	11	18	25	
Thursday	3	10 6:00 Elder Meeting	17	24 6:00 Elder Meeting	31
Wednesday	2 6:00 Youth	9 4:00 Easter Event team meets 6:00 Glow Club 6:00 Youth	16 6:00 Glow Club 6:00 Youth	23 6:00 Glow Club 6:00 Youth	30 6:00 Glow Club 6:00 Youth
Tuesday	1	8	15	22	29
Monday	28	7	14	21	28
Sunday	27	6 8:45 Prayer 10:00 Worship Communion	13 8:45 Prayer 10:00 Worship Connection Groups	20 8:45 Prayer 10:00 Worship	27 8:45 Prayer 10:00 Worship Potluck Dinner Annual Meeting