



Here's What's Happening at FCC



Jess and I were going to the zoo with our kids and grandkids. Earlier in the week, Jess had told me, "Make sure this is on your calendar." The plan was simple. Meet everybody for breakfast and then head to the zoo.

Now, I love breakfast. Not a bowl of responsible cereal and half a banana. I mean breakfast. Sausage biscuits and gravy. Scrambled eggs. Ham. Hash browns. Enough food to make my cardiologist quietly leave the room. I do not get breakfasts like that very often, so I had been looking forward to this one all week. I may have even eaten a little less on Friday in preparation. Okay. I did not eat all day.

Saturday morning came. We got in the car. My stomach was growling. I could practically smell the biscuits and gravy that did not yet exist. And then Jess said, almost casually, "Plans changed. We are just going straight to the zoo." Excuse me? No breakfast? I had been promised breakfast. I had been counting on breakfast. In my mind, breakfast was happening. I became instantly hangry.

Yes, I knew there would be food at the zoo. But zoo food was not the point. I had already pictured breakfast. That was the problem. And then reality changed the picture. Obviously, this was not a tragedy. I survived. There may even have been snacks involved.

But I have been thinking about how often life does this to us. We make pictures. Sometimes little ones. Breakfast before the zoo. The vacation going a certain way. Everybody behaving themselves at Thanksgiving.

But I have been thinking about how much of life we picture before it ever happens. We picture growing old beside somebody. We picture our children being okay. We picture what retirement will look like. We picture the diagnosis coming back negative. We picture our family, our work, our future turning out one particular way. And then something happens.

The phone rings. Somebody leaves. The test comes back. The job ends. The relationship changes. The thing we were certain would happen does not. And suddenly we are standing inside a life we did not picture.

There is a line in the Emmaus story that may be one of the saddest lines in the Bible. "We had hoped..." That is what they tell the stranger walking beside them. We had hoped. They thought Jesus was going to change everything. They had followed him. Trusted him. Rearranged their lives around him. Then they watched him die.

“We had hoped.” Most of us know something about those words. In the Emmaus story Jesus walks with them. They do not recognize him yet. They do not know Easter has already begun changing everything. They are simply walking down the road telling the truth about how disappointed they are. And Jesus stays beside them. He does not tell them to get over it or try to see the bright side. He just keeps walking with them while they tell the truth about how badly things hurt.

I do not think faith was ever supposed to guarantee that life would follow the picture we drew. Sometimes the picture breaks. Sometimes horribly. Sometimes there is no putting it back together the way it was. “Christian hope is not pretending otherwise. Hope is discovering that even there, God has not left the road.”

The disciples did not get the future they had imagined. They got resurrection. And resurrection is not God rewinding the story until nothing painful ever happened. Jesus still carried the wounds. But it was no longer the end of the story.

This is the hope I need. Not, “Everything will work out exactly the way I wanted.” I know too much about life to believe that. Hope sounds more like: I do not know what happens from here. I did not choose this road. I wish some things had turned out differently. But I am not walking it alone. And there may still be life ahead of me that I cannot see yet.

That morning, I eventually got over the breakfast. Mostly. There are still biscuits and gravy that were owed to me, and I trust justice will someday prevail. But some disappointments are much harder. For those, I am holding onto three little words. “We had hoped.” Right there between the life we pictured and the life we have. And sometimes, while we are still grieving the life we thought we were going to have, Jesus is already walking beside us.

Peace and Grace,
Pastor Mark



Please Keep These Loved Ones in Your Prayers

Those facing illness or health concerns:

- Dorothy C.
- Sue P.
- Rae-Ellen
- Debbie
- Nancy
- Norma B. & Sandy
- Gertie

Those needing ongoing love and support:

- Our shut-ins and all who live with chronic health challenges
- Our church leadership, as they serve and discern
- All who are struggling or in need—seen and unseen
- The Mission School of Hope & Clinic and the communities they care for

*May God's healing, strength,
and peace surround each one.*

**Need Prayer? Send your request to
prayer@fccweb.net**

**Would you like to be part of our
Prayer Chain?**

Please email the church office at
office@fccweb.net to let us know.



Hayride / Bonfire Fellowship Event

Sunday, October 18 at 2 PM
(Rain date- Sunday, October 25)



The Fellowship Team will be hosting a hayride/bonfire out at the Rowntree Farms. Thanks to Kay and Tom for hosting this wonderful event! We will enjoy some apple cider & s'mores around the bonfire and everyone will enjoy a hayride around the property. We hope you can join us!

Here are directions to the Rowntree's farm. We will also have copies out on the communications table.

Directions to Rowntree Farms -

Go south on Hwy 83 toward Waterford. Hwy 20 will join Hwy 83 by the Cotton Exchange. Stay on 20/83.- At the next stop sign after the 2nd stoplight, turn right (south). Go south past the Catholic Church until you come to the stoplight at Hwy 36 (there is a Burger King at this intersection). Turn right on Hwy 36/83 toward Burlington. Stay on Hwy 83/36. Go past the stoplight at Hwy D and take a left at the next intersection which is Hwy J. Go south on Hwy J and take the first left (east)-this is Rowntree Rd. Go east on Rowntree Rd. until you see a large red barn on your right. There will be traffic cones at the drive on the west side of the barn where you enter the farm property. Drive back to the woods.

There is no bathroom so plan accordingly!



Painting Day October 3rd



Women's Agape Group is asking members of the congregation to help them paint the railings in both stairwells on Saturday October 3rd at 10am. Please bring your own 2-inch paintbrush, small rollers, and trays if you have them. Please sign up at the Communication Table.



Hello, church ! This month we are switching over to donating toddler clothes and diapers for the Life Connection in Mukwonago and continuing this drive through November. They said they have plenty of donations for newborns, but virtually nothing for older children. I will transport our donations to them when we have a carload. For those who wish to continue donating backpacks and small household appliances for The Hope Center, they would greatly appreciate it. I will transport those items to them as well. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Hope Center Meal October 2nd

We have another semi-annual opportunity to serve a meal for the residents of the Hope Center in Waukesha on Friday, October 2nd. This is a wonderful mission to serve our neighbors that are in transition. Arrival time is 5:00 and we are usually finished by 6:30. You don't have to bring anything other than your service. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. I am planning to be there. Hope to see you there as well!

Brad Charles
Missions and Growth Director

Women's Agape Group Special Event



On Saturday, December 12th at 7:00pm, Grace Notes Orchestra will present a free concert entitled A Journey to Bethlehem Christmas. It, too, will be held at the PAC. Please join us! This is a great way to start off your Christmas season!

Fellowship Event November 22nd

Fellowship Ministry and Women's Agape Group is teaming up for a matinee show at the Greenwald Foundation Performing Arts Center on Sunday, November 22nd. The Drowsy Chaperone is being presented by the High School drama department at 2:00pm. We will have lunch first and then gather at the PAC. We are planning to get a block of tickets and sit together. More information to follow.

FOOD FOR FAMILIES

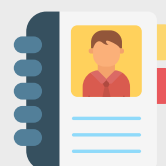


Thank you for those of you who were able to help with the September "Food of the Month" for the Food for Families. There are now 9 families participating in the program.

For the month of October, we are asking for donations of pancake mix, syrup, and a 6-pk of apple sauce. There is a list of needed items for the program next to the bulletin board in the narthex. The list will help with finding food items that are on sale when you are shopping. Your donation of one or two extra items in your grocery cart will help the families who we are servicing!

Thank you!
Joanne and Janine

Church Directory



Would you like to be in the Church Directory? You can fill out the directory form [HERE](#). If you would like to include a photo please email them to office@fccweb.net.

Worship This Weekend

We will be worshipping in-person and via Zoom this Sunday at 10:00 am. Visit these links for important information:

[SONG LYRICS](#)

[ORDER OF WORSHIP](#)

To access worship via Zoom, please use the information below:

[CLICK HERE FOR ZOOM WORSHIP](#)

Phone Number: (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 459 288 4444

Password: 2623637249

Adult Bible Study will meet before church in the large classroom at 9:00. You can access the Bible study via Zoom as well:

[CLICK HERE FOR ZOOM BIBLE STUDY](#)

Phone Number: (312) 626-6799

Meeting ID: 459 288 4444

Password: 2623637249



Sunday's Praise Song Sneak Peak

[Lauren Daigle – “You Say”](#)

CONTACT US

Church Office

262-363-7249

231 Roberts Drive

Mukwonago WI 53149

office@fccweb.net



It's Easy to Give to FCC.....

Because we are flexible! There are several ways:

1. The traditional way, by putting your offering in the collection plate during weekly church services. Offering envelopes are available in the church office. Contact us at office@fccweb.net.
2. Bill Pay through your bank account. You can talk to a teller or Customer Service if you have questions about it. If you like to use Bill Pay to pay your monthly bills, you can add FCC to your list of creditors. It's quick and easy.
3. Online. You can give through Tithe.ly or Paypal ([HERE](#)) and click the "Give" Button at the bottom of the page.
4. If you prefer to make lump sum offerings, you can make a Direct Charitable Distribution from your 401(k) or other retirement fund directly to FCC. There are no income taxes on this type of distribution because the money does not come to you; it goes directly to the “charity” of your choice, i.e., FCC. Talk to your financial advisor who can set up Direct Charitable Distributions as often as you wish—monthly, quarterly, annually etc. Making a Direct Charitable Distribution actually makes your money go farther!