

Here's What's Happening at FCC



For a long time, I thought Christianity came with a test. Maybe nobody ever called it that. But it sure felt like one. You needed the right answer about salvation. The right answer about the Bible. The right answer about heaven and hell. The right answer about who was in and who was out.

And depending on the church, you might also need the right answer about women, gay people, politics, drinking, dancing, and whatever else somebody had decided God was particularly worked up about that week.

And I understand some of that. What we believe matters. What we believe about God shows up in how we treat people. And sometimes what we believe about God can hurt people. I have seen enough of that to know it is not harmless.

But the older I get, the more I notice how little Jesus seems interested in giving people theology exams. He asks people to follow him. And then he spends an awful lot of time feeding people, touching people religion told him not to touch, eating with the wrong crowd, and kneeling down to wash feet.

And then there is Matthew 25. Jesus talks about the nations gathered before him, and what gets me is what he does not ask. He does not ask if they had all their theology figured out. He does not ask if they believed exactly the right things or could explain every difficult verse in the Bible. He says, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me." And then Jesus says the part that is even harder to get around: "When you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me." Jesus does not simply tell us to care about people who are hungry, lonely, imprisoned, pushed aside, or forgotten. He says, "That is where you will find me."

I keep coming back to that. Because I spent a lot of years around Christianity that was very concerned about believing the right things. Jesus keeps dragging me back toward loving actual people. And people are a whole lot more inconvenient than theology. Doctrine does not sit across the table from you and tell you it cannot pay the electric bill. A statement of faith has never needed somebody to sit beside it in a hospital waiting room. People do.

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It is much easier to have strong opinions about “the poor” than to know the name of somebody who is hungry. It is easier to argue about immigration than to sit across a table from somebody who is scared. It is easier to debate whether certain people belong in the church than to look them in the eyes after the church has wounded them. It is easier to talk about loving our enemies than to love the person who makes us wonder if Jesus really meant everybody.

There is actually a theology word for this, and since I paid for seminary I might as well use it. “Orthopraxy.” It means “right practice.” Not just what we believe, but what we do with what we believe. Does it make me kinder? Does it help me listen before deciding I already know somebody's story? Does it make me more willing to say, “I was wrong”? Does following Jesus make it easier for somebody else to breathe?

I can always find another book that agrees with me. People are harder. People interrupt us and disappoint us. They vote differently than we do, believe differently than we do, and love differently than we expected them to. Sometimes they are wonderful. Sometimes they are exhausting. Sometimes we are the exhausting ones. Jesus still says, “Love your neighbor.”

Beliefs matter. But if what I believe about God keeps making me harder, meaner, more suspicious of people, or more certain that somebody else is outside God's reach, then I probably need to take another look at what I believe.

I learned a version of Christianity that was very good at asking, “Do you believe the right things?” Jesus keeps asking a different question. What did you do with the person who was hungry? What did you do with the stranger? What did you do with the person everybody else had already written off? What did you do with me?

That is the part I keep coming back to. What is my faith actually doing to me? I still care about what I believe. I just care a whole lot more about whether it is making me look anything like Jesus.

Blessing and Peace
Pastor Mark



Please Keep These Loved Ones in Your Prayers

Those facing illness or health concerns:

- Dorothy C.
- Sue P.
- Rae-Ellen
- Debbie

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.

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.



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.



Hawaii Mission Trip Recap
presented by Lily Buchmann

This Sunday after worship!

Lily invites you all to join her this Sunday, September 27, as she shares stories and photos from her recent mission trip to Hawaii!! Many of you helped make this trip possible for her and to show our appreciation, we will also be hosting Front Porch. Please join us in the basement fellowship hall following worship!

We look forward to seeing you there!
Terry Buchmann



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 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



Missions is asking for help with providing items for the Food for Families program. The Church provides groceries to families at Clarendon Avenue School who qualify for free or reduced lunches. Bags of food items are given to the families for a student to take home.

There is a list of needed items for the program next to the bulletin board in the narthex. While family sized or bulk items might be more cost effective when shopping at Costco or Sam's Club, it is difficult for a young student to carry large items. It is also difficult to pack loose items for the students to carry.

There will also be a featured "Food of the Month." For the month of September, we are asking for canned chicken, tuna, or Spam.

The list will help with finding food items that are on sale. Check the expiration dates! Check the size of the package! Check off on your grocery list 1-2 items that could be donated to Food for Families!

Thank you!
Joanne and Janine

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
The Jesus Way by Phil Wickham

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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!