



The Discipleship Dispatch

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Wow! What a time in our history! Who would have ever thought something so profound and world-stopping would have happened in our lifetime? We certainly would have never thought that something, like a virus, would have ever brought the world to a halt, in our time of medical advancement and technology.

But, it has. There are no answers to why this is happening, who is to blame, why good people must suffer. These things are not for us to know or understand. What we do know is how God wants us to handle this unfathomable tragedy. We are disciples of Christ, right?

With that title comes great responsibility. The responsibility to love our neighbors as ourselves. The responsibility to care for the needs of one another. The responsibility to do life—really well—together, as one body, the body of Christ. We. Are. The. Church.

This time has, beyond a shadow of a doubt, given us Christians the opportunity to prove that the church was never about some big, fancy building, awe inspiring lighting systems, or concert-level sound systems. The church is the embodiment of who Jesus is. The church is a community of like-minded Christians, who are on mission to expand the kingdom of God.

For the Gathering, our mission field is this community, our Jerusalem. We have been uniquely set apart, in God's vision for this church, to care for Auburn, for our community. Does that always mean we need to be on the street corners preaching? No. It means we are Jesus' hand and feet. We are sharing Jesus' heart and loving, caring for, and providing for the needs of our community.

In this time of social distancing, part of that mission is providing some socialization, education, and distraction for our neighbors. This is our chance to show this community who The Gathering is, what The Gathering is about, and what the church is always meant to be.

I recently saw a picture of the best shirt I have ever seen. It said, "The Church has FINALLY left the building." Hallelujah and AMEN! The movement of the church to outreach instead of inward focus has been a long-time coming, but the time is here. The time is now. Let's continue our mission, God's vision for this church.

I wish you all well. I pray for your health and safety, as well for our entire community's protection. Please, have faith, but be cautious. The threat is real. Listen to respectable, knowledgeable sources.

May the grace and peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you today and always,

Nicki



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- From the Pastor's Desk..... 1
- Storytime..... 2
- Hope for Mental Health..... 3
- Axios (Youth Group)..... 3
- Homework Helper..... 4
- Cooking..... 4
- Financial Fridays..... 4

TITHES & OFFERINGS

Can be completed at:
<http://thegatheringauburn.org/onlinegiving>

Follow the PayPal link and instructions. The use of your bank account is preferred, so fees are avoided, but any major credit or debit card can also be used. Contributors can choose a one time offering or a monthly tithe on PayPal.



STORYTIME (PREK-2ND GRADE)

Reading is an essential skill for everyday life. Why not start young? Reading to our youngsters feeds their imagination and helps their communication skills.

Reading is also essential in our pursuit of Biblical knowledge. The ability to read offers a sense of freedom. The freedom being referenced here is the freedom to study and understand God's Word.

If we can help nurture our communities youngest generation and create relationships through bringing books to life, we can foster their ability to one day educate themselves in God's Word and bring them to a closer relationship with God.

“Craft Corner offers a craft that people of any age can do. It also offers a time of conversation and the possibility of spreading hope and love in this time of social distancing.”

Storytime: Mondays 10 am

Link:

<https://meet.google.com/akk-kmzo-tks>

Craft Corner:

Tuesdays 11:30 am

Link:

<https://meet.google.com/mnr-vxeq-bjc>

CRAFT CORNER

Craft Corner is about reaching out to the community and bridging the gap between generations. We can all create something beautiful, especially if we are guided through the process.

Craft Corner offers a craft that people of any age can do. It also offers a time of conversation and the possibility of spreading hope and love in this time of social distancing.

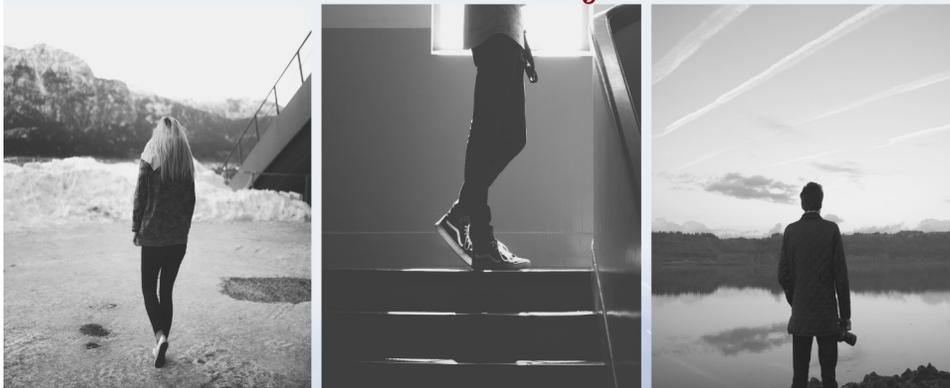
Our first project was to create cards to take to our area nursing facilities. These facilities are home to many of our community's most vulnerable. It is our job, as true disciples of Christ to care for and exemplify the love of Jesus; not just in this time of isolation, but always.

Our second project uses something that, according to the store shelves, we all should have plenty of, toilet paper tubes. These tubes were cut to make flowers and could also represent fireworks.



A X I O S

We are Worthy A Youth Ministry of The Gathering



"50% of adults will develop a mental illness in their lifetime. This staggering reality can feel daunting, but there is HOPE for mental health." This group is meant for those who have, have had, or love someone diagnosed with a mental illness. It is our prayer that this program can shine a light into the lives of its attendees and bring hope to a sometimes hopeless situation.

"No one gets better alone! No family should walk through a mental health crisis alone. We all need a support system of family, friends, mental health professionals, support groups, and a faith community in challenging times." - Hope for Mental Health Resource Guide, 2015

Hope for Mental Health will meet on Thursdays at our normal time, 6 pm.

There is no better time for us to support one another. Mental health challenges will be at an all-time high.

Join us at this link:

<https://meet.google.com/qzf-qwqy-bya>

HOPE FOR MENTAL HEALTH



AXIOS

(YOUTH GROUP)

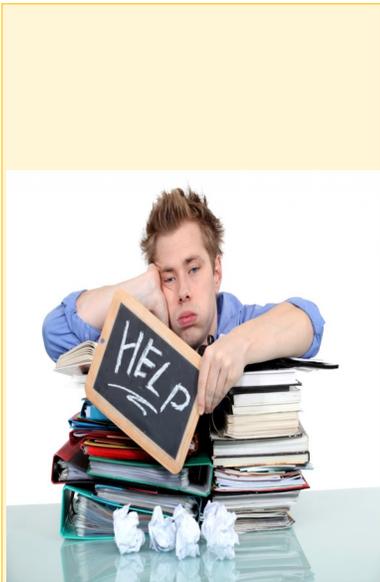
Axios means worthy in Greek. We are all worthy of God's love and the love of others. Axios is the youth ministry of The Gathering. This ministry opportunity is open for those in grades 6-12. Currently, we are meeting, virtually, every Monday at 5 pm.

We have a time of discussion about life, circumstances, etc., a sort of check-in. We then go into reading our Bible passage and one of us will draw what the group thinks is relevant to that passage. This way, each time they pass these drawing which are hung on The Gathering's meeting space walls, they will remember what they have learned and what God's word and promise says.

Right now, we are studying the parables. We have been in this study for four weeks now. We have been reading in the book of Matthew and have studied, "Wise Builder," "Tares in the Field," "Pearl of Great Price," and "The Ten Virgins."

Next week we will move onto the book of Mark. This month will bring the studies of "A House Divided," "Light," "Be Salt," and "Landowner."

Join us at this link: <https://meet.google.com/kos-venu-soe>



HOMWORK HELPER

We strive to care for our community. Part of caring for our community is helping our younger generation. Most of you have probably heard the saying, “it takes a village to raise a child.” That saying is true.

Because there is such truth to that quote, we are offering to help children with their homework on Wednesdays, at 11 am.

As DeKalb Central students, our kids are well versed in using the platform, Google Hangouts, Meet. This is what the DeKalb Central schools use for their virtual learning environment. We use the same platform for all our meetings.

We are successfully helping students, in a virtual interaction, understand and complete their school work.

If you have a student in need of assistance or if you would like to be of assistance, please feel free to jump on this meeting at any time between 11 am and 12 pm on Wednesdays.

Here is the link:

<https://meet.google.com/vqh-jksd-qeq>



COOKING 101 (SCHOOL AGE)

We have already mentioned helping to educate our next generation. This activity will help give them life-skills to survive and thrive on their own. We all know that programs to teach such skills are leaving our schools, so why not offer them now?

Cooking 101 will be school age appropriate cooking done by a school age child. Rylie McKean will be learning and teaching these experiences to the children taking advantage of watching and interacting in these sessions.

Our first week we started off simple by making boxed macaroni and cheese. Our second week we made a complete meal, with simple-to-make foods. This week included boneless-skinless chicken breasts, instant mashed potatoes, corn, and jello.

This is the link to these sessions: <https://meet.google.com/dgp-fffv-fnu>

WHAT'S COOKING (FAMILIES)

The goal of What's Cooking is to provide meals that aren't the “same 'old, same 'old,” a break from the monotony of cooking the same meals, over and over. At the same time, it is helpful to have ideas for meals that feed an entire family on a tight budget, as well as, making meals that are easy to make, fast, and taste great.

Our first week we made, Slow Cooker Ranch Pork Chops and Potatoes. Our second session came with the recipe for Easy Shepherd's Pie.

This is the link to join us in cooking at 2 pm on Wednesdays:

<https://meet.google.com/rei-akxk-dnn>



VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Virtual Field Trips offer an escape from the walls of our homes, if only for a moment. We will navigate through places like NASA, Shedd Aquarium, art museums, The Holy Land, and The Smithsonian.

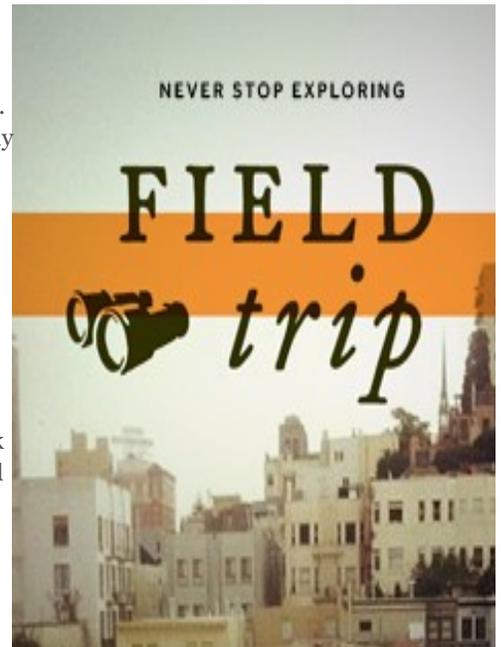
Some people may never get the chance to experience these wonderful places and these sessions allow people to not only focus on something other than this crisis, it offers a time of education and fills the senses with beauty and wonder.

We will also have a time of other learning experiences. One such experience will be taught by Elysia Rodgers, from our local Purdue Extension office. She will be teaching us about growing our own plants, right in our home.

These virtual field trips and the like will take place on various days, but please check out our calendar for more information. Here is the link to our calendar. It is located at the bottom of the page: <http://thegatheringauburn.org/ministries>

The link to all these experiences will always be the same:

<https://meet.google.com/tby-yncm-qxr>



Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding— Proverbs 3:13

FINANCIAL FRIDAYS

Finances are an important part of our lives. Being financially secure and responsible, as well as, following biblical principles are an important aspect to our health and well-being. On Fridays, we will host 2 different experiences, one for kids and one for adults.

Beginning April 10th and continuing through the end of May (tentatively) we will host interactive, virtual session to learn tools and how to navigate our community and individual climate in this time of uncertainty.

For the kids, at 11 am, Jennifer Schmidt from 3 Rivers Federal Credit Union will teach the young people sound financial practices and help them to learn, early, how to be wise with their money. Here is the link: <https://meet.google.com/nyf-brip-yn>

For the adults, at 3 pm, Doug Morris, from Thrivent Financial will present information and strategies to navigate this tough financial time. He present on various topic of interest, to a wide age range, so we can meet the needs of the entire community. Here is the link:

<https://meet.google.com/yce-xcex-weg>



THE GATHERING

The Gathering strives to love Everyone and we truly mean, **come as you are.** We all experience joys and challenges. Please allow us to share in your joy and to help carry you through your challenges, no matter what they may be. At one point or another, at least one of us has been where you are.

We were never meant to do life alone. God calls for us to be in relationship, not just with him, but with our community. That is why we, as a church, long to do life—really well—together.

Please join us on this journey of faith, hope, and restoration. Allow us to do life—really well—with you!

ABOUT THE GATHERING

We, as humans, all ultimately seek one thing, that is to belong to something and have a sense of worth that comes with belonging. God chooses each and every one of us. We are all called to ministry in the words of 1 Peter 2:4-5 "As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." This is who we are, ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, offering hope through living as Jesus did and would be doing now. We offer hope through our example of living well and thriving, despite our circumstances and challenges. We love our neighbors as ourselves and join together as a community of believers as found in the example of the early church in the book of Acts.

The Gathering

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To Our Friends:



The Gathering
Experiencing Hope Through Jesus Christ