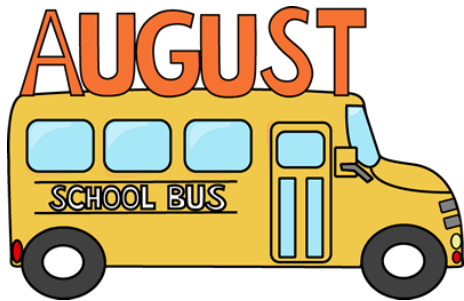




# Grace Notes

Enjoying the Gift of God Together at FCPC!



August 2017

## August Anniversaries

John and Janet Drieling  
August 4

Mike and Barb Moriarty  
August 4

Don and Alice Johnson  
August 6

Rick and Shirley Burmeister  
August 12

Rick and Tracy Baxter  
August 14

Reg and Nancy Boyer  
August 17

Clayton and Kristy Bolen  
August 20



Sutton Nottleman	August 3
Anne Breitzkreutz	August 4
Ward Ruge	August 4
Mike Moriarty	August 11
Sam Nanfito	August 11
Rebecca McMahon	August 12
Gloria Meyer	August 15
Peggy Linton	August 19
Henry Christensen	August 21
Carsen Nelson	August 21
Betty Stephens	August 21
Channa Lewis	August 26
Robin Anderson	August 27
Lona Burmeister	August 27
Alexa Hilgenfeld	August 27
John Orr	August 27
Judy Pane	August 29
Ron Penas	August 30

## PASTOR'S CORNER

There has been one word leading my thoughts and prayers this summer. The word is Re-Form. As change happens in our world and in our lives, the first reaction I find in myself is one of fear. Fear of the unknown, right? What are things going to be like? But this word has been working on me. I am no longer focused on fearful stuff, but on the excited and hopeful things. I was reminded by the Spirit that in our Reformed Tradition we hold to this motto – “A Church Reformed and always reforming.”

In the 16th-century context the impulse it reflected was neither liberal nor conservative, but radical, in the sense of returning to the “root.” The Reformers believed the church had become corrupt, so change was needed. But it was a change in the interest of preservation and restoration of more authentic faith and life—a church reformed and always to be reformed according to the Word of God.

I like this idea of returning to the ‘root’ of being the church for a few reasons:

1. It gets us back to talking about what we need the church to be for our lives. Since the church is people and not a building, it means that we build community. To reform, like to gather again and again; to come together and talk about how we live as followers of Jesus Christ. Henrik Ibsen said, “A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.” We have opportunities to help each other find community, because we are all on this human ship moving down the road of life. There are many ways in which we can reform the church to enjoy community. Leonard Sweet wrote: “The kingdom of God is not a geographic domain with set boundaries and settled decrees, but a set of relationships in which Christ is sovereign. At the table, Jesus moves us from ideas about life and love to actual living and moving.” This is the Reform I am envisioning this body of Christ to move toward. One of enjoying meals, conversations, games, laughter, and tears that build community. It is getting back to the root of Jesus’ ministry – which was at the tables, in the fields, and in homes. How might we build community that will be meaningful to you? What is your life needing? Love to hear about it.
2. Reforming gets us back to removing those things that keep us from being the church. We get so hung up on structure in the church and it can be a hinderance to living out our faith. We acknowledge that the church even at its best is a frail and fallible human institution. We know that we “hold these treasures in earthen vessels.” Edward Dowey, another church historian, has written that reform is the institutional counterpart of repentance. Recognizing how far short we fall from God’s intentions, we continually submit all doctrines and structures to be reformed according to the Word of God and the call of the Spirit. The church is a frail and fallible pilgrim people, a people on the way, not yet what we shall be. The church, because of who we are, remains open to always being reformed. I envision FCPC being more flexible and fluid, because as we come alongside one another we will be freed to meet needs, and build relationships. How this works is by empowering you to be the church! What keeps you in our structure from living

out your faith? I invite for us to get together to talk about how we can free our church from its structure to help others build relationships.

3. It calls us to be committed to each other as we let God reform FCPC. God will get us to the root of what we are to be together. But we will get there as we are committed to each other. To my mind, I sense God wanting us to keep things simple. Our commitment of being the church in Fort Calhoun have to be kept simple, because we are already involved in many ways in our community which stretches us too thin. What I envision is for us to be committed to things we are doing in mission, education, community building and support. As we build community, we will see the value of our church in our life, and so we committed to what it brings us. Why did we begin our faith journey? Because we sensed, heard, felt God calling you to be a disciple. How is your commitment to God? This life is about this relationship with God first and foremost, and the second is how is your commitment to the body of Christ – the church?

I hope you will see how God is getting to the root of your life and faith to help reform your life. I am excited about how this is happening not only in my life but in the life of FCPC.

May these dog days of summer bring to you and yours, some reformation!

**The 2017/2018 Church Elders and Deacons**

**Administration – Jack Dill, Laura Pullen**

**Congregation – Reg Boyer, Fred Schutz**

**Education – Jeff Shaner, Kristy Bolen**

**Membership – Nancy Boyer, Pat Arndt**

**Mission – Michelle Quinlan, Tracy Baxter**

**Worship – Gloria Penas, Marcia Delehoy**

**Deacons – Betty Kucera, Katie Moriarty, Barb Moriarty, Linda Bluedorn, Robin Anderson, Gloria Meyer, Michelle Nelson, Mary Jo Dolinsky, Jamie Bouwman**

**Clerk – Nancy Boyer**

**Treasurer – Ralph Bluedorn**

**Faith Village** is moving to Wednesday's in the fall . . .  
 We are excited to announce that since we will be staying with one service in the fall, **Faith Village** will be moving to Wednesday's. The goal of our Wednesday program will be to provide age appropriate Faith Formation that will inspire us to live out our faith daily!

Watch for more specific information coming in August.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WORSHIP AT THE FORT  
 AUGUST 13, 2017  
 10:00 A.M.  
 FOLLOWED BY A POTLUCK

Fried Chicken and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and a chair.

**WE NEED YOU!**

We are in need of people to run the A/V system during worship on Sunday Mornings. Pastor Miller will train you.

If you are willing and available to help us out with this very important mission, or if you have questions, please contact Teri or Gregg in the church office.

**The Washington County Food Pantry is in need of DIAPERS so for the month of August we will be collecting DIAPERS to help replenish their shelves.**

**All size diapers are needed.**

**Thank You**

**2017 RECYCLING DATES**

**SEPTEMBER 16**  
**DECEMBER 16**

**WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HELP OUT WITH THIS WONDERFUL MISSION**

**Usher/Greeters, Liturgist and A/V Team**

**August 6**

9:30 a.m.

Nancy and Mary Jo - Greeters  
Reg Boyer- Liturgist  
Mike Moriarty – A/V

**August 13**

10:00 a.m.

Worship at the Fort

**August 20**

9:30 a.m.

Gene and Kathy Ohrt - Greeters  
Stu Sprick - Liturgist  
Jill Shields – A/V

**August 27**

9:30 a.m.

Pat Nelson and Marilyn Jones - Greeters  
Paul Oestmann- Liturgist  
Laura Shaner – A/V

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Do you want to understand this thing called the Gospel? If so, please join us this fall for a Bible study as we look at what the Gospel of Matthew wrote about Jesus Christ. Same study just at two different times. If you are interested in this study, please visit the sign up sheet in the Sanctuary.**

**Beginning August 24th  
Thursday Afternoon  
3:30-5:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall**

**Thursday Evening  
6:30-8:00 pm  
Library in the Ed Building**

**(Same study just different times)**

**DO YOU LIKE TO QUILT?  
WANT TO LEARN HOW TO QUILT?  
JOIN THE QUILTING GROUP EVERY  
WEDNESDAY AT 1:00 IN THE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL OF FCPC.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,  
PLEASE CONTACT MARILYN JONES  
402-468-5795**

**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP**

**AUGUST 30, 2017  
5:30 PM**

**We will meet every Wednesday  
for dinner and some wind  
down time.  
EVERYONE in Junior High is  
welcome to join us.**

**Parent's Meeting for Confirmation  
August 23<sup>rd</sup>  
6:30 pm**

**We will talk about the plan for this school year and we will coordinate how to fulfill that plan.**

**Confirmation is open to anyone in Jr. High who wants to explore a relationship with Jesus Christ.**

**Any questions, please contact Pastor Miller  
[pastorgreggfcpc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgreggfcpc@gmail.com)  
402-616-4345**

**Confirmation will begin August 30, 2017**

Thank you so much for your prayers and encouragement while we were on our Adult Mission trip in Santiago, Dominican Republic. We had a wonderful experience and our eyes were certainly opened.

The people we met were amazing and the daily worship services were powerful.

Laura Shaner, Judi Seaver, Jill Shields and Diane Seaver all served in the Appropriate Technology site making and delivering water filtration systems to provide families with safe drinking water. Don and I worked at the agriculture site harvesting avocados, curing bamboo, repairing drip irrigation and cleaning out the pig barn.

We would highly encourage anyone to take any opportunity possible to experience this kind of mission trip in the future.

God is certainly doing incredible things in the Dominican Republic!

Thanks again – Alice Johnson

**Senior High Youth Group**

**Sr. High Youth Group will begin meeting on  
Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.  
At The Miller's**

**We will enjoy dinner and then discuss topics that affect the lives of this group.**

**This will be a time to break away from school stuff and know that God is with you and cares.**

**Sr. High Youth Group is open to anyone in High School.**

## Applying Bible Principles

An oxymoron is the use of two terms which are contradictory in nature.

<sup>3</sup>Jumbo shrimp<sup>2</sup> is an oxymoron. <sup>3</sup>Ferocious lamb<sup>2</sup> is another. <sup>3</sup>Dumb scholar<sup>2</sup> is yet another.

One of the saddest and most contradictory is the oxymoron, <sup>3</sup>Stingy Christian.<sup>2</sup> Because we have been redeemed through our faith in Christ, Christians should be the most generous of all people. We have been abundantly blessed of God, who has given us all things richly to enjoy (Rom. 8:32).

James 1:17 expresses this truth clearly: <sup>3</sup>Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.<sup>2</sup>

Think about some of God's good gifts:

God gives the seed (Gen. 1:11).

God gives the rain (Job 5:10).

God gives health (Jer. 30:17).

God gives life (Acts 17:25).

God gives strength (Isa. 40:29).

God gives riches (1 Chron. 29:12).

God gives grace (2 Cor. 12:9).

God gives eternal life (Rom. 6:23).

And God gives us money and the ability to get wealth. Solomon said that money is one of God's gifts to people. The purpose for which He gives us money is stated clearly in Ecclesiastes 5:19 < for our enjoyment.

Some of us make that the primary reason for money. We major in pleasure and the things money can do for us. But there is another major purpose God gives us money, something that also can bring great pleasure: To give it back to Him.

That's why of all the oxymorons in existence, <sup>3</sup>Stingy Christian<sup>2</sup> is the most contradictory. We who have been given the most from God should be the most generous people in the world.

As the tombstone in an old cemetery read, <sup>3</sup>What I spent, I had; what I saved, I lost; what I gave, I have.<sup>2</sup>

# AUGUST 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 7:30 pm Session Meeting	10	11	12
13 10:00 am Worship at the Fort/Potluck	14	15	16 6:30 pm Deacon's Meeting 7:30 pm Lifegroup	17	18	19
20 6:00 pm Sr. High Youth Group	21 9:00 am Preschool Starts	22 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl	23 6:30 pm Parent's Confirmation Meeting 7:30 pm Lifegroup	24 3:30 pm Bible Study	25	26
27	28	29	30 5:30 pm Jr. High YG 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Lifegroup	31		



