



Grace Notes

Enjoying the Gift of God Together at FCPC!

MAY 2019



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Marilyn and Davey Jensen
May 5

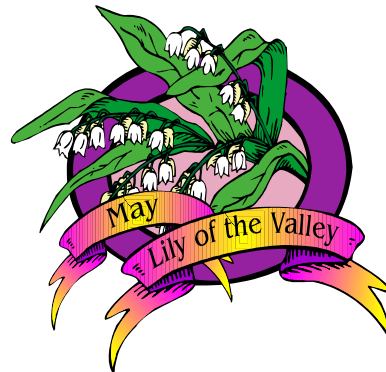
Josh and Ronee Christensen
May 11

Ward and Melissa Ruge
May 18

Larry and Laura Krajicek
May 31

May Birthdays

Clint Lewis	May 5
Jim Meyer	May 5
Owen Miller	May 5
Max Steinhausen	May 12
Chris Mlynarik	May 17
Dawn Bradburn	May 18
Bradyn Hilgenfeld	May 18
Stu Sprick	May 18
Ella Bouwman	May 19
Joanne Slader	May 24
Ronee Christensen	May 25
Pat Nelson	May 31



PASTOR'S CORNER



A few weeks ago, an online post from a major ministry struck a nerve when it stated the necessity of church attendance for your growth as a believer in Christ.

It perplexes me how many Christians struggle with the idea of church attendance. We are at a crossroads in our nation on the importance of going to church. I know that the institution of Church has caused some of the problems with participation, but overall, I see it as people want a comfortable faith, instead of a Biblical one.

Of course, this isn't a new problem. Since the beginning of Christianity, the early leaders had to challenge this mindset, saying, "Do not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

A popular Christian social media catch-phrase is, "You don't go to church, you are the church." While I get the sentiment in some ways, this is an unhealthy view, pitting "being the church" and "going to church" against each other. If we are truly "the church," then we will surely get together with other believers regularly. We cannot "be" the church, if we don't "go" to church. Not fully anyways.

The "church" never connotes a single, individual, lone ranger Christian just going about his/her Christian duties and never gathering together to worship with other believers. The "church" by its very nature means multiple believers: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" (Matthew 18:20).

This is both the biblical and historical pattern set forth for us by the first followers of Jesus. They would get together weekly to worship God together, and at times even daily. They would also share community together in each other's homes. Paul and the other Apostle's letters were actually sent to these church communities that gathered in various cities to be read aloud together. Church means getting together with other believers to worship Jesus Christ, and hear the Scriptures together, and encourage one another in the faith.

The biblical pattern for church is this:

- Every Christian should gather together to hear the Scriptures and worship Jesus together with other believers weekly (see Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Acts 2:42; Colossians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15; Romans 16:5; Acts 20:20; James 2:2; Psalm 84:4; Psalm 37:17; Psalm 92:13).
- It is also good to meet for smaller groups of Christian community in each other's homes regularly (see Acts 2:46).
- It's good to have leaders overseeing the work and needs of each local church—this is the biblical pattern—not all of us are called to church leadership, and so we should submit to and serve whoever God has called to lead at the place we find ourselves (see Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Philippians 1:1b; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Peter 5:1-2; Acts 20:17).
- If there are believers who are unable for physical reasons to attend a church weekly, they should find a church or believers who will gather together with them regularly for worship in their own home (see James 5:14; James 1:27).

Here are four powerful reasons why you should attend church weekly, and why church attendance can change your life:

1. God Said So - God tells us in His Word to "not give up meeting together" (Hebrews 10:25). The Bible even goes so far as to call the church the "Bride of Christ." If you love Jesus, you will love the things that He loves, and there is no one a good man loves more than His bride. The church is this important to God, so it should be ever-important to us. God didn't call us to gather and worship to burden us, but to bless us. Church attendance can become one of the greatest blessings in you and your family's life!

2. Worshipping Jesus Together Is Powerful - Jesus lives inside of us by His Spirit when we believe in Him—this is a profoundly incredible truth! But there is also something biblically powerful about gathering together with other believers to worship. Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there

am I among them" (Matthew 18:20). So, He not only lives in us by His Spirit, but He is in the "midst" of us when we gather to worship Him.

3. We Need Christian Community

All of us long for community and connection with others. God has given us this gift in gathering together for church, and in smaller groups in each other's homes. It fulfills something inside of us to do life with others, encourage each other and be authentically involved in each other's lives. Christian TV, podcasts, books and conferences are wonderful additions to our spiritual lives, but nothing can take the place of consistent Christian community through the local church.

4. We Grow More Together Than Alone

It can be messy when we step into each other's lives. We are all human, and no one is perfect. So, it requires effort and intentionality and grace from God to do life together, even as believers. Gathering regularly with other believers becomes a refining process whereby we help each other, pray for each other and encourage each other to want to follow Christ more wholeheartedly. It is a truly beautiful thing.

Don't let excuses stand in the way of what you know God is calling you to do. God will strengthen you and empower you to do what He has called you to do. I am praying for you—if you have encountered past wounds from leaders or from church members—that God will bring healing and grace to you, as you seek to follow Him, and love His Church. This is such an important matter because if believers continue to view worship as an option in their spiritual journey, then we will have serious consequences just around the corner. I write this as the summer attendance low happens, and I wanted to have us all think about our commitment to the pattern of our faith journey. Being a "Chreaster" just isn't being a Christian according to the Bible.

Thoughts? Love to have a conversation on this.

In Christ, Gregg Gregg

**NEXT SESSION MEETING
MAY 14, 2019
6:30 PM**

**NEXT DEACON MEETING
MAY 19, 2019
11:00 AM**

Please check our website for all of the current information for MAY
It is updated weekly, so stay up to date on all we are doing in the Kingdom of God.
www.fcpchurch.com

SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 2, 2019
WORSHIP AT THE FORT
10:30 AM

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2019 GRADUATES:

AARON JOHNSON
COURTNEY BAXTER
MOLLY PENAS
NATHAN PREMER
TRENTON BOUWMAN
ZOE FICKBOHM
We will celebrate these graduates on Sunday, May 19th



Did You Know?

Did you know that the Sermon is live every week on Face Book Live? Just go to the Church's Face Book page and enjoy the message.

THE WASHINGTON
COUNTY FOOD PANTRY
IS NEED OF:
JAM AND JELLY

MEN'S MINISTRY
MAY 3, 2019
MEN'S BREAKFAST
7:00 AM
RUSTIC

Men's Ministry Evening Gathering
May 21 @ 6:30 p.m.

Thought about going somewhere but I feel like we are always going somewhere, why not stay in our town and truly slow down long enough to find some peace.

So, this month we will be getting into who we are as a man of God. We will enjoy a dessert, while we engage in a fun way to look at ourselves while getting to know each other.

If you would like to be added to our phone tree, please let Gregg know at 402-616-4345.

CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS 2019

Confirmation Sunday is May 5th

Alexa Geiger

Grace Genoways

Tilden Nottleman

Avery Quinlan

Olivia Quinlan

Mason Touring

Confirmation

2019 RECYCLING DATES

JUNE 15, 2019
SEPTEMBER 14, 2019
DECEMBER 21, 2019

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS
AND PLAN TO HELP AT THIS
IMPORTANT MISSION.




IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY

MEN'S BREAKFAST	MAY 3 RD
CONFIRMATION SUNDAY	MAY 5 TH
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION	MAY 11 TH
MOTHER'S DAY	MAY 12 th
SESSION MEETING	MAY 14 TH
BEGINNERS GARTEN GRADUATION	MAY 16 TH
CHURCH GRADUATION PARTY	MAY 19 TH
DEACON MEETING	MAY 19 TH
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	MAY 21 ST
MEN'S MINISTRY MEETING	MAY 21 ST
MEMORIAL DAY	MAY 27 TH

CHURCH LAWN CARE SCHEDULE

SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND SO HAS THE GRASS!
PLEASE VISIT THE SIGN-UP SHEET TO HELP KEEP THE
GRASS MOWED AROUND THE CHURCH AND THE
EDUCATION BUILDING

MAY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1</p> <p>9:00 Low Impact Aerobics Last Night of Faith Village 7:30 Lifegroup</p>	<p>2</p> <p>3:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 Low Impact Aerobics</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:30 Worship Confirmation Sunday</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 Low Impact Aerobics</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 Low Impact Aerobics 7:30 Lifegroup</p>	<p>9</p> <p>3:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 Low Impact Aerobics</p>	<p>11</p> <p>High School Graduation</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:30 Worship MOTHER'S DAY!</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 Low Impact Aerobics</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 pm Session Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 Low Impact Aerobics 7:30 Lifegroup</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:00 pm Fort Calhoun Women's Club Mtg 6:30 pm Beginnergarten Graduation</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 Low Impact Aerobics</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:30 Worship Church Graduation Party 11:00 Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 Low Impact Aerobics</p>	<p>21</p> <p>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! 6:30 Men's Ministry</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 Low Impact Aerobics 7:30 Lifegroup</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Teri on Vacation</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 Low Impact Aerobics</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:30 Worship</p>	<p>27</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 Prayer Shawl</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 Low Impact Aerobics</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:00 Low Impact Aerobics</p>	

