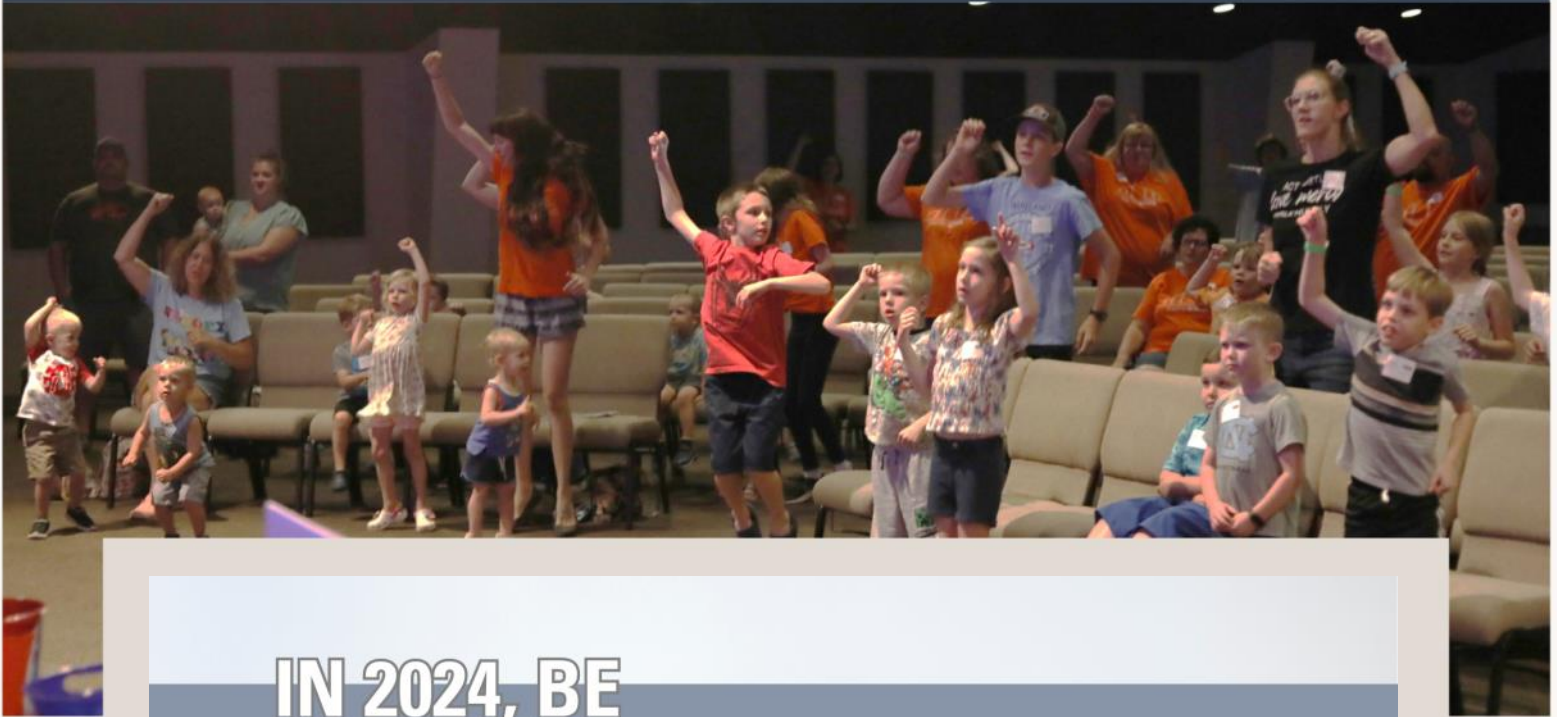


FEBRUARY

FAITH FOCUS

FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

2024



IN 2024, BE
MOVED TO ...



Join us each week for our 10:15am Gathering
as we delve into this study and add more words
to the boxes through the year.

Love is in The Air

From the Desk of Tony L.

On February 14, 268 (according to tradition), a priest named Valentine was martyred and buried on the Via Flaminia, an ancient Roman road. On February 14, 2024, we will celebrate the event by exchanging candy in heart-shaped boxes and eating fancy food with people we fancy. Wait, what?

Somewhere between Valentine's death and our flood of red and pink hoopla, a long, strange transformation has occurred. We all know the drill. Come the middle of February, hopeful romantics will invite prospective sweethearts to be their "Valentine." What a strange way to use the name of a long-dead martyr!

This kind of change isn't unique to how we remember St. Valentine. The way we celebrate traditions and remember our history always changes as we pass it down from generation to generation. Our focus shifts as we remember events from year to year.

The people of Israel faced a situation like this in Jesus' day. In their zeal to rank the commandments and enforce them accordingly, they had lost focus on what was truly important in the law. Jesus took the opportunity to re-focus their attention when some religious leaders asked him a question.

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:36-40)

Jesus put a spotlight on the big picture of what God wanted from His people – love God and love your neighbor. In two short statements, he diagnosed centuries of striving and not fulfilling the law and the messages of the prophets. Without love, you can try to act out every ritual and command, but you will always miss the mark.

This wasn't a new idea. Jesus' answer to the religious leaders seamlessly brought together two commands that had been there from the beginning, one from Deuteronomy 6.5 (love God), and one from Leviticus 19.18 (love your neighbor). He wasn't re-writing the law; he was revealing what the Father had intended from the beginning.

As we think about love and how to spoil our sweethearts this month (a great idea, by the way!), I hope it also encourages us to think about the deep love of the Father. He gives us that love and wants us to give it to each other. It's so important that he baked it into the very foundation of his covenant with his people. It's a command from the very beginning and one that should resound in our hearts and minds.

John sums it all up like this, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." (1 John 4.7).

Happy Valentine's Day!

Ladies 5 Week Encouragment


The Heart of a Wife

Habits that Honor and Bless Your Marriage

5 Sessions
Feb 7-March 6

We will meet at
River Bottom Roasters

RSVP on the FCF App or
Use the QR Code




Happy Valentine's Day
We love because He first loved us!
1 John 4:19



2023 Giving Statements
for those who give
by envelope are
available in the foyer.



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MEN'S BREAKFAST
& FRIENDLY PICKLEBALL
TOURNAMENT

13 APRIL 2024
8:30 AM
AT FCF




Save the date!




Annual Investor Training

February 10 9-11am

Register to attend on the Church Center app

 church center

Scan the QR code to get started and connect with the life of your church.

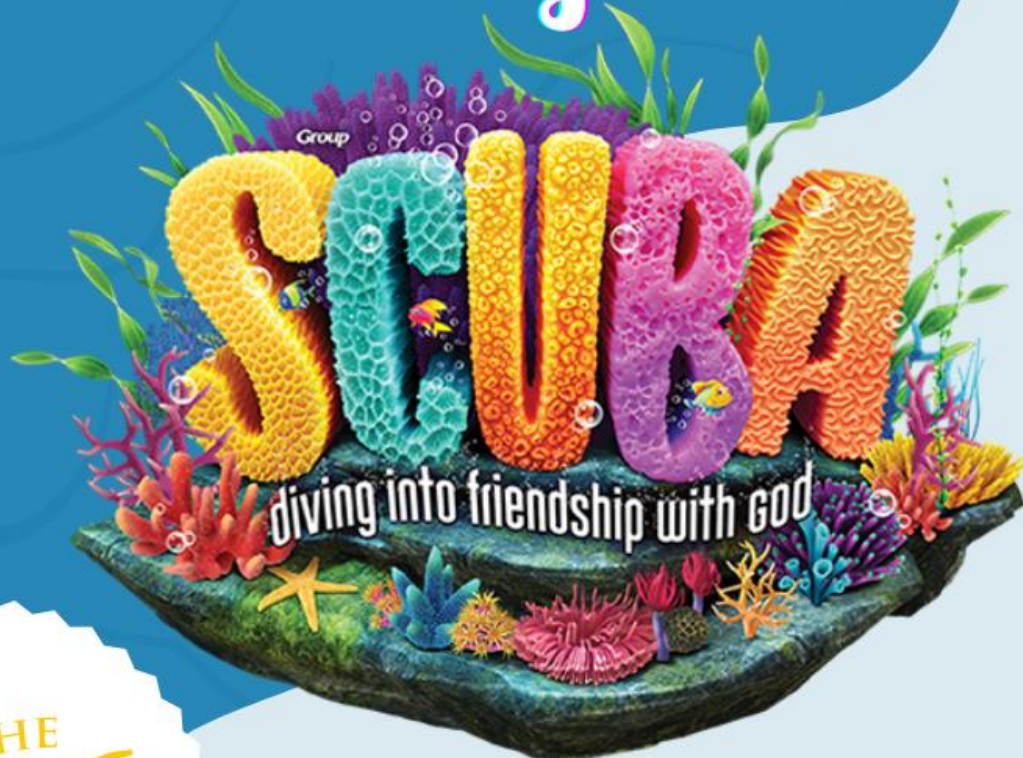



WINTER EDUCATION GROUP

Sundays at 9am
January 7-March 10

EXPLORE
questions you
might have
about FCF

VBS at Byron Park



SAVE THE
date

VBS June 24-26, 6-8pm
Family Night June 27

This year, we are moving FCF's VBS to Byron Park!

Please be praying about how God can use YOU as a VBS Investor in this outreach to share God's love to the Williamsport Community! More information will be coming!

Mark June 9th on your calendar as well for the VBS Training to prepare you for your role. The training will be held after 10:15am Gathering.



Fellowship, Prayer Time, and Bible Study for the 55+

Why You Need Biblical Community

*For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers. -
Proverbs 11:14*

A severe rash prompted a man from a rural area to come to town to be examined by a local doctor. After the usual history-taking followed by a series of tests, the physician advised the patient that he would have to get rid of the dog that was evidently causing the allergic reaction. As the man was preparing to leave the office, the doctor asked him out of curiosity if he planned to sell the animal or give it away.

"Neither one," the patient replied. "I'm going to get me a second opinion. It's a lot easier to find a doctor than a good bird dog!"

It happens all the time, doesn't it? People go around asking person after person for advice until they hear the opinion that matches theirs. But the reality is that we are the worst judges of our own actions because our opinions of ourselves will always be more favorable than reality.

That's why throughout Scripture you'll find verses like today's that stress the need to surround yourself with a biblical community who will encourage you with the truth even when you may not want to hear it!

The Christian life was never meant to be lived alone. There are no "Lone Rangers" of the Christian faith. So if you don't have a community of others who know you and will help you grow in Christ, join a church Bible study or form a small group that meets weekly. The best kind of spiritual growth you'll ever experience will come when you have others who'll give you the "second opinion" you really need!

Prayer Challenge:

Pray and ask God to give you a community of believers who will help you grow in your walk with Christ by encouraging you and giving you the "second opinions" you need.

We began January with a wonderful luncheon together on January 3. Thank you to all who helped make this a great time of fun, fellowship, and of course, food! Our February potluck will be on Feb. 15. We will welcome Kristie Kidd, an Oasis Care Senior Advisor. She will be sharing valuable information following the meal.

We are still in the midst of winter and as we've seen already, it can change greatly from day to day. Please watch your email and texts for important announcements regarding weather-related closings for Wednesdays and Sundays. We also encourage you to use your best judgement on deciding to attend in person or online. Wednesday Zoom login information is sent out on Tuesdays via email.

We're looking forward to praying for one another and learning more from God's Word each week.



Support the Switchback 2024 Mission Trip



100 ENVELOPE CAMPAIGN

Feb 18-March 10

The 100 Envelope Campaign is an opportunity for you to provide financial support for the members of Switchback Student Ministry who will be going to Knoxville, Tennessee, July 21-27.

How it works:

- Pick up an envelope from the box in the foyer
- Remove the letter inside the envelope (keep this as a reminder to pray)
- Place the amount stated on the outside of the envelope in the envelope
- Drop the envelope in the designate box in the foyer by March 10
- Pray! We not only appreciate your financial support, but your prayers as well!



SPECIAL NOTE

There are no 9am
Education Groups on
Sunday, February 18

This includes

- Adults
- Switchback and
- Faith Kids

10:15am Faith Kids
will meet as usual.

FCF SUPPORTED MINISTRIES

- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Fathers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry
- Ted Simon
- Hagerstown Area Pregnancy Center
- Guillermo/Costa Rica
- Jadder/Nicaragua
- Managua Feeding Center
- Luc St Felix/Haiti
- Eric and Jalyn Ickes/Philippines
- Child Evangelism Fellowship
- Fathers in the Field
- Bella Kauffman/ Camp Joy El
- Hearts Across Borders
- ACIBEN Bible Institute
- Hope Center
- Hope Center Tuesday Meals



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Please return baby bottles to the crate in the foyer by February 18. Thank you for your support of the Hagerstown Area Pregnancy Center!



Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? Isaiah's response was, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

2024 Global Impact Trips

Location	Dates	Total Cost	1st Deposit	2nd Deposit	3rd Deposit
Nicaragua ACIBEN Pastoral Training	Feb 16-23	\$1500	Total Due ASAP		
Nicaragua ACIBEN Pastoral Training	May 17-24	\$1500	\$500 March 1	\$500 April 1	\$500 May 1
Costa Rica VBS/ Construction	June 28-July 5	\$1500	\$500 April 1	\$500 May 1	\$500 June 1
Nicaragua Medica Mission	Aug 16-23	\$1500	\$500 June 1	\$500 July 1	\$500 Aug 1
Philippines Discovery Team	Sept 26-Oct 5	See David Glaze for more information			
Ecuador Evangelism	Oct 24-Nov 1	\$1800	\$600 Aug 1	\$600 Sept 1	\$600 Oct 1
Nicaragua ACIBEN Pastoral Training/ Drug Rehab Center	Nov 15-22	\$1500	\$500 Sept 1	\$500 Oct 1	\$500 Nov 1

Trip costs do not include out-of-pocket expenses such as airport meals on travel days, souvenirs, passport, and immunizations. The trip amount includes round trip airfare, seven nights' accommodations, transportation while in-country, and meals. Contact Pastor David Glaze (missions@explorefcf.com) for more information or to sign up for a trip. There will be Global Impact Team Building Meetings announced for each trip. If you plan to go on a trip, you are asked to attend the team building meetings.

February 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2	3
4	5	6 Meal & Service at the Mission 7pm Prayer Gathering	7 10am Young at Heart 6pm Switchback 6:30pm Faith Kid MidWeek 6:30 Ladies Encouragement @ River Bottom Roasters	8	9	10
11	12	13 7pm Prayer Gathering 6:30 Ladies Encouragement @ River Bottom Roasters	14 10am Young at Heart 6pm Switchback 6:30pm Faith Kid MidWeek	15	16 Switchback Winter Retreat	17 Switchback Winter Retreat
18 Switchback Winter Retreat No 9am Education Classes HAPC Baby Bottles Due Back Communion 100 Envelope Campaign Begins	19	20 7pm Prayer Gathering	21 10am Young at Heart/Potluck 6pm Switchback 6:30pm Faith Kid MidWeek 6:30 Ladies Encouragement @ River Bottom Roasters	22	23	24
25	26	27 7pm Prayer Gathering	28 10am Young at Heart 6pm Switchback 6:30pm Faith Kid MidWeek 6:30 Ladies Encouragement @ River	29		