



Faith Focus

**Faith Christian Fellowship
November 2022**

Across My Fence....

From Erin Croteau

I don't actually have a fence at my house, but I do feel like I've created one in some ways. Fences keep people out or they can keep people in. I had to stop and think. Have I been trying to keep people out of my space? Have I been trying to keep myself in and protected? Guilty and guilty! Now I mentioned to you a few Sundays ago that I am an introvert. But is being an introvert an excuse for an attitude that favors being inhospitable? If my life, if our lives, are supposed to model Jesus; is this an appropriate attitude?

In Luke 9, Jesus sends the disciples out with the power and authority to drive out all demons, to cure diseases, to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick; yet, they had no staff, no bread, no money, and no extra clothes. Jesus gave them power to do miraculous things but left out the very things that would give them earthly comfort. Yes, it was a lesson for them to trust God to meet their needs, but it was also an invitation for others to extend hospitality to the disciples. In the next few verses, the disciples return and reported what they had done. They withdrew to be alone, but a crowd followed them. No doubt the disciples were tired and the last thing they wanted was to handle a crowd of people.

I don't know if you've noticed but people bring noise and sometimes other annoying things. My natural inclination is to not welcome that into my space but that's exactly what Jesus did. Verse 11 tells us that, "He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God and healed those who needed healing." With Jesus as our example, we should welcome people into our space and minister to their needs. When the people became hungry, the disciples wanted to send the crowd away to get food and lodging for the night. Jesus said, "You give them something to eat."

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Continued from page 1

I can only imagine their faces when Jesus said this to them. They might have been thinking, “We’re tired, we’re hungry, we’ve been traveling, and you want us to feed all these people? We don’t have anything to feed them anyway!” But what did Jesus do? He provided. That’s what he does, he provides to accomplish his good.

Oftentimes when I write, I write about the things I need to learn. That’s exactly what I’m writing to you today. To answer my question earlier, no, it’s not an appropriate attitude to be inhospitable. When I want to make myself a priority, I need to make Jesus my priority. When I want to build a fence to keep others out, I need to invite people into my space. God will provide me with the right attitude and right words if I make his purpose my priority. We’re embarking on a campaign to know our neighbors, to build relationships with them, and have life-giving conversations—conversations about Jesus! Day by day maturity in Christ will come as we put the Lord first in our lives. In everything Jesus did he was the embodiment of hospitality. Jesus tore down the fences that others had built. Maybe they did their best to keep others out and to protect themselves, but he invited people in to know him and be ministered to by him. Will you take down your fences with me? Will you allow people in and minister to them so they will come to know Jesus or grow to love him more?



Thank you to our FCF family
for your gifts, notes and
prayers shared during
Pastor Appreciation Month.
We are honored and blessed
to be part of the
Faith Christian Fellowship
Family and look forward to
what God is doing at FCF.
The Pastoral Staff of FCF



★ ★ ★ HAPPY ★ ★ ★
VETERANS DAY

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO
HAVE SERVED TO PROTECT
OUR COUNTRY!

**SWITCHBACK
PROGRESSIVE
DINNERS**

JR HIGH - DEC 2

SR HIGH - DEC 10

RSVP ON THE FCF APP

**PACK A SHOEBOX
WITH US!**

Boxes and flyers to help with info to help with
packing and shipping are available in the foyer at FCF
Please return boxes to FCF by November 13th to
allow time to get them to the shipping facility.



JOY

Christmas Caroling & Cookies

December 14 6pm

*Everyone is invited to join
in the fun!!*

More info will be coming!

*RSVP will be open by
November 14*

DECEMBER 18

FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
FCF ANNUAL MEETING

FOLLOWING SERVICE

www.explorefcf.com

FCF Membership

Contact the FCF Office if
you would like to know
more about becoming a
member of FCF.

FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

WWW.EXPLOREFCF.COM



FAITH KIDS - SING WITH US!

Who: Children ages 3-5th grade

What: Christmas Singing!

When: December 4th 10:15 am @ FCF

Practicing: Sundays in 10:45 Faith Kids & at home, in the car or wherever you are!

Practice every week through Nov. 27.

You must attend dress rehearsal on December 3rd to participate the following morning



Ladies Cookie Exchange

Thursday, November 3

7pm at the Lehman's house

RSVP in the foyer at FCF or on the FCF APP



Across the Fence Picnic

Saturday, Nov 12
2pm

RSVP in the foyer at FCF
or on the FCF APP

REMINDER



CLOCKS
FALL
BACK

6TH
NOV
2022



PRAYER GATHERING

Tuesdays at 7pm
in the Gathering Room

All are invited to join together in prayer.



FELLOWSHIP, PRAYER TIME, AND BIBLE STUDY FOR THE 55+

What is the Foundation of Your Life?

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.” - Matthew 7:24-25

On November 25, 1895, a cornerstone of ice was laid in Leadville, Colorado—the beginning of the largest ice palace ever built in America. In an effort to bolster the town’s sagging economy, the citizens staged a winter carnival. On New Year’s Day of 1896, the town turned out for the grand opening.

The immense palace measured 450 x 320 feet. The towers that flanked the entrance were 90 feet high. Inside was a 16,000-square-foot skating rink. But by the end of March, the palace was melting away, along with the hopes of Leadville. You see, the tens of thousands of visitors who were anticipated to come did not, and those who did come spent very little, leaving the town’s economy in shambles.

Many Christians today also build their own “ice palaces” that eventually melt away. Perhaps they’ve trusted in money for their security. Maybe they’ve become codependent with another person to the point where they trust in them for everything. Or, it’s possible they’ve allowed their possessions—their home, their car, or their “toys”—to become their idols.

Each of these things will melt away when summer comes. Money won’t last forever; people will let you down; and your possessions won’t follow you to heaven! So instead of building castles of ice, build your life on the rock of Jesus Christ so that when summer comes, you’ll be standing strong!

Prayer Challenge

Ask God to reveal to you things you’ve built your life on that have no eternal significance.

Questions for Thought

What are some “ice palaces” that many people build their lives on today that eventually melt away?

How can you be diligent to keep your life founded on the rock of Jesus Christ instead of temporary things?



We look forward to meeting together on Wednesdays at 10am for Bible Study and our third Wednesday Potlucks. The November potluck will be November 16 and our Bible Study will be a Q & A with Pastor Gordon. Mark your calendars for Dec 7 when we will be filling Blessing Bags following our Bible Study and Jan 4, our New Year’s Pot Luck.

Please take a few extra minutes to assure your vehicle is ready for winter, put an extra blanket in your car, dig out the ice scraper and keep it handy, and watch out for slippery wet leaves.

Please reach out to your FCF family if you need anything.

NOVEMBER GLOBAL IMPACT MINISTRY PARTNERS:

ERIC & JAYLN ICKES



Eric and Jayln Ickes plan to serve on staff at the Word of Life Bible Institute in the Philippines. Eric will serve as the Academic Dean, which will include administrative, teaching, discipleship and hospitality responsibilities. Jayln will be able to fulfill her ministry passions in hospitality to staff, students and visiting instructors, and in the discipleship

of female students and staff. They are excited to be able to help train and prepare the next generation of ministers, missionaries and church members, not only from the Philippines, but also from neighboring countries in the Pacific Rim. As God wills, their prayer is that God will call many of the graduates to take the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the neighboring countries in Southeast Asia, where spiritual darkness is so prevalent.

Eric and Jayln met in Bible College have been married since 1992. They have three adult children and two sons-in-law and a beautiful granddaughter. Eric is the son of Marvin and Susie Ickes who have faithfully served at FCF since the church began meeting in 1993.

Prayer Requests:

- . 100% financial support
- . Their transition to life in the Philippines when they are able to move.
- . Open minds and hearts of the people they come in contact with while ministering.

Christmas at FCF

JOY

The word "JOY" is written in a large, dark green, serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a circular silhouette of a nativity scene, showing Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus in a manger.

November and December are very busy months with gatherings, events, parties, school concerts, and much more. It is very easy to lose sight of the reason we are celebrating. To try to help reduce some of the holiday stress, the ministries of FCF have met, brainstormed, and planned events that will focus on Christ, provide fellowship, and share God's promise and love with others. Page 9 gives a list of dates and activities that will be taking place at FCF throughout November and December. More information about these events can be found in this and next month's newsletter, the bulletin, explorefcf.com, in the foyer at FCF, and RSVPs can be done through the FCF APP or in the foyer at FCF.

Please take special note of page 8 which has an important information about our Advent Christmas Gathering Schedule.

The Holidays are also a wonderful time to continue our "Across the Fence" campaign. Invite your neighbors to some of our events and gatherings. Another idea is to take a small gift to your neighbors. Something as simple as a roll of wrapping paper and tape with a note saying "May You Be Wrapped Up in the Christmas Season!" Be creative! Spread God's love around your neighborhood, to the cashier, teachers, etc. And remember, a smile goes a long way!

Our Christmas Gathering Service will be December 4, which is also the first day of Advent. The auditorium will be set up for the banquet that will be held at 4pm. It will be a wonderful launch to the Christmas celebrations.

And . . .several have asked in the past and this year we are going to do it! CHRISTMAS CAROLING! December 14 at 6pm. Everyone is invited to join us as we lift our voices in song. Planning is taking place and we will be sharing more details of where we will be singing! We'll meet back at FCF for cookies and hot chocolate!

We'll have a tree again at the Springfield Barn. Take a picture with the tree and send it to admin@explorefcf.com and we'll post it on the FCF Facebook page! And you'll be entered into a drawing for a Faith Café gift certificate!

We're looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you this year!




JOY





CHRISTMAS WORSHIP GATHERINGS

DEC 4-JAN 1



WILL BE HELD AT 10:15AM



9:15 & 10:45 Services will be
combined into one service
for these 5 Sundays.
Faith Kids for Nursery - 5th grade
will be available.



CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH US AT FCF

More information about these events will be shared in the FCF Bulletin, Faith Focus Newsletter, FCF's Facebook Page, and EXPLOREFCF.com

- Nov 3 Ladies Cookie Exchange at 6:30pm*
- Nov 5 Switchback Soup Slop Soda Swap at 6pm*
- Nov 12 "Over the Fence" Picnic at 2pm*
- Nov 20 Last Day of Fall Education Classes
- Nov 23 No Young at Heart, Switchback or Kidzlife
- Nov 24 Happy Thanksgiving!
- Dec 2 Switchback Jr High Progressive Dinner*
- Dec 3 Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal at 9:30am
- Dec 4 FCF Christmas Gathering at 10:15am
- Dec 4 FCF Christmas Banquet at 4pm*
- Dec 10 Switchback Sr High Progressive Dinner*
- Dec 11 Worship Gathering at 10:15am
- Dec 14 Christmas Caroling & Cookies at 6pm*
- Dec 18 Worship Gathering at 10:15am
- Dec 18 FCF Annual Meeting
- Dec 21 No Switchback or Kidzlife
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Gathering at 6pm
- Dec 25 Merry Christmas! Worship Gathering at 10:15am
- Dec 26-30 FCF Office Closed
- Dec 27 No Prayer Gathering
- Dec 28 No Young at Heart, SB or Kidzlife
- Jan 1 10:15am Worship Gathering
- Jan 4 Young at Heart New Year's Potluck
- Jan 4 No Switchback or Kidzlife
- Jan 8 Winter Education Session Begins

*RSVP's will be open at least one month prior to the event

November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 6:30pm Grief-Share 7pm Prayer Gathering 7pm Meal & Service at the Mission	<i>2</i> 10am Young at Heart 6pm Switchback 6:30pm Kidzlife	<i>3</i> 6:30pm Ladies Cookie Exchange at the Lehmans	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 6pm SB Soup, Slop & Soda Swap (RSVP) Turn your clocks back!
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 6:30pm Grief-Share 7pm Prayer Gathering	<i>9</i> 10am Young at Heart 6pm Switchback 6:30pm Kidzlife	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 2pm Over the Fence Picnic
<i>13</i> Communion	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 6:30pm Grief-Share 7pm Prayer Gathering	<i>16</i> 10am Young at Heart/Potluck 6pm Switchback 6:30pm Kidzlife	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i> Last day of Fall 9:15AM Education Classes for Adults, SB, & Faith Kids	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 6:30pm Grief-Share 7pm Prayer Gathering	<i>23</i> 10am Young at Heart No Switchback NoKidzlife	<i>24</i> Happy Thanksgiving	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> Bring down Christmas decorations from the attic following the 10:15am Service	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 6:30pm Grief-Share 7pm Prayer Gathering	<i>30</i>			