



FAITH

focus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
MARCH 2023

AUTHORITY

From Erin Croteau

Authority...what does that mean to you? The teens took some time to discuss this at our winter retreat in mid-February. For some, the word "authority" brings about some harsh thoughts. We might resent someone who has authority over us, we might distrust someone in authority over us and maybe for some, having authority over them brings a sense of security. All of these are valid thoughts. We might have experienced something unfair from a boss that made you resent authority, maybe there was a bad relationship with a parent that made you fear authority, or possibly you had a wonderful teacher that made you respect authority. Most likely, you've had a combination of situations in your life that have given you different views of authority and the people in those roles of authority. People are not perfect and any authority we have is marred by sin. Is there a perfect mom or dad to be found on this earth? No! Is there a perfect boss to be found? No! Is there a perfect teacher, politician, police officer, (you fill in the blank here)? Of course not! Thankfully we have a God who has ALL authority, and he exercises that authority perfectly in his perfect love.

Romans 13:1 says, "there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." God has all authority and, in his love, he gives us boundaries. I remember a sermon from Pastor Gordon where he talked about God giving us boundary lines in pleasant places. Psalm 16:6 says, "The lines of my boundary have fallen in pleasant places; surely my inheritance is delightful." Pastor Gordon shared an image of a lush pastureland where sheep roam in safety. There are fences keeping the sheep from going where they shouldn't. The boundaries keep the sheep safe from predators and ensure they are in a place where they can eat what they need and have water when they need it. When we get prideful and think we don't need boundaries or we don't need the shepherd, we end up in a place we don't belong. The authority of the shepherd and boundaries created by him are good for his sheep.

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Remember the Prodigal Son? He wanted to do his own thing. He left the authority of his father, gathered up his inheritance, and went off to do what he thought was best. Have you ever heard the phrase “you do you?” Yeah, this guy did just that. He did what he wanted to (“you do you”) and he ended up in the pig pen. I don’t know about you, but that’s not a pleasant place to be in. The Prodigal Son left his pleasant place and sought something he thought would be better out from under the authority of his father. It didn’t go well. The same is true of us—when we leave the authority of our loving heavenly Father, we end up in a pig pen!

Hopefully you are in some places in life where those in authority care for you and love the Lord, but this might not always be true. As we submit to God, he will teach us to submit appropriately to the earthly authority he has put in place. Recognizing authority is important for us. God put the authority in place which means he has a plan. The Lord is your Shepherd—he is good and he has laid the boundaries in pleasant places for you. Stay rooted in your heavenly Father, mind the boundaries he’s put in place for you; but if you haven’t, remember just like the Prodigal Son, you can always come home.



Our annual “About Us” will be Friday, March 10! This is a time of fellowship as well as an opportunity to hear more about FCF.

Dinner and childcare is provided.

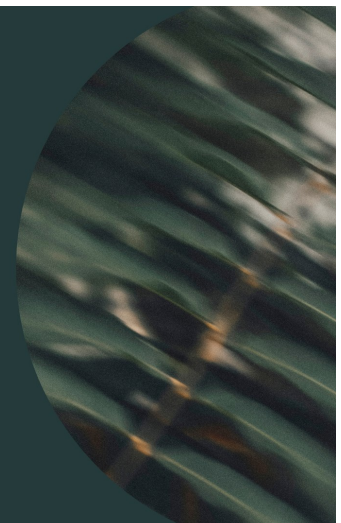
RSVP by March 6 through the FCF App, in the foyer at FCF, or you can call the FCF Office at 301-223-4803.



If you are interested in being baptized or becoming a member of FCF, please contact the FCF Office by March 8.

BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP MARCH 10

CONTACT THE FCF OFFICE
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
BE BAPTIZED OR BECOME A
MEMBER OF FCF.





Men, you are invited to join us for our third annual men's breakfast followed by clay shooting.

We'll start at FCF for a delicious breakfast, fellowship, and devotion. Those who choose to will travel to the Carbaugh family farm for clay shooting.

Please RSVP on the FCF App or in the foyer at FCF.



Don't be late for church on March 12! "Spring" your clocks forward on March 12!

The 9:15am Education Classes will NOT meet on March 12. This includes Faith Kids, Switchback, and Adult Classes. The Spring Session will begin March 19.



Everyone is invited to come on Saturday, April 15 to do Spring Cleaning inside and outside at FCF.

Lunch will be provided. Indoor cleaning supplies will be provided; bring your gardening tools for outside.

To help us prepare for the day, please RSVP on the FCF App.

There is something for everyone to do!

NICARAGUA MEDICAL MISSION TRIP

MAY 18-25

**DEPOSIT DUE:
MARCH 15**

**Medical experience is not needed.
Contact Pastor Dave for more information**

A team is being built for a Medical Mission Trip to Nicaragua, May 18-25.

You do not need any medical experience to be part of the team. There is something for everyone to do including triage, "crowd control," and pharmacy. If you would like to be part of this team to Nicaragua and serve on this trip, a \$500 deposit is due by March 15 to the FCF front office.

Please note that if you need a passport, the process needs to begin asap.

For more information about the trip, contact Pastor Dave Glaze at missions@explorefcf.com.



100 ENVELOPE CAMPAIGN

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 12



**ALL DONATIONS WILL
SUPPORT THE 2023
SWITCHBACK MISSION TRIP
TO COSTA RICA
JULY 6-13**

100 ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER for SWITCHBACK STUDENTS

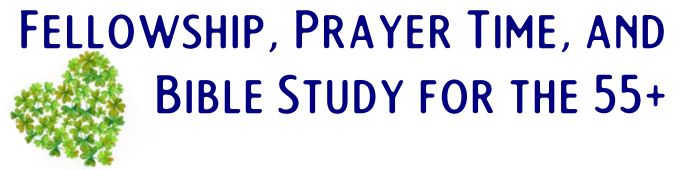
This is an opportunity for you to provide financial support for the members of Switchback Student Ministry who will be going on the Costa Rica Mission Trip in July.

To take part in the fundraiser:

- Pick an available envelope from the box in the inner foyer
- Place the amount of money stated on the outside of the envelope, in the envelope.
- Drop the envelope in the designated box in the foyer at FCF by March 12.
- PRAY! We not only need financial support, but prayer as well!

Please be in
prayer
for the Global
Impact Team
that will be
traveling to
Uganda
March 2-9





The Impact You Can Make by Encouraging Others

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. - 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Years ago during the world lightweight boxing championship match, a Scotsman was fighting against a man from the United States who was six years younger. The Scot was the reigning champion, and the bout was being fought before a crowd of 20,000 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Soon after the match began, it was clear that the fight would be a close one. So chanting began to arise from the Scottish crowd. It was singing. It became louder and louder, with hundreds of male voices singing a strange Scottish melody!

These men were singing to encourage their champion. As he fought for his title, but even more for the respect of the Scottish people, they wanted him to know they were behind him.

As a member of the body of Christ, it's your job to encourage one another as well in the great battle of faith. When you see some who are struggling in obedience to Christ's call on their lives, and others who are on the front lines expanding the Kingdom of God in places all over the world, your role is to be an encourager and cheer them on. Then, when it's your turn to step into the ring, they'll encourage you too.

Never underestimate the power of an encouraging word. Studies have proven that words of encouragement help those who are struggling. So find someone today who needs an encouraging word and help them fight their battle of faith by encouraging them!

Prayer Challenge:

Pray that God would show you someone who you can help fight the battle of faith today with an encouraging word or note.

March is an exciting month! Our clocks "spring" forward on March 12; St Patrick's Day is March 17; and the first day of Spring is March 20! But we also know some of our worst snowstorms can surprise us in March as well! We are looking forward to budding trees and welcoming the robins back! The snow had it's chance to come during the winter!

Our March potluck will be March 15! Wear your green and join for us for Bible Study followed by fun and fellowship!

Keep the ice scraper in the car but be on the lookout for the beautiful signs of Spring and new life!

STAY CONNECTED!
 DOWNLOAD
church center
 FOLLOW THE PROMPTS TO
 BE CONNECTED TO FCF

Download on the
 App Store

GET IT ON
 Google Play

FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

MARTIN'S 

MARTIN'S CASH FOR CAUSES
 is an ongoing fundraiser for FCF. We receive a percentage of the face value of the gift cards that go back into our funds for ministry use.

To purchase cards, contact the FCF Front Office at 301-223-4803.

Cards available in amounts of
 \$25 \$50 & \$100

Do you know of boy between the
 ages of 7-17 that doesn't have a
 father in their life?

Contact the FCF Office for more
 information about how to give
 them the opportunity to be
 mentored by a godly man.


 FAITH • FATHERHOOD • FORGIVENESS

Upcoming Dates to Mark on Your Calendars

March 12—No 9am Education Classes
 March 25—Men's Breakfast & Clay Shooting
 April 7—Good Friday Gathering @ 6pm
 April 9—Easter Gathering
 (No 9am Education Classes)
 April 15—Spring Work Day
 May 4—National Day of Prayer
 May 10—Last Night of Kidzlife
 May 14—Mother's Day; Baby/Child Dedication
 May 21—Spring Education Session Ends
 May 21—Graduation Sunday
 June 4—FCF Picnic @ 4pm
 June 18—Father's Day
 June 26-30—VBS
 Aug 27—Ministry Expo
 Sept 10—Fall Education Session Begins
 Oct 7—Fall Work Day

**GOOD
 FRIDAY**
 GATHERING & COMMUNION
 APRIL 7 6PM

Victorious
HIS IS RISEN!

Join us for our Easter Gathering
 April 9 + 10:15am



2023 MARCH FCF MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Rabbi Ted Simon

Rabbi Ted Simon is a Jewish man who loves Jesus. He has traveled nationally and internationally bringing encouraging messages of hope in the Jewish Messiah and teaching the Christian Church about its Jewish roots.

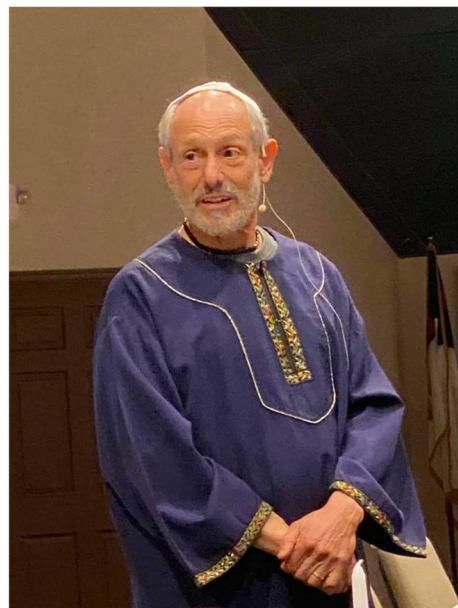
Raised in a traditional Jewish home, Ted completed New York State Regents in Hebrew. He led the Junior Congregation at Lincoln Park Jewish Center (Yonkers, NY), and was President of the youth group. While in college Ted taught Hebrew school in Sandusky, Ohio. Ted's grandparents were founding members of Young Israel of Tremont in the Bronx, NY and Ted fondly remembers celebrating holidays and shabbat with his loving family.

He graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio. Ted and his wife Diane became Believers in Yeshua, Jesus, the Messiah, together on the Day of Atonement 1976 at Beth Messiah Congregation under the preaching of the late Manny Brotman (of blessed memory). It was a gentile Believer who tirelessly prayed and witnessed to Ted and Diane.

Currently Rabbi Simon is a mentoring Elder at Rosh Pina Congregation in Owings Mills, MD. Rabbi Simon continues to pray and work for Revival and Awakening in the Jewish Community of Baltimore and for the entire metropolitan area (and the entire US and the world). He and Diane have led tours to Israel and have ministered together nationally and internationally.

He continues to thoroughly enjoy co-leading with Diane, mixed marriage groups and recording Messianic Minutes with his co-host of 27 years, Jeffrey D. Miller.


Rabbi Ted has joined us at FCF in 2021 for a Seder and in 2022 for the Feast of Trumpets.



Rabbi Ted at our 2021 Seder at FCF



March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10am Y@H 6pm Switchback 6:30pm Kidzlife	2	3	4
				← Uganda Global Impact Trip		
5 Switchback 100 Envelope Fundraiser	6	7	8 10am Y@H 6pm Switchback 6:30pm Kidzlife	9	10 “About Us” 6-8:30pm	11 Spring Forward! 
Uganda Global Impact Trip →						
12 Switchback 100 Envelope Fundraiser No 9:15am Education Classes Baptism/ Membership	13	14	15 10am Y@H/Potluck 6pm Switchback 6:30pm Kidzlife	16	17	18
19 Communion	20	21	22 10am Y@H 6pm Switchback 6:30pm Kidzlife	23	24	25 8am Men's Breakfast & Clay Shooting
26	27	28	29 10am Y@H 6pm Switchback 6:30pm Kidzlife	30	31	