

FAITHfocus

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
FEBRUARY 2023

Seeing in the Mirror Dimly

A few Saturdays ago, friends were out enjoying a few hours celebrating the husband's birthday while the grandparents watched their children. They hit Red Robin for the free birthday burger and Krispy Kreme for a free dozen donuts, and the thrift shops around town. While in one of the thrift shops, the wife whispered to her husband, "that's your dad over there." He looked at him for a second, turned and headed for the door. He had never met his dad face to face. His knew his name, but his dad was never a part of his life for a variety of reasons.

The couple retreated to their car. For the past few years, he had been thinking about his father more and more. He had children of his own and was realizing how important it was to be a Christian father and husband. He thought about trying to meet his father, but wasn't sure how to go about it. His only desire was to know that his father had heard the gospel. Now he had the chance to meet him. After debating for a few minutes, he decided to go back into the store to talk to his father and introduce himself. His wife waited/prayed in the car.

A few minutes later, he returned to the car. He and his father had talked for a little, he met his father's wife, and they exchanged numbers with the promise to get together for dinner soon.

But there were so many unanswered questions. Did he ever try to find me? Did he love me? Did he miss me? Did he ever think about me? What did I miss because my father wasn't a part of my life? Who would I have been if he would have been in my life. Questions that can cause confusion, doubt, and begin to affect your daily life if you allow it.

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There are so many things in life we don't understand. So many questions. Why did this happen? God, where are you in this? How can this be used for Your glory? The questions go on! Some things in this life *are not for us to understand*.

Paul shares in 1 Corinthians 13:12, For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. There are things in this life that we may never understand, but there will come a day, when we meet the our Lord face to face when the puzzle pieces will come together.

In the meantime, we are to trust and have faith because God is in control. We can claim His truth as we try to understand, in real time, what is happening in our life.

Had this gentleman's father been in his life, how would his life been different? Would he have lived across from a Christian family that took him to church where he heard the gospel? Would he have accepted Christ as his Savior? Would he be the godly husband and father he is today? He may never know these answers. But rather than dwell on these questions, he can move forward with this new relationship with his father, share the gospel with him, and rest easy in knowing God has the master plan.

Are you new to FCF or maybe you've been attending for a while but would like to know more about the mission, vision and values of FCF. You are invited to join us on Friday, March 10 to learn more about FCF. Dinner and childcare will be provided. Please RSVP by March 6 if you plan to attend. RSVPs can be done in the foyer at FCF, or through the FCF APP (click on SignUps). Contact the FCF Office if



BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP MARCH 10

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

FAITH KIDS MINISTRY

Annual Investor Training




February 11, 9:00- 11:00 AM




HAPC
BABY BOTTLE
FUNDRAISER
JAN 15-FEB 19

Please return bottles to
the crate in the FCF Foyer
by February 19



Jonah

Friday Morning
Ladies Bible Study
Feb 10- March 31
9-10:30am
RSVP to admin@explorefcf.com

“WALKING with JESUS” through the Book of Jonah—Ladies Bible Study. Join us as we invite the Holy Spirit to lead and teach us through daily homework and then a group discussion of Jonah, chapter by chapter. The study will be on Fridays, 9 to 10:30am, February 10-March 31. There is a small cost of \$5 to cover materials, which can be paid the first day of the study. Please RSVP to Christy at admin@explorefcf.com if you plan to attend to allow us to prepare the materials.



Faith Cafe is now semi-self-serve. (This will allow our FC Attendants to attend an Education Class.) The FC attendant will be available from 8:45-9am and 10-10:15am for Iced Coffee Orders. All other items - snacks, coffee, hot chocolate and water is self-serve.

There are two coffee choices - Folgers and Nicaraguan (made from beans that Pastor Dave brings back from Nicaragua.) We will also have hot water available for those who like hot chocolate or tea. Donations can be put in the designated container. (Feel free to make change from the funds if needed.) Faith Cafe will close at 10:15am to allow everyone to get into the auditorium for our Morning Gathering.

\$1 Beverages

SELF-SERVE
8:45-10:15am

- Hot Chocolate
- Nicaraguan Coffee
- Folgers Coffee
- Water

\$2 Iced Coffee

AVAILABLE
8:45-9am & 10-10:15am

- Caramel
- French Vanilla
- Raspberry
- Raspberry Mocha

Thank you for your faithful giving! Throughout the years, your tithes and offerings have allowed us to not only support the needs of FCF, but also support Global Missions including Bibles and Bible training curriculum, a water system for the orphan school in Rugendabara, Uganda, support the Nicaragua feeding center, finance the future building of a new house for Pastor Guillermo in Costa Rica, to name a few.

2022 Giving Statements

2022 Giving Statements for those who give by envelope are available in the foyer.

If you give online, you can access your statement through the portal on the FCF website, explorefcf.com



Venmo is now an option for giving. We spoke with our accountant who said this would be as safe and good option to add to our giving options. At this time (based on Venmo guidelines), giving can only be done through the app. You can use the QR code on the right. We are in the very early use of this format. If you have any questions or issues, please feel free to contact the FCF Office at 301-223-4803.) *(*Please note there is a 1.9% fee plus 10 cents per transaction for credit cards.)*



WAYS TO GIVE at FCF

There are a few ways you can give your tithes and offerings at FCF.

- **Giving Envelopes**—Contact Christy in the FCF Office to get a box of Giving Envelopes. You will receive a year-end giving statement.
- **Online Giving**—Use the portal on the FCF Website on the Giving Tab at the top of the page. Create an account and use your bank account or credit card. (There is a processing fee of about 2.95% for credit cards.) The funds are sent directly to the FCF bank account. You can download your year-end giving statement directly from the site.
- **Cash or check** in the offering basket without an envelope. This is your best option if you choose to give anonymously. Please note that we will give a receipt for any single amount over \$200 that is given by check.
- **Set up Bill Pay** through your online banking account. Your bank will send us a check through the mail on your behalf, the FCF Administrator will put your check in an envelope and put it in the offering basket. You will receive a year-end giving statement from FCF. (There are no fees associated with this form of giving.)
- **Venmo** through the Venmo App. There is a 1.9% fee plus .10 per transaction.



100 ENVELOPE CAMPAIGN

FEBRUARY 12 - MARCH 12



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

Switchback

100 ENVELOPE CAMPAIGN

The 100 Envelope Campaign 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.

How it works:

- Pick an available envelope from the box in the inner foyer
- Remove the letter inside the envelope (Keep this as a reminder to pray!)
- 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.
- PRAY! We not only need financial support, but prayer as well!

Please return envelopes by March 12



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

Why No Task Is Menial

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31

A tourist was visiting Italy years ago and decided to take a tour of several old churches. He came across one that was undergoing major renovations. Much of it had been demolished, and was in the process of being rebuilt.

He walked up to three of the masons who were working on the church. In his best Italian, he asked them, "Can you tell me what you are doing?"

The first mason told him, "Yes! I'm cutting stone."

The second smiled and said, "I'm making 1,000 lire a day."

The third joyfully exclaimed, "I'm building a beautiful church!"

It's amazing what a difference perspective makes. Many Christians think of their quiet time as just "reading the Bible," when actually they're learning what it means to walk more closely with Jesus. It's a total different perspective!

Nothing is menial in God's Kingdom. Every task we accomplish ultimately points to a greater purpose. So whether you're reading your Bible, talking with a friend, or praying, remember that you're doing much more than a simple task. You're serving the Most High God!

Prayer Challenge:

Pray and ask God to help you glorify Him even in your daily routine.

Questions for Thought:

What are some tasks you sometimes find menial that really point to a higher purpose? How can you change your perspective on your daily routine so you can better see God's plan in it?

We are on the downslope of winter! Spring is next month (March 20!), but we know that winter weather is still here. We follow the FCF Inclement weather policy for your Wednesday gathering. If Washington County Public Schools have a 2 hour delay or are closed, we will not meet that morning (no Zoom). We will also text and email if there is a decision to cancel the gathering. If we do meet but you don't feel comfortable driving in the weather conditions, you can use the Zoom option for that morning!

Our next Potluck will be February 15. We're looking forward to gathering together for food and fellowship. Please remember to bring a dish to share!

We are in the process of updating our Y@H directory. If any of your information has changed in the last year, please send updates to admin@explorefcf.com if you are not able to update the information in person on a Wednesday morning to Ron Clipp.



2022 FEBRUARY FCF MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT Hope Center/Wildside Youth

In January of 1954 a small group of men and women began meeting for prayer at Christ Lutheran Church in Hagerstown. Armed with great faith, a burden for ministry and a calling from God, Jimmy Resh cast a vision for a Rescue Mission in Hagerstown – a ministry that Jimmy was certain was needed. In July of that same year the Mission was officially named “Hagerstown Union Mission” as the core group of believers continued to meet and pray about God’s plan for Hagerstown and for the Resh family. To read more about the history and how the Resh’s continued to reach out to their community, visit their website HagerstownHopeCenter.com

FCF supports the Hope Center through monthly support. Several FCF ministries also provide the meal and lesson on the first Tuesday of each month for the those who visit the mission.

If you would like to know how YOU can be part of supporting the Hope Center and Wildside, contact Pastor Dave Glaze or the FCF Office.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- . The men and women who visit the Hope Center will find hope in Christ
- . Volunteers to help with the various programs they offer
- . Wildside Youth Program that ministers to children 5-12 years old
- . Fundraising goals will be met for the Kitchen Renovation
- . Rock the Run 5K on April 23 will be a successful fundraiser

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE HOPE CENTER (Visit their website for specific info)

- . Donate pantry items. *See their website for the Pantry Item of the Month*
- . Donate to and shop at Thrift Stores
- . Volunteer at the shelter

www.HagerstownHopeCenter.com

February 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 10am Y@H 6:30 Switchback 6:30pm Kidzlife 6:30pm Fathers in the Field	2 6:30pm Ladies Connection	3	4
5	6	7 7pm Meal & Service at the Mission 7pm Prayer Gathering	8 10am Y@H 6:30 Switchback 6:30pm Kidzlife	9	10 9am Ladies Bible Study	11 Faith Kids Investor Training 9-11am
12 Communion	13	14 7pm Prayer Gathering	15 10am Y@H/ Potluck 6:30 Switchback 6:30pm Kidzlife	16	17 9am Ladies Bible Study SB Retreat	18 SB Retreat
19 HAPC Baby Bottles due back Switchback 100 Envelope Fund-raiser Begins SB Retreat	20 Nicaragua Global Impact Trip	21 7pm Prayer Gathering	22 10am Y@H 6:30 Switchback 6:30pm Kidzlife	23	24 9am Ladies Bible Study	25



Looking Ahead:
 March 25 Men's Breakfast and 3rd Annual Clay Shoot
 April 7 6pm Good Friday Gathering
 April 9 Easter Sunday (No 9am Education Classes)
 April 15 FCF Work Day
 June 26-30 VBS