

FCF Global and Local Missions

In 2023, your giving and willingness to serve has allowed FCF to support ministries, both globally and locally. Here are a few ways we have been able to do this:

- Financially support:
  - Hagerstown Hope Center
  - Fathers In the Field
  - Child Evangelism Fellowship
  - Fellowship of Christian Athletes Outdoor Sports Ministry.
  - Hagerstown Area Pregnancy Clinic
  - Tikkun Global Messianic Jewish Ministry
  - Hearts Across Borders
  - Nicaragua Supporting Jadder, the Feeding Center, and The Bible Institute
  - Costa Rica Supporting Pastor Guillermo and our sister church in Ortega, Costa Rica
  - Word of Life Philippines Supporting Eric and Jaylyn Ickes, Bible training center
  - Ecuador Supporting David and Monica Proano, Open Air Evangelism
  - Haiti Supporting Pastor Luc St Felix who shepherds over 40 churches and schools
- Provide several local families with Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas gifts through local schools
- Bring the message and provide a meal monthly at the Hope Center
- Fulfill benevolence requests
- Help build an addition to Guillermo's home in Costa Rica
- Support ministry partners in person in Nicaragua and Costa Rica

This does not cover everything—but gives a glimpse at what your tithes and offerings have done for His Kingdom!



RSVP on the FCF Church Center App or in the foyer at FCF.

Contact Erin (events@explorefcf.com) if you have any questions.



#### FAITH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



# Annual 20 Business 23 Meeting

December 17, 2023 Following the 10:15am Gathering

All are welcome and encouraged to attend our annual business meeting where we will be reviewing 2023, looking forward to 2024 and voting on an elder for a three year term. Please note that only those who are members of FCF may vote.



To Help Us Prepare, please RSVP on the FCF Church Center App







# UPCOMING SCHEDULE

03 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & BANQUET DINNER

CHRISTMAS EVE- MORNING AND EVENING GATHERINGS

FAITH KIDS CLOSED-WORSHIP AS A FAMILY!



### FAMILY ADUENT GUIDE

Enjoy as a family through the advent season! Pick one up from the resource shelf.







### NO SWITCHBACK

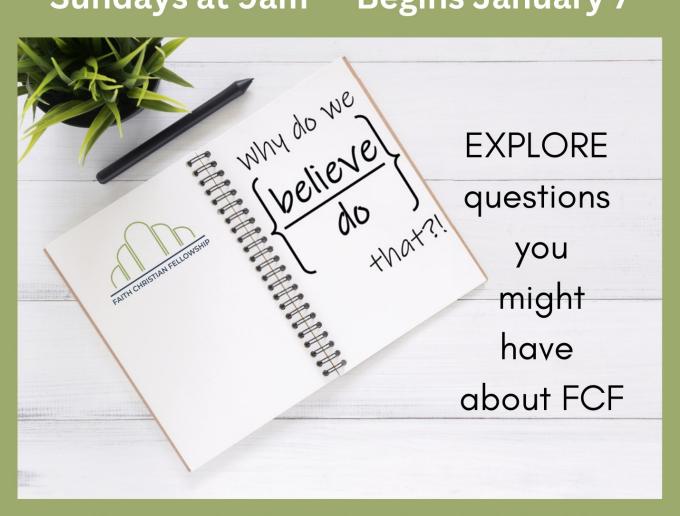
December 13th - 27th

> January 3rd



## WINTER EDUCATION GROUP

Sundays at 9am Begins January 7



Have you noticed the website address of this church?

It is **EXPLOREFCF**.com!

Beginning in January 2024 during the 9am Education Hour, we are going to EXPLORE questions you might have about FCF related to what we believe or what we do.

You are encouraged to submit questions ("ask the pastor") ahead of time for us to tackle sometime during the winter session. (More info on how to do this coming soon!)

The group will meet in the auditorium and be open to individuals and families of any age.

To help us prepare for the class, we are asking all who plan to attend the class to register on the FCF Church Center App or contact the FCF Office



This is a wonderful Christmas tradition to do each year. FCF has a tree decorated again this year!



The FCF Offices will be closed Dec 22- Jan 1. If you have an emergency and need to get in contact with one of the staff members, please call the church office at 301-223-4803 and leave a message or email admin@explorefcf.com. We will get with you as quickly as possible.



Mark you calendars for the 2024 FCF Global Summit— January 19 & 20. Global Impact Sunday will be January 21. More information will be coming soon.

#### **Inclement Weather Policy**

Wednesdays Evening services—If Washington County School District has cancelled school or dismissed early due to adverse weather conditions, no Wednesday evening events will be held. If the Snow Emergency Plan is in effect, no Wednesday evening events will be held.

Young at Heart on Wednesday Mornings—If Washington County School District has a 2 hour delay or has cancelled school, Young at Heart will not be held. If weather conditions are questionable, the Young at Heart Director will make a decision regarding cancelation of the Bible Study.

Sunday Mornings—The pastors will assess weather conditions and make a determination of whether services will be held.

Other Events—The person in charge of the event will assess weather conditions and make a determination of whether services will be held.

Announcements—Once an decision has been made about services or events, announcements will be sent out via email, text, Facebook, Email and through the website.

If you are not currently on the text or email list, please contact the office at admin@explorefcf.com to be added

#### **HEARTS ACROSS BORDERS at FCF**

FCF is sponsoring two children, both of whom live in poverty and would benefit from our church's support. Our in-country missionary friends have already been assisting with some medical needs and financial provision for over a year. This sponsorship will allow us to supply them with even more financial resources to meet the on-going needs. 100% of our support will go to these two families for food, shelter, and medicine. If you personally invest, you will receive regular updates and correspondence which will be possible because of our close ties with Nicaraguan missionaries. You will also have the opportunity to visit and personally engage with these children as the Lord leads.

#### HOW YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US

- The focus is giving hope to children in need
- With the help of our Nicaraguan Ministry Partners, we have identified two separate families in Nicaragua that we will sponsor.
- FCF will lead the financial sponsorship and commit \$2,400/year (\$200/month) for 2024 to begin the program.
- You have the opportunity to join us in the sponsorship of these families which will allow the FCF Global Ministry to apply the allocated resources to other children in need. You can choose a sponsorship of \$50, \$75; or \$100 with a commitment of two years and the opportunity to evaluate and continue in two-year increments.
- The resources and care will be faithfully carried out by Nicaraguan ministry partners
- Individuals can visit and or send gifts with Global Impact Teams that visit Nicaragua; updates would be provided no less than 4 times a year.
- PRAY for these two children and their families

# MEET THE CHIDREN WE ARE SPONSORING

Haxael is 6 years old and suffers from an undiagnosed skin condition.



We are excited about this opportunity to partner with our Nicaraguan Missionaries in the re-launch of Hearts Across Borders.

Please be in prayer about how you can be a part of this ministry.

Marichel is 14 years old. She has Downs Syndrome as well as a serious eye condition.

Pick up a brochure in the foyer or contact the FCF Office for more information. Updates will be posted on the display board near the Faith Kids Check In Station.

#### FELLOWSHIP, Prayer TIME, and BIBLE STUDY FOR THE 55+

#### What to Do When You Discover You're Wrong

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come." - John 16:13

A man awoke very early one morning to find a puddle of water in the middle of his kingsize waterbed. In order to fix the puncture, he rolled the heavy mattress outside and filled it with more water to help him find the leak more quickly.

The enormous bag of water was impossible to control and began rolling downhill. He tried to stop it, but it went straight into a clump of thorny bushes, which poked it full of holes, Angry, the man threw out the waterbed frame and moved a standard bed into his room. Hours later, he woke to find a puddle of water in the middle of the new bed. The upstairs

bathroom had a leaky pipe.

Sometimes the most difficult thing to accept is when you've been wrong all along. That's because all people have a natural tendency to defend their decisions at all costs. But when the time comes and you're confronted with the truth, accepting it can be so hard.

This is why it's so hard for many to accept Christ as their Savior. Because to do so would mean that everything they've believed in up to now – and maybe most everything they were taught – is wrong.

Be humble enough to admit what's true when you're faced with it, even if it means you're wrong. It's better to be late to the truth than to live in a lie!

Pray and ask God to help you accept truth even when it conflicts with what you believe.

#### Questions for Thought:

Think of a time when what you thought was right turned out to be wrong. How did it make you feel?

If we're firmly convinced the gospel is the truth, then what is our responsibility to those who don't believe it's true?

2023 has been a good year for Young at Heart! We have enjoyed wonderful Bible Studies, fellowship at potlucks, and a few local trips. Thank you to all who have made all of this possible!

In December, we will assemble the Blessing Bags on the 6th following Bible Study. The church is caroling on the 13th at Byron Park. Join in the fun if you can. Our potluck will be on the 20th and the theme is soup and sandwiches. Please bring as dish or two to share. There will be two Christmas Eve Gatherings—the usual 10:15am morning Gathering and the traditional Christmas Eve Gathering at 6pm. Our Annual New Year's Potluck will be on Wednesday, January 3. The meal will be catered and is \$10 per person. We will not have potluck on January 17. Merry Christmas Friends!

### **December 2023**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					5pm SB Jr High Progressive Dinner	9:30am Dress Rehearsal
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:15am		7pm Meal &	10am Y@H	·	6:30pm Ladies	6pm SB Senior
Christmas Program		Service at the Mission 7pm Prayer Gathering	6pm Switchback		Cookie Exchange	High Ugly Sweater Party
4pm Christmas Banquet			6:30 FK Mid- Week			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		7pm Prayer Gathering	10am Y@H			
			6pm Caroling and Cookies			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10:15am Worship		7pm Prayer	10am Y@H/	21		20
Gathering		Gathering	Potluck			
Around 11:30am Congregational Meeting			No SB or FK Mid- Week			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10:15am Christmas Eve Morning Gathering	Merry Christmas!		No SB or FK Mid- Week			
6pm Christmas Eve Gathering		FCF Offices (	locad Dag 22 Jan	1		
31 Family Sunday	FCF Offices Closed Dec 22-Jan 1					
10:15am Worship Gathering (No Faith Kids Classes)						
Membership and Baptism Sunday						