



October 2021

# Fox River Life



*The proceeding is an article by Marshall Segal, staff writer for Desiring God's website, which is a wonderful precursor to my upcoming short sermon series on Heaven entitled; "Heaven Is for Real." It is a wonderfully challenging read.*

*In His Name & For His Glory,  
Pastor Tim*

*The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God.  
(God Is the Gospel)*

People often describe pivotal moments in their lives as "the day when God turned my world upside down." Some experience, some conversation, some trial radically reshaped how they viewed themselves, their lives, their relationships, and the world around them. Well, in my sophomore year of college, God turned heaven upside down for me.

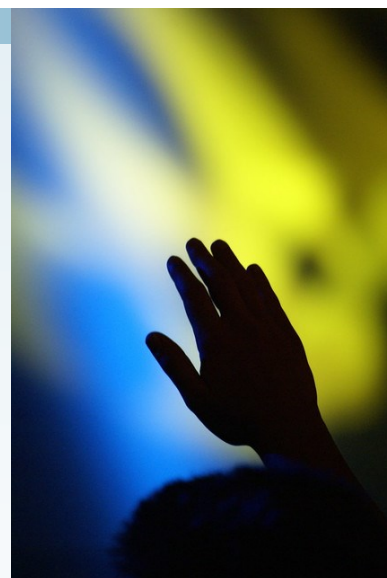
I grew up in a Christian home with loving Christian parents, and had been a Christian myself for a number of years at that point in college. I read the Bible and prayed most days. I was part of a faithful Bible-preaching church and was surrounded by mature and intentional Christian friends. I was even doing ministry among high school students, sharing the gospel and discipling them in the faith. And then, in a moment — in a sentence — God suddenly flooded the gospel with new meaning, new colors, new intensity and joy.

To draw me deeper into the gospel, though, God had to first confront me, but it was the sweetest kind of confrontation, the most satisfying kind of rebuke. The sentence tackled me where I sat and has never let me go. Christ did not die to forgive sinners who go on treasuring anything above seeing and savoring God. And people who would be happy in heaven if Christ were not there, will not be there. The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. (God Is the Gospel, 47)

## Question for Our Generation

The gospel is the way to get people to God. The gospel is the way to get me to God. It was the kind of rare epiphany that is both devastating and thrilling. Devastating, because you realize just how much you've had wrong until now. Thrilling, because you have stumbled into a land you'd never seen before, an ocean you'd never sailed before, a favorite meal you'd never tasted before.

God is not just the only way to heaven; he is what makes heaven worth wanting. He is the great meal. He is the wild and wondrous ocean. He is the treasure hidden in the field and the pearl of great price (Matthew 13:44-46). John Piper presses home the surpassing gift of God himself with a haunting question: The critical question for our generation — and for every generation — is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the



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### [Gain Christ](#)

*"But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8) Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9) and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith-- 10) that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11) that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead."*

*Philippians 3:7-9*

## From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ were not there? (God Is the Gospel, 15)

"God is not just the only way to heaven; he is what makes heaven worth wanting." Could you? Could I? That was the question that turned heaven on its head for me. Could I be content in a heaven without Christ? And if not, if Christ really was what made heaven an eternity worth wanting, why wasn't I doing more to know and enjoy him now on earth?

### **Who Is Heaven?**

"The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God." But what does God say? Does he talk about himself, the gospel, and heaven that way?

The apostle Paul knew that God was the greatest gift of the gospel. "Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him" (Philippians 3:7-9). The real treasure, the one that surpasses all others, is to know him, to gain him, to have him.

Why did Christ die on the cross? The apostle Peter says, "Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). He suffered, bled, and died not just so that we might be forgiven and relieved of hell, but so that we might have God. The worst consequence of sin is not the fire, but the separation (2 Thessalonians 1:9). Hell will be agonizing and miserable for many reasons, but none more than being deprived of God himself. The damned will still experience the presence of God (Revelation 14:10), but it will be in horrifying wrath, rather than in grace and joy. They will never have God.

"The real treasure, the one that surpasses all others, is to know him, to gain him, to have him." The redeemed, however, sing, "I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy" (Psalm 43:4). "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11) — not only joys and pleasures beside him or around him, but above all, joy in him. He is the joy. He is the pleasure. His presence is paradise — and it would be so even if everything else we loved and wanted was taken away.

And, in Christ, we experience that presence in part even now. Yes, our remaining sin and the consequences of sin interfere with that experience, but when God is our joy, we taste real joy now. We savor pleasures in everyday life now, pleasures that will last forever. And so we pray prayers like Psalm 42: "As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God" — not for deliverance, or forgiveness, or healing, or provision, or relief, or reconciliation, but for you — "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God" (Psalm 42:1-2). Not for the good and perfect gifts God gives, but for the far better gift that God is.

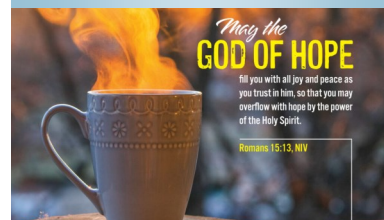
### **Heaven of the New Heavens**

As we wait and long for heaven, many of us have clung to promises like Revelation 21:4: "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." No more tears, no more death, no more mourning or crying or pain. We can hardly imagine the sweetness of these absences — a whole world without shadows. Heaven, however, will not be defined by absences; paradise will be defined by an all-satisfying presence. When God becomes heaven for us, verse 3 rises and eclipses even the precious promises of verse 4: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. . . And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."

What's better than a world without sin, sorrow, and death? A world with God. Yes, he will wipe away our tears. Yes, he will heal our wounds and cure our diseases. Yes, he will finally do away with that awful enemy, death. But those blessings, while infinitely great, will be as puddles next to the ocean of having him and being his. A God capable of drying every tear under every eye will be our God. A God capable of curing every cancer will give himself to us — even us. A God capable of emptying graves and overthrowing death will live with us, and for us, forever. Don't let all that God can do for you blind you to all that he can be for you. Don't spend so much time splashing in puddles that you never get to see the ocean. Don't settle for any offer of heaven that doesn't have him at the center.



*"The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him."  
Psalm 28:7*



The Women's Ministry Committee met on Sunday, September 19th. Ellen reported that the Brewster Village & Carolina Assisted Living Summer Blessing was well received. Plans are in the works to come up with our Christmas Blessing.

The Single Women's Get-Together is going to meet on the first Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on October 5th at Jan Jourdan's home. Details are in the picture on the right.

Our next Ladies' Craft and Lunch will be held on Sunday, October 17th after Sunday School. See above for more details.

**Single Women's Get-Together**  
Tuesday, October 5th at 5:30 p.m.  
At Jan Jourdan's Home - 1416 Weiland Lane, Appleton

Contact Jan with questions  
(920) 809-8787 -or- jansmail50@yahoo.com

**Ladies' Craft and Lunch**  
October 17th at 12:00pm  
in the  
Fellowship Hall  
**Cost: More information to come\***  
**\*Bring your own lunch**  
Sign-up Sheet on the Welcome Desk

(9) Craft Details: All supplies are included in the cost.  
\*Please bring a hot glue gun if you have one.

#### Press On

*"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.*

*13) Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,*

*14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15) Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.*

*16) Only let us hold true to what we have attained. "*  
*Philippians 3:12-16*

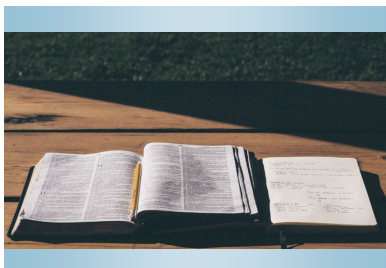
Saturday, October 2nd ~ 4pm-8pm

## PROGRESSIVE SUPPER

*Fun - Food - Fellowship*

Watch for a follow-up on this event in next month's newsletter!





### Take up Your Cross

*"And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'"*

*Mark 8:34*



## UPDATE...

Young at Heart Ministry is alive and well after many months and setbacks, among them the move of our dear Ruby Ziemendorf and the loss of our beloved Beverly Van Rooy.

The primary goal of Young at Heart set forth in the FRBC Action Plan of 2014 is to show God's love to seniors by sharing God's word, praying for and with them, establishing relationships, and meeting practical needs.

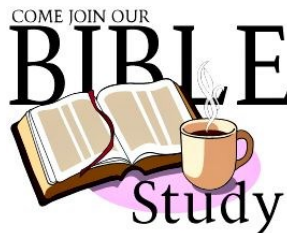
We met on September 3 to make plans for this year. The new committee includes chair Lynn Abitz, new member Doris Olson, and returning member Diane Van Loo.

The plans we have include social, spiritual, and educational activities. Watch the announcements for upcoming events!



## Intentional Discipleship Update

Well things are back up and running for the fall semester in regards to Bible Studies. The men and ladies are going through books of the Bible on Saturday morning (Men-Daniel & Ladies-Hebrews) We have 20+ each Saturday morning in attendance at these studies and we can always pull up another chair. In addition to Saturday morning our Sunday School is available for all ages. We are continuing to use the Answers Bible Curriculum which has been wonderful material. This fall we are looking at 10 lessons dealing with "The Authority of Jesus." Last but not certainly not least is the Women's Bible Study on Thursday afternoons at 1:15 P.M. The ladies are working through a book by Jerry Bridges entitled: "The Practice of Godliness." All of these studies find themselves early in the studies and therefore it is a perfect time to join in if you have been considering it. One last note and it is one of thanks and appreciation. I would like to publicly recognize Linda Hoffman and Angela Groff for their work this summer on getting the Library cleaned up and out. They have made it into a more inviting space and I invite you to come and check out our Library and good Christian books. They still have a few things to get in order, but they have made a huge progress over the last few months.



The days are getting shorter, the air has a crispness to it, and the leaves are changing color. Sweaters, sweatshirts, and jeans are replacing summer attire, and talk of winterizing has taken the place of plans of vacations to the lake. All of these changes are a definite sign that summer is over and fall is here.

The library has gone through some major changes over the summer that have made it look and feel fresh and new! As we have gotten rid of the old and are processing and adding the new, we have had conversations about some exciting new plans to keep everyone informed and engaged in the library. Stay tuned! More information to come soon!

At the time of this writing, there is still a table of discarded books out in the foyer. That table will be gone by October 7th, so if you haven't checked it out yet, you should!

Once again...Thank you for your patience during this time of transition.

- Linda and Angela



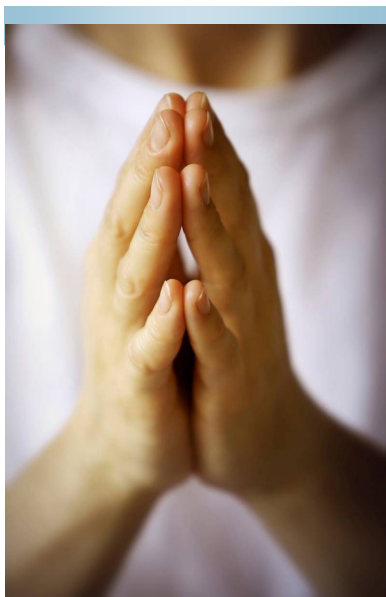
### Be Ready

*"And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.'*

*11) And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*

*12) Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"*

*Revelation 12:10-12*



## Sunday Evening Services Schedule

October 3—Ask PT  
 October 10—Prayer at 5 pm  
 October 17—Sola Christos  
 October 24—Prayer at 5 pm  
 October 31—Reformation Sunday-Evening Event

# SUNDAY



Men's & Women's  
 Bible Study  
 Saturdays at 8am

Women's Bible Study  
 Thursdays at 1:15pm

Women's Prayer  
 Wednesdays at 9:30am



Financial Update—August 1-29, 2021  
 Budget needed weekly: \$ 2,606.00  
 Received: \$ 2,510.00  
 Contact Rob Mlodzik with questions.



### October 3

Howard Schimke

### October 10

Scott Smith

### October 17

Bob Abitz

### October 24

Jay Hoffman

### October 31

Ray Rudzinski

## St Joseph's Food Pantry

Each month we will collect  
 non-perishable food items.  
 Place your food items on the table  
 provided in the foyer.



*Connect*  
 WITH OUR  
 CHURCH FAMILY

Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new prayer request email address:

[prayer@foxriverbaptist.com](mailto:prayer@foxriverbaptist.com)

**Care to be part of the prayer chain?** Email or call Becky Godfrey at  
[becl.godfrey@gmail.com](mailto:becl.godfrey@gmail.com) — (920)277-1526

# Missions

“Go Ye into all the World, and preach  
the Gospel to every creature.”  
Mark 16:15

## Missions Update

On October 3rd, during Sunday School we will have the pleasure of having Jane Fischer who is our Missionary to Japan. She serves at the Christian Academy in Japan as a teacher and we have had the pleasure of supporting her for 20 plus years. Please plan to stay and hear the exciting things that God is doing through the students at her school and in her life as well. Wait to put this in until I have confirmed with the Elders and Jane. I hope to have that done by 11:00.



On October 30th-31st we will have the privilege of having with us Brad and Deb Mashburn who are our Missionaries in West Africa. They have recently taken on a new role as directors of a mission initiative which they will be sharing with us over the that weekend. We look forward to them coming and sharing with us all that God is doing in their lives and ministry. Please make sure that you come and give your support to them on Sunday the 31st, I guarantee that it will be a treat.

## Give Thanks

*“I thank my God every time  
I remember you. 4) In all my  
prayers for all of you, I  
always pray with  
joy 5) because of your  
partnership in the gospel  
from the first day until  
now, 6) being confident of  
this, that he who began a  
good work in you will carry  
it on to completion until the  
day of Christ Jesus.”*

*Philippians 1:3-6*



Samaritan's Purse  
National Collection Week  
is  
November 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
Boxes and information  
are available in the  
foyer.

\*Contact Gary Snortum  
with questions

### FRBC Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.



2—Lynn Mlodzik

5—Ruby Ziemendorf

6—Sam Mlodzik

8—Hannah Hoffman

25—Elliot Bressler



### Fox River Baptist Church

2600 East Henry Street  
Appleton, WI 54915

Phone: 920-734-6162  
E-mail: [office@foxriverbaptist.com](mailto:office@foxriverbaptist.com)  
Website: [foxriverbaptist.com](http://foxriverbaptist.com)

Office Hours: Wednesday &  
Thursday - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm