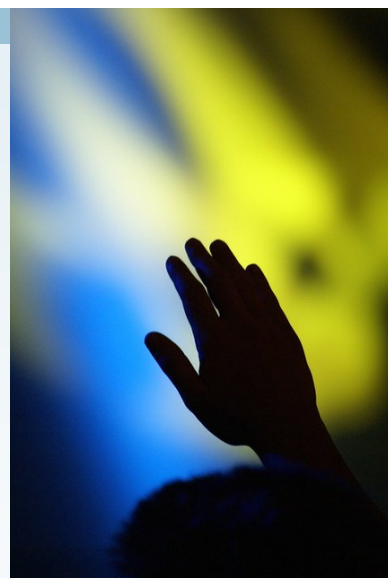




February 2022



Fox River Life



The proceeding article is written by Jon Bloom and is entitled: Why We Shouldn't Neglect to Meet Together. Jon Bloom serves as teacher and co-founder of Desiring God. He is author of three books, Not by Sight, Things Not Seen, and Don't Follow Your Heart. He and his wife have five children and make their home in the Twin Cities.
In His Name & For His Glory,
Pastor Tim

Why We Shouldn't Neglect to Meet Together

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Have you ever thought of this simply stunning statement by God as a reason why we are to gather together in corporate worship? It is not good that the man should be alone (Genesis 2:8). What's so incredible about this is that God said it before the fall, when Adam's heart was undimmed by the dark night of sin and he enjoyed unbroken fellowship with his Creator.

What was not good about Adam's experience? He had unimpeded communion with God. He had no God-shaped hole in his heart. Wouldn't this have been truer for Adam than Asaph: "there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you" (Psalm 73:25)? Wouldn't this have been truer for Adam than Chris Tomlin: "All of

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Faith and Deeds

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15) Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16) If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17) In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 18) But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19) You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. 20) You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? 21) Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for

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From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

you is more than enough for all of me"?

Was God not enough for Adam?

I think we often simply assume that Adam's being alone was not good for Adam. By God's design, that was certainly true. But that wasn't the only or ultimate thing that was true. Adam's being alone wasn't good for God. The ultimate point was not that all of God wasn't enough for all of Adam. It was that all of Adam wasn't enough for all of God. One human would not enjoy God as much as many humans together.

The Deeper Joy

Our corporate enjoyment of God is rooted in a great mystery: the Trinity. God is one (Deuteronomy 6:4; James 2:19) but he is three in one (Matthew 28:19). Because of this unfathomable truth we can say, in a sense, that it is "not good" that God should be alone. There are ways that God experiences God more fully and joyfully as three in one than if he were some monochromatic deity. And in his Trinitarian counsel he said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). This doesn't mean that he made each of us little trinities. But it does mean that God designed us, in a way unique to humans, that many would become one. There are ways that we experience God more fully and joyfully as many in one than if just one human existed.

We, Though Many, Are One Body

A mystery that the New Testament reveals is that the many-in-one experience of God would be given to those in Christ's body (Ephesians 5:23). That's why the Apostle Paul says, "As in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same

function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." (Romans 12:4-5)

Together, we are Christ's body! And according to 1 Corinthians 12, each of us has differing roles that are indispensable to the healthy functioning of this body. Through each of us, God is nourishing and growing his body "until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

We, Though Many, Are One Bride

But this mystery just gets more profound! Not only are we Christ's body, but we are Christ's bride (Ephesians 5:32). Adam and Eve fell. The fellowship they began to enjoy with God was broken.

(continued on page 4)



*"The one who calls you is faithful,
and he will do it."
1 Thessalonians 5:24*



As a Women's Ministry, we are excited to begin serving the needs of a pro-life organization like Vida! We will be accepting donations through March 27th. The needs list is printed here, but will also be in the bulletin each week until then. (Gas cards may be purchased from Hannah & Lily Hoffman through February 23rd).



(Formerly Mother & Unborn Baby Care, Inc.)
Thank you so much for donating to our ministry!

New and gently used material donations fill The Little Dear Boutique. We are completely dependent upon the generosity of individuals, groups and businesses to keep our shelves stocked. Please see our current list of needs, and items we are not able to accept below.

Vida Support Services Current Needs:

Girls Pullups 3T-4T
Boy Toddler clothes (2T - 5T)
Formula
Baby hygiene items (shampoo, baby wash, lotion)
Boys and Girls winter boots, jackets, snowpants
Maternity clothes - only gently used and current styles
Gas gift cards (\$10 each)
Grocery gift cards (\$10 each)
Baby Equipment (Under 10 years old)
-Cribs (no drop-down sides)
-Pack-n-plays
-Strollers



We Cannot Accept:

-Baby food
-Used car seats
*We cannot take ANY cribs with drop down sides or bumper pads.

-Highchairs
-Exersaucers
-Swings
-Elementary age toys
-Used breast pumps

Serve One Another

*You, my brothers and sisters,
were called to be free. But do not
use your freedom to indulge the
flesh ; rather, serve one another
humbly in love.*

Galatians 5:13

The Single Women's Supper met on February 1st at The Little Diner. They continue to enjoy their time together. Their next meeting will be on March 1st.



We are also going to continue serving Brewster Village. For Valentines Day, we are giving each resident a Scripture Valentine to remind them that we are thinking about them.

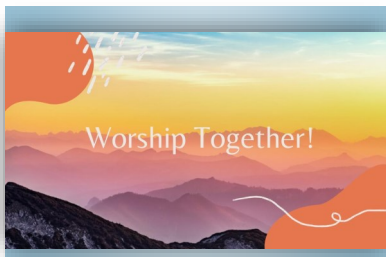
Our Ladies' Craft & Lunch met on January 16th and enjoyed our time of fellowship together. We had ladies of all ages in attendance. Angela shared a devotional with us, and we created magnetic bulletin boards to help keep us organized! Who knew that cookie sheets could be used for more than baking cookies? I enjoy seeing all the creativity of each lady. Our next Ladies' Craft & Lunch will be on April 3rd.



Secret Sisters are continuing to bless one another. I left work last week and found a gift bag of "sunshine" on my windshield! *So Sneaky!!!*



Pictured Left-Right: Lily, Hannah, and Linda Hoffman, Jan Jourdan, Angela Groff, Aurora Kemp, Haley Romenesko, and Connie Snortum



what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22) You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. 23) And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. 24) You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone. 25) In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? 26) As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

James 2:14-26

From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

But Jesus is the second Adam (Romans 5:15-17), and the church, in that sense, is the second Eve. She is the mother of all the reborn living, and she is the Bride of Christ. And she is we — together! Ponder this wonder! It is "not good" that God should be alone, not only in the Trinitarian sense, but also in the marriage of Christ to his bride. The three-in-one God and the many-in-one church join in one beautiful holy union, as it were, that allows all of us to experience God more fully and joyfully than if any less of us existed.

"There Am I Among Them"

That's why we gather as the church this weekend. We are not merely "going to church." We are participating in the greatest mystery and most wonderful wonder that any individual or group of human beings can ever experience: oneness with the body and bride of Christ who together become one with Christ in God.

There is an enjoyment of God, a "[taste] of the heavenly gift" and a "[sharing] in the Holy Spirit," and a "[tasting] of the goodness of the Word of God and the powers of the age to come" that cannot be experienced apart from the corporate gathering of Jesus's church (Hebrews 6:4-5; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Colossians 3:15-16). And there is a manifestation of Jesus's presence that only occurs when this happens: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20) The Bible does instruct us to worship and pray privately (Matthew 6:6). But that will never be the fullest, deepest, most joyful experience of God for us. That is reserved for Christ's united body, his bride. That's the most profound reason we are not to neglect meeting together (Hebrews 10:25). For when it comes to seeing and savoring Jesus Christ to the fullest, it is not good that man should be alone.

For God so loved the world
THAT HE GAVE
his only
BEGOTTEN
SON,
that whosoever
BELIEVETH IN HIM
should Not perish,
but have Everlasting life.

John 3:16

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Intentional Discipleship Update

Well as I write this we are about to finish up with the “Authority of Jesus” Sunday school material on February 6th. On February 13th we will have a review led by Scott Smith of the previous material. Before we head into the next book which is entitled the “Teachings of Jesus” we will be doing a brief 3 or 4 week look into the Puritans. This study will require no homework, but will include a video and discussion of important Puritans. The first one will be led by me and will be on William Perkins. I believe that it will be informative and I hope will lead you to explore some of their writings which are profoundly relevant for us today as they were in their times.

The men and Women’s Bible studies continue to be going well with great reports reaching the Elders ears of the learning and growth that is occurring. I am in full agreement with the Apostle John when he states: “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” May God continue to bless us as we intentionally grow in the “grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”



CHURCH LIBRARY
News

By Linda Hoffman
or Angela Groff
Church Librarians

Last month, I wrote largely on the topic of “what we’re reading.” As I’m *putting pen to paper* (ok, typing) to write this month’s article, this thought came to my mind...”why are we reading?” Good question! So, that’s what I’m going to write about!

I could begin by stating that in this world *today*, there are so many distractions that have a tendency to keep us from reading, but it’s not just *today*, it’s always been that way. The Bible talks about distraction...even the distraction of sleep! Read this passage of scripture from when the disciples went to the Mount of Olives with Jesus to pray, on the night He was betrayed.

Luke 22:39-46: “And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” And he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground, And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.””

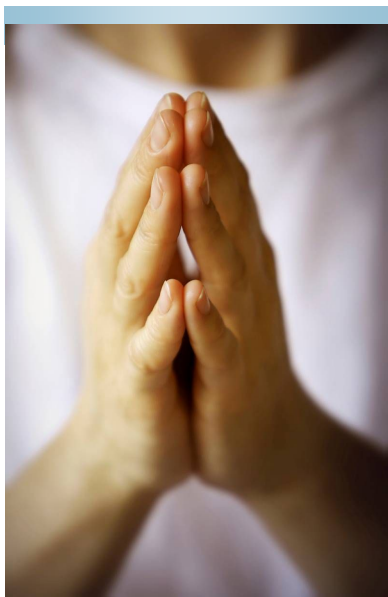
Wow! If the disciples could fall into temptation, I am led to believe that I am even more prone to it! This month, I am asking God to help me to not succumb to distraction/temptation. I will pray the same for you!



Living to Please God

“As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. 2)For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. 3)It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4)that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5)not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; 6)and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. 7)For God did not call us to be impure, but to

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Sunday Evening Services Schedule

February 6—Prayer at 5 pm
 February 13—No Evening Service
 February 20—Sola Christos at 5 pm
 February 27—Prayer at 5 pm

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—January 2-30, 2022
 Budget needed weekly: \$ 2,606.00
 Received: \$ 2,711.00
 Contact Rob Mlodzik with questions.



February 6

Bob Abitz

February 13

Christopher Smith

February 20

Jay Hoffman

February 27

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

Care to be part of the prayer chain? Email or call Becky Godfrey at becl.godfrey@gmail.com — (920) 277-1526 or Linda Hoffman at hofflad@gmail.com—(715) 255-3809.

Missions

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

The following article is from an article written by Kevin Bart on the website “Pursuing Intimacy with God.”

Why Missions Is Very Important

What do you think of when you hear the word missions ? Most people when they hear the word “missions” think of mission trips. Or they think of a ministry at church (many churches do not even have a missions ministry these days). Many others think of a special event the church has in the community 2 or 3 or 4 times per year.

The role that missions and evangelism plays in most churches today has been greatly reduced, if not completely eliminated. Understanding what missions is will help you to understand why missions is very important. Missions is not just a trip. Or a special event the church has 2 or 3 times each year. Missions is not a ministry in the church that only a few “gifted” get to participate in.

Missions Comes From God's Heart

The idea of missions came from God's heart. The desire and inspiration for missions comes from God's heart. It is all about God's great love for all people. (John 3:16) Missions is all about God's love and His desire for all people to be saved... all people from all people groups and nations. (1 Timothy 2:4)

How Strong Is God's Desire For All To Be Saved?

God loves us all so much that He sent His only son Jesus to suffer terribly and to die a horrible death on the cross. All to make it possible for us to be saved and to have a restored personal relationship with God.

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

#1 Reason Why Missions Is Very Important

The Bible tells us that God loves the world and that He wants all to be saved. That doesn't just mean us Christians. It means that God wants all sinners and all the people that are not Christians to be saved. And it doesn't mean just people in the US. God wants every person in every people group, tribe, and every nation in the world to be saved.

Because missions is very important to God, it needs to be very important to us. World missions is important to God because of His great love for all people. And it is important to God because of His great desire and passion for all to be saved. All men, all women, all children in all nations.

live a holy life. 8)Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit. 9)Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. 10)And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, 11) and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, 12) so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-20



UPDATE...

As a group, we will be ministering in song at Country Villa Apartments in Little Chute the second Thursday of the month beginning on February 10. If you would be interested in participating in the services with us, please contact Lynn Abitz. Our next meeting is March 16.

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.



1—Connie Snortum
9—Dan Waggoner
27—Gail Kroehler
28—Ron Van Asten



20—Steve & Carolyn Krauss



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