



1st Quarter  
of 2025



# **FWC Family Connection**

## Moving Forward

So then **we pursue** the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. (Rom 14:19 NASB)

### Grace

We are Moving Forward toward Easter. Easter should be the biggest celebration we have as Christians! During this time, we remember what was done for us on the cross and through the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! That what happened then was for all mankind and was out of Love and by **Grace**.

But before we get too far, I want to give you some definitions.

*Believing* is putting into action the knowledge YOU have received by faith.

*Sanctification* is the process of being made holy.

*Holiness* is someone or thing (in the OT) that is set apart for the Lord, for example God's people are sanctified (holy) unto the Lord. God Himself is Holy, set apart from everything else.

*Faith* is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

*Grace*—Ephesians 2:8 tells us that we are saved by grace. *“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”* (Eph 2:8-10) These verses have a lot more to say than we are saved by grace! Both grace and faith are gifts from God, something that was not the results of anything we did, as there is no way to earn salvation. So, as we learned in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter, we are to be humble in our interactions with other Christians and the World, rely on God's grace, as we did nothing to deserve salvation or faith.

As I am sure I have said in a sermon, that there are two main kinds of grace, Saving or Sanctifying Grace, and Practical or Common grace. Both are received when we Move forward in our faith, which takes a crisis of belief and conviction of the Spirit. Saving Grace is that wherein we turn to God in faith, *believing* that if we repent and ask forgiveness we will be forgiven and enter into a relationship with Jesus/God.

We then, are given the holy Spirit (grace), who enables and empowers those *believing* to continue to Move Forward in their *sanctification*. *“For without holiness, no one will see the Lord”* (Hebrews 12:14). We see Saving or Sanctifying Grace defined as the undeserved favor of God. Romans 5:15 describes this type of grace, *“But the gracious gift is not like the offense. For*

*if by the offense of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many". And from Romans 3:23-25, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith".*

Sanctifying Grace is the work of the Spirit in spiritually strengthening us, and giving us internal comfort and hope and enabling spiritual growth. And it is the Holy Spirit, given by grace, that convicts, prays for us when we don't know what to pray (Rom 8:26), and who brings to mind the things needed at the right time (John 14:26).

Practical or Common grace, for those believing, it is the divine assistance of God, what is seen when the Spirit enables us to overcome some obstacle that may be hindering us from being what we are called to be or in doing what we are called to do. It is the influence or the power or an act of God (the Spirit) that changes us or the situation so that we can do the good works we are called to do.

He not only strengthens us spiritually but also strengthens our resolve to be and do what we are called to be and do. Practical Grace, and again I want to stress for those believing, is also what Paul talked about in 2 Corinthians 9:8 *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work"*. Didn't the Holy Spirit in Philippians 3 tell us that we were God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for Good works?

And since you were created for good works; then by His grace you will be empowered to do good works! So, you should Move Forward in your faith and do them! You will not receive the grace you need until you take that first step in Moving Forward in your calling. Jesus said to Paul in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:9 *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"*, that weakness can be spiritual, physical, emotional, or even mental! We don't move forward in our power but in the power of God!

We are grace empowered to do the good works we were created to do! As Christians we can approach the throne of grace anytime we need to! *"Therefore let's approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need"* (Hebrews 4:16).

But none of this would be possible apart from God's love, the sacrifice of His Son, and His resurrection, which we celebrate on Easter! Your faith, like the faith of Abraham, justifies you in God's sight. *Justified*: for each of those believing it is Just-as-if-I'd never sinned!

*"It (righteousness) will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our **justification**. Therefore, since we have been justified by **faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by **faith** into this **grace** in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us"* (Romans 4:24-5:5).

You as a Christian, believing that Christ died for your sins, and rose on the third day, are forgiven and now stand in grace! You as His child have access to God's grace anytime you need it. Being enabled and empowered by the Holy Spirit given to you! Walk in that grace living lives that are a

witness of His undeserved favor, one in which the world sees His divine unmerited assistance as you rely on the strength and guidance He gives!

May the Lord bless you; may the Love of the Father surround you, and may the Grace of God be with you as you keep Moving Forward through this Easter season and beyond!

Shalom

PK

I would like to encourage you to come to the Maundy Thursday Service on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April at 6:30. There you may participate in the retelling of that last night of Jesus's Life. During this time, you may participate, or choose not to, in the elements of the Seder; which will be served with an explanation of each one and what it means for us as Christians, Foot Washing, men will be with the men and women with the women. Additionally, there will be communion, worship, and a message. I truly hope that you will be able to attend.

In Christ

PK

## Governance Board Annual Report

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2025

Traci Spring

### Welcome to all the new faces!

Love to see all the new faces and families that God is bringing to Family Worship Center!

### Welcome to our new governance board members!

This past January, David Beeman and Martha Wilson joined our board as our newest members. Martha is also serving as Vice-Chair. Vern is our Secretary and Laurene is our Treasurer while I serve as the Chair. Keep us in your prayers!



### Outreach

I'm excited to see how God uses our church family as we partner with the Grass Lake Chamber of Commerce for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12.



## Your Tithes and Offerings and Our Expenditures

For 2024, here's the final financial results:

Actual Spending/Expenses	Total Income/Revenue	Actual Gap	Budgeted Gap
\$135,164.11	\$\$111,095.45	\$24,068.66	\$21,800.95



For the first 3 months of 2025, the financial results are:

Actual Spending/Expenses	Total Income/Revenue	Actual Gap
\$31,777.43	\$ 32,202.85	\$425.42



Thanks to those of you that gave love offerings of \$1,600 towards construction of the new sound room and \$600 for the flower beds!

Congrats again to **Nathan Rutz** for completing the 3-year commitment to the **Student Leadership Institute**. We look forward to seeing how God uses Nathan.



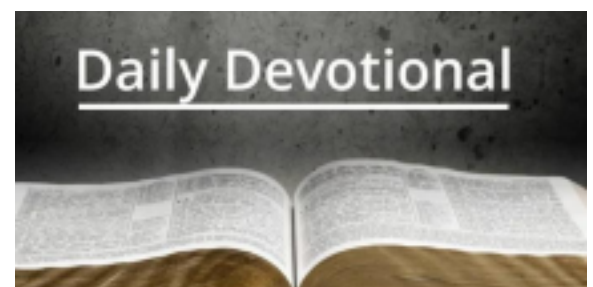
From this program, youth gain:

- A better understanding of what it means to follow Jesus' teachings.
- A better understanding of Christian leadership.
- A better understanding of their leadership skills, personality traits, and spiritual gifts.
- A better understanding of how to create and implement spiritual habits.
- A better understanding how to lead in their local church, community, and school.

## Not sure where to start with daily devotions?

Here's some ideas:

- Listen to Kenny's Daily Devotional on our **Grass Lake Family Worship**



**Center Facebook** page. It starts at 7AM and can also be watched later.

- Grab a paper copy of the **Daily Bread** Devotional at the church.

- Download an app like **YouVersion**. They have great daily devotionals with guided prayer time and numerous plans from which to choose.



Want to know what's going on in the Church of God for Michigan?

Go to: <https://micog.org/>

Respectfully,

Traci Spring, Board Chair

## JR. Church and Preschool

### Nursery

In the nursery, our kids are building relationships with our volunteers and becoming more comfortable with mom leaving to attend the service. We are still in need of a few more volunteers to complete our monthly serving schedule. Please pray and see if God is leading you to be a blessing in this way.

### Preschool

The Preschoolers are ACTIVE! They are actively learning God's truths through some of the major stories of the bible. They are actively learning how to pay attention and get along and take turns. Our amazing group of volunteers are actively showing and teaching them God's love with each and every hug. We've grown accustomed to our new curriculum and get super excited each month when a new video is released. Come visit us after church sometime and have the kids show you what they are making and learning!

### Jr. Church

In our Jr. Church classroom, the elementary school years, we are striving for the kids to grow in wisdom, faith, and friendship. We are learning three basic truths:

**I need to make the wise choice.**

**I can trust God no matter what.**

**I should treat others the way I want to be treated.**

Each month we focus on a different God view to emphasize one or more of our three basic truths. January's view was the connection between resilience and God's character. We defined resilience as getting back up when something gets you down. We learned through God's Big Story, that with every season comes new and different challenges but also the chance to experience incredible joy. Through sunshine or rain, storms, and blue skies, seasons and weather are important to growth, but not just for flowers and trees. How we respond to each season of life helps us grow in maturity and can spur us to a deeper faith in God. This is especially true when it comes to our emotions. Just as seasons come and go, so do our emotions. And how we choose to handle those emotions can shape us and teach us a lot about how God cares for us. No matter what emotion we may be feeling or what we may face, because of Jesus, we can learn to trust that God knows how we feel. Jesus showed us how to face life with resilience, and because of it, we can trust God no matter what.

Our February view was the connection between uniqueness and God's character. We defined uniqueness as learning more about yourself so you can make a difference. Have you ever thought about what makes you, you? We all have different backgrounds, families, or favorite colors. We all enjoy different sports, foods, vacations, and have different friends and experiences in life. Even twins have different fingerprints! Together, all of those pieces make up who we are. But we can't understand who we are and what we were created to do without first understanding the way God sees us. Every single one of us was created in the image of God. But even as image bearers, we were created as unique. There is only one you, and this month we have the chance to explore how God can use the ways we were created to make a difference.

The view for March was the connection between cooperation and God's character. We defined cooperation as working together to do more than you can do alone. Cooperation isn't always something that may happen naturally, but it is something that is near and dear to God's heart. Since the beginning of creation we see how God created us to be in community with one another. Cooperation is a spiritual concept that originates with God, and throughout the Bible, we see how God brought people together to accomplish God's plan for the world. When we work together, we reflect Jesus to others, and our love for one another can point people to Him as we explore what God wants us to do together.

God made a way for us to practice cooperation in a n exciting way! Next month we are cooperating with the Grass Lake Chamber of Commerce to host the Community Easter Egg Hunt. Through the Experiencing God study, Dawn was led to see if we could join God where He was at work in the community. I can't wait to see what God will do through us as we work together to bless the community!

### Youth

Our 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are continuing the Experiencing God for Teens study and have transitioned from a classroom setting to a small group setting. Jessica Rutz is leading the class with a wonderful compliment of assistants. While only a few attend each week, their commitment and hard work is drawing them into a closer relationship with the Lord. Please continue to lift up our youth In prayer as they finish this study and decide what their next endeavor will be.

## Day of Hope

Jan Otto/Laurene Sharkey

This ministry is continuing to boom and for that I'm truly grateful. Speaking of grateful – thank you so much for all that are able to come out and serve!! This last month we could have handed out an additional 10 more boxes of food. Currently we receive 75 boxes, and the Food Bank will only allow us to get more in quantities of 25. Thankfully we had a few gift cards available to give to those that had been waiting in line. Speaking of the line we have people line up as early as 11 am with our distribution starting at 2 (or as soon as the truck arrives). This increase has put a lot of pressure on the inside program as we've been running out of items as it is so hard to know how many people to expect. We continue to be extremely thankful for our partnership with The Copper Nail as they fund this ministry 100%.

## Care Team

The care team is busy caring for our church body keeping Christ as the head. We continue to send out birthday and anniversary cards to everyone so make sure the directory is updated with your dates!! Praying and visiting those in need. Planning fellowship opportunities to get to know each other more and invite family and neighbors too. Much fun was had with the chili cook off in February. Coming soon is the bake good auction to support Nathan's project. And new is our summer picnics outreach. Host a picnic or just join one of the special locations. Each host family will plan time and menu of their choice and update everyone the week before of any special needs. It can be an evening with bon fire or afternoon at the lake. Just get together and share the love of Christ, laugh and make memories. If you know of anyone with a need... yard work help, ride somewhere, please contact pastor or Roseann and we will do what we can to help.

## Ladies Group

Tammy Hackworth

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at 9 am, we meet at FWC, Ladies houses, or different places in the community. We have formed this ministry to connect, support, and pray for each other, while learning and growing in God's word. We bring a breakfast dish to pass and enjoy fellowship with each other. We have guest speakers, we have guests from the Aware shelter and Hospice, we are open to more ideas on speakers and outings suggestions. In March we went to Brooklyn and did pottery, lots of fun. No meeting in April. We are hosting a Ladies Tea May 3 at FWC, we will have breakfast, tea, a guest speaker and cookie decorating. Please feel free to invite other ladies to join us at our monthly meetings.

# Worship

Jayme Reichanadter

When God's children meet to praise and pray together, all should feel able and comfortable to worship with us. We desire to walk in the balance of scriptural truth and love and deference for our brothers and sisters in Christ. There are many valid styles of worship based on the word of God. Freedom to worship in spirit and in truth means that we are free to reflect the love of our loving Father.

You may want to try some expressions of worship that are new to you. The Scriptures are full of the body language of praise. Only the enemy would shift your focus to the outward physical expression, when God wants you uniquely to focus on Him and lift your hearts in praise to Him. Only the love of Christ should constrain you. Feel free to clap, to lift your hands, to close your eyes—or not.

Baptists, you need to know that when you say "Amen," you scare the Presbyterians half to death. That is outside their comfort zone. They need to begin to get comfortable with it, because there will be amens in heaven, according to Revelation 5:14, 7:12, 19:4. In fact, Amen is one of the names of Jesus. (Rev. 3:14)

You who are freer in worship, when you raise your hands, that is a beautiful picture of your childlike devotion to your heavenly Father, but Baptists are only comfortable doing that when the referee signals a touchdown at a football game. You are outside their comfort zone. You may want to practice for heaven, because lifted hands are present there for eternity (Rev. 7:9) The most frequent worship posture in heaven is falling on our faces before the throne (Rev. 4:10), while the heavenly hosts cry, "Holy, Holy, Holy." Open your heart in a new way to worship our worthy Lamb, perhaps with a new song (Rev 14:3) during this time of worship. The only issue in this worship time is "He is worthy."

## **Scriptural Body Language of Praise and Worship**

**1 Kings 8:22-23** Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven and said: "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you, you who keep your covenant of love with your servants."

**Neh 8:6** Ezra praised the Lord, the great God: and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

**Job 11:13** Yet if you devote your heart to Him, and stretch out your hands to Him...

**Ps. 28:2** Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift my hands toward your Most Holy Place.

**Ps. 47:1** Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

**Ps. 134:2** Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord.

**Lam. 2:19** Arise, cry out in the night...pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord, Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children.

**1 Tim. 2:8** I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer.

-Written by Sylvia Gunter

# **Missionary Minutia**

Dawn Buchbinder

## Missions Minutia

### Drew and Christine VanTiem in Scotland with New International

Christine continues to minister to missionary families, focusing on missionary kids. Her team is currently assessing needs and gathering data to help them in ministry planning. Next steps include creating a virtual 'space' for parents to meet monthly for prayer and sharing of burdens. Drew's ministry is in a period of pause and transition. He is no longer in his role with NI as Director of Wellness. He is working with his supervisors to determine next steps. Please continue to pray for their ministries, their health, and their family!

### Lisa and Moses Ndjomou with YWAM in Togo, Africa

Lisa and Moses and family are still in Michigan. Lisa is continuing to heal and gain strength. Moses continues to teach and disciple, sometimes virtually, sometimes flying to all four corners of the earth! The girls are growing and well. Their hearts remain soft and hurting for their home and ministry 'family' in Togo, as well as the ongoing efforts to get the schools built. Please continue to pray for their ministry, the school, their health, and their family! The schools are still desperately in need of building funds.

## Children of Promise

With our GREAT response from the Children of Promise presentation last winter, I'm hoping you all are settled in with the payments and letters and set up with your sponsored children. Also, all of you are hopefully getting their email newsletter? It's full of inspiring stories, devotionals, and even recipes! :) Let me know if you need help getting hooked up with any of these great connections. It's still not too late to sponsor a child (or another child).

God calls us to care - for all of his children, everywhere. Are you able to go? Then go! If you're unable to go, then ask God where your dollars can go for you! Stay in prayer and submit to His calling. No better way to Experience God :)

Love, Dawn

## Online Presence

We do our best to be out on the world wide web for everyone. FWC has lots of ways to stay connected.

Facebook- [www.facebook.com/GrassLakeFWC](http://www.facebook.com/GrassLakeFWC)

We have a Facebook Group as well Grass Lake Family Worship Center Prayer and Announcements

YouTube- Grass Lake FWC

Website- [www.grasslakefwc.org](http://www.grasslakefwc.org)

Email- A weekly email is sent out to everyone in our directory on Thursday's. Check your Inboxes and Spam folders for it, if you're not, please let Brock know so we can get that worked out.

You of course are always welcome to visit 1901 Mt. Hope Rd, Grass Lake MI 49202 Sunday Mornings at 10am to see us live and in person.

## Upcoming Events:

### · Sunday

· Every Sunday Apologetics class, 8:45am, FWC

### · Monday

· Every Third Monday of the month. Day of Hope, 2pm, FWC

### · Tuesday

· Every Tuesday, Prayer Meeting, 6pm, FWC

### • Saturday

· Every Second Sunday of the month, Ladies Breakfast, 9am, Usually FWC

April 17, Thursday

is Maundy Thursday. You are invited and encouraged to come out and participate in the retelling of that last night of Jesus's Life. I would also encourage you to read John 13:1-17 in paying special attention to vs. 14-17

We will be going over what happened that night, you may participate in the foot washing or choose not to, that is completely up to you. Men will be with the men and women with the women for the foot washing. The elements of the seder meal will be served with an explanation of each one and what it means for us as Christians, there will be communion, worship, and a teaching on the Old and New Covenants. I truly hope that you will be able to attend.

In Christ, PK

•April 20, Sunday  
No Sunday morning class  
Easter Sunday, FWC, 10am

•April 21, Monday  
Day of Hope, 2pm, FWC

•April 26, Saturday  
FWC Spring Work Day, more details in Sunday bulletin

•April 27, Sunday  
A Crucified Life by A.W. Tozer, 8:45, FWC

•May 01, Thursday  
National Day of Prayer, 7-8pm, Pavilion Downtown Grass Lake

•May 03, Saturday  
Ladies Breakfast, 9am, FWC  
It will be a Mother's Day Tea

360 conference has been rescheduled. It has been moved to September. No date yet.