



2nd Quarter  
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)

### “Kingdomtude”

We must Move Forward in The Kingdom, developing (pursuing) a Kingdomtude, which is an attitude of love, mercy and grace, of Kingdom firstness, and obedience to our King. None of us can afford to stagnate or become lukewarm. We must **pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of *one another*** Kingdomtude includes thinking of and building up one another (see Phil 2:1-8). What we are discovering, as we journey through Matthew, is that what Jesus did on the Cross, offering the world forgiveness and eternal life through His death and resurrection, opens the door for us to be made a part of the Kingdom.

So it is that by grace through faith, we are able to repent of our sins. Believing and repentance gain us entrance into the Kingdom. Repentance being a turning from sin and the world to God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and His Kingdom. As citizens of the Kingdom we are no longer of the World and are now subjects to our King and are to follow the will of our King and His Laws.

Christians are by definition Followers of Christ. Believers are those (Christians) who are putting into practice the knowledge they have received by faith. These are the ones who have been rescued from the domain of darkness and brought into The Kingdom of His beloved Son. (Colossians 1:13) In John 18:36 Jesus tells Pilate and those gathered that His Kingdom is not of this world. And He tells His followers in John 15:19 that they are not of this world (having been brought into the Kingdom). We understand from all of this that we are now citizens and Heirs in the Kingdom of God! As such; we must have Kingdomtude!

But what does that mean for us as a church and for each of us as individuals? Well for one thing, just like there are laws and statutes that we are to follow in the United States of America, there are laws and statutes in the Kingdom that should supersede those of the USA. Just for clarification I am not talking about sedition or rebellion to our present form of government, but the moral law of God in the New Testament; like, “*Love your neighbor as yourself*” (Matt 22:38) or “*forgive as you have been forgiven*” (Eph 4:32). If we keep in mind that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, it is easier to love and accept those around us “in the now” (where you are at any given moment) this too is to be a part of your Kingdomtude.

While we are in this world, we are not to be of it, and must abide by the Laws of the Kingdom; the laws for those who are our brothers and sisters, as well as the laws for those outside the Kingdom. Keep in mind that we represent the Kingdom to the World in all that we do and say. Our Church buildings are Embassies within the communities where they have been placed, and each believer, each of us, are ambassadors for Christ our King! What flag flies over an embassy,

the flag of the nation they are a part of or the one of that nation or Kingdom? (It's the one they belong to). Believers are messengers of reconciliation and of the Love, mercy, and grace of our God and King (see 2 Cor 5:14-6:2).

The first and greatest commandment is this; You are to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. And your neighbor as yourself. (see Mark 12:29-31). So, we know that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves, but what does that look like for those outside The Kingdom, your neighbors? We must do our best to follow the examples given to us by Jesus.

Jesus' entire adult life was characterized by a deep concern for the spiritual condition of the nonbeliever, the unsaved. He saw them as desperately lost and His heart was broken. His compassion for their well-being was deep-rooted, and He showed this concern specifically in the way He met them where they lived, fed them, taught them, and healed them (Matthew 9:9-11; Mark 1:33-34; 6:30-42; Luke 5:1-11) all the while proclaiming the Kingdom which was the reason He was sent. (Luke 4:42-43 see also John 20:21)

The example Jesus set for us is to build community, and thereby relationships, within the Kingdom, while Moving Out to the people who don't know the Gospel of the Kingdom. When we meet a person who has not yet experienced God's saving grace, we are to have the heart of Jesus and extend a helping hand at their point of need. If they are lonely we offer community, a place to belong, if they're thirsty, we can give them a cup of water; if they're hungry, we can feed them (Matt 25:35-40). But ultimately it is to lead them to Christ and His Kingdom.

This too is seeking first the Kingdom! Yes, in context we are to set aside our wants and worries, what we will eat, drink, or wear (Matt 6:25-33). Still, we are to seek first The Kingdom! So, if our mission is to share the Gospel, to witness, and to make disciples as His messengers and ambassadors, we are then building the Kingdom and doing as we are called to!

Colossians 4:5-6 say *"Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech **always** be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.* It is so important to have wise conduct before unbelievers. We don't want to appear foolish, since we are proclaiming The Kingdom, by our conduct and in our speech, with our Kingdomtude. The reputation of the Kingdom depends on you and the World judges The Kingdom by what it sees in you.

Note the word "always" above; that means in all situations at all times! While playing a sport, watching a movie, driving, shopping, business, in church, out of church, at work, etc.: Always, you are a child of God, always a witness of God's love and forgiveness, and citizen of the Kingdom! So, talk and act like it. *"Do not let any corrupt talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen"* (Eph 4:29).

The Holy Spirit in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15 tells us, *"But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, **always** being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect"* (NASB, emphasis mine) There is that word again: "always"...

God wants you to know how to answer everyone, how you should respond to each person; this means you will have to renew your mind, study the Word, and grow in your understanding of the Kingdom of Heaven/God.

Are you proclaiming The Kingdom well? Is your kingdomtude showing? Are kindness, holiness, love, mercy, grace, and consistent reverence to the Lord seen in you and in how you treat others out in the World? Even your enemies? (See Rom 12:20-21, Luke 6:27-28)

And we must follow the laws and statutes of The Kingdom; as believers, Christians, and Citizens of that Kingdom. Each and every letter that is addressed to a church in God's Word contains instruction (Laws and Statutes) for Kingdom living (see Rom 12 and Col 3:1-17). For example in Romans the letter is written to the "*Called of Jesus Christ*" (1:6), the "*beloved of God*", and those "*called as Saints*". Those of the Church, citizens of the Kingdom.

We are told 15 times to love one another in the New Testament: 15 times! That is what we are to do in the Kingdom; Love one another. How? Jesus said *Love one another. As I have loved you, so also you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.*" (John 13:34-35) So our love for one another within the Kingdom (Church) is also a witness to those of the World. And Jesus loved us by laying down His life for us, He set aside His Life with the Father (laid it down) and He came and walked in this world as a man, He came to die for our sin so that we could be in and of the Kingdom of God.

We too are to lay down our lives for the Kingdom, to set aside our agenda, our plans, and our priorities and make the Kingdom our priority; to live by the Laws of the kingdom, the commands of our King. And like in the USA there are Laws for getting along with each other, for instance: accept one another (Rom 15:7) be kind to, bear with, and forgive one another (Eph 4:2, 32, Col 3:13). There are 59 one anothers that we are to follow. They can be found in the information rack at the back of the sanctuary or on line here:

[http://storage.cloversites.com/wakarusamissionarychurch/documents/59one\\_another\\_scriptures.pdf](http://storage.cloversites.com/wakarusamissionarychurch/documents/59one_another_scriptures.pdf) and here: <https://overviewbible.com/one-another-infographic/> These commands come from Jesus, Peter, John, Paul, and James, and they're scattered all through the New Testament. Don't just stop at the list: dig into these passages to see what the Holy Spirit is leading us to be in the Kingdom!

The gospel of the Kingdom is to be shared and proclaimed and taught. We are called to "go and make disciples" of the Kingdom – for the King! We do that by building community, relationships, and by growing in our understanding of Christ and His Kingdom by moving up and moving out—by Moving forward.

How are you developing a Kingdomtude?

Are you doing your part in the Kingdom, as a part of it, while proclaiming it with your actions and words?

Do you see yourself as a messenger of reconciliation and an ambassador for Christ and His Kingdom?

If not, now is the time, today is the Day! (see 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6:2). May the King of Kings be with you as you Move Forward with Kingdomtude!

In and for the Kingdom!

PK

# Governance Board Report

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2025



### Your Tithes and Offerings vs Expenditures

For the first 6 months of 2025, the financial results are:

<b>Actual Spending/Expenses</b>	<b>Total Income/Revenue</b>	<b>Actual Gap</b>
\$66,012.37	\$63,165.02	<b>(2,847.35)</b>

This is better than expected based on the 2025 budget the church approved last year. The budget projected an \$8,400 deficit at this point.

We praise God for His provisions!



Thank you to everyone who has helped maintain and improve our building's interior and exterior!

Efforts included:

- Updating of playground area by the Eagle Scouts and parents
- Placement of new landscape bricks and removal of old landscape timbers
- New mulch for the front landscape
- Trimmed spruce trees
- Power-washing of building
- Installation of new security lights over the parking lot area

Recognition also to:

- Tammy for the beautiful Mother's Day Tea Event
- Steve Rutz and Nathan Rutz for preaching on separate Sundays
- The kids for the beautiful service on Kids Sunday
- Sharkey Family for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Float and Ryan for driving
- Jessica for coordinating Spring Work Day
- Those who are working on the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- The amazing praise and worship team who shares their God-given talents each week



## 360 Conference is Saturday, October 4 in Lansing

360 is a great opportunity for leaders across Michigan to learn more about themselves and step into more effective ministry. You will hear from ministry leaders on a variety of topics—worship, tech, social media, church governance, evangelism, and more! You will also meet other leaders and volunteers who have similar ministries and be able to share what is working for you. As you drive home, we hope you will leave with new ideas, deeper passion, and encouragement to continue in the ministry Jesus has given you.

### **Why did the Michigan's Church of God Leadership Move this to the Fall?**

Great question! Several factors led to this decision. First is the weather. The weather in March can be an issue in Michigan. Another factor is the proximity to Easter. Every year, we leave 360 with new ideas we are ready to implement, only to become focused on the celebration of the Resurrection. Moving 360 to Fall will provide more time for us to explore and implement what we learn. In addition, we are looking at our state calendar as a whole and working to provide balance so we bring our best to each event.

More to come! And we'll have sign-ups available at a later date.

### Pray

Please keep the governance board members in your prayers that we would rely on and fully trust God in all things and give us wisdom and discernment. The board members include Vern, Laurene, Martha, David and me.

Respectfully,

Traci Spring, Board Chair

## JR. Church and Preschool

### Nursery

In the nursery, we are in desperate need of volunteers. As with all of life, our needs keep changing. Currently we have **2 of 10** volunteer spots filled. Our mamas are always in the nursery with their kiddos. I know from experience, that our mom's need to have fellowship with

the body, need to sit in the service to be filled up by God's word, in order to be able to minister and train up these amazing little humans. We need volunteers to commit to serving in the nursery on their scheduled day, one Sunday a month, even if the mamas stay too. Our kiddos need to build relationships with our volunteers in order to feel comfortable when the parents leave to enjoy the sermon. Our parents also need to feel comfortable leaving their kiddos, and knowing their kids have built those relationships makes all the difference. **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. April's view was the connection between hope and God's character. We defined hope believing that something good can come out of something bad. Life can be complicated. In fact, Jesus told His disciples that we would have trouble in this world (John 16:33b). Sometimes, we may not understand why something happens the way it does. Yet, in spite of the things that go wrong or the things we don't understand, we can have hope that God knows what's best and is working for our good. Because of that, we can trust God no matter what as we begin to explore why the story of Jesus is good news for everyone.

May's view was the connection between initiative and God's character. We defined initiative as seeing what needs to be done, and doing it. Getting started can sometimes seem like the hardest part of meeting a need. But it actually starts before then. First we have to see the needs around us. Initiative isn't just some practical principle; it's really a spiritual principle that starts with God. God took initiative on our behalf by seeing that our relationship was broken and needed to be fixed. So God sent Jesus to make it right. And because we are made in God's image, we are wired to be able to take initiative and get things done too.

The view for June was the connection between live it out and God's character. We defined living it out as with Jesus, being able to change the world. Living and loving like Jesus sounds great in theory, but may be a little hard in practice. However, with the help of God's Spirit, we don't have

to do it alone. When we follow Jesus, God's Spirit transforms us, shaping us every day into who God has called us to be and how God is calling us to live. Live It Out is not JUST a theme, but a call to action. It encourages kids to actively live out their faith through their words and interactions with others. And the more we become like Jesus, the more we can make a true difference in this world and in the lives of those around us.

### Youth

Our 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade students have finished the Experiencing God for Teens study. As summer is full of family vacations, summer camps and other exciting family adventures, the youth will take the summer off and plan to resume in the fall. Please continue to lift up our youth in prayer as they decide what their next endeavor will be.

## **Day of Hope**

Jan Otto/Laurene Sharkey

We continue to distribute 75 boxes every month with people lining up hours beforehand. Unfortunately, we are seeing some not-so-great changes in the food that we are receiving from the South Michigan Food bank – they have lost some of their funding so the amount of food in the boxes has lessened along with no bakery and no milk. We are hoping for a change in this through the summer as fresh food is available. We also have around 20 people or more coming inside to receive products and be prayed with. In June Chelsea Hospital set up a table showing all the local things that they're doing along with a representative from the Wave Bus. These were presented as additional resources for them. Hopefully everyone will take advantage of these resources.

## **Care Team**

The Care Team is now meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30 at FWC. When the time changes, we will adjust our meeting times and maybe the day of the week. The care Team Mission is an extension of the church and exists to meet the practical needs of others and show them the love of Jesus. If you or someone you know has a need please contact Tammy. If you'd like to be a Care Team member, please contact Tammy or come to one of our meetings. The Care Team has welcomed two new members, Mindy and Renelle. Thank you, Ladies. We would also like to recognize our long-term members: Jan S, Roseann, Martha, Bonnie A HUGE THANK YOU!! For all your years of service I have very much appreciated it.

## Ladies Group

Tammy Hackworth

Ladies Breakfast, we enjoy great food and wonderful fellowship, prayer and devotionals, we are currently not meeting for the summer, (due to having FWC picnics) we will plan to meet back up Sept 13 9:00 am at FWC. Please feel free to invite lady friends and family members to join us each month, we will be looking at different meeting places and what outings you ladies would like to attend, any upcoming retreats, conferences, movies, ect. We had a Fantastic Ladies Tea about 23 people attended. We had a guest speaker Thank you Martha for arranging, we had great food, games, prizes, we plan to do this again, any suggestions on other events we can plan please let Tammy know.

## Worship

Jayme Reichenadter

The Festal Shout  
The Body Language of Praise and Worship  
By Sylvia Gunter

People all over the world are shouting: supporting a cause with strong conviction, opposing a political regime with hatred and violence, supporting a sports team with alcohol-inflamed passion, or supporting a political candidate with fleshly enthusiasm.

The Bible calls “blessed” those who know the festal shout, the shout of joy. God promises that they will walk in the light of the presence of the Lord (Ps. 89:15). God’s people were often commanded to shout praises to God, particularly in battle. Shouting is a victorious offensive war weapon, not just what you do when the battle is won. Let’s follow a Biblical precedent and shout praises to God. If God be for us, who can be against us! Let your voice be heard, at church and at home, in fellowship and all alone!

Enlist a “cheerleading partner” for this responsive exercise. Read the Scripture quotations, and let your partner respond with the bold italicized lines, and then lead the group to repeat the response. (Do not read the Scripture references in parenthesis. They are for reference or documentation only)

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Know that the Lord is God. (Ps. 100:1, 3)

**The Lord is God!**

Shout aloud to God our strength, the God of Jacob! (Ps. 81:1, 2)

**He is our covenant-keeping God!**

God has ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets. Shout to Him with cries of joy. (Ps. 47:5, 1, 2)

**He is the awesome Lord Most High!**

Shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation (Ps. 95:1, 3, 6)

**He is the Lord our Maker, the great King above all gods.**

Shout for joy before the Lord, the great King over all the earth! (Ps 98:6, 47:2)

**He is King of Kings!**

## **Missionary Minutia**

Dawn Buchbinder

Lisa and Moses are still based in Michigan while Lisa's health continues to improve. Moses is still teaching locally, virtually, and around the globe. They ask that we pray for Boris, the young man who had the wound that healed. It opened up again and is growing in size. Pray for it to heal quickly and never return. Pray also for the Lord to grow Boris' ability to trust the Lord as he waits. Pray for God to provide for the schools to be finished.

Drew and Christine sent an email newsletter earlier in June. You should all be getting this in your inboxes! See Dawn, if you need to get on the list. Christine continues to work with Third Culture Kids in the ministry center. At last report, Drew is sorting through a role change with New International. They ask for prayers for wisdom and direction. They request continued prayers for Christine's health and finances.

Children of Promise continue to do their great work around the world. The House of Hope in Bangladesh continues to be a safe space for those children living in the brothel. CoP is always looking for sponsors for children and for the House of Hope!

## 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

#### •July 20, Sunday

Picnic, Theide's home, 5pm

#### •July 21, Monday

Day of Hope, 2pm, FWC

#### •July 27, Sunday

Baptism, Bill & Sandy's home, 1pm

#### •August 02, Saturday

Picnic, Sorenson home, Time TBD

#### •August 10, Sunday

Picnic, Martha's, Time TBD

#### •August 17, Sunday

35 year celebration, after service, Pavilion downtown

#### •August 22, Friday

Picnic, Pastor Kenny and Mindy's home, 4pm - 9pm

The ladies breakfast WILL NOT be meeting over the summer. Will resume again in September.

#### •October 04, Saturday

360 conference