



# The VOICE of Faith

Speaking the truth in love  
Faith Community Church  
(an Evangelical Free church)

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MAY 2017

## Go Guatemala 2018!

by Clarissa Russell

This next year looks like an exciting one as Faith Community Church is planning a mission trip to Guatemala in 2018. There is a lot of interest in our church and a strong desire to serve. Praise God!

I was truly blessed to have been able to participate in a youth group mission trip to Guatemala in summer of 2011 through Faith Community Church, and later experience the country's culture for four months through a study abroad semester. Because of that, I have not only read about the daily struggles that Guatemalan people face, but also witnessed them firsthand.

Guatemala is located in Central America, just below Mexico. It borders Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, and Belize. The country is full of mountainous regions, coastlines, jungles, volcanoes, and beautiful landscapes and tourist destinations. Guatemala has a very rich culture-- primarily due to its Mayan history. The Mayan people were thought to have been in Guatemala as early as 2000 B.C. Although the Maya mysteriously disappeared, much of the Guatemalan population today are indigenous descendants of the Mayan people. Guatemala is primarily either Catholic or Evangelical Christian, but there are still many ancient Mayan beliefs, sometimes mixed in, especially among the older generations. There can be a great deal of tension between the Catholics and Protestants, and this is important to keep in mind when doing mission work. The primary language is Spanish, but there are over 20 Mayan dialects still spoken among indigenous populations. Food is primarily rice, black beans, and corn tortillas. Guatemalans are generally very generous, hard-working, hospitable, and friendly. Overall, Guatemala is often remembered for its bright traditional clothing, textile work, landscapes, Mayan history and food.

Although Guatemala is an undeniably beautiful country, it is very much in need. It's important that the need is not sugar-coated. As a nation, Guatemala faces extreme poverty, poverty, malnutrition, political corruption, gang violence, domestic violence, a lack of infrastructure-- especially in regards to healthcare availability and education--and the list goes on.

Guatemala has faced a 36-year internal civil war between 1960-1996 leaving as many as 200,000 dead or missing. The country is still trying to recover from such a hard period of time. Not only did the war leave the country in greater poverty and shambles, but there is still a great deal of emotional pain that is relatively fresh when considering the war only ended 20 years ago and many loved ones were lost.

Guatemala's poverty rates are alarming. While not every Guatemalan is living in poverty, a statistic from 2014 shows 59.3% (9.37 million people) are living in poverty, and 23.4 percent (3.69 million people) are living in extreme poverty (thedawn-news.org). Extreme poverty is when one has trouble meeting basic human needs-- like food or water. There is also a great deal of economic inequality. A few families own close to 90% of the country's wealth. A majority of individuals living in poverty belong to the indigenous populations who have historically been treated unfairly.

It is evident that Guatemala is in need. However, God is doing tremendous work in Guatemala through missionaries, mission teams, and programs throughout the country. In many areas, conditions are improving little by little. Praise God for the work that is being done! It's so exciting that we can be part of the world being done to help and care for the poor right now through Faith Community Church.

Short-term mission trips are only a week-long; however, they can still have a great impact on both those we will serve and ourselves, as servants. It's eye-opening in many ways. It's important to see another culture to get a better perspective of the world God has created. In Guatemala, there are often opportunities to pray and worship with our brothers and sisters from a different part of the world in different languages. It's such a powerful experience!

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We are also made aware of the need in the world. We can learn so much about the Lord by going out of our comfort zones to do His work! God doesn't call us to a life of comfort. He often does tremendous things in our lives when we go out of our way to do His work! In my personal experiences on mission trips in Guatemala specifically, I have experienced God's peace (Philippians 4:6), been shown God's power to conquer fears and anxieties, and learned that God can use us regardless of how unskilled we may feel we are. God teaches us each something different. A trip to Guatemala was entirely life-changing for me.

We are currently setting dates and working through details. There are many options for locations in the country and list of various ways we can serve depending on the group's strengths and interests.

If you are part of Faith Community Church and interested in serving in a short-term mission trip to Guatemala and have any questions, please contact me, Clarissa Russell. There still may be a few spots remaining, but we will be starting a waiting list soon! Know that you can also provide financial support or support through prayer if you want to be part of the trip but are unable to go.



## Welcome our New Worship Team Leader!

Sean Russell has come on board as our new part-time Worship Leader here at Faith Community Church as of April 1. He has been associated with this church since childhood and so has his lovely wife Clarissa, who is also a member of the Worship Team. In the past couple of years, they graduated from college, got married, got new jobs, joined the church, and are currently excited about growing the music ministry here. Please welcome them and pray for them as they go about using their gifts, education, and talents to serve the Author of music, our Creator and Savior Jesus Christ.



***"See, I have inscribed you  
on the palms of My hands..."  
Isaiah 49:15***

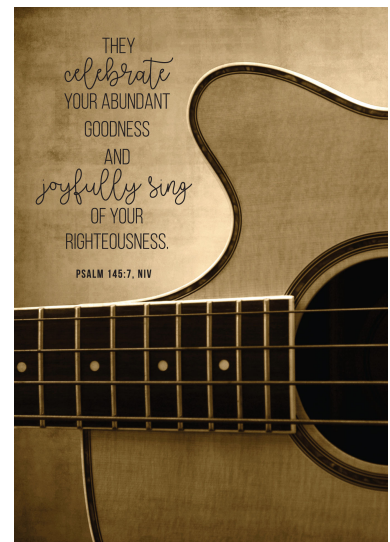
Believe this for yourself? Does this give you any sense of just how precious you are in the Father's eyes? If you are implying that only the New Testament promises are relevant to those who accept the Lord, then how do you come to that viewpoint? I would argue that if God said it, then it is relevant... ALWAYS. Jesus' own words (Matthew 5:17) were that He had come to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies... does this mean that the promises aren't also included? Bottom line is that when it comes to scripture you either accept all of it or deny all of it (2Timothy 3:16). You can't pick and choose.

Perhaps the issue is that you are looking at yourself through your own eyes, not the eyes of the Father. He isn't blind to who you are and what you do - He's with you when you do or say... Yet, He continues to love you and help you to become your best you. If you don't allow Him to be God, then who is He in your life?

In the process of limiting God you also limit yourself, which is a form of denial. Granted that if you don't accept yourself in the state of becoming, you don't have to acknowledge your responsibilities. Is this really worth it? A few years ago there was a phrase permeating Christendom - let go and let God. Works. You are never in this alone because you have one who sticks closer than a brother who is with you... always.

**Be encouraged!**

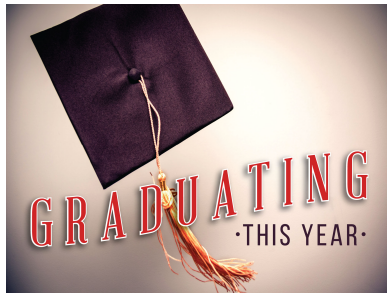
*Editor's note: You can read more of Carolyn's thoughts at <http://yourthoughtsandbeliefs.blogspot.com/>*



## Young At Heart



**Senior Lunch**  
**Tuesday, May 9, at noon**  
 for those 55+ years old  
 Great food, music, devotional, fellowship  
 Free-will donation  
*Bring friends!*

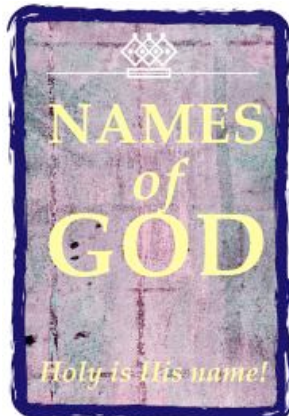


### 8th Grade

- ★ **Emma Hollenbeck**
- ★ **Renna Johnson**
- ★ **Jacob Melgosa**
- ★ **Kyle Quick**

### High School

- ★ **Alivia Berger**, Postville High School, May 28. Open House: May 20, 1-4, Makee Drive, Waukon, Iowa
- ★ **Joshua Cavanaugh** (Bob & Lynda Coon's grandson), Prairie du Chien High School, May 28, 2 p.m. Open House: details pending
- ★ **Nathaniel Oehler**, Prairie du Chien High School, Sunday, May 28, 2 p.m. Open House: Saturday, June 3, 4-8



## Jehovah El Hakkabod

The God of Glory

*"The voice of the LORD is upon the waters:  
 the God of Glory thunders;  
 the LORD is upon many waters."  
 Psalm 29:3*



## Birth Announcement

Izeyah Jabari McFarland was born to Kat McFarland on March 31, at 7:52 p.m., weighing 7 pounds 11oz and was 18.8 inches long.

His mother and grandparents, John & Maria McFarland, are long-time congregants of Faith Community Church.



**by Dorothea Horsfall**

May the Glory of God rest upon me  
 that He may be honored and praised  
 My eyes to see the needs of others  
 my ears to listen to and hear the cries of the lost  
 My mouth to speak words of encouragement  
 my heart overflowing with love and compassion  
 My hands eager to work victoriously  
 my feet to swiftly run to the righteousness of God  
 My mind renewed in wisdom by the Word of God  
 my soul made anew and whole  
 washed in the blood of Christ Jesus  
 May the Glory of God rest upon me  
 that He may be honored and praised



**Sunday, May 14**

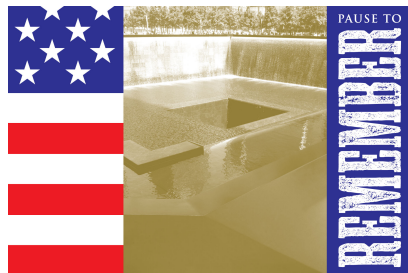




We offer our sympathy to Chad Gruber  
and his family in the loss of his father.  
Please pray for this dear family  
as they grieve.



**Armed Forces Day**  
**May 20**



## Memorial Day

Is it enough to think today  
Of all our brave, then put away  
The thought until a year has sped?  
Is this full honor for our dead?

Is it enough to sing a song  
And deck a grave; and all year long  
Forget the brave who died that we  
Might keep our great land proud and free?

Full service needs a greater toll,  
That we who live give heart and soul  
To keep the land they died to save,  
And be ourselves, in turn, the brave!

~ Annette Wynne



**Saturday, May 20**

**5:30 - 9:00 at the church**

**What is it?** A *Guys Night Out* is a monthly event for men who want to get together with other men and have a great time. The event will be broken up into four quarters:

1. **Eat** great food and lots of it.
2. **Play** corn hole games, card games, table games, ping pong, etc.
3. **Huddle**: a large group gathering with a short presentation of interest to men. You will not be expected to talk :)
4. **Overtime**: stay late, if you wish.

**Cost:** \$10 suggested donation

**Sign-up:** Please sign up so we can prepare enough food. You may sign up at the Welcome Center in the church lobby or call the church to make a reservation.

**Bring friends!**



## A Timely Reminder

During one of our frequent phone calls, my 95-year-old mother related what had happened during the previous night. She'd awakened and glanced at the oversized digital clock on her nightstand. It read 3:16 a.m.

Immediately her mind went to John 3:16, the Bible's most well-known verse. She lay back down and recited it from memory. She drifted back to sleep but awoke again momentarily. The clock read 3:20, so she thought of Jesus' invitation in Revelation 3:20.

Again, Mom fell asleep, only to awaken about an hour later. (The Spirit was active on this night!) It was 4:19, so she thought of a favorite verse: Philippians 4:19. Eventually she arose and started the new day with God's Word ringing in her heart and mind.

Mother has been a faithful student of God's Word all her life. Now, as she draws closer to her departure on the Gloryland Express, that Word sustains her. It's her daily bread and her nightly portion — mediated by an illuminated clock with bright red numerals.

~ Timothy Merrill



# May 2017

# Faith Community Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 PM Prayer Time</li> <li>7:30 PM Elder Board Meeting</li> </ul>	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 PM Prayer Time</li> <li>7:30 PM Elder Board Meeting</li> </ul>	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Ladies Bible Study</li> </ul>	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bulletin Deadline</li> </ul>	4	5	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Ladies Brunch</li> </ul>
7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communion</li> <li>Community Needs Fund</li> <li>10:15 AM Worship Service</li> <li>12:15 PM Prison Ministry Meeting</li> </ul>	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 PM Prayer Time</li> </ul>	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:00 PM Senior Lunch</li> <li>5:30 PM Ladies Bible Study</li> <li>6:30 PM Trustee Board Meeting</li> </ul>	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bulletin Deadline</li> </ul>	11	12	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gym Reserved</li> </ul>
14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mothers Day</li> <li>10:15 AM Worship Service</li> </ul>	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 PM Prayer Time</li> </ul>	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Ladies Bible Study</li> </ul>	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bulletin Deadline</li> </ul>	18	19	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Guys Night Out</li> </ul>
21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newsletter Deadline</li> <li>Graduate Recognition Day</li> <li>10:15 AM Worship Service</li> </ul>	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 PM Prayer Time</li> </ul>	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Ladies Bible Study</li> </ul>	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bulletin Deadline</li> </ul>	25	26	27
28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food Pantry Sunday</li> <li>10:15 AM Worship Service</li> </ul>	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Memorial Day</li> </ul>	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 PM Ladies Bible Study</li> </ul>	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bulletin Deadline</li> </ul>	A woman who fears the Lord - she shall be praised! Proverbs 31:30		



# MAY VOLUNTEERS

Date	Church Cleaning	Fellowship Time	Greeters	Ministry Highlight	Nursery	Trustee Duties	Ushers	Mowing
7	Part one: Schneider Part two: Peak	Sue Mathre & Heather Saylor	Alan & Amy Olson	None	Rachel Peak Joey Ostrander	Mike Mullikin	Bob Meier John Goree Jason Mathre Chad Gruber	Chad Gruber
14	Part one: Meier Part two: Ostrander	Laura Moerer	Alan & Amy Olson	Seniors	Amy Olson Emma Hollenbeck	Mike Mullikin	Bob Meier John Goree Jason Mathre Chad Gruber	Don Hansen
21	Part one: Irish Part two: Melgosa	Danielle Kruse & Deb Yearous	Alan & Amy Olson	Prayer	Sandy Goree Katherine Lein	Mike Mullikin	Bob Meier John Goree Jason Mathre Chad Gruber	Erv Jones
28	Part one: Collins Part two: Mathre*	NONE	Alan & Amy Olson	Missions	Shelly Gruber Sarah Knight	Mike Mullikin	Bob Meier John Goree Jason Mathre Chad Gruber	Chuck Mansfield



Make this craft to display a bit of springtime year-round!

#### What you need:

- An old shirt
- Tempura paint (brown, dark pink, light pink and white)
- Paintbrush
- Light blue or white construction paper
- A paper plate
- Q-tips
- Paper towels



#### What you do:

1. Roll up one sleeve and paint your arm and the palm of your hand brown.
2. Lengthwise on the paper, carefully place your painted arm and hand, with fingers spread apart. (This is the tree trunk and branches.)
3. Place the other paint colors on the plate.
4. Using Q-tips, place dots of paint (blossoms!) all over the branches.
5. When dry, display your tree — or give it as a Mother's Day gift.

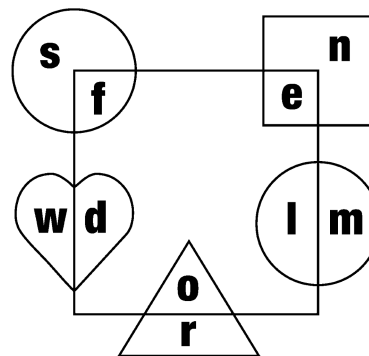


## GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs. What example does he give of God's care for his creation?

#### Directions:

To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.



"Consider how the wild



grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even



in all his splendor was



like one of these." Luke 12:27, NIV

Answer: "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these." Luke 12:27, NIV



#### MAY BIRTHDAYS

8 Mackenzie Kramer

16 Melanie Mullikin





## Appreciation

by Sharon Meier

Those who volunteer at the local prison were recently honored with a Volunteer Appreciation Day. There were a number of speeches given by staff and inmates regarding the positive impact of volunteers in the institution. There were hand-made items prepared by the inmates for each volunteer to take home as well. The incarcerated men gave us hearty handshakes, friendly greetings, and even tears of gratitude as they walked through the reception line.

Some statistics were given for 2016 in one of the speeches from the staff. She quoted that inmates attended meetings with volunteers more than 16,000 times during the course of the year. Those meetings included many kinds of activities that could not have happened without a volunteer present. Volunteers can be an essential part of helping to prepare offenders to become valuable contributors to the communities in which they will live when they are released.

Comments that inmates made in their speeches include the following:

- I am so thankful for the love you all have shown me. I was a stranger, and you opened your hearts and showed me the love of Christ.
- You have opened your hearts to us, sacrificed your time, and you look upon us simply as people who are paying for their past mistakes...you have given us hope.
- ...in my short time here...I've grown tremendously and have learned that it's not all about me.
- On the days that I find myself reading from the old script that said I was a loser, a reject, dysfunctional, and hopeless, you all have helped me write a new script...I am who I am because you are who you are. Thank you!
- We see His light shining through you brighter than any star in the sky on the darkest of nights...I am grateful and appreciative beyond words.
- Your thoughtfulness and selflessness has been a guiding light. It shows that people can and do love in spite of the harm we cause. You teach us that problems and struggles can't be solved (by) being selfish.
- The next time someone asks, "Where are you going?" you simply say, "I just came from the bank of LOVE, and I thank God that I get to go inside a prison to invest it in guys' lives that need a healthy dose of love deposited within."

**Prison Ministry Meeting**  
**Sunday, May 7, 12:15**

Keep up with the Wisconsin branch of Prison Fellowship by visiting the following site:

<https://www.facebook.com/PrisonFellowshipWisconsin>

## Some Moms are Green

Chickens aren't the brightest creatures in the animal world, but the mother hen knows to protect her eggs and keep them warm. Many species of snakes also care for their young. Amazingly, scientists have learnt that even some plants have been designed with "motherly" instincts.

The plantain is a common North American weed, and when it blooms, the warmer it keeps its developing seeds, the more seeds its offspring will produce. Researchers have found that cooler air temperatures cause the mother plant to produce a darker bloom cluster. The darker color absorbs more radiant energy from the sun, and this gives its offspring a boost in life even before they sprout. The shooter plant, as it is commonly called in America's southeast, does something similar. It blooms for several months over the southern summer. The leaf-like bracts that sheathe each flower-cluster have a brown pigment. Researchers observed the plants over several months and found that the bracts that formed in cooler April were darker than the bracts that formed in warmer June. The increased levels of brown pigment in April enabled the bracts to absorb more near-infrared light that helps to warm the flowers.

Just where did those plants learn the necessary physics, not to mention the genetics, to produce these motherly provisions? Of course, the answer is God's Intelligent Design from the very start.

~ written by Pastor Paul Bartz  
and taken from  
[www.creationmoments.com](http://www.creationmoments.com)

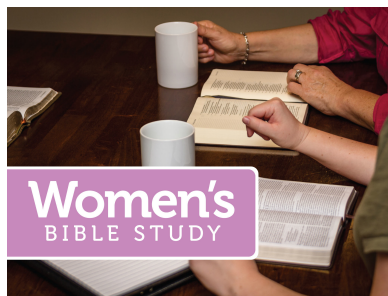
## Creator's Corner



**Kris Driscoll**  
*is serving the Lord*  
**with EFCA Hispanic Ministries,**  
**GATEWAY Theological Seminary,**  
**and Immigrant Hope.**



She is currently under-supported so all gifts no matter how small are accepted gratefully. Check out her newsletter hanging below the map of the world in the church lobby.



**5:30 on Tuesday nights**  
**at the church**

## Food for Thought

- ❖ God constantly gives us better than we deserve. What do we deserve? Execution! Anything less than that is mercy and grace.
- ❖ Hope is hearing the melody of the future; faith is being able to dance to it.
- ❖ God knows the big picture - I do not. He has the perspective of eternity - mine is limited. Praying His will be don is the ultimate prayer of faith.  
~ Michael S Barry
- ❖ Sin is fundamentally idolatrous. I do wrong things because my heart desires something more than the Lord.  
~ Paul David Tripp
- ❖ What happens to sinful creatures of God, however tragic, is less monstrous than what happened to the Son of God.  
~ P J Forsyth
- ❖ There shall be stability in your times, an abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the reverent fear of the Lord is your treasure... and His  
~ Isaiah 33:6 Amp
- ❖ ...those within the body of Christ are our family in a unique way. They are the ones with whom we will spend eternity, and they are the ones whose partnership we need in order to represent Christ.  
~ Edward Welch
- ❖ Worry is the product of high stakes and low control. There's no greater enemy of happiness. Worry says that if we care, we should worry - as if that will help somehow. In fact, worry has no redemptive value. Nothing is more impotent than worry, and nothing so robs us of happiness in Christ.  
~ Randy Alcorn

## mission

**The mission of our church is to  
glorify Christ,  
proclaim the Gospel,  
reach the lost,  
and train and instruct  
Christians in the faith  
for service and daily living.**

*The Voice of Faith* newsletter is a publication of Faith Community Church (an Evangelical Free church). Editor is Sharon Meier. Sunday Worship is at 10:15 a.m. Website is [www.faithchurchpdc.org](http://www.faithchurchpdc.org)  
Visitors are very much welcome!



Faith Community Church  
1110 E. Cass Street  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

If you wish to  
mail this, fold it in  
half, tape the  
open sides, and  
place a postage  
stamp here.

