

## Food for Thought

- ❖ People treat God's sovereignty as a matter of controversy, but in Scripture it is a matter of worship. ~ J J Packer
- ❖ Open your Bible! It is the pilgrim's guide in which God describes the glory yet to be revealed. ~ Charles Spurgeon
- ❖ The greatest friend of truth is time. Error is always in a hurry, but God's man can afford to await the vindication of time. And if he is not vindicated in his own lifetime, eternity will settle the score. ~ Vance Havner
- ❖ It is not the true Gospel that gives us the impression the Christian life is easy and that there are no problems to be faced. ~ Martyn Lloyd-Jones
- ❖ The best we can hope for in this life is a knothole peek at the shining realities ahead. Yet a glimpse is enough. ~ Joni Eareckson Tada
- ❖ All the cunning of the devil is exercised in trying to tear us away from the Word. ~ Martin Luther



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



November  
2019

## 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!

The

# VOICE of Faith

*Speaking the truth in love*

Faith Community Church  
(an Evangelical Free church)

Volume 28 Number 11

NOVEMBER 2019

## Cult of Celebrity

by Pastor Kevin Dick

Christians, like the rest of people in society, are drawn to celebrities. Compelling stories and the cult of personality causes people to gravitate unknowingly to follow certain people. People in the entertainment and sports business are key examples, but it is also true among Christian celebrities.

Sometimes, the Christian "movements" that grab our attention have less to do with Christ than following a worldly trend. Unwittingly, it is easy to move toward the latest attention-grabbing personality rather than someone who has exemplified steady faithfulness. Such decisions seem to reflect loyalty to the current trend rather than to those who simply display modest, but consistent, service to Christ.

We must use beware of merely blaming the "system" which allows us to shift responsibility away from ourselves. We have natural inclinations in which we are drawn to certain styles or methods that connect with our particular preferences. We must accept our part in creating a cult of celebrity which is person centered.

One of the negative aspects of a Christian celebrity culture is an outgrowth of our desire to have a leader we can see. A Christ-professing movie star or musician or the gifted athlete who appeals to us can unknowingly grab our attention. We must admit that we are capable of making evangelical celebrities too big to fail.

We must put to rest the lie that we need nationally known Christians in order for the gospel to advance. Just like the Israelites during the Old Testament days of the Judges when they cried out to Samuel for a king, we likewise wish for a person of notoriety to appeal to our non-Christian world, because we are not sure whether a regular, ordinary Christian can accomplish the job.

We as Christians must put celebrity power in its proper place. Granted, it can be used for God-honoring influence, and it can and still does have a great impact for the gospel. It has, at times, definitely brought glory to Christ. But what happens when the celebrity renounces his or her faith or falls into sin? There is an enormous fall.

We should celebrate the influence of the supportive presence of the local church where we have the face-to-face presence of people who care for us during difficult days. Those who share the ordinary means of grace provide a present display of God's love

Let us be careful to invest our spiritual energy in celebrating Jesus Christ alone, not in a human personality who grabs our attention from a distance.

Sing praises  
to the **LORD**,

**O** you His faithful ones  
and give thanks  
to His holy name.

PSALM 30:4, NRSV

Thanksgiving  
Service

Wednesday, November 27, 7:00 p.m.



A big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with Family Night this year. We are off to a great start with many familiar faces but also some new children coming.

Thank you for all your donations for Operation Christmas Child. Our shoebox packing party is November 13 at 6:15 p.m. We will continue to collect clothing and toy items for shoeboxes until then.

**Our donation calendar:**

**November:** \$9.00 donations to send each shoebox, and prayer.

**One Way Club November Schedule**

Date	Theme	Lesson	Verse
Nov 6	Bring a Friend	The Prodigal Son	Luke 19:10
<b>Nov 13</b>	<b>Packing Party</b>	<b>Operation</b>	<b>Christmas Child</b>
Nov 20	NO	ONE WAY	CLUB
Nov 27	HAPPY	THANKS-	GIVING!



**Thanksgiving?**

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.” (1 Timothy 2:2, ESV)  
 Why? What does that accomplish? Not always the point. Actually, there are over 10 scriptures that exhort us to pray for our leaders. My current favorite is: Proverbs 11:14 – “For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.” Point being that we are exhorted to pray for our nation, this means praying for our leaders.

How does this relate to Thanksgiving? Primarily because our country’s government and the media (try to) direct our thinking, they are the only ‘experts’ visibly available. This definitely underscores our responsibility to pray for them. If we leave our leaders to their own devices, then they, like we, are subject to error. The problem is that the results from their errors are far harsher.

When was the last time you were pleased to be an American? *How* are you thankful for living in this country? Thanksgiving was instituted to give thanks for where we live and what we can do with our freedom... a time to look back and be grateful. So do you? Too many don’t see what we have, only what they don’t have. However, WE are the church and our manual, the Bible, tells us our responsibility and privilege - so we should be following our directives. Perhaps the bottom line is our faith in our prayers? Rejoice! Be Grateful!.

*Be encouraged!*

Carolyn is excited to announce her new website ([drCarolynCoon.com](http://drCarolynCoon.com)) and her new Facebook page (Dr. Carolyn Coon).



**“Forget him!” - a tale of a throwaway person**

~ by Sharon Meier

In 1983, an article in *Time Magazine* regarding a young man with an IQ of 84 who was on death row for committing a capital crime grabbed the attention of a few people across the country. As far as the author was concerned, Mitch Rutledge was a throwaway person — the sooner the better. The last line of the story read, “Forget him.”

In an amazing twist, God used that article to work out an amazing plan of redemption giving Mitch “an unlikely family” made up of people who didn’t know him or each other at the outset. What they had in common was their belief that Mitch was a human being, made in the image of God, and not a throwaway.

I recently read their book: *Death on Hold: A Prisoner’s Desperate Prayer and the Unlikely Family Who Became God’s Answer*, by Burt and Anita Folsom, firm believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Their story, intertwined with Mitch’s story, provides a fascinating insight into the poverty, illiteracy, violence, and abandonment that shapes so very many prison inmates who face sentences from a few months to hundreds of years to death row. Mitch’s testimony of the grace of God is astounding, amazing, inspiring...and he is just one of so very many God has brought into His family to be our brothers and sisters forever!  
<https://www.faithgateway.com/death-row-will-not-forget/#.XbNhfZNKiqc>

**Prison Ministry Meeting**  
 Sunday, November 10, 12:15 p.m.



**Be sure to thank a vet!**

**Penguins with Sunglasses**

*Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*  
*Hebrews 1:3*

Have you ever gone outside on a bright, sunny day and been almost blinded by the light? Then imagine what it must be like for penguins to go about their lives with the intense glare of polar sunlight reflecting off a snowy or watery landscape.

Penguins, of course, can’t slip on a pair of sunglasses, but they don’t need to. These marvelous birds have an external eye fluid that filters out blue and ultraviolet wavelengths from the solar spectrum. This gives them clear vision while protecting their eyes from harm. As you might have guessed, eagles, falcons, hawks and other birds of prey also have this fluid.

Inspired by these birds, scientists have been able to develop an orange-colored dye and filter that duplicates the penguin’s retinal fluid. The orange dye has been used to produce orange-tinted sunglasses which provide improved vision in bright sunlight and on foggy days.

According to Donald DeYoung’s book *Discovery of Design*, many welders now use orange-colored masks that are safer and more transparent than the old-style dark masks that made it difficult for them to see. There is also the hope that orange-tinted glasses may someday help patients suffering from visual loss due to cataracts or macular degeneration.

When engineers and designers look at nature to design new products and product improvements, they are looking at intelligent designs, not the products of chance and billions of years. The “sunglasses” worn by penguins were designed by their Creator!

~ Written by Pastor Paul Bartz, Steve Schwartz and Paul Taylor  
[www.creationmoments.com](http://www.creationmoments.com)



**Lonnie & Debbie Smith**

Missionaries in France with ReachGlobal: the missions arm of the Evangelical Free Churches of America (EFCA)



Sue Mathre is the delighted grandmother of **Selah James**, born September 25. She weighed 7#8.8 oz. and measured 19" long. She joins brother Eli at home with Dad and Mom, Nick and Megan. Our church family includes Uncles Jason and Mike, Uncle Cody and Aunt Heather along with cousins Eliza and Aviana.



... *Mickey Irish* and her family in the loss of her father.  
 ... *Jewels Mullikin* and her family in the loss of her mother.  
 ... *Alisa Oswald* and her family in the loss of her mother.  
 ... *Lauren Smith* and his family in the loss of his brother.  
 Please keep these, our grieving church family members, in prayer. Thank you.



### Young Adult Small Group Social

for a night of  
 Food,  
 Fellowship,  
 and Fun!

**Who:** Young Adults :o)

**What:** Gather for snacks and conversation. Tell us who you are and what you're thankful for!

**When:** Friday November 1, 2019  
 6:00-8:00 PM

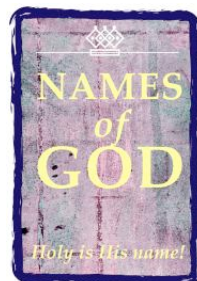
**Where:** Nick and Laura Johnson's Apartment  
 1829 S. Wacouta Ave, Prairie du Chien

(South building, on the side facing the river, call Laura with questions: 608-604-2324)

Bring your friends and come for friends you haven't met yet!



**Saturday, November 16  
 5:30-8:30 p.m.**  
 in the gym for men 18 years and older.  
 Fun, food, fellowship,  
 Bible study.  
 Sign up at the Information Center in the church foyer.  
**Bring a friend!**



**El Tzadik**  
 "Righteous God"  
 ... for there is no other God but Me,  
 a righteous God and Savior.  
**There is none but Me.**  
*Isaiah 45:21*



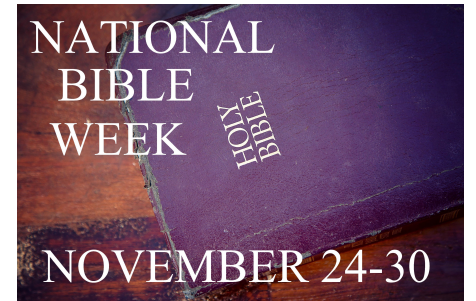
It's that time of year again when we ask our church family to consider the way(s) God might be asking them to help out with the various volunteer-needed ministries and responsibilities throughout the coming year.

Below are listed the various openings to become more involved in the work being done. Thank you for sharing your time and energy and skills and talents with us!

### Serving in 2020

Serving can take many forms. Here are some of the ways this church needs your participation for the upcoming year. Please fill this out and place it in the offering plate. Thank you so very much!

- Nursery worker - adult (background check required)
- Nursery assistant - 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older
- Wash nursery toys regularly
- Church cleaning
- Usher - one month per quarter (7<sup>th</sup> grade and older)
- Music Ministry
  - Instrument \_\_\_\_\_
  - Vocal
- Projection (16 or older)
- Sound Room Technician (16 or older)
- Greeter
- Fellowship Time refreshments
- Prayer Chain:
  - I prefer e-mail
  - I prefer phone call
- Children/Youth ministries
  - Teacher
  - Helper
- Meal preparation
  - Wednesday nights
  - for people in the church experiencing a crisis
- Miscellaneous church repairs



National Bible Week, now observed every Thanksgiving week, got its start on a turbulent day. Founders of the National Bible Association were reading Scripture over the NBC radio network on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Because of the traumatic events, the network asked that the Bible-reading continue all day, in between news updates. Radio stations throughout America picked up the programming, allowing countless listeners to receive words from God — "who comforts you" (Isaiah 51:12) — when they needed it most.



In the Old Testament, Jeremiah becomes so disgusted with his people's unfaithfulness and idolatry that he almost believes they can't change. He wonders whether a leopard can change its spots. When a Sunday school teacher posed that question, one student pondered before replying, "Yes ... If he doesn't like the spot he's in, he can change it."

Jeremiah reached a similar conclusion: His people could change their evil ways — their "spots" — if they chose to. "You can do good who are accustomed to do evil," he says (Jeremiah 13:23, NRSV). As another prophet later notes, God has shown us "what is good ... To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8, NIV). What spot — or spots — can you change?

# November 2019

# Faith Community Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>T</b>HE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD. I TRUST HIM WITH ALL MY HEART. HE HELPS ME, AND MY HEART IS FILLED WITH JOY. I BURST OUT IN SONGS OF THANKSGIVING! PSALM 28:7 NLT</p>						
<p>3</p> <p>Community Needs Fund</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>9:00 AM Discipleship 101 Class</p> <p>10:15 AM Worship</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30 PM Prayer Time</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Election Day-Please Vote!</p> <p>12:00 PM Elder Board meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>5:45 PM Family Meal</p> <p>6:15 PM One Way Club, Bridge &amp; Youth</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 PM Friends-giving Young Adult Social</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>Turn Clocks Back! Gym reserved 11-2</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00 AM Discipleship 101 Class</p> <p>10:15 AM Worship</p> <p>12:15 PM Prison Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Veteran's Day</p> <p>6:30 PM Prayer Time</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 PM Trustee Board meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>5:45 PM Family Meal</p> <p>6:15 PM Shoebox Packing Party</p> 	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30 PM Guys Night Out</p> 	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>9:00 AM Discipleship 101 Class</p> <p>10:15 AM Worship</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 PM Prayer Time</p>	<p>19</p> <p>NO MEAL OR CLUBS</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>NO MEAL OR CLUBS</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Food Pantry Sunday</p> <p>9:00 AM Discipleship 101 Class</p> <p>10:15 AM Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30 PM Prayer Time</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>NO MEAL OR CLUBS</p> <p>7:00 PM Thanks-giving Service</p>	<p>28</p> <p>THANKSGIVING DAY</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<h1>NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK</h1>						

## November Volunteers



Date	Church Cleaning	Fellowship Time	Greeters	Ministry Highlight	Nursery	Trustee Duties	Ushers
3	Part One: Saylor Part Two: Schneider	Lorenz	Jacobsons	None	Bob Allison	Cary Kann	John Jason Rob Chuck
10	Part One: Meier Part Two: Goree	Perkins	Jacobsons	Prison	Sandy Dianel	Cary Kann	John Jason Rob Chuck
17	Part One: Mansfield Part Two: Slotman	Meier	Jacobsons	Outreach	Rachel Miah	Cary Kann	John Jason Rob Chuck
24	Part One: Irish Part Two: Mathre*	Aspenon	Jacobsons	Seniors	Allison Miah	Cary Kann	John Jason Rob Chuck