

## Food for Thought

- ❖ The truth is not to be deserted, even to the sacrifice of our lives. ~ Ulrich Zwingli
- ❖ When did you last look to God and say something like, "Please, my Savior, help me find in You today all that my heart longs for"? ~ Randy Alcorn
- ❖ Whenever I see myself before God and realize something of what my blessed Lord has done for me at Calvary, I am ready to forgive anybody anything. I cannot withhold it. I do not even want to withhold it. ~ Martyn Lloyd-Jones
- ❖ It is a glorious thing to know that your Father God makes no mistakes in directing or permitting that which crosses the path of your life. It is the glory of God to conceal a matter. It is our joy to trust Him, no matter what. ~ Joni Eareckson Tada
- ❖ If there is no absolute beyond man's ideas, then there is no final appeal to judge between individuals and groups whose moral judgments conflict. We are merely left with conflicting opinions. ~ Francis Schaeffer

## 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!



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The



of  
Faith

***Speaking the truth in love***

Faith Community Church  
(an Evangelical Free church)

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## Plans for the Future

***by Pastor Kevin Dick***

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*  
Jeremiah 29:11

These words show up often on Bible verse plaques and other decorative items. The passage is claimed by cultural Christianity as a way for God to automatically provide material prosperity. Often people who have limited knowledge of the context of this verse accept the idea with certainty that God will provide material blessing and monetary wealth.

But, how does this verse apply to my life, especially as I enter into the new year of 2019? Many would say the text applies to God simply placing his favor on all our lives and plans. The thought is, "If I just have confidence and follow my heart, God will bless me." This is not, however, what Jeremiah is saying.

The context of Jeremiah's book is about disruption of Judah's plans and dreams. The verse itself comes in context of Jeremiah speaking to Jews who would be taken away from their homes and forced to live in exile in Babylon. So when Jeremiah was offering these words from God, his hearers were living in uncertain and bleak times. The people's return from exile would come soon, but in the meantime, they were to create new lives in Babylon.

A careful reading and application of this verse in its context helps make the promise rich in its relevance to our lives. God has plans for his people despite obvious disappointments that come our

way. The chaos of our lives and seeming randomness of personal events bring heartache. Yet, God is working out purposes which are not accidental, but meant to remind us of the greater promise that He superintends all events.

As your interim pastor, I want to encourage the congregation to anticipate God working. He has plans which are part of his infinite wisdom. My prayer, the same prayer of the church family, is for a call to be extended to a new senior pastor of God's choice, and that he and his family will find a suitable home and be welcomed into his new church family.

Let us be assured that God has plans for Faith Community Church in 2019. May we receive them joyfully and thankfully from His loving heart! God's plans are always filled with hope and a bright eternal future!

*"Sometimes people wish they knew the future so they could prepare for it. God has chosen not to give us this knowledge. He alone knows what will happen, but He tells us all we need to know to prepare for the future. When we live by His standards, He will not leave us; He will come to us, He will be in us, and He will show Himself to us. God knows what will happen, and because He will be with us through it all, we need not fear. We don't have to know the future to have faith in God; we have to have faith in God to be secure about the future."*

~ Commentary on John 14:19-21  
NLT Life Application Study Bible

# ANNUAL REPORT

Annual reports from all leaders of the church's boards, committees, groups, and events are **due Sunday, January 6**. Questions? See Sharon Meier. Thanks.



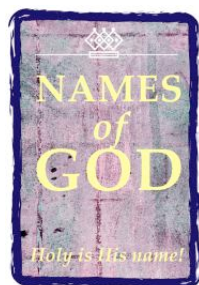
## ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 27, at noon**  
followed by a potluck lunch



**Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**  
January 20

*Upholding the rights  
of the most helpless  
and voiceless among us.*



### Elope kol Nechamah

The God of All Comfort  
Blessed be the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of mercies  
and God of all comfort.  
2 Corinthians 1:3



### Be Brave

My articles are designed to encourage the body, to lift you up. However, I feel compelled to ask you, me this question: How do you know that you are a good investment? Easy. Every time you share your gifting, you prove your value as an investment. What is your gifting? Actually, it is incredibly simpler to know than we realize. What do YOU like to do? What brings joy to your life? What do you make time for?

That, my friend, is your gift to the body! Too simplistic? too mundane? or doesn't relate to being a Christian?! Firstly, everything we do should relate to the fact that we have accepted Jesus as our Lord – it should permeate everything we do, are, say, touch. But yours is so... so, of the world? If so, is it convertible? Can you apply what you enjoy doing to the fact you are a Christian? We are not put into the world to be **of** the world. Why wouldn't it apply?

I do wish I could sit down with everyone to help them see just how important they are. That you are special. That you are right where you are for a reason. That you can make a difference. But it does take bravery... about who you are, who you are becoming, what you do, how you go about being you - about Whose you are. If you aren't sharing your gift... what are you sharing? Because, trust me, we all do – consciously or not. It can be so much more effective when we are purposeful in our sharing. Truly... you **can** do it.

**Be encouraged!**

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



## Once-in-a-While Ministry

by Sharon Meier

Do you like public speaking? Do you enjoy teaching a topic to eager listeners who have a vested interest in what you have to say? Do you have one Friday evening and Saturday you could spare once or twice a year to spend time at our local prison leading a seminar through Prison Fellowship Ministries International? If so, have I got a place for you in the "gated community" at the south end of town!

Prison Fellowship has a number of weekend seminars on topics including: marriage, setting goals, spiritual warfare, God's attributes, and more. They provide the topical study guide and the handout materials for the inmates. Volunteers are recruited to lead small group discussions throughout the presentation. In fact, if you don't care to be the primary speaker, you may wish to head a table of participants in filling out the workbooks and discussing the material which has been covered in the speaker's sessions.

These events do not need a lot of time commitment but yield great reward for the time invested.

The seminars can be led by individuals or by teams.

Training is provided by Prison Fellowship Ministries and prison orientation is provided by the Chaplain of the institution.

Another "once-in-awhile" ministry is hosting a Christian movie night. Basically, you get to watch an inspirational movie with a group of people in the prison from 6:15 to 8:45 on a Wednesday evening. The Chaplain works around your schedule. Interested? See Sharon Meier for more details.

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

"I have learned that faith means trusting in advance what will only make sense in reverse."  
~ Philip Yancey

## Don't Eat the Red Snow!

*"He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes; He casts out His hail like morsels; who can stand before His cold?"*

Psalms 147:16-17

Over 2,000 years ago, Aristotle wrote about red snow. Today, red, orange and even green snow has been found on every continent. It is typically found in deep mountain snows in the late spring. The snow color is caused by any of 350 species of strange snow algae.

The pigments inside the resting algae cysts produce the colors. Even while resting in the nutrient-poor, highly acidic snow the cysts are photosynthesizing. In its cyst form the algae can live even in temperatures of -94°F. As the snow melts in the late mountain spring, the cysts burst open. A single cell with two whip-like tails emerges. It then begins to swim upward, against the draining water from the snow above. At this time of the year, the snow melt water can reach the same acidity as a peat bog, which causes death to most microbes. Those that manage to swim through the snow mate and then return to the cyst stage. These cysts then settle to the ground as the snow melts to remain inactive until the next spring. Researchers have found that the algae have unique fatty acids that enable them to remain flexible in the cold environment in which they spend their entire active lives.

Snow algae have been uniquely designed by God to make a living in some of the lowest temperatures on Earth. If our Creator can find a way to enable snow algae to flourish in these conditions, He can find a way to help us out of the most impossible circumstances

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



**Looking for a faithful  
person or couple to revive  
our Missions Committee.  
Asking for at least a  
one-year commitment.  
Check with Pastor Kevin.**





### Children’s Ministries

**Sundays**

**Nursery** is provided for children newborn to age 4. **Children’s Church** is held during the sermon time for children in Pre-K through 4th grade.

**Wednesdays from 5:45-8:15**

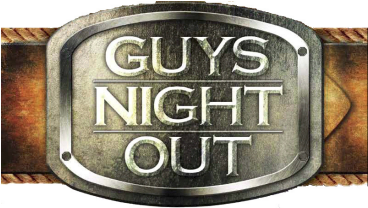
**Family Night meal** is served from 5:45-6:15 The cost is \$1 for children 12 and younger; \$2 for all others. **Clubs and classes start at 6:15.**

**One Way Club** is offered to children in Pre-K through 4th grade.

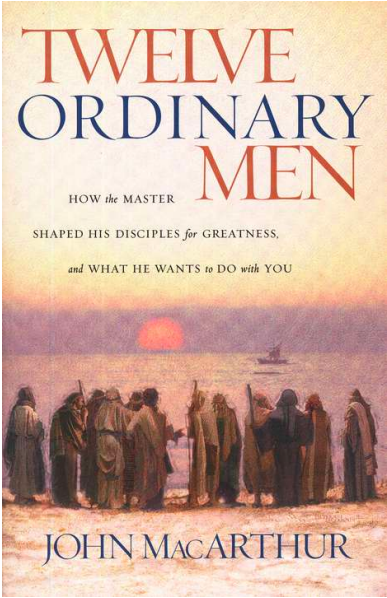
**The Bridge** is offered to children in grades 5-8.

### ONE WAY CLUB SCHEDULE

Date	Theme	Lesson	Verse
Jan 2	No Clubs:	Christmas	Break
Jan 9	Bring a friend	Jesus was baptized	1 John 5:3
Jan 16	Beach Party	Jesus was tempted	Luke 4:8
Jan 23	Crazy Hair	Jesus calls His disciples	Matthew 4:19
Jan 30	Favorite Football Team	Jesus' miracles	Review



Men 18 years and older are invited to come for a great meal, fellowship, and Bible study. We are starting a new series taken from the book by John MacArthur shown below. Sign up to get your copy and also a study guide. The sign-up sheet is at the Information Center in the church lobby. See George Schneider for more details.



**Discipleship 101 Class** is offered to teens and adults each Sunday morning from 9-10 in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there!

### LIGHT SWITCH COVER

Everyone who believes in God and lives for him is a child of light. Make this cover for your bedroom light switch to remind you to be a light for God.


**What you need:**

- An adult to help
- Light switch cover
- Screwdriver
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Decoupage glue
- Paintbrush
- Craft knife



**What you do:**

1. Remove the screws from the cover.
2. On the paper, draw small images related to light and write out "Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8, niv).
3. Cut out the drawings and verse. Make sure they'll fit on the cover.
4. Paint the cover with a coat of decoupage glue, and then immediately place the drawings and verse on the cover.
5. Paint over them with another coat of glue. Let it dry.
6. Turn the cover over and use a craft knife to cut out the opening for the light switch.
7. Using a screwdriver, place your new light switch cover on your wall.



## From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

1. Good	Righteousness
2. Death	Children
3. Go	Life
4. Evil	Come
5. Adults	Bad

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are \_\_\_\_\_, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV  
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of \_\_\_\_\_." John 8:12, NIV  
(2)

"I have \_\_\_\_\_ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV  
(3)

"For what do \_\_\_\_\_ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV  
(4)

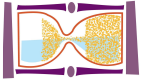

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as \_\_\_\_\_ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV  
(5)

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children

### Fresh Start Fitness



Ladies! Sessions offered on Monday and Thursday mornings at 8:15 in the church gym with Carrie Lessard. Bring appropriate shoes, a mat, towel, water bottle, and whatever you need for a good workout.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Food Pantry Sunday 9:00 AM Discipleship 101 10:15 AM Worship 12:00 PM Potluck Lunch 3:00 PM Bible Reading	31 6:30 PM Prayer Time	1  6:30 PM Trustee Board Meeting	2 Bulletin Deadline NO MEAL OR CLUBS	3	4	5
6 Annual Reports Due! Community Needs Fund Communion 9:00 AM Discipleship 101 10:15 AM Worship 3:00 PM Bible Reading	7 8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness 6:30 PM Prayer Time 7:30 PM Elder Board meeting	8 6:30 PM Trustee Board Meeting	9 Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:15 PM One Way Club, Bridge & Youth	10 8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness	11	12
13 9:00 AM Discipleship 101 10:15 AM Worship 3:00 PM Bible Reading	14 8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness 6:30 PM Prayer Time	15	16 Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:15 PM One Way Club, Bridge & Youth	17 8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness	18 	19 5:30 PM Guys Night Out
20 Sanctuary of Human Life Sunday Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Discipleship 101 10:15 AM Worship 12:00 PM Potluck Lunch 3:00 PM Bible Reading	21 8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness 6:30 PM Prayer Time	22	23 Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:15 PM One Way Club, Bridge & Youth	24 8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness	25	26
27 Food Pantry Sunday 9:00 AM Discipleship 101 10:15 AM Worship 12:00 PM Annual Meeting 1:00 PM Potluck Lunch 3:00 PM Bible Reading	28 8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness 6:30 PM Prayer Time	29	30 Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:15 PM One Way Club, Bridge & Youth	31 8:15 AM Fresh Start Fitness	1	2



Date	Church Cleaning	Fellowship Time	Greeters	Ministry Highlight	Nursery	Trustee Duties	Ushers
6	Part One: Goree Part Two: Saylor	Sue Mathre & Heather Saylor	Carlyn & Jan Jacobson	None	Peggy Dick Diane Slotman	Don Hansen	Cody Saylor Brandon Aspenson John Goree Ryan McClendon
13	Part One: Mathre/ Fish Part Two: Mansfield	Chad & Shelly Gruber	Carlyn & Jan Jacobson	Information Services	Bob Meier Miah Miller	Don Hansen	Cody Brandon John Ryan
20	Part One: Peak Part Two: Irish	Nick & Laura Johnson	Carlyn & Jan Jacobson	Men	Sue Mathre Katherine Lein	Don Hansen	Cody Brandon John Ryan
27	Part One: Slotman Part Two: Mathre*	Bill & Kris Perkins also Potluck after meeting	Carlyn & Jan Jacobson	Outreach	Shelly Gruber Caleb Gruber	Don Hansen	Cody Brandon John Ryan