

## Food for Thought

- ❖ ... refusing to forgive ourselves is an act of pride. It's making ourselves and our sins bigger than God and His grace. ~ Randy Alcorn
- ❖ When people say, "I know God forgives me, but I can't forgive myself", they mean that they have failed an idol whose approval is more important than God's. ~ Timothy Keller
- ❖ [Jesus' grace] is costly because it condemns sin, and because it justifies the sinner. ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- ❖ If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire. If you want joy, peace, eternal life - you must get close to Who has them. ~ C S Lewis
- ❖ The Gospel brings me explosive news: my search for approval is over. In Christ I already have all the approval I need. ~ Dave Harvey
- ❖ ...people who would be happy in Heaven if Christ were not there, will not be there. ~ John Piper
- ❖ Grace isn't a little prayer you chant before receiving a meal. It's a way to live. ~ D L Moody



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



## 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)

MARCH 2019

Volume 28 Number 3

## Reading for Life

*by Pastor Kevin Dick*

Why do we learn to read? All educational systems, no matter what language is used, are built on a person's ability to take symbols placed in certain combinations to form words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs. For most of us, we never asked the question. We just assume the necessity of learning and teaching our children this skill.

We as parents consider it obvious that reading is beneficial to receiving and distributing information. Our children are taught their ABCs and numbers through various learning schemes, and then soon word and picture associations are made. The brain of a child is created so that the process moves along quickly.

God is the first and greatest communicator as he is the Creator who has allowed languages to form. He has chosen to reveal himself through the writers who would communicate truth in written form. Of course, the Scriptures are the main expression of his written revelation given so that we might know him.

All educational systems, whether private or public or homeschooling, place an emphasis on learning vocabulary words, spelling, parts of speech, and basic sentence structure. The Bible should also be included in teaching the reading process. As always, a certain reading level or skill level must be attained before it becomes second nature. But, as adults and parents, we begin by reading the familiar stories of the Bible to children, and helping them follow the words, and the hearing of words pronounced, so eventually, reading becomes a way of knowing God's truth.

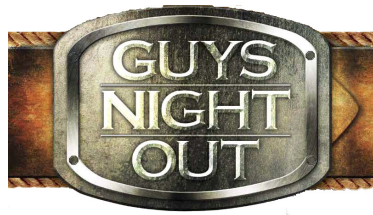
For years churches have sent missionaries to teach literacy to unreached people. Why? Primarily, to give people the tools they need to read the Word of God for themselves. As a local church, we want our kids to know how to read so that one day they can read the Bible for themselves. The long-lasting benefits creates a mindset of passing on to the next generation the eternal truths of God.

God has given us minds to use reading for our spiritual formation, but also to move the next generation of readers to understand God's plan of salvation and the love he has for us. Nothing can be more profound to our daily lives!

Reading is an absolute necessity for our life with God in his creation. Let's use Scripture reading to know God and the abundance of knowledge he offers to us.

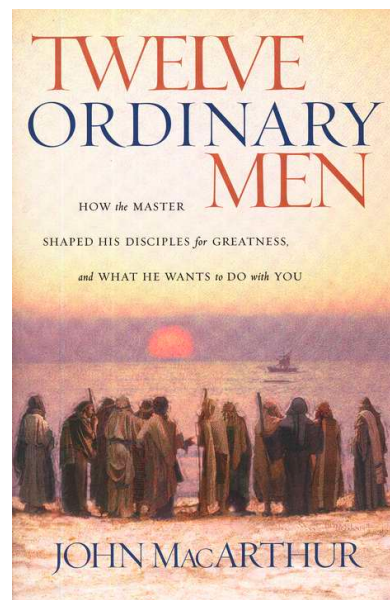


***"They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage."  
Nehemiah 8:8***



**Saturday, March 23, 5:30-8:30**

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.



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



## Let God be GOD

If your response is, 'Of course!' Don't be too hasty. What does that mean to you?

How are you allowing God to be GOD in your life? Does He have access to *ALL* parts in your life... and how - in what ways?

Letting God be God requires you (us) to be attentive to what He says, which means continually reading and studying the handbook (Bible) in order to know. It means spending time with Him in a continual dialogue and not just in stress or crisis.

Bottom line - letting God be God means Trust. Do you trust God in all things regardless of what you see? His word tells us (Jeremiah 29:11) that He has a plan for our hope and future. It tells us (Romans 8:28) that all things work to the good. When you can't find or see the hope, future, good... do you still walk in faith? Do you walk God being God... or do you try to help Him? If you are anything like me, there are times I try to help and typically muddy the water.

No condemnation or criticism. Just the question - do you let God be God? This is not just giving up because you are involved: your decision, your responsibility to listen, your responsibility to act on what you believe how you are being directed. We have always been involved in relationship – it's a two-way relationship...

## Be encouraged!

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



## Fingernail Faith

by Sharon Meier

A dearly-loved mother is being "kicked out" of a nursing home because of lack of funds. An unfaithful wife is suing for divorce and leaving the state with the children. A man is plagued with disturbing dreams of childhood abuse which fill the nights with terror and pain. Another received the news of the brutal murder of his grandchild. Still another is facing the certainty of never going home, never getting out, never having a real life, never having a real friend. Yet another is labeled for life and fears he may never be able to get a job when he gets out. They are all hanging on to their faith by their fingernails.

We see examples of this kind of faith in biblical characters such as Joseph who was sold into slavery by his traitorous brothers, unjustly accused by his master's wife, serving time in prison for a crime he did not commit, forgotten by people who had promised to remember him. We could look at Jeremiah who was told at the outset of his ministry that it would be a failure because of the hard hearts of the people he had been called to warn. He at one time was thrown into a mud-filled cistern up to his armpits and left to die. We could interview Elijah who ran for his life when a wicked queen threatened to kill him and he prayed that God would let him die. Job cursed the day he was born after he lost everything he had except three so-called friends who made his wretched life even more miserable.

Does God care when we are at the point of fingernail faith? Does He have any idea of what we are going through? And if He does, why does He allow it? Well, we could look at Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane as He asked His father if there was any other way to accomplish the redemptive plan without having to face the cross, the sin, the separation, the humiliation, the horror of it all - and He was denied His request. Does He know? Does He care? Will He help? Absolutely! "There is no pit so deep that He is not deeper still," said Betsy ten Boom as she lay dying in a concentration camp. She was right.

## Megakites

***And He (Jesus) said also to the people, "When you see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway you say, There comes a shower; and so it is. And when [you see] the south wind blow, you say, There will be heat; and it comes to pass."***

Luke 12:54-55 NKJV

When we think of science and kites, we usually think of Ben Franklin flying his kite in the thunderstorm. Ben Franklin was not the first to use kites to study the weather. Nor was he the last. The U.S. Weather Bureau began using kites to study the weather after the invention of the box kite in 1893. Kites became important weather station tools for the next 30 years. As balloons were improved, the Weather Bureau's use of kites stopped.

In 1990, meteorologists again returned to the kite. Modern, high-tech materials gave meteorologists the hope of doing research with kites that was impossible with balloons. Modern meteorological kites can be "parked" miles high for weeks. A kite the size of two compact cars can weigh only a pound. Vents in the front of the wing-shaped kite inflate it so that it holds its wing shape. Instruments on the kite send down weather readings from various altitudes along the tether. The world record altitude reached by one of these kites is almost 12 miles!

The creation that God made for us has always inspired man's curiosity and wonder. Unfortunately, many of today's scientists would just as soon ignore God. However, the foundation upon which they build is the scientific accomplishments of earlier scientists who, for the most part, believed in and worshiped our Creator.

~ Written by Pastor Paul Bartz, Steve Schwartz and Paul Taylor

[www.creationmoments.com](http://www.creationmoments.com)



***Save the date!  
Lonnie Smith coming  
on Sunday evening,  
March 24, at 6:30.***

Lonnie and Debbie Smith serve the Lord in France with ReachGlobal, the missions arm of the Evangelical Free Churches of America.





by Howard Slotman

The committee is currently conducting second interviews with several men. During the interviews we are asking questions that try to probe the person's experience and practice in the areas of preaching, administration, conflict resolution, leadership development, and counseling. Although a sermon is the most visible aspect of a person to the entire congregation, the other areas listed above are critical for the ongoing health of any church. So we are asking questions that may be uncomfortable. Personal interactions have the potential for being messy, but they are where we live. So we need to explore these with each of the men.

Pray for us as we interact with these men that the Spirit of God would speak to us and lead us in the way we should go. On our own we are not capable of doing this: we need divine help.

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

James 1:5



**Recruiting now for service!**  
**April through October**  
Sign up at the Information Center  
in the church lobby.  
**Thank you!**



Scripture Cake

Scripture Cake recipes have been popular for many years. They encourage Bible reading, and **if the correct ingredients are chosen from the references given**, they make good cakes! Here's a simple one to try.

You might like to create a recipe of your own the same way. If it turns out, bring the dish and copies of your Scripture recipe to...

**the next church potluck Sunday, March 31!**

- 2/3 cup Psalms 55:21
- 2 cups Ecclesiastes 5:12
- 3 cups Exodus 29:2
- 2 teaspoons 1 Corinthians 5:6 (careful, now!)\*
- 1/4 teaspoon Matthew 5:13
- 1 cup 1 Corinthians 3:2
- 1/2 teaspoon Jeremiah 1:11
- 6 of Job 6:6

Combine and bake as any similar cake.

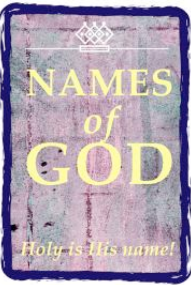
\*Keep in mind: some ingredients in the Bible are similar to but not the same as ones we have in our kitchens today. For example, we don't usually put yeast in our cake recipes - we use baking powder. This recipe should be thought through by an experienced cook or a disaster could occur!

Elohei Misgab

God My Defense

To You, O my Strength,  
I will sing praises;  
For God is my defense,  
My God of mercy.

Psalm 59:17 NKJV



Saturday night  
March 9

Faith Kids'  
BIRTHDAYS!



March

- 4 Wyatt Mullikin
- 8 Ben Haug
- 29 Mich Miller



**One Way Club** will continue to collect pennies in our penny jars to be donated to Gospel for Asia. This is a very worth while project that provides families with goats, sheep, chickens or cows that can feed their family or provide a source of income for the future. The children will choose an animal according to the amount of money collected.

If school is cancelled for the day due to weather, Family Night Activities will also be cancelled. Any weather related cancellations for church events can also be viewed on the church's website [www.faithchurchpdc.org](http://www.faithchurchpdc.org) or on our Facebook page faith church one way club & bridge group or by calling the church office at 608-326-6959. Feel free to share our Facebook page with your friends and invite them to clubs.

**PUZZLE**

# Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

*Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1-2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.*

1	3	4	5	3	5	2
4	5	2	5	5	4	3
3	6	5	4	6	5	3
6	3	6	3	6	5	6
2	6	6	1	6	1	4
6	5	3	6	5	7	6
3	6	7	4	6	6	3

Day 1 (light) \_\_\_\_ Day 2 (waters) \_\_\_\_ Day 3 (land and plants) \_\_\_\_ Day 4 (heavenly bodies) \_\_\_\_  
Day 5 (birds and water animals) \_\_\_\_ Day 6 (land animals and people) \_\_\_\_ Day 7 (God rested) \_\_\_\_

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2

ONE WAY CLUB SCHEDULE

Date	Theme	Lesson
Mar 6	Bring a Friend	Jesus met a Samaritan woman
Mar 13	Patriotic Night	Jesus and Zacchaeus
Mar 20	Crazy Feet	Jesus rejected in Nazareth
Mar 27	Inside Out	Practice for closing program

March 2019

Faith Community Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JESUS SAID, “THE WIND BLOWS WHEREVER IT WANTS. JUST AS YOU CAN HEAR THE WIND BUT CAN’T TELL WHERE IT COMES FROM OR WHERE IT IS GOING, SO YOU CAN’T EXPLAIN HOW PEOPLE ARE BORN OF THE SPIRIT.” JOHN 3:8 NLT						
3 Community Needs Fund Comunion 9:00 AM Discipleship 101 10:15 AM Worship 10:15 AM Bible Reading	4 6:30 PM Prayer Time 7:30 PM Elder Board meeting	5	6 Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:15 PM One Way Club, Bridge & Youth	7	8	9 Turn Clocks Ahead! DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
10 9:00 AM Discipleship 101 10:15 AM Worship 3:00 PM Bible Reading	11 6:30 PM Prayer Time	12 6:30 PM Trustee Board Meeting	13 Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:15 PM One Way Club, Bridge & Youth	14	15	16
17 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Discipleship 101 10:15 AM Worship 3:00 PM Bible Reading	18 6:30 PM Prayer Time	19	20 Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:15 PM One Way Club, Bridge & Youth	21	22	23 5:30 PM Guys Night Out GUYS NIGHT OUT
24 9:00 AM Discipleship 101 10:15 AM Worship 3:00 PM Bible Reading 6:30 PM Missionaries Visit	25 6:30 PM Prayer Time	26	27 Bulletin Deadline 5:45 PM Family Meal 6:15 PM One Way Club, Bridge & Youth	28	29	30
31 Food Pantry Sunday 9:00 AM Discipleship 101 10:15 AM Worship 12:00 PM Potluck Lunch 3:00 PM Bible Reading	1	2	3	4	5	6



March Volunteers

Date	Church Cleaning	Fellowship Time	Greeters	Ministry Highlight	Nursery	Trustee Duties	Ushers
3	Part One: Mansfield Part Two: Slotman	Sarah Aspenson	Brandon Aspenson	None	Bob Meier Katherine Lein	Rob Irish	Erv Jones Howard Slotman Mike Mathre Carlyn Jacobson
10	Part One: Collins Part Two: Schneider	Bob & Sharon Meier	Brandon Aspenson	Children	Sue Mathre Merideith McClendon	Rob Irish	Erv Howard Mike Carlyn
17	Part One: Goree Part Two: Peak	Howard & Diane Slotman	Brandon Aspenson	Prison	Sandy Goree Heather Saylor	Rob Irish	Erv Howard Mike Carlyn
24	Part One: Meier Part Two: Irish	Donna Lorenz	Brandon Aspenson	Seniors	Diane Slotman Peggy Dick	Rob Irish	Erv Howard Mike Carlyn
31	Part One: Gruber Part Two: Mathre*	Potluck Lunch	Brandon Aspenson	Prayer	Allison Miller Caleb Gruber	Rob Irish	Erv Howard Mike Carlyn

2019 Church Officers

- Elders:  
Pastor Kevin Dick  
George Schneider  
John Goree
- Church Chairman:  
George Schneider
- Trustee Chairman:  
Howard Slotman
- Trustees:  
Erv Jones  
Rob Irish  
Tyler Schmidt
- Treasurer:  
Cary Kann
- Financial Secretary:  
Howard Slotman
- Recording Secretary:  
Sharon Meier