

The Faithful

A Word from the Pastor

There’s just something special about church camp. The mountain air, the friendships that last a lifetime, the peace, the lack of distractions, the intentional time with family, and the presence of the Holy Spirit. In my opinion, there is nothing like that mountaintop experience.

One of the verses we spent time studying at family camp this year was from Exodus 34:29. It says, “When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord.” Something about spending time with the Lord on the mountain had changed him. He was literally glowing!

Spending time with Jesus changes us, too. Open your Bible, and take a look at what Jesus says in John 15:1-17. If we remain in Him, He will remain in us. If we remain in Him, we will bear much fruit. If we remain in Him, we can ask whatever we wish, and it will be given to us (answered prayer). If we obey his commands, we will remain in his love. We will have complete joy. We will be called His friends.

The mountaintop experience is great, and I would even say occasionally necessary. But we know we can’t stay there. Even Jesus came down off the mountain with Peter, James and John after he was transfigured before them (Mark 9:2-10). Look again at John 15. How many times does Jesus say, “Remain in me”? Some translations use the word abide. The definition of remain is to continue to exist; to stay in one place; to continue to possess a particular quality or fulfill a particular role. What does remaining/abiding in Jesus look like for you? Do you want to look more like Jesus? Stop for a minute a reflect back over your day, your week. Think about how you spent your time. What gets in your way of spending time with Him? Pay attention to the idols that may be part of your distraction.

Jesus is pretty clear with His expectations. He says, “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love (vs. 10). He commands three things of us: Love each other (12,17); be his disciples (8); and bear fruit (8,16). We can’t do any of this well without Him. “Remain in me” he says over and over again. “No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me”... *Jesus*

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22-23



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Like us on Facebook!

Christmas in July

Millions of people take time every fall to shop and pack shoeboxes. These shoeboxes bring great joy as children and their families learn about the true meaning of Christmas each year. However, Operation Christmas Child is not just reserved for Christmas. This year, YCOG is having Christmas in July! And again in August, September and October! You can help by donating the specified items each month. The list of donations is available in the main lobby. In July we will be collecting clothing items such as shirts and pants for boys and girls up to age 14. After October, we will plan a fall packing party where we hope you can join us!



<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/>

Let my heart be broken with the things that break God’s heart.

-Robert Pierce, Founder of Samaritan’s Purse

2022 New Hope Needs

July - Peanut butter, ketchup, mustard, mayo

August - Ramen noodles

Sept - Paper towels & toilet paper

Oct - Coffee, tea, cocoa

Nov - Personal Care items - shampoo, feminine hygiene, etc.

Dec - 24 Days of Giving (a new list to come out this year)

Visitation Ministry

Prior to Covid, we had an active visitation ministry. Teams of two went to visit the homes of people who are shut-in and unable to physically attend any of the ministries offered at the YCOG building. This was a great way to remind those people they are loved and valued by their church family.

In 2020, the pandemic made it extremely difficult if not impossible to visit our shut-in church family. When visits happened, they were at the screen door or by telephone. Being homebound means being more isolated. One thing we learned is that isolation has caused more sadness and brokenness in people. I'm happy to say that I believe the time has come when the scare of COVID is behind us, and we are able to move more freely in our contact with other people.

Recently, I sent a memo to some of the individuals who served on a visitation team before the pandemic. If you did not receive a memo, but you would like to be part of a ministry that helps bring joy into the lives of those who are no longer able to physically be part of our church family, please contact me. I will add you to the current list and include you on the schedule. If you prefer to serve with a specific partner, make sure to let me know who that person is. There are currently five homes that would benefit from regular visits, all located close to the church building.

Thank you for praying about this and asking God if this is something He may be asking you to do.

Pastor Stef



"Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

Matthew 25:37

Mission Focus: Kenya

Our Mission in Kenya has 11 churches organized as "Voice of the Gospel Ministry". They have 708 in worship. Joseph Mwaura serves as field director. In 2021 there were 33 baptisms. GR Commission member **Nancy Boyer** and **Lisa Wilt** have assisted Winebrenner Seminary’s pastoral training course for 3 years in a row, and we hope to see a regular pattern of at least 2 intensives per year. The last teaching intensive had 15 students.

- Please pray for the students as they digest and apply what they have learned.
- Pray for the spiritual development and growth of the believers in the churches.
- Pray for safety and encouragement of the pastors as they face many socio-economic challenges.



Field Director Joseph Mwaura

Kids’ VBS

Kids’ VBS has begun!! If you have not registered yet, you can jump in at any time! We will continue to meet every Wednesday through July from 6-8 PM. Children in grades K-5 are still welcome.

Lessons:

July 6 – *John 4:1-26, Jesus And The Samaritan Woman*

In Marco Polo, the person who’s “it” tries to find and tag the other people in the pool. Kids will learn that no matter who we are or what we’ve done, Jesus can find us and save us.

July 13 – *Matthew 14:22-36, Jesus Walks On Water*

Take a wet and wild ride down the water slide into the pool. Kids will learn that when we put our faith in Jesus, some wild things can happen.

July 20 – *Luke 5:1-11, Calling The First Disciples*

Some people take forever getting into to pool one inch at a time, while others dive right in. Kids will learn that when we dive in with Jesus, he gives our lives joy and purpose.

July 27— *Romans 10:9, Confessing Jesus as Lord*

Wrap Up, Picnic with Slip and Slide – The best way to make a splash is with a cannonball. When we give our hearts to Jesus he surrounds us and fills us with his love. Kids will learn that the best way to “make a splash” for Jesus is to ask Jesus to come into their hearts.

We are collecting soda tabs for the Shriners Children Hospital. Tabs are collected to fund transportation for needy children to and from the hospital.

Containers are located in the lobby and the FLC for your tabs. We are trying to help them reach their goal of 350 pounds.



Ladies, get ready!

You can have a mountaintop experience this fall at Camp YoLiJWa! There is a women’s retreat scheduled for September 16-18.

Details are not available yet, but mark your calendar now so you are ready when registration opens.

What a great opportunity for us to follow Jesus, live as community, and be transformed!



2022 Church Leadership			
Stefanie DiFrancesco, Pastor			
Logan Zahora, Worship Leader			
Tina Widmayer, Children’s Ministry Coordinator			
Makayla Halbleib, Sunday Child Care			
Mark Schuch, Elder/Council President			
Rick Brittain, Elder/Vice-President/ Director of Discipleship			
Rafael Dixon, Elder			
Ben Dressler, Elder			
Krista Greene, Deacon/Secretary			
Alicia Brittain, Deacon/Asst. Sec.			
Stacy Dixon, Deacon			
Steve DonMoyer, Deacon			
Keith Walz, Treasurer			
Deb Sorenson, Financial Secretary			
Travis Webster, Voting Trustee			

Hands that Serve			
Date	Elder	Counting Team	
July 3	Rafael Dixon	Deb Sorenson	Kevin Kelley
July 10	Rick Brittain	Deb Sorenson	Gloria Neihart
July 17	Ben Dressler	Krista Greene	Cindy Froelich
July 24	Mark Schuch	Alicia Brittain	Steve Donmoyer
July 31	Rafael Dixon	Pam Dressler	Kevin Kelley

Church Membership Classes

Church membership classes will begin Sunday, July 10, at 9:00 am. There will be a baptism service after the last class on August 7, 2022. If you are interested in joining the church or in Baptism please contact Pastor Stef.

Class Dates
July 10 * July 17 * July 31 * August 7

Classes will include:
 Scripture Reading and discussion
 What is the Church? (Big C little c)
 What are the qualifications to church membership?
 The Trinity – Father, Son, Holy Spirit
 What is the Bible?
 Church of God ordinances
 Who was John Winebrenner?
 Church Polity
 History of Yocumtown Church of God



Baptism Service

August 7, 2022 at 10:15AM