

Faith Community Church  
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Permit #6

Vol 28 Issue 11  
**Faith Community Church Newsletter**  
*"For we walk by faith not by sight"*  
December 2020



**Christmas Celebrations 2020!**

Because of Covid, we are not going to be having the Cantata this year, however, we will be having the Children's Christmas program (The Loaned Manger). The celebration will be on December 20<sup>th</sup>, and because of Covid, we are going to have TWO (2) performances (in the Multi Purpose Room). One performance will be during the Sunday School hour, and the other during the worship service. So, folks with last names beginning with A-J are invited to attend during the Sunday School hour, and folks with last names beginning with K-Z are invited to attend during the regular worship service time.

Then the next week (27<sup>th</sup>) for our Christmas Story celebration with special music, we will also have 2 performances. This time K-Z are invited to attend during the Sunday School hour and A-J are invited to attend during the regular worship service time.

We realize that this will DIFFERENT than past years (but its 2020, so what's new??). We are doing this because oftentimes grandparents want to come see their grandchildren perform, so we need to be able to social distance and provide them with a safe environment for them to attend. Thanks for being willing to "love others" with the kindness and understanding of God.



**Lisa Lind New Ministry Leader for Meals on Wheels**

Meals on Wheels is a ministry that the churches of O'Neill and other organizations cooperate together on, to serve meals to shut-ins. The meals are made by the Golden Age Center cooks, and then volunteers deliver the meals over the lunch hour. Our church helps deliver these meals once every 2 months (6 times a year) for a one week duration. Typically, there are 4 routes that need meals to be delivered each day (M-F; 5 days; no weekends), with each route having approximately 8-15 meals. Typically it takes about 45 minutes to pick up the meals, deliver them, and then take the containers back to the Golden Age Center. However, during COVID, they have been delivering just once a week. That one delivery is 5 frozen meals so the recipient will have enough food for the week. It is a wonderful opportunity to show the love of Christ to "the least of these" that Jesus talks about in Matthew 25. The reason we are bringing this up is that we need volunteers to help provide this service, AND to let you know that Lisa Lind will be the new coordinator! Thanks Lisa for being willing to help out! So if you would be willing to help out with delivering routes, just contact Lisa and let her know!

And if you see Jan, tell her thanks a million for her faithful leadership down through the years. She has been a great helper for a L - O - N - G time!



Thank you for your prayers for Awana. Our attendance is remaining steady in spite of all the chaos around our lives. Hopefully, it is a place children feel safe and loved. Coming up in December, we will have the ever-popular Store Night on the 9th where the children can spend their hard-earned Awana bucks. We will have Hobby Night on the 16th. Children can bring something to represent their favorite hobby to share in their classrooms. We will not be having club on Dec 23 or the 30 so families can enjoy the long Christmas break.

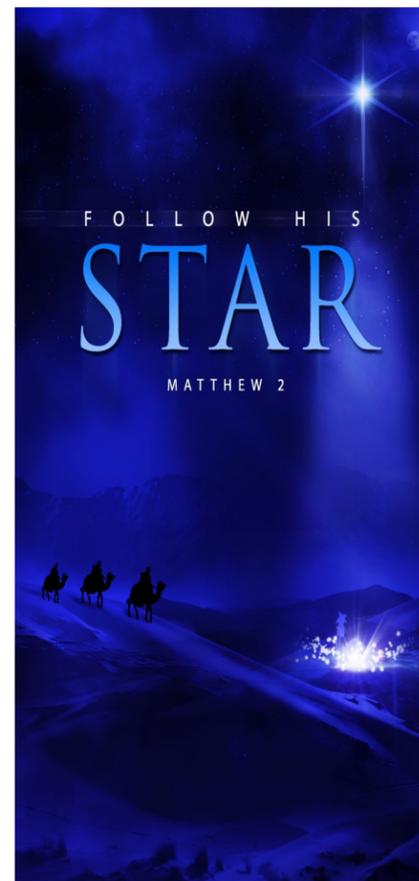
I recently had a chance to teach large group with the Sparkies (K-2nd grade). How encouraging to watch them excitedly turn in their Bibles to the passage we were studying. In spite of all that is going on in our world, God's Word is alive and well! It is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.

Merry Christmas to you all!  
Lisa Cook



Thank you to all who gave toward the missionary Christmas gift offering. It is a small way for us to show our love support.

Pray for all our missionary families as they continue to share the birth of our Savior to a lost world. Pray for them to be encouraged while many of them are away from their family.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Are you ready for some change at Faith Community? We mentioned this at the elder-small group meeting this past October, but thought we should put it in the Grapevine so that everyone will know what is happening. As you know, the plan was for Andrew to become the main teaching pastor beginning in January – but as you also know, plans don't always work out like we thought they would! And since Paul can't do everything, we have enlisted some help for him. We have contacted a ministry called Interim Pastor Ministry (IPM) which specializes in providing temporary pulpit supply while a church looks for a new Senior Pastor. IPM's president is a Dallas Seminary graduate, and we have heard really good things from other churches who have used IPM. So we have made application and they will be sending us Dr. Stephen and Cathy LeBar who will begin their ministry here the first part of January.

Stephen has spent time living in Nebraska in his younger days. His dad was the night editor for the Lincoln Journal Star (Lincoln NE), and then also helped with a newspaper in Curtis NE. And Stephen himself attended Nebraska Christian High School for 4 years back in the 60's and he got his Music Major degree from Hastings College. They have had a wide variety of ministry experiences ranging from being a full time Senior Pastor, to faculty professor at Grand Rapids School of the Bible and Southwestern College, to Worship Pastor, to Christian High School teacher, to Bible teacher in the Philippines, Taiwan, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, Russia, and the Ukraine. At his last IPM assignment in Florida, Mike Pence (President Trump's VP) attended the church that Stephen preached at, when he was on vacation. They have 2 adult children and 7 grandchildren and have been in fulltime vocational ministry since 1966 -- (yes he is a little older, but we think that you will love Stephen and Cathy). We have had a number of conversations with Stephen and Cathy and have been super impressed with their gentleness, kindness, humility and love for the Lord.

Paul will continue in his role as Sr. Pastor (he is not retiring!), but will shift from preaching to visitation, administration, handling funerals, teaching baptism and newcomers classes (as well as other classes as time permits), working with the Small Groups, leading a worship team, helping the elders to find a new Sr. Pastor, along with a number of other responsibilities. Dr. LeBar's primary responsibility will be the Sunday morning preaching time. However, he has expressed interest in helping out in any other way we need him, and his wife Cathy would love to come alongside and work with the women as well.

As elders we would love it if you would DAILY talk with the Lord and ask Him to give us wisdom and direction as we look for a new Sr. Pastor. And while you are praying, ask God to help us as a church to make disciples and continue to "move forward" during this pandemic. We don't want to just tread water during this time. And let's continue to pray for each other, that all of us would be bold in talking with others concerning the great hope we have in Jesus.

One of IPM's requirements is that we provide housing for the LeBars. God has wonderfully provided the west half of Dick and Lois Fitch's duplex, just west of the church, but we need to furnish it with a number of items. So we are looking for folks who would be willing to donate some of these things, or just loan them out for the time that the LeBars are with us. If you would be able to help out with one or more of these items please contact Lynn Garwood (925-5034). She has offered to spearhead this task. Here are some of the things that we need: pots and pans, night stands, and snow shovel.

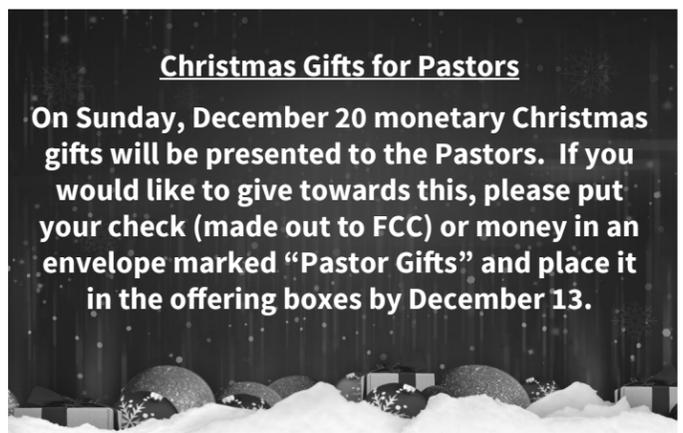
The Elders of FCC

### Masks on Wednesday Night:

The elders recently revisited this issue and have decided to keep the mask requirement in place for the foreseeable future. The Lord made it abundantly clear this past October that we need to do this to protect our Youth Ministry so that we can continue to minister to the youth of this area. We realize that this isn't ideal, but as Paul says in 1 Cor 9:22 "I have become all things for all men so that by all possible means I might save some." Our goal on Wednesday night is to share the blessings of the gospel with as many kids as we can. For that to happen right now, we need to wear masks. Please continue to pray for all our Youth Workers that God will work in great ways through their ministry to the children.

**Christmas Gifts for Pastors**

**On Sunday, December 20 monetary Christmas gifts will be presented to the Pastors. If you would like to give towards this, please put your check (made out to FCC) or money in an envelope marked "Pastor Gifts" and place it in the offering boxes by December 13.**

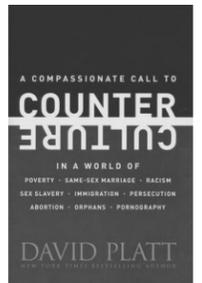


# December Events

For the past two years, FLAME has held a Christmas Cookie Connection evening in December. This year, with the rising cases of Covid, we are changing course. We are planning a Christmas Craft Connection. We are putting together packets for making 5 crafts. We encourage you to get packets and do them with your family or invite a friend or two over to make them. Packets will be available for pickup after church on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> or until we run out of packets. We hope that you will use the packets as a chance to meet with a family member or friends that doesn't believe in Jesus. There will be prompts and encouragements in the packets for talking about Jesus. Most of the crafts are also very child friendly. Also available, will be a video of Jenny Forker and her girls making a holiday craft and a devotional time to use during the holidays. These may be fun to share with friends that might not ordinarily be interested in talking about the spiritual side of Christmas. Let's reach out with boldness to our friends. Our country is in desperate need of revival. On Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 9:00 at the church. We will be putting together packets to hand out and making some sample crafts. If you would like to join us, feel free! You may come and go as you please that morning. You may also take your craft packets at that time. Please send photos of your friend/family craft time and your finished projects. We are so lonesome to connect in person and see you all! Your photos will ease the "missing". You could email, message or text them to Teresa Janzing.

### A six week study: CounterCulture by David Platt

We live in momentous days marked by a rapidly shifting moral landscape. In this study, we will be learning how to answer the call to respond to such big issues as poverty, same-sex marriage, racism, sex slavery, immigration, persecution, abortion, orphans and pornography.



We need to know how to respond with a contrite, compassionate, and courageous heart to the most controversial issues in our culture.

We will be meeting on Tuesdays at 1:30 at church. The starting date will be: January 12th.

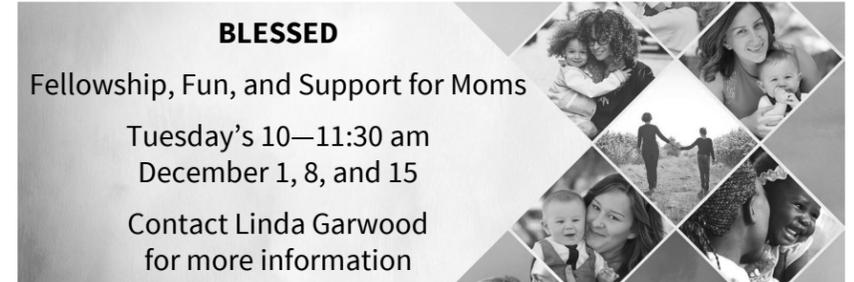
Please contact Teresa Janzing if you want to participate. She will need to order books. It is undetermined at this time if this study will be hosted online as the topics may need to be addressed face to face to prevent misunderstandings.

**BLESSED**

Fellowship, Fun, and Support for Moms

Tuesday's 10—11:30 am  
December 1, 8, and 15

Contact Linda Garwood  
for more information




December Practice Schedule:

\*\*Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup>—9:15-10:15 am

\*\*Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>—9:15-10:15 am  
& right after church (bring a lunch)

\*\*Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>—10 am - 2 pm  
(lunch will be provided)

Our Daily Bread  
December, January, and  
February  
Available in the Church Foyer



Elder Meeting  
December 8



### December

- Nov 30-Dec 4—Meals on Wheels
- 1—Blessed (10-11:30 am)
- 2—Awana, Living Stones (7-8:30 pm)  
—Solid Rock (7:30-9)
- 3—FLAME craft assembly (9 am)
- 8—Blessed (10-11:30 am)  
—Elder Meeting (7 pm)
- 9—Awana, Living Stones (7-8:30 pm)  
—Solid Rock (7:30-9)
- 13—Program Practice after church
- 15—Blessed (10-11:30 am)
- 16—Awana, Living Stones (7-8:30 pm)  
—Solid Rock (7:30-9)
- 19—Program Practice (10 am - 2 pm)
- 20—Kids Christmas Program  
(2 performances)
- 23—No Wednesday Night Activities
- 25—Merry Christmas
- 27—Christmas Story Celebration  
(2 performances)