

Faith Community Church
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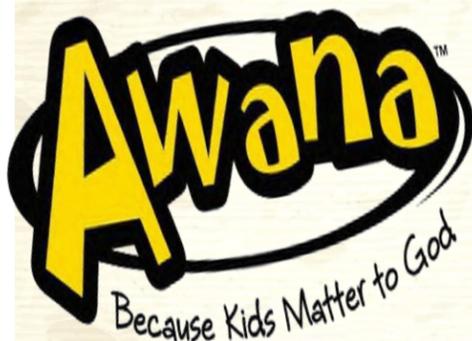
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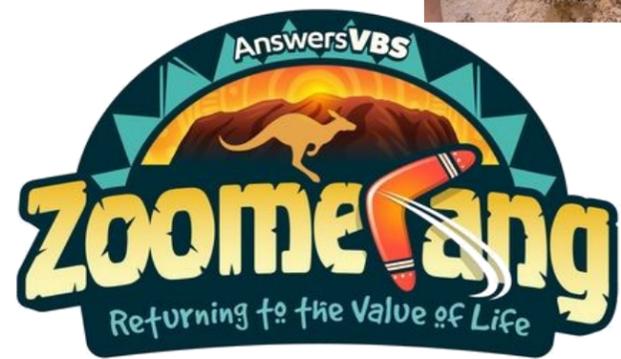
Happy May! Awana has come to a close and what a year we have had! We finished our year with Store Night and then Awards Night on April 27. Many students received awards as a celebration of finishing their books. A very special congratulations to Carter Wettlaufer, who received the Timothy Award; this is in recognition of completing books each year of Awana!

This is my last Grapevine article as I have resigned from the post of Awana Commander. Thank you so much for all of your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for Cami Ballagh, the new Commander. I have complete confidence in her abilities, and I know you all will give her the same grace, support, and encouragement that you have given me.

Thank you for everything! Awana is a fantastic program, and we have quality leaders who love God and love kids. Have a great summer!
 ~Lisa Cook



Thank you to all who supported, through prayer and finances, the Solid Rock team on their recent mission trip to San Augustine, Texas. While there, our team split into three groups. Two groups were tasked with beginning the restoration process on a 150 year old church. The church's foundation was in bad shape so the first team, calling themselves 'Drip Control', installed gutters to make sure that water wasn't pooling by the foundation. The second team, 'Foundation Nation', dug and poured brand new footings and concrete pillars so the building can, down the road, be jacked up to keep it from settling. The third group was at the house of Mrs. Stacy. In recent years, Mrs. Stacy's husband has been in a nursing home struggling with Alzheimer's while she has had back surgery after a car accident. Her house was in desperate need of dry wall, so our third team, called 'Team Stacy', jumped in and got a lot accomplished to help and encourage her. We were told at the end of the week that each group accomplished double the amount of work that had been anticipated. Each evening, we would gather at our host church to hang out, worship, and be challenged from Scripture. It was so fun to see God working in and through the lives of these amazing teenagers. Every experience, from the working, worshipping, eating disgusting foods, or running through the airport, was used to bring a spirit of unity and comradery to this group. Thank you so much for the part you played in God's work on this trip.



Vacation Bible School -- June 20-24 -- 9 am - 12pm

We are so excited for you to join us on our week long adventure this summer!!

Be prepared to experience the jaw-dropping beauty of the Great Barrier Reef, the arid temperature of outback afternoons, the architectural marvels of Australia's modern cities, and the fascinating eucalyptus forest, home of the koalas.

At Zoomerang VBS, you'll marvel at the unforgettable wildlife, culture, and beauty of Australia while exploring the wonder and value of life, from the lives of preborn babies to eternal life in the kingdom of God.

Kids who have just completed Preschool through 6th grade are invited to join us for a bonzer (great) time as we zoom off to the Land Down Under!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!!! Scan the code or this registration website <https://oneillfcc.myanswers.com/zoomerang/>



"Kids These Days...Am I Right?!"

As April showers give way to May flowers and we get ready to coronate another graduating class from our area schools, how do you regard "the next generation"? As you try to imagine where these 18-year-olds will be in 10 years, and what sort of world they will live in, in 10 years, what is your overriding sentiment? Are you scared? Excited? Anxious? Protective? Proud?

Congratulations!

If you tend to fall in the category of hand-wringing and teeth-grinding when it comes to the next generation, I have some good news - you're not alone. In fact, the argument could be made that worrying about the next generation is one of the oldest adult pastimes in the history of mankind:

- "They think they know everything and are always quite sure about it." Rhetoric, Aristotle, 4th Century BC
- "We defy anyone who goes about with his eyes open to deny that there is, as never before, an attitude on the part of young folk which is best described as grossly thoughtless, rude, and utterly selfish." The Conduct of Young People, Hull Daily Mail, 1925
- "Probably there is no period in history in which young people have given such emphatic utterance to a tendency to reject that which is old and to wish for that which is new." Portsmouth Evening News, 1936

"Kids these days..." is a sentiment as old as kids and days. If you are tempted to shake your head or curl your lip when you think about our youth turning the page on their adolescence and joining us in the adult world, take heart. That sentiment has been shared by most adults that have gone before us, and do you know what? There hasn't been a single generation that has escaped the loving hands of Jesus. He's got the whole world in his hands...you and I were no exception when we were part of "the next generation", and this generation is no exception as they prepare to take their place in our world.

I can't help but wonder what Jesus was thinking shortly after the first Easter as he looked around at His remaining disciples. Here was a group of young men aged 13-21, most had flipped and then flopped, most had been brash and then doubted, most had stuck their foot in their mouth a time or two. They were teens who had acted like teens. Yet Jesus didn't pray, "Father, can I have a do-over?" Instead, in the midst of their doubt, failure, sin, inexperience, and youth, Jesus sent them out into the world to build the Church, to be the Church, and to lead the Church. May God give us the courage to do the same!

Join me in praying: "Jesus, thank you that from the very beginning of Christianity you have used inexperienced, young, impetuous, youth to build your Kingdom. Use our kids in your Kingdom service. Give me wisdom and patience as I watch them make age-old mistakes, and give me the flexibility and humility to learn and grow as your new generation of Christians lead your Church toward age-old principles in a new and unique way. Amen."



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|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| • Kyler Adams | • Madi Hampton | • Coltin Vargas |
| • Carson Belik | • Michael McAllister | • Kristen Welling |
| • Rylee Breiner | • Maddi McIntire | • Lauren Young |
| • Averi Diedrichsen | • Brady Sidak | |

Bibles will be presented to the Seniors on Sunday, May 8

Niobrara Canoe/Kayak Trip!

We are planning a canoe/kayak trip down the beautiful scenic Niobrara River on June 25 (Saturday). In the past, we have done this in July, and the river has been crammed full with people tubing, kayaking, and canoeing, so we decided that we would try it in June. The details and costs have not yet been finalized, but we just want you to start thinking about whether you want to go and if so, to save the date. We will ride in the church bus, and launch from the Cornell Bridge, 4 miles east of Valentine. The trip will take us through the scenic Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, and then about 4 hours later we will get out at Brewer's Bridge. This trip includes multiple waterfalls: Fort Falls, Berry Falls, Smith Falls and Big Cedar (ask Amy Halsey, she has seen them all!), and a short little rapid at the end called Conner Rapids. In case you are wondering, only 2 adults are allowed in a canoe due to weight capacity and the depth of the Niobrara. However children under 8 years old can ride in the middle of a canoe with 2 adults. If your child is under 30 pounds, then you have to provide a life vest, to ensure a proper fit, and they suggest that a child be 9 years or older to have their own kayak. Well, I think that's about all the information you need right now. We will get back to you with more specifics later on.



Mark Your Calendar



BE REFRESHED

Retreat

Saturday, May 7, 2022

Riverview Lodge - Mahoney State Park

Come with us for a day designed to engage our hearts and minds in a fresh way as we connect with other, allow God to breathe into us, and seek to make His glory known around us.



Early Registration - \$55

Scan the code or visit the Registration Website:
<https://refreshmentoring.regfox.com/be-refreshed-retreat>

May

- 1—First Baptism Class, Multipurpose Room (9:15 am)
- 3—Blessed (10-11:30 am)
—Living Beyond Yourself Bible Study (1:30 pm)
- 4—Living Stones—Last Night (7-8:30 pm)
—Solid Rock (7:30-9 pm)
- 5—National Day of Prayer
- 7—Refresh Mentoring Retreat
- 8—Happy Mother's Day
- 10—Blessed (10-11:30 am)
—Elder Meeting (7 pm)
- 11—NO Wednesday Night Activities
O'Neill High School Baccalaureate
- 17—Blessed (10-11:30 am)
- 18—Solid Rock—LAST NIGHT (7:30-9 pm)
- 24—Elder Meeting (7 pm)
- 25—NO Wednesday Night Activities-Summer Break
- 30—Happy Memorial Day



Ushers:

- 1 - Jim Fuchtman, Curt Sidak, Sam Welling, Mark Brookhouser
- 8 - John Janzing, Rod Gartner, Dennis Schueth, Tyler Dexter
- 15 - Joe Knopp, Kenny Wettlaufer, Neil Tompkins, Devyn Ballagh
- 22 - James Cook, Rod Rowse, Bob Willats, Alex Brookhouser
- 29 - Trent Shoemaker, Bob Carroll, Gary Caskey, Ryan Garwood

Infant/Toddler Nursery:

- 1 - Tara Price & Lauren Young
- 8 - Vicki Willats & Dorie Yates
- 15 - Jody Fuchtman & Kloe Kopecky
- 22 - Coni Kersch & Mia Lindsay
- 29 - Christy Meyer & Nolan Ballagh

4 - PreK Junior Church:

- 1 - Amy Halsey & Lincoln Konrad
- 8 - Sarah Sidak & Wyatt Ehlers
- 15 - Sandy Mosel & Grace Mitchell
- 22 - Jennifer Miles & Ashley Sidak
- 29 - Cami Ballagh & London Konrad

Tithing

Did you know that you can give commodities and/or securities to the church? The main advantage is that it would save you self-employment tax! Also, when you write your will or do some estate planning, why not include FCC in your final act of giving. If you would like to donate grain, cattle, or securities, please contact Elroy Thieszen and he can walk you thru the very easy process! His phone number is 402-340-6008.



The church kitchen could use some containers, cool whip, cottage cheese or about that size. If you have some you could share, we would welcome them.

Thank you!!

