

News from Michael

If You Love One Another"

Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Philippians 2:1-2 (NIV)

Today I would like to share with you a recent devotion that I shared with the worship team by Dan Wilt. I have elaborated a bit and put my own touches in this inspired submission. I hope you are also inspired as I am and continue to be. May God's word change, remold, and melt your hearts as you read this article.

The Church's capacity to win souls to the kingdom mirrors their capacity to maintain strong relationships and the unity of the body. Strong community and comradery within the church, coupled with strong outreach programs alters our effectiveness to witness to the community around us.

When you care for another relationally, the results is always an upgrade in effectiveness of our witness and that effectiveness as a congregation gets communicated through all our leadership groups.

If just one person takes this principle to heart, and applies it over a long period of time, the value of relationships can eventually work its way through the whole body.

The effect we have on the community around us should compel us to work hard on our relationships within our church. The way we do that is by spending time with each other. I know covid-19 has taken a bit of that away from us but with the recent numbers are coming down I am gaining speed to come and visit face to face the people who I love so dearly. **It has been said that we learn more about another person in an hour of play than in a lifetime of work.** As a worship leader my play is sometimes also my work. I work with other people in the office and choir members, worship team members, and with the tech booth operators in ministry together, tweaking knobs, singing songs, working parts, projecting words, and hammering out rhythms and then worship as a body on Sunday mornings. It's play, but it's also ministry. I feel tired at the end of a service but realize that it's good heart work in which we all participated together. But here are the facts. We don't fully get to know each other in the midst of the task. Whether I am arranging a song or making sure our in-ears are working properly, **We need to eat lunch together.** We need to laugh together. We need to intentionally pursue moments with other individuals in our church to make sure we truly see one another for who we are. Even before covid the "Church" has been pulling away from each other and its time for us to recognize this problem and correct it. Listen, everyone has a story, and a gathering of any type (a meal, coffee, going bowling together, or just a simple walk in the park) is a great time for you to ask someone else who they have been, who they are, and who they are becoming and for my Jesus to meet your Jesus.

We are all more than just worship attenders on Sunday morning. We are people. People who love Jesus and are aiming to live a higher life. Let's enjoy the community God has given us together, along with the task what we have come to love.

(continued)

"Loving God, Loving People, Serving People"

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

Michael Tomlinson



Easter Lilies

We are wanting people to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter by donating Easter Lilies in memory or honor of loved ones. Please call the church office by March 29th and we will have the list of donors and loved ones on the screen for Easter Sunday. Please have your plant here by Thursday, April 1st by 4 pm.

Church Service Times

March 21st

9:30 am at FCC, Carl Rabe, preaching

March 30th

8:30 am at FCC (Palm Sunday Choir)
10 am at Central Community ~ Pastor Morgan, preaching

April 4th Easter Sunday

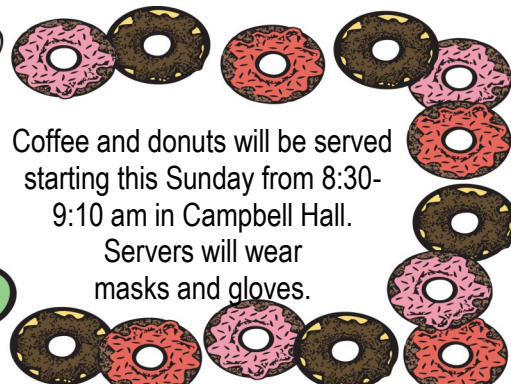
6:30 am Service at the Old State Rd Lot (bring lawn chair)
8:30 am and 10:30 am Worship Services at FCC

Maundy Thursday

We will be having a Maundy Thursday Service on April 1st at 7 pm. We will have a time of prayer, communion, and a devotion led by Pastor Morgan in the sanctuary. Following the communion/devotion we will participate in a time of singing and washing of feet mimicking the Last Supper in Campbell Hall. Please join us for this very emotional and meaningful experience.

A MONTH OF MISSIONS

The World Outreach Committee is highlighting for the month of March, Colton Anderson, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes area Director. Please take a moment and see the updated family picture of Colton, Ramie, and their new baby, Asher, on our Missionary easel in the foyer. Please pray for Colton and the ministry specifically about 1) opening the hearts of area coaches and athletes, 2) filling a faculty lead person at MMS, 3) for their ability to have camps this summer, and 4) to expand their staff at EIU.



Coffee and donuts will be served starting this Sunday from 8:30-9:10 am in Campbell Hall. Servers will wear masks and gloves.

Board Splinters 3/8

Elders: are working on a schedule for small group Q&A about the merger.

Deaconesses: served one funeral dinner and Doris Webb took many shut-ins some homemade soup.

Senior Minister: continue talks with Central Community every Tuesday and Don Green attended February 23rd. Met with Bill Duey, pastor of Crossover Church, about the unified men's Bible Study. Meeting weekly with Richard Eident to help formulate a membership class at FCC. Met with a young man and shared the gospel with him, praying for his salvation.

Elementary Minister: helping at the Food Pantry and the Nursery is in full swing. Preschool and Jr. Church have volunteers to help on a rotating basis.

Worship Leader: choir sang on February 21st with a few members from CCC. On Palm Sunday will present the musical "Living Hope" with children included. The vocal members of the Praise Team participated in leading worship at CCC on February 28th. The streaming is going well and will continue to work out kinks for the next several months. Presented a drama "Love Jesus" in February.

Worship: planned the service for Palm Sunday at 8:30 am, 10 am will be held at CCC.

Outreach: reported we are meeting our obligations for our Outreach Projects, fixing 76 backpacks per month and will send a cash donation out of the Outreach budget to Camp New Hope and Choices Pregnancy Center instead of special offerings.

Christian Ed: Steve Morgan came and discussed a longer lesson for Jr. Church. Possibly splitting Jr. Church into 2 age groups.

Personnel: met and approved Michael's unused vacation days from 2020 to be used in 2021. Approved Beau Scott for another 6 months as an office assistant, looking at making a permanent part-time position after six month. Discussed possible ministry positions: youth minister/family pastor/children's minister.

Trustees: Dolo Wishard wants to cut her Custodian hours to 10 instead of 25 because she purchased a t-shirt business and Beau Scott will work the other 15 hours. The city needs to check the drain which is causing the flooding in the building.

World Outreach: Colton Anderson came to the February meeting, \$1,000 was donated to Troy and Joy Lane and Sammy with Share International will be here May 16th.

New Business: Dolo Wishard turned in her resignation as the Children's Minister.

Informational Meetings

We are offering Small Group Informational Meetings concerning the merger with Central Community Church. If you are interested in attending a meeting, please call the office at 217-234-2928 to sign-up.

Church Life

Sunday, March 21st
9:30 am Worship Service with Carl Rabe preaching
1 pm F/R Meeting

Monday, March 22nd
10 am Staff Meeting
6 pm Ladies Small Group in Campbell Hall

Tuesday, March 23rd
7 am Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, March 24th
5 pm Bell Practice
6 pm Choir Practice
6 pm Bible Journaling

Thursday, March 25th
6 pm Praise Team Practice
6 pm Men's Small Group at Central Community Church

Sunday, March 28th
8:30 am Palm Sunday Musical at FCC
10 am Pastor Morgan preaching at CCC
1 pm F/R at the Food Pantry

Monday, March 29th
10 am Staff Meeting
6 pm Ladies Small Group in Campbell Hall

Tuesday, March 30th
7 am Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, March 31st
5 pm Bell Choir Practice
6 pm Choir Practice
6 pm Bible Journaling

Thursday, April 1st
6 pm Men's Small Group at Central Community Church
7 pm Maundy Thursday Service

THIS WEEK'S GLANCE

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Thank You Note

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, snacks and Christmas flowers. I am truly blessed by all the attention and well wishes. I hope to be back in church soon.

Marlene Webb



Building Fund balance:
\$574,829.74

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Return Service Requested
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