

A Note from Michael

Do you remember on radio or television when your program would be rudely interrupted by a 60-second obnoxious tone and an announcer would say: "This has been a test of the emergency broadcast system."

Well, life is kind of like that without the announcer.

Everything will be going smoothly, and then all of a sudden, your life's programming can be interrupted with the expected. It happens to everyone, and it happened to Job.

When inconvenient things happen all the same time, it's natural to say, "Lord, is this a test?" Then, through His infallible Word He answers, "My grace is sufficient." Job did not expect his situation to change so rapidly. When it did, though, he held on. **It's difficult to trust when the storm engulfs you.** It was hard for Peter when he stepped out of the boat to walk on water to Jesus. For lack of faith, he began to sink until he reached out to take the hand of the Lord.

It's just the same for us in times of trials. **The letter of James tells us to even be joyful in hardship, because it will make us mature and complete with a regard for those who preserve.**

There's a song that has been recorded by Ryan Stevenson that is being played on the radio station, and the chorus goes like this:

*In the eye of the storm You remain in control;
In the middle of the war You guard my soul;
You alone are the anchor when my sails are torn;
Your love surrounds me in the eye of the storm.*

It is difficult not to focus on what is troubling us. **Next time when life's programming is interrupted, try to fix your eyes on the One above, our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ**, who, for the joys set before Him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

Campbell Hall

Due to the Corona Virus Lorenz Supply doesn't have the cleaning supplies available to wax and strip the floors in Campbell Hall till the week of May 26th. So, this project has been postponed till May 26th-28th starting at 10 am each day. We will have time slots set-up for up to 8-10 people each day. Please call Dolo (259-8504) if you can help out.



Garden Plots

We now have 4 raised beds at the Old State Road church property for the garden planting season! Raised beds are 4ft by 16ft.



If you have any interest in helping plant, care for, or harvesting a crop from our FCC Community Garden, let us know. If you are excited about this new adventure, need more information, would like to help financially, or would like to get your hands dirty, call the church at 234-2928 and let us know! **"There is a time to plant and a time to uproot. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God."**

Paul Icenogle is our very own Master Gardener and will be advising us for maximum crop production! Charlotte Castle will be the site coordinator! Happy planting!



We now have a locked mailbox at the church. The mailbox is located just left of the Narthex doors. Please feel free to drop off your offering in this box if you like and it will be checked daily.

Board Splinters/May 11th

Elders: delivered flowers to mothers and calling on people.

Senior Minister: he has been a part of local pastors to give a devotion of hope on Coles County Covid-19 Support Group Facebook page every 2 weeks, wrote an article on Good Friday for the Journal Gazette, leading a devotion on the book of Jeremiah 3 mornings a week and finished class on Church History at LCU with an A!

Elementary Minister: Outlet is over but does a Sunday Adventures online with the kids, have gone out to the homes a couple times and passed out gifts and waiting to see if we can hold a VBS.

Worship Leader: with the on-set of Covid 19 our week to week worship services has continued with the Praise Band practicing on Thursday evenings however we have down sized only using what is necessary trying to keep our numbers on Sunday morning below 10. This said we are trying to use team members that can serve a double purpose. We are also trying to use a variety of hymns and hymn arrangements along with contemporary songs. I am planning a Praise and Worship Celebration evening service (which will be streamed) for sometime in May or June.

Worship: Worship Committee May Informal Zoom/ Conference call discussed about returning back to church and discussing a guide line of things to prepare for upon return. Purchased 150 flowers for Mother's Day and delivered by 9 elders and 3 staff...Many thanks to ALL! The Worship committee will be meeting on June 1st in Campbell Hall at 5:30 pm.

Outreach: sent \$300 to Choices because FCC won't be able to hold the Baby Bottle Blessings. Encouraging FCC members to use Easter Offering envelope to make donations to Camp New Hope to help with storm repairs, since there will not be camp this summer. Still packing and delivering food to Riddle School.


Christian Ed: a devotional to youth the group is being delivered by Beau Scott weekly via Facebook.

Stewardship: April Income \$23,600 this year and \$26,400 last year.

Personnel: took off the Associate Minister Job Description off the website for now. The Associate Minister will also be the Youth Minister.

Trustees: discussed Tech streaming and hired CSB for \$1,090; New Pew Pads ordered \$8,342.10; have leaks in the Educ. Bldg roof and it was put on in 2007, nails are coming through; Masonry needs attention; met with a contractor for Tuck pointing and some brick work needs replaced; Paul Icenogle and Ed Shubacker are making small planter boxes at Old State Rd property; Charlotte Castle will be organizing groups to work together on these boxes and Attic is cleaned thanks to Dolo and friends, this is how we found these leaks in the roof.

World Outreach: trip in June to Honduras has been cancelled. Prayers for our missions local and worldwide.

 The Easter Offering was designated to Camp New Hope to help campers attend camp this summer. With the Covid-19 virus the camp is cancelled until further notice. A storm passed through Neoga and damaged the yellow cabin. We are asking you to still please donate through the Easter Offering to help repair the cabin for future use.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Angela Freeman and her family on the passing of her dad, Duane Layton (69) on May 16th.

 Sending Our SYMPATHY

We welcome Hilary Rawlings as a Deaconess at FCC! We have cookbooks available for \$8 and pecans for \$12 per bag. Nancy will deliver the goodies if you contact her at 258-6247 or email her at: nhuckaba@consolidated.net