

From the Pastor

Everybody has manufactured products within their homes. Appliances such as washers and dryers, stoves and refrigerators, toasters and microwaves exist within most homes. We now add the term “smart” to things made by humans: smart TV’s, smart phones, smart devices. I wonder at times why these products are deemed so smart, when in many cases they prompt us to utilize our minds less! We even have a manufactured product within our home named “Alexa” that speaks back to us! She informs me of the weather, tells me knock-knock jokes, and offers up cooking advice!

We call them manufactured for they were designed, created, and then made according to engineering specs to serve a purpose. Each one has its own unique reason for being created. Now if that product operates outside of its reason for being, we have a major problem. If you try and cook a pizza inside the fridge, or freeze ice cream within the stove, it’s just not going to work out. You are going against the initial design; you are dictating the purpose of the product. It is the designing engineer, the creator, who dictates why the appliance exists, and what it is designed to do.

In the same way, we are God’s creation, His design. He dictates as to why we exist and what our purpose is. Ephesians 2:10 tells us, **“For we are God’s handiwork, His masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”** First and foremost, we are saved by the beautiful gift of grace God has lavished upon those who have believed in his Son. Paul is adamant that we are not saved by our good works, lest we empty the cross of its power. Yet in this verse we see good works are not only evidence of our faith, but also part of the initial design. Our initial design and purpose, prepared in advance by God, was to believe in the Lord Jesus, to become like Him, followed by good works. Tony Evans states, “Walking in the purpose God designed for us is how we fulfill our unique reason for being.”

Let me give you the Apostle Peter’s statement on our Christian purpose: **“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”**

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

If you are in Christ, a follower of Jesus, you are chosen. You are part of a priesthood. Yes, you are a priest or priestess with access to the Holy of Holies! You have been made holy by the blood of the Lamb! You are special to God. He is going to keep you for Himself! You are all these things in Christ, with the purpose of declaring His praises and deepening your relationship with Him. You were made to worship. Have you worshiped the Creator/Designer today? You were made to have relationship; with God and with people. Have you spoken to your Savior today? Have you deepened a friendship? Follow the God design. It is far more advantageous than human design!

Pastor Morgan

missionary
work

Sunday, August 30th will be Mission Sunday. Jason and Michelle Mathews will share their stories from Honduras.

Church Service

We will continue to have one service at 9:30 am at least through the month of September. You can attend church (bring your own mask), watch the service on *Facebook* or go to our website: www.mattoonfcc.com and click on *Live Stream*.



Baptisms



Congratulations to Connor and Ella Gergeni on their baptisms this past Sunday, August 23rd. Welcome to the family of God.

Deaconesses

Attention Deaconesses...all plans for the rest of the year are on hold. Hopefully, the virus will be over soon and life can resume as normal. Maybe the Ladies Night Out will be held in July as "Christmas in July". ☺

Ways you can SERVE

- Looking for a Lead Guitar Player
- Looking for someone to run the camcorder for the service
- Looking for someone to help with the Live Streaming

Email Michael at michaelfcc@mycci.net if interested in one of the listed opportunities.



Building Fund balance:
\$419,852.50

Church Life

Sunday, August 30th

9:30 am Worship Service ~ Mission Sunday

Monday, August 31st

10 am Staff Meeting

Tuesday, September 1st

7 am Prayer Meeting

6 pm Bible Journaling

Thursday, September 3rd

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Sunday, September 6th

9:30 am Worship Service

Monday, September 7th

Office Closed ~ Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8th

7 am Prayer Meeting

5:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting in the UIC Classroom

6 pm Bible Journaling

Thursday, September 10th

6 pm Praise Team Practice

Sunday, September 13th

9:30 am Worship Service

Monday, September 14th

10 am Staff Meeting

6 pm Trustees' Meeting

7 pm Board Meeting

THIS WEEK'S GLANCE



Church Attendance

August 23rd: 75