

AUGUST 2021

Familiar Favorites

THE ECHOES

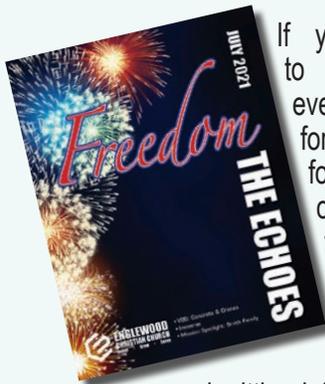


**ENGLEWOOD
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
Honor • Grow • Serve

- Immerse
- Wednesdays in August
- Choir Sign Ups

Do you have a “go-to” book or movie you can read or watch over and over and over again? It doesn’t matter how many times you read or watch it, you still enjoy it, and you often see something new every time. This month, we are taking that same perspective with some “familiar favorites” from the Bible. We hope you enjoy these timeless stories and see them with a new perspective which leads to further growth. Enjoy this month’s edition of *The Echoes* and be sure to share it with a friend!!

DEADLINES



If you would like to submit articles, events or activities for consideration for the next issue of *The Echoes*, the deadline is **Friday, August 13.**

The deadline for submitting information for the weekly e-newsletter is each **Wednesday at 5:00 pm.**

Please email all submissions to angelah@eccjax.com with any coordinating artwork or graphics.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
8:30am - 5:00pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School
9:00am

Worship Service/Children’s Programming
10:30am

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

6:00pm Dinner

6:30pm Prayer Gathering

7:00pm Programming for all ages

Connect with Us Online!

www.eccjax.com



www.facebook.com/eccjax/



@ECCJAX

GET OUR APP!



WORSHIP
Every Sunday
@ 10:30am

PRAYER GATHERING
Wednesdays
@ 6:30pm

Scan the QR code to check in on Sunday mornings – get the bulletin, prayer list, online giving and connection card all in one place!



Contributions July 25, 2021

General Fund

Week 8 Budget \$ 83,992.00

Week 8 Totals \$ 65,323.47

Faith Promise

Week 21 Budget \$ 90,434.40

Week 21 Giving \$127,195.00

ECC Statistics

Morning Worship	Sunday School	Wednesday Night
Sunday, June 27		
194	115	69
Sunday, July 4		
177	99	69
Sunday, July 11		
167	90	n/a (Tropical Storm)
Sunday, July 18		
181	110	67
Sunday, July 25		
116	n/a 😊	n/a 😊

Totals include estimated online attendance

ECC Church Staff

Pete Ramsey, Senior Minister

Josh Colvin, Student Minister

Karissa Mead, Worship
Ministry Director

Serena Maerkl, Children’s Director

Angela Hastings, Office Manager

Kim Owens, Publications Director

Mary Worth, Bookkeeper

Sherrie Boger, TLC Director

CALENDAR AUGUST 2021

GriefShare
Mondays at 6:30pm

Quilting/Sewing Group
Wednesdays at 1:00pm

Sunday, August 1
Teacher Dedication Sunday
Worship/Tech Teams
Appreciation Lunch

August 1-August 4
Elementary Camp

Tuesday, August 3/
Saturday, August 7
CWF Circle Meetings

Wednesday, August 4
Blood Drive at ECC

Thursday, August 5
Prime Timers Dinner
at Wasabi

Sunday, August 8
Promotion Sunday
ESM Pool Party
e-city kids slip-n-slide
& sundaes

Tuesday, August 17
CWF Quarterly Dinner
& Meeting
Men’s Ministry
Quarterly Dinner

Wednesday, August 18
Kick off for Vocal Explosion

Saturday, August 21
Men’s Ministry Breakfast

Sunday, August 22
Kick off for Worship Choir

Wednesday, August 25
Kick off for Children’s Choirs

Saturday, August 28
Wild Adventures Day Trip

Sunday, August 29
Family Sunday
Connect Class

Thank You

To my church family,

Thank you for all the cards and prayers during my very serious sickness. With our prayers, I’m getting better, but still not well, but with you and God’s help, I’m certain I will soon pull out of it but still have a long way to go.

Love for you all,

Ellie Hall

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Nicodemus: UNCANNY FAMILIARITY



by Pete Ramsey, Senior Minister

There was a fellow student I went to school with named John Lancaster. He went by the nickname, “Phat Rock,” – not sure why, but it stuck. I mention him because there was a time when we were often confused for being brothers. I’ll freely admit, I could totally see how some might think we were brothers. We had similar haircuts and facial hair, our face “shape” was round, our heights were close enough to be deemed related, and even our personalities could be considered similar enough for someone to think we were “kin.” Some might even say there was an uncanny familiarity and similarity between us, but alas, the only relation we had was through the bond of Christ.

In the Gospel of John, we come across a character we may not immediately recognize as one of our favorites, or even as one of the most memorable. He’s not a disciple. Jesus did not perform a miracle on him. He did not die a martyr’s death. He was not the subject of any of Jesus’ sermons, but I think we might find him uncannily familiar if we take a close look. I’m talking about Nicodemus, or as I’ve heard him referred “Nick at Nite.”

Nicodemus only appears in the gospel of John, and even within that specific gospel, there are only three mentions of his name and only in two of those circumstances does he speak – for a total of four verses.

There is not much we know for certain about this man, but there is certainly something uncannily familiar about him. If you look close enough, you just might see the same consternation, hesitation and anticipation in your own life

First, let’s briefly look at all three appearances and attempt to clear up any confusion around them. The first appearance is in John 3 when he comes at night to speak with Jesus. Many questions have been raised about this nocturnal appointment leading to endless motives and possibilities. Did he meet at night for fear of being discovered by his fellow Pharisees? Or was it a declaration of the rabbinic tradition of how the most faithful of men would study the Torah well into the night when most had retired for the evening or moved on to other chores?

One could say he was not just studying the Law, but the living WORD of God during that particular appointment. Was he being fearful or fearless? Either way, I’m sure there was much consternation in his mind in trying to understand Jesus.

The second appearance is in John 7, following some teachings heard from Jesus while celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles. Some teachers and Pharisees wanted to take action and have Him arrested, but Nicodemus spoke up and defended Jesus, albeit in a most discreet and indirect way, delaying the tactics of the other teachers. They mocked him and brushed him aside as being insignificant. Yet again, more confusion regarding Nicodemus – is he stating his belief and standing against the other teachers, or is it a weak and timid display of the direction of his thoughts regarding the man who claims to be the Messiah? Maybe we can chalk it up as hesitation – was it the right time to reveal his feelings about Jesus or to convey his mustard-seed-sized faith by standing up for Him? I don’t know, but I do know I sometimes suffer the same hesitation when faced with sudden choices to speak or not speak. How about you?

The third, final, and in my mind most significant, appearance comes in John 19. Here we find Joseph of Arimathea tasked with the burial of Jesus, and lo and behold, who is assisting him? Nicodemus! It was no small effort or task to do this. He brought close to 100 pounds of ointments, oils, perfumes and spices, all necessary for a proper burial. (Note: A proper burial in Jewish custom was to bathe and clean the dead body before wrapping tightly in cloths. This would have been both a tedious and gruesome task to say the least, and not one to be taken on by an uncertain follower hoping to maintain anonymity.) Even with this act, the question could be asked – is this a genuine desire of a beloved disciple to care for the body of his Rabbi, no matter what the cost, even risking exposure as a follower OR is it a miscalculated understanding of who exactly Jesus was and what His death meant? What other explanation could one give for the extreme cost Nicodemus went to just to help bury Jesus? In other words, if he really believed in Him, then why did

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THE ECHOES AUGUST 2021



A story about Jonah, not the Whale!

by Karissa Mead, Worship Ministry Director

When we read about Jonah, we all tend to focus on the big fish which swallowed him whole. The focus of the story becomes how God took control of this huge animal and got Jonah to Nineveh. As a kid, I just assumed Jonah was the hero of the story... he was going to Nineveh to bring God's message, right? All too often, we do this to Bible characters – assume they're perfect because God chose them to do His will. However, often, our Bible friends are deeply flawed, just like us. So, we're going to shift our focus away from the supernatural event of the great fish, and turn to Jonah, the flawed, fearful prophet, to learn how we can do better in our own walk with the Lord.

Jonah let himself be afraid instead of stepping forward in faith

God gave Jonah one job: go to Nineveh and tell them they need to cut it out. The Ninevites were known for being exceptionally violent and wicked. God had good reason to tell Jonah to go: He was giving the Ninevites a chance to repent. Jonah had good reason to be afraid: if he went and the Ninevites didn't like it, he was going to die.

Has God ever given you a task you've neglected? Has He called you to be a better husband or wife, a more consistent parent, a trustworthy friend, a more faithful follower? Has He called you to step forward in faith rather than succumbing to fear or relapsing into habit? Have you felt led by the Spirit to do one thing and went the opposite direction? We know from Jonah's story even though Jonah said no to God, God's will still stood at the end. Are you going to dwell on your fear of the outcome, or stand with Him and trust He will protect you?

Jonah prayed a selfish prayer

Like a kid forced to apologize to his or her sibling, instead of having an attitude of obedience, Jonah gave the good Lord an attitude. He went into Nineveh bringing a message of destruction and left with the city still standing. He became angry at God because Nineveh didn't get its comeuppance, and he prayed an astounding prayer: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would

do this?... I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen" (paraphrased from Jonah 4:1, 3).

Have you ever told God your way would have been better? Have you ever been so prideful as to tell God you'd rather die than be wrong? That's what Jonah did. He was so prideful he wanted all of Nineveh to be destroyed, so what he told the Ninevites would actually happen and he

would be right. I think many of us struggle with the same root of pride and need the same repentance as Jonah.

Jonah succumbed to his anger instead of forgiving the Ninevites

From what we can read, Jonah never really repented. He sat and stewed in his anger, even after God told him why the Ninevites deserved forgiveness. Jonah even admitted earlier, he knew God was gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in love... but still Jonah refused to hop on the mercy train. There will be times when God is going to ask you to be as gracious and merciful to others as He has been to you. Will you respond like Jonah, letting yourself live in anger with an attitude of judgment, or will you respond as God has called you with forgiveness and mercy?



Continued on page 8.

Favorite Soundtracks

by Angela Hastings, Office Manager



How often do you hear a song and instantly transport to another day and time? Okay, maybe not “Beam me up, Scotty” physically transport, but in your mind, you’re back at the eighth-grade dance, the cottage your family stayed in when you moved to Maine, or the last night of a spring break mission trip when you surrendered to Jesus. Music has a way of sticking with us, and being the soundtrack to our memories.

I suppose that’s one reason I love the psalms so much. Many of them were written as songs and are connected with many of my memories. They are the prayers of faith I rely on and go to in times of joy and pain. In the psalms, I have met the Lord, heard from Him, and wrestled with incomprehensible realities. They are, indeed, some familiar favorites in my life. Since I can’t write about all 150, I’ll pick one and share the memory linked with it.

It was Romania, July 2001, and I was on my first international mission trip. It was a hard two weeks. Add jetlag, exhaustion, strange foods, culture shock and foreign language to an already heart-breaking situation, and emotions were amplified, so of course I cried every day. I spent each afternoon in the “quarantine” part of the orphanage with babies and young children who were new or needed extra medical attention. I can still picture the room; I can still smell the stench of wet cloth diapers and spoiled formula; I can still remember sitting in a little chair next to a crib, rubbing the back of a little girl with hydrocephalus and spina bifida. It was our last full day in the country, and I couldn’t imagine leaving these precious ones; I was unsure how their physical, emotional and spiritual needs would be met.

So, there I sat, frozen. Not sure what to believe. Not sure how things would turn out. Not sure where to go from there. I remember reaching for my Bible and turning to the psalms. Still a pretty new Christian, I had only recently learned about praying God’s Word, so I decided to put it into practice. I started reading them aloud and praying them over the room. It happened to be Psalm 145 which solidified my faith that day. Here’s part of it and some of the truths I discovered and still cling to today.

⁸ The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. ⁹ The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made....¹³ ...The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does. ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. ¹⁶ You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

A version of the phrase “The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love” shows up at least eight times in the Bible. One of those times is when God is defining Himself to Moses in Exodus 34. It’s who He is. Ultimately, we can trust the grace, compassion, love and goodness of God for ourselves and our loved ones, and even for those who are in challenging circumstances. I could trust God would be gracious, compassionate and rich in love towards these children.

*“The Lord is good to **all**; he has compassion on **all** he has made....¹³ ...The Lord is trustworthy in **all** he promises and faithful in **all** he does. ¹⁴ The Lord upholds **all** who fall and lifts up **all** who are bowed down” (emphasis mine). All means all. If it’s true for*

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Missed Signs

by **Serena Maerkl**, Children's Director

One of my favorite Disney movies is *The Emperor's New Groove*. The movie opens with a very pathetic looking llama, pouting in the rain. You want to like him, but as the movie unfolds you learn the reason he came to be soaking wet, alone, and without friends or a shelter anywhere is entirely his own fault. Kuzko was a king, and it wasn't his kind and generous spirit which got him there. His rise to the top was built on the lives of the people in his kingdom he was supposed to be caring for. In fact, one of the first things we see him do is throw an elderly man with a cane out a window because he got in the way of his opening dance number. This stereotypical portrayal of a power-hungry king isn't a new one. In fact Kuzko's over the top reaction is similar to those of King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2-3. Instead of throwing someone out a window, he threw them into a fire. It's safe to say, none of you reading this have ever gone to these extremes when things didn't go your way. Even so, there are still times in our lives when we find ourselves so wrapped up in something, we forget why we started it in the first place.

Often times the things we're passionate about the most begin for all the right reasons. From jobs, to hobbies, to volunteer work, we get involved in things we believe in. The longer we engage in an activity, the more invested we become. The danger lies in becoming so focused we miss the warning signs telling us we're no longer enhancing lives, we're detracting from them. King Nebuchadnezzar completely missed those signs.

The first sign was he asked his people for something they could not actually deliver. In chapter 2, he didn't just ask for his dreams to be interpreted; he wanted them to tell him what the dream was before they told him what it meant. When they couldn't do it, his punishment involved cutting them into pieces and destroying their houses. He was willing to kill an entire group of people and leave their families homeless because of his unrealistic expectations. How many times have we fallen in this trap? How many times have we expected those around us to be a mind reader, or to do things the way we would do them? For me, it never ends well, and usually involves me getting angry at my family or saying something I later regret. We shouldn't expect the people around us to have

superhuman powers, and then overreact when they show us just how human they are.

The second missed clue was only hearing what he wanted to hear. He allowed his own feelings of self-importance to color his perceptions. Once Daniel revealed the dream and its importance, Nebuchadnezzar still didn't get it right. He cherry picked the parts he liked, ignored the parts he didn't, and made up his own ideas with the rest. The allegory of the statue then became a literal one, built to lift up Nebuchadnezzar. He couldn't recognize the interpretation Daniel gave him didn't match up with what he ultimately got out of it. How many times have I been guilty of selective hearing when I want things to go my way? How many times has God revealed His plans, only for us to still go about it in our own way?

Nebuchadnezzar's final missed clue was one of the biggest, even though it's often a bit of a throw away in the story. He was so wrapped up in his furor to punish Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in chapter 3, he completely ignored the fact his own men died just going near the opening furnace. Let that sink in a little. His extremely loyal guards just burned up before him, and it wasn't enough to make him stop and question if he should go through with it. Sometimes we can become so overcome with the belief we are right, we don't see how our words and actions are hurting those around us. What Christ-like actions have you sacrificed for the sake of personal idols?

We are often no less guilty than Nebuchadnezzar of ignoring the signs of our own pride. Even though I'm not out there sentencing people to death, or kicking people out of their village to build my own "Kuzkotopia," I do have choices to make every day. I can choose to "*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above {myself}, not looking to {my} own interests but to the interests of the others*" (Philippians 2:3-4). Kuzko and Nebuchadnezzar were eventually able to recognize the signs they had been ignoring to find their redemption. What signs have you been ignoring because you were looking inward instead of upward? I encourage you to look for the idols in your own life which may be impeding your view.

JUST A LITTLE DIFFERENT



by Josh Colvin, Student Minister

Does anyone else agree with me when I say the Old Testament has some crazy and almost unbelievable stories written in it? I can't be the only one who thinks this when reading through it. I remember a time in either late middle school or early high school when I was in Bible Bowl, and one of the books we had to read for the that year was Judges. Before we would learn the different keywords during practice, we would read through the passage to be covered in the next competition. One competition in particular was over several chapters from Joshua and Judges. As we were reading, right then and there, one of my favorite bible stories came alive. The story was about Ehud, who was a judge sent by God to save the Israelite people after they had turned their backs to Him, chased other gods, and were given over to the hands of their enemies. Now, we've all heard and read stories before of God sending someone to rescue Israel, but this is one of those stories with many interesting facts, and it piques the interest of any middle school boy who decides to read it.

Immediately in Judges 3, we learn Ehud was a left-handed man. This may not sound crazy, but it's necessary to mention because of how rare it was to be left-handed in that day. It was being left-handed which allow Ehud to get in and out of the palace without being noticed and captured. God sent Ehud to assassinate King Eglon. So, he hid a sword on the right side of his body, and when the guards checked, they didn't think to check that side because being left-handed was so rare. Even though this wasn't some crazy fact, it was still a rare one.

Next is one random detail of this story which caused it to be one of my favorites. Ehud claimed to have a message for King Eglon, who Scripture stated was a very fat man. Once Eglon told his guards to leave, Ehud delivered the message – a sword plunged in the gut. This is the part of the story I love and laugh at all at the same time. Judges 3 says, *“Even the handle sank in after the blade, and his bowels discharged. Ehud did not pull the sword out, and the fat closed in over it.”* As a teenage boy, the first time I heard this story, I loved every second of it

and even made the sound effects of the fat closing in over the handle. Okay, I have a confession to make; as I was telling Angela why I love this story, I had to make the sound effects again. She hated them. I thought they were very well done. I'm not going to lie, I still have some teenage boy left in me.

The final random detail is found a couple of verses later when Eglon's servants came back and found the doors to the upper room shut. Ehud had already escaped, so the first thing which came to the minds of the servants was he had to be relieving himself (in the little boy's room). Then verse 25 says they waited to the point of embarrassment to unlock and open the doors. How long is the point of embarrassment? That was the very first question which popped up in my head when I read it. And who was embarrassed? Were the servants embarrassed for him or were they embarrassed for themselves? These are the questions which come to a teenage boy's mind. Needless to say, there was not a lot of studying done that practice. It took our coach a long time to gather us back in. I was not the only teenage boy in Bible Bowl. We all had the same thought and spent a long time attempting to answer those questions.

Even though this is one of the crazier and funnier stories in Scripture, there are still lessons we can learn from it. The biggest lesson, I would say we can learn is no matter what quirks we may have, God can use quirks. Christians may have quirks which seem useless at the time, but God can use any one person with any one quirk to carry out and fulfill His will. Ehud's quirk of left-handedness proved essential in taking down the Moabite king and setting the Israelite people free. Had he not been left-handed, the guards would've probably found the weapon and put Ehud to death for trying to assassinate the king.

God used Ehud to fulfill His will. What quirk do you have which can be useful in the kingdom of God?

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“Nicodemus: Uncanny Familiarity” by Pete Ramsey

he bury Him the way he did? Where was his faith? Did he not anticipate His resurrection?

So confusing, yet I feel as if I am staring in the mirror. How many times do my actions raise the same questions? How many times do my works create the same uncertainty? How many times have I struggled with identifying what is genuinely done in honor of my King or done out of ritualistic habit?

When I give, do I give with or without hesitation? When I pray, do I pray to bring my “grocery list” of demands to Him or do I long to stand before the throne and have Him remold me to be more like Him? When I worship and sing and lift my hands,

is it for the glory and recognition of others or is it for the glory and honor of the only one who is worthy? When I pull into the parking lot each Sunday, is it out of obligation of what is expected of me or in anticipation of what He may do through me?

Confusing, yet familiar. If we are all being honest with ourselves, I think we’ve all got a little Nicodemus inside us – trying so hard to do what’s right, asking questions in the pursuit of wisdom, speaking up when the time is right. May we all make the right choice and follow Him without hesitation.

Continued from page 4.

“A story about Jonah, not the Whale!” by Karissa Mead

Jesus teaches us this: “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much... so if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches” (Luke 16:10,12). Of course, this is after some Pharisees had judged Jesus for hanging out with sinners. So, is He really talking about just money, or the attitude the Pharisees had about

how to use it? In the same lens, I want to challenge you to think about whether God can trust you with the true riches of faith, or will you be content acting like Jonah and the Pharisees, who justified their actions instead of repenting for them? God knows my heart; He knows your heart too. Step out in faith, take action, and see what God does!

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“Favorite Soundtracks” by Angela Hastings

you and me, then it’s true for orphans in Romania and people in places we haven’t heard of since geography class. God would have compassion on those children, and He would uphold them because He is trustworthy in every single promise He makes.

“The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. ¹⁶ You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.” In that moment, believing these kids were going to have the food they needed was a big deal to me. Right there in Psalm 145, I saw how He would be the one to take care of them, and even give them their meals at the proper time.

What if the next trial you face, you were able to grab hold of the truth of God’s character and compassion and let it be your refuge in a time of great need? What if the truths written in the pages of your Bible became your familiar favorites for every season of life? What if the psalms became the soundtrack of your life?

ECC VISION

I M M E R S E

The Bible Reading Experience™

It's almost time to return to our church wide Bible reading program. We are using the IMMERSE series to guide us along the way. During the fall semester, we will read the next two IMMERSE books, *Kingdoms* (covering Joshua - 2 Kings) and *Chronicles* (Chronicles - Esther, plus Daniel). You can order these books on Sunday morning at the registration table. The last day to order a physical copy of the book through ECC is SUNDAY, AUGUST 1. Cost for each book is \$10. We will be placing our order the next day in hopes of distributing to books on Sunday, August 15 & 22. You can also order them yourself through any major online book distributor (Amazon, christianbook.com, etc.). Our reading program begins on Monday, August 23. Even if you do not plan on purchasing a physical book, please register with us and let us know how you are engaging in this program (hard copy with us, hard copy on your own, ebook version or podcast version). Don't forget, we'll also have IMMERSE groups set up to meet and discuss the passages we read each week.

Immerse: Kingdoms

AUGUST SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (8/23)

Day 1 pp. A9-4
Day 2 pp. 4-10
Day 3 pp. 10-19
Day 4 pp. 19-32
Day 5 pp. 32-39

WEEK 2 (8/30)

Day 6 pp. 41-52
Day 7 pp. 52-61
Day 8 pp. 61-72
Day 9 pp. 72-80
Day 10 pp. 81-88

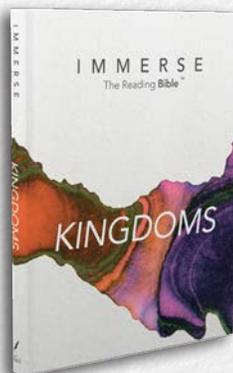
*Groups begin week
of Sunday, August 29*

S M A L L G R O U P S

God calls us into relationship with Him and to grow in our relationships with others (Matthew 22:37-40). Small groups provide opportunities to build relationships with others, as well as with God. Small groups are helpful to learn and grow together as you discover Biblical truths which can be applied to everyday life.

IMMERSE GROUPS

We are looking for hosts and facilitators for our upcoming Immerse Groups. If you would like to serve in this way, please see Josh Colvin. The Immerse Groups will be more focused on **bible study and prayer**. The format for these groups will be either in person or virtual. It is for the facilitator to decide. If this is for you, then make sure to sign up as you hear more details.



We are looking for hosts and facilitators for our upcoming Life Groups. Please see Josh Colvin if you're interested in helping in this area.



The Life Groups will be more focused on **fellowship, community and prayer**. Life Groups generally take place in someone's home face-to-face. If this is for you then make sure to sign up when groups become available.

ECC Choirs are starting back up again!

Adult Choir (14 and older), Jesus' Worship Kids (K-5th Grade), Wee Praise (Pre-K), and Vocal Explosion (6th-12th grade) will begin in August. See details below and sign up on the Events tab of our website or app.

Wee Praise: Begins 8/18 at 7:00pm in 314
(no registration required; part of Wednesday night programming)

JWK: Begins 8/25 at 6:00pm in 314

Vocal Explosion: Begins 8/18 at 5:45pm in 208

Adult Worship Choir: Begins 8/22 at 11:30am, location TBD

ECC Young Adults' Bible Study

The Young Adults' Bible Study is meeting through August 5, and then we will take a break until the beginning of September. If



you or anyone you know is interested in a study on prayer, join us at Chris and Karissa Mead's home for food, fellowship, and study Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. Contact Karissa for more details!

August 1st is our Worship & Tech Team appreciation day!

If you have served on these teams in 2021, you are invited to participate in our appreciation lunch! Register for FREE on the website or the app.

Don't miss the fun & excitement!

Join us for our Christian Women's Fellowship 2021-22 Installation Dinner on Tuesday, August 17th at 7pm! We are going to be served by the Men's Ministry!!! We will move into the Worship Center for the announcement of next year's circle memberships. Childcare will be available.

Englewood Christian
Women's Fellowship



MEN'S MINISTRY QUARTERLY DINNER

The quarterly dinner will be held on Tuesday, August 17th at 7pm. The guys will be serving the wonderful ladies of CWF dinner before enjoying a meal themselves. Please see Keith Vincent if you would like to help cook and see Tom Bush for any more details. Be sure to sign up on the event page or at the registration table on Sundays so we have food for everyone!



Every third Saturday of the month there will be a Men's Breakfast. Join the group for breakfast, prayer, and a short devo. This month, breakfast will be on Saturday, August 21st. Make plans to be there!



Mark your calendars for the Annual Men's Retreat on November 5-6 at North Florida Christian Camp. The cost will be ONLY \$65. Dinner is at 6:30pm on Friday night, and the retreat will be over at 3:00pm Saturday afternoon. Transportation will not be provided; please plan to get yourself to NFCC or carpool with a buddy. Everything is included with this price. Don't miss it!




SATURDAY, AUGUST 28TH
\$35 PER PERSON
EVERYONE INVITED

Calling all families! Make plans to head to Wild Adventures with us on Saturday, August 28th. The price per ticket is discounted at ONLY \$35. We will be leaving the church on a bus at 8:30am to head there and leaving the park when it closes at 8pm to head home. If you would like to arrive later or leave the park earlier, you will need to drive yourself. Students in high school are able to go by themselves. Any student younger than high school needs to have an adult chaperone accompany them. Keep an eye out in the e-Newsletter for more details. We need at least 15 people to get the discounted rate. SIGN UP ONLINE TODAY!



ECC Young Adults, our event this month is the trip to Wild Adventures. Be sure to register online or on the app!



connect

Want to find out more about Englewood Christian Church? Do you want to know more about what we believe and practice as a New Testament Church? Want to know more about membership and partnership with us in our pursuit to "Honor ONE God, Grow ONE Faith and Serve ONE World?" Do you want to find out how to begin a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ while being a part of an amazing, loving faith community?

All these questions and more will be answered at our CONNECT class. This class is geared for visitors, new members and anyone with questions about our church, our faith and our practices - but anyone is welcome to attend. Please contact the church office, or sign up through the ECC app or website or registration table on Sundays, and we'll add you to the list! We will be meeting on Sunday, August 29th at 9:00am in Room 105. Breakfast will be provided!

Dinner at Wasabi Japanese Steakhouse



The Prime Timers are meeting at Wasabi Japanese Steakhouse at the St. Johns Town Center on Thursday, August 5th at 5:00pm. Contact Bill or Beverly Arnold for more details. We hope to see you there!



ELEMENTARY CAMP RE-MIX!



Due to circumstances out of our control, our original dates for Elementary Camp at NFCC had to be canceled. Thankfully, God blessed us, and we were able to arrange new dates – August 1-4! While the majority of the children are still able to attend, there are spots available if your child is interested in attending. We are also recruiting volunteers to replace those who are unable to help during the new dates. If you and/or your child would like to attend, please contact Serena Maerkl for the church discount code, and register today at www.nfcc.org.



Teacher Dedication Service
August 1, 2021

On Sunday, August 1 we will have a special time during our worship service to recognize all teachers. This will include those who teach in our area public and private schools, as well as those who volunteer to teach here at church. We will specifically be praying our teachers have a year full of Christ's blessings, and they begin the year with the full support of our congregation. We will also be able to let them know how much we care about them, and how thankful we are for all they do. If you are a teacher, please make plans to join us this day.

Come join us on Sunday, August 8, from 12:00-3:00 p.m. as we get ready to slide right on out of summer and into a new school year. Kids of all ages and their parents are invited to meet us after church in the Warehouse with their swim gear, a towel, and sunscreen for lunch and an afternoon of wet and wacky activities. Then when it's all done, we'll enjoy an ice cream sundae bar. The cost is only \$5.00 per child (includes lunch), with a max of \$15.00 per family. Pre-registration is required.



Sundaes & Slip-n-Slides

All children and their families are invited!

Register today!
\$5.00 per child
max \$15.00 per family

Sunday
August 8
12-3 p.m.

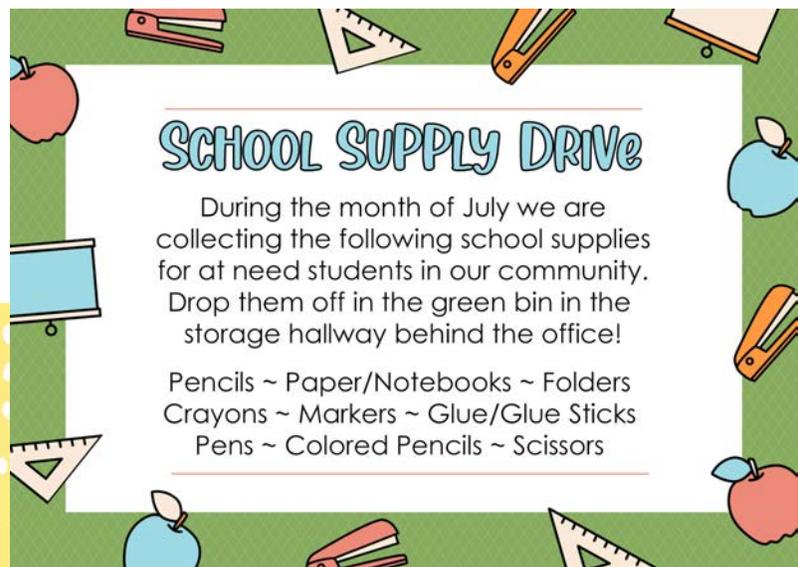
YOUTH POOL PARTY - (MS/HS)

Get ready to head back to school with a pool party at the home of Henry and Sally Pratt on Sunday, August 8th from 6:00pm-9:00pm. Food and drinks will be provided. Bring a snack to share with the group. Don't miss the last big hoorah before school starts!



POOL
party

ENGLEWOOD
S
E M
STUDENT MINISTRY



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

During the month of July we are collecting the following school supplies for at need students in our community. Drop them off in the green bin in the storage hallway behind the office!

Pencils ~ Paper/Notebooks ~ Folders
Crayons ~ Markers ~ Glue/Glue Sticks
Pens ~ Colored Pencils ~ Scissors

We are extending our school supply drive until **Sunday, August 8**. We have been so blessed by your generosity and can't thank you enough for helping us bless our community. We hope to be able to distribute these supplies to at least two of our partner schools. Thank you again, and I can't wait to see what God can do with your help.



Woohoo!
**Promotion
Sunday**

New classes for kids begin on Sunday, August 8th!

On Sunday, August 8, we begin a new Sunday School year. This is an exciting time for those who will be starting in a new class. These age groups will be transitioning to new classes:

- **2 year olds (by September 1, 2021)** – Promoting from toddler nursery to Room 314 with DD Jewell and Mandy Butler
- **5 year olds (by September 1, 2021)** – Promoting from PreK class to Room 301/K-2nd Small Group with Henry and Sally Pratt
- **3rd grade** – Promoting from K-2nd Small Group to 3rd-5th Small Group with Diane Dewsnap and Patty Caviness
- **6th grade** – Promoting from Children's Ministry to Student Ministry; Sunday School meets in Room 205

Please contact Serena Maerkl if you have any questions about your child's new class.



Family Sunday

August is extra blessed this year, and has a fifth Sunday, which means it's time for Family Worship! All of our K-5th graders will be joining their families on Sunday, August 29 during Sunday morning worship.

ENGLEWOOD
**ecity
Kids**

GNPI
(Good News
Productions
International)

MISSION SPOTLIGHT



GNPI has been around for sixty years, helping produce high quality ministry resources for both domestic and international Kingdomwork around the world. One of their current projects is "100 lights" with a goal of planting 100 new ministry opportunities in the "darkness of the world." Our Faith Promise mission fund recently sent a gift to this project. Here is more information for you about GNPI and this specific project.

THE MISSION

Make disciples—that's your mission. Jesus says you are the light of the world, but it can be difficult to knock on your neighbor's door, let alone engage the 3.2 billion unreached people scattered to the four corners of the world. This task is overwhelming, and sometimes feels impossible. So, where do you begin?

Fortunately, God never intended for us to complete this task on our own. Through the global community of his Church and the tools of video production, internet distribution, and social media engagement, you can play a role in impacting your neighbors both near and far.

THE METHOD

A radical and global shift is happening. The use of technology is growing daily as people worldwide search for truth. In every country where social media is used for outreach, seekers are identified as these tools spread the gospel around the clock. The COVID-19 pandemic has only intensified this trend. GNPI is committed to empowering the global church by training and equipping nationals to be a light to their own culture through media. With your partnership, the 100 Lights Campaign takes these skills to nationals in countries you will never visit and world views you will never fully understand.

Will you join us in making disciples?

THE MEANS

Raise \$1.45 million to establish and equip 100 international media teams(lights) through:

- Nomad Academy
- International Expansion
- Local Upgrades
- Open Door Fund

100 Lights

If you would like to partner further with GNPI in this project, please visit their website and consider a gift to this evangelistic event!



SMITH FAMILY VISIT

Please be sure to join us on **Sunday, August 1**, as we visit with and encourage the Smith family one last time before they embark on their journey to Western Uganda. We'll have a time for them to share last minute updates with us, and we'll have a special dedication prayer for their family.

WEDNESDAYS IN AUGUST

During the month of August, we'll have a variety of special programs for our adults...

August 4 – Prayer Night

– Our adults will watch a special video going over the Lord's Prayer and then spend the second half of the night actually prayer through the Lord's Prayer together.

August 11 – Bible Trivia Night

– Join us for a great night of fun and fellowship as we play all sorts of Bible based games together. Watch for more details regarding the exact location.

August 18 – Patriotic Night

– We recently celebrated our great nation's 245th birthday! It is most certainly clear God played a large role in not only the creation of our great republic, but also in its continued existence and success. Please make plans to join us for a special patriotic service to recognize God's blessing of our country, our need to pray continuously for our country and our desire to stand firm for His truths in our lives as citizens of the U.S.

August 25 – New Adult Study Begins

– We are going to take a whirlwind trip through the book of Jeremiah for the next eight weeks during our Wednesday night Adult Bible Study.



Out & About with ECC at Jason's Deli



Camp this year was great! Overall, there were more than 30 decisions made to be baptized! God was definitely moving at camp this year!



Here Joel is showing off his favorite life jacket while waiting for lunch.

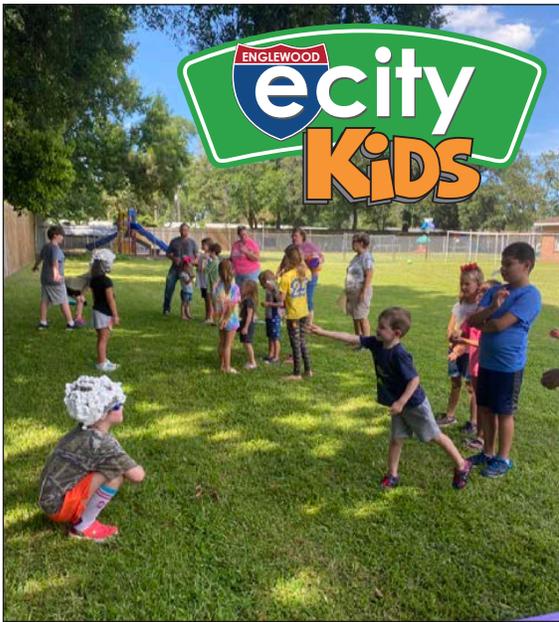


Wednesday night adult class studying 1, 2, 3 John



The Day Circle would like to offer great big thank to everyone for their participation in the First Coast Women's Baby Bottle Campaign. We collected over \$800.

ENGLEWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Our e-City Kids Hillbilly Olympics was a hoot and a half! All the food, fun, and friendliness you could ask for.

CIY was very challenging, yet fulfilling this year for those who were able to go and stay! God got the glory even though the situation was less than ideal.



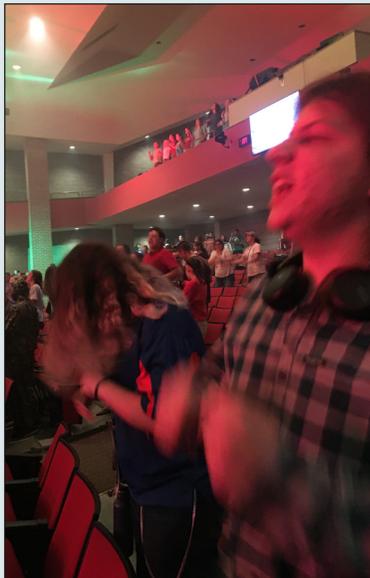
It started with 10!



And ended with 4. Everyone who went had a great time regardless how long they were there.



Maddie is priceless!



Brayden and Mariah were getting hyped for the night session!



During the free time, the group had a blast at Ruby Falls. Jennifer and Mariah don't look scared being in the caverns.

**ENGLEWOOD
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

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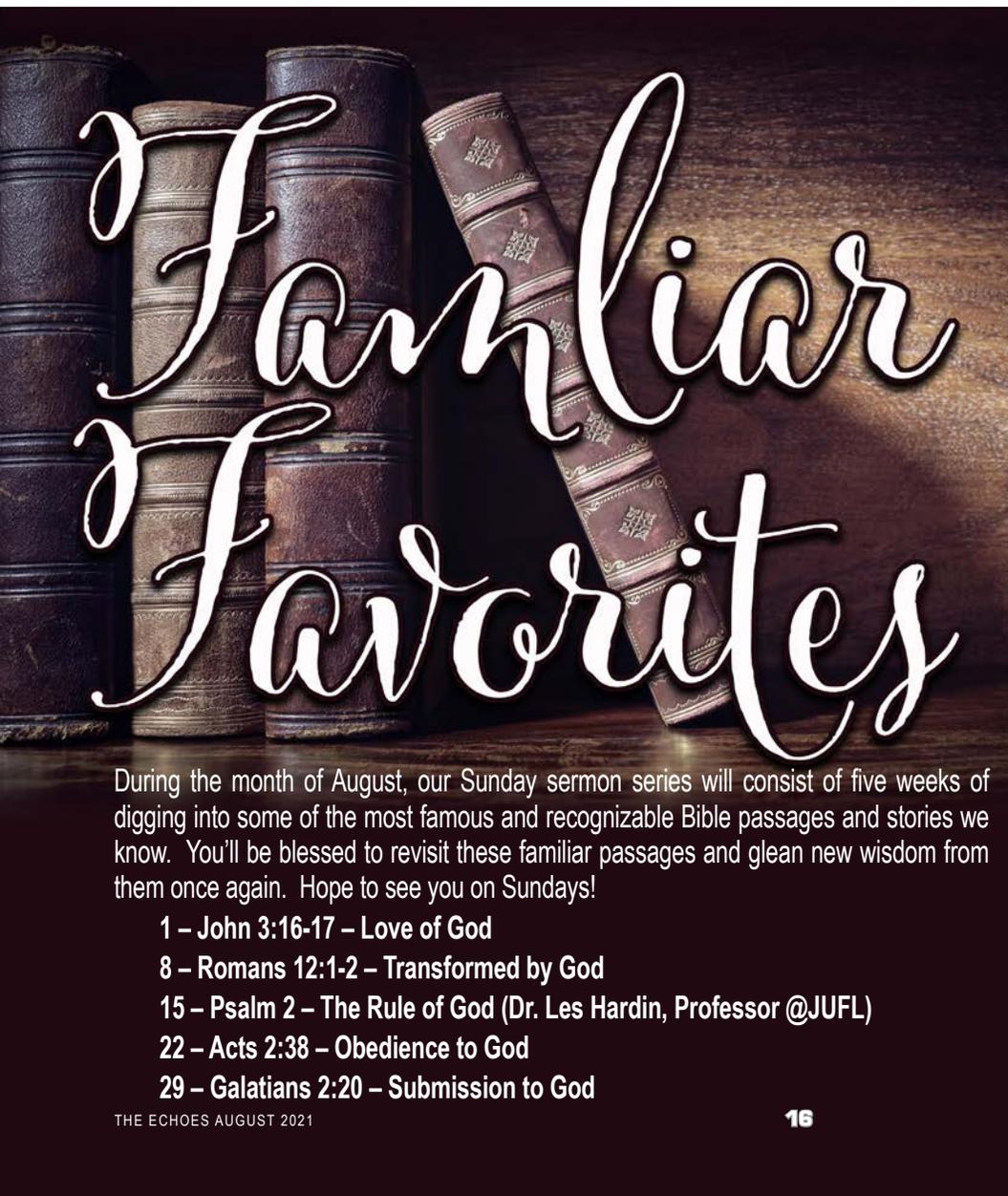
Dated Material

(See panel to left)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



August 2021



Familiar Favorites

During the month of August, our Sunday sermon series will consist of five weeks of digging into some of the most famous and recognizable Bible passages and stories we know. You'll be blessed to revisit these familiar passages and glean new wisdom from them once again. Hope to see you on Sundays!

- 1 – John 3:16-17 – Love of God
- 8 – Romans 12:1-2 – Transformed by God
- 15 – Psalm 2 – The Rule of God (Dr. Les Hardin, Professor @JUFL)
- 22 – Acts 2:38 – Obedience to God
- 29 – Galatians 2:20 – Submission to God

Englewood Christian Church Blood Drive

LIFESOUTH
Community Blood Centers

On **Wednesday, August 4** ECC will partner with LifeSouth Community Blood Centers. The Blood Mobile will be parked in our Green Lot (off Barnes Rd) from 5:00-8:30pm. Donations will be given to local hospitals and each donor will receive a \$10 e-gift card, a thank you gift and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must bring a government issued photo ID, must be 16 or older and at least 110 lbs. (Sixteen-year-olds require written parental permission). Walk-ins are welcome, but wait times may be longer, so signing up is recommended. Be sure to drink plenty of water before donating!

