

I M M E R S E

The **Bible** Reading Experience™

FEBRUARY 2021

THE ECHOES



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

- Immerse Reading Schedule
- ECC Programming Updates
- Mission Spotlight: Rapha International

The holidays are over. The New Year has begun. You've put off your goals for too long already. It's time to get back into the groove. It's time to go back the beginning; the beginning of the Bible, that is. Join us this month as we kick off our church wide Bible reading program through *Immerse: Beginnings*. This month's articles focus on some of the famous characters from the foundational book of our faith, Genesis.

DEADLINES



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

February 12.

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

No Sunday School

Worship Service/Children's Programming
ages 2-5th grade
10:30am

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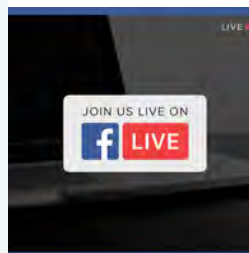


@ECCJAX

GET OUR APP!



Google Play



Every Sunday
@ 10:30am
Worship (FB LIVE)
Every Thursday
@ 7:00pm - Prayer
Gathering (FB LIVE)

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 January 24, 2021

General Fund

Week 34 Budget.....\$338,198.00

Week 34 Totals.....\$311,064.29

Faith Promise

Week 48 Budget.....\$168,108.96

Week 48 Giving.....\$142,006.00

ECC Statistics

Sunday, December 27

N/A

Sunday, January 3

142

Sunday, January 10

135

Sunday, January 17

135

Sunday, January 24

135

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 FEBRUARY 2021

GriefShare

Mondays at 6:45pm

UPDATE – New series begins 2/22

Wednesday Night Youth Group

Wednesdays at 7:00pm

CWF Circle Meetings

Tuesday, February 2/

Saturday, February 6

ESM Share the Love

Wednesday, February 3

Family Sunday –

K-5th grade in Worship Service

Sunday, February 7

CWF Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, February 16

CWF Board Meeting

Sunday, February 21

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

METHUSELAH: FAITHFUL

IMMERSE BIBLE READING – WEEK 1

by Josh Colvin, Student Minister



How old is old? If you were to sit down and think about it, what it means to be old is completely relative to the people you are around at the time. If you are seventy years old, but in a crowd of people who are over eighty then you are relatively young. If you are forty, and you are in a crowd of teenagers, then you are relatively old. So just how old is old?

To me, one of the most interesting people mentioned in the bible would have to be Methuselah. The funny thing is, he isn't even mentioned that much. There are only three recorded instances of him, and they're not very exciting. He didn't kill thousands of men with only 300 soldiers. He didn't cause a

But what about the church? We can assume Methuselah, in his 900+ years of life, witnessed a good number of changes in his life. We know, based on events, Ms. Dorothy witnessed change. But what about the change in the church? Have there been changes in the church? The short answer is yes. Just in the past ten years, the church has had to make some significant changes because of the shift in dynamics of the world.

I recently read a blog by Thom Ranier, who has nearly forty years of ministry experience and has spent a lifetime committed to the growth and health of local churches across North America. He starts off the blog this way, *"Change or die.*

LONG TIME AGO...

temple to collapse by just using his strength. He wasn't sold into slavery only to get promoted to second-in-command of Egypt. Every time Methuselah is mentioned in Scripture, he is part of a genealogy (Genesis 5, 1 Chronicles 1, Luke 3), and that is it.

So, what is so fascinating about Methuselah? It's the fact the guy lived to be 969 years old. Can you imagine what he witnessed in all those years? On record America was discovered only 528 years ago. I use this to put his life in perspective. It's amazing just how old Methuselah was and everything he went through and what all changed. It's hard to even fathom it all.

Recently, I attended a funeral service for longtime member here at ECC, Dorothy Lilly, who was ninety years old when she passed away. If you look at those ninety years of her life, there was a plethora of monumental events which took place: the Great Depression, World War II, the Holocaust, the John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinations, the moon landing, September 11th, the inaugurations of fourteen US presidents, my birth, the advancement of medicines and technology, and many more life-changing events. Life changed for her. Things changed around her and in her life.

Such has been the reality of too many congregations the past ten years as the rate of church closures has accelerated. Many have died; others are on life support. But what are some of the major changes that have taken place in congregations that are doing relatively well? What are some of the ways these congregations have adapted to new realities? Here is a hint: None of the changes in healthy churches have compromised doctrine, diminished the centrality of preaching, or abandoned sharing the gospel. So what changes have occurred in healthy churches in the last decade?"

He goes on to mention eight changes these healthy churches have made. Number six on his list was healthy churches had an emphasis on being community focused. These healthy churches realized their community was, and still is, their place of ministry. Traditions pass away and things which were once successful in reaching the community ten or more years ago may not work today. Major shifts have taken place in a relatively brief period. If churches do decide to change as long as they are not compromising doctrine or salvation issues, then these changes should be beneficial for the kingdom. Are you ready to make changes for the kingdom to reach more people for Christ?



ABRAHAM: WAITING WELL

IMMERSE BIBLE READING, WEEKS 1 & 2

by Karissa Mead, Worship Ministry Director

This season of life just feels like the longest “wait line” of all time, doesn’t it? We’re constantly waiting for the next big thing. When COVID-19 hit, we stopped everything. Each milestone has been one step closer to things getting back to normal. Except, in between each step of accomplishment has been an agonizing period of *waiting*.

When God asks you to wait, what do you usually do? My initial response is to complain, get grumpy and blame somebody for making me stop what I am supposed to be doing. As we are coming out of a troubled season – where our patience has been tested over and over and over again – let’s turn to the word and ask God what he requires of us as we wait.

Our theme for *The Echoes* this month is stories from Genesis. What better example of learning to wait for God than Abraham and Sarah? Their story is one of patience, eager waiting, failures to be patient, and fulfilled promises. So, what do their lives tell us about how to wait on the Lord?

Keep your word to the Lord

Abraham’s task was to “*Keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.*” (Genesis 18:19) When Abraham went to rescue

Lot from captivity, he made a promise to God that he would accept no riches from their captor, the king of Sodom. Rather, his promise to God was that he would rescue only those the king had captured and their belongings. Ultimately, we learn that this was so the king of Sodom couldn’t take credit for Abraham’s wealth. In this way, Abraham gave credit to the Lord for his well-being. He obeyed, and as a result he was blessed with safety and a successful rescue mission.

Consequences ensue when we take matters into our own hands

God had promised Abraham and Sarah a son in order to fulfill His promise that his descendants would be as un-countable as the stars. When Sarah got impatient with God, she tried to force His hand by making Abraham father a child with one of their servants, out of whom came Ishmael. She failed to trust God was going to come through for them and give them a son. As a result, when her own son Isaac was born, she became very bitter toward Hagar and Ishmael and saw them as competition for her own son’s inheritance.

God’s plan may not be immediate, but it is in motion

Before Ishmael was born, God made a promise to Abraham that his family would birth a great nation. He also promised Abraham that his descendants would come back to the land Abraham was occupying, but Abraham would not physically see that promise come to fruition. However, they were blessed with the starting of that promise becoming fulfilled by rearing not one, but two sons to begin a nation.

Isaiah 55 says this about God: “*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways... so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*” (55:9-11)

When we are waiting for the Lord to start working, we need to remember to begin with obedience. We should not try to take matters into our own hands – but rather, listen to Him, wait on Him, and trust that even though we cannot see every facet of His plan, He does.



ISAAC: A BRIDGE BETWEEN

IMMERSE BIBLE READING – WEEK 2

by Angela Hastings, Office Manager



I love biographies. I love good stories of men and women of faith, both those during biblical times and also throughout history. Some of my favorite authors include John and Elizabeth Sherrill, who helped write the books *The Hiding Place*, *The Cross and the Switchblade* and *God's Smuggler*. I have to admit, I get caught up in stories about people who don't usually get their stories told. Maybe it's because I can be a bit of a wallflower myself, so to hear or read a story of an ordinary person is inspiring and encouraging.

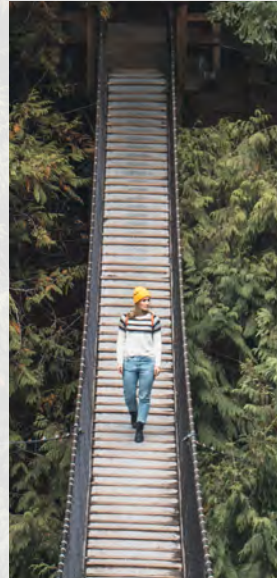
Skimming through the book of Genesis, we discover many stories of the early generations which impacted our faith. Some are more well-known. Some have more details included than others. Some we've been learning about since we were children in Sunday School or Vacation Bible School. Even for a person who didn't grow up going to church on a regular basis, I knew the stories of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Jacob and Joseph.

That's right; I skipped Isaac because I think we often skip over him since there are not as many details about his life as there are about his father, his son and his grandsons. Actually, the story I love the most about Isaac doesn't even include particulars about him, but portrays him in a supporting role. Let's be real, what single woman doesn't love the story of how God brought Isaac and Rebekah together? However, brush over the fact it was an arranged marriage; the bride and groom didn't meet until their wedding day. That's weird to think about.

Regardless of Isaac's small part in the history of our faith, there are still many lessons we can learn from his life and example. Some are simple and can be easily read in the text. For example, he loved his wife deeply (Genesis 24:67). Others must be drawn out and imagined as we read through Isaac's story. Here are just a few for you to consider as you read through *Immerse: Beginnings* and the book of Genesis this month.

He trusted the faith of his father. We see this on two distinct occasions in Isaac's life. First, on Mt. Moriah, when God tested Abraham, Isaac trusted his father's faith that God would provide a sheep for the offering. He even allowed his

father to tie him up and lay him on the altar (a wide-eyed, overwhelmed emoji would be appropriate here). Second, Isaac trusted his father and his father's servant to find a wife for him. Abraham believed the Lord would send His angel ahead of his servant and provide a wife for his son. So, Isaac believed it also. Abraham's faith was so obvious, Isaac saw it and embraced it.



He developed a faith of his own. With the passing of Abraham, Isaac took ownership of his faith. When Rebekah was unable to have children for twenty years after their marriage, Isaac pleaded with the Lord on her behalf. Later when the Lord spoke, Isaac listened. Whether it was to stay in place or move to another area, he followed God's direction. Also, when God reiterated His promises to Isaac and his descendants, he worshiped the Lord. The faith of our family will only take us so far. There comes a point in our lives when we have to make it our own. We have to worship the God of promises.

We have to follow His leading. We have to develop our faith.

Sometimes it takes a generation. We could easily look at Isaac's life and deem it less significant than other patriarchs. After all, the promises of God came to his father, Abraham and at first sight were fulfilled through his son, Jacob who was renamed Israel and fathered the twelve tribes. However, without Isaac, there wouldn't have been a promise. He was the bridge between promises spoken and promises fulfilled. Sometimes we don't see our prayers answered. Sometimes it takes a generation or a century or even longer for the promises of God to come to fruition.

Maybe you're young. Do you trust the faith of your family or the spiritual leadership in your life?

Maybe you need to develop your own faith. You've been riding on the coattails of your parents or grandparents for too long, and it's time to own your faith.

Or perhaps your life feels insignificant; just remember you could be the answer to someone's prayers. You could be the bridge to a promise fulfilled.



JACOB & ESAU: PRESENT VS. POTENTIAL

IMMERSE BIBLE READING, WEEKS 2 & 3

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

Siblings can really get into it sometimes, and my three kids are no exception. It's hard to share a house and often even a room with someone and always get along. I was the oldest of four kids growing up, so I have experience with this as both a spectator and a participant, and sometimes it's really hard for me not to pick a side. It's honestly why the story of Jacob and Esau can get me so riled up. How can you read their story and not be "Team Esau?" Jacob was this younger brother who was born knowing he had God's favor, and he still seemed to go out of his way to be as underhanded as possible to get ahead. Sure, Esau was a little bit weaker minded, and yes he didn't seem to appreciate the rewards which came with being the oldest son, but did he really deserve losing all of his father's inheritance? Every time I studied those passages, I struggled with getting past the unfairness of it all. How could God have chosen Jacob, when his actions made him appear to be so undeserving?

We've all encountered people who have exhibited some "Jacob" behaviors, and we often make knee jerk decisions about the person's character when we witness them. It happens because we all have this internal meter we use to judge situations. It helps us with every decision we make, and often stops us from making really bad ones, but it isn't perfect. In the book *Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell, he says, "Our unconscious is a powerful force. But it's fallible. It's not the case that our internal computer always shines through, instantly decoding the 'truth' of a situation. It can be thrown

off, distracted, and disabled. Our instinctive reactions often have to compete with all kinds of other interests and emotions and sentiments." When I read the story of Jacob and Esau, I'm making a judgment based on my experiences as a first-born child. My feelings are hyper-focused on that small snapshot of those early events, and not on all the changes God made in his life later. As Christians we have to accept the possibility we're judging God's people like He's already "finished with them"—a judgment based on their present and not their potential.

So how do we know if we're letting our judgments hinder our ability to witness? When my kids are arguing, it's usually based on a lot of wrong assumptions. I always ask them to just **STOP** before engaging.

- No matter what is happening in that moment, accept the possibility that you aren't able to See the whole picture.
- Take the time to Think before acting.
- Offer up grace.
- Be Patient!

By stopping first, you give God the time to work on your heart, and allow your wisdom to defeat your emotions. Time changed Esau from a man so filled with anger that he wanted to kill his brother into a man with open arms filled with forgiveness. That's the real lesson here because if God can repair Jacob and Esau's relationship, He can repair ours, as well.

Jacob was a man who made some very poor decisions we can all agree were wrong, even if he felt they were for the right reasons. In Isaiah 64:8 Isaiah says "*Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.*" A beautiful vase can come from an ugly lump of clay. Forgiveness and the legacy of a nation came out of the brokenness of Jacob and Esau. God used them in a way, which to me did not make sense, but was planned perfectly by Him. It's easy to make a snap judgment and dismiss someone for their present moments, but much harder to take the time to trust in God's potential for them. Give yourself permission to let go of the faulty, human assumptions we let trap us, and acknowledge God's transformative powers are limitless.



JOSEPH: ROLLER COASTERS

IMMERSE BIBLE READING: WEEKS 3 & 4

by Pete Ramsey, Senior Minister



I love roller coasters. Although, I will confess, I don't love them as much as I used to. Or maybe I should say, I don't love them as many times as I used to. I remember taking a group of students to Wild Adventures in Valdosta on a hot summer day, and the park was virtually empty. So empty we could ride the coaster, exit, run around to the front of the line and ride it again. I seem to recall doing this probably eight to ten times consecutively. Good times, but not anymore. Nowadays, once, maybe twice, and I'm done, but I still love the thrill of the long slow climb up the first incline and the rising heartrate associated with the initial delayed release from the top and, of course, who doesn't love the gravity defying, stomach-in-your-throat intensity of that first colossal drop!! WOOOOHOOOOO!!!

Then, you seemingly repeat that process several more times throughout the ride, climb up, slide over the top and plunge down – along with a variety of twists, turns, loops, drops and more. Man, just thinking about a roller coaster ride really gets my heart pumping!

For many of you, it's just the opposite. You can't stand roller coasters and the thought of them causes your "fight or flight" reaction to kick in to high gear – you want to escape and execute a "flight" away from the ride, or you will most certainly "fight" anyone who attempts to make you even step foot in line.

Those emotions, when it comes to a roller coaster, only last for a few minutes, or maybe up to an hour if you include the wait time and anticipation or anxiety which builds up in the line. For Joseph, it was much more than that. It was a life long experience of ups and downs, but the finish was well worth it.

You see, Joseph had his share of ups (favorite son of Jacob, given a special coat by his father, put in charge of Potiphar's house, made second in command of Egypt) and downs (assaulted by his brothers, sold into slavery by them, falsely accused by his master's wife of inappropriate actions, thrown in jail for fourteen years, spending many of those years wondering if he would ever see his family again). Throughout the entire process, I'm sure his emotions and thoughts were all over the place. The anguish and suffering of being betrayed by his own family, along with the

undeserved prison term would be enough for most to lose all hope, but Joseph was somehow able to hang on tight for the entire ride, and the finish was well worth it.

We begin to read about the life of Joseph beginning in Genesis 37 and the rest of Genesis, for the most part, deals with his life and the future plans God has for him and his family (*Immerse: Beginnings*, Week 3, Day 13 – Week 4, Day 20). The climactic events occur in Genesis 45 when Joseph reveals himself to his brothers, but there is a moment later on that I truly believe to be the climactic moment of this roller coaster Joseph has been on called "life."

Genesis 50:15-18 tell us the account of Joseph's brothers having some elevated concerns regarding how Joseph may treat them now that their father Jacob has passed away. They have wondered if all of his kindness and protection has all been just a show for their father. Now that Jacob is gone, they wonder if Joseph will now truly reveal his intentions for them. Joseph then finishes the ride with one spectacular observation. He reveals how he has remained so calm and peaceful during all these ups and down. He makes it plain to his brothers, who have seen and heard all he has gone through, having been directly responsible for most of it. Joseph reveals the rock-solid faith in God which has kept him safe and secure through all the mountains and valleys he has gone through when he says, "*You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children*" (Genesis 50:20-21).

As anyone who experienced the roller coaster of life known as 2020 knows, the ride did not end when the calendar turned the page. We are still on an adventurous journey full of ups and downs, drops and twists, unexpected curves and sudden changes of direction, but like Joseph, if we can hold on tight to the One who will not be moved, then we can live life knowing He has a plan and that plan is good.

Whether you like roller coasters or not, let me encourage you to "Buckle up, Buttercup," and hang on tight because God has a thrill ride in store for you that can only be enjoyed if we hold on to Him.

Rapha International has been one of the outstanding Kingdom partners of Englewood Christian Church since 2019. They focus their attention on the rescue and rehabilitation of children who have been consumed by the worldwide travesty known as sexual trafficking. With a presence in three different highly impacted nations (Cambodia, Thailand, Haiti) and a strong relationship with those government authorities that deal with the atrocity of human trafficking, Rapha International is making strides to lessen the impact and eventually bring an end to it.

Formerly known as Rapha House, there was a conscious decision made by leadership to help avoid any confusion with local establishments often known to be epicenters of child kidnapping and gateways to the trafficking industry. In many societies, the term “house” – that we see as a reference to an orphanage or place of refuge for those in need – is just a façade for what really goes on behind their walls. As the local governments began to realize these tactics, Rapha saw a potential negative impact by keeping this same name, so a name change was strategically completed. It is also a better description of the work of Rapha, as they no longer focus only on orphanage-type houses, but work hard to create neighborhood kids’ clubs, non-residential assistance programs and more.

ECC focuses our partnership on the work of Rapha International in the Caribbean country of Haiti. Due to recent political and health unrest, the location directors and their family have returned to the States for their safety - a decision that is always of the utmost concern for all Rapha team members. The local house leaders are Haitian nationals, so the work of ministry does continue on and the Rapha director does make several trips per year to maintain the highest level of

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

RAPHA

INTERNATIONAL



effectiveness possible during the past 24 months of uncertainty within the borders of Haiti. A new compound is currently under construction, but the constant “red tape,” civil unrest and health instability have delayed and complicated this matter. In the meantime, the Rapha Haiti team has focused on a new non-residential program that works with families in reuniting them with their children who had previously been kidnapped and plunged into the child trafficking pit. By offering the physical, emotional and spiritual support in this method, Rapha can impact not just the child, but the entire family, as well.

While supporting Rapha International with our Faith Promise giving has been a blessing, one of the stateside leaders emphasized the urgency of our prayer partnership, as well. “It is both critical and crucial that we have our partner churches fervently praying for the children and workers of Rapha International,” he said. Here are a few specific items to pray for related to Rapha and their work in Haiti:

- Pray for relationships to be formed with individuals and corporations in both the US and Haiti to help enhance and increase both the safety and security of those already in Rapha as well as the effectiveness of the government agencies focused on ending human trafficking in Haiti
- Pray for safety for US based directors as they travel back and forth to Haiti amidst the current civil unrest and health concerns
- Pray for key Rapha workers who still live in Haiti – for their health and for their ability to love as Christ would love
- Pray for the success of the non-residential programs to take root and attain success as this could lead to an exponential increase in the effectiveness and local impact of Rapha’s ministry in Haiti
- Pray for churches, like ECC, to continue in their faithfulness in both giving financially and in taking the needs of Rapha before the throne in prayer

Note: We will have a representative from Rapha International with us here at ECC on Sunday, April 4 to share with us in person about the many updates and successes at Rapha International and specifically the work in Haiti.

ECC VISION



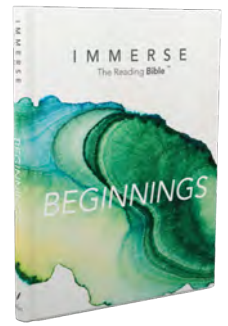
I M M E R S E

The Bible Reading Experience™

February marks the launch of our second journey through the Immerse Bible reading program. Last fall, our church read through *Immerse: Messiah* and completed the entire New Testament over a sixteen-week period. This year, from February through May, we will go back to the beginning and read through the five books of the Pentateuch – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Pre-ordered books were delivered during the month of January. If you have not yet picked yours up, please do so today. You can also participate in the Immerse Bible reading program

Immerse: Beginnings

by listening to the online/podcast versions or purchasing your own e-book version for your tablet or other digital device. Immerse groups will also be resuming as a consistent way to discuss what you have read, ask questions, offer insight, glean wisdom from others and encourage each other along the way. Visit our church app or use the QR code to sign up for an Immerse group today – some are in person and others are virtual. There are different days and times available from which you can choose. You can also find your own copy of the book by visiting the Tyndale House publishing website or through most book distributors, like Amazon or Christianbook.com. We hope you will join us on the journey through the Word and immerse yourself in God's story.



Immerse: Beginnings FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (1/31)

Day 1 pp. A9-4
Day 2 pp. 5-7
Day 3 pp. 7-10
Day 4 pp. 10-16
Day 5 pp. 16-20

WEEK 2 (2/7)

Day 6 pp. 20-24
Day 7 pp. 24-30
Day 8 pp. 30-35
Day 9 pp. 36-41
Day 10 pp. 41-45

WEEK 3 (2/14)

Day 11 pp. 45-50
Day 12 pp. 50-55
Day 13 pp. 55-59
Day 14 pp. 59-61
Day 15 pp. 61-63

WEEK 4 (2/21)

Day 16 pp. 63-66
Day 17 pp. 66-69
Day 18 pp. 69-74
Day 19 pp. 74-77
Day 20 pp. 77-81

PROGRAMMING UPDATES

Due to elevated levels of concern and the recent impact of COVID-19 on several families and members connected to the ECC faith community, the leadership has decided to move forward with a new programming plan for February 2021. As usual, all programming plans are subject to change when the need arises. Please continue to pray for our leadership team, our entire faith community and our society as a whole in relation to the impacts of COVID-19. Thanks for your understanding, encouragement and support.

Worship Services: Beginning on Sunday, February 7, there will be one weekly worship service on campus at ECC. It will meet on Sundays at 10:30am. There will also be an online service via the ECC Facebook page at this same time. Kids' programming will be for preschool and elementary-aged children only at this time. Due to a lack of volunteers and in-person involvement, we are not able to provide programming/child care for children in our nursery or toddler room at this time.

SS and Wed PM: At this time, the Sunday School and Wednesday night program is still on hold. We have hopes to return to this as soon as possible when the environments and conditions are safe enough to resume extended periods of time in close proximity.

Miscellaneous Ministry Events & Programs: Other ministry programs, including, but not limited to youth groups, CWF, GriefShare and others, are independently scheduled in accordance with our building usage and meeting guidelines. The leadership of ECC extends the ability to postpone or cancel these events if necessary, but have allowed these groups to meet at their own level of comfort. Watch all our communication platforms for more details.

As always, please use discretion and make the wisest choice for you and your own family's circumstances. Remember, wisdom over emotion every single time. Thanks for your understanding and your partnership with Englewood Christian Church throughout all of the uncertainty.

HELP WANTED

In the current circumstances, some of our volunteers have served faithfully for weeks on end. Many of them are serving in multiple areas, filling various roles from week to week. If you are attending in person or will begin doing so during the month of February, please let us know if you can help. Many of these roles are for a one or two week commitment at a time. Would you please consider helping out in one of these ways?

Facebook LIVE – One person each week to interact and lead our online social media interactions during the morning worship service. This can be done in person, on campus or even from home. Must be adept at using FB and other internet based sites and resources (Bible Gateway, etc.).

Safety/Security – Two or three individuals per week to help our safety team monitor the campus during our Sunday morning services

Registrations – One individual per week to man the registration table before and after the morning worship service. Must be able to use a tablet/technology and help with distribution of items when necessary.

ProPresenter Slide presentations – One person per week to work at our presentation computer for the service. Must be tech savvy enough to know how to click a mouse and able to learn or already know simple basic computer skills.

Preschool Teacher – Several individuals with a commitment for one month at a time. Assist in preparing lessons, building relationships with children and families, and sharing the Gospel in a fun way.

Elementary Assistant/Small Group Leader – Several individuals with a commitment for one month at a time. Work alongside lead teacher and help as needed. Help prepare and lead a small group activity, game, and/or craft.



This year CIY MOVE will be **JULY 12 – JULY 16, 2021** at LEE UNIVERSITY in Cleveland, TN. To reserve your spot for the conference, the **\$65 DEPOSIT is DUE FEBRUARY 14, 2021**. Pricing info is still being worked out, but will be available as soon as possible. See Josh to answer any questions you may have.

Thank You...

To the Englewood family,

I wanted to thank the many who prepared meals for us the past two months while I was recovering from sepsis. We so appreciated the many kind thoughts and gestures. Thank you for the cards, texts, calls and gifts. They really helped to perk up my days.

Thank you, prayer pals, who prayed me through. God answered our prayers. I am home. Each day that passes will bring me better health.

I love this Englewood family.

Joy Mitchell

Englewood Christian Church Day Circle and Church,
Thank you all for all you do for all of us! Cards, food, visits, and most of all prayers!!! I hope to return to circle soon! I'm staying home/safe for now! Stay Safe!

With all my love,

Cheryl Perron

Xmas Fund Summary

During the month of December, ECC members, family and friends were invited to participate in our annual Christmas Card fund. The special project for this year was our main lobby area and some necessary upgrades to this key area of connection, fellowship, first impressions and more. Over all, we raised **\$2,078** to go towards this project. Watch for more details as we begin to finalize plans for this improvement. Thanks to all who supported us in this project. Many of you were able to be a part of the digital version which was posted on Social Media to be shared with everyone. Thanks again for the Christmas wishes and your willingness to support the work of the Kingdom here at ECC.

GENESIS

Immerse: Beginnings

S E R M O N S E R I E S

During the month of February, we will parallel with our IMMERSE Bible reading program and encounter the faith stories of the patriarchs from the book of Genesis. These great heroes of the faith can teach us much about our relationship with the Father. Join us each week as we journey through Genesis and discover the truth from the Word of God.

2/7 – Adam: Community with God

2/14 – Abraham: Covenant with God

2/21 – Jacob: Wrestling with God

2/28 – Joseph: Waiting with God



It may have been a smaller group, but everyone had a great time eating unlimited pizza and bowling during the Guys Night Out.



Joel and Chris' form may not be perfect, but their determination to roll the perfect ball was evident, as you can see here.



In the beginning of my adventure as the Director of Total Learning Center, I was told that TLC was a mission of Englewood Christian Church. Truer words have never been spoken... The Ladies' Circles are such a testimony of those words along with the members of ECC.

Before our school year began in August, there was an out pouring of crayons, markers, note pads, paint, food coloring. These were wonderful gifts for each of our teachers and their classes. **Thank You.**

I want to say a big thank you to Serena Maerkl, who comes every Wednesday, representing ECC, and holds chapel for our children. You are a blessing. **Thank You.**

The Circles have treated our ladies with special treats and loving notes of encouragement. **Thank You.**

During November there were ten TLC families that were blessed with Thanksgiving Baskets. Most of these families were single parent families. **Thank You.**

At Christmas time there were eighteen TLC children who received Christmas gifts from the generous members of the Day Circle. **Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.**

There is a Christmas Miracle I really want to share.

One afternoon I received a phone call from one of our single mothers telling me she had lost her job, and she didn't know what she was going to do about Christmas and paying her TLC bill. I told her we would work with her with her payments and for her not to worry because God was going to take care of her and her little girl. I hung up the phone and was telling Mrs. Moseley about the phone call and thirty seconds later, the phone rang. It was Patty Caviness and her Circle wanted to provide Christmas for a family. Can you believe that?! Thirty seconds earlier I told that mother "Not to worry because God was going to take care of her and her little girl." A week later that mother's car was repossessed, but because of the loving giving hearts of the Jennifer Circle that mother and little girl had Christmas. **Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.**

Total Learning Center is truly a mission of Englewood Christian Church. God's hand has been on our center, our children, our parents and our staff as we work each day amid the COVID-19 Virus. Please continue to pray our well-being and shining light in the Englewood Community.

God Bless Englewood Christian Church and their vision of sharing Jesus with little children.

Sherrie Boger



TLC Thanks!



Jumping and smiling into the New Year!



**Congratulations!!!
25 years for Ms. Marie**

**ENGLEWOOD
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

4316 Barnes Road • Jacksonville, Florida 32207
Phone: 904-733-2356 • Fax: 733-9096 • TLC: 737-5669
www.eccjax.com

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February 2021



ECC Faith Promise Kickoff

What a great kickoff for our 58th annual Faith Promise Missions Conference this past weekend. Kane Miller and his family (wife, Liz, and children, Elijah and Annabelle) came and shared about the great disciples being molded, shaped and sent out from the FSU Christian Campus Fellowship ministry. Jeff Greene from IDES brought a marvelous message about the gospel being for everyone - whatever your circumstance, whatever your stage of life!! He was also able to share with us a great report of the Kingdomwork of IDES all around the world - 44 countries and \$1.1 million dollars of help in 2020!

Our kids' conference also kicked off! Students visited the lobby and eagerly filled out their "Faith Promise Passports" as they read and gathered information about our Kingdom partners supported through Faith Promise.

Finally, our leaders - staff, elders, deacons and missions ministry team - led with a powerful example of faith by committing more than \$67,000 towards our Faith Promise program for the 2021-2022 year.

As of the publication deadline for *The Echoes*, final numbers for this year's Faith Promise Conference were not yet available. Watch for a full rundown of all the exciting Faith Promise news in next month's edition.

