

Youth Group Kick-Off

The Jr. High and Sr. high youth groups have officially begun! They will meet every Wednesday night at the church. Jr. High meets from 5:30-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall and Family Center and the Sr. High meets from 7:00-9:00pm in the Upper Room.

Sr. High



Jr. High



One Another Meals



L to R around table: Half of Seth Zeller, Ernestine Andrews, Mattie Wallace, Ann Baxter, Katie Zeller, Kansas Krone, Beyonce (the Zeller's rooster), Joshua Krone, Adam Wallace, Steve & Mary Carls.

Everyone who attends Christ Community is welcome to join in on our One Another Meals. Our One Another Meals take place once a quarter. Each group is chosen randomly and the host is responsible for contacting each member of the group the week before the meal. Each meal includes 8-10 people. The host prepares the main course and asks others in the group to bring side dishes. If you would like to participate in our One Another Meals please contact Denise Benedict at (309) 747-3299 or at benedict@gridcom.net.

We love to capture moments where the body of Christ is one-anothering together! If you have photos of a past One Another Meal or another group or meeting feel free to send it to the church office (office@christ-cc.org) for use on website, Outposts, or other media for the church.

Sunday Worship
Morning Worship 9am
Sunday School 10:30-11:15 am
Communion served 4th Sunday

Children's Ministries
J.A.M. (ages 3-PreK) every Sunday
K-4th Church; 1st & 3rd Sundays

Wednesday Youth Groups
5:30-7:30pm Jr. High, Zack Puck
7-9pm Sr. High, Jordan McKinsey

Pastoral Staff
Andy Huetten, Sr. Pastor
Grant Stauter, Associate Pastor

CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF GRIDLEY

September 2019 Issue



Sunday School

Sunday School will begin September 8. A list of teachers and helpers can be found on **pg. 3**.



Milestones

Birthdays, Anniversaries, New births. Email your info to office@christ-cc.org. **Pg. 3**.



Youth Group Begins!

Photos and information about our Youth Groups can be found on the last page.



Church Calendar

Upcoming events in September & October can be found on **pg. 7**.

10 Lessons From 10 Years

Dear Christ CC Family,

Ten years ago this week, I transitioned from part time youth pastor to senior pastor here at Christ Community/First United Church of Gridley. Abby was praying that God would give her friends in this small town that would be our new home, Elly was a mere 6 weeks old, and I didn't have much of a clue what I was doing. I remember my first hospital visit as a pastor vividly: The nurse came to the waiting room and said, "The family requests the pastor to come back to the room to pray" and when I stood up the nurse laughed out loud and said, "No, the pastor."

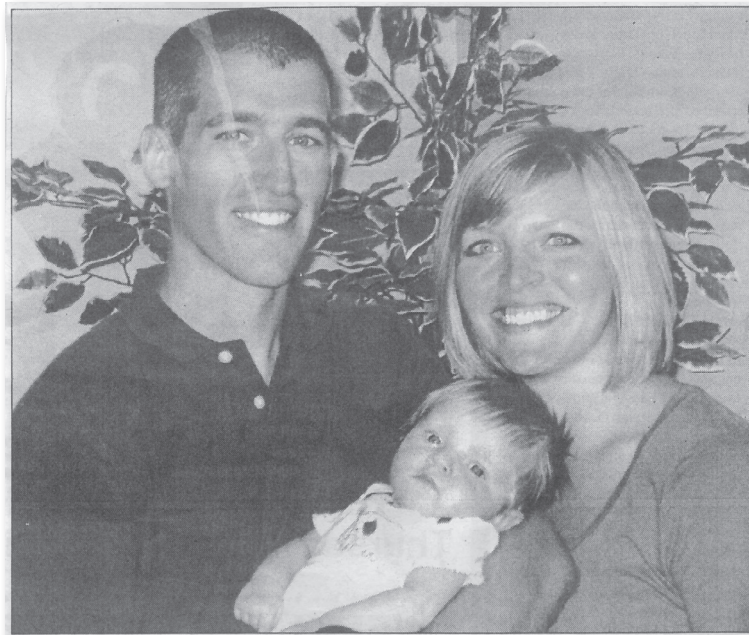
A lot has changed since those days. God faithfully gave Abby and I many friends in this small town we love. That 6-week-old baby just started fifth grade with a sister and two brothers chasing her down the sidewalk to the bus, and the early eyebrow raises at my age have turned into head-tilting glances at my graying head. The past ten years have been a gift from the Lord's hand. God has been so faithful not only to our church, but to me and my family. Perhaps these thoughts are more for my own processing of the past decade than for whomever reads this, but I thought it'd be helpful to distill ten lessons from the first ten years.

1. The Word Does the Work

In my early days as a pastor Duane Otto told me to "pick a book of the Bible and preach through it." Over time, Duane advised, the church would hear the whole counsel of God and God's Word would form the life the of the church. I cannot overstate the importance of this advice. Expository preaching (seeking to have the main idea of the text be the main idea of a sermon) has changed our church, has given me confidence and freedom to preach tough topics from the text, and has helped us all trust in the authority of the Bible. In 2009, I could not have fathomed spending a year and a half in Acts, or over two years in Luke (remember that?!), but now I cannot fathom *not* going through books of the Bible. Very often a verse or text that "just so happened" to be next in the preaching series has aligned perfectly to minister to someone's life circumstances in the congregation. The Word of God, impressed upon us by the Spirit of God, does the work.

2. Co-laborers Are a Great Gift

Often in his New Testament letters, the Apostle Paul refers to the joy he has from his co-laborers in the Gospel, such a Timothy, Epaphroditus, and others who go unnamed in the churches. I had no idea when I began as a pastor ten years ago how essential it is to do ministry as a team with co-laborers in the work. Perhaps it was naiveté, maybe it was



Andy Huette will be ordained and installed as First United Church of Gridley's Senior Pastor at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 30. Pastor Duane Otto, Interim Pastor for First United Church, and Pastor Bob Smart, Lead Pastor of Christ Church in Normal, will conduct the service. In May, Andy answered the call to serve as First United's Sr. Pastor. He begins his duties beginning September 1. Andy, his wife, Abby, and daughter, Elly recently moved to Gridley. Andy has served as First United's Sr. High Youth Director since 2005. He graduated from Taylor University with a B.A. in Biblical Literature and a Youth Ministry certificate. He is currently attending seminary at Urbana Theological Seminary. Everyone is welcome to attend and witness this important event in the life of First United Church.

pride, or a combination of each, but when I became a pastor I didn't think much about working as a team. But ministry is all about being a team. God has gifted believers with a diversity of gifts and callings that are specifically meant to fit together on a team for the furtherance of the gospel. By God's grace, He has richly supplied elders, deacons, and staff here at CCC who work as team. There are too many instances and too many people to name here, but my joy in pastoring has been high for ten years in large part because of the spirit of unity, friendship, and trust that comes from working alongside great people.

3. Chip Away

I once heard someone say, "You can accomplish less than you think in a day and more than you think in a year." I've found that to be true. I don't get everything done that I'd like to each day. I suppose many people feel this way in their work; there's always more that could be done and sometimes it seems that the big-picture projects sit neglected for months on end. Yet, I've learned that over the long-haul, a lot of big changes can occur, if we just chip away at them one day at a time. I think specifically of the church plants in Chenoa and Minonk. There were times when it felt as though they would never happen and other times in which it seemed like we were making no headway. But when a lot of people are taking small, consistent steps, a lot can be accomplished over time. The same is true in seeing spiritual growth in our lives and in the life of the church. Growth generally comes slowly. One day or one week doesn't seem to make much difference. But over the course of a year, or ten years, things can really change.

4. Seminary Was Worth It

I sorta stumbled into seminary. In 2007, I took the Perspectives in World Missions course and decided to take it for seminary credit. I'm not really sure why I signed up for the

WEEKLY EVENTS

MON

Morning Workouts

5:15am
Family Center
Open to all.
Dave Ihlenfeldt
dave1@gridcom.net

Boyz to Men

Every week, 6-7am
Conference Room
John Dirks
dirks.family@reagan.com

WED

Morning Workouts

5:15am
Family Center
Open to all.
Dave Ihlenfeldt
dave1@gridcom.net

MOM's Group

Begins September 4
Susan Laiming
susan.laiming@yahoo.com

Men's Group: Revealing Christ Through Revelation

2nd/4th, 6:30pm
Conference Room
Men's group going through the book of Revelation.
Tim Johnson
tpj.ccc@gmail.com

Evening Women's: James

Begins September 4, 6:30pm
Every other Wednesday
Conference Room
Debbie Meiss
ddmeiss@gridcom.net
Denise Benedict
benedict@gridcom.net

Jr. High Youth Group

5:30-7:30pm
Zack Puck
zepuck@gmail.com

Sr. High Youth Group

7:00-9:00pm
Jordan McKinsey
jmac213108@gmail.com

THURS

Gridley Food Pantry

Every week, 12:30pm
Fellowship Hall
Maralon Stauter, Director
(309) 747-2222

FRI

Morning Workouts

5:15am
Family Center
Open to all.
Dave Ihlenfeldt
dave1@gridcom.net

MONTHLY CALENDAR | SEPTEMBER

01

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Sanctuary, 7:00pm
Our monthly prayer meetings are a time when the church body can come and worship together as well as pray about specific events going on at Christ CC. Everyone is invited!

08

Sunday School Begins

Every Sunday, 10:30-11:15am
Adult Sunday school class information and our list of teachers can be found on page 6.

SAVE THE DATE | OCTOBER

06

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Sanctuary, 7:00pm
Our monthly prayer meetings are a time when the church body can come and worship together as well as pray about specific events going on at Christ CC. Everyone is invited!

What's with the weird icons? These icons represent our Core Values here at Christ CC. We strive to provide events for our church family and community through the lenses of our Core Values, which we believe are evident all throughout Scripture. For a full list of our Core Values you can visit our website under the Who We Are tab.



Open Bibles



Beautiful Feet



Authentic Worship



One Another



Spiritual Growth

SEPTEMBER DIRECTORY UPDATES

Every Sunday in September you will have the opportunity to update directory information as well as update your family photo. Please stop by the West Foyer any Sunday in September to update any and all information.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

Our photo directory is available at each Welcome Center at the church and on our website under the "Resources" then the "Member Directory" tab. The password for our directory is "One Another."

If you would like to update any information, take a new photo, or have your own photo you would like to use for the directory please contact the church office at office@christ-cc.org.



Sunday School 2019-2020

The kids' classes are picking up in the Gospel Project curriculum where they left off in May.

JAM

Becky Roth
Stephenie Deckard
Michelle Porzelius
Ashleigh Feit

Children's Church

Josh & Julie Carr
Dave Ihlenfeldt
Grant Stauter
Melvin Schneider
Brian & Katie Kurz
Bob Wettstein
Bill Roth
Nathaniel Meiss

Teachers

Pre-K class

Delmar & Cathy Smith
Tyson & Mandy Fehr

K-1st grade

Jennifer Morrison
Bri Sanders

2nd-3rd grade

Lori Hardman
Heather Gentes

If you have not yet registered your kids for Sunday School, please download the form on our website to register.

4th-5th grade

Abby Huette
Seth & Katie Zeller
Courtney Kaupp

Jr. High

Zack Puck
Tim Kaupp
Josh Carroll

Sr. High

Jordan McKinsey
Adam Wallace

Sunday School
starts
September 8!



Adult Sunday School Classes

There will be two Adult Sunday School classes in the Fall. Classes will be held in the Sanctuary. "Suffering" will be the first 6-weeks followed by a two-week New Member's class followed by "A Beginner's Guide to the Bible" to finish up the semester.

Understanding Suffering

"In the world you will have tribulation", Jesus tells us in the book of John chapter 16 that we will have tribulation. That word tribulation means exactly what you would think it would mean distress, oppression, affliction, pressure. The bible is very honest about the reality of living in a fallen world. Everyone who has ever lived and everyone who will live will have to go through suffering numerous times in their life. At the same time the bible tells us that God is in control of all things and is good in all that He does "You are good and you do good" (Psalm 119:68). How can these two truths go together? Why is it that when we live a godly life the bible says that you will be persecuted (2 Timothy 3:12)? How can a good Father allow such pain? These questions and many more like it have been asked countless times throughout history. So whether you are just starting to see the end of a season of suffering or are in the middle of suffering or have yet to walk through suffering come join the adult Sunday School class and think with us on how to remain faithful when we have to walk through suffering.

A Beginner's Guide to the Bible

Have you ever tried to read the Bible, but don't know where to start? Or, have you ever wondered how the various stories of the Bible all fit together into an overall story? If so, this class is for you! We'll begin in the Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament), then look at the historical books, the wisdom literature, and the prophets. Then we'll jump into the gospels and then get an overview of Paul's letters to the churches, as well as the other New Testament letters. The aim is to help newer Bible readers understand and recognize the basic components of each unique section of the Bible and to see how all the pieces fit together. By the end of the class, the goal is that each attendee will be better prepared for personal Bible reading and understanding.

Church-Wide Bible Memorization Plan

In the Bible God commands us to have His Word "dwell in us" (Col 3:16), for His Word to "remain/abide in us" (John 15). We see in the Old Testament that the saints would meditate on His Word day and night (Psalm 119). Scripture memorization is one of those disciplines that few of us really apply ourselves to and if we are honest its something that gets harder and harder as we get older and older. Over the past two years we have had our kids in Sunday school classes memorize verses. Hopefully you have

heard us talk about this in the past or your kids have talked about it with you. This year we asked the question why do we have our students memorizing the bible and none of the adults? So, at the start of the Sunday school year we wanted to encourage the entire church to memorize different bible verses each month. Throughout this year we will have verses that either go along with the bible reading plan or follow along with the sermon series that we are on for us to memorize. The kids will still have their

Bible Bucks Store where they can earn "Bible Bucks" to buy certain prizes but for adults there will be no bible bucks store, but that doesn't mean that there won't be a reward. You will find that as you memorize God's word there will be a growing intimacy with God that will make the hard work of memorization worth it. I am excited to start memorizing God's word together as a faith family.

- Pastor Grant Stauter

credit track. After that, I took another course at Urbana Seminary about a topic of interest, and soon I had 6 hours of credit. I cannot remember when it happened, but at some point I felt a responsibility to learn for the sake of the church. If God had given me the task of preaching, pastoring, and leading, I needed to grow and learn not merely for myself, but for the church's benefit. I remember after a few years, I was weary of studying and contemplating quitting grad school. At a prayer meeting, Bev Nelson encouraged me to take the long-haul view and persevere. I can't tell you her exact words, but her counsel was wise and was what I needed that day. I slowed down the pace of school to one class per semester, and in 2017, finally finished. This is not to suggest that seminary is mandatory to pastoring, but I would say that ongoing learning is. Seminary taught me to love learning and as a result and to view learning as both a pastoral responsibility and privilege. And, while on the topic of seminary, I'm compelled to say again how much Abby's support meant to me during those years. There were many hours that I had to be away at class or to do homework, while she held down the fort with the toddler-gaggle. I cannot remember one time that she begrudged my schooling. That was a huge blessing and I want the whole church to know what a vital role she played in my seminary education.

5. God Loves the Church Way More Than I Do

You'd think this should be obvious, but practically, I forget this. I forget that He is working for the good of His church always. In hindsight I can see ways that He has protected us and provided for us in ways that I did not see in the present. When we pray, God is not far off and inattentive. He really, truly is actively shepherding this church. From little things, like arranging "chance" meetings with people at opportune times, to medium things—like providing musicians when we didn't think we had anyone available, to really big things like providing for church plants, bringing staff at the right time, and doing works of reconciliation and salvation in our church. He really is the Shepherd of this flock.

6. It's Easier to Preach Than to Live

I love preaching. Some weeks are harder to prepare than others, and some sermons feel more like a pop-foul to the catcher than a towering home run. Regardless of how I feel about a given sermon, there's a spiritual danger in preaching. Namely, that regular preaching can create a dichotomy between knowing and doing. It's one thing to study a passage of the Bible and preach it on Sunday, it's another thing to live it. Grant

has helped remind me of this danger by frequently telling me what a wretched man I am. He's nicer than that, but in all seriousness, it's a great gift to have a partner in ministry that helps to guard against becoming a "sermon factory" and reminds me to internalize—as much as possible—the text that I'm preaching. One example illustrates the point. After preaching from Ephesians earlier this year on fathers not exasperating their children, a longtime member of our congregation sincerely asked me, "Do you ever yell at your kids?", as though I did not. I laughed out loud and I'm thankful Abby wasn't standing there to give testimony. The pulpit has a strange way of creating a halo effect. It's far easier to preach the gospel (especially in a church sanctuary) than it is to live it.

7. There's Beauty in Longevity

Ten years is not that long, but it's long enough to begin seeing the particular beauty that comes from longevity in one place. There are some beauties in creation that cannot be achieved without time (massive oak trees, excellence in a musical skill, etc.). So it is in ministry. There is something very sacred about seeing the differing seasons and the highs and lows in the lives of church family members that only can be viewed over the course of time.

Most spiritual growth comes slowly, so it's only over the course of 5 or 10 years, that you can see how someone has blossomed in faith. Likewise, there's the testimony of time that adds a sweetness of rejoicing into the sorrow of a funeral. It's only with time, typically, that you get to see how people have endured trials and overcome by God's grace. There's a particular beauty, a privilege, in getting to open God's Word with a family at a wedding, open the same Word in the hospital in a time of suffering, return to the Word at baccalaureate as they celebrate a graduation, and return again to the Word at the graveside. The constancy of God's truth, over time in community is really beautiful. I don't know what the Lord has for me in the next ten years, but my heart's desire would be to be like Charles Simeon, the 18th century English preacher, who got the privilege of pastoring one church for fifty-four years (of course, the congregation may have wished his tenure would have been shorter!)

Continued on page 4.

September Milestones

Birthdays

- Shelby Edwards
- Emily Wenger
- Kathy Carroll
- Don Anderson
- Lisa Barnhart
- Mandi Barth
- Adrian Carrion
- Hattie Meiss
- Connor Stoller
- John Mckey
- James Albritton
- Pat Mckey
- Doug Nelson
- Charles Albritton
- Aiden Jeffreys
- Feebe Finck
- Traci Kelly
- Carlee Stoller
- Nickie Mayback
- Adam Carrion
- Thad Mool
- Tim Sanders
- Natalie Crump
- Jason Albritton
- Luke Ihlenfeldt
- Peggy Poppen
- Jeff Porzelius
- Stella Kiefer
- Dianne Weer
- Susan Johnson
- Brian Kurz
- Barb Ringger
- Tim Kaupp
- Ella Blair
- Kate Kelly
- Silas Huette
- Stephanie Finck
- Al Hany
- Michaela Kelly

Anniversaries

- Matt & Emily Wenger
- David & Katie Klein
- Chuck & Kathleen Carroll
- Thad & Kelly Mool
- Bill & Becky Roth
- Hadly & Heidi Welsch
- Mark & Elaine Legner
- Ben & Kathleen Roth
- Jeff & Denise Benedict
- Derek & Elsie Stoller
- Scott & Kim Edwards
- Jeff & Teresa Porzelius
- John & Tonya Krone

Attendance & Offering

7.28	291	\$7,694
8.4	334	\$10,660
8.11	353	\$10,240
8.18	404	\$7,818
8.25	358	\$7,739

8. Good Enough Is Good Enough

Never thought I'd say this, but I've learned (from pastor Mark Dever), that "good enough is good enough." It seems like an apathetic, lazy thing to say. But here's what it means in the life of the church: There's an ideal that we shoot for, then there's reality. And while we shoot for excellence and aim for the ideal, we need to rejoice when things are good enough and trust that sometimes good enough is all that we're supposed to be. Everything has opportunity cost and sometimes the opportunity cost of excellence is faithfulness. For example: Tammy Sanders wonderfully pushes our worship team to be excellent in facilitating congregational worship. But every worship team member, Tammy included, has a life outside of worship team with many other righteous callings in their lives outside of worship team. I love that Tammy wants the team to give their best, and yet, I love that we also are okay with "good enough" so that time and energy can be given to other callings in life. "Good enough" is not an excuse to slack, it's merely the acknowledgement of our own finitude and life in a world that is not perfect.

9. A Lot of Pastors Don't Finish the Race

The Christian life is a marathon, a "race of faith" as the writer of Hebrews calls it. Sadly, many pastors do not finish the race. It seems that not a year goes by when there are not pastors whose books I have read and whom I have respected, who are disqualified for ministry and/or leave the faith altogether. Such stories are sobering. No one, no one, is immune from sin, temptation, and spiritual warfare. Though there are often commonalities to such stories (no accountability, too much power, neglect of spiritual disci-

plines), there is no perfect formula for finishing the race of faith. If you can pray one thing for me and the other pastors at our church, pray that we die faithful to our God, faithful to our families, and faithful to our church. That's what I want more than all else—to finish the race.

10. There's No Magic Sauce

There are no shortcuts to spiritual growth. There's no new cutting edge program, plan, or magic sauce that can make the church super-rad and pump out fully formed disciples in two weeks. There's a never-ending spigot of advice, ideas, and "this-is-the-next-big-thing" ideas coming at the church. But God has revealed to us ancient, well-trodden, means of grace. Gathering weekly with the saints, taking the familiar cup and bread in remembrance of Christ, singing truth as a faith family, returning repeatedly to His Word, serving one another in love, creating space in our schedules to rest, and sharing the gospel in Word and deed with the world are not flashy. But they are God's means of growing us and giving us His presence and joy. As Jeremiah said to Israel: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your soul" (Jer. 6:16).

I love this church and I love the God who shepherds it. Thank you for your many kindnesses to me and my family these first ten years. Stay tuned for 20 lessons from pastoral ministry coming your way in 2029, Lord willing.

Grace and Peace,
Andy Huet

The Ministry of Little Lambs

The Little Lambs Board exists to encourage and assist the staff and oversee the happenings of Little Lambs Preschool, which has been operating since 2010.

The current board members are: Abby Huet (chair), Stacy Ludy, Jil Stauter, and Grant Stauter (Elder liaison).

We communicate quarterly to receive updates from Stacy Ludy, to pray for the school as well as approve decisions and changes as needed under the shepherding of the Elders.



We have seen God's faithfulness to this ministry of our church and are so thankful for the staff, who are training these little ones in the ways of the Lord.

The Board's vision is that the hope of Christ will not just touch the students, but the families as well. To that end, every year we host a Family Night, and this year Susan Laiming will again lead a Wednesday morning Bible study for young moms.

We invite you to join us in praying for the staff, students, and families of Little Lambs.

—Abby Huet, chair of Little Lambs Board

Little Lambs will begin their school year on September 2. Stacy Ludy is assisted by Stephenie Deckard & Bethany Yackley.

JR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP
MESSY KICK OFF



SR. HIGH KICK OFF
BATTLE OF THE SEXES

