

AROUND THE CHURCH

LOVE GROW SHARE PRAISE

“and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all”

1 Thessalonians 3:12

KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOVE OF GOD

A Word From the Pastor

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 02** DWELL APP
GROUPS
SAVE THE DATES
- 03** MISSIONS
TRUSTEES
- 04** CHILDREN &
STUDENTS
- 05** CONNECT

I recently found myself standing outside watching two children I perceived to be siblings play with each other. There was love and affection shown by the older sister to the younger brother. Another man, who was also watching them, motioned to the children and said, “Our world could use a lot more of that right now.” I nodded, agreeing that seeing more love in the world would be nice.

Thinking back on that experience, I wonder if that is the type of love our world needs right now - the love children show - or is there a need for something more? Jesus tells us to receive the Kingdom of God like children, but he never tells us that our love should remain childish.

1 John 4:8 tells us that God is love. So as we grow and develop our understanding of God, it should also increase and expand our knowledge of love.

1. **Love is Eternal:** it started with God and is found in the Trinity, and 1 Cor. 13:13 tells us love will last forever
2. **Love Came Down:** this time of the year, we celebrate the incarnation of Christ, when God became flesh and love entered our world
3. **Love Expands:** at the heart of Christianity is love: a love for God and then a love for others
4. **Love is Obedient:** Our love needs to be anchored to the source - God. Obedience is the link that connects us to the anchor
5. **Love Looks Ahead:** Real love knows that there is a better Kingdom than the one we see, and love is what motivates us to invite others into that Kingdom.

May your love continue to grow!



READ, HEAR, KEEP *Dwell App Update*

"Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near."

Revelation 1:3

Benjamin Franklin is credited with saying, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." I am amazed as to how true that is in my areas of discipline. Often I set out to do things or make resolutions but fail to plan how to execute. Most Christians would agree we need to be in the Word of God but have no plan for it. This past year, we went on a year-long adventure through the entire Bible. Using the Dwell Bible app, you had the opportunity to hear the word and read it. Next year's plan will be similar, but we will have shorter plans. Each day will consist of 4-10 minute messages covering 1-3 chapters which you can also read. Join us in January for "The Human Story Begins" and then "Explore Luke" in February. Make a plan to succeed in this area of discipline by reading, hearing, and keeping the Word of God. To receive a free subscription to the Dwell App, please join our group and [download the app](#).

SAVE THE DATES

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS
DRIVE-IN** **12/13**

**CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE** **12/24**

HAPPY NEW YEAR! **1/1**



GROWING TOGETHER *Groups Update*

"What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up."
1 Corinthians 14:26

As we focus our thoughts on our current theme of love, let's consider how we can grow in our love for one another. One very direct way to do this is to join one of our groups which allows you to build relationships with fellow believers on a smaller, more intimate scale.

If you are looking for a group to join or if you feel led to start a group, now is the time! There are exciting opportunities as we now have a Young Adults group (ages 18-30), as well as a new Friday evening adult group. Plans are underway to start both a Young Families group and a virtual group for those not wanting to meet in person but still longing to connect. A Northern Oakland County group is also on the horizon.

We encourage you to check out the [Groups guide here](#) or on our [Faith Church app](#) and connect into one of these opportunities to fellowship and grow in your spiritual walk.

Contact Monica with any questions.

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."
Proverbs 27:17

TOGETHER FOR GOOD

Missions Update

As we look back over this past year, it truly has been one we would have never imagined, and that is true for the Mission Team as well. But as always, God has been faithful. As Jason leads us in a study in Romans 8 on Wednesday evenings, I continue to be challenged and encouraged by verses such as Romans 8:28 where we read, *“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”* This continues to be true as we see the faithful giving to missions from individuals such as yourselves, and the letters of praise we receive from those missionaries we support, telling us about how God continues to “show up” and accomplish His purpose in this new environment.

As we look toward the coming year, we continue to see God calling Faith Church to our vision of seeing lives and communities transformed through the power of God’s love. As we do, we are more closely aligning our local missions with the “Second Saturday Serve” opportunities that take place each month and the benevolence offering taken each month. Both of these are very real, “hands-on” activities you can be involved with in a personal way to reach out and share the Gospel in our community. We will also be focusing on additional opportunities for you to serve in local ministries including the Grow to Give garden, House of Providence, and 5Point7 Church. Watch the upcoming announcements for all the details and be ready to jump in!

Globally, we continue to support our missionaries through prayer, words of encouragement, and financial support. Here too, you can be personally involved by signing up for our missionaries’ monthly newsletters, regularly praying for them, and sending them emails from you and members of your family (youth-to-youth communication is a great way to encourage). Don’t miss out on the opportunity to get involved in these ministries!

Dean Swanson



FAITHFULLY GENEROUS

Trustee Update

The faithfulness to God’s call has continued to be evidenced in the faithful giving to Faith church. Uncertain times can sometimes lead to an uncertain commitment. Our church has proven our commitment to be the living stones of the temple, built and sustained by God’s grace and provision, enabling our church to serve our community, our ministries, and our missions.

The trustees and Session have been diligent in the handling of the contributions received, not willing that any should be poorly spent. For the first two months of our fiscal year, we have a \$55,568 positive balance in our general fund, and a \$42,092 positive balance in our Missions fund. We have not released the PPP funds of \$52,300 and they sit as a loan on our books. It appears as if we will be able to convert these funds for our use in the general fund before January 2021. We have a strong cash balance for our church thanks to your generous gifts and diligent oversight on our spending.

Thank you again, Faith Church, for your faithful contributions to the church and in building God’s kingdom here and now.

GOD GIVES THE GROWTH

Faith Students Update

“What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”

1 Corinthians 3:5-7

Earlier this month, Pastor Jason announced that our Student Ministry is undergoing a change in leadership. The session and Pastor Jason are prayerfully determining a plan to identify whom God has called to serve as our next director of Student Ministries. As they do this, we will maintain opportunities for our students to continue to meet together on Wednesdays, Sundays and in their small groups so they can continue growing in their love for God and each other during this time of transition.

We covet your prayers for the transition and future of the ministry, the students in the ministry, and the many people who have volunteered to help in the midst of this change. With thanksgiving for those who have invested in our students by planting and watering the seeds of truth found in Scripture, we move forward in confidence that God continues to nurture those seeds through his Spirit. We seek God's guidance as we choose a new leader who will continue the important work of preparing each of our students for their place in the kingdom.



GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE

Faith Children Update

As I reflect on the theme of this quarter's newsletter, love, I am struck by how necessary it is for human flourishing and how poor we are at producing it. In a season of confusion and disagreement, the need for true love – for God's love – becomes so much clearer. What is God's love?

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ... God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:6-8.

God's love is love that moves first. His love initiates contact with the hard to love, even his own enemies. There was more than a disagreement between us and God, we were at war against his dominion and intent on robbing him of his glory. Between us and God was a chasm dug with rebellion and self-love. This didn't stop Jesus though. As we look ahead to the quickly approaching advent season, we are reminded that the promise of the Messiah is the promise of Immanuel, God with us. Think how easily it could have been "God judges us", or "God punishes us", but instead it is God with us. He has every right to bring retribution on his wayward creation, and yet the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. That truth, the arrival of Jesus to this earth, shouts aloud that Yahweh is a God of love.

The children's ministry is locked into celebrating that truth this season. While the ways of man crumble, and the things in which we find security and value fade, the love of God is rock solid, unceasing, and unfading. Join us as we push forward with both MidWeek and Sunday morning Sunday School, as well as Tuesday's virtual Rewind videos from Noah. We will be in need of volunteers as we begin to open up more rooms and begin to offer more. Please be in prayer for the ministry and prayerfully consider offering to help in some capacity. Contact Darren Anderegg for details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Darren Anderegg".

THE HUB OF FAITH CHURCH *App Update*

Have you discovered the Faith Church app yet? It is the hub of all things Faith Church and gives you access to a lot of vital information to keep you connected. On the app, you can see the current announcements and calendar, send a prayer request, listen to past sermons, or look for a group or an update on a particular ministry in the church. You can also give a financial gift here which is very convenient for many. Download the [Faith Church app](#) today- we are sure you will love it!



STAYING CONNECTED

We've been working hard to make sure you feel informed and connected to Faith Church whether you are worshipping with us in person or at home. While we encourage you to download and use the hub of all things Faith Church, the [Faith Church app](#), it isn't the only way to connect with us -- follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to be encouraged and converse with one another. Of course, you can always call us during normal business hours at 248-651-3535. Please use any or all of the above ways to stay in touch with your Faith family. We want to hear what you have to share!

NEVER MISS A MOMENT



248.651.3535



160 W. Hamlin Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48307

JASON SEWELL | Lead Pastor | jason@faithchurchrochesterhills.org

DARREN ANDEREGG | Director of Children's Ministries | darren@faithchurchrochesterhills.org

MONICA CAMPBELL | Administrative Assistant | monica@faithchurchrochesterhills.org

RUSTY GAILEY | Director of Worship Arts | rusty@faithchurchrochesterhills.org

JULIE MAGRO | Executive Director | julie@faithchurchrochesterhills.org