

# THE LOOP

WORSHIP  
CONNECT  
SERVE



## FIRST TIME HERE?

**WELCOME! We are always happy to meet new friends!**

It is our sincerest hope that you will feel welcome here and come back soon!

## THE EAST AVE APP

Make sure to download the East Ave App! It includes: the Live Webcast, podcasts, a digital copy of this Loop and more!



## GUEST WIRELESS

Look for: "Guest of Hope Commons" network. No password required!

## THINGS TO LOOK FOR

Page 4:

- Financial Peace University
- Hope Commons Book Club
- Register for a Life Lab

Pages 7-10:

- A Message about Rebranding



## New Member 411 Meeting

*January 19 & 30*

Do you have questions about our church? Where we come from? What motivates us? Join Pastor Ron in his office to chat about why we exist as a church, and talk about the nuts-and-bolts of what we do that keeps this place flowing. If you are ever interested in official membership around here, this workshop is a prerequisite! Can't make it to one of the days? That's why we have two options. On Wednesday, January 19, we will meet in Pastor Ron's office at 6:30 PM, and on January 30, we will meet right after the 11AM service!

## Galentine's Day

*Ladies Event, February 12, 10AM*

Galentine's Day is Ladies celebrating Ladies. The guys will be serving us a waffle brunch in the FMC, so dress up—or don't—and come hang! We'll be playing games and simply enjoying each other's company.

## Youth Skate Night

*Connect Youth Event, January 22, \$15*

Connect Youth is going ice skating! Meet at Hope Commons at 2:30PM and bring \$15 for the skate rental. After a fun afternoon on the ice, we will be grabbing a bite to eat in the Downtown area!



## PASTOR RON ZIMMER

Teaching Pastor & Coffee Expert

Ron has been the lead teaching pastor for East Ave Church since 2002.

[Ron@HopeCommons.Church](mailto:Ron@HopeCommons.Church)



## PASTOR ANDY SHOEMAKER

Teaching Pastor & Tech Guru

Andy is one of our teaching pastors and also keeps the tech stuff running.

[Andy@HopeCommons.Church](mailto:Andy@HopeCommons.Church)



## PASTOR SAM WOOD

Family Life Pastor

Sam heads up our adult small groups program, leads youth group, and he and Harmony lead Serenity, a 12-step recovery ministry.

[Sam@HopeCommons.Church](mailto:Sam@HopeCommons.Church)

# WORSHIP

We fulfill our purpose as we learn to worship God, both corporately & privately.

*Worship is not a style of music, a way to dress, or even an event to attend. It is a way of life! We worship with our life when we bring glory and honor to God. We meet together on the weekends to remind ourselves what we are to live like the rest of the week!*

## Baptism A Public Statement of Faith

Baptism is a tradition that dates back long before the New Testament begins. By the time we meet John the Baptist in Matthew 3, baptism has become a public statement of a life dedicated to the Kingdom of God through confession and repentance.

Baptism is an outward expression of something that happens inside us. When we say "Yes" to Jesus, we move from the Kingdom of Me to the Kingdom of God! In the language of the New Testament, we go from death to life!

Interested in knowing more? Ask at the lobby's Welcome Center!



## Giving at Hope Commons Why We Give

We believe we should live generously in this world while first taking care to fund the Kingdom ministry of the local

church. This place thrives by the faithful giving of the people that sit in these pews!

## Ways to Give

When you are ready to give, we have several different ways to go about doing that!

**The Plate:** On hiatus right now!

**The Box:** There's a security box on the back walls of the sanctuary and patio.

**The Mail:** Many people send a recurring check using their bank's bill pay feature.

**The Web:** Go to our website and find the "Give" link or use the link in the East Ave Church app.

**Text-to-Give:** Text the dollar amount of your tithe or offering to 84321 (as if that were a phone number). You can also designate a specific fund by including a keyword in your text, like "food" or "camp".

## Faithful as You Intend to Be

Life gets busy! Finding a way to automate your giving is a great way to stay faithful with giving. Whether you use your bank's recurring bill pay system or online at our website, you can set monthly, bi-monthly, bi-weekly or weekly gifts to fulfill your intentions!

**3 WORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES**  
**Saturday 6PM**  
**Sunday 9AM & 11AM**  
We Live Stream the 11AM service! Now you never have to miss weekend worship no matter your schedule!



# CONNECT

Our relationship with God is shaped by the company we purposefully keep.

Here are ways to stay connected at Hope Commons Church!



KIDS ZONE Here at Hope Commons we work hard at creating a safe and fun environment for your child – one that grows their minds and instills in them a love for Jesus and a passion for His word! Our Sunday morning program is available for children 2 months through 5th Grade.

## Connect Youth

Every Wednesday, 6:30PM to 8PM

Our midweek youth group is high energy and fun for students grades 6 through high school! We play whacky games, sing songs together, learn together and pray together. Join us any week! You can find us at 6:30PM doing checkin on

the back patio down the left side of the building.



## Our Weekly Small Groups

We have many adult small groups that meet for sessions of 10 weeks at a time. New Life Lab sessions, with childcare, will start up the week of January 24. We will also be introducing Life Labs for kids grades K-5!

## First Saturday Dinners

Next: February 5 @ 5PM

The Saturday night worship crowd gets together every first Saturday of the month for dinner before church. You don't have to regularly attend Saturdays to come hang out!



## Youth Bible Study

Wednesdays, 8:15AM to 9AM

Are you in grades 6-12? Well, come join Pastor Sam for our new Wednesday Morning Bible Study! It will be a fun-filled morning focused on fellowship, learning how to navigate your Bible, and, of course, eating donuts! It will be held in Sam's office. And as an added bonus, drop-off to PV High School and Bidwell Jr. High will be provided!



## MONDAYS

### BIG MEETING @ 6PM

### SMALL GROUPS @ 6:30PM

Serenity is a 12-Step, Jesus Centered approach to recovery.

We offer support, strength, and opportunities for spiritual growth to those suffering from: addiction, compulsion, disease, hurt, hang-up, or weakness. For

information, please write "Serenity" on your Connection Card and drop it in the offering box.

## Big Meeting

Every week, we spend time together as a large group worshiping, sharing testimonies, and hearing devotionals that keep us focused on our recovery.

## Small Groups

After the Big Meeting, we break into smaller, gender-specific groups, so we can share our week's experiences and seek prayer from each other. We help strengthen those around us by sharing the load together.

## Chip Night/Birthday!

The last Monday of every month we celebrate those individuals who have achieved some time in recovery - from 24 hours to 32 years - Recovery Happens One Day At A Time!

## Wednesday Night Prayer

*Every Wednesday 7PM in the Sanctuary*

Every week we gather for prayer in the sanctuary with Choir Tennin. Whether you want to be prayed for, or just want to pray with folks, come on in!

## Financial Peace University

*Get on the List!*

Are you ready to start telling your money what to do, rather than the other way around?



This step-by-step plan is a nine-lesson course that teaches you how to save for emergencies, pay off debt fast, spend wisely, and invest for your future. This program makes complex concepts understandable, like credit scores, insurance, mutual funds and the magic of compound interest – no financial blah blah blah over here. For over 25 years, Dave Ramsey's been teaching commonsense, biblical money principles that work. Every time.

We are currently making a list of those who are interested and will set a time and date that works for folks. Sign up using the **app** or the **website!**

## Hope Commons Book Club

*Has your faith given you a desire to serve others, but you are not sure where to start?*

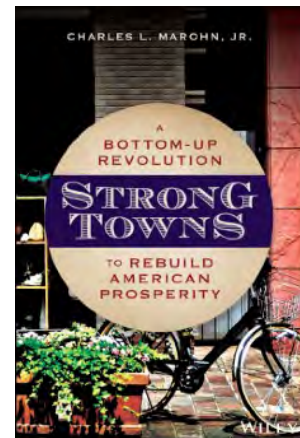
As part of an effort to help us understand the needs of our community, Pastor Ron is starting a new book club! Ron has compiled a stack of books that shapes the way he thinks about how the church should engage the community in which we are planted in. These are not books written specifically to a Christian audience, but books that challenge the status quo in each field they address. In order for the church to be useful to our community, we should also be talking about the issues that our community is facing. We will be talking about city planning, childhood adversity, homelessness and the like. We will look for ways together to engage our neighborhoods in fresh ways.



Every book we read together will have an available hard copy, Kindle and Audible version so you can read the way you want to. Some will even have CDs for those folks who just can't give up their spinning pieces of plastic!

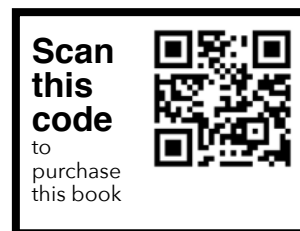
### Our first book is **Strong Towns: A Bottom-Up Revolution to Rebuild American Prosperity.**

This book started as a blog in 2008 and has spawned a large movement among those that care about city infrastructure and community planning. The problems every municipality is facing is quite daunting, but there are solutions.



### *Panel Discussion and Dinner Feb 20, 5PM*

Read the book and join us for dinner and discussion! We are lining up some folks from the community that are putting these concepts to work in our own neighborhoods.



**Dinner for 2 is \$20** (yes, bring a friend). Kids will have their own program with dinner. Register today for this event to save your seat in the room. We will also find a way to host this live on the Hope Commons YouTube channel.

## Life Labs Start Date Moved to Jan 24!

*Sign up online with the app or the website!*

Here at Hope Commons we run Life Labs as our small-group ministry. We start as many groups as possible on various days and times. They all cover the same material, which dives deeper into our weekly message. Regardless of whether you are new here, or a seasoned vet, the Life Labs offer an amazing opportunity to grow deeper in your relationship with Christ, and with your friends at Hope Commons. We are looking for leaders who would like to lead a Life Lab at a time and location of their choosing. Each session will run for 10 weeks, with Session 1 beginning the week of January 24. If you are interested in leading or joining a Life Lab, you can register on the app or website.





## CHANEL YOUNG

Kids Zone Director

Chanel is a utility infielder that currently leads our children's programs. Chanel Rocks!

[Chanel@HopeCommons.Church](mailto:Chanel@HopeCommons.Church)



## HOLLY SHIPPEN

Accounting/HR

Holly has been in charge of all of our finances and human resources since 2018. She also answers to Dream Crusher.

[Holly@HopeCommons.Church](mailto:Holly@HopeCommons.Church)



## NATALIE CANIDA

Office Team Coordinator

Natalie is handling a ton of office duties, including scheduling the building and coordinating communications!

[Natalie@HopeCommons.Church](mailto:Natalie@HopeCommons.Church)

# SERVE

The heart of the message of Jesus compels us to personally act out our faith.  
Explore ways you can serve here at Hope Commons Church and your community.

## SIGN UP ONLINE OR IN THE WELCOME CENTER!

### All Church Serve Day Saturday, Feb 12 from 8AM

We are hosting a morning of serving at our East Ave Campus! We always have a lot of projects that will take many hands! Some of them inside and some of them outside. Some require some maintenance skills, and others just take a willing person!

You certainly can just show up, but if you want to let us know you are coming we will set up a project with your skills and interests in mind. Let us know on a Connection Card or on the East Ave Church app under "Volunteer".

### Volunteer @ Hope Commons

Volunteers are the life-blood of this place. There is no way we could serve our community each week without all of the people who faithfully give their time and talents.

There's always room to serve because we put a lot of people to work on a rotating schedule.

#### Facilities Team

These folks help maintain the church and assist with stewarding the blessing of the building that God has given us.

#### Guest Services Team

This is an important ministry within our church. You are our guests' first impression, and your service can

help facilitate pastoral care. You never know when a smile might change someone's entire week!

#### Tech & Visuals Team

We train folks (who are tech-inclined) to help keep the worship services flowing! That includes: what goes on the big screen, the lights and sound, and the live webcast.

#### Kids Zone

Every week we have a fun, interactive Bible session, play games, and make a craft. Volunteering in these classrooms is a great way to pass on the love of Jesus.

#### Meal Team Six

One thing a church family should do well is take care of people in times of crisis or transition. Volunteers on this team sign up to make a meal and deliver it!

#### Kids Clothes Closet

The Kids Clothes Closet is open every first Sunday of the month between our 9AM and 11AM services. The clothing closet is in need of help sorting items, then folding/hanging/stocking clothes for the current season.

## Food Bank

Open Every Monday @ 5PM

Did you know our food bank here gives away a lot of food? We give out around 200 bags of food each month. If you would like some help feeding your family, or know of anyone who *does* want help, we give to anyone who asks!

### Where does the food come from?

The food we give away comes from several sources: we buy food by the pound from the Butte County Food Bank in Oroville, and we receive bread, and some fresh produce, from the Chico Gleaners. After that, whatever we still need we get from Winco. Additionally, food comes from folks who like to give from a specific list, since we have carefully designed the bags to hold specific meals.



### How you can help

You can donate right to the food bank. Use the keyword “food” to get it to the right place. All the ways to give are on page 2!

You can also get a list of the foods that are currently in the food bags by following the Scan Me code!

## Socks and Blankets

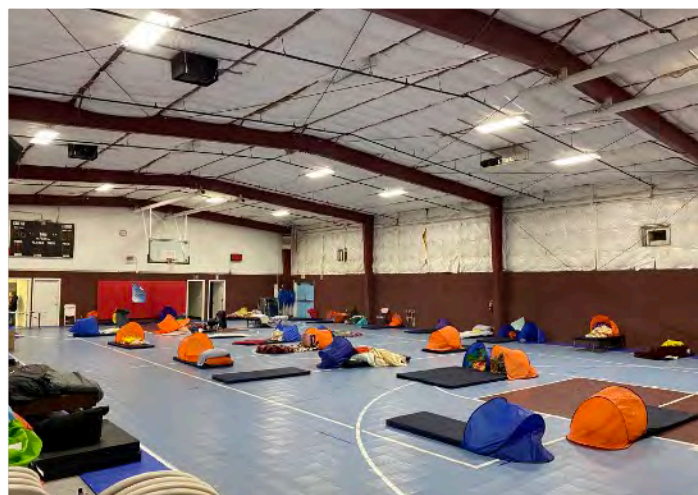
Cold and Wet weather is here and socks (as well as blankets) are needed for our community. Consider donating new socks to this ministry, and help those in need be a little more comfortable this Winter. Men’s tube socks work well, as do women’s crew or tube socks. Each pair will be a blessing! Socks and blankets can be dropped off during the weekend services in the Lobby.

## New Hope Commons Flickr

As you know, we constantly take pictures of events so we can talk about them later! Ever wonder what



happens to the photos that don’t hit The Loop or Facebook? We have started populating a Flickr page full of your delightful faces! Check it



out and give us a follow!

What?! Don’t remember Flickr? It is a cool photos sharing site that is now a part of the Yahoo.com universe. So, if you are logged into Yahoo, you are logged into Flickr.

Find us at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/hopecommons>

## Did You Know?

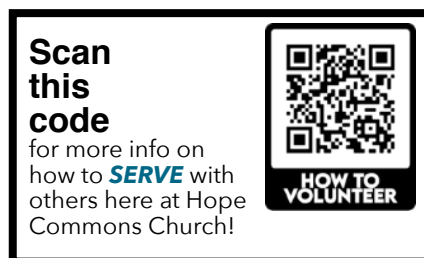
Safe Space Dec 26–Jan 9

Your church is wrapping up its two weeks of hosting the Safe Space Winter Shelter, a traveling shelter that partners with churches in Chico to provide low barrier overnight housing for folks who would otherwise be sleeping outside.

We typically host the week after Christmas, but Safe Space has switched to a two-week model. We used to provide many of the overnight hosting duties and much more. But, as the program has evolved over the 8 or so years, they now have the funding to hire staff to keep the experience consistent.

Thanks to the folks that have been sharing the meal duties with St.

John’s Episcopal for the last two weeks! You people are awesome!



Okay, what's all this rebranding talk about?!

# HOPE COMMONS .CHURCH

WORSHIP | CONNECT | SERVE

The modern church exists for the same reason the ancient church did! It is our duty to seek out why we are here.



## Why a name change?!

Well, if we talk about change for change's sake, then we would not start this long journey. We have more in mind. Much more! Over the next few months we will be rolling out our ideas and asking folks to join us on this journey together. The name change is not a signal that our church is changing direction. In fact, we believe that the name change better reflects who we are now, and foreshadows what we have on the drawing board for the future of our humble little church!



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Yes, many folks have asked the same question William Shakespeare did some 400 years ago! Who cares about the name?

Well, we believe if we were simply changing the name to something else that sounds like every other church, we would not be up for the change. However, because of some of the ideas we have moving forward, we would like to be less tied to a street name and more tied to our mission.

In the near future we will be talking through what it will mean to place a video venue of our church back in Paradise, at the still-standing Paradise Nazarene Church building. What should we call it? The East Ave Church of Paradise? We think not. We want the name to say that this is something new being brought to you by the folks that have been in Paradise for 5 decades.

We also don't believe that the most interesting thing we think our community needs to know is that

our church building exists on East Avenue. Our name and signage ought to be doing more work than that.

## WHAT IS A "COMMONS"?

That is an old word that means, "A resource that benefits the whole of a community." We want to say that out loud! We have a lovely campus, and we seek to share it with anyone. Currently, we provide meeting space for 4-H, a local ladies chorus, AlAnon, the Pleasant Valley High School Winter Guard, a charter school basketball team, a homeschool coalition, and a construction office. The Chico Fire Department staged its Christmas gift giveaway here as well! After Christmas, we hosted the Safe Space Traveling Winter Shelter for those who would otherwise be living outside this Winter. All that is in addition to the very busy



ministry schedule we keep around here.

We believe we are already a resource that benefits the whole of the community in just how we share our campus. We also have our own 12-Step recovery group, youth group, kid's classrooms, and food bank, in addition to the regular weekend work that churches all over town are doing.

## "HOPE" IS A COMMON THEME INDEED!

Yes! The one consistent theme we see over and over again around our community is hope. Hope comes from knowing that it isn't about us. Hope is what happens when we turn our will and our lives





over to God! Hope has nothing to do with circumstances. Hope has nothing to do with expectations or the law of averages. It does not come from knowing the percentages of chance. Hope comes from knowing that since God actually has control, God does what is eternally right in every situation. Hope comes from giving up controlling our circumstances and leaving them in God's capable hands.

Okay, most of us struggle with that from time to time! Nonetheless, that is where hope comes from. That's why there is an abundance of hope here! We might as well name ourselves after it!

## A CHURCH WITH ROOTS

Our new full name is Hope Commons Church of the Nazarene. We want to say loudly through this process that we have been in Chico for 100 years, on East Avenue for the past 60, and we are ready for the future!

## WHAT IF WE COULD REALLY DOUBLE DOWN ON THE WHOLE "HOPE COMMONS" THING?

I'm glad you asked! What if we made room to host the Pleasant Valley High School Jazz Band for an outdoor concert? What if we made room to host a local cover band, or an album debut concert of a Chico band? What if we purposefully built space for a junior high drama production? Remember when Chico had an open mic night for aspiring musicians?



While chatting about our desire to be useful to our community, it became clear that our beloved building can use an update to extend its useful life. From the street, it is hard to see how you might find a door! If you have been attending church all your life, that might seem like an easy thing to do. Today, however, fewer and fewer people have ever even been in a church building! One of our goals is to help our curb appeal have an open and inviting feel.

What would happen if we also decided that we could be the premier spot where local food trucks would want to park? Can you imagine a place where the whole family could find something they wanted to eat? Right now we have Bootleg BBQ out front four days a week serving the best smoked meat sandwiches Chico has to offer! Imagine also making room for a noodle truck? Or even a vegan wagon! How about stopping by Hope Commons for coffee and finding outdoor seating for a casual meeting?

## A WALKABLE COMMUNITY

Over the past two decades our neighborhood has really filled in. Even now you can see 23 families quickly becoming neighbors as the former empty lot next-door becomes apartments. That is just one more in a long, advantageous trend. Where there were empty fields just a decade ago, there are

so many folks who could walk, faster than drive, to our campus. We have the opportunity to provide a destination to walk, bike or drive to!

## BRINGING BEAUTY TO EAST AVENUE

Did you know that nearly 19,000 cars drive in front of our campus every day! Yes! Every day! That means that we have the opportunity to bring beauty and pleasure to a large percentage of Chico every day! It isn't just about making our campus nice for ourselves. Sure, our campus belongs to the folks that call themselves part of our fellowship. Think beyond functional. We have the ability to bring more joy to our neighborhood, by bringing beauty to those who drive by, and not just to those who come inside.

Seriously, you should consider that. Those folks that drive by, and may



Amidst all the ups and downs of COVID over the past two years, we experimented with many different worship formats and venues. That experience has given us a new vision of what is possible, and what might be a compelling worship service. We think outdoor worship is something that we should double down on! We also think that video venues are a great way to economically try new locations for worship in order to reach new folks with our message of hope.



Our plan is to move our patio worship to the front of the building by turning the round planter into a platform. We will also install some kind of windows in the lobby which look out onto the new patio, and which can open up (perhaps like a garage door). The goal is to provide a more open view from the street, and to create worship space from the East Ave parking lot all the way to the sanctuary platform.

Imagine Hope Commons Church as the place where you can always count on lunch and dinner with a variety of food trucks and/or where you can dine in the shared outdoor seating areas! How about attending a concert on a Friday night with multiple food trucks in the parking lot! The idea is to create gravity, which pulls our community onto our campus. We really do want to be useful to our community.



In the past two years we have seen the value

of outdoor space. As much as we have always loved outdoor spaces, we have learned that outdoor spaces are essential. As a community of faith we have gone fully online, as well as experienced tailgate services, and patio services. We still host video-venue worship on the back patio because we are trying to serve everyone. And it is not going away.

If there is anything the current pandemic has taught us, it is that having outdoor space is vital.

Without building that option into our campus, we are simply not taking into consideration that our world has changed forever. We should be ready for whatever comes next.

### WHAT COMES NEXT?

Our design team will continue to work until we are all happy with the layout! We have folks working on a new logo and style sheet. We will start fundraising towards the first phase of the project and we hope to get started building this year!

consider one day meeting a friend for coffee, should be our target audience. Why should it only be about us? What if we could elevate the day of someone driving by? What if we could help give someone a great lunch break? We have the opportunity to do so much more than create space for those who attend weekend services. We could be of service to everyone that lives on the North side of Chico!

### IT ISN'T GOING AWAY



# NOTES AND VERSES

Nehemiah 9

## WORSHIP RESOURCES

### Sanctuary Volume

We know everyone has different comfort levels when it comes to sound reinforcement, whether it is decibels, frequencies or pressure.

Your comfort is important to us! We stock the Lobby with disposable ear plugs for the comfort of those with sensitive hearing. Just ask one of our Guest Services Team and they will get some for you!

### Bibles

If you need a Bible, please take one from the pew or download the Bible App!

Search for "YouVersion" on the App Store or in Google Play. You can read your preferred version as well as choosing different Bible studies in order to dig deeper into God's word.



## WHAT COMES NEXT?

### I RAISED MY HAND

If you have recently made a decision to follow Jesus (whether the first time or a renewed commitment), the pastoral staff would like the chance to celebrate with you! We would like to hear your story and answer any questions you have as to your next steps.

### I WANT TO BE BAPTIZED

Baptism is an outward symbol of something that has happened on the inside. It is a community celebration of new life! This is a public declaration of a person crossing from death to life, and into the Kingdom of God! We love to celebrate together!

If you are interested in baptism, we would love the chance to chat about the details!

### I WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER

On regular occasions we hold a Hope Commons 411 class, where Pastor Ron talks about the history and backdrop of our church and about the passions that drive us forward. He also talks about what it means to be an official member of the nuts-and-bolts structure that keeps our community organized! If you let us know you are interested in the details, we will move up the next meeting to fit your schedule!

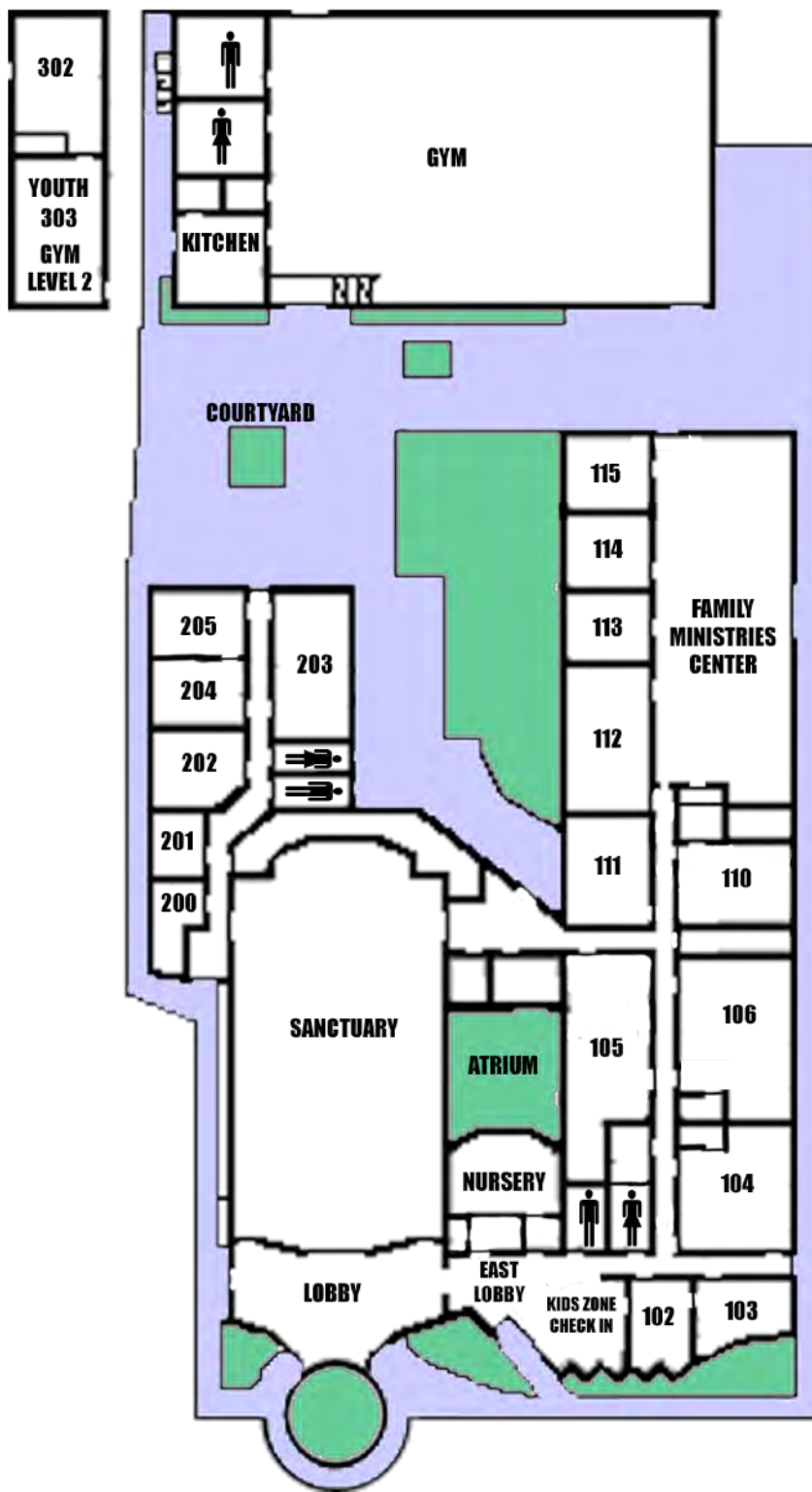
# ABOUT US:

We are a Community of Jesus that seeks to introduce our city to the God of the Bible. We are bound together by a faith that is both ancient and relevant. We seek to share our faith with all who care to listen.

As an organization, we seek to **Connect People to God** through worship - purposefully bringing honor to God in every aspect of life. We seek to **Connect People to Others** through Community Groups that meet throughout the week. We also endeavor to **Serve All**, as a natural outpouring of a life lived for God.

We are a part of a group known as the Nazarenes. The Church of the Nazarene is a world-wide organization in well over 160 countries. We seek to bring the presence of God to local communities around the globe through things like clean water, medical clinics, agriculture instruction, soup kitchens and orphanages. Through these actions the message of God is lived out loud. Today you worship alongside more than 2.8 million, in hundreds of languages on six continents.

Thank you for joining us today!



LET'S  
CONNECT  
OKAY?



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