



FAITH ALLIANCE CHURCH

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November 6, 2016

Welcome to Faith Alliance!

From Pastor Tom's Desk...

Often we view prayer from a magical perspective. We believe that if we say the right words... in the right way... at the right time... God will answer our prayers. So we tell God what we want, and then we wait to see if He will answer. If He delays in answering, we become frustrated, and we say something like, "I don't understand why God is not answering my prayer!" This kind of "praying has been a part of human experience since the beginning of human history. Even pagan cultures prayed to their "gods" in this manner. Prayer was understood as a means of manipulating the divine in order to get what we want.

This approach to prayer overlooks the very important reality that prayer is primarily *relational*, not primarily functional. Prayer is rooted in our relationship of love and trust with God. It does not begin with the question, "What do I want?" Rather, it begins with the very different question, "What does God want?" The first step in effective praying is seeking to discern what God wants to do in your given situation. What will glorify God? What will accomplish God's purpose? What is God's preferred will?" These are the foundation points of effective prayer.

This kind of praying requires an attitude of surrender. We are not approaching God to convince Him of what we want Him to do. Instead, we are seeking to be His servants - people of faith who trust His love and wisdom. The great reformer Martin Luther once said, "Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness." Rather than trying to convince God to do what we want, we seek to align ourselves with what He wants. When we place ourselves in the flow of God's perfect will, God begins to move powerfully in our lives.

One of the ways we can express this kind of faith is fasting. Fasting is not designed to manipulate God. It is not even intended to show God how serious you are about your request! Rather, it is designed to eliminate distractions from our lives and help us focus on the Lord, becoming more sensitive to His Spirit so we can pray more effectively in the center of His will. Answered prayers are not rewards for pious acts like fasting, but rather the response of a loving God to a surrendered heart.



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This does not mean we should never ask God for what we want. However, we should always do so in an attitude of surrender and trust. God is a loving Father who is eager to answer our prayer, but we always pray in awareness that He knows and wants what is best. In reality, this should be reassuring to us, knowing that God has a broader perspective that we do, and therefore His will is better than our own.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tom

Current Prayer Concerns...

- Pastor Jean Claude and the ministry of Nebobongo Hospital in DRC
- Lib Conley's son, Walter, motorcycle accident
- Becky Dock, recovering from surgery
- John Schulze, recovering at home
- Liam Schwartz, 2-yr-old, recovering from surgery
- Chris Pressley, husband of Stacey, 9-month deployment with the army
- Jeff Fyock, recovering from shoulder surgery on Oct. 21

Community Thanksgiving Service...

The churches of New Bremen will come together at St. Peter's Church for a service of Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 22, at 7:00 pm. Pastor Becky Erb Strang of St. Paul UCC will bring the message of the evening, and pastors from all four churches will participate. A free will offering for Agape Ministries will be received.

The service will include two numbers by our combined community choir, under the direction of Scott Kuenning. Practices will be held on two Thursdays, November 10 and 17, at 7:30 pm. at St. Paul UCC, with a run-through before the service on Nov. 22. All interested persons are invited to participate!

Live Nativity Sign Ups...

Live Nativity Sign Ups are now in the foyer. There is a sign up sheet to volunteer to make cookies, dress as one of the Biblical characters, or you can sign up to set-up and/or tear-down.

GPS...

"Gods Positioning System - Placed For a Purpose" is centered on those people around the world for whatever reason have been scattered away from an established or ancestral homeland. For some it's being on the move from life threatening wars, persecution or poverty. Often the flight is at great risk to them and their families. Thousands often do not make it to that safe place.

Those who do make it find themselves in a strange land. This is where our National Project steps up to provide funds for our Alliance international workers to offer services - such as language learning, job training, help with government paper work, or finding a place to live - they establish relationships of trust, and people are open to the gospel. As friendships develop, Alliance workers verbally share God's love, people become Christ followers, and we bring them together in a small communities of fellowship to worship. Please be praying for these people.

As You Plan Your Holidays...

The Christmas season is a busy time, so we are providing important dates to assist in your planning.

Nov. 27 - First Sunday in Advent

Dec. 4 - Farewell for Pastor Tom and Pam. One Worship service at 10:00 am.

Dec.11 - Children's Christmas Program, 9:00 and 10:30 am.

Dec.12-14 - Live Nativity Scene.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve service, 4:00 pm.

Dec. 25 - Christmas morning worship. One combined service at 10:30 am.

ReviveOHIO Reunions...

ReviveOHIO will be holding a reunion gatherings once a month. The first gathering will be held on Saturday, November 12, at the St. Marys Church of the Nazarene, 390 Indiana Ave. The schedule will be as follows:

- 7:00 am. - Prayer Time
- 8:00 am. - Breakfast
- 9:00 am. - Organize into teams and go into the community to pray for people
- 12:00 pm. - Noon time testimonies

Christmas Is Coming...

Christmas will be upon us before we know it! Once again this year we will be participating in two outreach ministries: Operation Christmas Child and Angel Tree. OCC, which kicks off this Sunday, provides gift shoe boxes for thousands of children around the world. These shoe boxes must be returned by Sunday, November 20. Angel Tree provides Christmas gifts to children and teens who have a parent in prison. Recipients are young people in Auglaize County, or one of our surrounding countries. This project kicks off on November 27, so look for more information as the date approaches. If you have questions about either of these projects, speak with Pastor James.

Financial Report

Offering October 30, 2016

General Fund: \$3,812

Great Commission: \$860

Tea House: \$10

Local Missions: \$132

Building Fund: \$5

Gideons: \$20

Nebobongo: \$560

Attendance

Week of October 30, 2016

9:00 Worship - 77

10:30 Worship - 125

Kids - 59; Adult Workers - 11

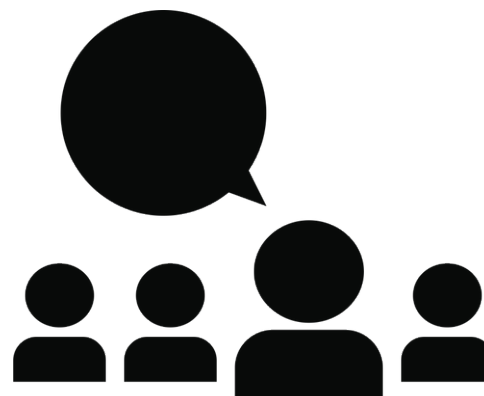
Total Worship - 262

Youth Discipleship - 6

Foundation Class - 9

Annual Meeting, November 20...

Please note that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 20, at 10:00 am. We will confirm our leadership team and consider the budget for 2017. Our worship schedule will be adjusted slightly that morning, as follows: 9:00 - Early Worship; 10:00 - Annual Meeting; 10:45 - Late Worship.



YOUTH GROUP

WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH GROUP

Doors open - 6:00pm

Jr. High Class - 6:30pm- 7:30pm

Sr. High Class - 8:00pm- 9:00pm

SUNDAY MORNING DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship Class - 9:15am-10:15am

(In Classroom 8)

UPCOMING EVENTS

November:

5th: Undercover Woods - 6:30 - 9pm

23rd: Thanksgiving Break, No Youth Group

December:

11th: Sky Zone - TBA

14th: Youth Christmas Party

Happy Birthday this month to

Kaitlyn Schwieterman
