

get connected

We connect people to Jesus and equip them to be his disciples.



Foundations of Faith

by Pastor Nate Crandall

In my current series of talks through the book of Galatians, I have highlighted the truth that we are, **“not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ.”** (Galatians 2:16) Faith is what opens the door for us to know God, and faith is what enables us to grow in the knowledge of God. This knowledge is not only mental understanding. It is to know God personally and experientially. Only through faith in Christ is this amazing reality possible.

So we want to grow in faith so that we can know more of God.



In order for faith to grow, it has to have firm foundation. Otherwise, the growth that occurs will not be supported. In the same way that a tree needs a strong root system to grow tall and strong, our faith needs a firm foundation upon which to grow. As it says in Psalm 11:3, **“If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”**

We want to make sure that our foundations are strong in the faith, so in order to help make them as strong as possible, this spring we are offering a class on Sabbath mornings at 9:00 a.m. called appropriately,

“Foundations of Faith.”

The class starts on March 12th and goes for 5 weeks, finishing on April 9th.

Who should attend this class?

- If you are new in your faith, this class is for you!
- If you are not new to the faith, but feel like you would like a refresher, this is for you!
- If you feel like your foundation of faith is strong, but you would like to bring someone new in the faith or be available to encourage others in their faith, this class is for you!
- **If you are considering church membership, this class is a requirement in order to be considered for membership. This class is for you!**

Some of the questions that you can expect us to address include: What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? What’s the difference between God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? What are spiritual gifts and how can I know what mine are? What are the vision and values of our church family?

If you have any questions about the class, please be sure to reach out to me. This will be an exciting opportunity to grow deep so that we can grow strong in Christ!

March 2022 Inside this issue:

Praying for the World	2
Bible Science	3
Operation Christmas Child	4
News from Nathaniel	5
Bulletin Board	6
Calendar	7



PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

OPERATION WORLD AND THE LAUSANNE MOVEMENT

The World?

Yes, the whole world.

After all, the earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Every month we are sharing one of the 52 handouts prepared by Operation World, which guide us in praying for major world-wide issues and for specific countries.*** We're sharing these to help us learn about the issues and peoples and to lift our prayers from our personal concerns to God's concern for all of humanity.

As we use these guides, we need to depend on the Holy Spirit. He will show us how to pray and may guide us into specific ways to serve or contribute. *May God's kingdom come and His will be done here on earth as we **Pray for the World!***

Let us pray with confidence. God desires that we come before him in prayer – he says: *Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.* We can **Pray for the World** with confidence be-

cause we know from Scripture where history is headed: *There will be those from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.*

Let us pray with clean hands and a pure heart. Communion with God in prayer is a joy and a privilege. But as it says in Psalm 24, we need to *come with clean hands and a pure heart, lest our praying be little more than a game to impress each other.* A desire to **Pray for the World** effectively can encourage us to maintain a close relationship with God and good attitudes towards others.

Let us pray God's word. When we base our prayers on Scripture, we can be confident that we prayed according to God's will. Use verses and passages of Scripture to structure what you pray. *And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.*

Let us pray for God's glory and honor. When Jerusalem was in ruins, Daniel prayed. And his prayer expressed his desire to see God receive honor – the destruction reflected badly on God not just on his peo-

ple. After the prophets of Baal saw no response to their pleading on Mount Carmel, it was Elijah's turn to pray. He prayed for God to be known and honored through a visible response to prayer. We can join with these giants of faith as we pray to Jesus may receive the glory due his name throughout the whole earth.

Let us pray together. Let us pray consistently. Join with your family or friends to pray through the guide. Having a prayer partner helps us to be consistent in our prayers. Our intercessory prayers are part of the *good works that God has prepared before hand for us to walk in.* As a kingdom of priests, we have a responsibility to pray for people who do not yet know enough to pray for themselves. Contact Pastor Nate, Renee Sanford or Linda Lyke if you'd like to join us on zoom each Thursday morning at 7:00 to **Pray for the World.**

*** You can find the current month's guide at <http://theconnecting.church/worldprayer>, as well as a link to subscribe to [weekly prayer guides from the Lausanne Movement](#).

Bible Science - A Look Inside our Lab at Awana

by Angie Mullen, Director of Children's Ministry

Kids are fascinated by science. There is so much to learn and even more to discover. God himself created the heavens and the earth and all things in them. Everything in science points us back to Him. In our last Large Group unit of this Awana year, we'll be scientists conducting a fun experiment each week. These experiments will remind us of some amazing accounts in the Bible and the truths we can learn from those accounts. You'll wish YOU were an Awana clubber when you hear that we'll be doing fun things like making a groovy Lava Lamp! We'll be reading about how when Jesus visited Mary and Martha, Mary took things easy like the Lava Lamp and sat at the feet of Jesus in Luke 10. Or maybe you'd be



even more interested in creating a battery out of a potato and then reading about where we get our power! In Acts 3, when Peter heals a crippled beggar, we learn that Jesus empowers his people to do great things!

For seven weeks we will be conducting experiments in our Large Group Lab and learning

an important lesson from the Bible. While science is fun, learning about Jesus while we experiment is LIFE CHANGING! It's never too late to invite a child you know to join us at Awana on Wednesday nights or for you to come and help lead them! God is working here.



March Awana Jesus Said "What?"	
2	Club – Lava Lamp
9	Club – The Power of Salt
16	Club – Potato Battery
23	Club – The Exploding Bag
30	No Club – Spring Break



March Collision	
2	Collision
7	Roller Skating with Koinonia
9	Collision
16	Collision – Pizza, Invite-a-friend
23	Collision
30	No Collision – Spring Break

Operation Christmas Child

by Linda Lyke, Outreach Coordinator

When our church packed 295 boxes in November of last year, they went to 7 countries: Namibia, Colombia, Malawi, Republic of Georgia, Rwanda, Mongolia, Gabon. Here is one account of shoeboxes that went to Gabon from the Samaritan's Purse Special Report 2021.

REACHING THE UNREACHED

In Gabon, the Baka people live on the margins of society and have typically been outside the reach of the Gospel. But that began to change when shoeboxes were given out in

a remote village. All 354 children in the community turned out for the festive outreach event – and all the adults, too! Everyone listened carefully as they heard the Gospel for the first time and discovered how much God loved them. At the end of the presentation, all of the children – and all of the adults – prayed to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior! The village chief, who also gave his life to Christ, was so impressed with the event that he set aside some land for a church to be built. Praise God!

Everyone in the community was so eager to learn more about Jesus that they wanted to immediately begin The Greatest Journey, the 12-lesson Bible course for shoebox recipients. Several teachers then led hundreds of villagers through the first lesson. But at the end of it, they all wanted to continue. They were so hungry to learn more about God's love that they insisted on going through all 12 lessons in just a few days!



Baka children in Gabon proudly show off the new treasures they received in their OCC shoebox gifts.



Serving at GIFTS in April:

Our week to provide meals at the GIFTS Men's shelter is April 18-23. Watch for the sign up in the coming months so you can participate by donating food for our meals.

Update on Nathaniel's Vision

By Renee Sanford

Nathaniel Muench has been in full-time skate ministry in Germany for over 5 years, answering God's call to invest in the lives of skateboarders in Nuremberg. Before he left he shared his two-fold vision of Christians discipling skaters and forming "skate churches" throughout Europe, along with developing a network linking skate ministries worldwide. It's happening! He's working closely with action sports ministries, mentoring others in skateboard ministry, and sharing the gospel with skaters. After 5 years, it's a good time to review his long-term goals:

1. **Local Relationships** – a heavy investment in skateboarders, with a team spread out in different parts of Germany serving the local skateboarders of their cities. Skateboarders are a unique subculture that is often overlooked by typical church outreach.

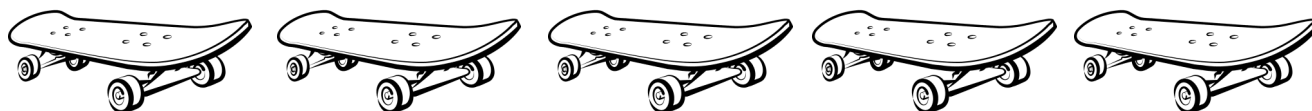
2. **Connecting Christian Skaters and Skate Ministries** – a passion to find Christian skaters in Germany and across Europe and plug them into a network of like minded skaters. Skate ministry across Europe isn't huge but it is growing. Connecting helps combat isolation and encourage outreach. Last year's skate conference was an amazing opportunity to see skaters from all over Europe come out and connect with one another.

3. **Outreach** – Each year both Christian and non-Christian skaters from all over the world pass through the places in Europe known for skateboarding opportunities. These travelers engage with local skate scenes, providing a continuing opportunity to share the gospel and build relationships. There are also opportunities to travel to other places (like Barcelona where his brother Zac was ministering) and connect with others reaching out to the skateboard community.



For the past two years Nathaniel has been working with Unbound Action Sports, a Christian action sports ministry.

Please continue to pray for Nathaniel and his wife Naomi, as they minister amidst the ongoing Covid restrictions. Nathaniel is thankful for his work at a coffee shop where he is free to share his faith and exuberance with customers and friends.



Bulletin Board



Join Us at Camp Wakonda in 2022

Vacation Bible School

June 27-July 1

Intermediate Camp

July 5-10

Collision Camp

July 10-17

Stay tuned for more details!

Agrace Offers Two Virtual Support Groups in March

In March, grief support specialists from Agrace are offering two **virtual** (accessible via Zoom) grief support groups for adults:

Bridges meets March 2, 16 and 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Spouse/Partner Loss Group meets Mondays, March 15 to April 19, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Pre-registration is required for all groups. For details, fees or to register, visit Agrace.org/GriefGroups or call (608) 327-7118.



Child Car Seat Inspection Program

The Janesville Fire Dept. provides child safety seat inspections to parents, grandparents, and other caregivers of Rock County. The Janesville Fire and Police department have certified child safety seat technicians who can ensure proper car seat installation. They offer car seats to WIC participants and low cost seats as needed. These services are free, but donations are accepted to support the child safety seat inspection program. Contact the JFD Car Seat Hotline 608-921-3786 for appointments, upcoming installation clinics, and car seat needs.

Focus on Funds

as of January 31, 2022

General Fund Balance	\$18,165.32
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$61,031.10
Jan. Undesignated Income	\$16,559.93
Jan. Total Income	\$16,649.36
Jan. Expenses	\$20,409.53
Denomination Giving YTD	\$ 1,080.00
Capital Campaign Fund	\$21,045.76

Capital Campaign

As of January 31, 2022





Fund Balance \$ 21,045.76

MARCH

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1	Frank & Liz Green	26	Sue Cruzan
1	Grace Nickel	26	Marian Anderson
4	Ken & Mickey Johnson	27	Ron Bennett
8	Paul Green	28	Larry Schultz
8	Warren Nickel	29	Linda Lyke
9	Pam Palmer	30	Joe Michel
16	Ryan Wright	31	Paul & Marian Anderson
21	Paul Anderson		

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 Camp Board Meeting – Camp	2 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study – In person and zoom 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision – Camp	3 !1:00 Ladies Bible Study – Library	4	5 9:00 Sabbath School – Room 6 & zoom 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship – Sanctuary and YouTube
6	7 8:00 TOPS – Library	8 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip – Sharla's	9 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study – In person and zoom 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision – Camp	10 11:00 Ladies Bible Study – Library	11	12 9:00 Sabbath School – Room 6 & zoom 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship – Sanctuary and YouTube
13 9:00 Trustee Meeting SPRING FORWARD  DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	14 8:00 TOPS – Library	15	16 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study – In person and zoom 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision – Camp Wakonda	17 11:00 Ladies Bible Study – Library	18 7:00 p.m. Worship & Healing Service—tentative	19 8:00 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 9:00 Sabbath School – Room 6 & zoom 9:00 Kids Fellowship – 10:30 Worship – Sanctuary and YouTube
20  FIRST DAY OF Spring MARCH 20	21 8:00 TOPS – Library	22	23 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study – In person and zoom 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision – Camp	24 11:00 Ladies Bible Study – Library	25 5:00 Wedding Rehearsal	26 9:00 Sabbath School – Room 6 & zoom 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship – Sanctuary and YouTube 4:00 Wedding
27	28 8:00 TOPS – Library	29	30 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's & zoom 9:30 Women's Bible Study – In person and zoom  Spring Break No Awana or Collision	31 11:00 Ladies Bible Study – Library		

Sabbath Sunset Times	
March 4 5:50 p.m.	March 5 5:51 p.m.
March 11 5:58 p.m.	March 12 5:59 p.m.
March 18 7:06 p.m.	March 19 7:08 p.m.
March 25 7:15 p.m.	March 26 7:16 p.m.



**March
2022**

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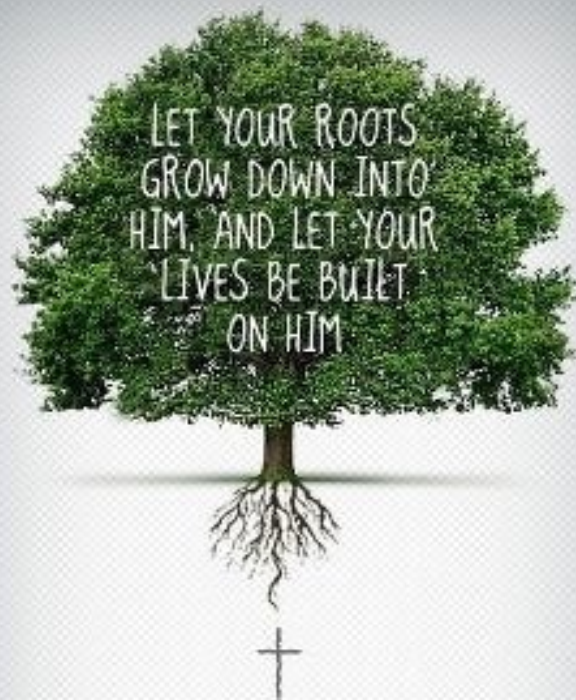
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Then your faith will grow strong
in the truth you were taught, and you
will overflow with thankfulness.

- Colossians 2:7 -



Online Worship

Our Sabbath morning worship service is available **live** on our YouTube channel.
Go to <http://TheConnecting.Church/WorshipOnline> for the link.
We are also posting links to the sermon notes on that same page.