

get connected

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



Putting Prayer into Practice

by Pastor Nate Crandall

Jesus is our life, and prayer is one of the indispensable ways that we remain connected to the wholeness of his life. May it be said of us in 2023 that our life is full of "often" getting away to spend time in prayer with him.

Individual prayer is not the only prayer habit we need to cultivate. Group times of prayer are just as important, but, unfortunately, the prayer meeting is not prioritized in the life of the modern church.

I have been leading prayer groups since I was 18 years old, and I have only rarely seen much excitement for them. My point is not to criticize but instead to offer an opportunity to change that trend.

Michelle and I will be hosting a prayer meeting every Friday night during the month of March at our house. The prayer meeting will start at 6:30 p.m., and we will be following the *7 Steps Daily* format for prayer which I shared with you earlier this year. If you haven't had much opportunity to try *7 Steps Daily*, now is your chance to be immersed in it and see how it works. If your daily discipline for prayer is not going well, being around other believers can really help jump-start your own prayer times.

Since we are followers of Jesus, let's work at putting this whole prayer thing into practice. Let's put ourselves in a place where the Lord can move on our hearts together as we seek to draw close to him. I don't know what the Lord is going to do, but I am looking forward to finding out. My hope is that our hearts are renewed with greater desire to know the Lord, to love the Lord, and to do his will.



Michelle and I really hope that you can set aside at least one Friday night and join us. Be sure to bring your fuzzy socks or your slippers since the Crandalls have just had new carpeting installed. (It's nice and comfy by the way!) Most of all, just bring an open heart. I'm confident that the Lord will do the rest.

March 2023

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MARCH

Ministry Spotlight on Koinonia Youth Ministries

by Pastor Nate Crandall

“That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.” (1 John 1:3)

Koinonia is a Greek word that means “fellowship”. I don’t know how many times I’ve heard Larry Schultz talk about how real fellowship is “in the Lord” during the many performances of Koinonia Singers, but it always gets me because of how true it is. Real fellowship is conversation about the Lord and what the Lord is doing in our lives, and that is why it is so powerful and truly life changing.

Koinonia Youth Ministries continues to introduce teens in the Rock County area and beyond to Christ and to help them grow in their faith. Koinonia Youth Group meets on Monday nights at Camp Wakonda and on Tuesday nights for Bible study. This year Koinonia Singers is doing a mini-Koinonia, and will give their presentation in several places including at Collision Student Ministries and on the first Sabbath of March during a portion of our worship service. As usual, in June Koinonia Singers will travel around Wisconsin presenting the gospel in word and song. We will be the host for their homecoming concert at the church on Sunday, June 25th.

Let me encourage you to make a special effort to pray for Koinonia as they prepare for the summer ministry coming up soon. Pray for Larry and for all of the volunteers who so willingly help to make this ministry possible. Especially pray for the students on the trip whose lives will be radically impacted by Jesus. Also pray for all those who will come to their program – that their hearts will be truly open to receive the gospel message. And finally, if you’d like to know more about what God is doing in Koinonia or are considering becoming a financial sponsor, just grab Larry. He’d love to have some koinonia with you!

March Prayer Focus – Koinonia Youth Ministry

- LORD, thank you for the decades of ministry and its ongoing impact
- Thank you for Larry Schultz’s faith and faithfulness
- Guide and empower Larry and Koinonia’s dedicated volunteer helpers
- Make the preparations for summer ministry run smoothly
- Pour out your Spirit upon the students as they prepare and participate
- Let their lives reflect the joy that comes from serving Jesus
- Let the presentations profoundly impact all who attend
- Advance your kingdom through Koinonia!



Homecoming Koinonia Concert

Sunday, June 25th, 7:00 p.m.

The Connecting Church Sanctuary

Letting the Children Lead

by Angie Mullen, Director of Children's Ministries

Let's think ahead for a moment. Like 30 years from now. The year is 2050.

Who will lead the church?

Look around on a Sabbath morning or visit us on a Wednesday night and you will see them. They are energetic, they are eager, and they have the faith of a child. These children – our children and grandchildren are the future of our Christian faith. And if we look at the trends in our culture, they will need to be fearless in 2050, strong in their faith and Biblical worldview. They will need to stand up and lead.

This is why we need to prepare them NOW to be resilient disciples of Jesus Christ. We are helping them to feel that they belong in our church family, to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and to become who God has created them to be. For some of these children, this means training

them to be the next leaders of God's beloved church. YOU are a part of that training.

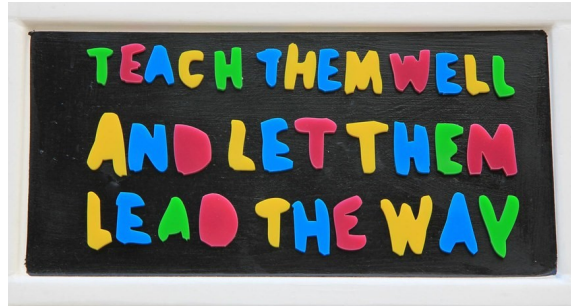
On **Sabbath, March 18,**

a group of our Awana T&Ters (3rd-6th graders) will take on the role of Worship Leader.

They are working hard to learn what true worship is – not just the times we sing together, but everything we do in our lives to bring glory to God. They are learning how corporate worship and singing praises to God is part of their daily worship. They are learning that the Bible is full of commands to sing our praise and thanksgiving to God. And they are learning how to invite you to join with them as they sing songs of praise and worship.

So thank you, in advance, for joining us for worship on March 18th. Be ready to sing as these children lead you.

They will be leading in song and in actions. We invite you to join in the actions with us, too. Just as the actions help our children make connections between the lyrics and their hearts, we hope you will be inspired to do the same. And thank you for allowing these children to lead you. *"And whoever welcomes one child like this in my name welcomes me."* Jesus said in Matthew 18:5. You are welcoming and training the leaders of 2050.



STAPLES ALWAYS NEEDED:

- Laundry Pods,
- Dish Soap, Deodorant,
- Shampoo and Conditioner,
- Ketchup, Mustard

Dylan Dodd - Update on Short Term Trip in Africa

(If you want the full email update from Dylan, contact the Church Administrator)

The plane ride (to Africa) took two days and we eventually arrived on Saturday, the 14th of January. Once we got there, we went to our home missionary base with my team of 13 which is a big house with lots of beds. After we got over the Jet lag, since South Africa is 8 hours ahead, we spent the next few days with cultural training and how to view South Africa and the world through a Kingdom of God mindset.

Moving on... Monday, Jan. 19th, we set out to begin our actual service to the community for the first time. Monday through Friday every week we go to this place called Kairos, meaning "appointed time," to

sort through clothes and prepare food for needy communities. After that we also go to a local school to help out with aftercare. We help the kids out with their homework and also play with them outside when they are done. The kids are from kindergarten to 7th grade. It's a big school of 1,300 kids. The team and I really enjoy doing this and the little kids absolutely adore us! We have built good relationships with the kids.

Looking forward... in maybe a month from now my team and I will be moving to the country of Lesotho, a small country in the middle and surrounded by the country of South Africa. We will live in host families there and serve the community there. After living in Lesotho for about maybe 6-8 weeks, we

will move to the country of Namibia where we will again live with host families and serve. At the very end we will come back to the main missionary base in South Africa before going home.

Prayer list for Dylan:

- Effectiveness in ministry with serving and relationships.
- Blessings on my relationships with my team.
- Personal growth with the Lord and maturity.
- Protection from too much home sickness. That I would make the most of my time here and be present.
- That I would be a big blessing to all here. Bearing much fruit of the Spirit.



Operation Christmas Child

On November 5, 2022, our church and the community packed 301 boxes. Our boxes went to five countries on three continents: Suriname and Guyana in South America; Jamaica in North America; Zambia and Lesotho in Africa. This month we feature Guyana:



Guyana:

Guyana is the only English-speaking country in South America.

Located on the northern coast of the continent, the country has strong ties to Caribbean nations that share their language and known for its beautiful rainforests, rice and sugarcane. Distribution of shoeboxes started there in 2000, and The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship program started in 2009.

Summer Missions Scholarships

Summer missions scholarships are available to anyone participating in a short-term missions trip, including Koinonia. Please contact the Church Administrator for more information or for a scholarship form.



Serving at GIFTS in April:

Our days to provide meals at the GIFTS Men's shelter are April 24, 25 and 27th. Watch for the sign up in the soon so you can participate by donating food for our meals or for serving the meal.

More Pictures from Dylan



At the Mission and the School





- 1 Frank & Liz Green
- 1 Grace Nickel
- 4 Ken & Mickey Johnson
- 8 Paul Green
- 8 Warren Nickel
- 8 Mark Green
- 21 Paul Anderson
- 22 Conor Green
- 26 Sue Cruzan
- 26 Marian Anderson
- 27 Ron Bennett
- 28 Larry Schultz
- 29 Linda Lyke
- 31 Paul & Marian Anderson
- 31 Aidan Green

March Bulletin Board



Camp Wakonda 2023

- Camp Discover June 26-30
- Camp Collision July 9-16
- Intermediate Camp July 16-21

March Children's Church

March 11 - Unit 15:
"What Makes People Special?"
Session 2 - Nahum Warned
of God's Judgment (Nahum)

March 25 - Unit 15:
"What Makes People Special?"
Session 3 - God's People
Were Taken Captive
(2 Chronicles 36)

Men's Chorus

will rehearse at 8:00
a.m. on Sabbath,
March 18th and sing
during worship that
day at 10:30 a.m.

Ladies Sit 'n Sip

Tuesday, March 14th
9:00 a.m. at Sharla's
Come relax with some
church friends!

March	
1	Club
8	Club
15	Club – Spring Missions Project Kick-Off Night
22	Club
29	No Club – Spring Break



March	
1	Collision
6 (Mon.)	Roller Skating with Koinonia
8	Collision
15	Collison
22	Collision – Pizza Party
29	No Collision – Spring Break








Focus on Funds

as of January 31, 2023

General Fund Balance	\$ 4,964.51
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$55,411.80
Jan. Undesignated Inc.	\$16,656.26
Jan. Total Income	\$22,777.98
Jan. Expenses	\$24,290.54
Denomination Giving YTD	\$ 235.00
Capital Campaign Fund	\$ 9,361.14

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
<div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px;"> <p>Sabbath Sunset Times</p> <p>March 3 5:48 p.m. March 4 5:49 p.m. March 10 5:57 p.m. March 11 5:58 p.m. March 17 7:05 p.m. March 18 7:06 p.m. March 24 7:13 p.m. March 25 7:14 p.m. March 31 7:21 p.m. April 1 7:22 p.m.</p> </div>			<p>1</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's</p> <p>9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom</p> <p>6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 Prayer - Nate & Michelle Crandall's</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:00 Redeeming Grace Church</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 Scouts</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's</p> <p>9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom</p> <p>6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 Prayer - Nate & Michelle Crandall's</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship & Children's Church</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:00 Redeeming Grace Church</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip - Sharla's</p> <p>7:00 Scouts</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's</p> <p>9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom</p> <p>6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp Wakonda</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>6:30 Prayer - Nate & Michelle Crandall's</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:00 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:00 Redeeming Grace Church</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>7:00 Scouts</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's</p> <p>9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom</p> <p>6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision - Camp</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 Prayer - Nate & Michelle Crandall's</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 Sabbath School 9:00 Kids Fellowship 10:30 Worship and Children's Church</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:00 Redeeming Grace Church</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00 TOPS</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>7:00 Scouts</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 Men's Bible Study - Sharla's</p> <p>9:30 Women's Bible Study - In person and on zoom</p> <p>No Awana or Collision Spring Break</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30 Prayer - Nate & Michelle Crandall's</p>	



March 2023

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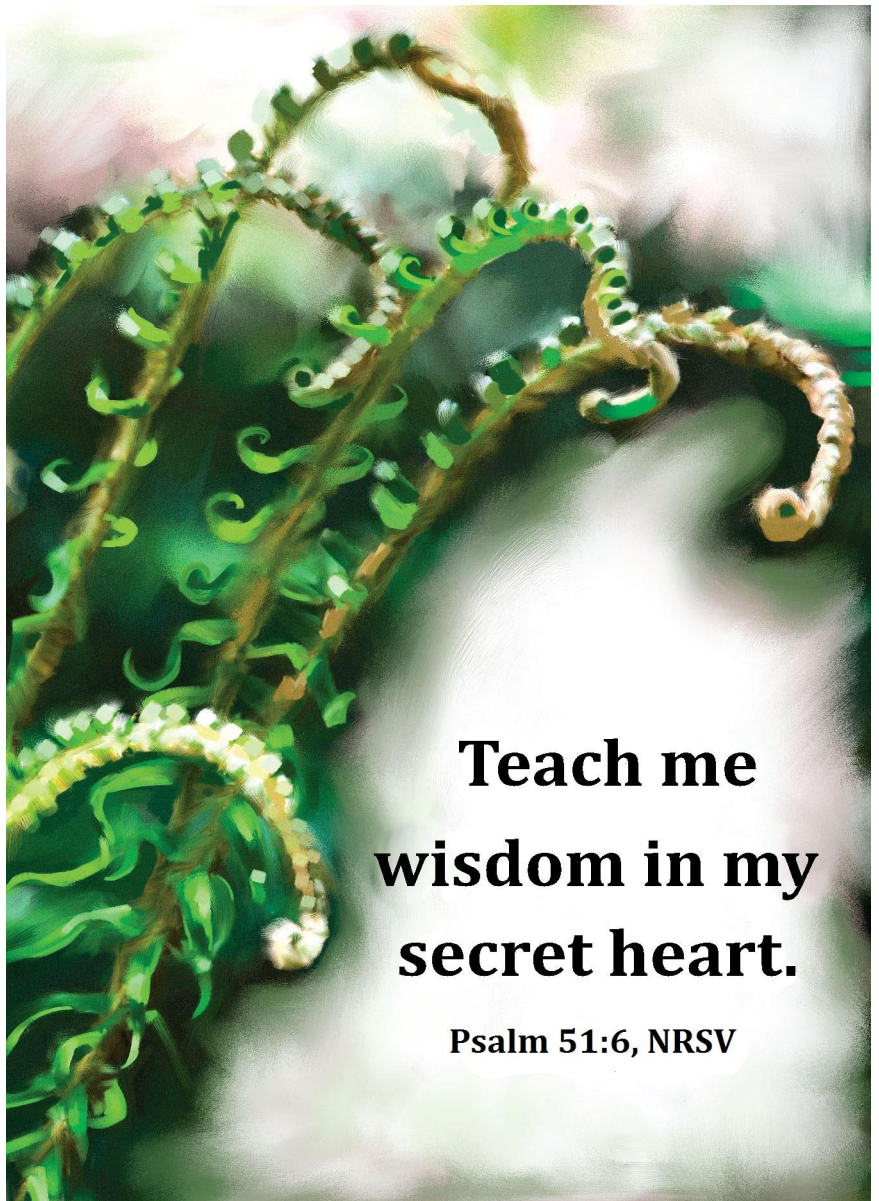
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**Teach me
wisdom in my
secret heart.**

Psalm 51:6, NRSV

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.