



FAC Family NEWS

April 2024



HEART TO HEART

Forty is a significant number; especially if you're in your late thirties. It marks "mid-life" and is a wake-up call to "count the number of our days," so that we live them to the full. In the Scriptures, forty is often associated with significant events in the life of God's people.

When the LORD determined to flood the earth in judgment for mankind's sinfulness, He caused it to rain for **forty days and nights**. **At day 40**, Noah opened a window in the ark and sent out a raven, to determine if the water had begun to recede. **At age 40**, Isaac was married to Rebekah. When Moses went up on Mount Sinai to receive God's Law, he was there for **40 days and nights**, without food or water – sustained by the LORD.

When Moses sent spies to explore the Promised Land, they took **40 days** to gather information. When the majority yielded to unbelief because of the giants they found in the land, the LORD determined they would wander in the wilderness **1 year for each of those 40 days**. But He also provided for His people in the wilderness, **supplying manna** (bread from heaven) and **supernaturally protecting their clothing** so that it did not wear out during those **40 years**. Fast forward to the New Testament. Immediately after being baptized by John in the River Jordan (and filled with the Spirit), **Jesus' spent 40 days in the wilderness** being tempted by Satan. Those days helped to form his initiation into full-time ministry.

Fast forward again, to the end of Jesus' life and earthly ministry. Christ died on the Friday, just before the Sabbath began— after celebrating the Passover with His disciples the night before. He victoriously arose from the grave, first thing Sunday morning. The Risen Christ then appeared to His disciples throughout Resurrection Sunday – to Mary Magdalene in the garden, to Peter, and to the two disciples walking along the Emmaus road. He then appeared to the Eleven (minus Thomas), as they met secretly behind closed doors that Sunday night.



The Gospel's careful recording of Jesus resurrection appearances, are vital to our faith. If Christ did not rise from the dead, Paul says, then we are still dead in our sins; our faith is useless and so is my preaching. More than that, we're guilty of lying, if God did not raise Christ from the grave. And those who have died "in Christ" are eternally lost – if Jesus is still dead and buried (1 Corinthians 15:14-19).

But Christ has indeed been resurrected back to life. He lives! Starting on Resurrection Sunday and **for the next 40 days**, Jesus appeared to His apostles in various circumstances (Acts 1:3). His purpose was to give them irrefutable proof that He had triumphed over death. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul testifies that the Risen Christ appeared to the Twelve in the Upper Room (not once, but twice) and to five hundred people at one time. Later, Jesus personally confronted Paul on the road to Damascus. **Forty days** of compelling hands-on experiences in which they saw, heard and touched the Risen Savior –forging within them rock-solid faith & fortitude, to faithfully bear witness to a hostile



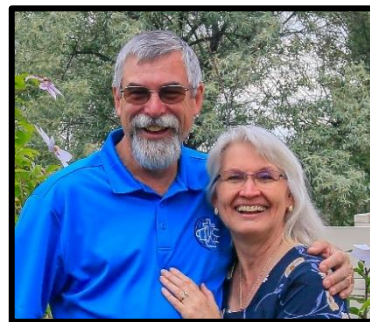
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world that Christ is risen.

Friends, it would be easy to step off the mountaintop we call Easter, and return to “life as normal.” But the Bible challenges us. The Risen Christ invites you and I to not only join Him in His death, burial and resurrection, but to boldly pray for the fullness of His Spirit, so that we might be fearless witnesses to our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ.

Would you join me, in asking God to grant us Holy Spirit boldness in testifying to Jesus? Ask God for divine appointments in people’s lives where we can introduce them to Jesus. In these next 40 days, may we work and pray for a spiritual harvest... “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” (John 15:8).



Praying with you - Pastor Adriaan & Diana <><

FAC VISION & CORE VALUES KEEP US “ON MISSION”

For those who are new to FAC – Welcome! We’ve enjoyed getting to meet you. We look forward to building a relationship with you, as we help each other grow deeper in Christ and experience the hope that He alone can offer.



Our vision is to be a church where people are **Discovering Help & Hope Together**. Picture one person **helping** another, as we work together to climb life’s mountains. The **hope** that’s found in Jesus, is like seeing the sun break thru the dark clouds.

As a church, we are committed to living out three **Core Values**: Acceptance, Growth & Service.

We ACCEPT you where you are. Regardless of where you’ve come from or what your past looks like, we’re here to help you experience Jesus’ unconditional love. Second – **we all GROW with God’s help.** So we challenge each other to take the next growth step in our walk with Jesus. Third – **we make a difference by serving others.** We are committed to sacrificially **SERVE** our neighbors with Christ’s love.



Accept



Grow



Serve



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Community Partner Of The Month – CENTRAL HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY

People from FAC have faithfully served as teacher helpers in the classrooms of CHE over the years, assisting students with their reading and math. We've also done some beautification projects, and sometimes get to help with school fundraiser activities. There's always a need for willing volunteers. Check out the Community Partner Board in the Lobby (next to the Coffee Kiosk), to learn more about how you could be part of this impactful partnership.



FAC Weekly Ministries

Tuesdays at 9:30am, a **Grief Support Group** meets at 4B's Restaurant. If you've suffered a recent loss, contact Nola Howell or Mary Venard for details on how to engage with this group.

Wednesday mornings at 10am, a **Ladies Bible Study** meets downstairs in the basement. Contact Marsha Fauque for details. Current topic: the book of Joel

Wednesday nights @ 6:30pm, we offer ministries for the whole family. **Childcare** is available for toddlers (ages 2 -4yrs) in the Nursery. Our **Explorers** ministry (children ages 5 thru 5th Gr), and **Unashamed Youth** ministry (students in Grades 6-12) all meet in the basement. We also have an **adult LIFE group** that meets upstairs in the Conference Room.

Sunday mornings @ 9am, there is an **Adult Bible Class** that meets downstairs in the Youth Room. We dig into God's Word together, seeking to understand how the Scriptures apply to our daily lives.

Sunday @ 10am, is **Connection time**. Join us for food & beverages in the gym, along with uplifting conversations. You can also purchase a specialty coffee or latte at the **Unashamed Coffee kiosk**. All proceeds support Unashamed Youth ministries.

At our 10:30am Worship Service, we offer a a staffed **Nursery** (for babies & toddlers up to 3 yrs). We also have **Children's Church** for kids ages 4 thru 4th Grade, which dismisses midway thru the service. **Please pick your child(ren) up from Children's Church or the Nursery, right after the worship service concludes.**

Adult **LIFE** groups are an important way to grow deeper in your walk with Jesus. When you gather weekly with others, you can experience Christ's **Love**, to engage in **Intercession** (prayer), build **Friendships** and **Encourage** each other.



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Contact any of the leaders listed below for current meeting times and locations:

Monday LIFE Group – Chris & Candy Tweedy 406-647-2764

Wednesday LIFE Group – Adriaan & Diana Overbeeke 307-250-0418

Thursday LIFE Group – Del Hayter 406-252-7496

Sunday Afternoon LIFE Group – Bruce & Kathy McGee 406-321-0329

Pickleball BLESSing...

Pickleball is a game that combines elements from tennis, badminton, racket ball, and maybe even volleyball. But here's all you really need to know – it's so much fun! At the same time, you get a great workout. Laughter and exercise - that's a winning combination!

The Pickleball court is open **from 9am until 5pm** (in 1 hour time slots) **on Thursdays each week**. To reserve a block of time, call or email the church office. You can even book a slot two or three weeks out. Confirm reservations before you come.

Unless you want to practice by yourself, **partner with at least one other person (or invite 3 so you can play doubles)**. Here's another thought – **do you have neighbors or co-workers who would enjoy playing Pickleball with you? Maybe they would just like to learn the game.** What a great way to build a relationship with those who are not-yet believers. **Use Pickleball to BLESS them...**

BLESS Your Neighbors

B begin with prayer

L listen with care

E eat together

S serve with love

S share your story



GIVING TO ALLIANCE MISSIONS IN 2024

Did you know that it takes **70% undesignated giving to the GCF and 30% designated giving to a specific International Worker or Project** to support each of the over 700 Alliance IWs around the world?

Here's how you can give to Alliance missions: The easiest way is to write a check to FAC, and write GCF (Great Commission Fund) or the name of a specific IW on the check memo line.

Or, you can go online to: <https://secure.cmalliance.org/give/>



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On the **Alliance Giving Page**, you will have **4 different online giving options:**

#1 - You may give an undesignated gift to the **Great Commission Fund (GCF)**. This covers the IW's compensation, travel, and basic ministry & operating budgets. Undesignated giving is crucial for the Alliance to launch new initiatives and to support our 700+ IWs as they reach the unreached.

#2 - You may give to **A Worker You Love** – this giving is applied directly to the IW that you've identified. It provides a portion of their compensation and allows the IW to direct funds toward strategic ministry needs or other projects they are doing to create access to the Gospel.

#3 - You may give directly to **A Project You Love** – this is aimed at supporting a specific project that has been approved by the Alliance leadership team where your IW serves.

#4 - You may also give to **Relief & Development (CAMA Services)** – this giving helps the most vulnerable in our world to recover from disasters, or it assists needy people in some of the world's most challenging places, to build a sustainable lifestyle.

PROJECT REIMAGINE UPDATE

Project Reimagine is the name of the Alliance National Office's capital campaign, that is focused on building a new debt-free campus in Reynoldsville, OH. As of January 2024, the first 11,000 square feet has been fully funded at \$400/square foot. There's 54,000 square feet left to go. That sounds like a lot, and it is – but remember we are one of almost 2000 Alliance churches. If each church does its part, the financial goals are doable. **So far, we have received \$2600** in giving toward Project Reimagine (ie, we "own" 8 ½ sf). **Our goal is to see every FAC giving unit contribute \$400 toward this project, by the end of 2024.**

Recent Governing Board News

The search for an Assistant Pastor for Next Generation/Worship **continues**. We would ask that you make this a prayer priority this month. We want to see God direct us to the person of His choosing. Pray with the faith of Abraham – "who believed God" and acted on his faith. In the meantime, **the Board continues to talk about and weigh the cost of what it takes to effectively reach the Next Generations of the not-yet believers**. Jesus taught that new wine only works well when it's place in new wineskins. May we be willing to "pay the price" needed, to serve younger adults and families.

Pastor Adriaan is helping the Board to explore some fresh new ways of approaching our Discipleship ministries over the summer months. Stay tuned for more info on that.



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The Board has been working with the Safety Team to update our vetting process, application forms and Safety Team Handbook. We are grateful for Bruce's leadership in this area, and all those who volunteer to serve as the FAC Safety Team.

In order to leverage the LORD's resources for maximum return, the Board has established a saving account with Orchard Alliance, that pays higher interest than we can get through our local bank. We now have just over \$20,000 in General Reserve & Life Conference funds parked in this account. We also have a \$15,234 CD of General Fund reserves with Orchard. We praise God for His kindness in providing such generous giving each month!

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR MARCH 2024

This Month's General Fund Giving: \$26,135 (93% of budget YTD)

Great Commission Fund (GCF) Giving: \$1715

CAMA (Relief & Development Work) Giving: \$565

Project Reimagine: \$1400

Benevolent Fund: \$182

Other Designated Giving: \$6525

To give online to FAC, go to www.facbillings.org and select the Connect tab, then click "GIVE"

You will be led through a series of steps to make a one-time gift or to set up repeat gifts.

When you write a check with your gift, please be sure the amount you want to give matches what you write on the second line, and that you've signed your check.

**THANKS TO EACH ONE WHO FAITHFULLY GIVES TO SUPPORT FIRST ALLIANCE CHURCH
AND OUR ALLIANCE MISSIONS!!**