



## FAC Family NEWS

February 2024



### HEART TO HEART

Are you up for the Big Game? The weeks leading up to February have been filled with plenty of NFL action NFL, as teams fought hard to advance to the Super Bowl. I know the upcoming game between the Chiefs and the 49ers isn't what many hoped for (I'm still saying the Vikings should be there), but that's who we get to watch in Super Bowl LVIII.

Last weekend, I enjoyed a quick conversation with one of our teens. He asked who I was cheering for in the conference championship games. I admitted that I liked the way Patrick was leading the Chiefs. He was all about the Detroit Lions. I let Eric know that when we get to Jersey Sunday, I will let my true colors be seen – and he might be surprised at what he sees.

In case you didn't know, the Super Bowl isn't the only football game in town...

All week long, I've been seeing pictures from another championship series on my social media feeds. The Lions and the Eagles have all been part of the playoffs. But we're not talking Philadelphia or Detroit. Because Les Elephants have also been playing, along with the Wild Dogs & Black Mambas, in football stadiums across Cote d'Ivoire. Welcome to the **the Africa Cup**. By the way, the Cote d'Ivoire champions (the Senegal Lions), 5-4 on penalty shots. A fitting nail-biter end see if they can win the Cup!



While the competition was fierce, and the athletes played with great passion for their country, what I enjoyed the most, was seeing the friendly rivalry between fans. Across Senegal, students and parents dressed in their favorite team colors, and hosted watch parties. Some of our IW's wore the colors of the Senegal Lions, while others secretly cheered for the Elephants.



I love that kind of friendly rivalry, because at the end of the day, we're still all family. As believers, we may have favorites sports teams, but we recognize that ultimately we all play for the same team – Team Jesus. In fact, we bear the mark of the Lion on our souls, and we serve the Lion of Judah (our Player-Coach who won the ultimate come-from-behind victory on the Cross). It's our privilege to not only play for Him, but to invite others to join us on His team.

If you're tracking with the 40 Days of Prayer, Week 5 focuses on the importance of Family. When we follow Jesus, He makes us part of the Church, His forever family. Last week, Steve from Communio,



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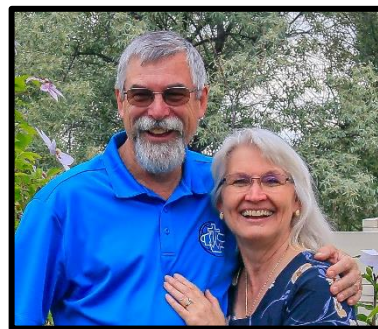
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reminded a number of us that being made in the image of God, means that we are wired by our Creator, to be relational. The Godhead – Father, Son & Holy Spirit – distinct in three Persons and yet entirely One, is all about relationships.

That revelation of the nature of God, helps us map out the game plan Jesus wants His players to follow as we reach our neighbors here in Billings and to the far reaches of the planet, with the Gospel. The key to reaching the next Generation, and especially those who claim to have no interest in “organized religion” is to build genuine, redemptive relationships.

Jesus showed us how – love God with all of who you are (heart, soul, mind and strength), and then let the overflow of that relationship pour the life-giving water of God’s love, into those around us.

Would you join Diana and I, as we ask the LORD, to fill us by His Spirit and continue to challenge us to love & serve people in this way. May we not grow weary of doing good (1 Cor.15:58), but instead lean even more into building meaningful relationships with people that God wants playing for His Team.



Go LIONS!!

Pastor Adriaan & Diana <><

### Community Partner Updates

Could you use some **CHOCOLATE** to let others know that you love them? **Valentine's Day** is fast approaching, and you can gift someone with a tasty treat.

Central Heights Elementary has an assortment of 6 different flavored chocolate bars, available for \$1 each. This is your opportunity to score some love points with a sweet gift, AND support our partner school at the same time.



Fill in the order form on the table in the lobby, and leave your money in the basket. We will place your chocolate bars in your FAC mailbox by the following week.



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**Child Bridge** - Fostering kids in this broken world, is a daunting task. But the rewards are amazing. Child Bridge is a Christian organization, dedicated to help children in the foster care system, become part of a loving home. When loving adults open their hearts and homes to these displaced children, the foster children learn what it means to be loved and part of a healthy family. There are so many ways to support this vital effort to care for the most vulnerable children.. Check out the Community Partner board in the lobby, for more information about Child Bridge.

### 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

### FAC Weekly Ministries

On **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.

A **Ladies Bible Study** focusing on the book of Daniel, meets at FAC on Wednesday mornings at 10am. Contact Marsha Fauque for details.



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On **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 5<sup>th</sup> Gr), and **Unashamed Youth** ministry (students in Grades 6-12) all meet in the basement. We also have an **adult LIFE group** meets upstairs in the Conference Room.

On **Sunday mornings @ 9am**, there is an **Adult Bible Class** that meets downstairs in the Youth Room. We dig into God's Word together, unpacking its meaning and seeking to understand how to apply the Scriptures in everyday life.

**Every Sunday at 10am**, we host a **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 the Unashamed Youth ministries.

**At the 10:30am Sunday Service**, we offer a a staffed **Nursery** (for babies & toddlers up to 3 yrs old). We also have a **Children's Church** time midway thru the service. Children ages 4 thru 4<sup>th</sup> Grade will be dismissed and to go downstairs for their church time. **Please pick your children up from the Children's Church or 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. LIFE groups are key to stepping into the abundant LIFE Jesus promises us in John 10:10.

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

### Upcoming FAC Ministry Events

**Feb 5** (every Monday for the next 10 weeks) –**Grief Share Class @ 1pm in the Conference Room upstairs**. Anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one is welcome to attend.

**Feb 8 – High Mileage Senior's Lunch @ 12 noon in the gym**

**Feb 10 – “Rise Up” – a Women's Ministry Event @ 2pm**

**Feb 11 – Jersey Sunday (wear your favorite sports team's colors)**



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**Feb 16-19 – Snowcraze Retreat for the Youth (as YAA camp in Bozeman)**

**Feb 18 – FAC Potluck Lunch right after the service – sign up to bring an entrée or dessert**

**Feb 20 – Christian Women’s Brunch in the gym. Stay tuned for details**

**Feb 23 – Family Gym Night – stay tuned...**

**Part of extending HELP & HOPE to our community, is to pour blessing into people’s lives. Do you have a BLESS story to share?** We would love to hear how you’re intentionally extending BLESSing to the people around you. Contact the church office or Pastor Adriaan with your BLESS story.

### **GIVING TO ALLIANCE MISSIONS IN 2024**

**There are 5 different ways to financially support Alliance missions. You can always write a check to FAC, and designate your gift on the memo line for the Great Commission Fund (GCF) or to a specific IW (by name). To give online, go to this link: <https://secure.cmalliance.org/give/>**

Once you arrive, you will be given at least 4 different giving options:

You may give an undesignated gift to the **Great Commission Fund (GCF)**. This covers the IW’s compensation, travel, and basic ministry & operating budgets. Generous undesignated giving is crucial for the Alliance to launch new initiatives to reach the unreached.

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 things they are doing to create access to the Gospel.

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

You may also give to **Relief & Development (CAMA Services)** – this giving is used to help the most vulnerable in our world, to recover from disasters and to assist people to build a sustainable lifestyle the world’s most challenging places.





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### **Recent Governing Board News**

We welcomed four new people to the Governing Board at our January meeting (Kelly, Tom, Janelle and Lynette). It is exciting to have a great mixture of both old and new leaders, giving leadership to our church family. Please keep our Board in prayer each month, as we prayerfully consider action steps that will grow FAC and expand the impact of the Kingdom here in Billings.

Tom Seroogy, is leading a small Financial Review team, to go over the 2023 financial records. Once the review is complete, the team will make recommendations to the Board on how to continue to strengthen our financial checks & balances.

The Board endorsed our new partnership with Communio, and we're very grateful for the good participation in the Relational Health Survey. We learned that while there is a strong foundation of healthy marriage relationships in FAC, and that 81% of our people were raised in homes that included both a father and mother. We also discovered that 10% of our surveyed families have step children. Among those who are singles, almost 60% feel left or lacking in companionship at FAC.

Pray with us, as we form a Connection Team, and begin to map out a strategy to strengthen marriages & relationships with FAC, even as we look for new ways to connect with couples, families and singles outside the walls of First Alliance in the coming months...

#### **FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT THRU JANUARY 28, 2024**

**This Month's General Fund Giving: \$ 22,872 (97% of budget YTD)**

**Great Commission Fund (GCF) Giving: \$1947**

**CAMA (Relief & Development Work) Giving: \$1015**

**Benevolent Fund: \$44**

**Other Designated Giving: \$3030**

**To give online to FAC, go to [www.facbillings.org](http://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.