



## FAC Family NEWS

January 2024



### HEART TO HEART

Beginnings & ending; open doors and gates; glancing back and looking ahead – all three of these describe what makes January so unique.

Many in our church family would describe the last year (2023) as being a rough one. We experienced so many deaths and the heartache of grief, over and over again. But we also saw new life being birthed amongst us – as 6 children and adults put their trust in the LORD, and the Reifke's welcomed their first child (shortly after moving to Idaho).



Yes, we saw people we love, moving on to other places and some to other churches. Average attendance dipped to 102 in-person on Sundays, with another 49 watching online. But we also welcomed a number of new people to FAC, and we're richer for it. Our Griefshare support group not only brought hope to hurting hearts, but the gift of new friendships. As one person put it, "I told my family I've got two sisters now that I didn't have before!" We look forward to seeing those relationships grow even deeper in 2024.

It was hard seeing Kaleb & Katlyn leave FAC early in the Fall, and watching others choose to depart at the same time. But then the LORD brought some new people into our fellowship. We began the search for a new Next Gen/Worship Pastor, as the job description was posted online. In the meantime, we have been praying hard and anticipating God's timing, to direct us to the person He has been preparing for FAC. God is going to do even MORE in '24!

One of the joys last year, was watching God supply superabundantly throughout 2023. We ended the year at 103% of budget, and broke \$300,000 in General Fund giving. We have been blessed by generous "above & beyond" giving that allowed us to pay off the construction loan with Orchard Alliance, in less than a year. On top of that, we had strong giving to Alliance missions, and sent a 5 person team to Senegal in February. I had the privilege of going back to Africa in November, to lead a prayer retreat for some Alliance IWs. It will be fun to see how God chooses to work thru His people as we plan to send another team to Senegal and visit the other IW team in Africa by year-end. There's going to be a lot MORE in '24!

Marketers are savvy people – they know now is the time to promote new diets, gym memberships and sales on exercise equipment. Well, the Scripture says that kind of training is beneficial, but training in godliness is even more crucial (1 Timothy 4:8). That is why I encourage us **sign up for the Alliance 40 Days of Prayer** (<https://40days.cmalliance.org/subscribe>). Let's determine to be people of the Word and of prayer – even MORE in '24!! The Bible testifies that "they devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching... and to prayer" – Acts 2:42.



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My theme word for 2024 is “Expectant.” I am standing on tip toes, anticipating God doing something that far exceeds our creative thinking or imagination. May we be faithful to extend Help & Hope to the people around us. May we be intentional in seeking to BLESS our neighbors. And may we do all that we can, to complete The Mission to reach the unreached, and to bring back King Jesus in our lifetime.

Let’s believe God for even MORE in ’24!

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

### 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.



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

On Wednesday nights, we offer our Explorers ministry (for children ages 5 thru 5<sup>th</sup> Gr) and our **Unashamed Youth** ministry (students in Grades 6-12). At the same time, an **adult LIFE group** meets upstairs in the Conference Room. Everything starts at **6:30pm**.

At 9am on Sundays, there is an **Adult Bible Class** that meets downstairs in the Youth Room. We will be combining our Bible study in the Scriptures, with the devotions from the Alliance 40 Days of Prayer, as we lean into the Word & prayer even MORE in '24!

**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.**

Our adult **LIFE** groups are an important way to grow deeper in your walk with Jesus. There, you will experience Christ's **Love**, to engage in **Intercession** (prayer), build **Friendships** and **Encourage** each other. This is the key for stepping into the more abundant LIFE Jesus promises (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 Events

**Jan 3 – Mid week ministries resume**

**Jan 7 – FAC Potluck Lunch right after the service – bring soup or rolls to share**

**Jan 7 thru 14 – Take the Church Relationship Health Survey as an FAC family**



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Jan 9 – Women’s prayer ministry for IWs @ 1:30pm at 221 Ave B

Jan 15 – a new GriefShare support group starts @1pm. Contact Nola Howell or Rita Lemons to sign up

Jan 16 – Christian Women’s Brunch meets at FAC @ 9am, with Lynn Sloan bringing the message

**WANTED** – someone to **oversee the FAC Lending Library**. People are free to borrow books by signing them out and then returning them in a couple weeks. We need someone to keep track of the books borrowed, and to reshelve the returned ones. **Contact Pastor Adriaan if you’re interested.**

**Part of extending HELP & HOPE to others, is to be intentional in Blessing them. Do you have a BLESS story to share?** We would love to hear how you’re continuing to BLESS the people around you.

Email your BLESS story to the church office or to Pastor Adriaan

### Community Partner Focus: Love INC

Love INC mobilizes local churches to transform lives and communities by lovingly serving people-in - need within their communities. One of the ways this is done is through Love INC’s transformational living classes. Love INC regularly offers a menu of life-changing classes for clients and community members to attend, throughout the year. **The next round of classes begins on January 8th.** Check out the poster on the bulletin board for more info. You can also scan the QR code there.

### 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/>

Through that online link, you will be given at least 4 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.

### BLESS Your Neighbors

**B** begin with prayer

**L** listen with care

**E** eat together

**S** serve with love

**S** share your story





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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.

### Governing Board News

The Board met in early December, and looked at a number of year-end financial matters. A special gift of \$500 was sent to the SHACK ministry in Greybull, WY – as a show of support for Jen Patrick, who is now the new Executive Director. The Board also approved a new copier lease, that will save us some money on monthly lease fees, starting in 2024.

Our Treasurer, Mark Eckles, reported on the establishment of a High Interest Savings Account. The Board approved moving up to \$18,000 in reserve cash funds, into this account, to maximize interest earnings in 2024. The Board reviewed the Active Members roll, and made adjustments based on Elder recommendations. Del Hayter and Sheryl Shockley were appointed to serve as the Board representatives on the 2024 Nominating Committee. Del was given the go ahead to contract with LG Electric on getting the basement fluorescent light fixtures converted to LED.

#### FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT THRU DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2023

**This Month's General Fund Giving: \$31,617 (we are at 103% of budget YTD)**

**Great Commission Fund (GCF) Giving: \$2883**

**CAMA (Relief & Development Work) Giving: \$1345**

**Benevolent Fund: \$1197**

**Other Designated Giving: \$3653**

**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.