



FAC Family NEWS

March 2024



HEART TO HEART

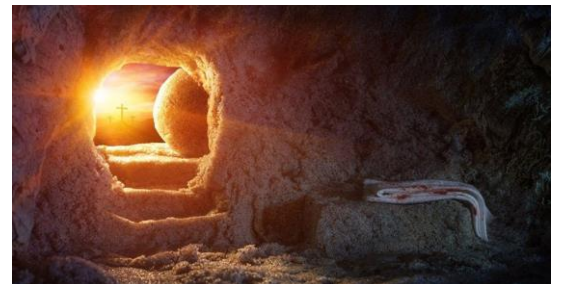
Old Man Winter sent us a little reminder this week, that he isn't finished yet. But the snow, icy roads and cold can't cancel the warmth and new life of Spring, that's just around the corner.

In the same way, death could not hold Christ in the grave, because the resurrection power of God was at work. I'm so grateful there is a season called Easter, when we are reminded that we serve a God, who can bring forth life from death, just like Winter must give way to Spring.

We have been exploring God's glorious Gospel, of how it's possible for sinners like us to be made fully acceptable to God. As the apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 1:16, gaining a right standing before God is not about our religious efforts or based on how spiritual we are. The truth is we have nothing to offer Him, beyond our brokenness and spiritual bankruptcy. That reality cements why we all desperately need a Savior.

Here's the **best news ever** to a broken, sinful world: **God does not want to hold our sins against us.** Out of a deep heart of loving compassion, He chose to put in motion a rescue plan that involves His Son and a "righteousness from heaven." Paul sums up this Gospel in Romans 4:25, where he declares that **Jesus was "handed over for our sins, and raised up for our justification."** It's all about the Cross and the Empty Tomb.

The weeks leading up to Easter are known as the season of Lent. This is a time for laying down things that distract us or keep us from fixing our eyes on Jesus. As we reflect on what Christ did for us, and see how He suffered for us on the Cross, our hearts and souls are more fully prepared to celebrate "Christ crucified" and the glorious news that we can experience "Christ in you, the hope of glory."



Our hope is not based on the story of a good man who sadly died, but on a Savior who voluntarily took our place and willingly died the death we deserve. As if that wasn't enough, He then arose from the grave thru the power of the Spirit, triumphing over death on the 3rd day, just as He promised.

We believe that God sent Jesus to save us and that He brought Christ back to life, proving beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the punishment for our sins has been paid in full, once and for all. There's nothing we need to add to what Jesus has already done – expect to receive this gift of grace by faith.

Faith is choosing to place our lives & eternal future in His nail-scarred hands, trusting that the same power which raised Jesus from the dead, will raise us up too, so that we can be with Christ forever.



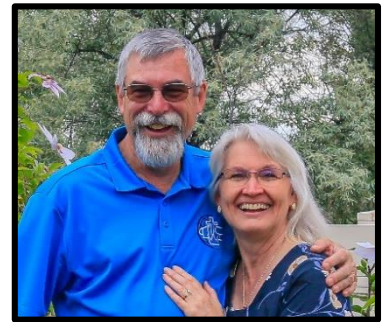
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May your heart be encouraged, and your faith strengthened, as we move toward Easter. Though our sins are many, He has erased them all and paid the price to set us free. His righteousness has graciously been credited to us, as we place our trust in the Risen Christ. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Christ triumphed on the Cross, and the tomb is proof that His sacrifice has been fully accepted.



Hallelujah!! What a Savior!! He Is RISEN!!!

Pastor Adriaan & Diana <><

Pickleball & BLESS...

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 about Pickleball – it's so much fun. At the same time, you get a great workout. Laughter and exercise - that's a winning combination!

Because this sport is so popular, it's challenging to schedule court time, and be able to play. But God has provided a Pickleball court & equipment right here at FAC.

The Pickleball court will be open **from 9am until 4pm** (in 1 hour time slots) **on Thursdays each week**. To reserve a block of time, call or email the church office, and we will sign you up. You can even book two weeks out, if things fill up. Make sure your booking is confirmed though, before showing up!

Unless you want to practice by yourself, we encourage you to **partner with one other person (or invite 3 other people)**, so you can play either singles or doubles Pickleball. **Here's a thought, looking ahead:** what a great way to **BLESS** your neighbors - **by inviting them to come and play Pickleball with you**. You can teach them the game, if they don't know it. Or you can learn more about Pickleball from them, if they already play. What a great way to build a relationship with those who are not-yet believers. **BLESS them, through Pickleball...**

As Brian & Bev, our Pickleball coaches told us, this game will make you smile! Come out and learn how to play like a kid again, and **BLESS your neighbors** along the way.



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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

Community Partner Of The Month

Hannah House is a ministry of **CLDI** that offers safe recovery housing for vulnerable women coming out of prison, homelessness and drug rehab programs, and serves as a safe haven for pregnant mothers and those women with small children who lack a stable living environment. Check out the Community Partner Board in the Lobby (next to the Coffee Kiosk), to see how you could join this impactful ministry that empowers these women to live healthy, purposeful, Christ-filled lives.



CLDI

FAC Weekly Ministries

Mondays at 1pm – we host a **Grief Share** class, for those who have lost loved ones. While the class is about halfway through its curriculum, new people are always welcome to join. If you or someone



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you know could benefit from this class, contact Nola Howell or Rita Lemons on how to participate.

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.

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

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 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.

On **Sunday mornings @ 9am**, there is an **Adult Bible Class** that meets downstairs in the Youth Room. We dig into God's Word together, while seeking to understand how to apply the Scriptures to the daily challenges of life in a broken world.

Sunday at 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 kiosk**. All proceeds support Unashamed Youth ministries.

At the 10:30am Worship Service, we offer a a staffed **Nursery** (for babies & toddlers up to 3 yrs old). 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. 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



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Upcoming FAC Ministry Events

March 9 – “Rise Up” – a Women’s Ministry Event @ 2pm

March 14 – High Mileage Senior’s Lunch @ 12 noon in the gym

March 15 – Family Gym Night @ 6:30pm - Open to all ages

March 19 - Christian Women’s Brunch in the gym. Grab a card from the Info Table for details on the event, and how to RSVP

March 29 – Good Friday Worship Service at 6:30pm

March 31 – Resurrection Brunch at 9:30am, followed by our Easter Service @ 10:30am

GIVING TO ALLIANCE MISSIONS IN 2024

If you give regularly to the Great Commission Fund, thank you for investing in God’s promise to bring blessing to the nations through His people.

Did you know that it takes **70% of undesignated giving to the GCF and 30% of designated giving to an International Worker’s Ministry Fund** to support each of the over 700 Alliance international workers around the world.

There are 5 different ways to support Alliance missions. You can always write a check to FAC, and put GCF (Great Commission Fund) or the name of a specific IW on the memo line.

To give online, go to this link: <https://secure.cmalliance.org/give/>

When you get to the **Alliance Online Giving Page**, you will be given 4 different 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.



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#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 giving is aimed at 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 is used to help the most vulnerable in our world, to recover from disasters and to assist people to build a sustainable lifestyle in some of the world's most challenging places.

DID YOU KNOW THAT IN 2023, FAC PEOPLE GAVE A RECORD AMOUNT TO ALLIANCE MISSIONS? Here's another fact: **our records show that less than half of our regular givers make monthly donations to support missions. What might happen in 2024, if we grew that number by 25%...**

Recent Governing Board News

As part of our annual "best financial practice" procedures, we arranged for an internal Financial review of the church books, by a small group of FAC folks, who are at arm's length from having anything to do with handling church funds. Our new Treasurer, Tom Seroogy, wrote a summary letter (on Feb.11/24) to the Board, noting after making a review of bank statements, board reports, check disbursements, credit card disbursements, payroll and tax records, along with weekly receipts and donations, **"we find the accounting records of the First Alliance Church to be in good order, well-kept and balanced."** The Review Committee's letter included a couple minor changes to procedures, to further strengthen what is already a good system. **Kudos to Rita Kunkel, for her faithful work as Assistant Treasurer, and the person most responsible for ensuring our church finances are handled with transparency and integrity. Thank you RITA!!**

The search for an Assistant Pastor for Next Generation/Worship continues. We are spreading the net a little wider, and praying earnestly for the LORD to direct the right person to us. Thanks for continuing to hold this important need up in prayer.

Now that we've had time to look at the Relational Health Survey results from Communio, we are moving toward the next step. **A CONNECT team is being formed**, to do some intentional long range planning of events that will help us strengthen relationships, marriages and families in our community. Stay tuned, as the team comes up with a series of strategic events that will offer training to strengthen relational skills among the next generation.



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Back in early February, as a follow-up to Phase 2, we had LED lights added to finish the basement and bring all the lighting in the building up to the same standard. The Board also approved moving ahead with installing a MESH wireless network, to improve the Wifi service for guests and our FAC family. That project is moving ahead, with a target completion date of March 31st.

You may have noticed last week that a crew came in and removed all the bushes, juniper trees and shrubs from around the building and the planters outside the front entry. This landscaping project will continue as we move into the Spring, with new shrubs, perennial flowers and ornamental grasses. We trust that this upgrade will help us create a “fresh look” for the exterior of our facility.

Project Reimagine was presented to our FAC family on February 18th, and was well received. As a Board, we want to challenge our FAC family to step up with an “above & beyond” donation toward the building of our new Alliance National Office in Ohio. We hope to see many take up the challenge of contributing at least \$400 each to fund one square foot of the new building. As of January 2024, the first 11,000 square feet has been funded. There’s 54,000 square feet left to go. That sounds like a lot, and it is – but remember that we are one of almost 2000 Alliance churches. If each part, does its part, the project will be fully funded.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT THRU FEBRUARY 26, 2024

This Month’s General Fund Giving: \$22,351 (96% of budget YTD)

Great Commission Fund (GCF) Giving: \$1746

CAMA (Relief & Development Work) Giving: \$965

Project Reimagine: \$1200

Benevolent Fund: \$371

Other Designated Giving: \$1898

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.