



FAC Family NEWS

May 2024



HEART TO HEART

May has four significant celebrations embedded in it this year. If you have Mexican roots, then you're already anticipating Cinco de Mayo (May 5th) when the Mexican people remember a historic victory over a French army, with parades, folk music and dancing. On the 12th, our country will celebrate all those who are moms and grandmothers, for their priceless investment in our families. While there is great joy associated with Mother's Day, it can also be a very painful day for those who've suffered at the hands of their mothers. Others who longed to become moms, but couldn't, wrestle with their lost dream. Mother's Day is a mixed bag of conflicted emotions in the midst of bouquets & the flowery words.



On May 27th, America will remember her men and women who've paid the ultimate price to protect our freedoms. Memorial Day weekend will be filled with festivities, picnics and BBQs, along with ceremonies honoring those who sacrificed their lives to defend our rights, preserving the pledge to provide liberty and justice for all.



But tucked in the middle of May (the 19th to be exact), is a day that only appears on church calendars. Pentecost Sunday marks 50 days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. According to Acts 1, during the first forty days, the Risen Christ appeared to His disciples at different times and places, offering them convincing proof that He had indeed risen from the dead.

Ten days before Pentecost, Jesus gave His followers some final instructions, urging them to wait for power from God to be poured out upon them. Then He ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9). For days, they cried out to God, "asking, seeking and knocking" thru persistent prayer, for God to do all He had promised. On Pentecost (the Jewish harvest festival), the Holy Spirit was suddenly poured out upon the disciples. The manifest presence of God was experienced as Jesus' Church came to life.

The church does a great job remembering the Risen Christ at Easter, but we often fail to recognize the importance of Christ's ascension. Jesus had to go, so that the Holy Spirit could come (John 16:7). It is only through the empowering of the Holy Spirit, that our Gospel witness becomes effective. We need the power of the Spirit, to finish the Great Commission.



As we anticipate Pentecost Sunday, may we pray earnestly for a further infilling of the Spirit, to empower us to do our part in taking Jesus to a lost and dying world.

Pastor Adriaan & Diana ><>



FAC Family NEWS

May 2024

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 Spotlight – LOVE & SONSHINE MINISTRIES LA VIE CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER

The shelter for homeless teenage moms, run by Love & Sonshine Ministries, is starting its 6th month of offering hope to pregnant young women & those teen moms with a young child. These women literally have nowhere to go. Love & Sonshine Ministries provides a safe haven, the chance to learn life skills in parenting, while working toward a future, in an atmosphere of Christ’s love. Check out the Community Partner Board in the lobby for how you can become part of this community partnership.

La Vie Crisis Pregnancy Center has just moved into their new, consolidated space. Starting on Mother’s Day (May 12th), we will be participating in the Baby Bottle fundraising campaign. Pick up a baby bottle, and join us in financially supporting an organization that is literally saving lives every day.



FAC Family NEWS

May 2024

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 nights @ 6:30pm, we have now moved into our summer ministry mode. An explanation of the different ministry activities can be found below. A master calendar covering the entire summer, can be found on the church lobby bulletin board. You can also find the calendar details online at www.facbilling.org

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. **Parents: 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** in action, engage in **Intercessory** prayer, build **Friendships** and **Encourage** one other.

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

SUMMER MINISTRY MODE – A DIFFERENT RHYTHM

By the end of April, spring sports ramp up, and everyone is beginning to shift into our “summer mode.” At FAC, we adjust our ministry pattern to better fit the summer rhythm..

Here are some of the ministry activities of our summer ministry mode...



FAC Family NEWS

May 2024

Thursday PICKLEBALL

The Pickleball court is open **from 9am until 5pm** (in 1 hour time slots) **on Thursdays (most weeks)**. Unless you want to just practice by yourself, **invite another person to play singles, or grab 3 friends to play doubles**. Here's another thought – **do you have neighbors or co-workers who would enjoy playing Pickleball?** What a great way to build a special relationship with not-yet believers. **BLESS them thru Pickleball...**

Dinners For 9

Once a month this summer, a number of host families will be offering you the opportunity to join other adults for a great meal. **Everyone brings a side dish, while the host family supplies the main dish**. Won't you join us, and take the time to get to know each other better, over some fine food and conversations? Stay tuned for details on how to sign up.

Grill & Chill BBQs & BLESS Nights

This summer there will be a number of **church BBQs at Gorham Park**. Our goal is to chill out together, and to share a BBQ meal, play some outdoor games, and enjoy each other's company. **You're always welcome to invite guests**. We supply the meat and the refreshments, and you bring your lawn chair & a side dish to share. Cornhole anyone??

We have also designated several Wednesdays as **BLESS Nights**. The idea is to clear the church calendar, and encourage you to stay home, so you can take time to hang out with your neighbors. Get together over ice cream, enjoy a BBQ, serve coffee and dessert, play games – the options are endless... What matters is you're investing time to be with your neighbors. Share your BLESS stories by emailing the church a couple sentences, telling what happened. Or just send us a picture with a simple caption,

Friday Family Gym Nights & Saturday Hikes

Throughout the summer, we will offer an **open Friday Family Gym night**, for kids and adults to enjoy a variety of large group games. We will also host a number of **Saturday day hikes into the nearby mountains**. RSVP the church office to tell us you're coming. **Invite your friends or neighbors to join us**. We'll see you on the trail!!

Have you discovered the BLESS Prayer app? Learn how it works, and become a beacon of light within your neighborhood, as you love them, starting with prayer...

www.theblessapp.com

BLESS Your Neighbors

B begin with prayer

L listen with care

E eat together

S serve with love

S share your story





FAC Family NEWS

May 2024

GIVING TO ALLIANCE MISSIONS

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 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 memo line.

Or, you can go to: <https://secure.cmalliance.org/give/> where you will find 4 online giving options...

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

#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 your funds toward strategic needs or ministry initiatives they are doing, in order to create greater Gospel access.

#3 - You may give directly to **A Project You Love** –this supports a specific approved project that the worker you love, has created to improve Gospel access.

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

COMING JUNE 2ND – GREAT COMMISSION DAY – Help us SEND Workers NOW...

PROJECT REIMAGINE UPDATE

Project Reimagine is the campaign fundraiser name for building a debt-free National Office campus in Reynoldsville, OH. The first 11,000 square feet has been fully funded at \$400/square foot. Now it's our turn to help fund the remainder of the project. **So far, FAC has received \$2600** toward the campaign. **In other words, 8 ½ square feet of our new National Office have FAC written on them.** **Would you join us by giving a gift of \$400 toward this project?** Your gift can be a lump sum, or several smaller gifts over a number of months. **May the LORD stir generous hearts** to step up and help create a home for the work of the US Alliance, and Alliance missions.



FAC Family NEWS

May 2024

Recent Governing Board News

The search for an Assistant Pastor for Next Generation/Worship **continues**. We have been in conversation with one person, but have nothing further to report at this time. Please keep lifting this crucial staffing position up in prayer. We want to see God direct us to the person of His choosing, in His timing. Meanwhile, **the Board continues to weigh the cost of what it takes to effectively reach the Next Generation of the not-yet believers**. Jesus taught that new wine requires new wineskins. May each of us be willing to “pay the price” by embracing some new ways of doing ministry, in order to reach & serve younger adults and families. Pray now for lives to be transformed by the Gospel.

The Board is excited at the multi-layered approach to Summer ministries, that will build stronger community within the FAC family. We also anticipate building healthy relationships with our neighbors, as we apply the BLESS principles.



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR APRIL 2024

This Month's General Fund Giving: \$25,570 (97% of budget YTD)

Great Commission Fund (GCF – Missions Giving): \$1452

CAMA (Relief & Development Work) Giving: \$785

Project Reimagine: \$0

Benevolent Fund: \$40

Other Designated Giving: \$2503

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.

To give to Project Reimagine, you can give directly online at www.reimagine.cmalliance.org/
(click GIVE) or you can write a check to FAC, noting “Project Reimagine” on the memo line.

Friendly Reminder: when you write a check to FAC, **please be sure the amount you want to give matches what you write, and that you've signed your check.**

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO GIVES TO FAC
AND FOR ALL WHO SUPPORT OUR ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS!!**