

In 2 Timothy 1, Paul greets Timothy with a kind blessing and then continues to encourage him to “fan into flame the gift of God” that he had received. As we resume our focus, in this section of the newsletter, on developing our spiritual gifts, this month we’re also taking advantage of the opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to so many that are actively “fanning into flame” their gifts and talents! What a blessing to have so many of you respond to a recent request for volunteers to help manage various responsibilities in our church family! Thank you. In essence, we want you to know that your flame is burning brightly and warming those around you!



This metaphor that Paul uses should be easy to embrace when we consider how God has gifted us to serve one another, strengthening the body of Christ to reflect His love for all mankind. Unfortunately, “fanning into flame” might include hard or boring seasons of practice and lonely work, honing a talent or gift. We’d rather fast-forward through all the learning stages, landing on “complete and accomplished.” Alas, it doesn’t usually work that way. There are stages of development that take time, practice, and patience. What joy, though, to work together, shoulder-to-shoulder, encouraging one another toward love and good deeds. May those in our midst be strengthened and encouraged; and may those who need Jesus be drawn to Him through the warmth of His presence.

If you’re among some that have responded to volunteer request but are awaiting instruction to know how to help, we want you to know that we still need you, and we’ll connect soon. Thank you for your patience as we keep passing the baton to those so capable of helping shoulder responsibilities.

Young Adult Fellowship

Young adults are invited to enjoy lunch and fellowship together most Sunday afternoons following the worship service. This month’s schedule:

- **April 1:** No YA gathering
- **April 8:** T&S Matteson are hosting the younger YAs (college students and grads), and Caleb & Rachel Miller are hosting the older YAs (college grads, YAs, and kids)
- **April 15:** All YAs are invited to Pastor Bud & Cris’ house for pizza.
- **April 22 and 29:** T&S are hosting the younger group, and PB&C are hosting the older YAs.

Please remember that all are welcome to join either gathering.

Compassion Child

On Sunday, March 25th, Erika Green presented need and opportunity for people to sponsor a child in another country through monthly giving to *Compassion*. Thirty-eight dollars a month could transform a child’s life. Very simply, we’re asking you to seek the Lord’s direction in this, and if you feel led to commit to this, please contact Erika for further information. Packets remain available in the foyer through Easter Sunday.

SWAP - Missions Trip: April 2-7

We’re asking you to pray for CRMC’s Missions Team as they travel to Harlan, KY, April 2-7. SWAP stands for Serving With Appalachian People, and that’s the plan! The team (Pastor Bud & Cris, Aaron Grosse, Bob Smith, Dan Matteson, Dennis Schmucker, Emily and Evie Silvia, Erika Green, Kara Walterhouse, Mason Neel, and Nathan Spencer) have some construction and destruction projects lined up in addition to “people care” and other needs that arise when they get there. In the absence of our usual office support, Linda Hatfield will be in the office in the morning hours, and Rachel Miller will be available in the afternoon hours, Tuesday through Friday. Hannah Matteson will manage the Prayer Chain. The SWAP Missions Team plan to share in the April 8 worship service.

Euchre Night

Join others at Caleb & Rachel Miller’s house on **Friday, April 6** at 6:30pm for an evening of Euchre fun. *Please note that the new start time is 6:30 pm to allow people time to get snacks before the games begin at 7.* Please bring a snack to share and let Millers know if you plan attend. New players are always welcome!

Directory Updates

A couple reminders . . . 1) IF you do not yet have your own directory, please contact Cris to receive yours; 2) If you haven’t filled out your red information (half) sheet to have a directory page created, we’re hoping you’ll do so. This is an extremely valuable tool for matching faces to names and keeping up-to-date contact information.

JOY Group

JOY Group will meet on **Wednesday, April 18** at noon for food and a time of fellowship. Please bring a dish to share; and come enjoy the time together!

Blood Drive

On **Wednesday, April 18**, 4-7pm, we’ve been asked to host a Blood Drive in cooperation with the Medical Foundation. Sign-up options will be available by April 8th. Your donation could save a life. Thank you!

Intercultural Update

Perhaps you recently received a card from World Partners, our denomination's hub for missions around the world, that explained the balance of ministry and resource management. They were able to share the fruit of their effort to have resident leadership in place in many countries around the world. When nationals are reaching out to their own people group, resources are extended and time is spared as we work together to share Jesus Christ with everyone everywhere. That's one reason we want to introduce a new name to you, as we provide this month's focus on international ministries. Tatyana (Tonya) is an aunt to Katya Dolgykh, hard at work in her home country (Ukraine) serving special needs adults through a camp ministry that was initiated fifteen years ago.

In 2003, Believers from five churches in the city of Kharkov began serving people with disabilities. Together, they started a camp for handicapped individuals who have, in the past, been pushed away from society. In Ukraine, people with special needs are typically kept in a room in a facility, never being allowed to go outside or experience even simple pleasures in life. However, this camp-ministry provides opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ with a group of people who desperately need to know that God loves them. He cares for them, and He holds them as dear to His heart as everyone else in the world.

Through Katya, we've learned that Tonya has significant needs. Will you please join us in praying that the Lord will meet each need as He desires? Will you please pray for Tonya, in particular, as she has serious health concerns to manage while also extending herself to others? If you'd like more information about Tonya and the work she's doing in Ukraine, we have video available and other translated communication to share. Of course, Eduard & Katya are our resident experts and can explain much more completely.

The Academy of Arts Drama Ministry Program and Emily Silvia

It's not likely that you're familiar with "The Academy of Arts" from South Carolina, but Emily Silvia recently received an invitation to apply to this academy for summertime ministry. Emily was accepted and will be in training and then participating in ministry June 2–August 6 of this year. The cost of Emily's involvement is significant, so on Saturday, May 19th, she's planning to host a concert in our church's sanctuary with refreshments being served in the gym. Tickets won't be sold, but if you'd like to support Emily's endeavor to "fan into flame" her God-given abilities, there will be opportunity to make contribution. Look for more details in the May newsletter and coming bulletins. Information about the academy is available at this web-site: theacademyofarts.org

Youth and Parents of Youth Events

World Missionary Press: Friday, April 13th, 6pm – Four or Five people are invited to sign up, and church family is invited to participate.

Parenting in a Sexually Charged World: PARENTS, THIS IS FOR YOU - Sunday, April 15th, 5:30-7:30pm at Nappanee Missionary Church (see the bulletin board for more info)

Finding God in Movies: Sunday, April 22nd, 5:30pm snack time; 6pm Movie

Nerf Night: Friday, April 27th, 6-9pm; Food will be served!

Mayhem: Saturday, May 12th, 7-11pm. **REGISTRATIONS SHOULD BE TURNED IN TO AARON GROSSE BY THE END OF APRIL.**

World Missionary Press

If you've never had the opportunity to participate in this global outreach, please consider picking a time to do so! Aaron Grosse can answer any question you might have regarding this monthly service project. If you'd like to give it a go, pick a month and pick a buddy to go with you to prepare tracks that are shared in many different languages and sent around the world.

Dates and Deadlines

Bethel's Spring Concerts

Wind Ensemble and Orchestra: April 12 at 7:30pm in Bethel's ER; \$7-adults, \$5-seniors and children

Jazz and Percussion: April 13 @ 7:30pm in Bethel's ER; same ticket prices

Choir Concert: April 20 @ 7:30pm in Bethel's ER; same ticket prices

Voices of Triumph: April 27 @ 7:30pm at Evangel Heights United Methodist Church in South Bend; donation

Children's Resale

Saturday, April 28th, 8am-noon at Cedar Rd. Missionary Church

Summer Camps at Prairie Camp

Rookie Camp: June 18-20

Junior Camp: June 11-15

Preteen Camp: June 11-15

Wilderness Camp: June 25-29

Family Camp: July 14-22

Teen Camp: July 15-21

California Road Missionary Church

April 2018

In the afternoon of Wednesday, February 28, I received a call from the Red Cross that had come to our community to lend support because of recent flooding. They were asking if they could move their shelter to our church, and I immediately said yes. I knew that our church family would welcome the opportunity to serve those in our community who had been affected by the flooding. Since some in our church family were already present for midweek classes, they stayed late that night to help get things carried in and set up for our guests. What a wonderful blessing to see God's love in action. Nobody hesitated to make necessary adjustments, and I'm very grateful for quick action when a need was made known.

I want to commend all of you for your willing attitudes, because it didn't stop with the setting up of beds and tables! There was a lot of work that needed to be done to care for a wide range of needs. There were necessary adjustments as parts of the building weren't available for our usual activities, food was prepared and shared, and so much more. This continued even after our guests found other lodging since clean-up was as important as the set-up.

We don't always have "big" opportunities like this to minister to people, but I think such occasions should serve as reminders to be ready whenever there's opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus. In fact, one of the last things that we see Jesus doing with His disciples before His death, was washing their feet. That was a servant's responsibility, but Jesus used His last fellowship opportunity to reiterate what He had been teaching them all along. "...Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. John 13:12-17

Washing feet is not really a part of our culture, but what was done for the people who were staying here because of flooding was following Jesus' example. You exhibited an attitude of service, and I'm so thankful for your kind hearts that, I believe, reflected God's own heart.

As I read from John 13, I see that Jesus promises blessing if this is how we choose to live. Unfortunately, as human nature goes, we can get a bit confused about what *blessing* means. I believe Jesus is telling us that blessing means our lives will be pleasing to our Heavenly Father. I read something this week that said that God is seeking to reproduce Himself through His children; we are to be living like Christ.

I challenge you to start each day with this as a part of your prayer time, "Lord, show me who (and how) to serve today." Then go out with your eyes wide open looking for those opportunities to live like Jesus. I heard someone say that if we can see a need, then we are probably the one who is equipped to help care for that need.

Next week we have a team of 13 people going to Harlan, Kentucky to minister through **Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP)**. This is a bit different than everyday service, because we have deliberately planned this. The other night I talked with Pete, the local coordinator for SWAP, and he told me that one of the projects we will be working on is for an elderly woman. When Pete first met her she told him that she had been praying that the Lord would send someone to help with repairing her home. We have the chance to be an answer to that prayer next week. I can see that this might be something that we will continue, so keep this in your mind if we go back next year.

Another aspect of service we may not think about is asking for help when needed. Sometimes it's difficult for us to allow others to serve us, but that might be the very thing to do as we seek to serve one another. With that in mind, please let us know if there's a way we can serve you, especially as Summer Serve quickly approaches (all of June and all of August)! This is a season when our church family intentionally goes shoulder-to-shoulder (with older ones teaching the younger ones) to serve our church family, community, and world, seeking to share the love of Christ in practical ways.

Again, thank you for your ministry. Thank you for living as Christ in our community. In His service, Pastor Bud

