



Friendship Community Church
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May 2011 Newsletter

Go out into the roads and the lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. – Jesus, Luke 14:23

This quote is taken from Jesus' parable about a banquet. In this parable, the original invitees are no longer interested in coming to the party, so God sends His servants out into the town, looking specifically for the poor, the handicapped, the blind and the lame. Even after these folks say "yes," there's still room at the party, so the servants are sent out again to compel people to come. This is how insistent the party thrower is about filling up the banquet hall. As this parable is Jesus' way of showing us how eager God is to have as many people as possible entering into heaven, we can learn a great deal about how important it is to reach out to people. Our session and I are very excited about starting up our Friendship Circles here at Friendship Community Church. By now, we hope that every member has signed up to be part of these small groups where we will grow in our love for the Lord and each other, the best parts of being a church. It is our plan to complete the small group study called "One Anothering" in the next 6-8 weeks. Then, we will present our plan for mission opportunities for every group to investigate, so that at some point during this Summer, 2011, we will all have participated in reaching out to the people around us who are in need, both physically and spiritually. Some of our ideas for mission opportunities are Habitat for Humanity, Sister Jean's Kitchen, etc. This is a terrific way for every member of FCC to serve others in the name of Christ together. So as we begin our period of study together, may you feel the excitement of growing together in Christ in learning. And as Summer approaches, get ready to reach out to those in need around us, so that they can feel the love of Christ in their lives!

Pastor Michele



BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

May 2nd
May 2nd
May 3rd
May 8th
May 17th
May 21st
May 25th
May 27th
May 30th
May 30th

Nasir Hudson
Mark Cirineo
Mark Fetterman
Cathy Goerke
Teresa Romeo
Armando Romeo
Breanne Lauricella
Thomas Goerke
Frank Wilhite
Kim Rowe



Days to Remember with Flowers

Don't forget to place your flower orders
to Celebrate Birthdays & Anniversaries
or
in memory of that special loved one!

The order form for is in the lobby on the table.

Just fill in the date you would like the flowers, your name
and address and the reason for the flowers.

The price of the flowers is \$25 and the florist will send
the bill to your home!



I am coordinating an effort to provide meals for church family members when they encounter such situations as health challenges, bereavement or the birth of a baby – when our lives feel like they are turned upside down, it is nice to know that someone is thinking about you and the burden of worrying about dinner has been lifted for a time. It is my hope to create a rotating list so that volunteers will be available to be called upon periodically when these situations arise. If you would be willing to make a dinner for a fellow church member when the need arises, please contact Laura Barr at barr94@verizon.net or call me at [856-589-2673](tel:856-589-2673) to put your name on our list. Thank you.



Announcing the 2011 Summer Vacation Bible School Program!

We're inviting children, ages 3 - 10, to be nourished with "Food for the Soul!"

Mark your calendars for August 8 - 12 from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm for a fun time of children's fellowship, crafts, music, and stories.

Teen & adult volunteers help make this program a success. Please see a CE Team member if you can help out.



Special Events

3 rd	Junior High Youth Group	06:30 PM
5 th	National Day of Prayer	
8 th	Mother's Day	
10 th	Junior High Youth Group	06:30 PM
10 th	Session	07:00 PM
14 th	ACM Graduation	
17 th	WJP Meeting in Marlton	
17 th	Junior High Youth Group	06:30 PM
18 th	Stewardship Meeting	07:00 PM
21 st	A Night In Italy Dinner	06:00 PM
24 th	Junior High Youth Group	06:30 PM
30 th	Memorial Day	
31 st	Junior High Youth Group	06:30 PM



Special THANKS to the following people who have been working especially hard at FCC:

The Worship Team, which includes Team Leader Linda Mitchell, Tamah Freni, and Glenn Fennimore for coordinating our special Lenten and Holy Week Services!!

Glenn Fennimore for fixing our office printer☺

Christy and Scott Hind for coordinating our recent Church Cleanup Day which made our entranceway look so much better!!!

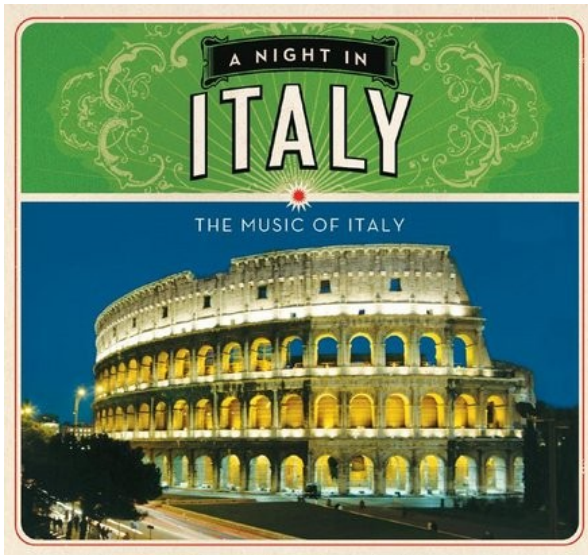
Tamah Freni who will be leaving us after Easter Sunday. We will miss you and Jay, Josh, Seth, and Brooke!

Charles Vogeley who is heading up our Greeter Ministry at FCC!!!

All of our Friendship Circle leaders who will be kicking off our small groups this month: Janice Elia, Tom Repici, Linda Mitchell, Val Miller, June Torres, Armando Romeo!

Kathy Repici for putting together our Church Potlucks! Great Fellowship time together!!

Gail Pierson for cleaning the chairs in the Sanctuary!



A Night In Italy with Live Jazz Music

**Saturday, May 21st
6:00 pm**

**Adult ticket \$10
Children ticket \$3**

We are putting the finishing touches on our fundraiser dinner "A Night In Italy". To ensure this event is successful; we need to make sure that each member in our church family participates by attending and by inviting your friends, family & neighbors.

We are still in need of volunteers for various aspects of this event. Please contact Kathy Repici at (856) 723-3610.



This is Tamah's last Newsletter article:

A very special thank you to Joan Bach, Comfort Abasa, Peggy McDaniels, Charles Vogelei, and the members of Joyful Noise children's choir for their beautiful music during Holy Week and Easter. You brought our worship to new spiritual heights!



EASTER SEASON OFFERING

Easter is celebrated by Christians for 40 days. It's the longest celebration of the entire Christian Year. It begins with Easter Sunday and ends with Ascension Thursday, which is the day we remember when Jesus ascended back into heaven.

This Easter Season we would like to collect a special offering for Friendship Community Church. This Easter Offering will be a way to offer a special gift to the Lord out of Thanksgiving for His saving work of dying and rising for us.

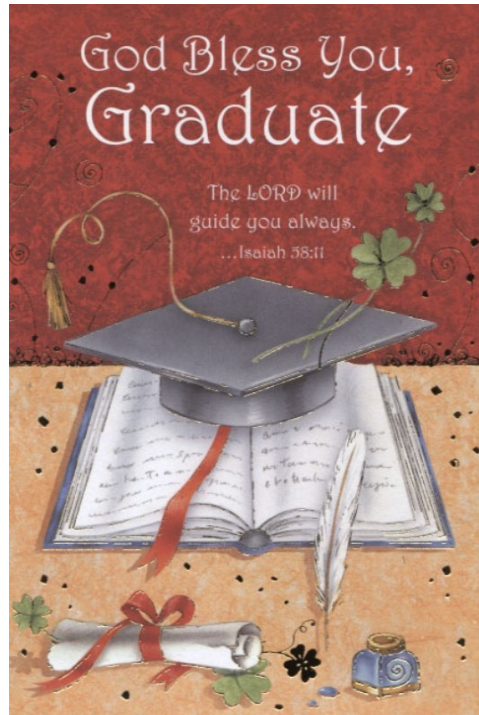
We are asking that each member of FCC set aside \$1 each day of Easter Season (\$40 total) for this special offering. On June 5th, the final Sunday of Eastertide, we will receive our special offerings during worship and acknowledge our gift with prayer.

Please consider making this special Easter Season Offering for our church. It is a concrete way to recognize together how much the saving grace of Jesus our Lord means to us.



We are starting a prayer ministry at FCC! We spend a great deal of time talking about what we should do as Christians. But we also need to spend a great deal of time in prayer, before we do anything! Prayer is an essential practice in a Christian's life. It brings us into a constant awareness of God's presence in our lives and of God's purpose for us. It helps us to be thankful, penitent, and joyful in the Lord. It also gives us the benefits of peace and calmness because we have taken time to spend with God and His loving presence.

As we start this ministry at FCC, you will be hearing about a multitude of opportunities for praying, being prayed for, and inviting others into prayer. WE are looking forward to sharing the gift of prayer with you and with our Lord Jesus Christ!



Soon we'll be saying goodbye to another school year. For some, that's a special, milestone-setting occasion – GRADUATION. At FCC, we like to honor all graduates. If you or your child is participating in any graduation ceremony this school year, please contact the church office or give the following information to a CE Team Member. It will be helpful if you write it down in advance. 1) Name of graduate. 2) Place of graduation, along with any distinctions. 3) The graduation date. 4) The future plans of the graduate. Thanks for helping us mark this special time.



Don't forget to hold our confirmands, Heather Torres and Zach Miller, in prayer as they approach the day of making their profession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and become active members of our congregation and the PC(U.S.A.). We will be celebrating their profession of faith during worship on June 12th and follow this up with our monthly potluck dinner right after worship that same day. Come and celebrate this

significant achievement with them and their families!



Considering Prayer

1. What is it exactly? Communicating with God through Jesus. There is no special formula but all prayers need to be said "In the Name of Jesus" for He is actually the intercessor for us. The Father doesn't really hear our prayers when said through any other Name.
2. Our Lord desires to commune with us. Our relationship with Him is primarily developed through prayer. If we want to have our hearts changed, become more like Him, see loved ones healed, we need to be in close touch. That would mean daily prayer time. Not so easy? Make a simple 15 minute plan for one month, then re-evaluate. (quiet place, alone) Its amazing how much you can accomplish!
3. Keeping a prayer journal is a great help. In a notebook, list all those you want to regularly pray for, e.g. children and grandchildren. Add organizations, the Church, Friendship Church, a radio ministry. Each time you hear of a prayer need, you can add it to your journal. Prayers Answered?? Mark it!
4. Make up a schedule of one special thing to pray about each day of the week. You can even continue praying for that one need through the day! i.e. our nation, the Church, the military, your neighbors, a relative or friend you want to bring to church, etc. You can write that topic at the top of your monthly calendar above the days of the week as a reminder of your topic for the day.

Christian Education

A Reformed Point of View:

Being Reformed:

“things will be all right because we can trust in God”

I encourage you to continue to engage your Christian lifestyle: give, pray, act. God calls us to be a holy people. Participation in God’s work builds our church community. Worship is important and feeds a spiritual hunger. We get to know God as God is revealed in the Bible. We serve God through serving others. Through testimony and a welcoming attitude we reach out to others.

These are the ways of a Reformed Christian.

How do you respond to God’s call?

We teach by how we live.

Melissa Bishop



Explain New Approaches Before You Start

When you decide to change your approach to a particular problem you see in your children, explain to them what you're going to do. This may sound obvious but sometimes parents get fed up with a particular problem and then surprise the child with changes.

Each parent has an action point that determines the rules of the game for both parent and child in the discipline process. If you try to change your action point without explanation, children will often feel hurt and resentful. Although you have never clarified it before, you have encouraged your children to respond the way they do. In order to change the rules, you need to sit down and explain what you're doing.

If you're now going to give a consequence right away for arguing, explain that first. If you've decided to remove video time for a child who doesn't clean up his room, tell him in advance. If you will now require a child to take a Break when he starts to get angry, explain this to him in advance. These "warning sessions" often go a long way to motivate children to change.

Imagine yourself learning a new game. You're trying to play but the other person knows the rules and takes advantage of you. How do you feel? That's how our children feel when they're trying to play the game of discipline and we keep changing the rules. Make the rules clear and be sure your child understands what you expect and what the consequences are for wrong choices.