



The Fellowship Journal

Rooted in Grace, Growing in Love

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10 Reasons for Hope in the American Church

By Chuck Lawless

1. **Many believers are committed to the authority of the Word of God.** We don't always live it out like we should, but many evangelicals in particular stand on the Bible as genuinely the Word of God. Even a remnant who believe and follow the Word can make a national and global difference.
2. **More churches are getting involved in international missions.** Convenient travel and Internet access now take us to the world more rapidly than ever; as one result, more believers are now concerned about the spiritual condition of the nations. Local churches are increasingly becoming senders – and that's a good thing.
3. **More churches are supportive of church planting in North America.** Even in our churched country, we need many more healthy, Great Commission-minded churches if we want to reach this nation. The growing interest in church planting will help us reach that goal.
4. **Many older believers are beginning to ask, "What legacy will we leave behind?"** That's not to say that *every* older believer is asking this question, but many are starting to do so. We want to leave behind churches that really reach people, so we're learning to accept (and even celebrate, sometimes) change.
5. **More young believers deeply want relationships with the older generation.** They recognize the value of multi-generational life learning, and that trend can strengthen today's American church.
6. **Many young believers are ready to go anywhere, regardless of the cost.** I've never seen a generation so committed to the nations – particularly to going to the hard places. Their faith challenges mine every day.
7. **Church-based mentorships are increasing.** We're not where we need to be yet, but some pastors are discovering the value of discipling like Jesus did even as young leaders are looking for mentors. The intersection of these trends at the local church level excites me.
8. **More leaders, both young and old, are increasingly interested in church revitalization.** I'm particularly hopeful that I see (1) longer-term pastors who feel called to invest in a church revitalization, and (2) younger leaders ready to tackle the same challenge. The best days for some dying congregations may be yet to come.
9. **More leaders are recognizing the value of team leadership.** I'm not one who argues that a plurality of elders is *the single model of church* in the Bible, but I would argue that lone ranger leadership is dangerous for both the leader and the congregation. Leaders who welcome the input of others give me optimism for the American church.
10. **Jesus told us that the gates of hell cannot prevail against His church (Matt 16:18).** I trust those words. Hope is that simple.

An Evangelistic Challenge for All Believers

By Chuck Lawless



I became a Christian at age 13. My pastor immediately told me to start praying for and sharing the good news with people I loved. I started interceding for my parents soon thereafter. In all of my travels around North America and the world since then, I asked believers to join me in prayer for them.

Thirty-six years after I became a believer, my dad turned to Christ. The change was dramatic as the gospel did its transforming work. For the last three years of his life, Dad lived out a genuine faith. The prayers of God's people all around the world made a difference.

My mom, though, has still not turned to Christ – and I'm still asking believers to join me in that prayer. As Paul prayed for the Israelites in Romans 10:1, "my heart's desire and prayer for my mom (and my other relatives who don't know Jesus) is that they be saved." I'm convinced that God is willing and ready to hear these prayers.

In fact, I wonder what might happen if thousands of believers began to pray earnestly for one another and for each other's non-believing loved ones. What might God do when people around the world pray for Him to open blinded minds of our unbelieving loved ones (2 Corinthians 4:3-4), to give us opportunity to speak (Colossians 4:3), and to grant us boldness to share the gospel (Ephesians 6:18-20)? I can envision great things happening when righteous people around the world intentionally pray and witness.

Reasons You Absolutely Must Go to Church This Weekend

By Michael Kelley

There are those Sundays when you wake up with the resurrection on your mind. These are the days that you know – you *know* – that Jesus is alive, and because He lives, everything is different. You breathe in the truth of His life and the celebration boils inside you. You are compelled to sing – to shout – with the people of God. And you walk into a worship service with the song already in your soul only needing someone to give it words.

1. **There are those Sundays:**

And then there are the other ones. The ones where the sermon didn't come easily that week. The ones when you wonder if anyone is really listening. The days when you know that you'll have more conversations about problems than about the Lord. Even for church leaders, there are those Sundays like this.

These are the days, both for the church leader and the church member alike, when you must absolutely, positively, go to church. That's because when we do the very simple act of just show up, to not take a Sunday off, we are recognizing some key truths about God, ourselves, and the church herself. And these are the deeper reasons, the ones that go beyond the fact that you have a good preacher or you like the music or all your friends will be there – these are the deeper reasons why you must take heed the words of the writer of Hebrews:

And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

2. You are forgetful

Over and over again in Scripture, you find God telling His people to “remember.” Remember the Sabbath. Remember how you provoked God in the wilderness. Remember, I am with you always. These are commands – not suggestions – and they come because we are by nature forgetful people.

But God is kind to us, and He knows even better than we do how forgetful we are of who He is and what He has done. CS Lewis knew this and once remarked, “People need to be reminded more than instructed.” More times than not when we come to Scripture or gather together with the saints, we aren’t there to learn; we are there to remember. There is, after all, nothing new under the sun, but just because it’s not new doesn’t mean it’s at the top of our minds. So regardless of how you feel this weekend, if you go to church anyway, you are recognizing your own weakness and tendency to forget and taking active measures against it.

3. To display God’s character

The church is so much more than a casual gathering; it’s a stage on which the manifold wisdom of God is on display:

This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of the Messiah, and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things. This is so God’s multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens. (Ephesians 3:8-10)

When the church gathers together, God is showing off His great wisdom in the gospel. Here, through the gospel, we along with all the rulers and authorities in the heavens bear witness to a wise God who can bring together people with every reason in the world to be divided, yet loving and serving and giving together for His kingdom. When we choose to absolutely, positively make sure we are at church, we are recognizing the cosmic nature of what happens in our midst.

4. The church needs you

The New Testament calls the church a body – the body of Christ. That metaphor is couched in the context of helping us understand that just as every part of the body is useful and essential, so we should make sure not to over-honor the more visible parts of the church.

One of the things we recognize about the nature of the church through our attendance is that we are actually a vital part of this living, breathing body. And as such, the church needs us. Of course, this assumes that we are attending church not primarily as a consumer but as a contributor. But given that, it’s paradigm shifting for us to consider that the reason we must absolutely be at church is not only because we need the church...but because the church needs us.

Total Offering to date: \$ 179,240.11

Total Special Offerings to date: \$ 17,670.10

“Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty.”

Proverbs 21:5

For the Kids of Chambersburg

“For the Kids of Chambersburg” would like to thank many of you for supporting our Popcorn Fundraiser. We hope those that purchased some thought that it was the best! “Popcorn Factory” makes mighty fine popcorn with a lot of different flavors. Money raised helped us to donate to non-profit agencies in Chambersburg that help needy children.



Upcoming events

August 26, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.—A fundraiser event will be held at the Hot Java Café, 1055 Lincoln Way East (behind *Inside Out*- in their garden.) Kids of Chambersburg will get 10% profit from all food sales, for the evening. This will be the last night for “Open Mic” at Hot Java Café for the summer 2016. Entertainment is local music (singers) from Chambersburg. General admission is \$8.00 single person or \$15.00 for a couple. Reservations should be made. Call 264-7272 and tell them the date! Come listen to good music, eat a great buffet, fellowship and help out *For the Kids of Chambersburg* raise money for kids in need.

September 12-17, 2016—We will be holding the Big Oak Café Fundraiser. Present a flyer (so get more than one) each time you make a purchase at the Big Oak Café during those dates and *For the Kids of Chambersburg* will receive 15% of your total bill. Even if it’s just a coffee or ice tea or a whole meal. What we like about this fundraiser—it’s just not for 1 day it’s for 6 days. You could go in every day if you like! Flyers will be available closer to the time- give to friends, family, and work. You can have as many flyers as you can use!

If you have a heart for Children and a little time—please join our group. We meet every 2nd Monday of the Month. The next meeting will be September 12th at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Oak Café. Normally we meet at Perkins Restaurant but because of our Big Oak Café fundraiser we will meet there.

Family Fun Night!

We had a great Family Fun night on July 19. Spaghetti was served along with Salad, Applesauce and Brownies. This event is for our church family and an outreach for the community. God blessed us with more attendees from our community friends. Our time consisted of eating and then going over to Sanctuary to sing and see a puppet show with a “Raccoon” talking with Pastor Manny about Forgiveness and then Pastor Manny did a mini sermon on Forgiveness. Afterwards we went back to Gym for crafts. We had fun making a raccoon figure on a paper clip with a magnet on the back.

Each family stayed together whether they were singing, listening, or doing crafts. It was enjoyed by all those who attended. There wasn’t any charge to attendees. It was a great time for our church members to get to know our community friends. It was a wonderful way for us to show God’s love to all. God Bless you! We will have more Family Fun Nights coming up, look for details!

Youth at Creation 2016



Council Meeting July 26, 2016

The council meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. with prayer Matt Kramer, lead the meeting.

The Agenda was approved.

The minutes from March 13, 2016 were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given verbally. We are currently below what is needed weekly in the budget. It was stated that this time of year due to summer vacations we are usually a bit low. This was discussed by Mr. Lynn Rotz and what we have paid off so far this year. We currently haven't touched our line of credit, which is a good thing. Discussion of having a fall campaign for giving was held.

Reports: (Additional information discussed by persons or teams other than their printed reports)

Pastor Manny discussed his report that was placed in all mailboxes. Attendance is normally low in the summer, he is encouraged by the local families that have been joining us for worship. He is involved in our community with Head Start, Franklin County Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee and the United Way. Many of our congregation members are involved in similar positive ways in the community, all of which reflects very well for the church. Due to his involvement in these groups he has helped members of our church and community find the help they have needed.

Youth Pastor Gary discussed the last three weeks he has spent with the youth at CREATION and the Mission Trip to Virginia Beach. He also discussed his involvement with the Community Involvement Committee, teaching for Camp Joyelle and he will be mentoring Youth at Joyelle. He has taken the Youth gleaning and they take the fruit and vegetables to the local food banks. On a personal level he continues to work on his degree in Divinity.

Deacons: Jesse Crusey discussed item 10 of his Deacon Report for the Council meeting, about the micro-loans and that the Deacons want to continue with these loans when needed.

Discipleship: Mrs. Lynn Rotz apologized for not having their report for the packets in mailboxes. The Family Fun Nights have drawn in community members and they are pleased with attendance and will have several more events in September and October. Help is needed with Sunday School and Worship times for nursery babysitting.

Property: Don Wenger very thankful for all the help they have received. There have been a few unexpected things happen which caused extra costs, which is normal in construction. Phase I will be completed in about two weeks.

Worship and Music: Ron Adams discussed the upcoming event August 5, at 7:30 p.m., Dinner and a Movie. They are inviting the community to attend. The youth have been passing out flyers to our neighbors. He is asking for people to sign-up to help.

Fellowship: Pool party next year may have to change location or venue, since the Memorial Park will be under construction. September 25, is the church picnic at Norlo Park, Ambrose Country Catering will be providing the meats and some items and attendees are to bring additional foods.

Gift's Discernment: Has possible candidates for next year and are currently in prayer for those people.

Old Business: Discussion is completed for denominations affiliation and they have chosen Converge World Wide as the fellowship which they believe will be the best choice. Mr. Lynn Rotz discussed in depth the process of getting to know Converge. Everyone will have an opportunity to have their questions answered. Possibly with information or connections on website.

New Business: A vote was held and passed unanimously to proceed with Converge World Wide as a potential affiliation for the church.

Remodeling Project for the Church



The remodeling of the front entrance, hallway, 3 offices, nursery, foyer, and the 4 restrooms on the main floor are underway.

The improvements to these areas will include new carpet, painting, removing paneling and replacing with drywall, new LED lighting and ceiling tiles, new furniture for the lobby, and new mailboxes.

Some of the costs have been estimated for this project.

1. Plumbing: \$2,000.00
2. New LED lighting in ceiling: \$10,000.00
3. New ceiling tiles: \$6,500.00
4. Paint, drywall, carpet: \$12,000.00

Our next “Fifth Sunday Remodeling Offering” will be held on Sundays, July 31 and October 30. Special remodeling envelopes will be available in your mailbox or in the back of the church pews.



The project team is asking for volunteer help with various aspects of this project. Usually there are workers at the church every day so come and join the construction crew!

Movie Night, August 5



Friday, August 5, is Movie Night! Starts at 7:30 and will end when movie is over. Food will be available; hot dogs, drinks, cookies and popcorn for the movie. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs, since it will be outside! If it rains—we bring it inside! Games will be available to play.. This is an outreach event—so invite your neighbors, grandparents bring your grandchildren and if you have a little time—help to pass out flyers to the

community and businesses. Sign-up sheet for help on movie Night is in the church lobby. Let’s pass God’s love out to everyone! Any questions please contact Lynn Rotz @ 816-1510.



L.O.T. Restock Calendar

August Squeaky Clean Days
Look-in’ Good September
October Dry Bottom Days

Dish soap, paper towels, and all-purpose cleaners
Dryer sheets and laundry detergent
Baby wipes and diapers (sizes 4 and 5)

Check out Converge World Wide

Converge World Wide: <https://www.converge.org/>

Seasoned to Serve”



AUGUST 12: Bus trip to Bird In Hand Theater in Lancaster for a Lunch Smorgasbord and a “*Magic and Wonder Show* by Brett Myers. Bus will leave church parking lot at 9:15 a.m. and return to church parking lot around 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 11: Picnic at the Pletchers, Sunday evening at 4:00 p.m. The Pletchers will provide the meal. Bring hot and cold dish to share.

OCTOBER 5: Bus trip to Leesport’s Farmers Market/Flea Market. The bus will leave the church at 7:00 AM.

Contact Reid and Linda Pletcher for information or sign-up for events: Phone 423-5288 or email: reidlnda@hotmail.com

Our Church Family

The family of Doris McLucas would like to thank everyone for their cards and expressions of sympathy following her death. Thanks to the kitchen committee who did a wonderful job of providing lunch for our family and friends following her memorial service.

August Birthdays



Sabrina Aiken
Margaret Diller
Brianna Dunn
Ruby Fyock
Louise Forsythe
Dorothy Geiman
Cruz Hassler
Jen Horst

Daulton Horst
Orlena Kuhn
Wilma LaRose
Ed Lawyer
Rodney Mason
Genevieve McNew
Nelson Myers
Isis Ott

Kira Reichard
Duane Statler
Ashley Seibert
Hunter Shover
Tanya Wells
Diane Young

August Anniversaries



Roy and Sandra Angle
Chris and Sally Appleby
Richard and Vivian Bowers

Ron and Kathy Burge
Jesse and Joann Crusey
Manny and Jan Diaz

Mevlin and Celia Fox
Don and Wendy Stahlman

Changes to Your Information

If your address, telephone number, cell phone number or email has changed please let the church office know so we can keep in touch with you. You can email Mona at brethrenfel@hotmail.com or place a note in the church mailbox. If you haven’t received a birthday card or anniversary card, please let us know the correct dates for our records.

August 2016 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:30p-Property Team Head Start preparing rooms for school year	2 8:00a-Headstart training 12:00p-CTC 12:30p-HOG Yoga	3 6:15p-Prayer Time No Youth Group 6:30p-Bible Study	4 8:30a-OSI In-service 6:30p-Discipleship	5 6:30p-Youth 7:30p-Movie Night	6 6p-Jenny Shatzer Memorial
7 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service 5-8:30p-Rain backup for Concert in the Park	8 8:00a-Headstart training	9 8:00a-Headstart training 12:30p-HOG Yoga 6:30p-Worship and Music Team	10 8:00a-Headstart training 6:15p-Prayer Time 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-Bible Study	11 7:30a-4:00p-Head Start In-Service day	12 7:30a-4:45p-Head Start In-Service day 9:30a-Bus leaves for STS Bus trip Bird In Hand Dinner Theatre	13
14 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service 5-8:30p-Rain backup for Concert in the Park	15 7:30a-4:00p-Head Start Health Fair Newsletter Articles Due	16 7:30a-4:45p-Head Start In-Service day 12:30p-HOG Yoga 6:00p-Finance Team 6:30p-Deacons 6:30p-Outreach	17 7:30a-4:45p-Head Start In-Service day 6:15p-Prayer Time 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-Bible Study	18	19	20
21 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service 5-8:30p-Rain backup for Concert in the Park	22	23 6:30p-Leadership Team (if needed only)	24 6:15p-Prayer Time 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-Bible Study	25	26	27
28 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service 5-8:30p-Rain backup for Concert in the Park	29	30 12:30p-HOG Yoga	31 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-All Church Prayer Time			

a=A.M.

p=P.M.

Pray Time is held in the Prayer Room

All Church prayer time in the Chapel

STS-Seasoned to Serve

HOG-House of Grace Yoga-in the Chapel

Rain backup for Concert in the Park held in Sanctuary

Youth on the Mission Trip to Virginia Beach 2016

