

MARCH 2022

# Potluck Dinner

# THE ECHOES



**ENGLEWOOD  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Honor • Grow • Serve

- Faith Promise Update
- *The Common Rule* Sermon Series
- April/May Adult Sunday School Electives

**P**otluck Dinner time!! In the tradition of the great church fellowship format – Potluck – this month’s articles are a random collection of thoughts and reflections from the hearts and minds of the ECC ministry staff. No cute theme. No book tie-ins. No cliches. Nothing but Jesus. Hope you enjoy!

## DEADLINES



If you would like to submit articles, events or activities for consideration for the next issue of *The Echoes*, the deadline is **Friday, March 11.**

The deadline for submitting information for the weekly e-newsletter is each **Wednesday at 5:00 pm.**

Please email all submissions to [angelah@eccjax.com](mailto:angelah@eccjax.com) with any coordinating artwork or graphics.



### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday • 8:30am - 5:00pm

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School • 9:00am

Worship Service/Children's Programming  
10:30am

### WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

6:00pm Dinner

6:30pm Prayer Gathering

7:00pm Programming for all ages

### Connect with Us Online!

[www.eccjax.com](http://www.eccjax.com)



[www.facebook.com/eccjax/](https://www.facebook.com/eccjax/)

**GET OUR APP!**



**WORSHIP**  
Every Sunday  
@ 10:30am

Scan the QR code to check in on Sunday mornings – get the bulletin, prayer list, online giving and connection card all in one place!



### Contributions

February 20, 2022

#### General Fund

Week 38 Budget..... \$398,962.00

Week 38 Totals..... \$352,227.77

#### Faith Promise

Week 51 Budget..... \$219,626.40

Week 51 Giving..... \$228,520.00

### ECC Statistics

Morning Worship	Sunday School	Wednesday Night
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Sunday, January 30

150	91	73
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Sunday, February 6

160	114	73
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Sunday, February 13

138	99	74
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Sunday, February 20

168	120	59
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Totals include estimated online attendance

### ECC Church Staff

**Pete Ramsey**, Senior Minister

**Josh Colvin**, Student Minister

**Karissa Mead**, Worship  
Ministry Director

**Serena Maerkl**, Children's Director

**Angela Hastings**, Office Manager

**Kim Owens**, Publications Director

**Mary Worth**, Bookkeeper

**Sherrie Boger**, TLC Director

## Weekly Choir Schedule

**Adult Choir** 11:30am in room 209.

Ages 14 and up are welcome to participate, and no audition is required.

Our youth and children's choirs meet as follows:

**Wee Praise** (pre-school age)

7:00pm in room 314

**JWK** (1st-5th grades)

6:00pm in room 301

**Vocal Explosion**

(middle & high school)

5:45pm in room 209

## CALENDAR MARCH 2022

<b>GriefShare</b> Mondays at 6:30pm	Sunday, March 6 <b>e-city Kids Picnic at the Park</b>	Saturday, March 19 <b>Men's Breakfast</b>
Tuesday, March 1/ Saturday, March 5 <b>CFW Circle Meetings</b>	Tuesday, March 8 <b>CFW Board Meeting</b>	Friday, March 25 <b>Young Adults' Putt Putt Night</b>
Saturday, March 5 <b>Men's Outing at NFCC</b>	Sunday, March 13 <b>ESM – Youth Group Hangout</b>	Saturday, March 26 <b>Family Trivia Night</b>

**ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

# Meeting Expectations



by Josh Colvin, Student Minister

Expectations. We all have them, and we have all had them met or not lived up to. My senior year of college, our class took a trip to Israel to visit the Holy Land. We traveled to numerous places while we were there, including the Garden Tomb, Masada, Mount of Beatitudes, and many other places. I didn't really have many expectations when it came to visiting Israel. I did have high expectations for two places though, the first being the Dead Sea. From studying about the Dead Sea in school, all I wanted to do was see if it was really possible to float without trying. Sure enough, floating was all I did. Even trying to go under water was nearly impossible. The Dead Sea definitely lived up to my expectations.

The second place I had expectations for was Jericho. Whenever we would visit a new place, someone on the trip would give a devotion before we ever toured the location. A good friend of mine read Matthew 5 on the Mount of Beatitudes. They were able to speak the exact words of Jesus the same place Jesus stood. Someone else did a devotion on a boat right in the middle of the Sea of Galilee. My wife gave a devotion on Mount Carmel about Elijah and the prophets of Baal. It was so surreal hearing Scripture from the exact places they were originally spoken. For me Jericho was supposed to be that place. My name is Joshua, and I would be able to see and stand where the walls fell and read the words of Joshua. When we got to Jericho, we only spent about five minutes, and it was all on the bus. Also, Jericho was just a mound of dirt with nothing else around it. I had extremely high expectations going to Jericho and those expectations weren't met.

Have you ever had unmet expectations? When you're really excited about something and it just doesn't deliver? Things like, the Super Bowl and/or the Halftime Show and commercials not being great, or that movie you were really looking forward to turning out to be a dud.

Have you ever felt unmet expectations in your relationship with God? If you've had unmet expectations, then you are not alone. If you've had unmet expectations when it comes to faith, then I think it's safe to say you're not alone in that either. We've all prayed for God to do something in our lives and those prayers either weren't answered or they weren't answered the way we thought they should be. We have high expectations for God, but the truth is, God doesn't live up to our expectations because more times than not He exceeds our expectations without us even realizing it. Often times, we keep God in a box. We try and humanize God, but God, out of His love for us, goes above and beyond these thoughts and expectations we have of Him.

Sometimes we try to understand every aspect of God, but we can't and that's the way it should be. If we were able to understand everything about God, then this would prove God isn't sovereign. He is our Creator, and the Creator is greater than the creation, which is us. Isaiah 55:8-9 says God's ways and thoughts are not ours.

His thoughts and ways are higher than our thoughts and ways.

We should try as hard as we can not to humanize God and put Him in a box. He wants to reveal His greatness to us in ways which, according to Ephesians 3, are immeasurably more than we could ever imagine. God will never meet our expectations because His love for us crushes those expectations we have set in place for Him. This is the way it should be. This should bring joy in our walk with Him.

On the flip side of that are God's expectations for us. This is pretty easy and straightforward. He expects us to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. He expects us to give our lives to Him, and because of doing this, grow closer to Christ and become more like Christ.

God exceeds and smashes our expectations and all He asks in return is trusting obedience. Are you living up to the expectations God has set before you?





# Like a Child

by Angela Hastings, Office Manager

Pete said we didn't have to write about an actual food item one would bring to a potluck, but I'd like to take a moment to recognize Macaroni and Cheese. Our family grew up eating Kraft. You know, the blue box. As I've matured, so have my taste buds. While I'll still eat this childhood staple, I've branched out over the years. In my post college years, I preferred Velveeta Shells and Cheese. In fact, I had it shipped to me when I lived in Romania, along with other impossible-to-find American treats, like Jif Peanut Butter. More recently, my personal favorite is Smokehouse Mac-n-Cheese from Smokey Bones (which I have to travel to Orlando to get) – Smoked Gouda, Cheddar Jack, Cavatappi pasta, breadcrumb topping, parsley, topped with pulled pork, onion tanglers and BBQ Sauce. Are you drooling yet? If mac-n-cheese is a kids' food, then put me at the kids' table.

We put so much emphasis on growing up and moving away from the kids' table, and of course, we should. We're supposed to grow up in Christ and mature in our relationship with Him and start acting like we are part of the family. However, we are also encouraged to come to Him like children. In fact, Jesus tells His disciples in Matthew 18:3, "...unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

So, what does it look like to come to Him like little children? I'm glad you asked.

## In Relationship

First and foremost, children go to their parents because of their relationship. Whether by birth or adoption, there is a legally and relationally binding connection between children and their parents. If Josh's kids are here in the office and they need something, they're going to go to Josh, not to Pete. They're going to connect to their dad because he is the one with whom they have a relationship. In the same way, since we've been adopted into the family of God, we can go to Him because He is our Father.

## In Dependence

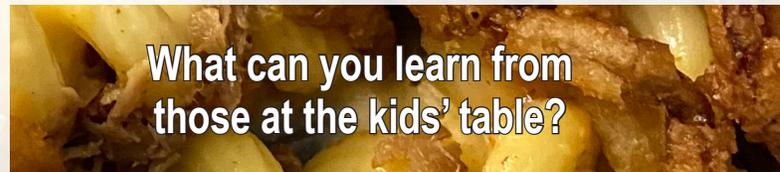
Whether they want to be or not, little children are dependent upon their caregivers. They do not have the skills to care for themselves. No matter how many times they cry, "I do it," sometimes they just can't. I recently read the following in my devotions about the disciples: "They recognized they did not have the resources in themselves to do what they were called

to do; instead, they had to rely on the power of the Spirit." The same is true of us. We do not have the resources within ourselves to do the work of the Kingdom. We need to be dependent upon God.

## With Persistence

Have you ever been on the phone with your child repeatedly trying to get your attention, "Mom? Mom? Mom?" or "Dad? Dad?" Or have you ever had to tell your child or teenager, "I heard you the first time (or the first three times); you don't need to ask again." If kids are anything, they are persistent. Whether they want you to look at their block creation, help with homework or borrow the keys on Friday night, they tend to keep asking until they know they have your attention and they know you're going to do something about what they're asking. We can learn something about that kind of persistence.

Regarding prayer, Jesus told his disciples to be persistent. In Matthew 7:7, He says, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Luke 11 and Luke 18 also refer to this idea of praying with persistence, which is referred to as impudence, shameless immodesty or shameless audacity. Seems a little obnoxious or disrespectful, doesn't it? This is how we should pray?



Sometimes I just want to give up in prayer. It gets exhausting praying about the same things and not seeing answers. Anyone else? But we need to be determined to be persistent in prayer. We need to keep on asking, seeking and knocking. We need to trust our Father has a good plan and is working it out. We need to pray with audacity and perseverance.

What can you learn from those at the kids' table? What aspect of becoming like a little child do you need to practice? Maybe it's recognizing your place in the family and your position in the Kingdom – an adopted child of God with full access to all His promises. Maybe it's humble dependence upon the Spirit. Or maybe it's shameless audacity in prayer. Pull up a seat – you know, one low to the ground that puts you eye level with the kids. Enjoy the mac and cheese. Become like a little child.

# Love Is Blind



by Serena Maerkl, Children's Director

The human brain is an amazing thing. Whether you're aware of it happening or not, it's constantly working to sort through an endless stream of information. As a way to cope, it installs "filters" to help you organize it all. Some of these filters are ones we're born with, and others develop as we experience life. While some of these are necessary to keep us sane and functioning (like helping us block out distractions when we're writing *The Echoes*), others can end up blinding us completely. I'm talking about those snap judgements we make about ourselves and the people around us. Psychologists have been studying these biases since practically the beginning of the profession. If you're seen as attractive, people tend to think you're successful, people with certain accents might not be considered all that intelligent, and the overweight, well, they're seen as pretty darn lazy. While we all know these things aren't really true, there are lots of conclusions we jump to without even thinking about it. Maybe you've even caught yourself judging your own self-worth in a similar way. So how do we overcome something we aren't even aware we're doing in the first place?

In the Old Testament, they didn't try to hold back on these judgments. If something was wrong with you, like leprosy for example, it was probably your fault. If your life was kind of terrible, then God was punishing you; no sympathy need be given. Then to add insult to injury, they were going to mark you somehow, so everyone would know to stay away from you. There were many ways those Old Testament people used to identify and subsequently separate the "unclean" from the "holy folks," like how they cut their hair, where they lived, and even the clothes they would wear. It's one of the reasons the people in Jesus' times were so confused by His actions. He spent a whole lot of time mingling with the undesirables, and that went against every cultural practice they had. We see this in the story of the blind man, Bartimaeus, in Mark 10:46-52. No one considered Bartimaeus to be a person of value. We don't get much of his backstory, but we know he was a beggar, and he couldn't see (therefore he didn't have a job and all the benefits a steady income would bring). His blindness meant he was overlooked each day as he sat on his cloak to collect coins or under it when he needed shelter. His most likely dirty and worn cloak would have been an immediate way for people to identify his status. When Jesus came near, Bartimaeus cried out for



help, and was instantly shushed by the crowd. They didn't even think him worthy enough to speak in Jesus' presence. But Jesus didn't cast him aside. He looked beyond Bartimaeus' outwardly appearance and saw the strength of his faith. It was his faith that led to the miracle of regaining his sight.

All of us have something to offer, even when we feel blinded by things which might convince us otherwise. One of my favorite story books is *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat* by Simms Tabak. At the beginning of the story, Joseph has this beloved coat which gets worn and tattered. As the story progresses, he turns his old and frayed coat into a smaller jacket, a vest, then a scarf, a necktie, and a handkerchief. Finally when he's left with the smallest of pieces, he makes a button. If you're familiar with the story, you know he then loses the button, which you'd think would be the end of the book since there's nothing left of his coat. Only he doesn't do that. The book finally ends with him deciding to write a book about the whole experience. Joseph continued to see his coat had more to offer despite its continuing depletion. It's a great reminder on the days we feel about as useful as a worn-out old coat, Jesus sees us as something more. Our worth should never be hidden behind a cloak of doubt and judgment. It deserves to be cast aside, so we can fully embrace our true identities in Christ.



# Looks That Never Deceive

by Karissa Mead, Worship Ministry Director

My husband and I LOVE breakfast. It's our favorite category of food to eat, probably because of each ingredient's versatility and variety. I mean, think about the endless applications of sausage and eggs, bacon and eggs, waffles or pancakes...and don't get me started on the many, many forms potatoes can take. On top of that, many of these ingredients have the potential to take your taste buds to every corner of the world if you add just the right spices. Last month, Chris and I had the opportunity to check out a new breakfast place. We did a quick get-away to Hilton Head Island. I hadn't been there since I was a kid, so I didn't remember what all was good there. We did a quick search and found the highest-rated breakfast place in town: Skillet Café.

If I had to decide if I'd visit Skillet Café again based solely on the first thirty minutes of our visit, I'd say *absolutely not*. Now, the greeting we got from the host table was fabulous, but the good things stopped there for a while. Our waitress was in some kind of mood, the tables were small, and the booth benches didn't have cushions, so they were very uncomfortable. On first glance, the food was extremely lackluster. It had no appearance of seasoning or flavor; not appealing to the eye at all. But as soon as I took a bite of the food, I was hit with a contradiction: I had never in my life seen food look so bland but taste so delicious. I was pleasantly surprised, but also really confused. I'd experienced the opposite, for sure: food that had incredible presentation but its presentation over-delivered expectations of good flavor. However, this food had *terrible* presentation, and somehow still had amazing flavor.

This experience got me thinking about first impressions; how do we present ourselves as a church body? If somebody were to walk into our church building, would they get a great first impression but a bad long-term experience? Or, would

they get a bland first impression which misinformed how beneficial our church could be if only they'd stay for a while?

Same goes on presenting ourselves as individuals of the church body, right? When we interact with people who don't know the name of Jesus, are we being intentional in our speech and in our behavior?

First impressions are important, especially for a church... and especially for a Christian. We're often some of the most judged and judgmental people in our culture. We're walking contradictions: sinful people trying to serve a perfect God.



That means we're going to mess up, and we're absolutely going to have days where we don't make a good first impression. But like all habits, putting Scripture into practice takes repetition and trial and error. One of my favorite passages lately has been from Colossians 4. "*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful...Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders: make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*"

– Colossians 4:2, 5-6

In this passage Paul is concerned with the heart *and* with the appearances we make in our encounters with others. Our hearts are devoted to prayer and thankfulness, leaning in the way of wisdom; and our outward faith is evident by grace and intentionality in our conversations. All this for the purpose of interacting with outsiders! Our conversations are sometimes the best impression we can leave on someone. And when we make the most of every opportunity, season our words with intentionality and grace, and answer carefully with wisdom, we are on our way to making our first impressions the first steps for another heart won to Christ.

# Dog Food, Falling Crumbs and Great Faith



by Pete Ramsey, Senior Minister

Just about every other week, our two dogs go through a twenty pound bag of dog food. Nothing fancy. Just your average run of the mill dog kibble. They were always satisfied with it and always excited to eat. Until recently.

A few months back, one of our dogs (both are Carolina dogs), Foxy, seemed not as hungry as usual. She was having trouble eating and when she did, you could tell it was not sitting well with her. Long story short, she had developed a pretty severe liver infection, and we had to take some emergency actions with her to restore her to good health. Now, ultimately, this will likely be the cause of her death, but for now, the good news is she's doing great, eating well and acting like the Foxy we all know and love.

But there is one thing different. In order to get her to eat more during her recovery time, we added some wet dog food to her kibble mix (don't worry, we did the same to our other dog, Zoey, too). It wasn't too much – maybe two ounces for Foxy and one for Zoey (let's just say she could use a little less food in her life), but needless to say, our approval ratings around meal time went through the roof. For example, every morning, the routine is to let the dogs out, then while they are outside, get them breakfast, and then when they come back inside, they will eat. Well, previously, when the menu was limited to dry kibble, it was a 50/50 chance they would eat immediately or let it sit for a while and then snack on it throughout the day. But once we added in the flavorful wet dog food – buckle up buttercup and hold on tight – each morning turned into a stampede when I would let them back in the house. Breakfast was served, and they were not going to miss it!

Not only do they immediately eat their breakfast, but Foxy is quite adamant about licking both her and Zoey's bowls profusely in order to get every bit, morsel and crumb of food in, on, near or below the food bowls. They love meal time now! In fact, I think they know how to tell time because every day late in the afternoon, they start gathering in the living room and begin the daily ritual of staring us down for last sixty minutes and final countdown until dinner.

It has even expanded well beyond the meal routines. They are both much more fully engaged in just about any activity that goes on in the kitchen because they know that's where the food comes from and that's also where the crumbs can potentially come cascading down to the floor like literal manna from heaven!

Dog food. Floor crumbs. Stuff I wouldn't consider eating even if my life depended on it. As a youth pastor, I've eaten my fair share of disgusting and gross food items, but dog food has never been on that list and hopefully never will be. But my dogs, they love it. They live for it. Almost as if their life depended on it, which, in a sense, it does.

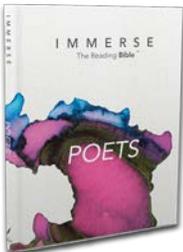
In Matthew 15 is a story of a Canaanite woman approaching Jesus and asking Him to heal her daughter. The disciples wanted Him to send her away, but Jesus engaged in a conversation with her. She wanted healing, but Jesus' first response was that His message was for the Jews first (the lost sheep of Israel) and it should not be wasted on the dogs (Gentiles). (Now, clearly, Jesus was using this as an opportunity to teach a lesson to His disciples. His entire life revolved around loving others, so this response makes no sense with the rest of his life otherwise.) She responds to Him by saying, "Yes, Lord... but even the dogs eat the crumbs



that fall from their masters' table" (Matthew 15:27). His response was to commend her great faith, and He healed her daughter at that very moment.

There is a valuable lesson about two things from this story I want to relate to you today. The first is to understand the importance of hungering for the Lord. In this instance, the woman didn't need the prime portions of the meal in order to have her needs met. She knew she only needed the crumbs, and all she hoped for would be achieved and accomplished. She had a hunger for righteousness, even if it was only a crumb. We should have that same hunger, too. The second lesson is persistence in our faith. In this account, the woman didn't give up after first being rebuffed by the apostles and even initially by Jesus (although designed to prove a point). Her faith – wait, Jesus described it as a GREAT FAITH – made her be persistent in seeking to have her needs met. She was resilient and persistent. She did not stop asking, and the Lord blessed her for that.

My dogs clamor after every crumb which drops on the floor and examine their bowls for every bit of food they can find. They can't wait until their next meal. How do you respond when thinking of your next meal? Wait, let me clarify – I'm not talking about porkchops and applesauce, I'm talking about your time with the Savior when He is able to provide nourishment for your soul. Do you come with much hunger, anticipating being fed? Do you search for any crumb which may fall from the table? How hungry are you for the Word? Hungry enough to eat the crumbs off the table? If so, then you may have great faith.



**IMMERSE:**  
**POETS**

**WEEK 5 (2/28)**  
Day 21 pp. 181-184  
Day 22 pp. 184-187  
Day 23 pp. 187-190  
Day 24 pp. 190-194  
Day 25 pp. 78-80

**WEEK 6 (3/7)**  
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Day 27 pp. 83-87  
Day 28 pp. 87-92  
Day 29 pp. 92-95  
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**WEEK 7 (3/14)**  
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Day 32 pp. 198-202  
Day 33 pp. 202-206  
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Day 35 pp. 211-214

**WEEK 8 (3/21)**  
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**WEEK 9 (3/28)**  
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Day 42 pp. 237-240  
Day 43 pp. 241-243  
Day 44 pp. 243-246  
Day 45 pp. 246-250

# IMMERSE

The Bible Reading Experience™

*He who laughs last,  
laughs loudest.*

*It's not what you know,  
it's who you know.*

*Actions speak louder  
than words.*

*Absence makes the  
heart grow fonder.*

These are just a few examples of some modern proverbs you may hear in some of your every day conversations. As meaningful as these may be at certain times, they have no real long-term value or eternal worth. They are just truth axioms we use to make general observations about recent events. Most of the time, we use them or hear them with the intent to get a good laugh or smirk out of the listener.

During the month of March, we'll spend time in the biblical book of Proverbs. Now, these proverbs do have meaning and value – some relating to our relationship with God and some with our relationship to fellow man. But all of them will add value to our relationship with our Father in heaven. Enjoy your journey through the book of Proverbs this month.

# MISSION SPOTLIGHT



**John Bliffen**  
Mid-South  
Hispanic Ministry

John Bliffen has been supported through our Faith Promise giving for many years here at Englewood Christian Church. He has planted

Hispanic churches in South Florida, Spain and now in the Hispanic communities surrounding the Little Rock, Arkansas and Memphis, Tennessee areas. He also teaches (in Spanish) at Mid-South Christian College helping to train up Kingdomworkers to invest in the Hispanic communities and cultures. Here is an excerpt from his latest update relating to one of the church plants in Little Rock:

*"The work in Little Rock with Comunidad Cristiana continues to go very well! The church began meeting on Sundays in January last year, and had their official grand opening in April. They have had attendances as high as 70, and their average is 45. They had one baptism last year, and they have a solid core group of committed families. David and Jhuliana Mejia have developed a fine worship team, a children's ministry and a great outreach through Facebook ads, Google, and live streaming. Please pray for more new people to come this year as they plan more community outreaches soon."*

Along with this work, John has been a regular resource for our leadership in our search for a multicultural minister. Please continue to pray for John and the work he is doing in the Hispanic community.



## Faith Promise Update

Our 2022 Faith Promise Missions Conference has come and gone, but the impacts will be felt for all eternity. We had leadership commitments on January 23, congregational commitments on January 30 and several other commitments came in over the next two weeks. When everything was added up, the total commitments for the 2022-2023 Faith Promise year were **\$194,157.00**. At the time of this writing, the mission team was preparing for their annual budget planning meeting in which decisions are made regarding mission partners, support and special projects. Watch for more details relating to this information in the weekly e-newsletter.

# Adult Sunday School Plans for April/May

Our next cycle of Sunday morning classes begins Sunday, April 3. Classes will be considered full after 25 pre-registrations. Read the full descriptions and sign up through the e-newsletter or the registration table beginning March 4th.

## **Crazy Love**

**Facilitators: Chris & Sarah Krzaczkowski**

It's crazy. The God of the universe - the Creator of nitrogen and pine needles - loves you with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love.

And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs, and try not to cuss. God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan will stir your hearts toward deepening your love for God. The accompanying book is not required, but highly recommended.



## **Life Changing Prayer**

**Facilitator: Pete Ramsey**

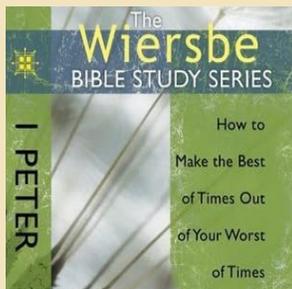
Prayer has the power to transform your life. Join us in a study with input from Pastor Jim Cymbala (Brooklyn Tabernacle) as we examine the promises of God relating to prayer, the steps we need to take in order to develop our prayer life and the blessings we will receive through the development of these habits.



## **1 Peter: Be Hopeful**

**Facilitator: Chris Kellar**

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the ultimate message of hope, one that wipes away our past, emboldens our present, and affirms our future. And perhaps no believer has better understood and appreciated this hope than the apostle Peter. In this letter to churches suffering persecution, Peter provides an encouraging message of a hope that has inspired and encouraged generations of believers.

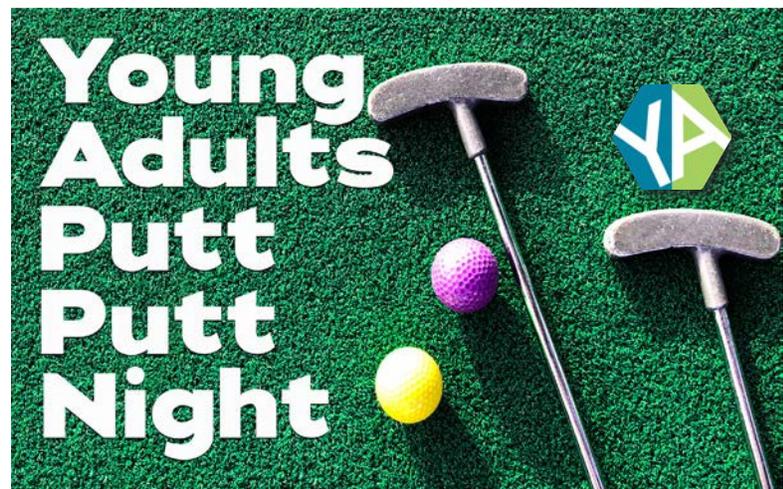
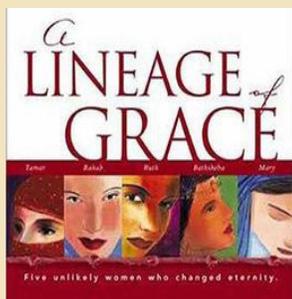


## **Lineage of Grace (LADIES ONLY)**

**Facilitator: Heather Ramsey**

The Bible is filled with inspiring stories of unlikely candidates God chose to change eternity. Some of them happen to be women—women in the family tree of Jesus Christ: Tamar. Rahab. Ruth. Bathsheba. Mary.

Despite their challenges and mistakes, God used them to bring forth the Christ, the Savior of the world. (NOTE: The accompanying book *Lineage of Grace* by Francine Rivers is not required, but is recommended.)



**Friday, March 25 at 6:30, meet at the Batt Family Fun Center. Sign up online. Cost is \$5!**



**Prime Timers' Clay County Strawberry Festival Trip  
Saturday, March 5 \* \$6 admission  
Sign up online or  
contact Bill or Bev Arnold**

**We will be leaving from the church at 9:00am. Admission paid at the event.**

## MEN'S OUTING

We will be leaving the church around 8:45am on Saturday, March 5th to head to North Florida Christian Camp to shoot guns as well as do other "manly" things. The price is ONLY \$25, which includes lunch. We will leave camp at 2:00pm. If you have your own firearm and ammo, please feel free to bring it with you. See Josh for more details. Sign up online ASAP!

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Bring some friends and your appetite. Mark your calendar to attend the Men's breakfast every 3rd Saturday of the month. This month, breakfast will be on **Saturday, March 19th @ 9:00am** in the Fellowship Hall followed by prayer and a short devo. Make plans to enjoy breakfast. Sign up online!

## TRIVIA NIGHT

Food, friends, and trivia go hand in hand. For a night full of competitive fun, make plans to come to the ECC Trivia Night on **Saturday, March 26th at 6:00pm** in The Warehouse. It's for the entire church family! Snacks and drinks will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Each team signed up has the opportunity to win a **SPECIAL PRIZE**. Sign your team up today (no more than 5 on a team, ages 13 and older are counted as players).

## YOUTH GROUP NIGHT

Middle School & High School  
**Sunday, March 13th**  
 1:00 - 5:00pm  
 Skate Station Funworks  
 Mandarin  
 \$12 per person • Sign up online

## Come Join Us!

Kids of all ages are invited to join us for a **Picnic and Playdate on Sunday, March 6 at 12:30pm at Drew Park** (next to Southside MS on Barnes Rd). Bring your lunch or sign up online by **March 2**, and we will provide lunch (\$5 per person for Chick-fil-A nuggets, chips, fruit and a drink). See Serena for more details. We hope you'll come out to play!

## Make Waves

Vacation Bible School  
**June 12-16, 2022**  
 3yr-5th Grade

"Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." John 7:38

This year's VBS will give our kids the chance to dive right into making waves of change in the world around them. By trusting Jesus they'll be given the power of the Holy Spirit. And just like the verse says, that Spirit will flow through them with a power like that of rushing water. When you're willing to do great things for Christ, your actions will trigger a ripple effect, influencing the world in ways you could never imagine.

This is your invitation to save the date and spread the word. More info coming soon!



**Praying over boxes of food at Lifeline Meal Packing event**



**Faith Promise guests Bob & Celeste Gailey (UFCCH) and Joel Augustus (Lifeline Christian Mission)**



**ESM Guys' Lunch included bowling**



**Prime Timers' Valentine's Dinner**



**EMS Girls' Lunch experienced great food and fellowship**



**Dave Peters (Rapha International) shared at the February CWF Dinner**



**"Nacho" Average night at the e-City Kids Friendship Fiesta**

**ENGLEWOOD  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

4316 Barnes Road • Jacksonville, Florida 32207  
Phone: 904-733-2356 • Fax: 733-9096 • TLC: 737-5669  
[www.eccjax.com](http://www.eccjax.com)

**POSTAL INFORMATION**

"The Echoes" (USPS 118270)  
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March 1, 2022 Vol. LXII, No. 10

**Dated Material**

(See panel to left)

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



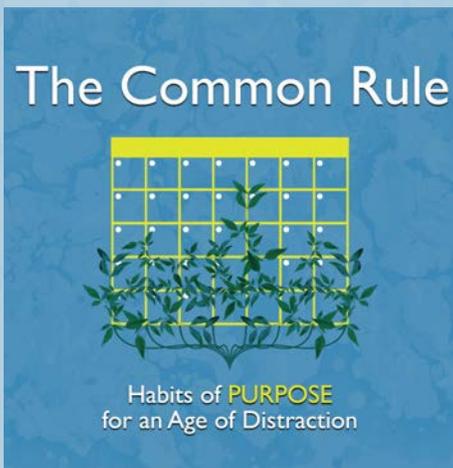
March 2022



Save the date  
and be sure  
to sign up at  
[nfcsc.org](http://nfcsc.org)



**MARCH SERMON SERIES**



**M**ost people have an innate desire to improve themselves. Physically, financially, mentally, emotionally or even spiritually. No one wants to just sit there and not get better at something. When it comes to improving ourselves spiritually, we often begin with vigor and zeal and great intentions, but the end result is usually another two books about spiritual disciplines or developing spiritual habits piled up on our end table or tucked away in the top corner of our bookshelf. The end result often seems like nothing more than another failed attempt at improvement. The challenge is to get these principles into our daily and weekly routines as habits. Join us on Sundays in March as we push through the obstacles of developing our spiritual habits and create daily and weekly ways to walk more in step with Christ.

**March 6 – The Freedom of Limitations**

**March 13 – The Attraction of Rules & Habits**

**March 20 – One Day at a Time**

**March 27 – Failure for the Future**

Note: This series is based off a book written by Justin Whitmel Earley called *The Common Rule*. It is not necessary to purchase and/or read this book prior to our March sermon series, but would be quite beneficial and is highly recommended if you hope to gain the most from this series. You can order this online through any of the major bookstore retailers in hard copy or digital format.