

Americans are heading for the voting precincts today as the 2016 election is at hand. Already, millions of our fellow citizens have voted through early voting options. Millions more are soon to be headed to polling places across the land. In any event, millions of citizens will participate in the first duty of freedom — the freedom to vote.

There is so much at stake. We hear every election cycle that the stakes have never been higher. In one sense, this is usually also true. There is always the sense that there is more at stake this year than last, and, given the way issues unfold, that perception often seems validated by the times. *Christians* face the responsibility to vote, not only as citizens, but as Christians who seek to honor and follow Christ in all things. But, beyond the vote, we also bear responsibility to pray for our nation.

First, we should pray that God will bless America with leaders better than we deserve. Democratic systems inevitably reflect the electorate's decisions, and these decisions reveal underlying worldviews. And, truth be told, all we can expect from democracy is the government we deserve. We must pray for a government and for leaders better than we deserve. May God grant us mercy as he reigns and rules over all things, including this election.

Second, we should pray that Americans will be motivated to fulfill the responsibilities of citizenship, yet also that we will be stripped of an unhealthy and idolatrous confidence in the power of government to save us. God has given us the gift of rulers and governments in order to restrain evil, uphold righteousness, and provide for civil order. No human ruler can save. No government official or office holder can heal the human heart, solve the sin problem, or accomplish final justice. These powers belong to God and God alone.

Third, we must pray that Americans will vote by conscience, not merely on the basis of celebrity or emotion. Christian citizens must vote to uphold righteousness and contend for righteous and just laws. But, at the same time, we must repent of moralism and the tacit assumption that better laws would produce better people.

Fourth, we must pray that Americans will vote to defend the least among us—and especially those who have no vote. This starts, but does not end, with concern for the unborn and for the recovery of respect for the dignity and sanctity of every single human life at every stage of development, from conception until natural death.

Fifth, we should pray that God will prick the conscience of the nation on issues of morality, righteousness, and respect for marriage as the central institution of human civilization. So much ground appears to have been lost on these issues. We need to pray that much ground can be regained. Marriage itself is on the ballot this year, both in the presidential election and in specific measures in states. There is much work to be done, and so much is at stake.

Sixth, we should pray that God will protect these candidates and their families. They have been through an arduous ordeal and now face the deadline of the vote. They are physically exhausted and now face the judgment of the people. They are public figures, but they are also flesh and blood human beings, who are fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, sons, and daughters. Their families have withstood much. We should pray for their marriages and their children. May God protect them.

Seventh, we should pray that the election is conducted with honor, civility, respect, and justice. We must pray that we do not face another round of litigation after an election. This brings democracy into disrepute. May there be a clear winner, not a contested result.

Eighth, we must pray that Americans will be prepared to accept the results of the election with respect and kindness. This will be no time for rancor, condemnations, and conspiracy theories. Instead, we must pray that God will settle the hearts of the people. May Christians be ready to respond with prayer, respect for office, and a gentle spirit. Others will be watching.

Ninth, we should pray that this election would lead to even greater opportunities to preach the Gospel, and that the freedom of the church will be respected, honored, and protected.

Tenth, we must pray for the church, praying that the church of the Lord Jesus Christ would be strengthened in the truth, grounded in the faith, and empowered for witness and ministry. May the church, the sign of the coming kingdom, be faithful to declare the Gospel — knowing that this is the only message that will save.

May God grant us mercy and grace as we seek to fulfill our responsibilities as citizens — and our responsibilities as Christians. This world is not our home, but we do bear responsibilities as followers of Christ as we are living here.



Sunday Schedule
 9:30 am - Sunday School
 10:45 am - Worship
 6:00 pm - FLIPSIDE Youth Meeting

Coffee Shop open Sunday's
 9:00 am - 10:45 am

Library open Sunday's 9 am—12:00 pm &
 during weekly business hours upon request.

Wednesday Weekly Schedule
 5:00 pm Dinner, 6:00 pm Awana,
 6:15 pm Bible Study

Office Hours
 Monday - Thursday 9 am - 4 pm

Submit prayer requests to
ffcconcerns@goffc.org

Senior Pastor
Pastor John Wodetzki
 (513) 598-6734 EX.111
pastorjohn@goffc.org

Family Pastor
Pastor Josh Taylor
 (513) 598-6734 EX. 118
jostaylor@goffc.org

Associate Pastor
Pastor Jon Bush
 (513) 598-6734 EX. 113
jonbush50@gmail.com

Worship Leader
Ashley McDonough
 (513) 598-6734
ashley.mcdonough@ccuniversity.edu

Elder Chairman
Brian Baab
bdaab@gmail.com

Deacon Chairman
Rob Wibbelsman
rwibbelsman@gmail.com

Business Administrator
Mike Peppers
 (513) 598-6734 EX. 116
mipeppers@goffc.org

Office Administrator
Karen Green
 513) 598-6734 EX:114
karengreen@goffc.org

IT Administrator
Tom Foozer
 (513) 598-6734 EX. 115
tfoozer@fuse.net



A Publication of Faith Fellowship Church

November 2016
FAITH NEWS

GIVE THANKS
GOD IS:

- G** - Great
(Psalm 57:10)
- I** - Immanuel
(Matthew 1:23)
- V** - Victorious
(Psalm 20:5)
- E** - Everlasting
(Jeremiah 31:3)
- T** - Truth
(John 14:6)
- H** - Healer
(Isaiah 53:5)
- A** - Alpha and Omega
(Revelation 1:8)
- N** - Never failing
(Amos 5:24)
- K** - King of kings
(Revelation 17:14)
- S** - Savior
(Luke 2:11)

A Crisis of Leadership

I have not actually heard a single, non-paid, person fully support either of the major candidates for president of the United States. Because of the great diversity in America, I am sure that there are those out there that have fallen in love with one of the candidates, I just haven't seen one. Most agree, however, that both candidates are more than slightly flawed. Often it feels to me like we are driving down a road, going well over the speed limit, knowing full well that the bridge is out. I am not alone in this feeling. Here are a few things to remember as we travel this perilous and dangerous journey together:

First, it is not going to end well. Hebrews 9:27 says: "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment." Not to be morbid, but as they say, none of are going to get out of this alive. The blessing is that we have an awesome eternity ahead of us.

Second, God tells us that he has this covered: Romans 13:1 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Like most things, we have a hard time trusting that God is totally in control. We especially struggle when the Holy One makes decisions that we would take exception too. When we don't understand God, we come to a place of "Crisis of Faith", where we can choose to grow or choose to growl. When God allows evil, he does it for a reason. Stay faithful.

Finally, never underestimate God's plan and his ability to work in someone's life. Most of us are familiar with the king, Nebuchadnezzar. He was the king that finally conquered the southern kingdom of Judah, and destroyed Jerusalem and the temple of the Lord. He had actually taken most of the known world, and ruled with an evil and an iron fist. His brutality against those he took captive was known far and wide and was well documented. In Daniel chapter 4, God gives Nebuchadnezzar a dream. Basically God tells Nebuchadnezzar to humble himself before God or he will be punished. Nebuchadnezzar refuses and God subsequently drives him from his throne and out of his mind. But that is not the end of the story. He was only driven out of his kingdom, to live as the beasts in the field until he understood that it was God that put him in power.

Daniel 4:26-27 And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity."

After seven years, Nebuchadnezzar submitted to God's authority and was reconfirmed as King of Babylon.

Regardless of who is elected as president of the United States, Daniel's plea to the king is a model for us to pray: Pray that they would break off their sins, that they would practice righteousness, lift the oppression of others, and recognize and submit to God's authority.

-Pastor John



Join us Sunday evening, November 20th
 at 6:00 pm for a time of
 reflection and thanksgiving.



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

SUNDAYS at 9:30 for Sunday School • 10:45 Worship

Wednesday evening activities: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Community Dinner • 6:00 pm Awana • 6:15 pm Bible Study

Faith Fellowship Church • 6734 Bridgetown Road • Cincinnati, OH 45248 • www.goffc.org • 513.598.6734

Faith Fellowship Church • 6734 Bridgetown Road • Cincinnati, OH 45248 • (513) 598-6734 • www.goffc.org



Kingdom Kids November Update

This month in Kingdom Kids:

Honor is a response to the character of God.

Chances are, if you have kids in sports or competitions of any kind, you have a growing collection of ribbons and medals, sashes and badges, certificates, trophies, or plaques. Some might hang on your walls or sit propped up on shelves somewhere. But if we're honest, others get stuffed into a drawer and eventually thrown out. These were so important when they first came into our homes, but at some point they just lost their value. All those awards and medals can only mean so much, because honor has a deeper meaning.

People should not just be honored because of what they do; they should primarily be honored because of who they are. Stuff will lose value over time, but not people. At its core, honor is seeing people the way God sees people. We're naturally wired to put ourselves first, but honor is the opposite of self-centeredness. It is something that flows from your relationship with God. In a sense, one of the best ways we can HONOR God, is by honoring those who reflect the image of God.

Throughout Scripture we see how much God loves us:

He created us in His image.

He knows the number of hairs on our heads.

We are fearfully and wonderfully made. He pursued a relationship with us even when we wanted nothing to do with Him. He sent His only Son to pay for our sins to make an eternal relationship with Him possible. And He did all of this for us without us even asking.

Jesus was the ultimate example of someone who showed others their value.

When Jesus came here, He showed us how to love and show honor to those around us. He taught us to love our enemies, care for the "least of these," and become the servants of all who puts others' needs before our own.

That's why it's important for us to help our kids and families discover more about **honor—letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.**

Our Memory Verse for November comes from Romans 12. Throughout the chapter, Paul casts a vision for the church and how they can live as people transformed by God's Holy Spirit.

In **Romans 12:10**, we read, **"Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves."** (NIV)

As kids memorize this verse, we hope they understand that honor includes seeing others how God sees them. When kids start doing that, they will be more willing to show God's love to others and put their needs ahead of their own.

-submitted by Linda Widener

Diva's Digging Deeper

Diva's Digging Deeper is a women's Sunday school class led by Lisa Baab that meets in the Chapel on the piano side, Sunday's at 9:30 am.

We'll be starting a new study on November 15th. **"Because of Bethlehem: Love Is Born, Hope Is Here"** Max Lucado loves Christmas. The carols and cookies, the decorations and favorite films, the warmth and generosity of the season. But most of all, he loves it because it's during this time of year that people will wonder and inquire about the baby born in the manger. This little baby became the King on the cross. Christmas proclaims the truth of Easter to come.

Join with Max in this lively, heartwarming celebration of all things Christmas. *Because of Bethlehem* features stories both insightful and whimsical. On every page, Max's words will encourage, captivate and inspire you, but most importantly, they'll point you towards the One worth celebrating



Diva's Digging Deeper also has a private Facebook group which encourages each other through the week.

Join us - Sunday's @ 9:30 am

What's Happening in Women's Ministries?

S.O.U.L.* SISTERS

Tuesday, Nov. 1 - 6:00 p.m.
Dinner at Kenning's on Bridgetown Rd.
All are welcome

For more information, contact Sharon Engleman
sengleman10@gmail.com
Sharing Our Unconditional Love

VISITATION & CARDS MINISTRY

New Co-Ordinator: Nancy Houser
REACHING OUT WITH LOVE
SENDING GREETINGS OF HOPE & LOVE TO OUR FFC FRIENDS

The month of November the recipient of a shower of cards OR a phone call is:

HARRIET DEINLEIN
5156 NORTH BEND CROSSING
RENAISSANCE WEST ROOM 321
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45247
PHONE # (513) 389-0166

YOU can help make Harriet's day a super one by reaching out with a card (47 cents) ...FREE CARDS are at the Ministry Table. Why not pick one up today and send it off to Harriet. Thank you!!!

CRAFT CLUB

Friday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.
Holiday Extravaganza

Each crafter brings a snack to share
Crafters will be making a variety of Christmas decorations
Watch the Ministry Info Center for samples and details

G.E.A.R.S. & KINGDOM KIDS ANNUAL WEST PARK NURSING HOME CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Thursday, December 8, 6:45 p.m. in the Piano Lounge
Men, Women, Children, Relatives,
Friends, Neighbors...
Invite them all!

West Park Nursing Home, Ferguson Rd.

Start the Christmas season by brightening the lives of the residents.



Operation Christmas Child – the Shoebox Ministry

It is time to collect our Shoeboxes!!!! How many have you assembled? How many do you plan to assemble? Any extra items to be combined with someone else for a box? Can you tell we are excited about shoeboxes???

No time or energy to shop or assemble a box? Consider a donation to cover shipping costs!

The goal for FFC for 2016 is 100 boxes!
Box deadline: Sunday November 20th

If you are not able to fill a whole box, not a problem! Collect as many items as you wish and we will combine them with other items to fill a box.

Collection bins have been placed by the entry doors. We had hoped to have a 'packing party' this year but interest has been minimal for this activity. We will 'go big' with this idea for next year - so be prepared! We will be assembling shoeboxes in Kingdom Kids first hour (Sunday school) on November 20th. If anyone can donate items or contribute towards shipping, it would be greatly appreciated.

So, get those shoeboxes ready! More information can be found at our 'Shoebox table' in the commons area.

Pinterest has great ideas for shoeboxes. Check it out!

Thanks in advance for making this outreach ministry a success!

Coordinators: Gaylynn Ramsaur & Linda Widener

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

is on for December 3rd.

We are in the process of planning to serve not only our church families but families in need. Save the date if you want to participate and watch for a sign-up soon. See Lani Peppers to help or with any questions.



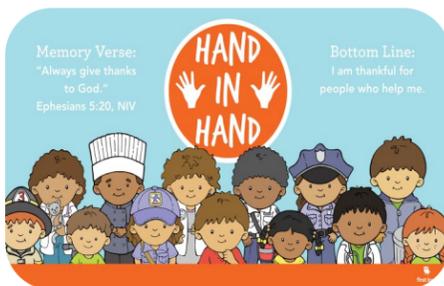
This month we're helping preschoolers learn to say thank you for the people who help them. And there are a lot of people who help preschoolers!

First, there's family. I mean family is like at the top of the list! Our preschool friends will hear how Aaron helped his brother Moses this month. Then, there are community helpers all around us who help us just as Nehemiah's community helped him rebuild the wall.

There are all kinds of other people helping preschoolers by giving them what they need—people like the Kingdom Kid Volunteers! They give them hugs, snacks, and best of all, God's true stories! We need all kinds of people to help us! Elisha got some great help from a woman who prepared an entire room for him. Oh, and last but not least—friends. Preschoolers need friends. You and I need friends. We all need friends! Friends help us have fun, do what's right and they come in handy when we forget our snack. I'm pretty sure Elijah was thankful for his new friend, the widow, when she shared her food!

Our preschoolers need help, tons and tons of help. And, we want them to grow up with eyes that see the people who help them, and a heart that says thanks. That's the goal this month.

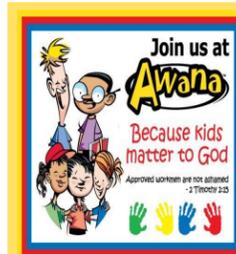
-Pastor Josh



Our Wednesday morning Bible continues. All are welcome. We meet from 10 –11:30 am each week. Currently studying through the Bible

All are welcome. This is not limited to seniors!
If you're free, please join us!

****No class on 11/23/16 and we'll meet thru 12/14****



November 2—BRING YOUR PARENT NIGHT at Awana!
Parents—join us and take a walk thru your child's Awana experience, memorize their verse, play games, experience handbook time & lesson time.
16th- Hat Night
23rd - No Awana—Happy Thanksgiving
30th - Regular Club Night