

# Faith News



faith fellowship  
*Sharing the journey* CHURCH

Fall Ministries 2017  
September - November



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**The Importance of Knowing What We Believe And Why** by Pastor John

You have heard me use the term: The Essentials of the Historic Christian Faith several times recently from the pulpit. I would like to take this opportunity to share what that means.

The essentials of the faith are a condensation of the major creeds found both within and outside the Bible itself. When times of crisis or differences in understanding arose in the early church, they would call church councils that would decide what the scriptures taught about certain subjects. The councils resulted in creeds that progressed from the early forms of the Apostles Creed to the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. The unity of these creeds can be found in the statement: One Bible, two testaments, three confessions, four councils, and five centuries. From that point, there are divergents with the Eastern Orthodox and Catholic churches accepting other councils and drawing from other sources.

From here we can boil down the essentials to these generally accepted statements: 1. Human depravity, 2. Christ's virgin birth, 3. Christ's sinlessness, 4. Christ's deity, 5. Christ's humanity, 6. God's unity, 7. God's trinity, 8. The necessity of God's grace, 9. The necessity of faith, 10. Christ's atoning death, 11. Christ's bodily resurrection, 12. Christ's bodily ascension, 13. Christ's present High Priestly service, and 14. Christ's second coming, final judgment and reign.

*In this we get:*

1. The inerrancy of the Bible; 2. The depravity of man; 3. Christ's virgin birth; 4. Christ's sinless life; 5. Christ's deity and humanity; 6. God's unity; 7. God's trinity; 8. The death the burial; 9. The Resurrection; 10. The ascension; 11. The second coming; 12. The final judgment

These essentials form the foundation for what we believe, and have believed since the time of Jesus. They followed the dictum: In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty and in all things charity. That is to say, they stood in unity with those things that were essential, with the non-essentials, they would have preferences but would not break fellowship over disagreements, and above always, the love of Christ had to prevail, charity.

There are three major reasons for identifying the essentials: First, they give us something to be in unity on. Secondly, they help us identify "Christian" cults, groups that believe some of what we believe but deny one or more of the essentials. Third, they give us a guide when it is necessary to divide. Division over truth is far better than unity in error.

Why do we call them essentials? We call them essentials because we believe them to be essential, either for salvation, or for proper adherence to scripture. For instance, arguably, one cannot be saved if they deny the deity, humanity, or sinlessness of Christ. Can they, however be saved if they reject the idea of eternal damnation of the lost? Some would argue yes, while generally, I would argue that some of the essentials can have wiggle room. It is imperative, however that those that deal with the person and work of Christ, Biblically, must be believed and declared to obtain salvation.

In a world where everything is questioned and boundaries are fluid and constantly changing, it is important, as keepers of the faith, that we know what and why we believe what we believe. What we believe was handed to us directly from Jesus, through the Apostles, the early Fathers, and the saints that went before. It is imperative that we care for and hand down the essentials of the faith to those that follow us.

Getaway for Couples  
Feb. 23-25

FAMILYLIFE<sup>®</sup> presents  
weekend to remember

Register at:  
[familylifeministries.org/  
weekend-to-remember/](http://familylifeministries.org/weekend-to-remember/)

Use group name  
FFCFamily to  
get \$100 off.

get  
away.  
come  
together.

Questions:  
See Pastor Josh





## THIS FALL @ FAITH!

### WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY CHURCH MEALS, AWANA & BIBLE STUDY

**Each Wednesday @ 5 pm**, starting September 6 through May, we serve dinner. This is not an 'Awana' meal, but a church-wide & community meal. A time to join together mid-week to fellowship and eat together. This meal serves a great purpose in allowing those who work and those who don't, to relax and gather for a meal. Take an evening to come together in fellowship before we 'go' and serve, or attend a Bible study.

We encourage all of you to come out and get to know each other better. Sit at a different table each week and have great conversations with families you might not know.

### AWANA - Each Wednesday @ 6 pm Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed



Awana clubs are for kids ages 3 through 6th grade.

A **club** where kids learn God's Word and hide it in their hearts. A **club** where leaders of all ages develop relationships with kids that are not their own. A **club** where kids learn how to be a team; playing fun games where they earn points as a team, not as individuals. If you have children in these age groups, don't miss out on this great experience.

*I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11*



*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.  
Acts 2:42*

### Bible Study each Wednesday morning & evening!

Join Pastor John each Wednesday at 10 am for a continued 'Walk through the Bible' study. Meets in the Chapel

Each Wednesday evening at 6:15 (following the evening meal & clean-up) Pastor John will continue in the study of "Hope in a Chaotic World". Even though this is a continuation of the spring study, you can join in at any time. Also meets in the Chapel.



### HOW CAN I SERVE?

Join a weekday or Sunday ministry team to as we continue to welcome new visitors. Check out all the areas of serving opportunities. We'll provide the training; you provide the servant's heart. Here are some of the areas needed during this current fall season:

<b>Guest Services</b>	Ushers, Greeters
<b>Facilities</b>	General cleaning & lawn care Hospitality kitchen coordinator
<b>Wednesdays</b>	Serving & cleanup for our weekly meal.
<b>Worship</b>	Sound, slides, recording, singers & instrumentalists
<b>IT</b>	Computer, TV & screen updates
<b>CARE</b>	Hospital and/or in home visits

Contact the church office at [ffc@goffc.org](mailto:ffc@goffc.org) or 598-6734 to get plugged in.



Serve

# [FOR THE KIDS!]

## KINGDOM KIDS 252 KIDS

In September, the 252 KIDS theme will be Friendship: using your words and actions to show others you care. The memory verse will be: "A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes." Proverbs 17:17 NIRV

God desires a relationship with us. That's why He created us in the first place. When we sinned and broke that relationship, God continued to pursue us. God sacrificed His only Son to make it possible for us to have a relationship with Him again.

Jesus demonstrated friendship in the most generous way possible. He showed us the greatest love when He laid down His life for His friends. He went to the cross, not on principle or for a cause, but because of love and wanting to be with us forever.



Friendship is a reflection of the character of God.



In October, the Kingdom Kids theme will be Stewardship: taking care of what you have because it all belongs to God. The memory verse will be: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much." Luke 16:10A, NIV

In Psalm 24:1, we read, the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, (NIV). In other words, whatever we have isn't really ours. God created the entire world—the land and sea, planets and galaxies, animals and people. And when people create, those people do so because of the gift and talents that God gave them. It's

our job to take care of what God has loaned us for a time to use in order to bring Him glory.

Jesus put stewardship into action. He used the time He had on earth wisely, never wasting a moment, but always working towards God's plan. He used what He had—from bread and fish, to dirt and spit—to perform miracles, helping people see and eat. Everything Jesus did showed us how we can take care of God's stuff by using it the way that points people to God and fulfills the mission God has for our lives.

## KINGDOM KIDS FIRST LOOK!

September is Super Kids month! All kids want to be Super Kids, and they can be when they realize that God is always with them. Because God is with them, they can be brave. Because God is with them, they can be strong. Because God is with them, they can be courageous. Because God is with them, they can be wise.



We will start our Super Kid month with the story of Elijah and

the fire. The story focus is "when God is with me, I can be brave." Then, the children will meet one of the strongest women in the Bible, Esther. The story focus is "when God is with me, I can be strong. In week three, preschoolers will meet another

woman from the Bible, Rahab, and learn how her trusting God kept two spies safe. The story focus is "when God is with me, I can be courageous." We'll finish the month with the story of Joshua and how he knocked down a city wall by just walking around it! The story focus is "when God is with me, I can be wise."

In October, we know things are going to happen in our preschoolers' lives where they will need God's help—times when their lives will zig one way and then zag another. We want them to grow up believing that God loves them and can help them anywhere, with anything, no matter how hard it may be. He



can even help them help others!

We will start the month learning about the life of David and how even when it zigged and zagged, God was there to help him. We will begin with David as a boy in a field with his sheep. In week two, we will see that David had proved that he was brave and strong by protecting his sheep and defeating Goliath so King Saul asked him to lead his troops into battle. In week three, preschoolers will hear about David's good friend, Jonathan. David and Jonathan shared so many experiences and were close friends. It was VERY hard when they had to say good-bye to one another. We will end the month learning how David praised God after He helped him. David danced and played music to show thanks to God for all His help.

## SUNDAY FUNDAY FOLDERS

- Parents! Have you seen your child's folder? Kingdom Kids are given a 'take home' folder

for lessons, announcements & other important papers to be sent home. Inside the folder explains the point system. After Sunday School, kids move to the Kingdom Kids Store & Café where they can spend the points they've accumulated. They spend about 15 minutes in there playing games, buying a snack or buying a fun toy with their points. Points can be earned in many ways.

Check out their folder! Talk about what they learned using the parent cue.



**Operation Christmas Child – Shoebox Items, submitted by Linda Widener**

During the fall months, we will be collecting toys, clothing items, school supplies and games. If you are shopping for your children or grandchildren, please keep the ‘Shoebox kids’ in mind. I am encouraging parents to purchase items when their child is with them and to share the importance of giving to someone to further God’s kingdom.

We have placed a collection bin for these items in the Commons area. Just look for the poster!

**Needs for the fall months:** Lots of everything listed above! If you see something on sale, please consider donating to our Shoebox mission. If you would like to donate to our cause, please notify Linda Widener at your earliest convenience. Also, a donation jar has been placed at the Kingdom Kids check-in area.

*Remember, our goal is to pack 100 boxes in 2017!!  
Thank you!*

**DEADLINE TO BRING COMPLETED SHOEBOXES IN– November 19**

*Remember to include \$9 to help with shipping OR purchase a label online and track your box.*

**COMPLETED  
BOXES DUE:  
NOVEMBER 19**

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**DONATIONS  
DUE BY  
NOVEMBER 12**



Kingdom Kids will be having a packing party during Sunday School on 11/12 using items that have been donated all year. .  
Deadline to donate items - November 12



In the coming weeks, you will see the appearance of “Giving Boxes” hanging on the walls around the church. These boxes will give people to give at times other than just during offering. Also, it gives people who may just be here for a special event or activity to give.

For the near future, there will still be an offering taken up during the service.

Remember! You can also give online by going to:  
<http://goffc.org/programs/tithes-and-offerings/>

**"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.""**

**2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)**

**Counseling available on site here at Faith Fellowship.**

**AL-ANON** group meets each Wednesday morning from 10-11 a.m. in room 204

*(upper level)*



**AL-ANON  
for families & friends  
of alcoholics**

Contact the office for more information or contact the group leader Sandy:  
574-4810  
[sboehle4@gmail.com](mailto:sboehle4@gmail.com)

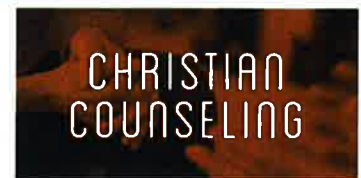
**IMPACT Counseling**  
Affordable • Professional  
• Christian

*For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call:*

**Jeanne Mesker, M.A., LPCC**  
Licensed Professional  
Clinical Counselor

*Providing help for the hurting in an affordable confidential setting.  
Professional clinical counseling from a Christian perspective.*

*Sliding scale fees are determined by family income. (no insurance accepted)*





## LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups are the heart and soul of FFC. It is where the body of Christ can gather together throughout the week and literally do life together! Through reflection on God's Word, fellowship, prayer and so much more, Life Groups allow each member to stay connected, feel loved and grow in Christ! Join one today!

## Life Groups

*Sharing the Journey*

### CURRENT LIFE GROUPS!

#### Delhi Life Group:

Meets each Wednesday at 6 p.m.

#### Colerain Life Group:

Meets 1 and 3 Thursday at 7 p.m.

#### Engleman Life Group:

Meets once a month at 6 p.m.  
(dates vary, usually 1st Tuesday)

#### Bridgetown #1 Life Group:

Meets 1 and 3 Tuesday at 7 p.m.

#### FFC Life Group:

Meets 1 and 3 Sundays at Noon

\* For more information on meeting times and places, please contact the FFC office or stop by the guest services area and pick up a list of groups currently meeting!

#### Bridgetown #2 Life Group:

Meets 1 and 3 Thursday at 7 p.m.

#### Young Adult Life Group:

Meets Wednesdays

## STAFF & LEADERS

#### **John D. Wodetzki**

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#### **Scott Houser**

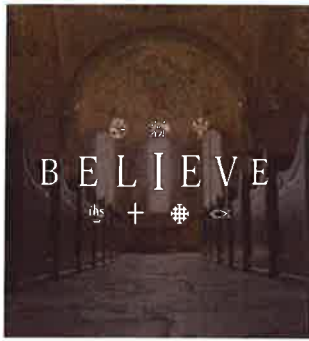
Men's Ministries  
[scotthouser@goffc.org](mailto:scotthouser@goffc.org)



Meet our  
**TEAM**

Looking for a Kitchen Coordinator. If you are interested in hearing more about this volunteer position, contact the office.

## SERMON SERIES



### I Believe

The early church established statements of belief to be recited by believers as a way of summarizing many of the doctrinal truths expressed in Scripture. These statements of faith were called creeds. This nine-week sermon series dissects the foundational beliefs in the Apostles' Creed: "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." *This series will continue through September.*

## UPCOMING SERIES...



### Pieces

This six-week series serves as a snapshot of the book of Job, providing comfort and encouragement to those experiencing a difficult circumstance. Have you ever felt broken? Have you ever wondered why? Job's story is often our story. Yet, even in the midst of pain and suffering, we can trust in the power of our creator.



### In The World

This four-week sermon series guide uses the story of Daniel, a youth who was transplanted from what was supposed to be a God-fearing nation to a godless one, to answer the question: "Is it possible to be relevant without sacrificing the truths of the gospel?" Applicable for both youth and adults, this series connects Daniel's story to our own to examine how believers can be in the world but not of it. These messages discuss topics like identity, purity, prayer, and courage to show how Christians can live victorious and influential lives as citizens from a different kingdom.



**Sundays at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday School • 10:45 a.m. Worship**

#### JOIN US IN PERSON

FFC has been serving the West Side of Cincinnati for almost 200 years, and are glad you are here.

Share this newsletter with a friend or family member!

#### MONTHLY CALENDARS OF EVENTS

Monthly printable calendars are available on our website at: <http://www.goffc.org/calendar/> (right click on the calendar, save image as, then print)

#### JOIN US ONLINE

Can't join us in person? Our services are streamed online using our YouTube channel, Faith Fellowship Church Cincinnati

Miss a service? You can listen to past messages on our website. <http://www.goffc.org/sunday-sermons/>

*Sharing the journey*

