

The

Father's

THE EVANGEL

JUNE 2015



I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.

John 17:23

Love

Community Worship Service

June 21 10:30 am

Jennings Park Pavilion, Neoga

Chairs and picnic tables will be available in pavilion or bring a lawn chair. A free will offering will be taken for the Neoga Resource Group (formerly known as Ministerial Alliance Benevolence).

Please remember to tithe at your home church.

Book - With Christ in the School of Prayer
Chapter - The Power of United Prayer
Author - Andrew Murray

What an unspeakable privilege this of united prayer is, and what a power it might be. If the believing husband and wife knew that they were joined together in the Name of Jesus to experience His presence and power in united prayer (1 Peter); if friends believed what mighty help two or three praying in concert could give each other; if in every prayer meeting the coming together in the Name, the faith in the Presence, and the expectation of the answer, stood in the foreground; if in every Church united effectual prayer were regarded as one of the chief purposes for which they are banded together, the highest exercise of their power as a Church; if in the Church universal the coming of the kingdom, the coming of the King Himself, first in the mighty outpouring of His Holy Spirit, then in His own glorious person, were really matter of unceasing united crying to God;—O who can say what blessing might come to, and through, those who thus agreed to prove God in the fulfillment of His promise.

CURRENT (3 WEEKS):

Richard Russell— hip recovery
Family of Linda Russell
Mel Hood— surgery recovery
Mike Sentel— Drs believe cancer
gone and come back in one year!!
Michelle Simpson— new cancer
Elsie Phillips— heart concerns
Charles Latch— surgery recovery
Mary Kersey— eye surgery recovery

ONGOING CONCERNS:

CIY: Move (HS) June 8-12
VBS: June 22-26
Mission Neoga: July 14-16 (Middle School-Adult)
Godspell: July 25, July 27-Aug 1

IN CARE FACILITIES:

Ivan Cooper— Heartland
Elsie Phillips— Heartland
Carolyn Gast— Cumberland Co
Allene Young— Harmony Center

FIGHTING CANCER:

Chuck Bartlett
Brad Odum
Sam Bean
Mel Hood
Donna Lake
Michelle Simpson
Shawn Whetsell
Clint Mausehund
Bob Trefzger

IN THE MILITARY:

Shane Gephardt
Tyler Briggerman— Navy
Wes Letizia— Air Force
Alicia & Steve Tordoff—
Army Reserve

COMPASSION CHILDREN:

Ashley
Mehari
Joydeb
Axel
Melanie

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH:

Ministries:

Elders & Deacons
Children's
Youth
College / Young Adult
Senior
Praise / Tech Team
Community Clothesline
Small Groups
Sunday School
Benevolence
Outreach

Missions Team & Missions:

Neoga Community Food Pantry
Heartland Christian Village
Oblong Christian Children's Home
Christian Campus House,
Oil Belt Christian Service Camp
International Missions:
Ryan & Melinda Hicks
June: Compassion Int'l

We need cook **volunteers** for
Oil Belt Camp Kitchen
July 9

Morning shift: 8:30-1:00
Afternoon shift: 3:00-7:00
4 adults are needed for
each shift



"Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you"

Psalm 33:22 ESV

We have the opportunity to reach out to our struggling community this summer in several ways. One way we would like to do this is by hosting a spaghetti supper on June 4th for the recipients of the food pantry and the clothing ministry. With so many changes going on in our community, we feel this is one way to bring hope to others. This would be a great chance for you to show Christ's love in your own community. We need volunteers to help cook, serve, and clean up after the meal. We also need people to donate desserts for this event. The meal will be served from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. Sign up sheets are at the welcome center. We will also be serving meals on the first Thursday in July and August, so look for these announcements in future Evangels.

-Jennifer & Amy
Outreach Ministry

Community Worship Service (6/21)

During a monthly meeting of the Ministerial Alliance a few months back, the idea of worshipping together as a community of believers was discussed and prayed about. The following month we decided to move forward. The goal of the combined worship service is bring glory to God by demonstrating our love for Christ and each other.

Jesus prayed for all believers while on earth and still does today while seated at the right hand of God the Father. In John 17, He said, *"All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are."* Christ prayed for the unity of His disciples. What better way to express this than worshipping Him together?! Please share this with friends and family in the community. Then as Jesus prayed, John 17:23 - *"...that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me."*

See more details on front cover...

Mission Spotlight

Did You Know?

1. Worldwide, over 600 million children live in extreme poverty.
2. 3 billion people live on less than \$2.50 per day.
3. 1.6 billion people live without electricity.
4. 11 percent of the world's population, nearly 800 million people, do not have access to safe drinking water.
5. 2.5 billion people do not have access to appropriate sanitation.
6. Nearly 2,000 children die each day from disease/illness caused by unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation.
7. One in seven people in the world will go to bed hungry tonight.
8. Every day 16,000 children die from hunger related causes.
9. There are over 2 million children worldwide in commercial sex trade.
10. Up to 50% of children worldwide report being abused.

Compassion International is a child-advocacy ministry that pairs compassionate people with those who are suffering from poverty, hunger, illness, and those in need of Christ. The Mission Statement of Compassion says, "In response to the Great Commission, Compassion International exists as an advocate for children, to release them from their spiritual, economic, social, and physical poverty and to enable them to become responsible and fulfilled Christian adults."

Compassion International currently has over 6500 international church partners, over 1.5 million sponsored children and report that over 120,000 kids and moms gave their lives to Christ over the past year. Their focus is on a Christ-centered approach to all programs and ministries, a commitment to children to address their physical, economic, spiritual, and social needs, and a commitment to partner with local churches to bring Christ to children worldwide.

"When you reap the harvest of your land, don't reap the corners of your field or gather the gleanings. Leave them for the poor and the foreigners. I am God, your God."
-Leviticus 23:22 (MSG)

Several members of our congregation sponsor children through Compassion, and they send and receive letters from their children regularly. During college, while on a Mission trip to Brazil, my wife, Kate, was able to meet one of our sponsored children, Clayton. While meeting was a wonderful experience for both of them, the one thing that made the biggest impression on Kate was the safety of the environment. "The campus provided enough space for a few classrooms, for eating quarters, and a safe courtyard where the kids could play soccer without interference from the drug lords and violence outside the gates. There were also small living quarters for workers and orphans so they could live safely on campus. It wasn't extravagant, but it was nice. It appeared as if every drop of money was used wisely to provide what the kids and workers needed."

Lives are being changed. We truly can make a difference. By supporting a child we have the opportunity to provide food, clean water, education, health care, and an opportunity to share the Gospel. What an awesome opportunity to be able to partner with an organization, to be the hands and feet of Christ, and to provide for the material and spiritual needs of children. Please prayerfully consider partnering with Compassion by sponsoring a child or becoming a prayer partner for these children.

-Matt Frankie

4/14

We have a lot going on this month in 4/14:

- Please pray for the group headed to CIY in June, pray that God's Word will seep into their hearts and effect them.
- June will mark the end of 4/14 for the summer. Please pray that the kids will be safe and focused on God.
- Open Gym starts in July. Pray for kids to come and be safe and that all the churches will work together to bring glory to God.
- Doug has started working on the musical, the Gospel put to music basically. Please pray especially that God works through all the people involved in the production. Pray for the adults that we might lead discussions and help the cast understand the depth of Christ's love for them.

In chapter 11, verses 1 and 2 the writer of Hebrews tells us,

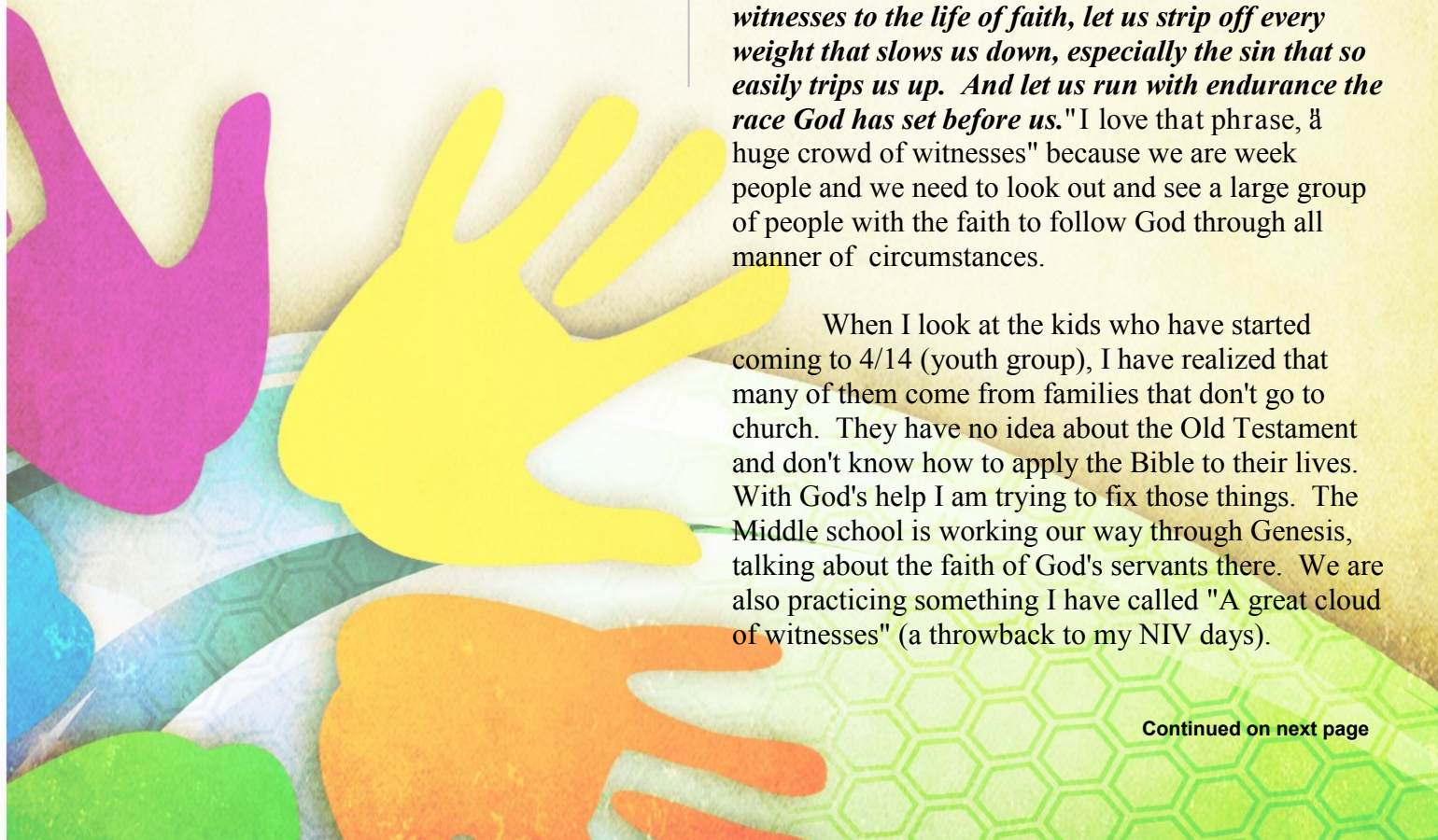
"Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation."

He then goes on to discuss how that faith was put into action. He talks about Abel bringing the better offering. He mentions Enoch being taken from this life and never experiencing death. He mentions Noah and the ark, Abraham and his faith to leave his people and trusting in God for the promise of offspring. The writer goes on and takes a tour of faith through the Old Testament. In verse 6 he says ***"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him."***

Faith can be pretty tricky sometimes; it can be hard to have confidence in what we cannot see actually happening. I think that is why the writer of Hebrews puts in this section the great examples of faith; he wants us to see how faith has been lived out over the years. In chapter 12 verse 1 ***"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us."*** I love that phrase, "a huge crowd of witnesses" because we are weak people and we need to look out and see a large group of people with the faith to follow God through all manner of circumstances.

When I look at the kids who have started coming to 4/14 (youth group), I have realized that many of them come from families that don't go to church. They have no idea about the Old Testament and don't know how to apply the Bible to their lives. With God's help I am trying to fix those things. The Middle school is working our way through Genesis, talking about the faith of God's servants there. We are also practicing something I have called "A great cloud of witnesses" (a throwback to my NIV days).

Continued on next page



So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free. John 8:36

The hang out for kids entering grades 5-8 begins

Monday, July 6 and goes until school begins.

Check in at Neoga Elementary School at 1:50-2:10 pm.

Doors close at 2:10!

2:10-2:25 Devotional time

2:25-4:00 supervised "Hanging Out" (gym, games, video, etc.)

Registration forms coming soon.

4/14 *continued...*

The last Wednesday night of every month I have invited a different person to come in and share some of their testimony with the kids, a way to show them real flesh and blood examples of what faith is. In March John Letizia came in and discussed his growing up and coming to faith, just ask him sometime about making it rain. The kids loved listening to him talk about praying to God to identify who he should marry and then meeting Reeni as she walked down to do laundry, a story of putting his faith in God and how he has been blessed. In April, Doug McClure also graced us with his presence, talking to us about relying on God while surviving a cancer that should have killed him. In May, I brought my father in to talk about his trips to Africa and the faith of people living in completely different circumstances than ours.

Please pray for our kids as they hear these stories of faith and action so that they can see how God works in people's lives and how He can be **working** in their lives. Please pray that these times will help **bolster** the kids faith. Please also be praying for all the future "witnesses" that might be called upon that they can share their faith with the kids.

-Matt Davis

Seniors'

June 11, 2015 Seniors will leave FCC at 8:45 a.m. and travel to Clinton, IL to visit the C.H. Moore Homestead, the DeWitt County Museum, and to view the many quilts that will be on display during this week. We will eat our lunch at Panera's in Decatur and anticipate returning to FCC around 2:30 pm. Admission to the Museum is \$3.00 per person. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us and enjoy the sites and fellowship. To assure a seat in the van, please sign-up at the fellowship center between May 14, 2015 and June 7, 2015.

A servant's heart will be the theme of our worship and fellowship time Thursday, July 16, 2015. Following our worship time, the staff and Mission Neoga participants will join us for lunch. Meat and drink will be provided. Each senior should bring two dishes (vegetable, salad or dessert to share.

	Video	Audio	Greeters	Children's Ministry	Communion	Servers
7	Matt	Aubrey	Marian Lindley	<u>Nursery</u> : Cathy & Mahayla Oakley <u>Wee Worship</u> : Sheri Coen, Andrea Workman <u>K-5th</u> : Jennifer Davis, Michael Baker, Kristen Albin	Reggie Rennels Randy Rennels Barry Conn Art Walk	Chad Walk Harry Starwalt Zach Letizia Alan Baker
14	Zach	Brianna	John & Mary Ann Wilson	<u>Nursery</u> : Joann Miller, Pam Storm <u>Wee Worship</u> : Louella Drum, Katie Hakman <u>K-5th</u> : Paula & Rory Gentry, Julie Altman	Michael Baker Don Coen Dave Coen Doug Baker	Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy Paul Lake Roger Banks
21				Community Worship at the Park		
28	Jim	Tom	Joann Miller	<u>Nursery</u> : Judy Starwalt, Linda Baker <u>Wee Worship</u> : Jacob & Brianna Dow <u>K-5</u> : Joni McClure, Zach Letizia, Megan Robinson	Alan Baker Michael Baker Don Coen Dave Coen	Doug Baker Jack Gilbert Bill Kenworthy Paul Lake

Community Clothesline

The Community Clothesline will be moving in July to the recently closed Elementary school building. We will be spending the month of June planning and organizing for the move. We will be open our regular hours in June and our July hours may change depending on the scheduling of the move. Please pray for a smooth transition to our new Clothesline home.

May 7th

27 Families

59 Individuals

May 21st

14 Families

29 Individuals

Back Pack Give Away for 2015 is scheduled for Sunday, August 2nd. Details to come in the next Evangel.

Neoga Community Food Pantry

29 families

76 people served

3 deliveries

11 volunteers

22 3/4 hours

June 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Financial Board Mtg this month will be a special mtg date and time TBA.</p> <p>Ladies' Bible Study will meet once a month. June Focus: The Widow of Zarephath</p>	<p>1 Linda Baker</p>	<p>2 Volunteers at Heartland Sharna Schwindt</p>	<p>3 9:30 am VBS Volunteer mtg 6:30 pm 4/14 8:30 pm College Small Group</p>	<p>4 1-5, 6-8 pm Community Clothesline 5-6:30 pm Outreach Dinner Charlotte Hakman</p>	<p>5 Amy Kenworthy Cathy Oakley</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11:30 am Prayer</p>	<p>8 CIV June 8-12</p>	<p>9 Liz Dole</p>	<p>10 8:30 pm College Small Group</p>	<p>11 8:30 am-2:30 pm Seniors' trip Fontella Waddell</p>	<p>12 Joann Burton Carolyn Gast</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11:30 am Prayer 6:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study</p>	<p>15 Allene Young Mahayla Oakley Aubrey Storm</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 9:45 am Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm 4/14 8:30 pm College</p>	<p>18 1-5 pm Community Clothesline</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Worship at the Park</p>	<p>22 9-11 am VBS</p>	<p>23 9-11 am VBS Chuck Bartlett</p>	<p>24 9-11 am VBS 6:30 pm 4/14 8:30 pm College</p>	<p>25 9-11 am VBS</p>	<p>26 9-11 am VBS</p>	<p>27 180</p>
<p>28 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11:30 am Prayer Bob Potter</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Vickie Erwin Tayler Gebhardt</p>				

Coming in July:
 Ministry at Neoga Grade School
 Godspell: July 25, July 27– Aug 1.
 Mission Neoga
 Back to School Cookout at IGA July 11