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JAN
2020

Martin Luther King, Jr. PADS Day of Service

*"Faith is taking that first step, even when you
don't see the whole staircase."*

~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

Monday, January 20, from 6 am - 5 pm in Fellowship Hall

Faith is even greater when you are homeless and may not see a staircase at all. On January 20, we will honor the steps of our homeless community members and create an atmosphere of Dr. King's hope. On Sunday nights, FCC hosts a men's PADS homeless shelter. The next morning, the men filter into our community and many utilize the libraries to stay warm & safe. Since the libraries are closed on MLK Day, we keep our shelter open an additional 12 hours that day and celebrate our guests!

This will be our 6th PADS MLK Day and it is truly a beautiful community effort. It unfolds as people share their gifts & talents with the men. What STEP will you bring to the day?

Our Guests' Day at FCC

6 am	Early Riser Lounge Upstairs
8:30 am	Hot Breakfast
9:30 am	Speaker Session
10:30 am	Boot/Shoe box distribution/Free Clothing Store/ Leisure & Game Time /Social Services/ Health Checks/ Job Interviews/Mentoring/Listening
12 pm	Entertainment
1 pm	Hot Lunch
2 pm	Movie Time & Free Concession Stand
4 pm	Free time
5 pm	Walk/Shuttle to Monday night shelter

To learn about volunteering, please contact Margaret Epperson at zargaretepps@gmail.com or 708-793-9069, or sign up online following the link provided at fccfaithful.org.

2020 VISION

A NOTE FROM FRED

Time Well Spent

I've been reflecting on a variety of observations about time.

The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once. ~ Albert Einstein

There are two days in my calendar: this day and That Day. ~ Martin Luther

How did it get so late so soon? Its night before its afternoon. December is here before its June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon? ~ Dr. Seuss

I went to a restaurant that serves 'breakfast at any time.'

So I ordered French Toast during the Renaissance. ~ Steven Wright

There's never enough time to do all the nothing you want. ~ Bill Watterson

Time is a cruel thief to rob us of our former selves.

We lose as much to life as we do to death. ~ Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey

It's a strange thing, but when you are dreading something, and would give anything to slow down time, it has a disobliging habit of speeding up. ~ J.K. Rowling

Time changes everything except something within us which is always surprised by change. ~ Thomas Hardy

You can't have a better tomorrow if you are thinking about yesterday all the time. ~ Charles F. Kettering

You can't make up for lost time. You can only do better in the future. ~ Ashley Ormon

We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right. ~ Nelson Mandela

If we take care of the moments, the years will take care of themselves. ~ Maria Edgeworth

The secret of life is enjoying the passage of time... ~ James Taylor

I held my breath as we do sometimes to stop time when something wonderful has touched us... ~ Mary Oliver

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the good news. ~ Jesus

It's time for a new year and decade now upon us. What will be your vision for both 2020 and the 2020's? Be on the lookout for signs of what God has in store for you and the future you share with sisters and brothers of FCC. It will be time well spent.

Peace and Godspeed,



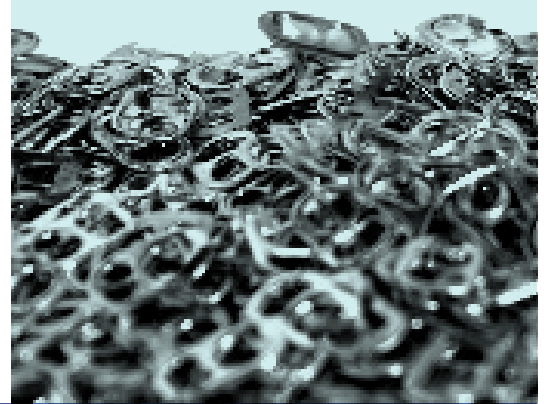
SAVE THOSE POP TABS!

On January 20, Martin Luther King Day, Brooke King-LaBreck and her son Dylan will deliver their year's collection of aluminum pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House near Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago.

These recycled pop tabs make a real impact to offset the operating expenses for the charity which provides local shelter, comfort and care to families whose children are receiving treatment at a nearby hospital.

Gift cards to CVS, Walgreens, Target and Starbucks are also a real blessing to the families staying at RMH if you are moved to help in another way.

Collected pop tabs and gift cards may be dropped off to Brooke's office, placed in her mailbox near the church elevator doors outside of Youth Crossings, or contributed to the Weekday Preschool pop tab collection bin. As always, we will report back with news of this year's haul! Thank you for making a difference!



FCC HAPPENINGS



CONNECT EVENT

"JUST MERCY" MOVIE & DISCUSSION

Sunday, January 12

1:30 p.m. Movie

at Marcus Cinema Country Club Hills

Discussion & Treats to follow

at the home of Jeff & Jessica Groen

Just Mercy is a 2019 American legal drama film directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, and starring Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx, Rob Morgan, Tim Blake Nelson, Rafe Spall, and Brie Larson. It tells the true story of Walter McMillian, who with the help of young defense attorney Bryan Stevenson appeals his murder conviction. The film is based on the memoir of the same name, written by Bryan Stevenson.

Pre-purchase your tickets! Movie is at 1:30 p.m. at Marcus Theatres, Country Club Hills Cinema, (4201 W. 167th Street, Country Club Hills).

We will have a discussion and treats after the movie at the home of Jeff and Jessica Groen (2414 Caddy, Flossmoor). The discussion will be facilitated by Kate Saunders, who has taught the *Just Mercy* book in her high school English classes, and by Bella VanderWoude, a high school student who did a research project on the book.

*This Connect Event is sponsored by
Congregational Connections & Adult Education*

Remind me - what is a "Connect Event"?

In this increasingly busy world, sometimes it is hard to find time to connect with others and enjoy just being together. Connect Events can offer us many opportunities to gather for low-key congregational connecting.

A Connect Event is a gathering sponsored by an individual, team or group who want to provide space for shared interests, outreach, or enjoyment. Connect Events can be targeted to certain groups, to families or to everyone.

How does this work?

YOU provide the idea, date/
time, and your presence at the event!

WE provide the promotion and
sign up! If you'd like to host a Connect
Event, contact Brooke King-LaBreck
at bking@fccfaithful.org within two
weeks of the event.

It's really that easy to create
opportunities for us to connect!

AD ED

ADULT EDUCATION

We never become too old to grow, learn, and connect while being formed and informed for following the Way of Jesus. Your presence and participation, whether regular or occasional, is most welcome!

SUNDAY MORNING & WEDNESDAY EVENING COURSES

Adult education courses are designed to build community through shared reading and discussion of a longer text or book. Drop-in attendees are welcome to come any week, as the discussion will be enriching whether or not you've read the assigned selection!

(Continuing) Book Study: *Holy Envy*

SUNDAYS Jan. 5 & 12 @ 11 am / Family Room

In January through May 2020, Trina Hayes will continue guiding us in our chapter by chapter book study of *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*. This book by Barbara Brown Taylor tackles the questions and concerns that arise when we encounter anything different or "other." We are exploring the spiritual riches God shares with us through the faith of others while we remain true to our own faith and beliefs.

Bible Study: *Actually, the Bible Is Political*

WEDNESDAYS Jan. 8-29 @ 7pm / Family Room

This study led by Pastor Fred Lyon will consider how political the Bible truly is. We will explore passages from Isaiah, Ezekiel, the Gospel of Luke.

February Black History Month EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

COURSE

excerpts from "The 1619 Project"

Sundays Feb. 2-23 @ 11 am / Family Room

BOOK STUDY

Lenny Duncan's *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US*

Wednesdays Feb. 5-26 @ 7pm in the Family Room

SUNDAY MORNING DROP-IN CLASSES

Sunday mornings @ 11 a.m.

Stand-alone classes, chats, and presentations which require no commitment or preparation. Each session will fit in with one or more of the following umbrella categories: Supporting Children and Families, Promoting Diversity and Safe Spaces, Developing Bible Literacy, and Community Engagement.

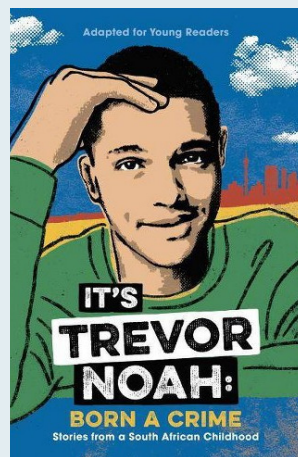
Old Testament Lecture Series: #4 - Abraham, Sarah, & Hagar

Jan. 5 / Bell Chapel This class will open with a viewing of the fourth lecture (30 min) in Professor Amy-Jill Levine's DVD course on the Old Testament. Lecture 4 comments upon Genesis 11-21, with a closer look at the tower of Babel story, as well as stories of Abram, his name change, his sojourn in Egypt, and his efforts to produce a child. The second half of the class will provide time for further group discussion of this section of Genesis. *This lecture series will be presented once per month during the upcoming year to get up through Lecture 7.*

Dear Ijeawele: Suggestions 4-6

Jan. 12 / Parlor In this drop-in class, we will discuss the second three of fifteen suggestions in a short pamphlet written by author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie to friend of hers from childhood. Her friend, Ijeawele, had asked Adichie for advice on how to raise her baby girl a feminist. We will read aloud together from our personal digital devices, so bring a tablet or smartphone with you. A link to the text is online at fccfaithful.org/adult-education

DISCOVERY BOOK CLUB



It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime

Jan. 19 / Family Room This youth reader edition of comedian Trevor Noah's 2016 book on his South African childhood is one of the three 2019-20 HF Reads book selections recommended to the community by Homewood-Flossmoor high school. Our discussion guide for this book has been created by H-F High librarian Alicia Rodriguez.

We encourage you to shop local and purchase the books featured by FCC Adult Education at Bookie's Bookstore in Homewood.

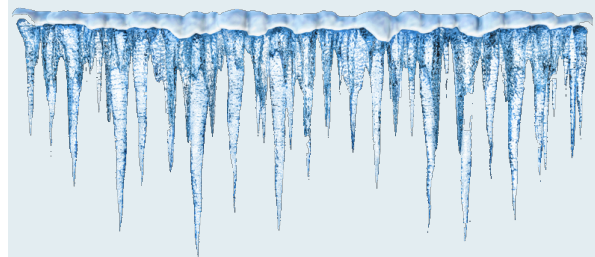


Children's Ministries



December was filled with Jesus and cheer. We spent the month learning and acting out the story of Jesus to prepare for our Pageant. All of the kids worked together to create a magical performance! Thank you to all of the parents that made sure the kids were here week after week and spent time practicing songs at home. It really paid off and they did such a wonderful job!

Children enjoyed the Instant Nativity at the 4 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service was so warm and fun! It is heartwarming and wonderful to see our children understand the true meaning of Christmas and the joy of giving through the programming at FCC.



3rd Grade Bible Class Begins

Sundays Jan. 12 - Feb. 2

Blizzard Blast

Friday, January 24

6:30-8 p.m. at the Community House

Sunday school classes resume January 12 and we look forward to seeing everyone! We hope you've enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break creating memories with your families.

Thank you to those who continuously give their time for the kids from week to week!

PRAYER MINISTRIES

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

For many years FCC has had a Prayer Shawl Ministry that gifts prayer shawls to individuals facing personal challenges related to medical issues, crisis or loss.

The shawl is given with a prayer printed out on a card that can hopefully bless the recipient with peace and comfort by reminding them of the constant presence of our loving God.

The Diaconate Board routinely gifts prayer shawls to those referred by our clergy or staff. We would like to open our ministry to any in our congregation who know of someone who might benefit from a prayer shawl. Recipients need not be members of our church. We are hoping our ministry can reach beyond our walls to bless any who are in need of the special assurance of God's presence in troubling times.

Please contact Barbara Johnson if you wish to give a shawl. She can be reached through the church office or directly at 708-625-5878. If you are interested in knitting or crocheting a shawl please contact Barbara Johnson for more information.



Our Sympathy and Prayers

to **Leslie and Craig Lowry** in the death of Craig's brother, Tom Lowry on January 1.

to former member **Ray Downs** and family in the death of his wife, Priscilla on January 2. Priscilla is also the mother of Erin Borgman (IN). Details and arrangements are pending at the time of publication.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Confirmation Class World Religions Retreat

JANUARY 24-26

Class will visit Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist places of worship, as well as worship with our neighbors at New Faith Baptist Church in Matteson.

Souper Bowl of Caring SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Save your bills & coins for the soup pots in worship, as we participate in this national fundraising event which will give back to Respond Now!

Youth Transition Plans



Julie Johnson

We have been busy putting together plans to support our Youth Ministries following Allison Billing's departure.

The current volunteer staff of Lay Advisors and Youth Staffers will remain in place, with two exciting additions to round out the team. Julie Johnson will serve as Lay Advisor to the Confirmation Class (Quest) and Dodi Wians is returning to assist with Tribes, our Junior High Group. Both Julie & Dodi previously served as Lay Advisors and will bring their considerable experience and creative energy to Youth Ministries.

A Search Committee has been formed and is currently taking applications for a new Director of Youth Ministries. Beginning January 1, Betsy Hanzelin has taken on additional hours and will supply administrative and organizational support for Youth Ministries until the new DYM is hired.

Personnel Committee, Christian Education Board and the church staff ask for your support during this interim period, and they ask for your prayers as the right candidate is found to continue FCC's wonderful tradition of excellent education, fellowship and service for our Youth.



Dodi Wians

WE BELIEVE IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Faith in Action Year End Giving

The Board of Faith in Action (BFA) has worked last fall to discern the organizations FCC should financially support in our year-end grants. The Board contacted our community partner organizations to determine their needs and review how they used previous funds granted. We endeavored to review the mission of the groups to determine if they matched BFA's intention to connect with groups that are involved in capacity/relationship building, emergency response, and justice issues. Our recommendations were approved unanimously by the BFA and Governing and we are please to announce that the following groups will receive grants this Winter:

Bethel Family Center - \$6800

Covers complete sponsorship of the Youth Job Training Program for 2020.

Jones Memorial Community Center - \$4000

To assist in funding the Center's "When I Grow Up" program for children.

Lighthouse LGBTQ - \$1300

\$600 will go directly to Lighthouse to provide speaker fees for Community Programs. \$700 held for spring sponsorship of Pride Party and the FCC tent at the event.

Respond Now - \$2000

Our gift covers the cost of 2 new stand up freezers, which was the first priority on Respond Now's Wish List.

Restoration Ministries - \$1500

These funds will continue FCC's support of the ESL program.

Sheilah A. Doyle Foundation - \$2000

Covers cost of scholarship for a child at Camp. S.A.D. is a local organization that runs a summer camp for children ages 7-17 whose parent, guardian or sibling fell victim to homicide.

South Suburban Family Shelter - \$5000

SSFS requested fund to assist with their budget deficit, due to reduced funding.

Preemptive Love - \$1000

This organization provides "on the ground" assistance to people in war torn areas. Our funds will go towards support in Northern Syria, following the withdrawal of US troops in the area.

Thank you for entrusting the BFA with the honor of representing FCC to our community, through our financial gifts, as well as Hands On opportunities to serve.

Kim Lipe, Chair of Board of Faith in Action

Thank You from Respond Now

*To the congregation of Flossmoor
Community Church,*

*On behalf of everyone at Respond
now, especially our clients, "thank
you" for helping fill our pantry shelves
with your recent food drive. Our
clients to have exxtras when they
were making their montly selection
... all possible to your generosity!*

*Your thoughtfulness and continued
support is greatly appreciated.*

*Sincerely,
Sue Perkins*

A Note on Office Phone Coverage

With only one part-time administrative assistant, our phone coverage has changed. Our Administrative Assistant, Megan Maginity works Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. -1p.m. After 1 p.m., phones are covered, as able, by Judy Jensen and Jamie Ford. If you are greeted by a recorded message, you can still dial by name to reach the staff member you are trying to reach or leave a general voice mail which will be answered as soon as possible.

We have put a Pastoral Care Emergency message option on our phone voice mail system. Please listen to the prompts if you receive our night message. Your emergency message will alert a staff member to have someone from the Pastoral Care team contact you, as needed.

