



# Living Water *Living Way*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF *CENTRAL MICHIGAN FREE METHODIST CHURCH* | OCTOBER 2017 – VOLUME 2  
6012 S. MISSION RD. MOUNT PLEASANT, MI 48858 (989) 772-2414 WWW.CMFMC.COM

## Small Groups / Life Groups coming soon in mid-Oct.

*Are you wanting to plug into Central Michigan Free Methodist Church? There's no better way than to plug into a Small Group / Life Group!*

The question I keep getting is, “Why Small Groups (Life Groups)? Aren't we already a small community group? What can I learn in a Small Group (Life Group) that I can't in our Worship Service on Sunday?”

Those are very good questions actually, and to be honest, ones that I would have asked 8-10 years ago, before I plugged into a Small Group ministry. Let me give you 4 reasons why Small Groups are a great fit for you – for soul transformation:

**1 – Personal Discovery:** Personal discovery happens in small groups much better than large ones for a number of reasons. You can learn, ask questions, involve yourself in the lives of others, and generally make yourself vulnerable among other people who are doing the same in small groups. Spiritual growth happens better with others, in community, with open lines of communication and freedom to speak into one another's lives.

**2 - Smaller Communities are More Effective:** Smaller communities act more like, well, *communities*. That may seem like a given, but the bigger the group is, the less like community it feels. The kind of community advocated in

Small Group Ministry requires a level of intimacy easily lost as numbers grow. You simply cannot know everyone beyond a certain point, and you certainly will not open up about your struggles and sins in a large group of people you don't know.

**3 – Deeper Friendships:** Small groups deliver deeper friendships that double as accountability. When people know you, really know you, your life becomes far more transparent, including your sin. Others learn to read you and will call you out for those sins, creating opportunities to deal with real life difficulties as they surface. This is part of what we should expect from good friends.

**4 – Maximum Participation:** Small groups deliver maximum participation. There are opportunities to discuss the issues with others in the church. Church life issues can be discussed openly among trusted friends. Mission can be planned out and participated in together. Lives are sharpened and leaders developed. Small groups are an absolute necessity for involving as many people as possible in the life and ministry of our church. ***Make sure to watch for more information about the new groups starting!***

## Ministry Events

- Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – CMFMC Campfire
- Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – Crop Walk
- Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> – Family Fun Night
- Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> – Women's Retreat
- Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> – Pastor's  
Appreciation Dinner
- Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> – Men's Breakfast
- Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> – Harvest Party
- Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> – Prayer Service
- Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> – *The Art of  
Marriage Conference*
- Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> – Alex Zsolt, piano
- Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> – ICRH  
Homeless Shelter

# 5 Ways to Jumpstart Your Prayer Life

from Churchleaders.com

There isn't a cookie-cutter formula when it comes to prayer. Some sit or kneel, and others stand or walk. Many speak out loud, while others whisper quietly. Some pray with friends, while others choose to pray by themselves. No matter how we choose to pray, prayer is essential for a follower of Jesus. Just as a relationship with your best friend would soon turn sour if you stopped speaking, so too will our relationship with God. Prayer invites us into constant communication with God so our relationship with Him can flourish. But, if we're honest, there are times in our relationship with God where prayer can feel flat, rote, or downright lifeless. So here are 5 ways to jumpstart your prayer life this week.

## ***Write them down***

Instead of speaking your prayers aloud or in your mind, choose to record your prayers in written form each day this week. Pick up a notebook or journal and write down your words of thanks, requests, and adoration to God. You can even begin recording your prayers on those blank pages at the back of your Bible.

I call on You, my God, for You  
will answer me; turn Your ear  
to me and hear my prayer  
*Psalm 17:6*



## ***Snap a Photo***

Start a collection of pictures of things, ideas, and people you need to be reminded to pray for. Each time you scroll through the photos on your phone, in a scrapbook, or on the refrigerator, speak words of blessing and prayer over them.

## ***Memorize and Meditate***

Choose a passage from the Bible, such as The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) or Psalm 23, and pray the passage for 5 minutes each day this week. Ask God to help focus your heart and mind as you pray. Focus on each word as you speak them to God.

## ***Only use 3***

Limit the length of your prayers each day this week. Instead of using long-winded prayers, consider limiting your prayers to 3 words. Rather than thanking God for this amazing day, simplify the prayer to, "Thanks for today." As you distill your prayers to their simplest form, reflect on what you're really saying to God and how much you are trusting Him.

## ***Study the prayers of Jesus***

Whether your prayer life is vibrant and active or struggling and inactive, I'd like to challenge you to prayerfully consider and reflect on the prayers of Jesus. There's something about the red words that breathe life into my tired heart and ignite my prayer life once again



# On the Journey with Pastor Gordy

*It's funny how God uses media to spark conversations with Him. My life, it seems, has been about Faith and Trust – specifically how I trust (or sometimes DON'T trust) God and how big of a faith step I'm willing to make for Him! This article – which I read this week – really sums up the cycle of taking Steps of Faith!*

## **How God Develops Our Trust in Him** by Stephen Blandino

The longer I live the more I'm convinced that our journey with Christ is about learning to trust Him more. The more we trust Him, the more of our hearts belong to Him. The less we trust Him, the harder our hearts become.

Trust can grow in times of prayer and in seasons of hardship. Trust can bloom when we read stories of triumph or see God's power on display. In the past I've talked about what it means to trust God, but how does God develop our trust? Perhaps the thing God uses to develop our trust as much as anything is the Faith/Trust Cycle. Here's how it works:

### **Steps of Faith**

The cycle begins when the Holy Spirit prompts you to take a step of faith. He might lead you to apply for a new job, give generously to a worthy cause, start a ministry, launch a new church, open a new business or share your faith with a friend (just to name a few). Life is a series of ever increasing steps of faith.

These steps of faith usually counter our feelings of safety and security. The what-if's and what-might's shout louder and louder as we stand at the edge of the unknown. God is simultaneously *behind* us and *before* us. He's behind us (nudging us to jump), and before us (waiting for us to arrive). As you take a step of faith into the unknown, God is already in the future waiting on your arrival.

### **Increased Trust**

Each step of faith reveals a willingness to trust God. You release your grip of control when you finally hang the open sign, write the check, make the move, or take the leap. All talk turns into all obedience.

Your act of obedience doesn't make God any more faithful than what He already was. It just reveals a measure of His faithfulness you've never encountered. And when God's faithfulness steps toward your step of faith, your trust in Him is bolstered. You see God for who He truly is, and you shake your head in bewilderment as to why you didn't jump sooner.

### **But the Journey Doesn't End There**

We get comfortable. Life settles. What was once a step of faith is now a boring routine. It no longer requires faith because it has become your new normal. So what does God do? He disrupts the normal. He moves the line. He speaks again. He leads you and prompts you to take a *new* step of faith. And, just as before, the fear of the unknown taunts you and haunts you. Will you jump into the safe place of God's will, or will you retract into the sinful place of disobedience? Will you leap forward or lean back?

Each step of faith is hard, but each step leads to a new level of trust. Again, a relationship with Jesus is about learning to trust...again, and again, and again. When you take a step of faith, your trust in God increases... and then He invites you to take *another* step. Around and around it goes, maturing your faith, stretching your vision and growing your obedience. That's how God develops our trust.... He invites us to take another step.

Does this mean you'll never experience failures or setbacks? NOPE! But even in the disappointments you'll see the faithfulness of God on display. And with each step of faith, you'll realize more and more just how much you can trust your Heavenly Father. What step is He leading you to take today?

# Announcements

- **Family Fun Night**

*Wednesday, Oct 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00pm*

Everyone is invited as we kick off our Family Fun Nights! Come join us as we eat, fellowship, play games, and overall live life as a community of believers. Our theme this month is "Tailgating"... Be prepared to have FUN – and bring your favorite tailgating food!

- **Women's Retreat**

*Friday, Oct 6<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, Oct 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00pm*

*COST: \$45/One Day...\$55/Both Days*

Calling all women! Come join the fun by spending two days of prayer and worship at *Evart Free Methodist Church in Evart, MI*. There are six workshops to choose from as Kristin Ulin speaks and challenges attendees to live Godly lives.

- **Pastor's Appreciation Dinner**

*Sunday, Oct 8<sup>th</sup> after the service in the Family Life Center*

Make sure to stay after the service as we eat together and celebrate our leaders together! Please bring a dish to share!

- **Men's Breakfast**

*Saturday, Oct 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30am*

Calling all men! Come join us at *Big Boy (1623 S. Mission, Mt. Pleasant)* for breakfast and discussion as we connect with God and with each other as Godly men. Our discussion will center around the book, *The Resolution for Men* (from "Courageous" movie) which you will receive for free! Make sure to invite friends and family!

- **Harvest Party**

*Saturday, Oct 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:30pm*

*Roger and Karen Brookens' Farm  
9200 S. Green Road, Shepherd, MI.*

Bring your entire family and all of your friends out and enjoy the fun, Fall festivities – THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AND ALL AGES! Prizes will be awarded for those that make and bring their best chili or soup for our chili/soup cook off. Make sure to bid on the silent auction items and stay for the live auction. There will be games and hayrides... and did someone say pumpkin cannon?

- **Prayer Service**

*Sunday, Oct 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm*

Come join us as we lift up our church and community in prayer, and as we worship together.

- **The Art of Marriage**

*Friday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, Nov 11<sup>th</sup>*

*COST: \$60/Couple – Includes materials for the weekend*

The Art of Marriage weaves together expert teaching, real-life stories, humorous vignettes, and more to portray both the challenges and the beauty of God's design." Registration is open now, please call the church office or look on our website!

- **Alex Zsolt – Special Guest/Special Worship Service**

*Sunday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am*

"Alex-Zsolt has a sincere passion to present the gospel through inspirational music...With his God-given talent at the piano, Alex presents music that ministers to people of all ages." Come join us as we celebrate in worshipping God together through music.

- **ICRH Homeless Shelter**

*Sunday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, Nov 26<sup>th</sup>*

Make sure to sign up to serve this week – whether to cook and serve food, or to spend the night and fellowship with guests – come serve our community in love. Please contact the church office or sign up in the church foyer starting mid-October.

## Upcoming Events

### **KMotion Kids Christmas Program:**

*Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:45am*

*Make sure to mark your calendars for KMotion's Christmas Program as the children "take over" our morning worship service.*

### **Christmas Eve Celebration Sunday:**

*In the works – possible Breakfast at 9am followed by our "Big Christmas Service" at 10:30am... Christmas music/hymns, Children's Minute, and a few other surprises for the morning service.*

### **Christmas Eve Evening Service:**

*Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00pm*

*Come join us for our 45min-1hr service as we celebrate the anticipation of Christ's birth.*

