



## “THINGS ABOUT FORGIVENESS”

In His Grip  
Pastor Tim

1. **Forgiveness is not forgetting.** Forgetting is a long-term by-product of forgiveness, but it is never a means toward it. Don't put off forgiving those who have hurt you, hoping pain will go away. Once you choose to forgive someone, Jesus will heal your wounds. WE DON'T HEAL IN ORDER TO FORGIVE; WE FORGIVE IN ORDER TO HEAL.
2. **Forgiveness is a choice, a decision of the will.** God requires you to forgive; it is something you can do. Some people hold on to their anger as a means of protecting themselves against further abuse, but all they are doing is hurting themselves. Others want revenge. Let God deal with the person. As long as you refuse to forgive someone, you are still hooked to that person and what they did. You're still chained to your past and tied up in bitterness. By forgiving you let the other person off your hook, but he or she is not off God's hook. What you gain by forgiving is freedom from your past and those who have hurt you. The other person involved may or may not want that same freedom of being lifted out of the muck. If the other person wants to stay back in the muck, you can't very well force them to leave it. TO FORGIVE IS TO SET A CAPTIVE FREE AND THEN REALIZE YOU WERE THE CAPTIVE.
3. **Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another person's sin.** We all will live with the consequences of someone else's sin. The only choice is whether you will live with the consequences in the bondage of bitterness or in the freedom of forgiveness. THE CROSS MAKES FORGIVENESS MORALLY RIGHT.
4. **Forgiveness is choosing not to hold someone's sin against him or her anymore.** When you're bitter it's common to bring up past wrongs with those who have hurt you. Many times it is done out of revenge to try and make them feel as bad as you do. That's going back into the muck again. YOU CAN TAKE A STAND AGAINST THE WRONG WHILE EXERCISING GRACE AND FORGIVENESS.
5. **Don't wait until you feel like forgiving.** You may never get there. Forgiving is a step of faith not feeling. SAY, "LORD, I CHOOSE TO FORGIVE THEM AND WHAT THEY DID TO ME."



# "BACK OFF THE FAST TRACK"

*Glenn Koster*

This past Sunday, Charlcie and I had the privilege of driving a stretch of US-50 that I have now walked twice – and back. As we drove west, we drove in the dark and I pondered things. I was deep in thought on the way back as well while Charlcie napped. One of the things I pondered is how much different things look when you are traveling by car instead of on foot.

When you travel a road on foot, you see every little thing. Very little escapes your attention – from the bugs to items on the road. When you zip along at highway speeds, often everything simply appears as a blur. You soon lose track of the differences in houses and a peek into the personalities of the people who live there. It is very easy to get caught up in thoughts of “are we there yet?”

As I pondered things, I realized that the reality of the road is simply a microcosm of our lives – especially during the holiday season. We scurry from one event to another, pausing long enough at times to grab an extra cup of coffee just to make sure we can stay awake one more hour.

Yet this is the season when we truly should be slowing our pace down. We should bask in the moment each event presents. We need to simply savor the things that matter most. But what might that be during the Christmas season?

We could start with refocusing on what Christmas is all about – the birth of our Savior, a gift that was undeserved but done out of love. Let’s show our gratitude by living a life full of gratitude that is full of love for others! This might show up in strange ways. Before you know it, you’ll be buying strangers dinner because they are hungry. You buy someone a cup of coffee just because they need to talk. Let it go wherever it takes you!

Since we are on the subject of getting priorities straight, work hard to integrate daily reading, study, and application of God’s word into your daily routines. Prayer? Make an effort to see that it’s not just a mealtime or bedtime task to be completed. Make it real.

We might also learn to focus on the children in our lives. At a recent school event in the area, the only people present were ones with a direct relationship connection with someone in the play. Why do we have to wait until special events? Let’s make them a priority all the time.

We can then begin to focus on our family and relationships. Why is it that the only time many families get together is when the holidays appear? Shouldn’t we make family – from grandparents to cousins a priority?

When we have the people issues resolved, we can focus on learning (and experiencing) what real life is like. Put away the cell phones and tablets. Turn off the television. Put away the books. Let the dishes wait one more meal. Go play a game. Go for a walk (you might be surprised at what you have missed). Take that much needed nap!

Reclaim Christmas – and reclaim what it means to really live!

# Church Council Snapshot

By Laine Alex Moore



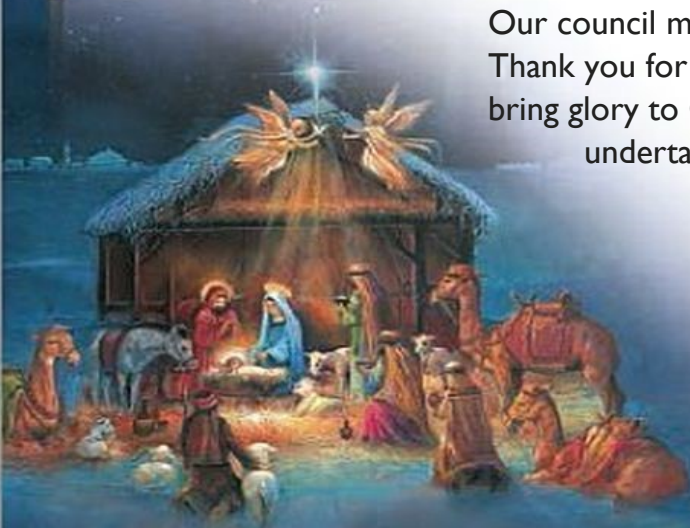
The First Church of God Council tackles a lot of important issues but seldom does a meeting go by without some levity. In our most recent meeting, we were entertained by the account of the installation of our new audio speaker in the sanctuary. Having rented a lift, Randy Lind and Terry George got into a jam when they found it too cumbersome to navigate into the building. But help was on the way! Tim Nisly was right here in the neighborhood and was able to assist. Unfortunately, once in the sanctuary and with the lift in the highest position, the battery died and Randy and Terry were stuck up in the air! Terry considered shimmying down a rope, but in the end decided to await the arrival of the worker from the equipment company. The end result was improved sound for our worship services but the road getting there was a bit bumpy!

During this same meeting, it was announced that a Creekside Alliance has been formed. In this early stage of development there are three churches that will be coming together with encouragement and insight for each other as pastors. The hope is that other churches will join as we endeavor to share the gospel with the entire Creekside Neighborhood.

The council agreed by consensus to institute a policy for anyone desiring to join the worship team. A short questionnaire has been developed which will enable the worship leaders to gauge the persons musical ability as well as spiritual commitment.

The annual church business meeting will be in early January, at which time we will be ratifying three new council members. Each council member serves two years and this can be repeated for a total of six years with ratification from the congregation following each two-year term. John Muntz has served six consecutive years, so we will soon be nominating someone new to the council.

Our council members welcome your questions and feedback. Thank you for your continued prayers as the council seeks to bring glory to God in each of their responsibilities and undertakings.



# DECEMBER 2019



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> Ina Harper</p> <p>Prayer Group</p> <p>Life Applications 6:00 PM</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Paul &amp; Ellen Mathias</p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:45 Common Ground 1:00 L.I.F.E. 5:00 Bible Study</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b> Prayer Group 9:30 am</p> <p>Life Applications 6:00P</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Council Meeting 6:30PM</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Sweet Cases 5PM Fellowship Hall</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:45 Common Ground 1:00 L.I.F.E. 5:00 Bible Study</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Ava Simmons</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Prayer Group 9:30 am</p> <p>Life Applications 6:00 PM</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Dakota Arpin Willa West</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Scott Smith</p> <p>Men's Breakfast 8 AM Carol Sing 6PM</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Stacy Smith</p> <p>9:45 Common Ground 1:00 L.I.F.E. 5:00 Bible Study</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Scott &amp; Cindy Hogan</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Christmas Eve</p>	<p><b>25</b> Merry Christmas</p> 	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Carol Moore</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Becca Kelly</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Carol Sing</p> <p>9:45 Common Ground 1:00 L.I.F.E. 5:00 Bible Study</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>New Years Eve Party 8Pm-??</p> <p>Pat &amp; Carol Moore</p>				

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Terry George, Administrator

Tim Yates, Young Adult Pastor

Glenn Koster, Associate Pastor

Laine Alex Moore, Administrative Assistant

Dustin Jesseph, Administrative Assistant

Tim Nisly, Custodian

## What's Going On?

I'm glad you asked because December is going to be one very busy month (like most Decembers). Between Faithful Follower's, L.I.F.E. Outreach, L.I.F.E. Applications, regular Bible studies, worship, and myriad Christmas events, I hope you find a time and place to plug in!

December is full of opportunities to learn from God's word. Faithful Follower's will explore how David honored God, one of the reasons that the Bible refers to David as "a man after God's own heart" (I Samuel 13:14). David did an incredible job of setting an example for us to glorify and honor God. The Sunday evening Bible study will continue to wind our way through the Revelation. Tuesday evening's L.I.F.E. Application Bible study will explore such diverse issues as co-dependency, appropriate worship, and living large for God.

But there will also be plenty of opportunities to bring praise to God through song. On Sunday evening, Dec. 15, we have been invited to join Union Valley Bible Church for a community wide "Old Fashioned Carol Sing" at 6:00 p.m. The following Saturday, Dec. 21, those who wish to join us can participate in a carol sing throughout our community beginning at 6 and ending with hot chocolate (and coffee) at the church around 8. Christmas singing will end with an old-fashioned carol sing during L.I.F.E. Outreach on Sunday, Dec. 28 at 1:00 p.m.

But that's not all! We will have a special Christmas service during the regular worship on Sunday morning, December 22 as our Praise and Worship team leads us. Christmas Eve we will have a short communion service to celebrate the birth of our Lord!