



May 2024

# CRC NEWSLETTER

LOVE. GROW. SERVE.



## MEDITATING ON FORGIVENESS

*“Remember that it is not hasty reading but serious meditation on holy and heavenly truths, that makes them prove sweet and profitable to the soul. It is not the mere touching of the flower by the bee that gathers honey, but her abiding for a time on the flower that draws out the sweet. It is not he that reads most but he that meditates most that will prove to be the sweetest, wisest and strongest Christian.”* (Thomas Brooks, 17th Century Puritan Preacher & Author)

Meditation is often viewed as a mysterious and elusive practice, but it’s actually a quite simple and helpful tool. Meditation is like slowly eating your favorite dessert, it’s a process of slowing down to fully enjoy and experience what you are consuming. If there’s one thing we need today, it’s a reminder to slow down. By slowing down we can engage more fully with God and His words so that we can draw near to Him. I encourage you to try setting aside even just ten or fifteen minutes a few times this month to meditate on God’s Word. What I’m inviting you to is not mystical or the only way, it’s just one way to utilize a different rhythm or approach to reading the Bible that will help you to see different parts of the text than you have seen before. I think you’ll find, as I have, that there’s more sweetness and beauty than you might normally experience quickly reading through a whole chapter or section. Here are a few simple steps for practicing meditation.

**Step 1: Silence.** Find a quiet space and just sit for 10-30 seconds and calm your mind and prepare to focus on what you are about to read.

**Step 2: Pray.** Ask God to help you focus, reveal helpful insights from the passage, and encounter Him as you read.

**Step 3: Read.** Choose a short passage and read it out loud several times. Then read through it again silently.

**Step 4: Contemplate.** Consider what the words are saying and meaning. Write down or journal your thoughts and conclusions. Write down any questions that you may have so that you can look them up now or later when you have more time.

**Step 5: Examine.** Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see which areas of your life need to be reshaped to be more Christ-like as a result of what you have been reading.

**Step 6: Live It Out.** Write down one way that you would to be intentional as a result of what you have read.



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As we conclude our series on forgiveness, I want to leave you with a few of my favorite passages on the topic to give you a starting place for meditation. Hopefully these passages will be an encouragement to you and help you dig in deeper in your understanding. Forgiveness is a wide-ranging and beautiful topic in scripture, but here are just a few words that have been helpful to me.

**1 John 1:9** - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**Isaiah 55:7** - Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

**Psalms 103:10-14** - He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

Serving Christ Together,

Pastor Joey

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Family Prayer Night

**Monday, May 13**  
**6:30–7:30 pm**

### Ageless Wonders

**Tuesday, May 14**  
**10:30 am–1 pm**

### Grad Sunday

**Sunday, May 19**

### Meals By Wheels

**May 27-31**

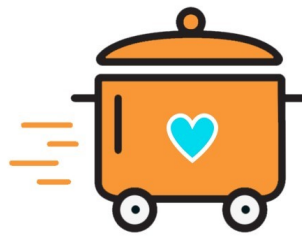
## MEALS BY WHEELS

Our next week for delivering meals is May 27-31. This is such a simple, but vital, opportunity to serve in our community. It takes about an hour to load up and deliver the meals, and the people receiving the meals are so grateful, not only for the food, but the opportunity to see a smiling face when it's delivered.

Moms, people love seeing the kids helping out. Load them up and bring them along. It's a great opportunity to show them one way to serve others.

If you have some time over the lunch hour one day that week, consider giving it a try. You will be a blessing, as well as be blessed yourself.

Contact Nancy Nelson ([nancy@crcff.com](mailto:nancy@crcff.com)) to sign up for a delivery slot.



**MEALS BY  
WHEELS**  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

May  
27-31

CONTACT NANCY NELSON  
FOR DETAILS OR TO HELP:

[nancy@crcff.com](mailto:nancy@crcff.com)  
320-815-4724

## AGELESS WONDERS

Tuesday, May 14 10:30 am—1 pm

It's time for some fun and games! So this next gathering we'll be having several game tables with opportunities to try something new or just stick with some of the old favorites. SCRABBLE anyone??

Feel free to bring one of our favorite table or card games or maybe a puzzle that others might enjoy as well. It will be a very casual event.

Along with the games we'll be serving a Potluck Lunch. Bring a main dish, a salad or side, or a dessert.

PLEASE RSVP to Nancy Nelson ([nancy@crcff.com](mailto:nancy@crcff.com)) with the number attending and what you plan to bring.

*Your friends are always welcome to join us!*





# MINISTRY STAFF

Joey Kalan	Senior Pastor
Ben Ellison	Associate Pastor of Discipleship
Trisha Grove	Children's Ministry Director
Nancy Nelson	Care Coordinator
Morgan Kempenich	Office Administrator
Lisa Ripley	Treasurer

# OVERSEER BOARD

Dave Anderson	Dave Bjork
Ben Ellison	Kathryn Enderson
Dan Heikes	Joey Kalan
Katrina Mouser	Tim Swedberg
Sue Wilken	

# FINANCIAL UPDATES

## MINISTRY CENTER BUILDING FUND RECAP

January 2022 to April 2024

**Total Pledge (3 Yrs.) \$565,214**

Pledged Gifts Received (to date)	\$503,472.17
Non-Pledged Gifts Received (to date)	\$70,270.77
Donation from Church Reserves	\$150,000.00
Total Receipts	\$723,742.94
Total Expenses (to date)	\$(715,440.31)
Returns/Refunds/Rebates	\$21,896.95
Total Project Cost (to date)	\$(693,543.36)
Balance in Building Fund	\$30,199.58



## CROSSROADS CHURCH

629 E Channing Avenue,  
Fergus Falls, MN  
218-739-3391

**crcff.com**

OFFICE HOURS:  
TUESDAY–FRIDAY 8 AM –12 PM

## GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

April 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024

Budget	\$44,783
Expenses	-\$46,800
Income	\$36,920
Expenses Exceed Income by \$9,880	

## RESTRICTED FUND SUMMARY

April 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024

FUND	Revenue	Expenses	Balance
Camp Fund	\$235	\$0	\$4,624
Trout Lake Camp Fund	\$0	\$0	\$4,243
Ukraine Fund	\$4,960	\$0	\$6,641
Youth Mission Fund	\$7,605	\$82	\$34,615

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
MAY			1 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study (Perkins) 10:30 AM Men's Bible Study 6 PM Awana Celebration Night	2	3	4
5 9 AM Worship 10 AM Family Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Sunday School/Connection Groups	6 6:30 PM Unwind	7 9 AM Women's Bible Study	8 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study (Perkins) 10:30 AM Men's Bible Study 5-6:30 PM 6/7 grade Hello Event	9	10	11
12 MOTHER'S DAY 9 AM Worship 10 AM Family Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Women's Bible Study (Maple)	13 6:30 PM Family Prayer Night	14 9 AM Women's Bible Study 10:30 AM-1 PM Ageless Wonders	15 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study (Perkins) 10:30 AM Men's Bible Study	16	17	18
19 SENIOR SUNDAY 9 AM Worship 10 AM Family Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Women's Bible Study (Maple)	20	21 9 AM Women's Bible Study	22 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study (Perkins) 10:30 AM Men's Bible Study	23	24	25
26 9 AM Worship 10 AM Family Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Women's Bible Study (Maple)	27 MEMORIAL DAY	28	29	30	31	

*The Nursery is available each week during the Sunday service.*

**Meals By Wheels  
May 27-31**

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**  
 If you have something you would like to submit for inclusion in the newsletter, please email to **office@crcff.com** by the 22nd of the month (to be published in the following month's issue).