

August 2023

G Garden Gleanings

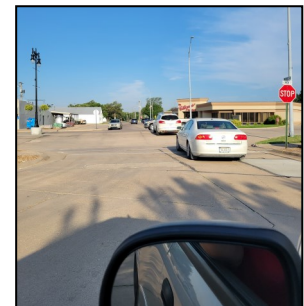
A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church

Ladies Mystery Trip

The Women's Ministry Committee organized a Mystery Trip day on August 12. Around 40 ladies met at the Church office not having a clue what the day held or even where they would land up! After filling eight vehicles, the caravan headed out...toward Moundridge but kept going....



First stop of the day found the crew in Galva at the Coffee Shed for coffee/drink and or pastry. The Coffee Shed also had a small gift shop to browse before loading for the next stop.....



The Copper Shed! The Copper Shed is an antique store south of Marion with lots of different things to reminisce about. Where we were going was not the only mystery of the day though! Three different times throughout the day everyone drew a name of a driver out of a box. That would be the vehicle they rode in to the next few locations.



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Mystery Trip Continued

The third stop lead us on an adventure, through some backroads that looked like they haven't been driven on in awhile. Thankfully it was dry and no one go stuck! The road lead us to the Spring Creek Peafowl farm. Bill & Candy Vinduska told us about thier farm and showed us around the farm where they bread and raise varieties of Peacocks and other Peafowl.



Lunch was next but the destination was still unknown...Until we got to the Brandin' Iron in Florence. The Brandin' Iron is located in the Historic Opera House on Main Street.



Next stop was across the street at Prairie Oaks Designs. This shop is owned by the same person who runs the restaurant. It is known for its metal décor and has a new clothing boutique.

Last stop of the day was at the Harvey House Museum in Florence.



It was a fun day exploring different locations in the area, but the best part was getting to know ladies in church in a deeper way.



We had the privilege of hearing a testimony from Julia Renich and welcoming her into membership following the worship service on August 13. It is always an encouragement to hear how God has worked and is working in our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Coming Soon...



September 20,
2023

Over the past several months, the Coordinators for our Children's Wednesday evening ministry have been meeting. As we anticipated our Fall plans and enrollment needs, we realized that we were entering a transitional year. The children who had come through our TAG program had all graduated. A new surge of Preschoolers were presenting a need for some additional classes in the lower grades. It seemed that now was the time to introduce a **unifying name for all ages**. . . a name and logo that would be easily recognized by both our church attenders as well as our community contacts. This decision was not taken lightly but was made with input from our church leadership and also various individuals who had worked in our Wednesday evening ministries. **Our new name** that will identify all age groups will now be known as **GARDEN KIDS**. This name will replace our existing names of Team Kid and TAG.

You will notice that our new logo has incorporated our Church logo - the Tree and the Bible. As a Children's ministry we stand firmly on the Word of God. It is our passion that Truth is taught in all age groups. This has been a long standing purpose for our children's education. We have chosen to stand under the umbrella of our Church missional statement and purpose tying both Church and Children's ministry together in one purpose. We have chosen as our supporting tenets - Rooted in Faith, Growing in Christ. Our **chosen theme verse is 2 Peter 3:18** - *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever more."* It is our deepest desire that each child who enters our doors will have the opportunity to grow in their knowledge of Jesus and ultimately come to a saving Faith.

We are anticipating a good year ahead. God has provided quality staff in each of the teaching areas. Invitation cards are located on our Welcome Center. These are for you to give out to neighborhood kids & friends - or anyone you know, who would be 3 years - 6th grade.

If you have any questions see any of the Coordinators.

This year we are providing weekly meals before class times. These meals will be available for Garden Kids families as well as any of our Prayer Gathering attenders. Erin Koehn is the Kitchen Coordinator, with Eva Pankratz and Wilda Becker as her assistants.

UKRAINIAN SUNDAY AT GCC

Joe Goossen and Sasha Aleksandrov spent the Sunday School hour with teens and adults sharing about Ukraine, the culture, the war, and particularly how God is raising up believers and ministries to advancing His work for such as time as this.

Liuda Statkevich (FCA Ukrainian Staff member) and Emma (Sasha's 10-year-old daughter) led our children in Ukrainian songs, culture, crafts and snacks during the Kids' Sunday School hour.

Throughout the Worship Service, Scot Loyd led Joe and Denise, Liuda and Sasha in a panel discussion, taking written questions from the congregation. It was a fantastic morning, filled with great fellowship and valuable information.

Sasha Aleksandrov, (FCA Ukraine National Director) his wife Marina and their three children, (Emma, Theo and May) were able to spend a Sunday morning with us, sharing their story. In February 2022, they came to the USA for a two-week trip to attend an FCA seminar in Dallas. While here, the war erupted in Ukraine, and they were unable to return. They shared with us that their chapter in States is coming to an end as it's now time to return. Their family has been praying, following God's lead and will be returning to Ukraine to continue develop and leading the FCA ministry in their country. God has put in their hearts, a love for ministering to coaches and athletes, they know that it's His calling for our lives. God is using this verse to speak to Sasha and his family, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" - Isaiah 6:8. They still believe that all 80,000 Ukrainian coaches need to be led and ministered to, as they in turn influence 4 million kids who deserve to hear the Gospel, receive a Bible and be a part of an FCA huddle.

Sasha and Marina just received a passport for baby May, who was born in the Sates on May 26. They plan to start their trip back home August 23, 2023, returning to their hometown in west Ukraine. If you would like to be part of supporting the FCA ministry in Ukraine, you can connect with Sasha through his FCA email saleksandrov@fca.org.

Liuda Statkevich has arrived safely at Liberty University in Virginia, ready to take on her fall schedule and continue working for FCA. It's a joy to share that Liuda will be joining the Greater Lynchburg FCA team as an international team member. She is praising the Lord, having recently been told by college admissions, that her scholarship has been doubled by the President of the College, and now her entire first year is paid for. God's affirmation of the path He has opening for her towards a Counseling/Sports Psychology Degree is continually shown every day. All of this is God's miracle and providence in her life. If you would want to help support her FCA ministry/education journey her email is lstatkevich@fca.org.

~Scott & Jenny Loyd



ADULT/CHILD PRAYER MINISTRY

Macy Wohlgemuth—Jenny Goering/Polly Weesner (not pictured)

Polly—I have found it a privilege and blessing to be able to pray specifically for Macy. I believe God has a special assignment ahead for her. I have sensed a deep need for teens in particular as they prepare to get more out into the world that is more chaotic than ever.

Jenny—Having a specific prayer partner makes me more intentional in seeking out “my kid” and checking in on her life. Her picture is attached to the visor of my car as a reminder to pray for her when I’m driving.

Macy—It is encouraging to know that people are taking time to pray for us.



Josh Koehn—Rob & Tami Hiebert/Julia Renich



Julia—Josh is a great young man that I see in him a desire to serve God. My prayer for him is to always follow after Jesus with his whole heart, when he falls that he will see Jesus help him up, that he will praise God in all he does, and he will look to the team of believers to be there with him.

Rob & Tami—We always appreciated the people that prayed for our kids and find it a privilege to pray for Josh and his family.

Noah Goossen—Craig & Julie Miller

Craig & Julie—We are looking forward to continue praying for Noah as he starts school this year.



Callie Klaassen—Judy Gilson

Judy—I have enjoyed connecting with Callie because it took away the stress I have had of getting ready to move. I pray for her throughout the day and I have gotten to know her better through working in her Sunday School class this summer.

Judy—Having Judy as my prayer partner has been amazing. She always leaves little gifts and notes to remind me that she is praying for me each week.



Garden
COMMUNITY CHURCH



Vonnie's Views

November 14, 2020, started out like any other Saturday. I spent the day doing weekend housework. But I felt tired all day. By the afternoon I was pretty sure I was coming down with something. In the evening when I went to bed, I felt like I might be catching a cold. I grabbed the Mentholatum to apply to my neck because my throat was getting sore. With a jolt, I realized the distinctive scent of the ointment was absent. I handed the tiny green bottle to Gerhard and asked him if he could smell it—he confirmed he could. I held it to my nose and inhaled deeply. Nothing. That was the moment I realized I likely had COVID. A test the following Monday confirmed.

Although the course of the illness was mild, the loss of taste and smell was profound. Weeks passed as I waited for my taste and smell to return. It did not. Months passed and I started to try the home remedies I read about on the internet. Nothing changed. A year passed and I grappled with the fact that I may be among those who never regain their taste and smell.

In the nearly 3 years I've been without taste and smell, there have been intervals when everything tastes either sweet, salty, or metallic. There have been times when I constantly smell something that is not there, like cigarette smoke. Other times, the smell of something familiar has changed into an unpleasant scent. For example, for a month or so, coffee suddenly smelled like gasoline. I've also had beautiful moments when I get a whiff of "normal" smells, like bread baking in my oven. But then as quickly as I smell it, it's gone.

In the realm of disabilities, the loss of taste and smell is minor. I can live a full and meaningful life without being able to taste or smell. I must be aware that some warnings are absent: smell of smoke, the acrid smell of a hot belt on the mower, or the smell of the gas being inadvertently left on in the stove.

This disability of not being able to taste or smell has caused me to think more deeply about a couple of things. First, I often feel dissatisfied and unfulfilled after a meal. I've eaten and my tummy is full—but I am restless and want more. Psalm 34:8 says, "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" When I'm feeling dissatisfied and unfilled, when I roam around my kitchen looking for something—anything—that will satisfy my discontent, I remind myself of Psalm 40:5 "LORD my God, no one can compare with you. You have done many miracles. And you plan to do many more for us. There are too many of them for me to talk about." The miracle I'm asking God for is that HE ALONE will be my satisfaction. I truly want to taste and see that the Lord is GOOD. I pray that I will hunger and thirst after righteousness (Matthew 5:6) because then, and only then, I will be entirely satisfied.

Second, I long for these senses to be restored and I grieve their loss. It's normal and healthy to grieve what is lost. But when that loss becomes that focal point of our lives, we have entered dangerous territory—territory where our adversary is able to gain a foothold. We all should grieve the brokenness of this world because of sin, keeping in mind that the beauty of redemption shines brightly in brokenness! We also must realize that "this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (2 Corinthians 4:17)! Our challenging circumstances can produce good fruit in our lives and remind us of what matters eternally. Isaiah 25:26 says, "On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined." The angel told John to write, "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:9). All who have accepted salvation by grace through faith are invited. I'm eagerly looking forward to that day! But in the meantime, I will feast on the goodness of God and his marvelous provision during my sojourn on earth!



SEPTEMBER



Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Memory Verse: Psalm 127:1—Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					<p>1 Pray parents have wisdom with each child, teaching & training in the way they should go.</p>	<p>2 Pray for Brett and Aiden Friesen.</p>
<p>3 Pray for Noah Goossen.</p>	<p>6 Pray for Greyson & Lincoln Hanzlicek.</p>	<p>5 Pray grandparents help instill godly values in their grandkids.</p>	<p>6 Pray for Elise Harms.</p>	<p>7 Pray Katharine Harms.</p>	<p>8 Pray for Christian teachers have discernment & insight.</p>	<p>9 Pray for Drew Hiebert.</p>
<p>10 Pray for our Sunday School teachers to rightly handle the Word of God.</p>	<p>11 Pray for Enora and Colton Huxman.</p>	<p>12 Pray for Elisabeth Kitto.</p>	<p>13 Pray for Alexis, Brayden & Callie.</p>	<p>14 Pray for Josh and Matt Koehn.</p>	<p>15 Pray for Karlee, Harper and John Kohls.</p>	<p>16 Pray for Kaycee Mason.</p>
<p>17 Pray for ears to hear and hearts to understand for each of us.</p>	<p>18 Pray parents model godly priorities before their kids.</p>	<p>19 Pray for Layton & Javan Pyle.</p>	<p>20 Pray for Kylee, Brett & Jenna Nelson.</p>	<p>21 Pray for Esther, Cora & Abigail Quick.</p>	<p>22 Pray for Raiden, Lydia & Zaylyn (Karen Smithson's grandkids.)</p>	<p>23 Pray for Wyatt, Weston and Jaycee Sommerfeld.</p>
<p>24 Pray for Jonathan & Eli Williams.</p>	<p>25 Pray for Macy Wohlgemuth.</p>	<p>26 Pray for Daniel, Tito, Filipe & Gabriel Goossen.</p>	<p>27 Pray for Lucas, Levi & Annika Huxman.</p>	<p>28 Pray for Dakota and Riley Zook.</p>	<p>29 Pray for Zephaniah Hansen.</p>	<p>30 Pray God continues to raise up workers from among us to serve Him.</p>



New Hope Happenings

August 2023

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

Within the last couple of weeks, we have had several people who were homeless and were traveling through this area. One disabled pregnant lady was stranded in Newton and needed to get back to Western Iowa.

We appealed on Facebook for \$150 to send her home and the response was very encouraging. Within seven minutes of the post a warm-hearted woman responded. A number of other people responded who were willing to help with money or prayer. She made it back to her home in Iowa safely.

Sometimes people are faced with other problems that seem impossible. The story is told in Matthew 14:14-21 about the problem the disciples were faced with as they looked at the hungry crowd and it was dinner time. Like many of us the disciples saw no solution. They were going to tell everyone to go home and the teaching time was going to be over for the day.

Jesus, on the other hand saw the young boy with the loaves and fishes. He then prayed and a miracle took place—as the people were fed. I firmly believe that lives were changed that night because the little boy was willing to give his all and because Jesus did what he did.

Are you willing to send that check for \$25? Are you willing to buy a couple of half gallons of milk or a couple of packages of lunch meat? With your support we can help people tackle the problems they can't solve. Together with God's help we can make a difference.

We Love You,
Brian Bisbee

Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers. If you would like to serve during the day we are looking for helpers during the day. If you would like to volunteer for evening service and join one of our church teams we would welcome you. Please give Marilyn, our Volunteer Coordinator a call at 316-283-7711.

Some Exciting Opportunities

- Maybe you haven't had an opportunity to participate in the new Shelter project yet—and you want to. Here are three ways you can be a part of things.
- We are so excited because we have been given a solar array for the new Shelter. It is going to save us thousands of dollars in energy bills. Before that happens, we need to purchase gravel to keep our weeds down and to serve as a base for the solar array. We need \$3,500. Designate GRAVEL in your giving.
- We have identified high quality mattresses that are made in the USA that we need to buy for the new Shelter. They are \$400 each and we need 36. Designate MATTRESS in your giving.
- We need shower curtains for the new facility. They are \$25 each and we need 16. Designate SHOWER CURTAINS in your giving.
- Honor a loved one or co-worker, remember a birthday, celebrate the life of someone who has passed away with a gift to the New Hope Shelter. Remember that your donation is an investment in changing lives.
- If you have extra frozen hamburger, roasts, hotdogs, pork, or chicken we can use it for meals or food baskets. We also accept garden produce and leftovers from family, church, or business events. Give Brian a call at 316-283-7711.



Tabor Mennonite Vacation Bible School participants purchased our wastepaper baskets with their offerings from this year. A big thanks to them for their efforts.

Grace Community Church through the Local Reach group has agreed to furnish the pillows, pillow enclosures, and pillowcases for the new Shelter. Thanks so much for helping.

Window frames are being installed. The roof is being installed right now by the good folks from Wray Roofing. The walls are taking shape. Despite the hot weather, the project is moving forward on schedule. Drive by 308 South Meridian Road Newton and take a look at the progress that has been made.

Current Needs List



Laundry pods

Coffee

Powdered Creamer & Sugar

Dillon's & Wal Mart gift-cards

Sliced Bread

Sliced Meat

55 Gallon Trash Bags

Deodorant - Men's & Women's

Band-Aids - Normal & Large Size

Pine-Sol

Gently used towels and wash cloths

Our mission at New Hope Shelter, Inc. is to provide a sanctuary for those experiencing homelessness in Harvey, Marion, McPherson and Butler counties by uniting the local church into a nurturing community which restores hope through a growing relationship with Christ.

It is through the love of Christ we share with those in need of hope.

Executive Director - Brian Bisbee
brian@newhope-shelter.org
316-283-7711



New Hope Shelter, Inc.
 Following Christ, Building the Community