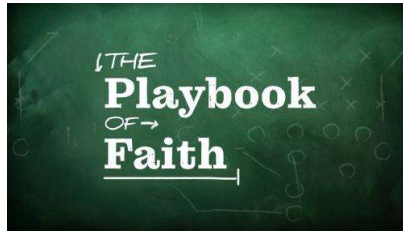


Justice (and planning)
responding to the needs
of others
Nehemiah 5:1-19



FROM THE DEACONS

Thank You to the congregation for the gifts received Jan 8-29, 2024:

Received for general ministries:	\$ 8,900.59
Received for Christian Education:	\$ 575.80
Community Offering: World Renew	\$ 299.00
Love Your Neighbor	\$ 135.02
Desert Streams-Lont	\$ 50.00
Backpack Buddies	\$ 40.00
Resonate-Rodriguez	\$ 30.00
MFA-Mpindi	\$ 20.51

Community Offerings

TODAY: Audio Scripture Ministries

Audio Scripture Ministries (ASM) helps connect people to God's Word in their own heart language by recording and distributing Bible and Bible Engagement resources in audio.

Feb 11: Pine Rest

Feb 18: Denominational Ministry Shares (DMS)

Feb 25: Kids Hope USA

THIS WEEK

Monday, Feb 5

Tuesday, Feb 6

Wednesday, Feb 7

9:30am Nehemiah Small Group

7pm Worship Team Rehearsal

Thursday, Feb 8

7pm Nehemiah Small Group

Friday, Feb 9

Saturday, Feb 10

8:30pm Youth Group Bowling

Sunday, Feb 11

Youth Service

9:30am Worship

11am Renewal Lab Presentation

COMING UP

Feb 14 Ash Wednesday Service

Feb 18 Youth Group

Feb 19 Exec

Feb 21 Blood Drive

Feb 26 Full Council

Elders

Deacons

STAFF

Tom VanderPloeg (Pastor)

Barb Sanders (Care Ministry)

Andrew Lenhart (Worship)

Barb Van Ryn (Youth Ministry)

Laura Williams (Admin Assistant)

Katherine Sneller (Custodian)

February 4, 2024



Welcome!
We are glad you are here!

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME in our service

Also available during worship:

Nursery for infants & toddlers;

"Busy Bags" with kid's activities;

Puzzle & sermon notes written by Pastor Tom for students Grades 3 & up

(found by weekly bulletins)

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & SONGSHEETS

are available at the sound booth

TODAY: Even as Nehemiah moved forward in faith and action, the needs of the people around him did not go ignored; Nehemiah shows us that communities of faithful obedience to God are also communities of justice and mercy.

NEXT WEEK: Youth Service Sunday

4375 Ivanrest SW, Grandville MI 49418. 616-532-2350

www.fellowshipcrc.com

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship

How Great Thou Art (Until That Day)

Holy Roar

How Great Is Your Love

Prayers of the People

Scripture *Nehemiah 5:1-19, page 756 in Bible below seat*

Nehemiah Helps the Poor

5 Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. **2** Some were saying, "We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain."

3 Others were saying, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine."

4 Still others were saying, "We have had to borrow money to pay the king's tax on our fields and vineyards. **5** Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others."

6 When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was very angry. **7** I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, "You are charging your own people interest!" So I called together a large meeting to deal with them **8** and said: "As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!" They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.

9 So I continued, "What you are doing is not right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies? **10** I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest! **11** Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil."

12 "We will give it back," they said. "And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say."

Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised. **13** I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, "In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise. So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!"

At this the whole assembly said, "Amen," and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

Message "Justice (and planning) – responding to the needs of others"

The Compassion Hymn

God's Parting Blessing

CHURCH LIFE

TODAY everyone is invited to stay after the worship service to hear an update from our Church Renewal Lab lead team.

FROM THE DEACONS *The 2023 year end giving statements are now available. A copy of this statement was emailed to you on January 24 using the email address associated with your Elvanto account. If you do not have an email address on file, a hard copy has been placed in your church mailbox. This statement can also be accessed through your Elvanto account. Once you are logged in, go to the "Profile" menu (found by hovering over your name), then choose the "Giving" option. You will see the option to download your statement here.*

If you have any questions about your statement or have not received one, please contact one of the Deacons. Thank you.

FROM THE ELDERS Welcome to **Ellie Klifman** who has requested that her membership be transferred to Fellowship CRC.

LENT SMALL GROUP Last summer, our sermon series focused on learning more about twelve faith practices and we were encouraged to nurture faith practices. The CRCNA Faith Practices Project includes many resources that can be helpful for nurturing each of the practices highlighted. One resource mentioned with the prayer resources is *Forty Days to a Closer Walk with God: The Practice of Centering Prayer* by J. David Muyskens. (<https://bit.ly/practiceprayer>) This book includes a six session small group plan with an encouragement to meet during the season of Lent. Plans are being made for a small group to meet during the season of Lent on Wednesday mornings, 9:30-10:30am, starting February 21. If you are interested in participating in this small group during Lent, please sign up online (link in Midweek) or on the bulletin board in the narthex. Questions? Contact **Pastor Barb Sanders**.

BRING YOUR OWN MUGS TO CHURCH! Members of Fellowship Church, the cost of paper cups for coffee just keeps going up and up. I'm asking that members bring their own cups for coffee if at all possible. This will cut down on the number of cups that need to be purchased and therefore cut down cost! I have been brainstorming how we could move from purchasing paper cups to having mugs available at church. If you have any ideas for me on how to accomplish this please let me know! I am open to feedback. For now let's start with bringing our own mugs to church! Have no fear, I will continue to purchase cups as we transition to a new plan! Thanks in advance for your help in saving us money! **Pam Kortman**, Fellowship Committee

ADULT BIBLE STUDY NO CLASS TODAY, February 4, or next week, February 11. Class will resume February 18.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Congratulations to **Ron and Julie Oosterink** who will celebrate their 36th wedding anniversary on February 5! We give thanks for their lives and their marriage. May they continue to know God's faithful presence with them.

★Keep up to date with all the activity of the Church Renewal Lab at www.fellowshipcrc.com/crl.

PRAYER FOCUS

- We extend our sympathy and prayers to **Don and Sharon Winkle**. Sharon's sister, Jan, passed away on January 26. May this family know God's comfort, peace, and presence with them.
- Continue to pray for those with ongoing health needs and concerns: Rick Aardema, Jayne Barnhill (**Sandy Campo's** sister), **Jean Cisler**, **Ellie Klifman**, Kim Mulder (family of **Bonnie Houtstra** and **Tamie DeWitte**), **Lois Oom**, Katherine Sneller, **Rachel Tjoelker**, Barb Voskuil (**Carole Dykstra's** sister).
- For **Audio Scripture Ministries** as they connect people to God's Word in their native language.
- For the **LOVE Food Pantry** and the families that receive support through this ministry.

TODAY

9:30am Worship

10:45am Church School (Renewal Lab)

11am Renewal Lab Presentation

4:30pm Youth Group-Middle School

6pm Youth Group-High School

MISSIONS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

FOOD PANTRY Thank you to everyone who has donated supplies for the pantry!

BACKPACK BUDDIES We are currently collecting for February.

Our current needs:

Snacks: granola bars, rice krispie treats, fruit snacks, cheese or peanut butter crackers, etc.; Fruit: applesauce, small boxes of raisins (bags of 12 little boxes are great); Canned chunky soups; Canned Chicken; Nutrifruit bars; *Cash donations can be made through the deacons; *Food donations can be placed in the wooden box in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity and continued support! **Sandy Campo**

BLOOD DRIVE The next Blood Drive will be on **Wednesday, February 21**, from **1:30-6:30pm**. A sign-up to bring goodies for the canteen is on the M&CC bulletin board. If you would like to sign up to donate, a link can be found on the Versiti website or the church website under upcoming events. https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/156817