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I've often said that the greatest joy a father can know is that which comes from his children sharing his faith in Christ. Sadly, not all fathers have that joy. And as Genesis makes clear, even children living in Eden with a perfect Father can rebel and choose a life of disobedience. I was reminded of that this week while reading of a highly respected preacher whose son has gone viral on TikTok denouncing his father's faith.

Gratefully, I have that joy. And now that joy has reached new heights! Not only do I have the additional joy of five grandchildren who share the faith of their grandmother and grandfather, our oldest granddaughter has shared her faith in a the most beautiful way possible. She baptized her best friend into Christ.

As seen on the front page, Grace recently baptized Nicole Weaver at a special service at the campus house at ISU. Grace and Nicole have been friends since 8th grade, and are now roommates. Nicole occasionally came with Grace to our worship services, and often came to youth meetings and activities. Since going to ISU, both have become very involved with Encounter, the campus ministry.

Due to covid restrictions large campus gatherings are not allowed, but small groups and special events still provide numerous opportunities for fellowship, ministry, and study with an amazing family of students, interns, and adult leaders. Many of the students also get involved in local churches, and Grace and Nicole are teaching a small class of elementary grade children.

I really believe it's ok for a grandpa to be proud, and I couldn't be prouder of Grace. And the joy I feel over Nicole's decision for Christ can only be exceeded by that of her best friend who had the privilege of baptizing her into Christ.

As Mom used to say about the joy her family gave her, "My cup is overflowing."

God Bless, Rick



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NICOLE
BAPTIZED
BY GRACE



JOY OF A
RESURRECTED
LIFE

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Sunday Worship Service 9:15 AM
Bible School 10:45 AM

STATISTICS		
	4/4	
Worship Offering		122
		\$6,360.72
	4/11	
Worship Offering		82
		\$3,620.97
	4/18	
Worship Offering		105
		\$7,489.96



Thanks to the people that gave to the memorial fund for Jack Ruebush at CCC. New banners were purchased and the matching banners for Easter, featuring the promise of John 11:25, are up this season. Jack always noticed the cut flowers each Sunday and when the banners were changed.

Last Easter we couldn't attend a church service because of the virus lock-down, and Jack missed going so much. This Easter, 2021, Jack's grave was empty and he was celebrating with the living Jesus.

"Miss" Bonnie

A TRUE COMMUNION WITH OUR LORD

by Casey Blakely

Do you want to improve your life? Well good news, according to Eric Barker on [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com), there are ten things you can do every week that will do just that. He claims that if you review your goals, volunteer, and de-stress (among other things) your life will dramatically improve. According to another blogger, one of the four things he does every week to prolong his life is to wake up uncomfortably early, but only on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. According to [Hm-hm.com](https://www.hmh.com) there are ten things you should do every Sunday for an amazing week. In this list we find suggestions to review the prior week, make to-do lists for the next week, and go to bed early.

(Continued next column)

Like most of what the world has to offer, all these lists offer a modicum of truth. Sure, the weekly setting of goals can have a positive impact on your life. Of course, getting to bed early to start your week can have positive health benefits. Everyone knows that Tuesday through Thursday are the best days of the week to wake up uncomfortably early!

Every week we heed the words of Jesus when "On the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is my body which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, when you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

So, forget the bloggers and the list creators of the internet. All you really need to improve your life is to show up Sunday and participate in this meal. If you do so, all your troubles will go away, right? Wrong. You see church and all the weekly routines that come along with it, can, if we're not careful, become nothing more than yet another empty top ten list for improving our life. Absent a relationship with the founder of this meal, this meal is utterly meaningless.

Christ's desire for us runs far deeper than any minor benefit we may gain from some routine we establish. In fact, Christ is looking for something much more transformative in our lives. II Corinthians 5:16-17 reads, "From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Our old self is dead if we are in Christ, and this meal is a reminder to us that our new self in Christ has come. This meal is more than simple meditation, it is a true communion with our Lord, in which we grow closer to the one who makes our new self possible.

Though it isn't a bad idea to find ways to improve aspects of our lives. And certainly life has a place for routines and procedures, let us never relegate this meal to a mere checklist of Christian things to do, nor view it as some sort of magical manipulation to make ourselves feel better. This meal is an encounter with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let's encounter Him this morning.



Vacation Bible School

Our annual VBS program will be in July this year instead of June. That puts it about three months away! Since time has a way of flying, that will be here before you know it. The exact dates are July 12-15 and we will be meeting from 6:15-8:30 each evening.

This year, our VBS will focus daily lessons around the theme of being priceless in the eyes of God. We are His treasure. In turn, when we realize what He has done to rescue us, He becomes our treasure more valuable than anything on earth. Everyday, kids will participate in an opening celebration, attend a Bible discovery class, play fun games, eat tasty treats and build imaginative crafts before concluding with a closing ceremony of songs and praise.

The planning process is underway! I'll be presenting more details as we get farther along our timeline, but please being prayerfully considering if you would be willing to assist this year. You will be blessed and enjoy the week as much as the participants!

JUNIOR
Worship

As many of you know, outside of the first Sunday of the month, the kids in first through fifth grade meet in the fellowship hall after our praise time for their own little worship service. Our volunteers usually serve a couple months out of the year to go through established curriculum with this group of great kids. If you have been looking for an area to serve in the church, then please consider this opportunity. There is rarely a dull moment in Junior Worship!

FINALE

As May approaches, it will soon be time for our Youth Group finale! It is scheduled for the Sunday prior to Memorial Day weekend which is May 23rd. The finale won't just be for Youth Groups. It will be for everyone regardless if you have participated in any Sunday evening services or not. After last year, it would be great to have a big church get together.

Most, if not all, of our activity will be outside. We will rent a big blow-up obstacle course for the kids along with our normal bounce house. For the older kids we will have 9 square and possibly gaga ball set up. A couple craft tables will be available for the younger ones to make some items to take home.

Around all the activity we will break at some point to enjoy a meal together. At this point I plan to roll out the grill and serve some hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone. If those are not good options for you, bring whatever you would like and we'll throw it (or gently place it) on the grill. I hope many of you can make it to fellowship outside and watch our kids run around together having fun. Let's all get this date on our calendar!

Casas por Cristo

In case you missed the announcement on Sunday morning, we have decided to postpone a mission trip until 2022. In order to do this particular build for Casas, we need at least a group of 15 participants. Our total came up a little short as summer availability shifted for some. There is always next year! We will re-visit this around November/December to get a little earlier start on our planning process for 2022.