

Believing God

God is stirring.
Are you ready to
join the movement?



Light for the
Future

July 2024

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

Will We Believe God?

Psalm 78:32 troubles me.

“In spite of all this, the people still sinned and **refused to believe in God's wonderful works.**” I am perplexed by this single line.

Let me bring you into my dilemma. God spoke to His people in a way that had never been done before or since at Mount Sinai. Psalm 78 recalls God's miracles to free His people from Egyptian slavery, parting the sea, providing water and manna, and pointing the way to the Promised Land with a pillar of cloud during the day and fire at night. Despite all this (and more!!), **the people still refused to believe God. After all that He showed them, they failed to believe.**

This stuns me!

God has shown FVC a lot, too—His faithfulness for over four decades, a stable growing body committed to the gospel, baptisms, lives transformed by the gospel, the miraculous purchase of the property to the east with the full approval of the membership, debt demolished in record time, and so much more! **What more would God have to do for us to believe?**

**Here's a daunting question:
After all that He's done, what if we refuse to believe?**

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FOX VALLEY
CHURCH

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Jesus Left No Doubt

Jesus left no doubt as to why He came nor any uncertainty as to the mission of His church. He was sent preaching the gospel to set people free from the power of sin and death and "to serve and to give His life." So, as the Father sent Him, Jesus sends us with the same message of hope and freedom and the same heart attitude to serve others (John 20:21).

Fox Valley Church's vision has always centered on the gospel. We believe God alone transforms people through the Holy Spirit through a Christ-centered gospel. The Spirit then graciously produces in us a heart toward our neighbor so that we want to care for and serve them. This is all tethered to Jesus' "great commission" for His church and founded on our belief that He alone changes lives.

The vision of Light for the Future is to become a Gospel-centered epicenter of transformation in the region.



With more space, we could become a focal point of activity to better serve our growing community. God is already bringing more people. Therefore, ministries directed to our community, like GriefShare, could multiply to include Divorce Care, Celebrate Recovery, Community Bible Studies, and more. We would be in a better position to serve our partner ministries. In addition, we could have greater impact through Student Ministries and Journey Land. Through LFTF, an epicenter of transformation would emerge in the region!

How much more would God have to do concerning LFTF for us to believe? Believing God powerfully creates profound and real heart change. Conversely, unbelief is dangerous and unleashes destruction. LFTF is ultimately about believing God, and it begs the question: **Will we believe God?**

Will you believe?

-Pastor Tom

Finding Faith and Community



We are the Allen family—Craig, Nicole, Abria (8) and Kai (6). We are from Illinois, but recently moved back after 4 years of living near the Great Smoky Mountains. We were blessed to move next door to the Randolph family. Like the great neighbors they are, the Randolphs showed up with an apple pie after we just moved in, and **Taylor, their oldest daughter, was wearing a t-shirt about God.** I asked if they went to a church around here, and the rest is history! At the time, I would say we were indifferent towards God. **I had been feeling a pull towards going back to church, but something challenging happened right when we moved in and met Taylor wearing that shirt. It was a sign from God I needed to get to church ASAP.**

Until we came to FVC, we had never been to church as a family! We were among the Lord's lost sheep, not rooted in faith whatsoever. Gratefully, God was seeking us for a while and through a series of events, including moving next to the Randolph family, brought our family to God and to an amazing church!

Because we are fairly new Christians, being a part of FVC has really helped us

understand fundamental Christian beliefs as well as more about the Bible. We both have lots of questions about God and the Bible and feel safe and comfortable asking those questions to other church members.

Since attending FVC, both of us (Craig and Nicole) have ultimately become true believers and continue to grow deeper in our faith, the more we learn. I (Nicole) will be getting baptized this August and can't wait to publicly dedicate my life to the Lord.

As a mental health therapist, I've observed that loneliness and disconnect is a true epidemic in our society. People are struggling so much with isolation and mental health issues. I encourage my clients to seek out a church for fellowship, even if they are unsure about their beliefs and faith. A church like FVC, where it is safe to explore questions about God, can provide a community, support system, and connection that few other institutions can. **Even if people are not sure where their faith or beliefs lie, showing up to a welcoming church can fill a void, and hopefully, they will find God in their own time, amongst God's people.**

“Ultimately, I believe what keeps us coming back to FVC is the community and church family we have found here.” -Nicole Allen

Highlights

From June's
Prayer and
Worship Event

- ① **Watch this video** to catch the vision behind Light for the Future.
- ② Worship along with this **Spotify playlist**.
- ③ **Meditate on these Scriptures**



Psalm 27:4-6

"One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord."

Luke 18:29-30

"Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life."

Matthew 6:30-34

"If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."



Sunday, July 14 at 3:30pm Journey Land Prayer and Worship Event

Please clear your calendar for July 14 @ 3:30 for an important hour of prayer and worship, led by and focused on, our Journey Land kids. You won't want to miss this impactful service where some the youngest among us help lead us in prayer, Scripture reading, and worship. Our kids are the future of FVC. Let's pray for these young leaders, the impact they will have among their friends, neighborhoods, and communities.

Stay after the event to enjoy fellowship and a **free** treat from the Kona Ice truck!

"There is no denying that FVC's children believe in the power of prayer. I hear story after story of kids going before God in prayer, knowing He hears them, loves them, and answers them. These kids are the future of FVC and an integral part of FVC right now. They get our mission to tell and show the story of Jesus and see the importance of reaching the lost in our community. This LFTF prayer and worship event will give the entire church a chance to see the excitement and fire in these kids' hearts."

—Cindy Goldenstein, Journey Land Director

LFTF Prayer Requests



Light for the Future is spiritual work with eternal implications. Any spiritual strides will be made on our knees in humble dependence on Him. Prayer and worship must remain central to our effort because through them our hearts are brought into alignment with His and we become convinced of the part which God wants us to play.

Pray For:

- The manner in which we carry out LFTF—in every way we would honor the Lord. (Matthew 5:16, 15:8; John 5:23; 1 Timothy 1:17)
- All we do to be an expression of BELIEVING GOD for a greater, more impactful kingdom impact in our area (Matthew 6:30, 8:26, 21:22; Luke 18:8, Hebrews 11)
- Our Team Leads to lead with a heart of humility and a servant's heart (Mark 10:45; Ephesians 4:2, Philippians 2: 3)
- The best of creativity, energy, and heart attitude would be marked by the Spirit through all the teams (Exodus 35:10, 36:2)
- All to be faithful to carry out the assigned tasks (Galatians 5:22; 1 Timothy 4:12, 6:11, Titus 2:10)
- Protection against the schemes of the devil and demons (2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11)
- Clarity so we would not lose sight of the mission to which God called us (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15)

LFTF Leadership

Capital Campaign Team

Team Lead:
Phil Leman

Elder:
Jere Miller

Building Committee

Team Leads:
Chris and Stephanie Ludwig

Elder:
David Cahill

Staff:
Brad Lawson
Jason Marshall
Cindy Goldenstein
Mary Gibson
Others:
Mark Carlson
Bill Brogan
Andy Korte

Communications Team

Team Lead:
Lauri Marmorstone

Leslee and Nate Baron
Emily Lawson
Jason Marshall

Special Events Team

Team Leads:
Brent and Jodie Busse

Bethany Simon
Jennifer and Ted Chropkowski
Cathy and Craig Herman
Sydney and Chris Anderson

Advanced Commitment Team

Team Leads:
Brittany and Owen Greenwald

Christine and Mike Irizarry
Barb and Dennis Vietmeier
Anna and Mike Fuentes
Gracie and Ben Bertsche
Amanda and Rob Saucedo

Prayer and Worship Team

Team Lead:
Kate Senyshyn



Light for the
Future

If you pour yourself out for the hungry,
and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
then your light will shine in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.

Isaiah 58:10