

Believing God

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



Light for the
Future

September 2024

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

Making Room for More: A Testament to God's Faithfulness

When Cathy and I first married, as newlyweds often do, we moved into a small apartment in Houston. And the rent was, well, a steal compared to today! As God would have it, we soon found our family growing at the same time I was to start at Dallas Theological Seminary. With the addition of Julianne and the need for a place to study, when we moved to Dallas, we found a slightly larger place to live: a townhouse. Five years later, when our son, Kolby, came along, we needed a little more room again. So when we moved from Texas to Illinois, we bought our first home, a small bungalow near the Fox River in Algonquin! We then had our daughter Libbie. With space needs increasing yet again, we moved. You can see where this plotline is going!

Churches often travel a similar path. Fox Valley Church began by renting Jacobs High School for 22 years! Then, as God would have it, we built our first church home with a worship center and a few small classrooms on our current property and established a more permanent toehold in the community.

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FOX VALLEY
CHURCH

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But people are hungry for truth, and many came to Fox Valley Church looking for meaning and purpose. Our church family always pointed those looking for life's meaning to Jesus. In John 10:10, Jesus says that He came to bring a full and abundant life. We have never been about buildings or personalities but have always been excited about **making much of Jesus!**

“We need to unite for prayer, listening to God and seeking first His Kingdom. It is rarely easy; faith challenges never are!”



As God continued our journey, we added another worship service and continued to tell and show the story of Jesus in increasing ways. With faith and resolve to further our gospel reach, we added to our building, doubling our space. This time, we focused on serving the young children and students for Christ.

Our church family continues to grow, and more space is needed! We praise God, for He is the one behind all our growth. Today, we worship in four services, filling our classrooms and overflowing our café. *Light for the Future* addresses the concerns of a growing family. We need to unite for prayer, listening to God and seeking first His Kingdom. It is rarely easy; faith challenges never are!

Jesus gives perspective. The disciples left homes they spent a lifetime acquiring and laid aside careers, even as they saw the mounting costs of following Jesus. In a moment of desperation, Peter squares off with Jesus: “We have left everything to follow You. What remains for us here?” Jesus doesn’t refute him. Rather, He points him in the direction less traveled, saying everyone who sacrifices here “will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.” (Matthew 19: 27-30)

Fox Valley Church, let us, too, seek God’s greater reward!

Pastor Tom
-Pastor Tom

From Lost to Belonging

How God drew one woman to Fox Valley Church after her season of heartbreak



For decades, Kathy Paigen served and followed the Lord. She accepted Jesus as her Savior at 22, raised her children in a Christian home, led women's ministry, and taught Sunday school. Her life was built on the solid foundation of her faith.

After experiencing church hurt, Kathy and her husband stepped away. Then, tragedy struck. Her husband was diagnosed with cancer, underwent chemotherapy, and then passed away. In the blink of an eye, Kathy found herself a widow—alone, vulnerable, and without the support of a church family.

As Kathy struggled to adjust to her new reality, COVID-19 swept across the globe, and widened the gap between Kathy and the church. At one of life's lowest points, Kathy faced the daunting task of rebuilding her life with crucial pieces missing.

In the fall of 2023, Kathy decided it was time to return to church. Remembering a Christmas Eve service in 2019 she and her husband had attended with her daughter's family, she chose to give Fox Valley Church a try.

What Kathy found at Fox Valley was the transformative power of the Holy Spirit at work! God led her to Kristi Strossner, who heads up the GriefShare program. Through GriefShare, Kathy began to reprocess her loss and find comfort and hope. She also attended BASIC, where Julian Guevara connected her with a life group, providing the sense of belonging and purpose she had been missing.

“At Fox Valley, God was replacing my loss with a place to serve, a church community, and a purpose for my life,” Kathy shared with renewed hope displayed in her beautiful smile.

One of the most profound discoveries Kathy made at Fox Valley was the refreshing honesty of its members. “People were open about their struggles and sins,” she explains. She was encouraged by the testimonies she heard of God drawing His people back to Him. **Kathy took comfort in realizing that Fox Valley wasn't a place for perfect people—it was a place for real people seeking healing and restoration.**

Kathy's story is a powerful testament to the transformative power of God at work. She went from feeling isolated and broken to finding purpose, healing, and a new church family. Her story serves as encouragement to others who may be hurting or feeling alone.

If you've ever felt that church is only for those who have it all together, you should know that at Fox Valley, that's simply not true. This church is full of stories of messed-up lives restored and redeemed by God. “You too can experience this same healing and restoration,” Kathy said with conviction. “At Fox Valley, you'll be accepted, supported, and find the healing your heart longs for.”

“At Fox Valley, God was replacing my loss with a place to serve, a church community, and a purpose for my life.”



Light for the
Future

5 Ways to Pray

“Any strides we make will be made on our knees in humble dependence upon Him.” –Pastor Tom

Light for the Future Personal next steps

- Pray for guidance
- Believe in God's plan for a greater gospel impact
- Plan your participation
- Prepare to act in faith

① Belief in God

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds. (Psalm 73:26-28)

② Ears to hear from the Lord

He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. (Psalm 46:10-11)

③ Our Community

“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” (John 17:25-26)

④ Future Generations

“...Things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.” (Psalm 78:3-4)

⑤ All Glory to God

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”
Revelation 4:11



In September, we'll share information and the vision behind Light for the Future.

September 8

Pastor Tom begins a sermon series on believing God for the plans He has for Fox Valley Church

September 8

All life groups will be studying the book, "True Riches." If you are not in a life group, your free book will be available to pick up after either service on 9/8 or in the church office during the week.

September 15

Light for the Future (LFTF) prayer walk on the east property after both service times

September 24

Launch of Light for the Future (LFTF) information and vision sharing

October 6:

LFTF Q&A with the Pastoral Council during both services. Bring your questions. If you have questions or concerns before then, please contact a Pastoral Council member.

Coming Up

Pastoral Council

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