

Faith Community Church
515 N. 10th St.
O'Neill NE 68763
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O'Neill NE 68763
Permit #6

Faith Community Church

"For we walk by faith not by sight"

Grapevine

Vol 29 Issue 10



October 2021



The Living Stones and Solid Rock both started with a bang!! Annually, the junior high kids in Living Stones and the high school kids in the Solid Rock compete in wild kick off events. The Living Stones kids experienced the 'Redneck Olympics.' They raced against other teams in crazy events such as carrying a watermelon covered in Crisco, a toilet paper toss, eating pickles dangling from a string or wrapping a teammate in bubble wrap before rolling them across the yard. Anytime you combine junior High kids with Crisco, toilet paper and bubble wrap, it's going to be a memorable night.

The Solid Rock kids participated in 'Live Wire.' Each team of 3 boys and 3 girls competed in a series of events challenging their balance, coordination and speed. Sounds simple, but when you add a few mud pits, it becomes quite the spectacle and very messy. The crazy fun and games serve as a perfect opportunity for our kids to invite friends to youth group and for a chance to hear the truth of the Gospel.



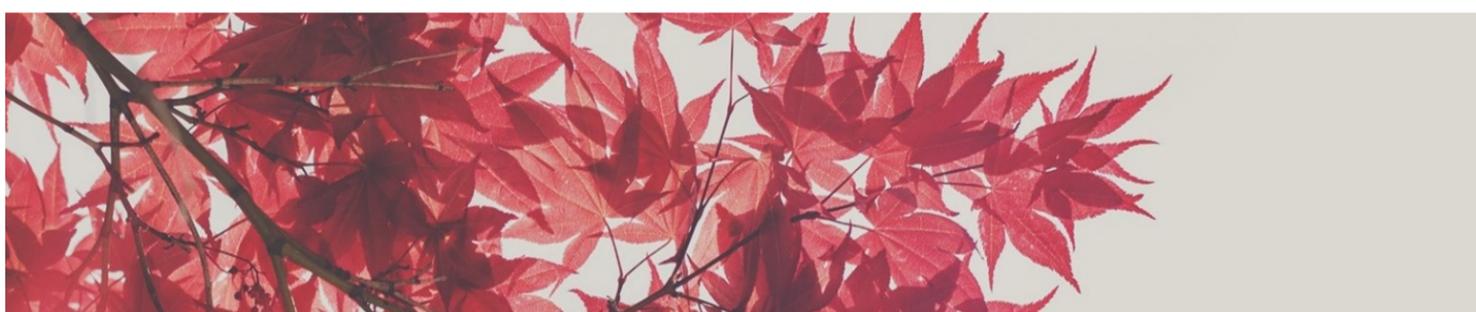
What a great kickoff to our AWANA year! We began as planned on September 8 with 105 children attending and all volunteer spots filled! This is nearly twice as many students as last year - which means so many more children are hearing the Gospel and learning God's Word. The first night's lesson is always the salvation plan. Ask your son or daughter about it.

Something new this year was digital registration. It seems to have worked quite well, and we look forward to having our records a little more streamlined.

Looking ahead, we will have Backwards Night on October 6. We will not meet October 20 for Fall Break. Something new will be Class Color Night on the 27th. Each class will choose a color to wear to AWANA. Remember that participating in special nights earns extra AWANA bucks to be put towards camp or used in store night.

I know I sound like a broken record, but we could not do this without your prayers and encouragement. And if you still have a desire to serve, we can always find a place for you.

Happy Fall, y'all!
Lisa Cook - Commander





We're back! Many of us have been anxiously anticipating the day when we can finally say those two little words; and mean it! Many of us have been pining for the day when we'd finally get to experience football with fans in the stands, restaurants with indoor seating, handshakes and hugs with friends, and a return to some semblance of 'normal' routines and rhythms. As much as we've longed for a Return to Rhythm with our everyday, week-in-week-out activities, many of us have been feeling the need to Return to Rhythm in our spiritual world as well. As we take a look at the big picture of what it looks like for us to jump back into spiritually healthy patterns as the summer and the pandemic wound to a close, there's good news and there's bad news.

The Good News: According to a 2020 Pew Research study nearly 25% of Americans said that their faith has been strengthened as a result of the outbreak, and 46% of those who were regular church attenders (minimum of 1

or 2 times a month) said that the pandemic has strengthened their faith. Wow, that's good news! Praise the Lord that He has still been at work despite all the turmoil and the unsettling nature of social distancing, mask-wearing, and all things COVID related. He truly does have the whole world in His hands.

The Bad News: The same research study revealed that while 92% of Protestant congregations were closed during the pandemic only 57% of regular attenders actually watched services online or on TV.

If you put it all together, what you have is an American population who was forced to slow down, forced to stop running from activity to activity, forced to watch as loved ones struggled with an illness that was unknown and scary. We, as a population, had the time and the reason to slow down long enough to confront our own mortality, we had the time to ponder eternity, and after reflection and contemplation, almost half of regular church attenders turned their focus toward God, faith, and prayer, indicating that their individual faith is now stronger because we were individually forced to slow down. At the same time that the American Church has been experiencing a strengthening of individual faith, the corporate church is more scattered, disconnected, and relationally distant than it has been for decades. If there was ever a time for us to come together, to declare with one voice that "We're Back", and return to healthy spiritual rhythms of gathering together, reading and studying the Word together, and carrying each other's burdens in prayer, surely it's now. It's time to Return to Rhythm.

For the last couple weeks in August and for the month of September, we challenged the church to ask the Lord who He might put in our path who might be receptive to joining you for our Fall Kickoff. We're pleased to say that many of us took this challenge to Jesus and reached out to invite friends, family members, co-workers, and neighbors to join us at church, Wednesday night activities, and Bible Studies throughout the week. As a result, the Lord has been faithful to draw people to Himself through our invitations. At Sunday morning church, we've had about 25 (probably 8-10 families with an average of 3 people per family) visitors fill out a welcome card! And we know there were several others who didn't fill out a card! You may have noticed that we have added an additional row of seats to the sanctuary. After 4 weeks, our Wednesday night ministries are bursting at the seams as we are currently experiencing the highest attendance numbers that we've seen in several years...many of these boys and girls will have no other experience of Jesus in their typical rhythms at home other than their experience of Wednesday night activities at Faith Community Church. This year in AWANA alone we have about 8 new families who have started attending every week. You invited and they are coming!

While this story is far from over, and in many ways our job of getting to know and welcoming these new people into our church family is just beginning, we can't help but to take a moment to stop and praise Jesus for the fact that we get to be part of His work of drawing people to Himself. We are looking forward to meeting these new attenders in the coming weeks, but for now, would you join us in taking a moment to thank Jesus for faithfully and fruitfully answering our prayers?

There is certainly something special about Faith Community Church! We are incredibly thankful for all the love, blessings, prayers and donations bestowed upon our family! The benefit was a huge success thanks to so many of you. We are forever grateful for our church family!

Galen, Shawna, Sarah, Grace Mitchell

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**



Christmas Program practice for kids in grades 1-6 will begin Sunday, October 10 at 9:15 am in the Multipurpose Room.

The program is scheduled for Sunday, December 19.

If you would like your child(ren) to participate, bring them to practice or contact Amber Lindsay (402.981.7522).

Elder Meeting
7 pm
Tuesday, October 12 & 26

BLESSED
Fellowship, Fun, and Support for Moms
Tuesday's 10—11:30 am
October 5, 12, 19 & 26
Contact Linda Garwood for more information

Tuesdays in October
Elijah
PRISCILLA SHIRER
Women's Bible Study
1:30 pm & 7 pm

October

- 5—Blessed (10-11:30 am)
—Elijah Bible Study (1:30 pm & 7 pm)
- 6—Awana, Living Stones (7-8:30 pm)
—Solid Rock (7:30-9 pm)
- 10—Christmas Program Practice Begins
- 12—Blessed (10-11:30 am)
—Elijah Bible Study (1:30 pm & 7pm)
—Elder Meeting (7 pm)
- 13—Awana, Living Stones (7-8:30 pm)
—Solid Rock (7:30-9 pm)
- 17—Beginnings Banquet (6 pm)
- 19—Blessed (10-11:30 am)
—Elijah Bible Study (1:30 pm & 7 pm)
- 20—Awana, Living Stones (7-8:30 pm)
—Solid Rock (7:30-9 pm)
- 26—Blessed(10-11:30 am)
—Elijah Bible Study (1:30 pm & 7 pm)
—Elder Meeting (7 pm)
- 27—Awana, Living Stones (7-8:30 pm)
—Solid Rock (7:30-9 pm)

Annual Fundraising Banquet

Sunday, October 17

O'Neill Community Center

6 pm (doors open at 5:30)

Guest Speaker: Abby Johnson

Call 402-336-4343 to reserve your ticket

October Service Staff

Ushers:

- 3 - Phil Lorenz, Rod Rowse, Bob Willats, Devyn Ballagh
- 10 - Ron Bennetts, Bob Carroll, David May, Alex Brookhouser
- 17 - Jim Fuchtman, Ted Meyer, Gary Caskey, Ryan Garwood
- 24 - John Janzing, Jerry Doke, Cody Boettcher, Terry Sorensen
- 31 - Joe Knopp, Roger Sorensen, Cully Forker, Cody Wensing

Sunday School Nursery:

- 3 - Ashley Boettcher
- 10 - Katrina Andrews
- 17 - Marilyn Holz
- 24 - Sarah Sidak
- 31 - Lisa Green

Toddler Nursery:

- 3 - Paula Davis & Mia Boettcher
- 10 - Coni Kersch & Kimberly Wettlaufer
- 17 - Laurel Wettlaufer & Abby Thiele
- 24 - Tesha Ballagh & Averi Diedrichsen
- 31 - Teri Schach & Ashley Sidak

4 - PreK Junior Church:

- 3 - Ashley Boettcher & Lincoln Konrad
- 10 - Kelli Garwood & Ashley Sidak
- 17 - Judy Tomjack & Hunter Wettlaufer
- 24 - Morgan Hampton & Ty Diedrichsen
- 31 - Deb McManigal & Weston Lofquist