

Wade Allen
Lead Pastor

David McEuen
Pastor of Family & Worship

John O'Connor
Pastor of Community Engagement

Ron Fields
Pastor of Senior Adults & Care Ministries

SERVING One Another in Community

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IN THE STEPS OF THE SAVIOR

I hope that you've been enjoying our study through the Gospel of Luke these past three months. We will continue in this study until the end of April. Our goal is to finish through the sixth chapter and then we will pick it up again sometime next year, in early 2023.

RECHARGE BOOKS AVAILABLE

The next *Recharge* books are available now to pick up in the church lobby or download a PDF version from our website. This next volume is an 8 week study—primarily from Luke 5-6—but also has some additional, related study materials for the weeks of Spring Break and Easter.

These books contain pages for sermon notes, prayer needs/notes from your community group meetings, a Bible reading plan to read through all four gospels, and follow-up studies for three days each week. Be sure to pick up your copy!

COMMUNITY GROUP SCHEDULE

Speaking of Spring Break and Easter, our community groups will NOT be meeting during these weeks (March 20 and April 17). Group

meetings will resume the week of March 27 for three additional studies in the Gospel of Luke. We will take off a few weeks at the end of April for a short break before starting the next session of group meetings the week of May 1.

This would be an excellent time for those not currently involved in a group to join in. You may find yourself in need of joining a different group that meets at a different time. This would be a perfect time for you to explore your options. We may even have additional options opening up by that time. The Summer session for community groups will run from May 1 through July 31. We will take off the weeks of Mothers Day, Fathers Day and VBS. Stay tuned for more information!



THE SUCCESS OF COMMUNITY GROUPS

When we first started having community group meetings, I set in my mind a goal to have 80% participation in these groups. In other words, I wanted to see at least 80% of those who attend Sunday morning worship services to be connected to a community group. It was a lofty goal, but one that I believed could be achieved if the groups functioned the way I hoped that they would function.

The first session of community groups met in the Fall of 2020. During that inaugural session, the number present in community groups was 69% of

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SERVING God Abroad

Ron Fields

Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

Several years ago, I took a group of boys to National Galilean Camp in Daniel Springs, Texas. While there, we were asked to pray for a young Galilean who had cancer and was from Mississippi, John David Smith. His father was a friend from Missouri who had moved his family to Mississippi to pastor.

One day I was reading the Gleaner, the BMA Missions department magazine, and saw a prayer request for a U.S. Missionary needed in Cape Verde Islands. I began praying for this request that gripped my heart. Always interested in missions, this need was always in my mind, always a matter of prayer, and eventually led to a conclusion, "Lord, I am willing to consider that you may be calling me to that field."

Attending the National Missions Symposium in Little Rock, I found myself speaking to one of the Missions Directors at the time, Jerry Kidd. In a casual question I asked, "Anyone responding to the need in Cape Verde?" His response: "We have a young man who has just applied!" "Praise the Lord!" I replied. John David Smith was the young man.

After a fruitful ministry on the field, John David is now the Executive Director of Missions for the BMA of America.

May our focus on World Missions Day renew a passion for the need to take the Gospel to the whole world!



SERVING God at Home

John O'Connor

Pastor of Community Engagement

Hello church family! Thank you for your prayers for our schools and students, and for the donations towards Westside. If you didn't get your stuff in yet, they are always in need and could still use the donation. Thank you again.

During our family devotion times each Wednesday, we've been doing a study on spiritual gifts. My girls are old enough now to start



...serving God in their own way, and I felt it best for Laura and I

to start teaching them about the way that God has blessed us spiritually. This led us to Romans 12:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 12. I don't have the space to go through it all, but there are two points that my girls observed from the text that I want to leave you with.

First, God gave us spiritual gifts because He wants us to use them. Pretty simple right... How often do we sit on the sideline, too afraid or nervous to get involved because we don't know what to do? Or maybe we will be embarrassed if we get it wrong.

The second thing that my daughters observed was that everyone and every gift is important. I'm going to pick on a gift for a moment. Those who have the gift of service do not have the flashiest of gifts; however, I cannot think of a more selfless and loving gift to have. These gifted people cleanup, arrange, paint, cook, and much more that goes unnoticed, and

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SERVING with Relevancy

David McEuen

Pastor of Family and Worship

1 Peter 3:15 says: "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;"

By the time you read this newsletter, two middle school students, two high school students, and seven college students and young professionals will be gearing up to head to LEAD>DEFEND: Leadership & Apologetics Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. While there, these students and young adults will receive Biblical training on a wide range of culturally relevant topics and be equipped to recognize and combat the lies that have left our society so morally and theologically confused. It's going to be a great day and I believe that our group will leave the conference with a greater appreciation for and confidence in the Word of God.

Would you pray toward that end with me? Would you pray that God would equip those going in such a way that no one takes them

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they do it without having to be asked!

No matter your giftedness, it is important and God wants you to serve. If you do not know what your gifts are and would like help, Pastor Wade has some materials he can share. If you know what you would like to do and want to get involved, come see me and I will get you with the right person to get you plugged in.

We love you, and can't wait to see what God does through you!

captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ (Col. 2:8)? And would you also pray that God would mature their faith to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that they may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes (Eph. 4:13b-14)?

Thank you for praying for us! I believe that God has great things that He wants to do through this conference and I'm excited to see it unfold as our students strive to not only love God with all their heart and soul but with *all their minds* as well (Matt. 22:37).

Leadership & Apologetics Conference

LEAD >>> DEFEND

leaddefend.org

A conference designed for
high school & college students
as well as young professionals &
church leaders

MARCH 5, 2022

Immanuel Baptist Church | Main Campus
Little Rock, AR

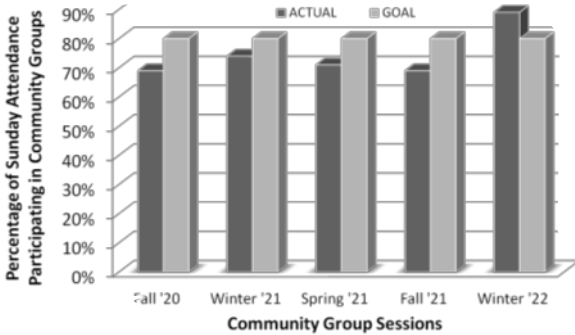
FEATURED SPEAKER
J. Warner Wallace
Cold-case homicide
detective turned
Christian apologist after
using his skills as a
detective to investigate
the claims of the
New Testament Gospels

MORE SPEAKERS
Rhyné Putman
Jamar Andrews
Andrea Lennon
Neal Scoggins
Derek Brown
Buck Ortega

WORSHIP LED BY
Cory & Stephanie Epps
Central Baptist Church, Jonesboro

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our Sunday morning worship attendance. In the Winter of 2021, that number grew to 74%. I was very excited that we were headed in the direction of greater participation. In the Spring and Fall of 2021, the portion present in community groups fell to 71% and 69% respectively. I knew that the pandemic was at least partially to blame for the decline, but I was concerned.



Over the past two months of meetings, there were three weeks that a portion of our groups had to dismiss because of inclement weather, but our percentages for the remaining weeks is outstanding—88.5% of the number of people in our Sunday morning worship are also attending one of our community groups. Praise the Lord!

Thank you for connecting with a community group! We cannot experience community without each other! I would encourage you to think about inviting a friend to join you as you enjoy having this community with each another.



- March 3** **Christian Seniors**
 12:00 PM
- Mar 20-26** **Spring Break**
 (No Community Groups)

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