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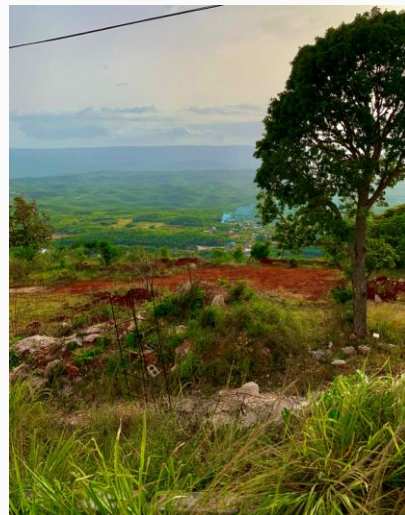
REFORMED CHURCH

ARTICLES

Are You Connected?

By Pastor Kevin Van Wyk

While we were in Jamaica, we were up in the hills, far from the beautiful resorts and more importantly, cellular service. I could get one bar, as I recall, but really didn't want to pay the fees to call, text, or use data. We stayed busy enough that I did not miss the news much, and I figured Steph would let me know if anything significant with the family happened.

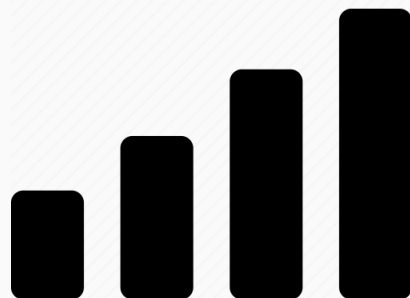


So, while I was connected, I was not as well connected as I'd like. I'm sure you've been there. Suddenly the video stops and that spinny thing just goes round and round on the screen. Or after a few minutes of not hearing a response on the phone, you realize you've been talking to no one.

Better connections matter!

They matter with phones, and they matter at church!

Be honest a moment, beyond your family,



how well are you connected in the church? One bar, two, three, or four?

Scripture is full of calls for believers to love one another. Jesus' words after he washed the disciples' feet are some of the most potent...

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35 NIV11)

These loving connections are not just for the sake of God's witness to the world, or the benefit of others, though this should be sufficient motivation for us; close connections are a blessing to you. David proclaimed...

"How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!" (Ps. 133:1 NLT)

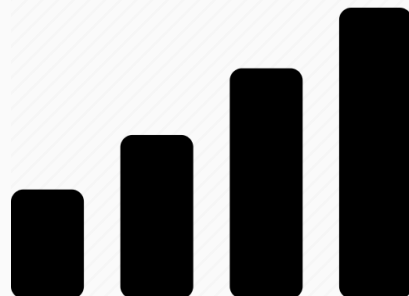
This is why we made a big deal of relationships in our Covenant Partner Vows. Read these slowly!

"I will connect deeply with Jesus' followers, gather with believers regularly, accept the spiritual guidance of the church leadership, and walk in a spirit of Christian love seeking unity, purity and peace within this congregation."

These commitments challenge us on the one hand to a very basic element of connecting, to show up to worship services. At the very least we need to be present on Sunday mornings. Yes, you can be a Christian and not attend, but you are essentially rejecting Jesus command to love your brothers and sisters.

These commitments also hit on some huge challenges. "Connecting deeply" means authentic, caring, honest, truth-telling relationships where we seek unity, purity, and peace. And when others, especially leaders, confront us or call us to change, we must humbly receive their words and seek to change.

Again consider my question, beyond your family, how well are you connected in the church? One bar, two, three, or four?



For those of you with three or four bars, it's time to get out of your awesome huddle a bit more and walk with someone with one bar. Pray for God to help you identify Ms. or Mr. One Bar and then give 'em a call.

If you have one or two bars, now's the time to be intentional. Don't wait for Mrs. Four Bars to call. Step up and connect.

Not sure how to do it?

A. Call Pastor Doug and ask about finding or starting a small group.

B. Pray for God to open the door for you to connect with one other person.

Then be courageous and make it happen.

C. Login to RightNow Media (www.altoreformedchurch.org/resources.html) and search "connect" or "relate." I like John Maxwell's videos even though they are dated. Let me know what you find helpful.

PRAY: Lord, help us build healthy, loving relationships with other believers. Help us listen carefully to others and admit when we are wrong. Help us be intentional about connecting with those with one bar. AMEN.

Equipping Adults Update

By Pastor Doug Shotsky

Good News and Bad News

The good news is that we have AT LEAST 9 BRAND NEW SMALL GROUPS beginning this fall! I am very hopeful that God will use this time to help the body grow into closer and more healthy relationships with one another, and more importantly with our Heavenly Father.

The bad news, which I'm praying the Lord will help us resolve, is that we still have around 30 names of people (some of these represent couples or entire families) on our list of those who expressed interest in joining a group, but have no leader!

Please pray with me that God will put these groups together just as He sees fit. I very much desire that there will be a place for everyone who desires to be in a group.

A Reminder to Love!

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 - 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

I had a lot of positive feedback on Sunday's message on love, so here's a reminder for each of us to ask God to show us what our hearts look like on the inside and our behaviors look like on the outside in comparison to how Paul defines love for us in these two verses. Blessings to all who read this, and may God be glorified through your lives!

Bible Class & Sunday School Kickoff!

By Lynnae Loomans

The fun is about to begin! Our teachers, helpers, and I are excited for a new school year and can't wait to get started.

September 7th Bible Class

September 11th Sunday School

If you haven't already, please check your email/church mailbox for the full schedules. Feel free to reach out if you ever have any questions!

Meet our New Senior Intern!

By Jessa TerBeest

Name: Wyatt Guell

School: Fond Du Lac High School

Favorite Bible verse and why:

Isaiah 40:31 "Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not grow faint."

This is my favorite Bible verse because it reminds me I could not make it on my own without the Lord. In down times it



seems easiest to walk in selfish ways. This verse is a reminder to me that I would grow tired, stumble and fall in my own ways. It gives me a good reflection to see the blessings and strength I have received in Christ.

Why did you decide to accept the internship position this year?

In prayer and consideration, I saw how this opportunity would push me out of my comfort zone and strengthen me in faith. I did not want to let my stubbornness consume me and lead me to regret. Growth does not happen inside of your comfort zone. I want to continue to grow deeper in my faith, at times this includes God calling me out of my comfort zone I am thankful my worries can be eased by God, and he is allowing me to step out over my stubbornness. The strength I gain from my faith helps me to use the gifts God has given me in order to lead and inspire others in their faith. Overall, I feel God continuing to equip me with the confidence in sharing my faith. I am grateful for this opportunity and eager to see what God has in store for me.

What are you most looking forward to during the internship?

One thing I am looking forward to is sharing my passion of music to glorify God with others.

Any other comments or things about you that you want to share:

I would like to thank everyone in the church for being welcoming of me and my family.

MESSAGES

A GREAT BIG thank you to all the individuals (and couples) who have taken the time out of their lives and busy schedules, to drive to Beaver Dam, to bring the Church Bulletin to me over the course of the last several years – those visits mean more to me than words can ever express. I am able to feel connected to the Alto Church Community, even though getting to the Sunday services is difficult. The small treats / snack often shared make those visit even sweeter. You making me feel included is so very much appreciated. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

-Jessie Klumpers

EVENTS

Mark your calendar...

Alto Reformed Church
September 2022

September 07 **Bible Class & HS Youth Group Kickoff**
All 1st-8th graders are invited to Bible Class at 6:45-7:30pm.
All High School students are invited to High School Youth Group at 7:30-9pm

September 11 **Sunday School & MS Youth Group Kickoff**
Everyone 3 years old and up is invited to Sunday School at 10:45-11:30am.
All 6th-8th graders are invited to Middle School Youth Group at 6:30-8pm.

September 28 **See You at the Pole**
See You at the Pole is a time of student-led prayer that happens at each school before the school day begins on the 4th Wednesday of September. Students lift up their friends, family, nation, teachers, and school to God.

September 30 **Road Rally**
Mark your calendars, get your cars ready, and start brushing up on your puzzle solvin' skills! The 2022 Alto Reformed Church Road Rally is coming! Friday, September 30th, 7pm. \$5 per person. Food provided after. Can't wait to see you all there! If it's been a while since you've done it, or maybe you never have, let us know and we'll help you grab a team of 4. Otherwise, get your teams ready to go again! We can't wait to see who wins this year! Let's have FUN! Sign-up at the Information Center.

For detailed information:
Call 920.346.5505 or email office@altoreformedchurch.org

NEWS

Births:

8/6/22 - Ellie Audrey, daughter of Kyle & Jessica Ter Beest

8/26/22 - Anakin Abraham, son of Colton & Courtney Loomans