

FCEMF Meeting Minutes
Grace Christian Fellowship
January 2, 2018

Opening Prayer – Becky Deuel

Welcome – Paul Cameron

Please introduce yourselves and give five words that summarize 2017:

In attendance: Tim Albrecht, Daniel Breed, Charles Butler, Paul Cameron, Jim Case, Adam Demetrician, Becky Deuel, Alvin Dupree, Paul Franzmeier, Jeremy Harris, John Kieffer, Danny Leavins, Tami McLaughlin, Jeff Middlestead, Steve Nickel, Eric Omdal, Ron Pagel, David Parks, Trish Propson, Lynda Savage, JoEllen Schwandt, Brenda Spina, Jason Steger, Jerry Wallendal, Shawn Whitworth

Please sign the attendance sheet, and sign up for hosting a meeting this year.

Thanks to all who came to Christ The Rock on Wednesday night and for the funeral on Sunday evening. You should have received a letter from Christ the Rock.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Franzmeier

The current balance in our account is \$252.21. An additional \$56.00 was collected today. A gift was given to Janet Lenz from FCEMF. Two hearts, one of which was sent to Israel.

Paul Cameron -

Please RSVP for future meetings when asked to ensure we have enough food for lunch.

What is God saying to you about what we should do?

How should we respond as ministry leaders in the Fox Valley to the suicide of Bill Lenz? Following are some of the responses to this question:

Here is a link from an article about the best leaders being broken leaders:

<https://brandonacox.com/best-leaders-broken-leaders/>

Thought it was appropriate that it was sent out today.

We cannot do this in our own strength. We need to be connected and have a safe place to admit that we aren't always strong.

We need to individually repent and be made right with God, be open and transparent before Him so that when we come together, God can use each of us in the manner in which He has called us.

As a result of this repentance, we can be in fellowship – first with God and then with each other. We have a call to repentance, love, fellowship and community. We are all called to share the Gospel with the people in our Valley.

God has a call on our lives and the devil wants to prohibit that calling. We will be attacked. We are all vulnerable in some way, so we need to hold each other up.

After repenting, after confessing, we should make sure our relationships are deeper, that we are able to confide in each other. We cannot be passive with an aggressive devil. There is a time to be on the offense. There must be intentionality in improving our relationships with each other. We need to fight the forces that mess with our brothers. The devil wants to isolate us – in isolation, we can be picked off more easily. We need each other desperately – for prayer support, to stand with each other as we face trials, in the marketplace, across town, to stand strong when the lie of the enemy is going after one of us.

Often, the fight is between our ears – recognizing the lies of the enemy.

Too many of us believe that if people truly knew us, they wouldn't fully love us. We all want to be fully loved but that can't happen if we aren't fully known. We all need someone in our lives to be able to share everything with, to hold us accountable. We need to recognize that we are not in this alone. Need to be in communication with each other so that we recognize this.

What if each one of us met with someone 12 times per year. Or with 12 people over the next year? This could help us intentionally develop accountability partners.

We are all surrounded by people, but do we have someone to talk to?

We need to acknowledge the spiritual side of this issue. How many of our churches have had a prayer meeting since Bill's funeral to go on the offensive against the devil?

We need to go public with the fact that this is a spiritual issue – not just in our churches.

We can't win spiritual battles with physical weapons.

It is critical for us to be able to be open in public about our relationship with Jesus.

If we don't have someone with whom we can talk to about everything, we can become a victim. Many of us try to do it on our own. We all need someone outside of our church about the areas in which we need prayer.

What is the Spirit calling us to do?

We need to build relationships in which we feel safe to talk about spiritual things.

Attacks will come – we need to have someone walk through them with us.

We all need someone with whom we can bring our struggles from the dark to light.

There is a complex interplay between choice and physiological propensity that is beyond us. We have to declare the sovereignty of God in this.

We need to be humble and submit ourselves to God.

We have to take personal responsibility for and own our self-care.

So that we can develop deeper relationships, if you would like to have your contact information made available so that someone can call you, please respond to this email to get put on the list, which will get sent out to the FCEMF mailing list.

Closing Prayer – Paul Franzmeier

Our next meeting will be February 6th at The Family.