



From the Pastor's Perspective

Why Do You Buy That?

“Don’t be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God’s will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.” -Romans 12:2

Every fall I try to do a message series that engages the wider culture. I do this for two reasons. One is to engage themes and values expressed in the wider culture, since this is the “soup” in which we swim. The culture is teaching us it’s perspective, and we as disciples of Jesus need to be able to recognize what is “of God” and what is “of the world.” It is cool to see that sometimes the culture gets it right, and we can find Godly wisdom expressed in popular media. The second reason why I use secular media in my fall message series is in attempt to reach those who aren’t very “churched.” In the fall is a time when those who aren’t part of a church have a higher likelihood to give church a try. Disciples of Jesus need to build bridges of relating to people where they are at. We need to find ways of expressing God’s better way using terms and images familiar with those who aren’t yet Jesus-followers.

I have spent the summer on Renewal Leave. Part of this time was spent with my family studying the history, art, culture, science, and philosophy of Western Europe.

I have seen again in such real ways how God intersects people in everyday life and throughout history. Jesus is out in the world, and people find God not just in church!

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Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

Sept 1	HOLY COMMUNION 8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor Andrew
Sept 2	Labor Day - Office Closed 8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Sept 4	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Confirmation Orientation Parents/Students 6:30 pm Community Game Night 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Sept 5	10:30 am Book club 12:00 pm Sarah’s Circle
Sept 6	7:00 am Grow group - Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith
Sept 7	9:00 am UM Men
Sept 8	8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship - Pastor David
Sept 9	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters
Sept 11	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo Jr. , Echo, Confirmation, and Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Sept 12	6:30 pm AMT
Sept 13	7:00 am Grow group - Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith
Sept 14	8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship

Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

This fall, our message series will be using popular and insightful advertising commercials that have captured the attention of wider culture. Think of some of your favorite commercials. Some of the biggest brands have become famous for their commercials: think Coke, Pepsi, Budweiser, Progressive, Snickers, M&Ms, etc. Why do you remember them? Do they work? (Are you hungry now, and more likely to go get a Coke and Snickers?)

Research shows that commercials work! After Super Bowl ads, for example, some companies report a surge in sales up to 55%! Since the very first television commercial ran (at a cost of \$9, but that was some 80 years ago!) television advertising has grown into a \$75 billion/year industry. Though TV's market share has dropped as many viewers cut the cord, internet advertising has ensured that video ads are more popular than ever.

A good commercial makes a personal connection with the viewer, taps into something deeper within him or her, and memorably creates an incentive for the viewer to become a consumer of a certain product. We will look at various commercials to ask, "Why do you buy that?" This question intentionally has two levels: Why are we motivated to buy products being advertised (what is the inner desire that commercials tap), and also, Why do we buy into the values and philosophies being used in the advertising?

So, as disciples of Jesus, why do we "buy that?" Why do commercials work on us? Why do we seek satisfaction, meaning, and value in something we can buy? We know better! How do we get sucked into following the ideas of the secular world rather than the path of abundant life Jesus offers? It's hard not to! We have those inner longings, and products we can purchase do bring satisfaction. Further, we are exposed to advertising messages thousands of times a day.

Join me this fall as we seek to uncover the ways we lose our focus amid the swirling media of advertising. We'll expose our vulnerability to temptation, and we'll get grounded again what really satisfies all the deep, inner longings of life.

- Pastor David

Calendar Cont....

Sept 15	8:30 am Prayer 9:45 am Hymn Sing 10:00 am Worship 6:30 pm Lifeline - Bonsell Home
Sept 16	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters 6:30 pm CMMT
Sept 17	10:00 am Rebekah's Circle
Sept 18	11:30 am Romeos and Juliets 5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo Jr. , Echo, Confirmation, and Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Sept 19	1:00 pm UMW Executive Board
Sept 20	7:00 am Grow group - Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith 5:00 pm Unload Truck
Sept 21	6:00 am Community Care Set-up 8:00 am Community Care Dist.
Sept 22	8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship
Sept 23	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters All Day Rummage Sale Set -up
Sept 25	5:30 pm Free Community Meal 6:15 pm Echo Jr. , Echo, Confirmation, and Youth Group 7:30 pm Sanctify Rehearsal
Sept 26	Rummage Sale
Sept 27	7:00 am Grow group - Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith Rummage Sale
Sept 29	8:30 am Prayer 10:00 am Worship
Sept 30	8:00 am Monday Morning Men 8:30 am Prayer Shawl Knitters and Comfort Quilters



Worship's Word

It's time again to switch gears and get ready for the school year! Kids will be getting up early to catch their bus, they will be starting in new classes with new teachers, they will have to begin thinking about homework and being responsible. It's a lot of changes and yet at the same time, it's happening just the same as last year. We live our lives in cycles and patterns, day in and day out. As the book of Ecclesiastes puts it, "There's nothing new under the sun" (Ecc. 1:9).

God, of course, can bring about new things in the midst of our patterned living. The Holy Spirit works to transform us and make us into new creations (2 Cor. 5:17)! But as we change and progress, God remains the same. The truth of his word and the importance of understanding it does not change. In fact, as our society continues to turn away from God, the Bible is more relevant to us now than it ever was! It is important for us as Christians to revisit, relearn and remind ourselves about the truth of God's Word. Whether we are young or old, a new convert or a long-time believer, we need to engage in the Echo of truth that has sounded throughout the centuries. The apostle Paul puts it this way:

"Brothers and sisters, I want to call your attention to the good news that I preached to you, which you also received and in which you stand. You are being saved through it if you hold on to the message I preached to you, unless somehow you believed it for nothing. I passed on to you as most important what I also received: Christ died for our sins in line with the scriptures, he was buried, and he rose on the third day in line with the scriptures" 1 Cor. 15:1-4.

Paul's message is unchanged! He echoes the Gospel that has already been heard!

Echo occurs on Wednesday nights from 6:15 – 7:30 after dinner and runs from Sept. 11th – Oct. 9th. It is an intergenerational experience that allows for older folks, parents and kids to interact together, learn together and teach each other. As a church, we need others to be involved in our lives! Disciples do not just happen... they are formed within the fellowship of other Christians who care enough to share and guide and teach. Please commit to making Wednesday nights a fruitful evening as we seek to make disciples!

For the King,

-Pastor Andrew

Youth Group - Students 10th - 12th Grade

The youth group has had a busy summer. So far, we have gone to Red Rock Bible Camp, a mission trip to Alaska and three game nights. Still to come we have one more game night, service project at the Dugdale's home and the End of Summer Bash!

September 4th will start our fall programming. We will begin the year with an all church game night. The following week we will begin our first teaching series "Remote Control." Just like the person holding the remote has complete control over the TV, whoever or whatever holds the remote to your life controls you. This four-week series explores four of the most common "remote grabbers" that aggressively try to wrangle control of our lives:

Week 1 – Emotions

Week 2 – Anger

Week 3 – Lust

Week 4 – Negativity

Cassi Betker

Director of Youth Ministries

Fall Grow Schedule:

Wednesday Evenings

Wednesday evening is church family night! You are included!

Starting Wednesday, September 4, we launch our fall ministry programs for Wednesday evening. It will begin with a shared meal together, beginning at 5:30 p.m., provided free of charge! (Note, this year we are not doing monthly pot lucks.)



Then, from 6:15 - 7:30 p.m. we will have discipleship for all ages. Echo is a time for kids-and-adults to interact together. Echo's purpose is to help pass on (echo) our Christian faith to the next generations! We want kids, parents and other adults to hear the message of the Gospel, as we seek to be disciples that make other disciples. For our preschoolers we'll have Echo Jr. in the nursery, a time of Bible stories and fun. For youth we will host confirmation (meeting upstairs) and youth group (which will now be meeting in the large room downstairs).

We begin with a all-church board game night on Wed., Sept. 4. Echo and youth groups will run Sept. 11th through Oct. 9th. We are off Oct. 16 for school break, and after that until the end of the year we will have our fall session of grow groups for all ages.

Invite a friend, a new person, to come and join. Let's keep our church family growing, in number, in faith, and in how welcoming we are!



STUDENTS ENTERING 7th, 8th and 9th GRADE...

This fall we start a new Confirmation class. It is open to students entering the 7th, 8th, and 9th grade. The purpose of confirmation is to prepare young people to confirm for

themselves the vows to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. To prepare young people to do this, the class of confirmation will provide a basic and fundamental understanding of the Christian faith. If you or anyone you know might be interested in Confirmation this year, please come to an informational meeting on Wed., Sept. 4 at 6:15 p.m. at the church. If you are unable to attend the meeting but still are interested, please let Pastor David know. Class starts Wed., Sept. 11.

Fall Grow Groups

Grow Groups start again in October! We are a church of grow groups, not a church with grow groups! We are committed to discipleship, and as a church, the key way we grow together as disciples of Jesus is through grow groups. This fall, starting in October, our groups will be offered Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Sign up now: there are sign up sheets in the church lobby and on the church website. Be watching for a brochure that lists all the groups offered. Here's a preview of what's coming:

Sunday morning before worship, 8:45 am:

Title: A Study of Idolatry in Judges Host: Rev. Dan Hair or Andrea Hendrickson

Summary: More information to come

Sunday morning after worship, 11:15 am:

Title: Meditating on the Hebrew Host: Michael Berglund

Summary: More information to come

Wednesday Evening, 6:15 pm:

Title: Gods at War: Defeating the Idols that Battle for Your Heart, by Kyle Idleman (Zondervan, 2012)

Host: Vicky & Jason Keintz

Summary: This study challenges our presumptions about sin by suggesting that all sin derives from the same source—idolatry. While we don't see many "graven images" around today, there are still countless gods passionately at war for the throne of our hearts. If we put the wrong god on the throne, our lives will be thrown into chaos, and all of the effort we put into fighting sin and overcoming it will be futile. This study focuses on four idols in particular: the gods of love, money, pleasure, and power. This study also point the way to victory, as we see the kind of life-transforming power that Christ is ready to pour out in our lives as well. As a result, seekers, non-Christians and life-long Christians alike will all be moved to grow their relationship with Christ.

Title: Lord of the Rings: A Film Bible Study, Two! Host: Amanda Lucas

Summary: This grow group continues last spring's group, yet anyone can join! The Lord of the Rings trilogy is a moral fantasy showing darkness battling light, evil struggling against good, pride fighting with humility, and despair wrestling with hope. Through the use of the films themselves, this class will dive into some of the deeper themes of the movies. What do these films say about the struggle for virtue, the temptations of power, the providence of God, and the ennobling power of story? We will also discuss some the hot button issue of if/how Christians should view fantasy films.

Title: Weird: Because Normal Isn't Working, by: Craig Groeschel (Zondervan, 2011) Host: Reese Werner

Summary: Normal people are stressed, overwhelmed, and exhausted. Many of their relationships are, at best, strained and, in most cases, just surviving. Even though we live in one of the most prosperous places on earth, normal is still living paycheck to paycheck and never getting ahead. And when it comes to God, the many believe, but few practice the teachings of Scripture in their everyday lives. Simply put, normal isn't working. This study will help you break free from the norm to lead a radically abnormal (and endlessly more fulfilling) life.

Friday mornings, 7:00 am, starting Sept 6th:

Title: Judgement Call Host: Brad Blocher

Summary: One of the most held beliefs about the Bible is that it teaches us not to judge one another, but is that true. What guidelines does the Bible give? This will be a video and discussion study.

Leadership Openings

Do you have a heart for serving? Are you looking for ways to help the church succeed in growing God's kingdom? We have openings on both our Action Ministry Team (AMT) and our Church Maintenance Ministry Team (CMMT). Please let Teresa Gruber or Gina Lindholm know if you are interested in more information about serving.

Capital Fund Drive Update

Thank you to everyone who has continued to contribute to the Capital Fund Drive. At this time we have been able to fully pay for the replacement of the flat roof. In addition to paying for the roof we will be submitting over \$6000 to the conference as a tithe contribution to Reach, Renew, Rejoice. At this time any additional contributions to the Capital Fund Drive will be held to apply to the next large drive. Thank you to everyone contributing to make this happen!

Women's Summer Outing



There is still time to sign up for the annual women's outing. Sept. 9th the women will be headed to an early lunch at Phil's Grill (Located behind Grumpy Minnow) in Center City. The plan is to meet at church 9:45am and leave by 10:00am to head off to Center City for lunch.

Then they will be headed to Taylors Falls for a scenic boat tour (80 min. ride). The boat ride costs \$24.99 (adult) and \$23.99 (senior). There is a sign up sheet on the clipboards in the lobby. If you have questions please see Sherry Robinson.

All women are welcome to join the fun and great fellowship.

★ HAPPY ★ BIRTHDAY! Sept Birthdays

Isaac Hendrickson 9/10

Colt Johnson 9/22

Mary Weaver 9/14

Steve Betker 9/27

Doris Richardson 9/18

Steve Ruter 9/30

Ezra Bonsell 9/20

May your special day be blessed and filled with joy! If your birthday isn't listed, please call the office and let us know so we can add you to the list!