

THE WITNESS



December
2023

MAKING MUCH OF JESUS - *with Pastor Jason*

Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Colossians 4:6

Communication is essential in the life of the local church family. For that reason, our staff has been working on a way to enhance our abilities to communicate with our congregation while at the same time providing a way for you to stay in touch with each other more conveniently. In January, you will begin hearing and seeing a good bit about how you might get connected.

We are moving to a new kind of church record keeping solution called REALM®. It primarily serves the administrative needs of our staff, but it also offers some exciting opportunities to support the way you are involved in our church. Not only will this improve work life for our ministry staff, it will make it easier for you, our church family, to connect with each other, keep up with what's going on, and grow as a connected community of believers.

Everyone in our church will get a unique profile. Your profile contains everything you want people in our church to know about you. Your profile also enables you to join a small group, RSVP to events, track your giving, update your contact information, change family details, set notification preferences, and replace that outdated family photo.

Because groups and classes are an important part of our church, you will be able to connect with the people in them throughout the week. You can keep track of upcoming meetings, who's bringing the biscuits to the 1st Sunday breakfasts, and what's going on in each other's lives.

Another valuable piece to this application is the ability to view upcoming church events and register for the ones you'd like to attend. If an event's registration requires payment, you'll see its cost, any required deposit amount, acceptable forms of payment, and its no-refund date, if applicable. You can also manage your active registrations and see any outstanding balances.

REALM has the potential to be a game changer in keeping us connected in the days ahead. But, you may ask, what about my privacy? You will have complete control over who can see your contact and personal information. Contact information is never public or searchable on the Internet. Any information you elect to make visible to your church family is always protected behind a login. Only authorized staff will have access to your profile information. You and certain authorized staff may update your profile information. In some cases, your group leader may update your contact information if you have made it visible to group leaders. For safety reasons, sharing contact and personal information for children under 18 is limited. Parents will determine whether or not to display their child's name in the online church directory. Children under 13 may not participate and will not be able to sign in.

Sounds interesting doesn't it... But what do you need to do right now? Nothing, at this moment. In January, you will begin to hear about how you might get connected to this app. Some of our Sunday School teachers have been using REALM in effort to be trained to help others join in. We will have training moments designed to help anyone who requires it. For now, just keep loving Jesus and serving His people.

**Much of Jesus,
Pastor Jason Teal**



UPCOMING EVENTS + INFO

Driven Packing Party

The student ministry will be packing presents for their angel tree recipients on **Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 6:30p** in the SYA building. Wear your ugliest sweater for the ugly sweater contest!

Thrive Christmas

Thrive Young Adults are ending their year on **Thursday, Dec. 14 at 7p** with worship, communion, and a hot cocoa bar in the SYA building.

Bluegrass Christmas

Celebrate the season with some toe-tapping, soul-stirring bluegrass Christmas tunes brought by Jason Hoard during both morning gatherings on **Sunday, Dec. 17**.

Deacon's Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 17 at 6:30p

Young at Heart

Thursday, Dec. 21 at 11a

Family Christmas Eve Service

Invite your loved ones to join you for a heartwarming family Christmas Eve on **Sunday, Dec. 24 at 9a + 11a**.

Midweek at FBC

There will be no midweek activities on **Dec. 20 + 27** due to Christmas break.

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed **Dec. 25-27 + Jan. 1** for the holidays.

Coffee & Conversation

Ladies, let's be missional! Join us Tuesday, **Jan. 2 at 10:30a** as we learn about and practice missions together.

BUDGET UPDATES

As of October 2023

Required: \$1,019,925.60

Received: \$873,420.31

