



# On the Same Page

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

(1 John 1:9 NAS95)

## A Developing Direction

### Forever-Family Fellowship

**We will teach and practice truth-and-love relationships with brothers-sisters in Christ that must survive/thrive in the present because we believe that these relationships will last forever**

### All-Week-Long Worship

As the local body of believers gathers each Sunday for worship, **we will inspire a worship experience for all age groups that will travel with you all week long.** What we do on Sunday will assist you in your singing, in your praying, in your devotion, and in your witness.

Conversely, it is as you worship all-week-long that you will be prepared to enter into gathered worship on Sunday.

### Day-to-Day Discipleship

As followers of Christ, we are disciples every single day. Respect for and commitment to Scripture is essential. **We will show you how to interact with and respond to God's Word, both as individuals, and in groups.**

### Moment-by-Moment Mission

God, the Architect of the world and of our lives arranges appointments and interruptions. Each of us is called to represent His Son for the glory of His Name. **We will cultivate a mind-set for moment-by-moment mission, whether close to home, or far away.**

## Cover-Ups and Cover-Alls

Sunday, November 5, 2017

Human history is full of cover-ups. Your personal history probably has a few as well. Cover-ups are those hiding tactics that we use to conceal the things of which we are ashamed. We do not want our failings to be made public. So we cover up.

We can conceal with bravado. We suppose that if we look good, people will think that everything is good. We can be experts at the fake smile, as if everything is ok, or with that little lie “fine” in response to “how are things?” They aren’t always “fine,” by the way, but you don’t want to say so, and you are dead sure you don’t want the other person to hear the whole story. We come across people concealing a cancer diagnosis who say, “fine,” or who are about to be foreclosed, and they say “fine.” It’s the human practice of cover-up.

1 John 1 confronts us with the contrast between the truth and cover-ups. In verses 6,8 and 10, John says, “if you say ...” something that is not true, then you are a liar, and the truth is not in you, and you are actually making God a liar. But in 1 John 1:9, John offers us another word, But “if we confess ...” To “confess” means to agree with God. It means to agree with God about what is right - like God’s perfections, including His righteousness and purity and goodness; and it also means to agree with God about what is wrong - those things that we have been lying about - the things you have been covering up. The verse goes on to say that “if we will confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” That brings us to cover-alls.

Cover-alls are used by painters and mechanics to keep the worker clean from paint and grease. Theoretically, you can work all day in all kinds of slop, and then peel off those coveralls at the end of the day, and you’re clean as a whistle. Yes, the illustration suffers from frequent failures.

But the cover-all that God provides in Christ is not a protection from the outside in, but rather a cleansing from the inside out. “He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Completely covered.

In the Old Testament, God would look down on us His people through the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant, the *kphr*, or covering. In the New Testament, God looks upon His people through the righteousness of Christ, as we place faith in Him. And according to His promise, we are completely “cover-all-ed” by Him, left with no need to cover-up.

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In the first of eight sermons at Wittenberg (1522), Martin Luther reminds of the basics of the Gospel. Here is the fourth of four points, speaking of the grace of endurance (patience).

**“Fourthly, we also need patience. For whoever has faith, trusts in God, and shows love to his neighbor, practicing it day by day, must needs suffer persecution. For the devil never sleeps, but constantly gives him plenty of trouble.”**

Martin Luther's Basic Theological Writings. Augsburg Fortress, 2005, p. 283.

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## **News and Notes**

**Prayer Time:** Saturdays, 7:30 a.m., at the Milford Tim Hortons; Sundays, 9 a.m., in the sanctuary  
**American House** service is today, 3 p.m.

**Ladies Bible Study** meets on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, studying Matthew's Gospel

**Awana meets on Wednesday evenings, 6 - 7:30 p.m for ages 3 through 8th grade.**

**Our Harvest Dinner and special guest puppet team are joining us on Saturday, November 11, 5 p.m. Please invite, and sign up in the lobby.**

The **Scripture Memory Project** is a challenge to memorize Scripture, and perhaps to share your verses with the congregation by memory in our worship gathering on Sunday, November 19. Sign-up begins today (in the lobby) if you would like to share verses to share your choice of memorized verses with the congregation so that we can plan our time appropriately to include songs, prayers, and memorized Scripture with adding some context and application from the congregation.

**Please note the church's phone number: 248-717-3564**

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## **Weekly Worship @ 11:00 a.m.**

**This Sunday, we will observe Lord's Table** and, in preparation, consider "The Message we Most want to Avoid" (Luke 8:16-21). This is a continuation of Jesus' teaching that we should "really hear" what he says, so much so that we actually "do it."



**Last Sunday** we have the privilege of hearing one of Jesus' foundational parables, that of the sower and the seed and the soils (Luke 8:4ff.). This parable helps us understand the ministry of Jesus, and how Christian ministry works today. [Listen to the message here.](#)

**Sunday School meets each Sunday morning, 9:30 a.m.** Our adult class is studying subjects related to the morning message; a class for youth; the children's class is working early on the story of Christmas.