



# On the Same Page

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”  
(2 Corinthians 5:17 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.**

## View from the Bottom of the Boat

Sunday, November 19, 2017

This past [Sunday, we studied](#) the first of four miracles in Luke 8 that help prepare the disciples for mission. [Jesus' stilling of the storm](#) reinforces the truth that Jesus is more than “just another guy,” in that “even the wind and waves obey him.” Also, the experience teaches disciples-like-us that we most need to remember who Jesus is, and of what he is capable, when we are in situations wherein we have lost control and are confronted by chaos.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says that, “in Christ, we are new creatures. Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” That is, we begin now to see everything through Jesus' eyes, even as God sees us through Jesus.

This change of perspective includes a great many things. We see ourselves as sinners differently. We now openly admit sin rather than deny and cover up, because only sinners can claim forgiveness of sins. If we deny our sin, we deny our need for Christ. We see Jesus as the eternal God who walked in human shoes. He is the center of all history, the only one through whom God can be known, and the only one who makes a right relationship with God possible. We see other people not so much as body-types or skin-colors, but we see that each one has an eternal soul - each one of great value; and each one at great risk. We see our temporal lives as but a vaporous moment in comparison to the glories of eternity, and we see the difficulties of this life as opportunities for the cultivation of spiritual virtue and strength. We are grateful and joyful; loving and forgiving. But not perfectly, because, as we said, we are indeed sinners.

One of our greatest sins is forgetting our faith, as did the disciples in this story. They cried out in panic to the sleeping Jesus, “Master, master, we are perishing.” Mark's Gospel adds the rather impertinent, “Don't you care that we are perishing?” Panic, or discouragement, or bitterness, or worldliness - yours and mine - these also cause us to forget our faith, and to live as those who have not come to know and value Christ.

So what should the disciples have done? I suggested last Sunday that they might merely have laid down in the bottom of the boat next to Jesus and watch the whole scenario play out - the wonders of a sometimes-frightening God, and the tenders of a protective Savior. And then, if I could see today's trials from that same perspective, or that difficult person, or that perceived injustice. Because Jesus has already been there, in the bottom of the boat. And he is there for us.

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All year (2017) we have been quoting Martin Luther in honor of the recent celebration of the 500th anniversary of his posting of the 95 theses on the Wittenberg church door. We will return to Luther this year, but I have been reading further about the Anabaptists who followed close on his heels, who were faithfully devoted to New Testament teaching, and who adopted the practice of believer's baptism. Conrad Grebel was one of the early Anabaptists.

**"The teaching of the Lord has been given for the purpose of being put into practice"- Conrad Grebel**

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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

**Ladies Bible Study** will hold its next meeting at the start of 2018.

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

**There will be no meeting this Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday.**

**This Sunday, November 19, Samaritan's Purse Christmas boxes are due back.**

The **Scripture Memory Project** has a "share" date of Sunday, November 19. Sign-up in the lobby if you would like to share your choice of memorized verses with 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 come finally to our long-awaited Presentation Sunday related to our Fall Scripture Memory Project. Several families and individuals have memorized verses to share in this week's morning worship service, and our worship will be led by these selections. Join us this week as we gather to celebrate and give thanks for the gift of God's Word.**



**Last Sunday, November 12, we studied the first of 4 miracles that help to prepare the disciples for mission, in this case, **Jesus' stilling of the storm (Luke 8:22-25).** [Listen to the message here](#)**

**Upcoming Sundays:** The remaining miracles in this series will be taught on **Nov 26, Dec 3 and 10.** On Sunday, **Dec 17**, our children will be presenting a Christmas play and songs in our worship gathering. On Sunday, **Dec 24**, we will meet for morning worship at 11, and Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m. No Sunday School on Dec 24 or 31.

**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.