JAMESTOWNFIRSTASSEMBLY

DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY
2023-2024

HEARTBEAT

2023-2024

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ENJOY THIS DELICIOUS OCCASION!



Save the	<u>Date</u>	1/21	National Pie Day
12/2	Open House @ the Wiedenmeyer's	2 /8	Ladies Blanket Tying
12/3	Emerge Yth Speed the Light	2/10	JBQ Tournament-here
	Banquet	2/11	Super Bowl parties
12/7	Deacon Meeting	2/15	Deacon Meeting
12/20	Kids On Trak Christmas Parties	2/23-24	Men's Conference-Lakewood
12/24	Christmas Eve by Candlelight		Bible Camp
12/25	Christmas Day-Office Closed		
12/27	No Wednesday night due to Holiday		
12/31	New Years Eve Service		
1/1	New Years Day-Office Closed		
1/7-13	Week of Prayer		
1/13	Emerge Yth Sledding Party		
1/13	JBQ Tournament-here		
1/18	CYA Bowling		

Emerge Yth Sledding

1/13

RENEWING YOUR MIND

On a small Pacific Island called Iwo Jima one of the most ferocious battles of WWII was fought. This battle was waged at the great expense in money and lives. Why was this such an important battle? It had enormous strategic value. If the Allies won this island, the war would go well. If they lost this island, war would go against them. That is the way it works in life too. Whether or not you realize it, a strategic battle is being waged in your life right now. The outcome of this battle will determine the quality of your Christian life. If you win this battle, and your Christian walk will be filled with blessing, joy and satisfaction. Lose this battle, then your Christian walk will be filled with spiritual poverty, frustration, and immaturity.

What is this battle I'm talking about? It is the battle for your mind! You have lived long enough to realize that what happens in your mind determines the direction your spiritual life will take. Jimmy Evans in his book, "A Mind Set Free", talks about "when they crucified Jesus, they nailed Him to a cross and placed Him on a hill called Golgotha. Golgotha means. 'the place of a skull.' It is eerie. As you view this hill from a distance, it looks like a human skull.... On the day Jesus was crucified, He was hanging on a cross positioned prominently on the top of a hill shaped like a skull. This was no accident. It was divinely orchestrated by God to reveal a central truth of the reason Christ died. So, to understand freedom, we must realize that the battlefield of victory is the mind. This is why God chose the setting for the crucifixion as a place that had the name and appearance of a human skull... This powerful picture cannot be overlooked. Jesus died to save us and set us free. Our minds are the central issue in the battle for our salvation and resulting freedom." Yes, this a battle for and in your mind and it sets the course for your future.

Paul wisely told us in Romans 8:5 (NIV) "Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires." All true Disciples—fully devoted followers of Christ, are people who obey God's command to be renewed in the spirit of their mind. That is to say, their habits of thinking and acting are being changed because they are saturating themselves with the "Word of God." They are careful and stay alert to what they let in their eye gate and ear gate. Being vigilant as to not develop an inappropriate desire that will take them captive to slavery.

Notice how **Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)** addresses these kinds of issues; "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." What does the Apostle Paul tell us about renewing our minds? I want to ask and answer three simple questions.

WHY DO I NEED TO RENEW MY MIND? In vs. 22. Paul is writing to people who have been Christians for years, and yet he tells them to put off the old man. By the old man he means the old habits of thinking and acting they had before they came to Christ. When you come to Christ, the Bible says that you are taken out of death and put into life. But it does not say that when this happens you automatically lose your old sinful ways of thinking and acting. We must renew our minds because, until we do, we will continue to think and act like unsaved people! Just because a person has been saved, does not mean they still no need to go through the transformation-sanctification process. People still carry the old habits of thinking and acting that must be surrendered to the Lord. The renewing of your mind is not automatic just because you received Christ! I have come across people who have been saved for decades who still think and act like they did before they were saved. Years have passed, but they haven't been saturating their minds with God's Word in those years. So still no victory or growth to maturity in their journey.

Again, Jimmy Evans in his book, "A Mind Set Free", talks about "how moral integrity is becoming an increasingly rare commodity these days. Too many people have simply surrendered to the spirit of this age. The flood of sexual immorality we see around us every day is just one indication of the overall moral decay of our society..." Evans goes on to say, "in addition to sexuality impurity, we are also being bombarded with spiritual deception, gossip, disloyalty, selfishness, materialism, rebellion, violence, arrogance, and many other things that assault the standards of God's Word. Without a conscious decision to reject the current all-out attack on Biblical values and everything sacred, we too will be swept away in the sin that is swirling around us." We need to renew our minds because we don't automatically lose our old habits of thinking and acting when we come to Christ. We need to fill our minds with God's Word so that is pushes those old ways of thinking and acting out.

HOW DO I RENEW MY MIND? In vs. 23 "to be made new in the attitude of your minds..." If you compare v. 23 to Colossians 3:9-10 (NIV), "Since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being **renewed in knowledge** in the image of its Creator." There is a knowledge that we can put into our minds that will cause them to be renewed. Where is this knowledge? In the "Word of God." Think of your mind like a washtub. Dirty water represents what you filled your mind with before Christ, clear water represents Word of God. So every time you pour in new water of God's Word the old dirty is replaced. What will eventually happen? The water in the washtub will become clean and pure. Why? Because the new fresh water pushes out the old dirty water. That's the way it is in your mind! There are a few important ways to fill your mind with Word of God: Read God's Word – daily. Some of you have been on that journey with us

this year. Study God's Word with others-get in one of our grow groups, it's like adding miracle grow to your spiritual life. Then Memorize God's Word – try to get 12 verses a year down, that would be one a month. So how do we renew our mind? By refusing to fill it with trash-dirty water, and also saturating it daily with fresh water of the Word of God!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN I RENEW MY MIND? In vs 24. As I put on the new man (as I am renewed in the spirit of my mind), I begin to resemble God in my actions and attitudes. I begin to think and act like God thinks and acts. With that result in my life, I become characterized by righteousness and holiness. To put it in simpler terms, when my mind is renewed, I start becoming like Jesus. Granted there is only one Jesus, and we are not Him. But as His Word renews our minds, we will begin to resemble Him. People will look at us and say, "he talks and acts like Jesus!" In Romans 12:2 (NIV) it says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Transformed = Greek word is metamorpho, we get our word metamorphosis from it. Metamorphosis is a word we use to describe how a caterpillar enters a cocoon and is transformed into a beautiful butterfly. That's exactly the picture here. Something ugly is changed into something beautiful. When we renew our minds, ugly, sinful, and selfish people become like Jesus!

What will happen to me if I renew my mind with the Word? Nothing in the world, **except** that you will begin to think and act like Jesus! Until we renew our mind, we will continue to think and act like a lost person. But when we do, we begin to think and act like Jesus. He will lead you to a wonderful and prosperous life of purity and moral integrity.

Praying that as you journey with the Lord, you will be full of joy, walk in victory, overcome and be successful for the Lord! It all starts in the mind!

Jeff Wiedenmeyer

Lead Pastor Jamestown First Assembly



P.S. Please read Pastor Shawn's article on the Youth Convention encouragement following this article.



Emerge Youth has had an incredible Fall in 2023. All of this was capstone by our trip to the annual North Dakota Youth Convention. We took a group of twenty-six to the event, twenty-one of this number was students! God showed up powerfully in our group and we saw breakthrough after breakthrough. There is something special that happens when you see students laying on hands and praying for other students worshiping with abandon, shouting praises to God and paying full attention the the Word as it was spoken over them. God is good and we can rejoice in that!

As we move into the Winter months of 2023, it can be easy to get dragged down by the darker nights, the busyness and stress of workplace chaos can stress you out, and the holiday pressure of consumerism can be ,well, all consuming! Through all of this, let us not forget to recognize and cerebrate the goodness of God.

These students will always remember what it was like around the holiday season. Was it busy? Was it stressful? Was it filled with love? Was it precious family time? By taking a few steps back and reflecting on the goodness of God throughout the year as a family, these students will begin to see, and commit to memory, how God has worked in their lives. Each and every student has had an encounter with God and I challenge you to take time every week to ask them about how God has moved in their lives. The developing fully devoted followers of Christ that you are raising right now, will thank you later for moments like these.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Shawn



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 2023, 1PM TO 4PM

WIEDENMEYER'S HOME: 217 19TH AVE. NE JAMESTOWN, ND 58401

COME FOR SOME FELLOWSHIP AND GOOD FOOD!

"May God bless you with the gift of love and the gift of peace not just on Christmas, but for the entire year!"



Gather our hearts and pray for our Nation-Church-Families-Co-Workers

JANUARY 7TH THRU JANUARY 15TH, 2024 6:30 PM

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

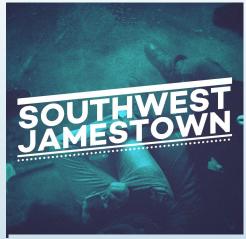


JAMESTOWN FIRST ASSEMBLY



Tuesday 7:00 PM Leader: Curt & Valerie Hill

701-845-4584 860 Riverside Dr, Valley City



Wednesday 6:30PM
Leader: Joe & LeAnn
Beckstrand
701-269-9662
1116 Western Park Village,
Jamestown



GROWGROUPS



Wednesday 6:30PM Leader: Pastor Jeff

701-252-4092 Jamestown First Assembly



Wednesday 6:30PM Leader: Pastor Tamra

> 701-252-4092 Jamestown First Assembly



Thursday 6:30 PM
Leader: Pastor Shawn
& Cami
701-269-8648
301 6th Ave SW

Jamestown





Kidz Konnect Sundays—10:30am



January 13th-JBQ Tournament-here
February 10th-JBQ Tournament-here

Talk to Larissa Wolff if you have questions about JBQ @701-320-8877



WEDNESDAYS 6:30 PM

KIDS, COME
CHECK OUT OUR
STORE THAT YOU
CAN EARN
POINTS FOR
EACH WEEK!



Emerge Youth Winter Newsletter

Dec. 3rd, 2023



Join us for our Speed the Light Banquet at 6:00pm! Come and let the youth group serve you as we recap the year and talk about our Speed The Light Goal!



Jan 13th, 2024



Let's go sledding! Join us up at the Bunker at 10am for a fun morning of sledding, followed by hot chocolate and a movie at Pastor Shawn and Cami's house!



Feb 11th, 2024



Are you ready for the Superbowl?! You are invited to join our Superbowl party at 5pm to 9pm at the Slater Center! There will be snacks, games, and lots of fun! See you there!









MISSIONS FOCUS



Tim and
Karla
Shamala
Missionaries to India

Good Morning to you from India!

Trust that you are having a wonderful day as fall season rolls in.

We are doing well and enjoying the cooler weather which is always welcome.

We are in need of rains to fill our dams and river basin in our part of the state as farmers face drought conditions and tensions have risen between our state and a neighboring state.

It has been a busy yet fruitful season. We have had highs of celebrating 18 years of God's goodness to our congregation and the death of one of our pastors who had served at our branch church.

We are looking forward to the release of the Waghri New Testament which will serve hundreds of thousands of the Hakki Pikki population in our state. They are gypsies who travel all across India and parts of the world selling goods and services. We have two congregations that serves this group. For the first time, they will hear John 1:1-12 read in their language this Wednesday at our church as the missions team of Central District of SIAG in cooperation with Word to the World release the New Testament. How exciting for them, and for us to witness this!

We are looking forward to hosting pastors from four different states in Mysore for a ministry conference, October 17-19th as Pastor Bob & Laurel Maniscalco from NJ minister to them. We are expecting around 120 members including spouses and children to join in for a time of training and renewal. This is a highlight for many of the rural pastors who we serve with which is hosted by the Maniscalcos' and their church back home.

My legal status has not changed as we wait for the next date to be issued for hearing of both the criminal and civil cases by the High Court. Yes, it is frustrating but we hold on to the promises and look forward with confidence in the Lord.

We are thankful to the Lord for you. We couldn't do it without you holding the ropes for us.

May His Spirit empower you!

In partnership with Christ, Tim and Karla

The Cry for Help....

As we serve 40 girls, of whom most of them have come from sex trafficked backgrounds, their needs are many and different. There cry is not only for a place of safety, but a home where they are accepted and embraced. Also for the safety of their mothers who may have been sold into slavery due to poverty and addiction. As we help rescue girls, we desire for them to be restored spiritually, emotionally and physically. It is a process as we help them rediscover God's image and purpose for their lives. Through your partnership and our care, God allows us to be a shoulder they can lean on and cry allowing us to be their family.

Please pray for this ministry and all our other ministries as well.



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES BLANKET TYING NIGHT THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2024

BRING A SNACK AND A FRIEND AND
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN WHILE BEING A
BLESSING TO A CHILD!

BLANKETS WILL BE DONATED TO PROJECT IGNITE LIGHT

CELEBRATE CELEBRATE CELEBRATE CELEBRATE CELEBRATE

Birthdays

10/17

01/23

01/31

02/05 02/12

Terry Entzminger	12/05
Jeremy Simpson	12/10
Chase Waldie	12/10
Kelsie Mittleider	12/14
David Sutherland	12/14
Pattie Casavant	12/18
Jeff Wiedenmeyer	12/21
Sara Meza	12/28
Grace Hegerle	01/01
Fran Geisler	01/04
John Jones	01/04
Keith Veil	01/10
Eric Edwards	01/11
Josie Beckman	01/13
Carol Elhard	01/15
Monte Morast	01/17
Matt Meza	01/18

Shirleen Pettet

Faith Sutherland

Ken Halvorson

Katie Ringer

Valerie Hill

Larissa Wolff 02/12 02/14 **Jarron Waldie** Jim Casavant 02/15 02/17 **Tyler Halvorson Cade Fadness** 02/22 **Jace Fadness** 02/22 **Curtis Waldie** 02/23 **Holly Nicholson** 02/27

Anniversaries

Matt & Christie Meza	12/17
Pam & Darcy Harr	01/20
John & Gemma Schaller	01/27
Justin & Lindsay Hoff	02/12
Eric & Vanessa Edwards	02/20
Jamie & Amanda Dickerman	02/22

December 2023

JAMESTOWNFIRSTASSEMBLY

1720 8TH Ave SW

www.ourheartispeople.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Th∪	Fri	Sat
					1	Wiedenmeyer's Open House 1-4 pm
3 Communion Pastor Jeff 10:30am	4	5	6 7 am Deacon Prayer 6:30 pm Ladies GG 6:30 pm Men's GG 6:30 pm Kids On Trak 6:30 pm Youth Church Grow Groups	7	8	9
STL Banquet-6pm	Grow Groups	Grow Groups		Grow Groups		
Pastor Jeff 10:30am	11	12	13 7 am Deacon Prayer 6:30 pm Ladies GG 6:30 pm Men's GG 6:30 pm Kids On Trak 6:30 pm Youth Church Grow Groups	14	15	16
	Grow Groups	Grow Groups		Grow Groups 6pm Deacon Mtg.		
17 Pastor Jeff 10:30am	18	19	20 7 am Deacon Prayer 6:30 pm Ladies GG 6:30 pm Men's GG 6:30 pm Kids On Trak 6:30 pm Youth Church Grow Groups	21	22	23
24 Pastor Jeff 10:30am Christmas Eve Fam- ily Service	25 Christmas day	26	27 No Wednesday Evening Classes/ Activities	28	29	30
31 Pastor Jeff 10:30 am New Years Eve Grow Group Game nights						

~ Sunday ~

Worship Practice 9:00 am 10 am Prayer 10:15 am Greeting & Coffee

10:30 a.m.Morning Worship & Kidz Konnect , Little Sparks & Nursery

Tuesday ~
7 p.m. Valley City GG

~Wednesday~

7 am Deacon Prayer at the church

For more info contact 252-4092

6:30 p.m.
Ladies GG
Men's GG
Kids On Trak
5pm hang out & 6:30 PM Emerge Youth at
Slater Center
SW GG
Grow Groups meeting at various locations

~Thursday-Grow Group CYA Grow Group

phone: 701-252-4092

January 2024

JAMESTOWNFIRSTASSEMBLY

1720 8TH Ave SW

www.ourheartispeople.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thυ	Fri	Sat
	1 New Years Day-	2	3 7 am Deacon Prayer 6:30 pm Ladies GG 6:30 pm Men's GG 6:30 pm Kids On Trak 6:30 pm Emerge You	4	5	6
		Grow Groups	Grow Groups	Grow Groups		
7 10:30am Pastor Jeff- Communion	8	9	10 7 am Deacon Prayer 6:30 pm Ladies' GG 6:30 pm Men's GG	11	12	JBQ Tournament
Week	ek of Prayer 7-13@ 6:30pm		6:30 pm Kids On Trak 6:30 pm Emerge Youth	Week of Prayer 7-13@ 6:30pm		here 10am
6pm prayer			Grow Groups	Grow Groups		Emerge Yth Sled- ding at the Bunker 10am
14 10:30am Pastor Jeff	15	16 Grow Groups	17 7 am Deacon Prayer 6:30 pm Kids On Trak 6:30 pm Ladies GG 6:30 Men's GG 6:30 pm Emerge Youth Grow Groups	CYA Bowling 6:30PM 6pm Deacon Mtg	19	20
21 10:30am Pastor Jeff *National Pie Day*	22	23 Grow Groups	24 7 am Deacon Prayer 6:30 pm Kids On Trak 6:30 pm Ladies GG 6:30 Men's GG 6:30 pm Emerge Youth Grow Groups	25 Grow Groups	26	27
28 Pastor Jeff 10:30am	29	30 Grow Groups	31 7am Deacon Prayer 6:30 pm Kids On Trak 6:30 Ladies GG 6:30 p, Men's Grow Group 6:30 pm Emerge Yth Grow Groups	Grow Groups		

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7 p.m. Valley City GG

~Wednesday~

7 am Deacon Prayer at the church

6:30 p.m. Ladies GG Men's GG Kids On Trak 5pm hang ou

5pm hang out & 6:30 PM Emerge Youth at

Slater Center SW GG

Grow Groups meeting at various locations

For more info contact 252-4092

phone: 701-252-4092

~Thursday-Grow Group CYA Grow Group

February 2024

JAMESTOWNFIRSTASSEMBLY

1720 8TH Ave SW

www.ourheartispeople.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Grow Groups	2	3
4 Pastor Jeff Communion– 10:30am	5	6 Grow Groups	7 7 am Deacon Prayer 6:30 pm Ladies GG 6:30 pm Men's GG 6:30 pm Kids On Trak 6:30 pm Emerge Youth Grow Groups	8 LNO-Blanket Tying Project Ignite Light 7pm Grow Groups	9	JBQ Tournament here 10am
11 Pastor Jeff 10:30am Super Bowl Parties Emerge Yth Super Bowl Party at the Slat- er Center, 5-9 PM	12	13 Grow Groups	14 7 am Deacon Prayer 6:30 pm Ladies GG 6:30 pm Men's GG 6:30 pm Kids On Trak 6:30 pm Emerge Youth Grow Groups	15 6pm Deacon Mtg Grow Groups	16	17
18 Pastor Jeff 10:30am	19	20 Grow Groups	21 7 am Deacon Prayer 6:30 pm Kids On Trak 6:30 pm Ladies GG 6:30 Men's GG 6:30 pm Emerge Youth Grow Groups	22 Grow Groups	Men's Conference-I	III
25 Pastor Jeff 10:30am	26	27 Grow Groups	28 7 am Deacon Prayer 6:30 pm Kids On Trak 6:30 pm Ladies GG 6:30 Men's GG 6:30 Emerge Yth Grow Groups	29 Grow Groups		

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5pm hang out & 6:30 PM Emerge Youth at
Slater Center
SW GG
Grow Groups meeting at various locations
For more info contact 252-4092

~Thursday-Grow Group CYA Grow Group



CHURCHLEADERS By Shawn Vandergrift,

October 4th, 2023

4 Things People Want from Church....

People are coming to your church for a reason! Every day I talk to pastors who have their church services full of visitors. I also hear countless stories of how some visitors stay and later become members. On the same note I also hear how some visitors only come once and never come again. This leads me to understand people are searching for something that draws them beyond a one-time visit. It also leads me to understand what people want from church and creates in them the passion to seek Christ daily, but what is it?

I believe the main motivation should be and is to have a deepening relationship with Jesus Christ. After all, that is why the Church exists, but what are people looking for that makes them want to attach their selves to a certain body of believers? What draws them back time and time again?

Recently I had a conversation with someone who outlined four things he desperately wanted and needed in a church he called home. I want to share those with you today. I believe they hold great value and are the four things people want from the Church in which they decide to become a member.

1. Acceptance

Without a doubt this one makes perfect sense. People want to feel not only welcomed and loved but also wanted. Even after they have made their first visit. So many times, as churches, we tend to be excited when a visitor comes the first few times, only to write them off once they come regularly. If we want to retain the people who visit us, we must truly be gracious and humbled by the fact God has given us another friend to whom we can minister. Is your Church a place that welcomes people beyond the first visit?

2. Accountability

This one may not seem like a likely choice, but after people have accepted Christ as Savior, they genuinely want to follow through on that commitment. They desire to have those who will help them achieve this daily walk with Christ—just like a person who is trying to lose weight likes to have those who will go to the gym with him and help keep him on track to the goal. Is your Church a place that motivates and provides partnership to the goal of serving Christ?

3. Discipleship

As stated above, you find that once people commit their life to Christ they genuinely want to follow through on it. They desire to know more about their faith whether it's newfound or not. One thing people want from church is to understand what they are doing, why they are doing it and how to improve what they are doing. Is your Church a place of learning that equips the believer with the tools necessary to survive in the Christian walk?

4. Opportunity

This last one is just as important as the others. It's the natural effect of a growing Christian, to want an opportunity to get involved more in the ministry of the church they attend. People want to be a part of something. People want to serve, and we must not forget God wants them to serve as well. As a Church we must be excelling at preparing our members for service. Giving them an opportunity to serve Jesus. So many times we can fail because we wait too long to get new members involved in serving. They want to serve, and we must let them. Is your Church full of opportunities to serve?

Is your Church a place of acceptance, accountability, discipleship and opportunity? Will you rise up to the challenge, and make these a part of your efforts? What other things do you think people want from church?

