

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! This month our adventure begins with you all! We will be arriving on April 9<sup>th</sup> and are excited for ALL that the Lord has in store for us in the coming months.

Our name "About Face" describes the heart of the ministry in two ways. It borrows from the military term of taking an "about face" and applying it to the local congregation. As we come into church, God calls us to do an about face and get out into the world. It also relates to the highly relational face-to-face emphasis we promote.

We will work within the church through preaching a sermon series, leading Bible studies and small groups, mentoring core missional leaders, and immersing the whole church with a heart for outreach.

We will also build relationships with community leaders, institutions, agencies, and social services; building bridges between the church and community to allow God to unfold opportunities for ministry outside the walls of the church. Our emphasis is on relational development rather than emergency relief ministry.

We will be sharing with the whole congregation during Sunday morning worship starting April 11<sup>th</sup> with a four-week sermon series that will challenge you in living out the Greatest Commandment. We will also be teaching the Adult Sunday School at 9:30am based on the book, *The Hole in Our Gospel*. We will be challenged with questions such as: Is our faith only about going to church, studying the Bible, and avoiding the most serious sins? Or does God expect more? Have we embraced the whole gospel or a gospel with a hole in it? The whole gospel was always meant to be a world-changing social and eternal revolution, a revolution that begins with each one of us and ripples out even to the city of Warren and surrounding area.

Also, beginning Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, we will lead the Wednesday Studies based upon the book, *When Helping Hurts -How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself*. We will learn about brokenness in the world, our community, and our very own selves; and God's restoration and healing for ALL that are poor in spirit. This gathering will meet for six to eight weeks in the Covert Room and offered at both 10:30am and 6:30pm. Choose your best time as all are welcome! (You are not required to have either of the books, however, they will enhance your growth. We will have copies of both books for sale when we get there.)

As we start the journey, we are reminded of the scripture in Proverbs 16:9, "*In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.*" It is exciting to know that even though we have plans, God is in control of the adventure!

Blessings,

 