

LOVE | LIVE | SERVE



GATEWAYCHURCH DOWNTOWN

A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Gateway family and friends,

Did you guys see the eclipse last week? What a show! Between the eclipse, the seminar on historical theology I'm taking, and the fact that the first Monday of April was the first, I had to push back the newsletter a week. I hope you understand!

Here are three key things you should be aware of before the next newsletter goes out:

PRAYER SERVICE. This Sunday evening at 6:30 PM, we'll have a prayer service. We call them "prayer services" because the emphasis is less on preaching and more on prayer. And because these are smaller gatherings and not recorded, we can be a little more personal and intimate with our prayer. The service starts at 6:30, and we'll have a light dinner at 5:30 for anyone who wants to make their Sunday a little less stressful.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: MIDTOWN CLEANUP. On April 27, MidTown Cleveland is hosting their annual spring cleanup, which includes areas in close proximity to Gateway. When we saw the info, we reached out about how to help. We will be providing a small amount of food and supplies for the event, but

we'd also love to supply a lot of volunteers. The event runs from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM, and you don't need anything except your own self. We'd like for MidTown Cleveland to see our participation so we can give Jesus the credit. To do that, we'd like to sign up as a group. If you're interested and available, please reach out to [Lizz](#) to let her know, and she'll get us signed up.

SERVICE SCHEDULING. Members: We will be sending out scheduling requests for the summer trimester (roughly May 12–September 1) in the next week, so if you haven't updated your availability, you might want to do that.

For the sake of Christ's name in all the nations,

UPCOMING EVENTS

Prayer Service
(4/21 @ 6:30pm)

MidTown Clean up
(4/27 @ 8:30am)

Sunday School
(Sundays @ 9:20am)

POINTS OF PRAYER

Selection of our 2024 missions trip and those who would be called to go.

The unreached in our lives and boldness to speak.

The helpfulness of Love INC's new tool

Love. Live. Serve

In a famous passage in Romans, Paul writes,

[I]f you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.... For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ([Romans 10:9–10, 13–15, ESV](#))

So how do people come to have eternal life and salvation from the judgment of sin? They trust wholeheartedly in the person and work of Jesus. How do they come to trust in Jesus? By first hearing about him! How do they hear about him? Well, someone must tell them! How will someone tell them? Well, someone must be sent out; someone has to go.

This is a great and beautiful truth that reminds us of the necessity of opening our mouths. We must open our mouths to confess to Jesus, and we must open our mouths to tell others about Jesus. But there’s something else in this sending → telling → hearing → trusting paradigm. Something Paul certainly agreed with. Before anyone goes there usually/often/always is prayer. In Matthew 9 and Luke 10, Jesus instructs his followers,

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Do you see the prerequisite command? To pray! We are to pray that God—the Lord of the harvest—would raise up men and women to make him known to the ends of the earth. Sometimes that’s so very close to home: our own households or neighborhoods. Sometimes that’s to far away places that cannot even be named for security reasons.

I’m thinking about prayer, in particular today, because of our upcoming prayer service on Sunday. We call it a prayer service because, while we have a healthy commitment to prayer during our Sunday morning services, it’s clear that the main dish is the sermon. At the prayer service, the main dish is the prayer. And it’s a bit more personal and intimate like a family gathering. We’ll sing a block of songs, which are truly prayers to God, and spend some time taking turns praying for what’s going on in our lives, in our church, in our community, and in the world. With a very short sermon(ette) added in, we’ll get done in about an hour.

As we pray, we want to saturate our prayers with a gospel heart. We want to think, “What does the Lord of the harvest wish to do with this situation?” We want to contemplate, “How might these people or events be used by God to bring about the “obedience produced by faith among the nations” (Romans 1:5)?

We can advertise. We can hope people find Gateway on the web. All of that is fine, but are we merely about building an organization? Shouldn’t we be more invested in prayer that God would send out laborers? That men and women would be sent so that they may speak so that others may hear so that some of those may believe and be saved? Shouldn’t we pray that when we speak, we speak clearly (Colossians 4:4) and boldly (Ephesians 6:20)? Shouldn’t we pray that hearts would be opened to heed the gospel (Acts 16:14)? Shouldn’t we pray for the lost to become found, for salvation to come to the house of their hearts (Luke 19:9)?

We do well with discipleship at Gateway. We do well with giving and receiving. We do well with holding sound doctrine. But do we pray for the reach of the gospel? Do we pray for people to go? Do we pray for our own selves to go?

Let’s become a people of prayer, of prayer *saturated* with the gospel. How?

First, come out to the prayer service. And if there are things you’d like to pray about—even if you’re not sure how to pray about them—I’d love to know ahead of time so that we can ensure it gets prayed about in a gospel-saturated way. Shoot me an email or text.

Second, begin praying for the gospel daily. You can use Romans 10:14–15 as a rubric. Pray for God to raise up laborers. Think about the “fields” where the gospel is needed. What fields are in your life? Your family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, roommates? Ask God to raise up laborers. Think about what those same fields look like in the lives of your fellow church members. What other fields need prayer? Some possible resources are [Operation World](#), [IMB Pray](#), [NAMB Pray](#). Maybe choose a single field each day to get started.

Ask God if he is sending you and where? Where is God calling you to make him known?

Pray for the strength and courage and clarity and conviction to make the message known—both on the lips of those God has sent and yours. Pray for missionaries by name that you know. If you don’t know any, find some! Ask me if you need help. Begin supporting a missionary financially so that you can hear how the work is going and know how to pray more specifically.

Pray for the people in those fields to hear. Maybe you know some by name. Maybe some of them are very close to you. Pray for them to

SERMON

SCHEDULE

April 14
Revelation 6:9-11 | Seals:
The Fifth Seal | Chris
Schwab

April 21
Revelation 6:12-17 | Seals:
The Sixth Seal | Chris
Schwab

April 28
Revelation 7:1-8 | Seals:
Sealed Saints | Chris
Schwab

May 5
Revelation 7:9-17 | Seals:
The Seventh Seal |
Chris Schwab

hear, to respond, and to follow. Pray for them to believe.

Jesus says that there is a harvest. He says that the harvest is plentiful. Could it be that we don't reap because we don't follow his instruction? Because we don't pray? Let's pray!

Update from Missions/Partners

Recently Love INC sent an email out to local pastors to introduce a new tool that would allow them and partnering churches to track benevolence requests in a single place. This system has the potential to make it much simpler for churches to know what needs are in their communities and meet them. It also has the potential of helping us see trends of where the help is actually *helping* and where it's not. We're just getting started with this, but if it comes to fruition, it has a lot of promise and has been used successfully in many other communities. I very much hope to share with you more about that in the coming months.

Additionally, I know some of you are golf aficionados. Love INC has an annual Golf Outing to raise money for meeting Cuyahoga County's needs in the name of Christ. This year's event will be June 24 at Pine Hills Golf Club in Hinckley. Registration includes coffee and donuts and lunch, and there are a host of great prizes. So get your golf on and help support one of our long-standing par