

# FAIRVIEW AVE. CHURCH

Open Doors, Open Arms, Open Hearts

Volume 36 Issue 3  
Pastor John P. Walker

## — Spring Newsletter 2026 —

### Spring at Fairview Ave

Spring Events

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### AI, AI, OH! Artificial Intelligence and the Church



According to Gallup research, about 50 percent of employees in recent surveys have adopted the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the workplace. Microsoft, in their report “Global AI Adoption in 2025”, claimed that about 1 in 6 people globally now use generative AI tools. Generative AI refers to a kind of artificial intelligence that creates new and original content by studying patterns of available information and learning from the data. AI is now found in all of your internet search engines, to help gain better and targeted results for your searches. Even your word processor program has AI to assist with writing. It’s not too far from the truth to say that AI is everywhere. But what does this have to do with the church? Plenty, if you peek behind the curtain.

Last year, Gospel singer Solomon Ray came out of nowhere to dominate the Christian music charts reaching number one on iTunes almost as soon as his song, Find Your Rest, was released. The song has a beautiful, soulful sound with a traditional gospel choir backing. It calls to mind old African American spirituals and David’s laments in the psalms. Ray cries out in weariness but finds his rest in the Lord, and he encourages you to do so too. I can see why so many people fell in love with Find Your Rest. The only problem is, there is no such person as Solomon Ray. He was created using generative AI. And the song was entirely generated, music and all, by an AI computer program. Let’s make that clear: a number one Christian Gospel song in 2025 was entirely created using artificial intelligence! Even the pictures and videos of ‘Solomon Ray’ were produced digitally.



Unless you are living completely off the grid without internet access, you can’t completely avoid having contact with artificial intelligence. Many are seeking it out for spiritual advice, often out of loneliness or desperation. They offer biblical advice, even prayer and counseling. Apps like Text With Jesus which offers AI conversations with Jesus, Mary, and other biblical figures are multiplying. Just Like Me offers live video calls with a Jesus avatar (likeness of Jesus) for counseling at \$1.99 a minute. AI Jesus on Twitch, one of the oldest of these launched in 2023, reported 30,000 active users in its first three days. The spiritual implications of these services is frightening. People are interacting with these programs as if they were the real Jesus instead of talking to the real God.



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[www.youtube.com/fabricchurch](http://www.youtube.com/fabricchurch)

Is Artificial Intelligence all bad? In my opinion, no. It has its uses, even in Christian life. AI is a tool that can be beneficial, efficient, and provide assistance in a multitude of areas. I have used it effectively for Bible word studies, cross-references, historical content, and language insights in Hebrew and Greek. Of course, you need to always insist on citation and verify the sources. If it suggests something about a Bible passage, it's best to look that passage up to verify what you've been told is true. AI has been known to make some big mistakes and even to make stuff up. AI hallucinations have been a problem.

The bottom line for me is that AI can be helpful in many ways, even with understanding Scripture, but caution is needed every time we knowingly engage with it. It's great for organizing and outlining your thoughts. It can enhance your study and communication, but it's no replacement for spiritual discernment. Because it is learning from literally millions of sources, it can easily spread misinformation.

Privacy may be another issue that you want to consider. Over-reliance could be a problem. There's nothing like prayer and meditation on the word for solid biblical conclusions. Although the AI can produce convincing, human-like language, it is not human and there is no guarantee that you are hearing truth. You are communicating with a machine and a machine has no morality. It's why the creators of CLAUDE, a powerful AI, are meeting now with Theologians to try to teach it ethics.

There is no way that I can deal with all the implications of AI for God's people in such a short space. That's where good dialogue comes in. I would love to have further dialogue with you on this subject, whether in person, by e-mail, or text. This would be a great topic for a group to sit down over tea and coffee with and I'm always open to those kinds of discussions. Don't be afraid to talk to me about it. Let's have a conversation!

Pastor John

*"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God..."*

*1 John 4:1*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

May

May 4 Patti Walton  
May 5 Sharon Thienes  
May 16 Angie Standridge  
May 21 Robert Thienes  
May 24 Nicholas Smith  
May 26 Skyler Baker  
May 28 Kathy Long



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June

June 11 Penny Marks  
June 12 \*Bruce Bundy  
June 22 Hope Long  
June 25 Linda Eberly  
June 29 Doug Miller

*Happy Anniversary!*

Rod & Lynn Teach June 2, 1984  
Carl & Sue Wenger June 14, 1969  
Bill & Val Dick June 23, 1973  
Ron & Colleen DeLauter June 25, 2005  
Eric & Michelle Dampf June 30, 1998  
Steve & Kathy Long June 30, 1984

*Happy Anniversary!*

Jr & Christy Bowders May 3, 2003  
John & Bonnie Walker May 5, 1984  
Tony & Melody Cadiz May 6, 1972  
\*Bruce & Merly Bundy May 30, 1987  
\*Mark & Maggie Roth May 30, 1992

happy anniversary

\*global worker

If you have a birthday in the spring months and it was not featured here, please email the office.

# Spring Events at FABIC



## FABIC's Spring Work Day | May 9 | 8 am

Everyone is encouraged to come help sometime throughout the morning to care for our property --inside and outside projects. We will be lead by our trustees. Bring any tools that you may need. Questions, contact Steve Eberly, Head Trustee.



## Pack a Lunch Sunday | May 31 | Following Service | Fellowship Hall

Whenever a month comes along that has a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, pack a lunch and bring it to church. After service, join us in Fellowship Hall, for a fun time of fellowship.

Check out our weekly email or visit our Facebook page for more info on upcoming events for the spring season.

## Library News | Book Highlights

No doubt about it, spring has sprung! Thanks to all who have stopped by the library to say “hello” and to those who are utilizing our church library. We’ve been able to add multiple additions through continued donations and by finding titles of interest for our avid readers.

If there is a title you’re looking for, please let us know.

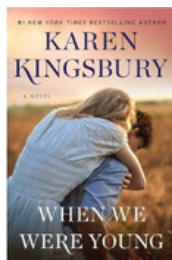
Congratulations to *Wanda Stahley*, whose name was drawn for this quarter’s drawing!

Until next time, enjoy the read! *Sue and Colleen*



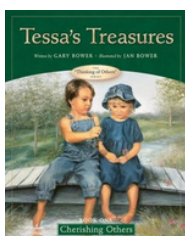
### End of the Spear, a true story by Steve Saint

Frank Wolf commends End of the Spear, to anyone who has experienced pain in their lives and has wrestled with seeds of bitterness as a result. It offers a compelling portrait of human grace. His incredible story makes it clear that he is able to see the sovereign hand of GOD, even in the most challenging circumstances.



### When We Were Young by Karen Kingsbury

This is a rare and beautiful love story. It’s about the gift of knowing what tomorrow will bring if you really walk out that door today.



### Tessa's Treasures by Gary Bower

Tessa has collected all her trinkets in an old shoe box but soon learns that the most important and lasting treasures are often overlooked. This is beautifully illustrated.

# Global Workers Update

## Mark & Maggie Roth

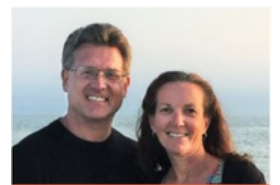
As we finish up the last year of our term in Macha, we have been passing the baton to Zambians. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, Mark has stepped down as Medical Superintendent and has moved to more of an advisory role. His official title is Regional Medical Director. We will mostly be stationed here in Macha where Mark will continue to do surgery as well as consult with the new Zambian Medical Superintendent and oversee BIC US funds and projects. Praise the Lord that after mentoring Dr. Mulangi through 6 years of surgical residency he has successfully passed his surgical boards.

Maggie will continue to work with her program for children with disabilities as well as to help organize our many guests and teams. She has slowly been turning over those endeavors to Zambians for leadership. As Regional Medical Director we will be taking a team to Malawi to determine the feasibility of starting a new medical clinic in May.

As we move forward this year, please pray with us:

- That God would continue to raise up Zambian leadership for the hospital.
- Pray for Mark as he continues to train leaders at the hospital in both administration and surgery.
- Pray that Maggie can recruit consistent leaders to help with “Special Hope Network”.
- Pray that God will direct us in our plans for the future (2027) as to whether we should continue our work in Zambia and/or Southern Africa in either a full time or part time capacity.
- Pray for continued funds to provide medications and supplies for the hospital as well as continued much needed upgrades to the water system and other infrastructure projects.
- Pray for guidance as the team visits Malawi.
- Pray for Wes Wilcox who was scheduled to come to Macha to assist with projects and maintenance but has delayed as he finishes raising support.

Thanks for your continued support and prayers,  
Blessings,  
Mark and Maggie



## 2026 Spring Calendar

FABIC's Spring Work day May 9, 8 a.m.  
 Ringgold Work day May 16, 9 a.m.  
 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Pack a Lunch May 31, following service

Check out our weekly email or visit our website or Facebook page for more info on upcoming events for the Spring season.



## Celebrate Recovery®

Wednesdays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

A Christ-Centered Recovery Program

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered 12-step recovery community. It helps you celebrate freedom from all types of hurts, habits, and hang-ups including addiction. For more info call the church or email Pastor John at [pastorjohn@fabicchurch.org](mailto:pastorjohn@fabicchurch.org)

Missed A Sermon?

Listen on Apple podcasts, or visit our website,

[www.fabicchurch.org/sermons](http://www.fabicchurch.org/sermons)

Watch on YouTube at

[www.youtube.com/fabicchurch/live](http://www.youtube.com/fabicchurch/live)



Live Streaming of our Worship service every Sunday starting at 10:25 a.m., at [www.youtube.com/fabicchurch/live](http://www.youtube.com/fabicchurch/live)

## Upcoming Events / Ministry Partners

### MCC Grocery Bag Drive

May 12-15

Return filled bags to the church by Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. We will have a point person to deliver the bags to CVRC. Thank you!



### Ringgold Meeting House Work Day

Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> | 9 to 1 pm

The Historic Ringgold Meeting House needs help with grounds' cleanup, inside cleaning of windows, floors, light repairs, brush burning and other tasks. Please contact Pastor John for more information.

## THE TIDE RACE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL AROUND THE WORLD

### FREE Family Fun Day!



Open to the community!  
Norlo Park



- Inflatable
- Picnic Lunch
- Games/Activities
- Give Aways/Prizes

- \*5K Race (CHIP TIMED!)
- \*1-Mile Fun Run/Walk

\*\*First 150 people registered for FREE Family Fun Day will receive a FREE SUMMER SURVIVAL SWAG BAG!

Saturday, May 16th  
9 AM to 1 PM

\*Paid registration required for these events. \*\*Must be present to win Door Prizes and receive Summer Survival SWAG Bag.

**GIVING**  
IS EASIER THAN EVER



**WAYS TO GIVE**



Download the App!



## Fairview Avenue Church Weekly Schedule

Our building is handicap accessible



### Sunday mornings

Bible for Life Classes for ages 4– Adult 9-10 a.m.

Fellowship Time 10-10:25 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Rios de Agua Viva Church 1:30 p.m. (service in spanish)

### Wednesdays

Celebrate Recovery 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

### Thursdays

Morning Prayer 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the lobby

After School Kids Fun Club 3:30—4:45 p.m.

The Source Youth Group for grades 6—12 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Youth Center

Final Friday Fun Night— last Friday/month 6-9 p.m.

### Small Groups

Agape meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Lobby. A time of friendship, prayer & food.

Sunday Evening Small Group, meets every Sunday at 6:30 p.m., at the church. All invited!

Quincy Small Group, meets every other Sunday at members' homes. See Daria or Greg Smith for next meeting info.



**FAIRVIEW AVENUE**

BRETHREN IN CHRIST CHURCH

152 Fairview Avenue  
Waynesboro PA 17268

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# Bible For Life

WEEKLY CLASSES FOR ALL AGES  
SUNDAYS | 9:00 AM

ADULTS & TEENS:  
A Study of the Gospel of John  
Pastor John Walker | Robert Hadden

Spring

We are part of the Allegheny Conference of the Brethren in Christ; see [www.allegheny.bicus.org](http://www.allegheny.bicus.org). If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, call 717-762-3079, or email [office@fabicchurch.org](mailto:office@fabicchurch.org). To discontinue receiving this newsletter, please contact us.