



# The Discipleship Dispatch

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Friends:

Greetings!

What a roller coaster the last few months have been. I hope this newsletter finds you all well and healthy. We have been praying for God's protection over each and every one of us.

In this month's newsletter I would like to talk a little about faithfulness, obedience, and mission.

The Gathering has come a long way, in a very short amount of time. What church have you heard of before with such explosive growth? The human side of me would like to take credit for this growth, but in reality, it has nothing to do with me. This is all God's handiwork. Nothing I could say or do would have produced the result we are experiencing.

So, how are we accomplishing these things? It all has to do with being completely faithful and trusting that God will do what he says he will do, allowing God to move and to guide us in our every decision.

It also has a lot to do with complete obedience. Personally, I have learned that things do not turn out well for me when I tell God no. There have been a few people that have said that we cannot do the things God has set before us and do them well. I had to set back and think and pray about it. You know what God said to me? Who is tell you what can and cannot be accomplished?

The answer is man was the one in doubt. God has said, very clearly, that we are to serve this community. We are to restore hope to this community. We are to love this community and its people—really well. So, if God is for us, who can be against us?

Our authority is God and his Word, not man. We take our direction from God, no one else. Will it all be smooth-sailing; most likely not, especially if the evil one has anything to do with it. But, it will be worth it. God will make clear the path for us to serve him. All we have to do is say, yes.

Jeremiah 29:11 says this, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." We must listen and obey. This is God's mission and vision, for his people to prosper, have hope, and for our future.

This journey is like a rollercoaster ride. We can scream and want to jump off every time there is a bump or we can raise our hands and eyes up to him and enjoy the ride.

May the grace and peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you today and always,

Nicki



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- From the Pastor's Desk..... 1
- 2000@5 ..... 2
- Fundraising Event ..... 3
- Axios (Youth Group)..... 4
- Hope for Mental Health ..... 4
- Homework Helper ..... 5
- Financial Fridays ..... 5

### TITHES & OFFERINGS

Can be completed at:  
<http://thegatheringauburn.org>

Follow the PayPal link and instructions. The use of your bank account is preferred, so fees are avoided, but any major credit or debit card can also be used. Contributors can choose a one time offering or a monthly tithe on PayPal.

2000-Allows us to be fully staffed and trained to meet the needs of our entire community and the entire person, mind, body, soul

1200-Provides meals to those who are seeking to better their lives through the education and information we provide.

1000-Provides education and information to our community to help our neighbors live well, despite our circumstances.

500-Helps us provide a space to feel love and belonging and find hope in doing life together

2000

@ 5

## Can you give up 1 cup of coffee a month?

The Gathering has a mission and a mission field. Our mission is: To restore hope and community through experiencing the hope and salvation of Jesus Christ.

We are all missionaries, sent to our community as our specific mission field. As such, we seek to complete the mission of Jesus Christ in reaching the people. We will follow Jesus' lead and example. We will seek to reach people in their hurt, loss, and brokenness as well as be with them to celebrate the victories in life. We seek to encourage, educate, and care for the whole person: mind, body, and soul. In doing so, we seek to compassionately come alongside everyone and to equip, train and educate our community.

We cannot achieve this mission alone. We need your help. 50% of the people we currently serve are recovering addicts. 88% of the people we serve have no ability to financially contribute to this mission. 15% of Auburn's roughly 13,000 population (almost 2000 families) live at or below the federal poverty level. That means, for a family of 3 their income is \$21,700 or lower. This statistic is unacceptable. Auburn can thrive and we can help each other overcome our circumstances.

Can you help us with our mission to care for our community? Visit our website <http://thegatheringauburn.org/2000@5> to commit to helping with a \$5 recurring monthly donation. We are a registered nonprofit church.



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**The Gathering**  
Experiencing Hope Through Jesus Christ

# Getting to Know You

MEET & GREET AND FUNDRAISING EVENT



**JULY 19TH, 12-3 PM**

**COMMUNITY WORSHIP AT 5 PM**

**PARTY IN THE PARKING LOT**

**500 N. GRANDSTAFF AUBURN (NEXT TO FAMILY FARM & HOME)**

FOOD TRUCKS, 50/50 DRAWING, SILENT AUCTION, BAKE SALE, PARTNER BOOTHS, GAMES, CRAFTS, & FACE PAINTING FOR THE KIDS

We will be holding our first fundraising event on Sunday, July 19th, from 12-3 pm in the parking lot of our new location at 500 N. Grandstaff Dr, here in Auburn. This is the site of the former license branch, located in the same plaza as Family Farm & Home.

We will have a couple food trucks. One is Bubba's BBQ, which has graciously offered to donate their time and skill for our fundraiser by allowing us to collect all the food and items needed, so that 100% of the sales go toward our fundraiser. The other is the Street Taco truck. 20% of their gross sales will be donated to The Gathering.

We will be having a bake sale, a silent auction, a 50/50 drawing as well as a booth set up to help people sign up for our 2000@5 initiative. If you would like to donate toward the bake sale or silent auction, please get with Nicki by email at [nicki@thegatheringauburn.org](mailto:nicki@thegatheringauburn.org).

There will also be some booths there with our partners, Thrivent Financial, the YMCA of DeKalb Co., and Image of Hope Ranch will (heat permitting) be bringing some of their animals.

The kids will have fun with stations for crafts, face painting, and games for the families. There will be a donation can at all booths.

We will need volunteers as well to make this all happen. If you can help, please email Nicki at the email address above.

At 1:30 pm, Nicki will give a presentation about what The Gathering is all about why we do the things we do and how we do them, and our mission. This presentation will give the community a better picture of this church and the mission God has sent us on in this community.

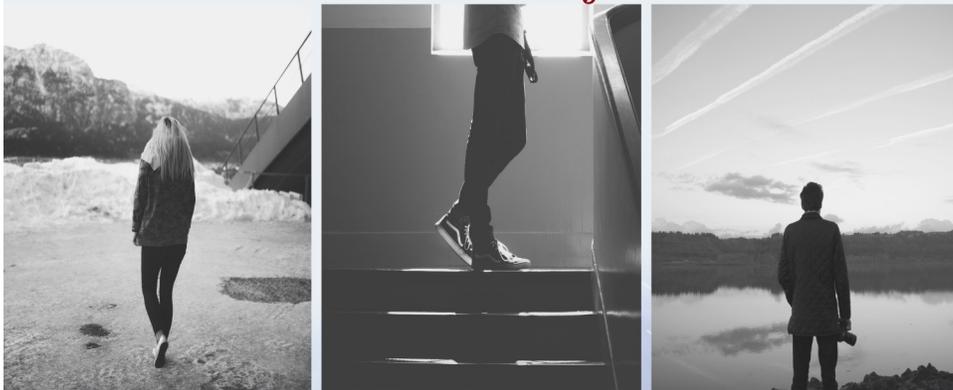
At 3 pm, we will take time to clean the parking lot and prepare for a time of community worship.

Community worship will look very much like our regular worship, so that the community can experience what worship at The Gathering is like. Jensen Snyder, a local singer, will be leading worship through song. Instead of an open discussion because of safety, we will have a panel of discuss. The panel will include the pastor, Nicki (more of a moderator), board members Robert and Tina, and Jensen Snyder.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Nicki. We also ask that you be in prayer for this time and that God open the hearts of this community to his mission and vision.

## A X I O S

### We are Worthy A Youth Ministry of The Gathering



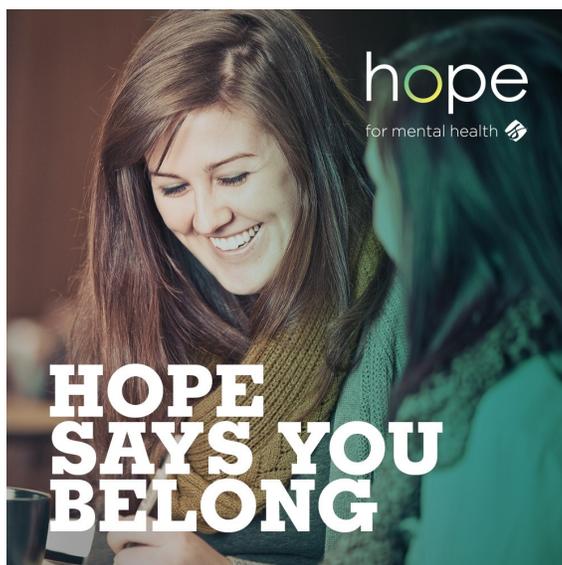
"50% of adults will develop a mental illness in their lifetime. This staggering reality can feel daunting, but there is HOPE for mental health." This group is meant for those who have, have had, or love someone diagnosed with a mental illness. It is our prayer that this program can shine a light into the lives of its attendees and bring hope to a sometimes hopeless situation.

"No one gets better alone! No family should walk through a mental health crisis alone. We all need a support system of family, friends, mental health professionals, support groups, and a faith community in challenging times." - Hope for Mental Health Resource Guide, 2015

Hope for Mental Health, currently meets on Thursdays at our normal time, 6 pm.

There is no better time for us to support one another. Mental health challenges will be at an all-time high.

## HOPE FOR MENTAL HEALTH



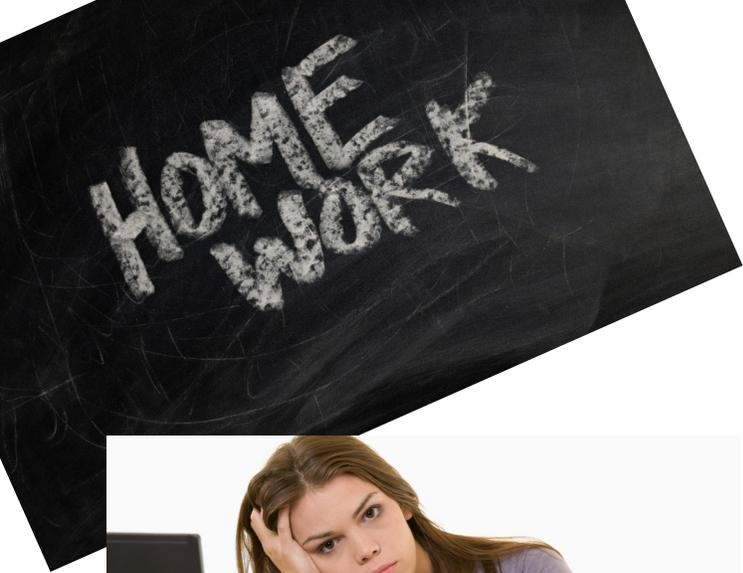
## AXIOS

### (YOUTH GROUP)

Axios means worthy in Greek. We are all worthy of God's love and the love of others. Axios is the youth ministry of The Gathering. This ministry opportunity is open for those in grades 6-12. Currently, we are not meeting, for the summer. However, when we do resume meeting, we will meet every Monday at 5 pm.

We have a time of discussion about life, circumstances, etc., a sort of check-in. We then go into reading our Bible passage and one of us will draw what the group thinks is relevant to that passage. This way, each time they pass these drawing which are hung on The Gathering's walls, they will remember what they have learned and what God's word and promise says.

When we resume, we will be studying the parables. We will be reading in the book of Matthew and move on to the Book of Mark.



## HOMWORK HELPER

As a new school year quickly approaches, we are planning to continue our Homework Helper program. In order to help our communities students we must have the infrastructure to do so. For this program, that means access to the building and internet capabilities, loving and patient adults to help our students, technology to supply those who may have forgotten their own, snacks for those who may not have food at home, etc. You get the picture. We need your help in these efforts. Please pray about this program. If you are will, able, and feel led to help, please reach out to Nicki. You must be able to pass a background check to serve in this capacity.



*Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding— Proverbs 3:13*

## FINANCIAL FRIDAYS

Finances are an important part of our lives. Being financially secure and responsible, as well as, following biblical principles are an important aspect to our health and well-being. On Fridays, we will host 2 different experiences, one for kids and one for adults.

We will host session to learn tools and how to navigate our community and individual climate in this time of uncertainty.

For the kids, Jennifer Schmidt from 3 Rivers Federal Credit Union will teach the young people sound financial practices and help them to learn, early, how to be wise with their money.

For the adults, Doug Morris, from Thrivent Financial will present information and strategies to navigate this tough financial time. He present on various topic of interest, to a wide age range, so we can meet the needs of the entire community.



## THE GATHERING

The Gathering strives to love Everyone and we truly mean, **come as you are.** We all experience joys and challenges. Please allow us to share in your joy and to help carry you through your challenges, no matter what they may be. At one point or another, at least one of us has been where you are.

We were never meant to do life alone. God calls for us to be in relationship, not just with him, but with our community. That is why we, as a church, long to do life—really well—together.

Please join us on this journey of faith, hope, and restoration. Allow us to do life—really well—with you!

## ABOUT THE GATHERING

We, as humans, all ultimately seek one thing, that is to belong to something and have a sense of worth that comes with belonging. God chooses each and every one of us. We are all called to ministry in the words of 1 Peter 2:4-5 "As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." This is who we are, ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, offering hope through living as Jesus did and would be doing now. We offer hope through our example of living well and thriving, despite our circumstances and challenges. We love our neighbors as ourselves and join together as a community of believers as found in the example of the early church in the book of Acts.

### The Gathering

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To Our Friends:



**The Gathering**  
Experiencing Hope Through Jesus Christ