



The Discipleship Dispatch

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Friends:

Hello!

It's been quite a while since I wrote our last newsletter; a year to be exact. A lot has happened with me, the church, and the world since then. Let's focus on the positive that has come from everything.

God has been faithful to The Gathering. We have made new relationships, learn, grown, and faced this fear and uncertainty head-on. I would like to say we are exactly where we want to be, but I cannot. We are, however, exactly where God wants us to be. You see, sometimes, when Satan feels threatened Satan throws everything possible at you so that you will lose your way, give up, and give in. That isn't what God calls us to do though. God calls us to make disciples of all. We are to listen and obey where and when directed.

That is exactly what has brought us this far. I am excited for you to read about the various programs we have going and what the plans for the future are for The Gathering and our mission field/community. You won't want to pass this good new by.

As always, we thank each and every one of you that have loved and supported us through this journey. Watch out! We are just getting started. We also would like to encourage you all to partner with us in our 2000@5 campaign. We are asking 2000 of our community members to donate just \$5 a month toward our community-enhancing programs that you will read about. We can't do this alone. The vast majority of the people we are reaching have no capability (especially now in the pandemic) to contribute toward this goal and the programs we are offering.

Please keep in mind, all our programs are completely free and include a meal at each meeting to all in our community. We ask that you pray first and seek how God leads you. Find more information on our 2000@5 flyer in the newsletter.

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



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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

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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2000

@ 5

DEKALB COUNTY



Community Christian Night

A FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT

FREE-WILL OFFERING AT GATE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2021

7-9 PM

FOOD TRUCKS

STREET TACOS
HOOSIER MAMA
FRANKIE'S CONEY DOGS
KONA ICE

A portion of their sales will be donated to the church

Featuring

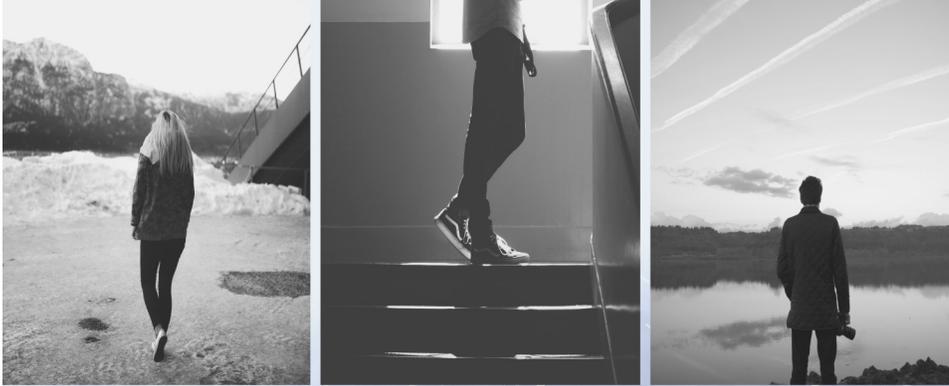
Jensen Snyder

With
Tehillah
Opening



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.

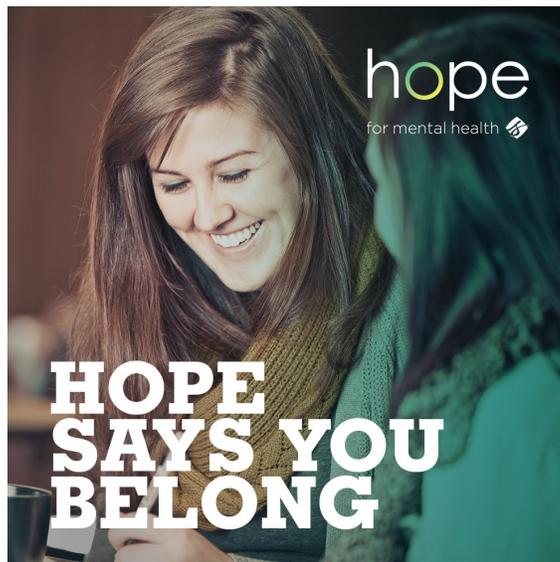
HOPE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

"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, 6–7:30 pm. Youth 6th grade through adults are welcome.

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

We currently have a large group of youth to love and support. If you have or are experiencing challenge in your life, come help us show the youth that they can get through hard times too.

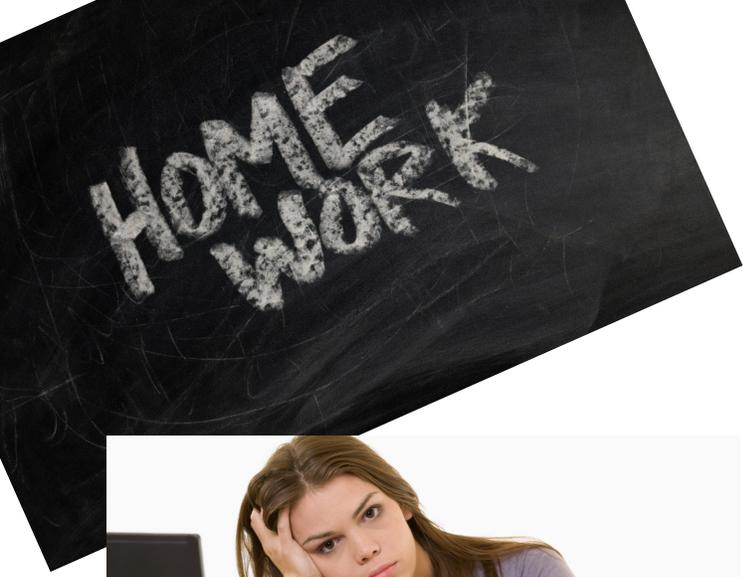


AXIOS

(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 4-12. Currently, we are not meeting, for the summer. We will resume meeting, with a kick-off party at the YMCA of DeKalb at 3 pm on August 1st. The van will bus the kids to worship after where we will feed them during worship. Pick-up will be 6:30 pm. We will meet every Wednesday after that from 6 –7:30 pm. Transportation can be provided.

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.



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The Gathering is happy to announce that we plan on launching a new after school program for at-risk youth. At-risk can mean various things from behavior issues, self-harm, learning challenges, or challenges at home. We will be piloting this program with 5 students from McKenney, 5 from Watson, 5 from the middle school, and 5 from the high school.

We will be focusing on physical and mental health, behavior, school work, financial literacy, and life-skills such as cooking, cleaning, and personal hygiene.

There will be ways to earn rewards as well. We will introduce “Hope’s Closet.” This will be where they can spend their rewards and “purchase” items such



as clothes, gift certificates toward new shoes, personal hygiene and school supplies, snacks, jewelry and purses, games, toys, etc. They will be earning “money” to spend in the closet by completing all their homework, reaching their goals, parent reported good behavior, and through community service hours.

We will be working with various community members over the summer to build a curriculum and expectations for the students. We already have 3 McKenney, 2 Middle School, and 1 High School students committed to attending. If you know of any student(s) who would benefit from this type of program and who live in Auburn, please email Pastor Nicki at nicki@thegatheringauburn.org.

Please pray about and for this outreach mission. Together we can restore hope and our community!

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



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