

The Christian life is a journey.

TrailNotes speaks to forward movement, paying attention to the “landscape” we are passing through in this trail-laced wooded hillside and valley, not to mention the world beyond. *TrailNotes* is an unfolding, ongoing journal of the people who share the trail with us and the things we’re learning and doing.

ElderTalk: Handling Conflict

ERIC BYROM

So, how do you handle conflict? This question may take you aback and cause you to pause, but how we answer this question will greatly affect our personal relationships.

This year our focus has been: “Grow together in right relationships with God and others.” One of the biggest obstacles to right relationships is poorly handled conflict.

One thing I have observed in my Christian life as a child, then a teenager and throughout adulthood is how many Christians who have been believers for years handle conflict so poorly. I have been guilty of it in my own life.

When we handle conflict poorly, it causes damage not just to us and to the person with whom we have had conflict, but it also damages those around us. It hurts our testimony; it causes fractures in relationships; it destroys things.

With all that said, we might conclude that we should *avoid* conflict at all costs. The problem is that conflict that is avoided often doesn’t go away but just builds up like a volcano until it blows up. So fleeing conflict is not a solution that works.

What about fighting? Often people will approach conflict with the attitude of winning. We may win the battle of that conflict, but we lose the war for a right relationship with those involved.

So what are we to do? The Bible

gives us many principles of how to handle conflict that, if practiced, will promote reconciliation and right relationships. They will avoid bitterness, resentment, contempt, and hate. I don’t know about you, but that sounds like something I would like to learn about.

On Wednesday evenings at Adult Connect this month and next, we will be going through a study titled, “Resolving Everyday Conflict: Biblical Answers for a Common Problem.” In all the resources on conflict resolution and education, this one has stood out over the years with principles and practical help.

Now it is one thing to know these principles, it’s another to practice them. That is why we are in community here at Grace Fellowship. Hopefully you can begin to open up to your Circle Church group and pray for one another with the various conflicts you face. Hopefully you can celebrate those handled well and receive prayer for those not done well. The goal is that we grow in Christlikeness together and that involves taking risks and making mistakes. It involves us standing up and growing when mistakes are made. It involves humbling ourselves and reconciling with others whom we have hurt or offended. It’s a rewarding but difficult journey that is made better with the help of God and others.

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Gems

From



Judy

JUDY NICHOLS

BANQUET...OR...?

What kind of image comes to mind when you think of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb? I have always thought of it as a banquet, not exactly formal but nice. A long table (very long, in this case) with linen tablecloth and napkins, elegant china place settings, more silverware than I know what to do with, and an abundance of delicious and artfully served food. Everyone is happy and well-mannered. There is plenty of conversation, but it is not noisy by any means.



The Marriage Feast of the Lamb
(by Danny Hahlbohm, 2012)

We recently celebrated my granddaughter’s tenth birthday with a family gathering. Six adults, six children aged ten and under, and a 75-pound dog rounded out the attendees. Granted, there was

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Handling Conflict *continued from p. 1*

It is my hope that each of us will grow in how we approach conflict to do so in a Godly way and to learn from courses like the one we are doing on Wednesdays as well as from our Circle Groups.

Let's do this together!



Annual Table Fellowship Conference

Each Spring Table Fellowship holds an annual Conference for the churches in our Fellowship. This year the conference is in Spooner, WI, at Cornerstone Christian Church on Friday and Saturday, Apr. 22-23. The theme is "Forward Together."

To register, go to www.tablefellowship.org A pop-up takes you to the registration page.

If you wish to stay at the nearby Best Western, please indicate that you are attending the Table Fellowship Conference, and you will receive a discounted rate. Also if anyone would like to stay with a family from Cornerstone, you are most welcome. Please contact Andrew Melton at meltonandrew77@icloud.com

Mark These Coming Dates

SATURDAY APRIL 2: Missionaries Mike and Becky Kuelker will be with us from noon to 3 pm. Details to follow. We will be having a lunch for them.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY APRIL 22-23 is the annual Table Fellowship Conference. See above for how to register.

SATURDAY AUGUST 27 is our Annual Community Celebration!



*Reconciliation of Jacob and Esau
by Peter Paul Rubens (1624-1628)*

MARCH 2022


1-31 Our community will hold worship services every night from 6 to 8. Each evening a different church will host this event. This will give us Christians an amazing opportunity together with other believers to pray for our city, county, state and nation. See p. 3 for the list of churches and addresses.

6 Pastor Eric preaches on 1 Cor. 12:31 to 13:13. The Systematic Theology class meets in the Multipurpose Room from 4 to 5 pm. Eric Byrom will lead the discussion of Chapters 13 and 14.

13 Pastor Eric preaches on I Cor. 14:1 to 25. 

14 GFC hosts the March of Prayer, 6 to 8 pm.

19 Kingdom Men meet at McDonald's for breakfast and prayer. Women of Grace meet in the Youth Building from 10:30 to 12:30 for a potluck brunch. Katie Rutherford will be sharing.

20 Elder Jon Vega will be preaching on I Cor. 14:16 to 40. Mansfield Christian School's Choir, IMAGE, will join us for morning worship.  Systematic Theology class meets in the Multipurpose room from 4 to 5. Andy Anschutz will lead the discussion on chapters 15 and 16.

27 Former Elder Matt Godsil will preach.



2022 Schedule

- Tues. Mar. 1: Holy Trinity Lutheran,
525 W. Cook Rd.
- Wed. Mar. 2: Journey Life Center,
2578 Springmill Rd.
- Thu. Mar. 3: Mansfield Salvation Army,
41 S. Main St.
- Fri. Mar. 4: Church Requel, 2 Marion Ave.
- Sat. Mar. 5: Fusion Madison, 1400 Paradise
- Sun. Mar. 6: Journey Harbor at Idea Works,
40 W. Fourth St.
- Mon. Mar. 7: Grace Brethren, 215 W. Main St.,
Lexington
- Tues. Mar. 8: Kingdom Grace Fellowship,
105 Reba Ave.
- Wed. Mar. 9: Providence Baptist, 125 W 6th
- Thu. Mar. 10: The ARC, 378 Park Ave. West
- Fri. Mar. 11: Abundant Life, 1085 Bedford
- Sat. Mar. 12: Coming Together, 525 W.
Cook Rd. (Holy Trinity Chapel)
- Sun. Mar. 13: Freedom Ridge, 2200 Bedford
- Mon. Mar. 14: GRACE FELLOWSHIP**
365 STRAUB RD EAST
- Tues. Mar. 15: GracePoint Sanctuary,
36 Eagle Dr., Lexington

Join the journey
of praise and worship
at any or all
of these local churches!

- Wed. Mar. 16: Church of the Cross,
236 Otterbein, Lexington
- Thu. Mar. 17: Faith United Methodist,
1574 Ohio 96
- Fri. Mar. 18: Fusion Church,
2220 Industrial Pkwy. Lexington
- Sat. Mar. 19: Sar Shalom, 2510 W. Fourth:
10:30 a.m.
Point of Grace: 2 Marion Ave., 6 p.m.
- Sun. Mar. 20: Open Bible, 1150 Rayfield
- Mon. Mar. 21: Awake, 3616 Ohio 39 Shelby
- Tues. Mar. 22: First U. Meth., 12 Diamond
- Wed. Mar. 23: St. Peter's, 60 S. Mulberry
- Thu. Mar. 24: Foursq. Gospel, 383 Davidson
- Fri. Mar. 25: Bible Museum, 500 Tingley
- Sat. Mar. 26: Paradise Hill, 87 Ill. Ave. N.
- Sun. Mar. 27: Potter's House, 374 Willowood E.
- Mon. Mar. 28: Fusion-East Hills, 2170 430 E.
- Tues. Mar. 29: Linden Rd. Pres., 160 S. Linden
- Wed. Mar. 30: First Christian, 200 W. Third
- Thu. Mar. 31: First English Lutheran,
3 Park Ave. West

BANQUET...OR...? *(continued from p. 1)*

adequate room for the children to play in other parts of the house but there were frequent interruptions of adult conversation. The boys ran around in the height of a nerf war. The dog wanted to play but would run away from whoever tried to take his toy, guaranteeing a great game of chase. A granddaughter wearing a tutu and toting a toy rifle came through chasing a cousin. Balloon fights, jumping on pillows, you name it, they did it.

The kids weren't the only ones having fun and making noise. My son, who failed to notice the birthday girl had moved and was now sitting next to him, remarked that Mom shouldn't light the candles yet because Sophie wasn't there. "I'm here!" she piped up. His startled look set us all to giggling.

Afterward, this unleashed a barrage of family jokes—silly blunders, laughable mistakes, or hilarious antics by one or another of us. It was these that got me to thinking about the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. What if, instead of polite conversation, we were saying things like, "Jesus, remember the time You urged me to. . . (fill in the blank)". . . "Boy, I blew that so bad! But You came through anyway and made it a blessing!"

Somehow, I think that would make for a more noisy, as well as enjoyable banquet. Perhaps I should view it more as a big ol' family reunion, where everybody is talking at once, milling around greeting one another, teasing, shedding happy tears, and celebrating the One who invited us all.

Marriage at Cana (by Jacopo Tintoretto, 1561)



Grace Fellowship Church

365 Straub Rd East • Mansfield Oh 44903
419-526-4699 • gracefellowship01@gmail.com



Eric Byrom	Presiding Elder/Pastor
Jadaé Fox	Elder
Andy Heininger	Elder
Jon Vega	Elder
Cameron Karger	Treasurer
Kay Berry & Karen Gates	Women
Lori Barker	Missions
Andy Heininger	Worship
Judy Nichols	Prayer Chain
Kay Berry & Jadaé Fox	Office
Kathy Barth, Manfred & Janet Adalem	Communion
Andy Anschutz	Sound/Power Point
John and Donna Kurtz	TrailNotes



Decipleship Training Intensive (D.T.I.) group helps lead in worship at GFC on 2/20/22