

Next Week is Communion Sunday!



Creation groans

waiting for the children of God to be revealed

Creation groans

*waiting to be born again;
waiting to be released from the bondage
of sin and decay.*

Creation groans

*in wars and rumors of war, in signs and wonders.
These are the birth pangs that
come before all things are made new.*

Creation groans

*in expectation of being fully restored,
renewed, and reborn.*

We groan too

*for the Spirit of God is in us
And moving toward all that is yet to be.*

Come Celebrate!

***Christ has died, Christ is Risen,
Christ will come again!***

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!

Pastor John Knoester

October 8, 2017

10:30 A.M. Worship Service

*** Please stand if you are able.**

“Church of God, elect and glorious, holy nation, chosen race,”

Prelude: Sylvia Van Zanten

Welcome and Announcements

*** Call to Worship:**

Leader: How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.
Come, let us all worship and bow down together,

**People: let us kneel together before the LORD, our maker.
For he is our God, and we are the people
of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

—from Psalm 95:6-7; 133, NRSV

*** Opening Hymn: LUYH #252:1-4 *“Church of God, Elect and Glorious”***

1. Church of God, elect and glorious,
holy nation, chosen race,
called as God’s own special people,
royal priests and heirs of grace;
know the purpose of your calling,
show to all his mighty deeds,
tell of love that knows no limits,
grace that meets all human needs.
2. God has called you out of darkness
into his most marvelous light,
brought his truth to life within you,
turned your blindness into sight.
Let your light so shine around you
that God’s name is glorified
and all find fresh hope and purpose
in Christ Jesus crucified.

3. Once you were an alien people,
strangers to God's heart of love,
but he brought you home in mercy,
citizens of heaven above.
Let his love flow out to others,
let them feel the Father's care,
that they too may know his welcome
and his countless blessings share.
4. Church of God, elect and holy,
be the people he intends,
strong in faith and swift to answer
each command your Master sends.
Royal priests, fulfill your calling
through your sacrifice and prayer;
give your lives in joyful service,
sing his praise, his love declare.

Words: based on 1 Peter 2:9-10, James E. Seddon © 1982 The Jubilate Group,
admin. Hope Publishing Company; CCLI #678905

* God's Greeting / We Greet Each Other

*Opening Songs of Praise:

Read Psalm 148:7,10-13

- ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures
and all ocean depths,
- ¹⁰ wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,
- ¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all
rulers on earth,
- ¹² young men and maidens, old men and children.
- ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone
is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

"All Creatures of Our God and King" LUYH #551:1,3,5,6

All Sing

1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice with us and sing:
alleluia, alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam,
and shining moon with silver gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Women Sing

3. Cool flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear;
alleluia, alleluia!
Fierce fire, so masterful and bright,
providing us with warmth and light,

All Sing:

*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Men Sing

5. All you who are of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part;
alleluia, alleluia!
All you who pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on him cast your care:

All Sing:

*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

All Sing

6. Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
alleluia, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi; Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams. Public Domain;
CCLI #678905

“Wonderful, Merciful, Savior” vs. 1-3

1. Wonderful merciful, Savior,
precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb
could rescue the souls of men?
Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Chorus

*You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore,
You give the healing and grace
our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.*

2. Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts
have hopelessly lost the way,
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.

Chorus

3. Almighty, infinite Father,
faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us
falling before Your throne,
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.

Chorus

Words and Music by Dawn Rodgers and Eric Wyse; ©1989 Word Music,
LLC (a div. of Word Music Group, Inc.); CCLI# 678905

*At the conclusion of this song children ages 3-1st grade are
dismissed to the Koinonia Room for Children and Worship.*

“Called as God’s own special people, royal priests and heirs of grace;”

Call to Confession:

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD.
“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.”
—Isaiah 1:18, NIV

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance:

“In a surge of anger
I hid my face from you for a moment,
but with everlasting kindness
I will have compassion on you,”
says the Lord your Redeemer.
“I, even I, am he who blots out
your transgressions, for my own sake,
and remembers your sins no more.”
“I have swept away your offenses like a cloud,
your sins like the morning mist.
Return to me, for I have redeemed you.”
—Isaiah 54:8; 43:25; 44:22, NIV

* We Profess our Faith: Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and was buried; he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven and is seated
at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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* Hymn of Thanksgiving: LUYH #956 ***“To God be The Glory”***

To God be the glory, to God be the glory,
to God be the glory for the things he has done!
With his blood he has saved me,
with his power he has raised me—
to God be the glory for the things he has done!

Words and Music: André Crouch © 1971 Bud John Songs (ASCAP), admin. at EMICMGPublishing.com; CCLI #678905

Offering: General Fund

Offertory Video: Back to God Ministries Video

* Song of Preparation: **"Every Promise"** vs. 1-4

1. From the breaking of the dawn
to the setting of the sun,
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
Words of power, strong to save,
that will never pass away;
I will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.
For Your covenant is sure, and on this I am secure:
I can stand on ev'ry promise from Your word.
2. When I stumble and I sin, condemnation pressing in,
I will stand on every promise of Your word,
You are faithful to forgive,
that in freedom I might live.
So I stand on every promise of Your word.
Guilt to innocence restored;
You remember sins no more.
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
3. When I'm faced with anguished choice,
I will listen for Your voice,
and I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
Through this dark and troubled land,
You will guide me with Your hand,
as I stand on every promise of Your word.
And You've promised to complete
every work begun in me.
So I'll stand on every promise of Your word.
4. Hope that lifts me from despair;
Love that casts out every fear;
as I stand on every promise of Your word.
Not forsaken, not alone,
for the Comforter has come;
and I stand on every promise of Your word.
Grace sufficient, grace for me,
Grace for all who will believe.
We will stand on every promise of Your word.

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"Know the purpose of your calling, show to all his mighty deeds,"

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:11-14 (pg. 1156) Read by Adriana Speck

Prayer of Illumination

Message: ***"God's Possession"***

Time of Prayer

“Tell of love that knows no limits, grace that meets all human needs.”

* Song of Application: LUYH #604:1-3 ***“To God Be the Glory”***

1. To God be the glory, great things he has done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord;
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory; great things he has done.*

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise ^{of God};
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

3. Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1875, alt., P.D.;
Music: William H. Doane, 1875, P.H.; CCLI #678905

* Benediction

* Parting Praise: LUYH #961 ***“Glory Be to the Father”***

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

Words: Gloria Patri, *The Lesser Doxology*, 2nd c., P.D.;
Music: From Henry W. Greatorex' *Collection*, 1851, P.D.

* Postlude

Welcome! We invite all of you to praise God with hearts and hands and voices. Let us be mindful of the wonders God has given us. Come rejoice in God and together sing praises to His name. Reach out in warmth to all who have gathered in the house of the Lord. After joining us in worship, join us in the fellowship hall next to the sanctuary for a cup of coffee or juice and continued fellowship.

Sunday School / Catechism classes will resume on Sunday, October 15.

OUR CHURCH EVENTS

Dear Friends in Christ,

What is the Church? What is its purpose? Why does it exist? How is it supposed to function? These and many more are just a few of the questions Paul addresses in his letter to the church in Ephesus. In fact, we can almost call the book of Ephesians 'a miniature doctrine of the Church!'

Like every other book of the Bible – Paul's letter is not just for the recipients of his letter 2000 years ago, but also for us here today. The same struggles and issues the church in Ephesus faced are still prevalent in our world today. The following is a tentative schedule of our series for the weeks ahead. As always, you are encouraged to read and study the text beforehand.

May God continue to bless and build His Church!

In Christ,

Pastor John

September 24: Spiritual Blessings in Christ – Ephesians 1:1-8
October 1: Safe in God's Plan – Ephesians 1:8-11
October 8: God's Possession - Ephesians 1:11-16
October 15: (Communion) Living In Awe and Wonder–Ephesians 1:15-23
October 22: Alive With Christ – Ephesians 2:1-10
November 5: Breaking the Dividing Wall – Ephesians 2:11-18
November 12: Unity in Christ – Ephesians 2:19-22
November 19: A Foretaste of What is to Come – Ephesians 3:1-13
November 26: Rooted and Established in Love – Ephesians 3:14-21

Today, you will have an opportunity to sign up for a casserole to bring for the **Friendship House** this week. Servers are also needed. Any monetary donations to help with expenses will be accepted also. Please bring the food to the church kitchen on Wednesday, October 11 by 4:00 p.m. Have your casseroles cooked and hot.

Youth Group will meet this evening at 7:45 p.m. for all high schoolers. They meet in the Youth Group room in the Education Wing.

Attention all choir members! We are practicing TODAY after the morning service for the Reformation service on the 29th of October. We hope to see you all there. Anyone interested in singing, please join us!

The **Council** will meet on Monday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Cadets will meet Wednesday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m. Boys in grades 3-8 are invited to come.

Ladies Night Out will be Wednesday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Haggen's café in Mount Vernon.

Pacific Northwest Classis will meet on Thursday, October 12 at Bellevue CRC at 9:00 a.m.

Ladies Craft Night will be held on Friday, October 13 at 6:30 p.m. Bring something to work on and come and go as you please.

Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall if you are willing to bring **2 -3 dozen cookies or bars** for the coffee time after the evening service on October 29 after the evening Reformation Day Service.

FAMILY VISITING: The following is the family visiting schedule for **October—December 2017**. If your family is included in the list, please expect a call from the listed Elder to arrange the day and time for the visit. If you have questions about the schedule please call the listed Elder or call Henry Hammingh at 360-424-3019.

| OCTOBER — DECEMBER 2017 FAMILY VISITS | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Elder | Family |
| Dave V | Minne & Trudy Van der Hoek |
| Dave V | Marinus & Jill Rouw |
| Greg A | Jeff & Monica Droog |
| Greg A | Grace Faber |
| Greg B | Hilsinger, Nick & Kristi |
| Greg B | Jerry & Marion Ekkelkamp |
| Henry H | Greg & Beth Boon |
| Henry H | Mardick & Jill Stevens |
| Darrel L | Randy & Juli Oostra |
| Darrel L | Henry & Sharon Kuipers |
| Pastor John | Jill Haagsma |
| Pastor John | Larry & Maxine Greidanus |
| Dennis D | Steve & Katie Jungquist |
| Dennis D | Chris Van Sweden |

ADVANCED NOTICES

The **Fellowship Committee** will meet on Monday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Men's Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, October 18 at 6:30 a.m. at Shari's Restaurant in Burlington. We are studying the book of Revelation. You are welcome to join us.

Golden Hour will meet on Wednesday, October 18 at 1:30 p.m. We meet in the Koinonia Room and will study Micah 3-4:5. We welcome new members to join us.

GEMS will meet on Wednesday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m. Girls in grades 2-8th grade are invited to attend.

Come and bring your family and friends to the **Reformation Day Service** at the First CRC of Mount Vernon on October 29 at 6:30 p.m. Reverend Ken Koeman, former pastor of Sonlight Community CRC in Lynden, Washington will proclaim the message. Geoff & Ashley Van Dragt, pastors at the University of Washington, will also be sharing with us about their ministry. We will be taking an offering to support them in their work. The evening will be a time of praise and celebration with other CRC churches in the area. Mark it on your calendar to come and join us in worship.

ORGANIZATIONS WE SUPPORT

By Scripture Alone: Is the Bible enough? Why did Reformers like Martin Luther feel it was necessary to emphasize that everything we need to know about God and salvation is contained within scripture? Join Groundwork as we discuss 2 Timothy 3:10-17 to affirm why scripture alone is enough and clarify what this means for every believer. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

I Spy Granny: Listen to the new episodes this month! When Liz, Morrie and Scooter do some snooping around in places they shouldn't be, they discover clues to the Mystery of Blue Pearl. Who was the Blue Pearl? Subscribe for free at getkidscorner.com. Free Giveaway: Kids Corner's "Know Your Bible Activity Book, Part 1!" Can you figure out all eleven Kids Corner Bible puzzles? Have fun as you learn about God's big story!

There's Help for Marriages in Crisis: Every marriage hits bumps in the road. But what happens when the bumps become huge roadblocks? "Marriages in Crisis," an ebook from Family Fire, helps you find hope and see God at work in the most difficult time of your life. It's yours free when you subscribe to Family Fire at familyfire.com/marriageincrisis.

Think Christian's Pop Culture Primer: Pop culture is the common language of our time. How do the media we watch, listen to, and play echo the gospel and our need of it? In the "Pop Culture Primer," Think Christian explores movies, television, music, video games, and more from the perspective of God's truth. Subscribe to Think Christian today and it's yours free! Visit thinkchristian.net/popculture.

Speak Up for Us: Claire Culwell, speaker and abortion survivor will be at Emmanuel Baptist Church on Tuesday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m. This is a fundraising event for Pregnancy Choices. Info: 360-428-4777, www.pregnancyChoices.org.

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Family Life Marriage Retreat at Semiahmoo Resort, on November 10-12. Information can be found at: <http://www.praise1065.com/events/113463>

Shame: Hope & Healing - A Story at 7:00 pm, Friday, October 20, Willoughby Church, 20525-72nd Avenue, Langley, BC. We are all more than what happens to us. When trauma strikes, we may feel like our lives – even our very selves – are ruined. Ruth Everhart, pastor and author of the award-winning memoir "Ruined" will share her story with us: her experience of sexual violence as a young college student, the reaction of the Christian subculture, and her faith journey through the decade that followed.

Shame: Hope & Healing - In the Church on Saturday, October 21, 9:30-1:30, New Life CRC, 35270 Delair Road, Abbotsford. The church is called to be a community of grace. How should the church respond when trauma strikes? Ruth will use her story to encourage churches to be places of safety, where stories are told and heard, where hope is offered, and where healing flows. \$15 Workshop includes lunch. Register at www.bcsafechurch.com

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

| | | |
|------|---------|------------------------------|
| SUN | 7:00 pm | Evening Service |
| | 7:45 pm | Youth Group |
| MON | 7:00 pm | Council Meeting |
| TUES | 7:00 pm | Vida Nueva |
| WED | 4:00 pm | Friendship House |
| | 7:00 pm | Cadets |
| | 7:00 pm | Ladies Night Out at Haggen's |
| FRI | 6:30 pm | Ladies Craft Night |

NURSERY

Today: Infants & Toddlers

Shanna Visser, Cody Hilsinger, Jordan Feddema

Next Week: Infants & Toddlers

Brooke Knoester, Trevor Blom, DJ Droog

GREETERS

Today - Rovers: Greg & Tish Ackermann

AM: John & Dena Klunder, Kevin & Glenda Kok

Next Week - Rovers: Elders Dave Visser & Greg Ackermann

AM: Clarence & Eleanor Klunder, Jeannette Folkertsma, Jill Klunder

USHERS

Today: Henry Hammingh, Larry Greidanus, Tim Hibma

Next Week: Kermit Houck, Henry Van Zanten, Jr., Wiebe Van der Hoek

SOUND SYSTEM

Today: Tim Hibma

Next Week: Kendall Van Zanten

PROJECTION

Today AM: Josh Hammingh

Next Week: Devin Van Zanten

VIDEO TAPING

Today: Brandon Speck

Next Week: Tim Hibma

CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Today:

Teacher: Marjo Rouw

Assistants: Johnna Van der Hoek, Rayahna Oostra

Next Week:

Teacher: Julie Houck

Assistants: Julie Speck, Carson Blom

LIBRARY:

Today: Joy Faber

Next Week: Jean Rasmussen

COFFEE HOSTS

Today: Joe & Annette LeClair, Aileen Meischke, Bob & Andy Pippel

Next Week: Betty Postma, Keith & Jean Rasmussen, Marinus & Jill Rouw

VIDA NUEVA CHILDCARE

Today: Devin Van Zanten, Sylvia Van Zanten

Next Week: Betty Postma, Jill Haagsma

TRANSPORTATION CARE TEAM

Next Week: Shirley Boonstra

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Next Week: Henry Hammingh

Accompanist: Jill Klunder

OFFERING: October 15, 2017

AM: General Fund

AM Second Offering: The Benevolent Fund

PM: New Earth Recovery for Men "The Trust"

6:30 P.M. Worship Service

Pianist: Sylvia Van Zanten

Welcome/Announcements

Prayer for Worship

Opening Songs of Praise: Led by Dennis De Kok

"O Jesus, I Have Promised " LUYH #352: 1,2,4

"Blessed Assurance: Jesus Is Mine" LUYH #363:1-3

"I Serve A Risen Savior" LUYH #365:1,2

Catechism Reading: Lord's Day 35 Q&A 96-98

Q. 96 What is God's will for us in the second commandment?

A. That we in no way make any image of God¹ nor worship him in any other way than has commanded in his Word.²

¹ Deut. 4:15-19; Isa. 40:18-25; Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:22-23

² Lev. 10:1-7; 1 Sam. 15:22-23; John 4:23-24

Q. 97 May we then not make any image at all?

A. God cannot and may not be visibly portrayed in any way.

Although creatures may be portrayed, yet God forbids making or having such images if one's intention is to worship them or to serve God through them.¹

¹ Ex. 34:13-14, 17; 2 Kings 18:4-5

Q. 98 But may not images be permitted in churches as teaching aids for the unlearned?

A. No, we shouldn't try to be wiser than God. He wants his people instructed by the living preaching of his Word—¹ not by idols that cannot even talk.²

¹ Rom. 10:14-15, 17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:19; ² Jer. 10:8; Hab. 2:18-20

Scripture Readings: Exodus 20:1-6, Deut. 4:15-20, John 4:19-26

Message: ***"Pursuing Empty Images"***

Time of Prayer

Offering: New Earth Recovery (The Trust for Men)

Song of Application: LUYH #726 :1-3 ***"The Lord Is King, Enthroned in Might"***

* God's Blessing

* Parting Praise: LUYH #965 ***"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"***



People to be remembered with prayers, cards, letters & words of encouragement. Call the church office at (336-2405) or e-mail: secretary@firstcrcmv.com by Thursday of each week with your prayer items.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Hans Meischke has been diagnosed with colon cancer recently. He will meet with the doctor on October 17 to determine when surgery will be. Pray for Hans and Aileen at this time.

Recently **Annette LeClair** had some more tests done. The results were such that a new treatment plan is now needed. Please continue to keep Annette and her entire family in your prayers.

SHUT INS:

Nell Annema at Birchview Memory Care in Sedro-Woolley, **Marge Eskes** at home in Mount Vernon, **Grace Faber** at home in Mount Vernon; **Mary Koopmans** at Where the Heart Is in Burlington; **Wilma Paul** at Mountain Glen Retirement Center in Mount Vernon; **Adrianna Swanson** at Creekside in Burlington; **Bev Van Slageren** at home in Clear Lake; **Duane Van Dyke** at Where the Heart Is in Burlington; **Chris Van Sweden** at Country Meadows in Sedro-Woolley, and **Rena Wester** at the Lynden Manor.

OTHER CONCERNS:

Pray for all those families who have lost loved ones and those who were injured in the shooting in Las Vegas. May they find their peace in Jesus.

Pastor Church Resources: Conference - Over 60 regional pastors will meet in Grand Rapids this month for a conference on "Pathways to Transformation," to be encouraged and supported in their work with CRC pastors. Please pray for safe travels and for a fruitful and refreshing time, renewing them in their work of pastoring to pastors.

Back to God Ministries International: Middle East - Pray for wisdom as several ministry partners meet to plan a new media ministry in the Middle East. Ask God to use these partnerships to advance the gospel so that many Arabic-speaking people may come to know and believe in Jesus Christ.

World Renew: Disaster Response Services (DRS) - Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have been the first major hurricanes to hit the U.S. since 2005, and World Renew DRS is working to coordinate effective responses. Please pray for comfort and strength for all survivors and for all who are responding to needs.

Resonate Global Mission: World Teachers Day - Today is international teachers day, celebrating all who serve children in the classroom. Praise God for teachers who have dedicated their lives to instilling a passion for learning. Pray for teachers who work in places like Nigeria, where they aren't always valued highly. May they be encouraged in their work despite a lack of regular or adequate pay.

Centre for Public Dialogue: Wisdom - As thousands gather today in Canada for an annual vigil for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, we remember with them the ongoing inquiry. Abba, we know that not a sparrow falls to the ground without your notice. We pray for wisdom in the inquiry about these missing women and girls, and for comfort for their loved ones.

Resonate Global Mission: Cambodia - While many tools and programs are available in Cambodia to help in developing leaders, there remains a gap in the process of developing deeply rooted, spiritual believers. Pray that God will show the missionaries there how to use their gifts in a way that will build up local leaders of the church and help them grow to be more like Christ.

Back to God Ministries International: Ukraine - The Ukrainian government has called churches to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Our Russian-language ministry, in cooperation with local churches in Kiev, is holding a massive street rally that up to 500,000 people can attend. Pray that God will change lives through the worship times, evangelistic presentations, and workshops of this public event.