

# WALK SMALLER

The stories of Elijah have always intrigued me. He was a guy, just like us. How did he know God would show up when he challenged the priests of Baal? Was he surprised when everything was consumed by the fire of God? I also like the interaction when Elijah finds Elisha, plowing his fields, just out working. Elisha's life is not the same after that day.

Passing along information, whether that be how to build a house or how to trust God, can be difficult. We don't always think we know enough to share, and what if we get it wrong? I am so grateful that our heavenly Father is patient with me and has brought others into my life to encourage, guide, and walk with me. I came across a story from Pastor Bill written for the January 29, 2020, Pastor's Ponders that emphasizes this lesson.

*The Family Circus comic strip on Monday showed a father and son walking in the snow. Dad was in the lead, and the boy was trying to walk in his footsteps, which were a lot farther apart than the boy's small legs could handle.*

*"Walk smaller, Daddy! I'm trying to walk in your footsteps." We can hear the desperation in those words, as well as determination. Several realities have me pondering the significance of those words.*

*I am aware of times when I expected maturity from someone before they were ready. My impatience made life difficult for them. In the Apostle Paul's words, "I frustrated them."*

*Busyness can make us fail to consider who is following us. We need to take the time to be aware of our pace of life and make it easy for*

*disciples to keep up. Sometimes it will mean stopping and reviewing, perhaps doing some steps over.*

*I am grateful that followers of Jesus never need to ask Him to "walk smaller." He leads us with a balance of easy footprints and a challenge to add distance over time. He knows where we are and what we can handle.*

*The local church is a family where some people are just learning to trust Jesus as Savior, and others have walked in His footsteps for decades. A beautiful sight is to see a seasoned Jesus follower helping a new believer walk smaller. Eventually, that person may be taking larger steps than their mentor does. I hope that they will remember to walk smaller for someone else at the appropriate time.*

*- Tim Watt*



## PARENT NIGHT OUT

Parent night was a fun, love-filled night! We had 15 kids and older siblings attend. We ate pizza and played games. The biggest hit was playing hide and seek throughout the Fellowship Hall — they could have played that all night!!! We ended our night with Valentine-themed crafts, cookie decorating and watching a short movie with hot chocolate and popcorn. Parents were thankful to have time to get out enjoy a night out! Thank you to all the volunteers that made it possible. ~ Vera Hallman



# YOUTH RETREAT

Tumalo State Park has been a great setting for our retreats over the years. Our theme was from Philippians 4:8. We were encouraged to focus our minds on what is praiseworthy, admirable and excellent. There wasn't any snow, but we made up for it by shooting each other with pvc bows and foam tipped arrows. It was a ton of fun! The road trip is always a great time of getting to know each other, singing car karaoke and being forced to listen to one of Patrick's audiobooks or favorite classical songs.

*~ Patrick Vestal*



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

**BLOCKED FOR PRIVACY**

## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Thirty-five men and youth joined for an enjoyable Men's Breakfast on Saturday, February 21 - much thanks to Kenny Davais and his team of servants! Guys veered outside their comfort zone into what turned out to be a fun and rewarding time of speed-friending, interacting one at a time with several other men and youth on personally applicable questions offered to them as facilitators of conversation. Chris Wright took time to preview an introduction to our speaker and subject matter for the March 20-22 Men's Retreat at Jonah, Jeff Vandersteldt. We will unpack his lessons on Wholehearted Discipleship in a quest to understand God's purposes for emotions and to build the muscle of transparency so as to attain to deeper friendships with other men, and better relationships with others. After the breakfast two particularly encouraged men in their 70's praised the opportunity to interact this way and to preview the retreat material. We look forward to our next encounter in March!

*~ Craig Crandall*

## REFLECTIONS

"Reflections" is more than an event — it's a space to build relationships, nurture young hearts, and be renewed together. It is the brainchild of Katelyn Vestal, who has a heart for women and children to come together in community, creativity and connection. Each gathering offers time to play, learn something new, and create meaningful crafts that reinforce the heart of the message being shared. All women and children are welcome! It meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays in March and April, 3:30-5:30pm in the basement.

*~ Connie Crandall*



## WOMEN'S PIZZA PARTY



About 25 ladies gathered at Abby's Pizza on Feb. 23 for a great time of chatting and catching up. These fellowship times are designed to deepen relationships and offer encouragement.