

PFBC NEWSLETTER

MARCH

2024

MISSION FOCUS

Taylor Maslin

DiscipleMakers



Hi PFBC Family,

I am so excited to be able to give you an update on my ministry with DiscipleMakers so far! I am so thankful for your partnership in this ministry and your ministry to me!

I have been attending PFBC for about two and a half years now, but I thought it may be helpful to first introduce myself if you don't know me. While in early high school, I became a Christian and started going to church with a friend and his family. After high school, I went to SUNY Oswego to earn my undergraduate degree in chemistry and then came to Penn State to earn my graduate degree in forensic science. While at Penn State, I got involved with DiscipleMakers, a campus ministry, and started attending PFBC. Over the two years of my degree, I fell in love with the mission of making disciples of college students and really saw the strategic opportunity we have in targeting college students with the gospel. This led me to apply to join staff with DiscipleMakers in February 2023. I was accepted to work in our Headquarters, here in State College, and then started support raising in June 2023 right after I graduated from Penn State.

The Lord graciously and so quickly finished my support raising at the end of October 2023, just five months after I started! Over the past three months, I have been in the headquarters learning my new role as an Event Planner. My role is primarily to coordinate and help conference directors plan the four student conferences and two staff conferences that we have each year. In January, we had one of our staff conferences and in February we had a one-day student retreat. I have been learning so much and it has been such a blessing to see how impactful these conferences are on the students and staff.

The next conference on the DiscipleMakers' calendar is Women's Conference. The theme of the conference is "Wise Womanhood" and the slogan is "Life's a lot, let's get wisdom from God." For our college women, and maybe you too, life can feel like one thing after another on repeat. The reality is we need help to understand how to handle the questions and concerns life throws at us – we need wisdom. This conference is going to look at the book of Proverbs to understand how our college women can be women of wisdom able to make good decisions and face life's challenges.

This is the first conference that I am seeing from start to finish. This means that from reviewing the venue contract to closing out the budget after the event, I will have been a part of the process. This all has been a really fun process so far! In addition, my manager and her husband are welcoming their first child right around the time of the conference. This, of course, is so exciting, but also means that she won't be attending the conference, therefore, I will be the primary event planner on-site.

This semester I also have had the opportunity to help on campus with our student Leadership Team. This has been such an encouragement to me as I hear the stories of these student leaders faithfully serving the Lord and their fellow students so that more students may know, love, and obey Jesus more. Our student leaders are discipling younger students, leading Bible studies on campus and serving the fellowship by coordinating various other events. Without these students and their leadership, it is safe to say that the Penn State fellowship would not be able to reach nearly as many students with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Here are some ways I would love to ask you to pray:

- Would you praise God with me for fulfilling the needed support for my ministry with DiscipleMakers and bringing back to State College so quickly?
- Would you please pray for all the women who are coming to Women's Conference? Would you pray that the conference would be encouraging, challenging, and equipping for each of them?
- Would you please pray that I would learn as much as I can before Women's Conference begins and that I too would be equipped to serve as the primary event planner at this conference?
- Would you praise the Lord with me for the student leaders in the Penn State fellowship that are eager serving the Lord and investing in fellow students?

Thank you again for your partnership in this ministry! I am often encouraged so much by our church family and the ways that you all are so eager to serve, welcome others, and build each other up in Christ.



PASTOR'S NOTES

Pastor Jeremy

Journey to the Cross

This month because of our love for Jesus we will journey again down the last days of his life towards the cross, his death, burial, and resurrection. We will look forward to coming together on Resurrection Sunday to worship our risen, living, conquering Savior and King, Jesus. How amazing that what we remember and celebrate is the very love of God for us. As Paul wrote, *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* Romans 5:8. Let those words, *“his own love for us”* simmer in your spirit. This month, as a church, I would like for us to make an intentional effort to be reading the Scriptures of the last week of Jesus life leading up to the cross and his resurrection. Let's join our hearts and minds together on our Savior and worship him. If you need some resources to help you to do this, here is a resource from the Gospel Coalition, [click here](#), to help you know where to read in your Bible during the last week of Jesus life leading up to the cross. In this resource you will find readings, videos and links to other resources that can encourage you in your walk with Jesus. This year will have a Good Friday service on March 29th @ 7PM and we will celebrate the resurrection and our living Savior on Sunday March 31st @ 10AM. In addition, begin to pray now for people in your life that you can invite to hear the gospel of hope and forgiveness on Good Friday and Easter morning. The gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes! (Romans 1:16).

Because He Lives,

Pastor Jeremy



PFBC KIDS

Babette Manning

What is going on in Children's Ministry? Spring is coming and that means we are wrapping up another season of The Club for Boys and Girls.

On Wednesday, March 27th we will have a family night for The Club where we recognize the kids for participating in The Club. We have 41 kids involved this year and we had a lot of fun sharing God's Word, getting to know the kids and playing lots of games.

Thank you to the leaders of The Club, I appreciate all that you did to serve the kids this year:

Club for Boys Coaches: Sam Petrosky, Nelson Dzade, Pete Roy and Matt Beardsley

Club for Girls Guides: Andrea Gravelle, Meghan Beardsley and Sonya Brown

Junior Club for Girls Guides: Jenna Field

March schedule for Club:

Wednesday, March 6 th – no Club

Wednesday, March 13 th & March 20 th – regular club class

Wednesday, March 27 th – family night 6:30 – 7:30



Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt for Indoor Park will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd. I usually have 2000 plastic eggs filled with candy for the preschoolers "to hunt for". If you would like to donate a bag of individually wrapped candy, I would appreciate your support. Please see Babette if you are interested.



Did I hear someone say "VBS"? Yes, it is time to start thinking, at least a little bit, about Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held Monday, July 29th through Friday, August 2 nd from 9:00 am – noon each day. If you are interested in being a part of VBS this year, please contact me. Our theme for VBS this year is **Breaker Rock Beach – God's Truth Never Changes**. We will discover God's Rock-Solid truth in a world of shifting sand. Watch for "VBS work days" to be announced, we will begin making our backgrounds and decorations.



March Family Activity ideas:

- You can dye hard boiled eggs
- You can have an Easter egg hunt
- You can decorate Styrofoam eggs with ribbon, buttons, sequins and lots of other items.
- Hang ribbon on them to hang them from a tree.

- Make a new recipe together for Easter
- Get a set of Resurrection Eggs and read through the story of Easter



Bible Reading Plan: we will continue in Proverbs in the month of March

- Proverbs 19 & 20
- Proverbs 21 & 22
- Proverbs 23 & 24
- Proverbs 25 & 26



Jenna's

Jokes

1.) DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE FIRE
AT THE CIRCUS?

2.) WHERE DOES A WAITRESS WITH ONLY
ONE LEG WORK?

3.) WHAT'S A PIRATE'S FAVORITE LETTER?

Answers: 1) It was in tents!
2) HOPI 3) You probably think it's "R" but it be the "C".

Young Adult Ministry YAM

Happy March, friends! Several exciting opportunities are coming up...

- For the men, stop by the [Spring Kickoff](#) at PFBC on March 23rd at 5PM! Bring a friend and a lawn chair, supper provided. It'll be a great evening to enjoy time together fellowshiping.
- For the ladies, consider registering for the Spring Retreat at Camp Hebron April 5-7! The weekend will be a wonderful time spent with women of all ages. Throughout the weekend we'll be spending time in Melissa Spoolstra's book on Isaiah, learning about "Striving Less and Trusting God More". Register [here](#) or contact [Hilary Field](#) with questions!

Also, be on the lookout for a YAM after-church lunch sometime this Spring!

This past week I was extremely encouraged by these verses, so I'll leave you with this reminder of the hope and victory we have in Christ!

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."
1 Corinthians 15:57-58

SPRING KICKOFF

MEN'S MINISTRY

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

5-8 PM @ PFBC

Questions? Contact Caleb Frantz

Dinner Provided

(indoor or outdoor weather depending)

Opportunity to get connected.

Bring a camping chair and a friend!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

As our Ladies Spring Retreat is happening next month, I'd like to share a little bit of introduction, for our theme, from our speaker, Melissa Spoelstra. She wrote Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting God More study. It's challenging and pray it can bless you today---

"I wonder if you've ever left a church service, women's conference, or Bible study determined to do better. Maybe your internal dialogue included intentions to pray regularly, show more kindness to others, or be a better person in general. This determination usually springs from a longing to grow spiritually and know God better. Yet where has all our white knuckle grasping at behavior modification gotten us? How's that 'striving' been working out for you?"

I can tell you how it has worked for me. My attempts at heart transformation have left me with guilt and frustration, and they have caused me to go backward rather than forwards in intimacy with God. When I've succeeded in the short term, I've often become prideful. Then in moments of failure, I've experienced shame. God doesn't want either of these postures for us.

Desiring spiritual change in our lives isn't a bad thing, we just have to guard against relying on our own effort to bring it about. As we embark together on a study of the prophet Isaiah's biblical book, we will discover a simple but life-changing truth: Following God isn't about striving; it's about trusting God more. The prophet Isaiah served as God's mouthpiece to the people of God and the surrounding nations. Isaiah teaches that followers of God can trust His:

*Character *Comfort *Calendar *Commands *Correction *Coming Again

That all sounds so good! However, I know by now that there are times when I say with my mouth, 'I trust God', but my stress, worry, and lack of peace don't evidence that kind of faith. Then there are other times when we thought we put our trust in God, but the expectations we set for Him didn't materialize. When He doesn't do what we want Him to do, we can inch our way toward self-sufficiency without even realizing it.

Isaiah was human just like us, and yet he radically trusted God and called anyone who would listen to do the same. Unpacking Isaiah's words will reveal that we can trust God more than our own human effort or the counterfeits the world suggests."

Ladies Spring Retreat at Camp Hebron – April 5-7, 2024

Cost: \$155 – Horseback Riding: Additional \$25 – Brochures in church lobby – due March 17 th !

Questions: See Hilary Field - Financial Scholarships Available

We will be looking at trusting God's Character, His Comfort and His Commands!



RIOT Report

Pastor Jon

It's been a great February! Our Sunday nights saw us start a new series called "Marvel," where we are learning that worship isn't just singing songs, it should be a way of life for us. We also gave the teens an opportunity to ask the leaders any questions they wanted. During that night, we answered some fun questions, along with some more serious questions. I believe it was a great opportunity for the teens to get to know the leaders better.

We also went sledding at Slab Cabin Park. We had a great time going down the hill (no so much going back up), and we helped rescue a little girl that flew into the water.

In March, we will finish up our series on worship, and conclude it with a worship night, where we put into practice some of the things that we have learned.

We are also running our Munchie Madness again this year. This is a fun, six week event that brings people together. This year's theme is restaurants. If you haven't already picked up a bracket, grab one from the RIOT office, and fill it out (what restaurant do you think will be voted for more – not your favorite). Then, starting March 10th, vote for your favorite restaurants on the wall outside the office. Everyone can participate, not just teens!

