



July 17, 2023

Dear Family,

From early adulthood, I felt a calling to break unhealthy generational patterns within my family. For several years, I wandered about, trying to do that on my own. I wanted to root my family in healthy habits that would, over time, establish healthy patterns, passing down Christ's love. As I returned to faith after wandering in the wilderness of agnosticism, I discovered practices that have accomplished just that. We are rooted in Christ as a family and it has broken those generational patterns. Now, in those habits, we find sustenance for our busy lifestyle.

My guess is that you, too, live a busy lifestyle. Sometimes, we wear that busy lifestyle as a badge of honor, but more often it seems being busy just finds its way to us. I, like you, have evenings where all four of us need to be in different places simultaneously. It's tough! But as we continue our family habits, the rhythm of those habits defines us rather than our busy schedule, deepening our bond.

This fall and spring, our theme for Family Ministries is *Rooted: Growing Deeper in our Faith as a Family*. We will engage the whole family in establishing habits that form the rhythm of our days, cutting through the frenetic activity of our days to ground us in the love of Christ and in love for each other. To that end, we will root ourselves as families through four activities on Sunday evenings: Kidz for Christ, Children's Choir, Confirmation, and Youth Group. Through each of these, children and youth will learn how to root themselves in the life of faith.

Every other month, we will suspend those four activities to instead engage together as an entire family in an evening of family investment. At those bimonthly events, we will worship together in a laid-back, modern, style; eat dinner together; and learn together as a family unit how to establish healthy habits. These evenings will teach how to root ourselves in habits that form the rhythm of our days.

Let's be present together here at church, both in bringing your children here on Sundays and in coming to our every other month time evening of family investment. There are forty-five families with school-aged children on our roll. If everyone was involved, we would have twenty-one kids at Kidz for Christ and thirty-three at youth. Having that many children at once generates energy, which attracts in new folks. We need your family's presence to generate the energy and momentum for us to meet our goal to grow engagement by twenty-five percent and, more importantly, to grow deeper in faith.

There are twelve weeks we will meet before Christmas. Let's commit to attend at least nine of those. Together, we can build a strong program for our children, youth, and families. Together, we will root ourselves in Christ's love.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted Goshorn".

Rev. Dr. Ted Goshorn, Senior Pastor

Rooted

Family Ministries at Mulberry Street

Growing Deeper in Our Faith as a Family (Psalm 1:3)



Family Investement Night

September 10, November 5, January 14, March 3, May 5

A Bimonthly gathering for families to worship together, share a meal, and to learn to grow healthy spiritual habits.

Sunday Evenings: 4pm -6pm

This evening will be in place of our other programming (Kidz & Youth)



Sunday Evenings: 4pm -6pm

(K-5th grade)

Growing in the Christian faith through games, Bible lessons, and crafts.

Children's Choir

Rooting hearts and minds in the Christian faith through music.



Sunday Evenings: 4pm-6pm

(6th-12th grade)

Growing closer to God and each other through community, worship, and outreach.

Confirmation

Growing toward owning one's own faith and choosing church membership.