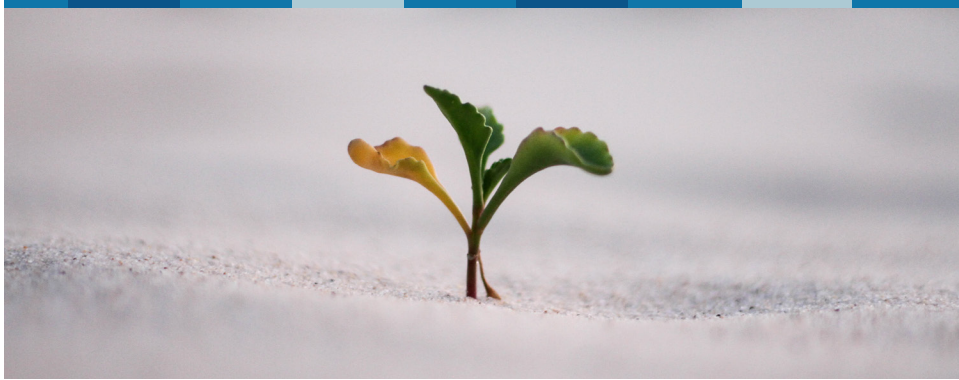


FELLOWSHIP NEWS



Archbold Evangelical Prepares to Launch Fayette Site

Theologian Lynn H. Hough wrote, “Life is a journey, not a destination” (The Christian Advocate, 1920). Peter Rupp’s journey has led him to faraway places and rich learning opportunities, and back home again to Ohio where he will lead a new church site in Fayette for Archbold Evangelical Church, Archbold.

Peter grew up in Bryan, Ohio, 15 miles from neighboring Archbold. After high school, he attended college in Indianapolis, graduating in 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in Communications. Then, he spent a year in Taiwan, teaching English to elementary students. While in Asia, he began considering a future in full-time vocational ministry. Returning to Ohio, he began investing in discipleship relationships. In 2014, he participated in a discipleship training program at Ellerslie in Windsor, Colorado.

In 2015, his interest in discipleship coupled with his musical skills led him to King’s Cross Church, Defiance, Ohio, to work with Pastor Sam Andres. His part-

time job became a full-time residency two years later while he pursued the FEC Certificate of Theology. Before the resident program ended though, a new position had opened up at Archbold Evangelical Church, and they reached out to him.

Archbold Evangelical Church leaders recognized that Fayette was home to a number of their members, so they decided to take a worship gathering to their town. But, they needed someone to lead the outreach who was familiar with the area.

In September, Peter joined Archbold Evangelical Church staff to lead their new site in Fayette, Ohio, north of Archbold. He will lead worship at the new site on Sunday evenings and discipleship within the community. He has already begun leading the new service in Archbold and developing teams for the Fayette site, but the new worship gathering won’t officially launch until Sunday, March 28, 2021.



Evermore Church Plans to Plant New Church

Evermore Community Church in Hartville, Ohio, has been involved in church planting initiatives for ten years. They have resourced new churches in a variety of ways from providing mentoring, money, and ministry teams, but in the fall of 2021, they will send out a church planter, Joey Nigro, and a launch team. To prepare for this work, Joey attended the Church Planter’s Assessment and the FEC Orientation in September.

Joey isn’t new to church planting or pastoring, but through the FEC Church Planter’s Assessment and Orientation, he gained affirmation about his calling from God to plant a church, and he learned about FEC’s commitment to it. At the Church Planter’s Assessment, Joey was encouraged to meet other people who have the same calling and leaders who understand that calling. During the orientation, he discovered that “FEC is a great family.” He remarked, “Why wouldn’t I want to be a part of it?”

During the months leading up to the new church launch, Joey plans to invest time learning about the North Canton community in eastern Ohio where 50% of the people are not affiliated with any church. Evermore plans to equip Joey and invest resources in the new plant. Associate pastor, Dave Windham said, “We plan to send out our best people with him.”

Southern African Churches Planted Despite Quarantines

While the worldwide pandemic has disrupted church gatherings in the U.S. and other parts of the world, John Mutandwa with the Southern Africa Church Planting Initiative (SACPI) has forged new paths and planted new churches in southern Africa’s rural areas despite quarantines in urban areas.

When Zimbabwe restricted travel during the spring, John Mutandwa had permission to visit a rural area where he oversees an orphanage. While visiting, he began preaching the gospel and establishing a church in the community. Since last spring, the new church has grown to nearly 89 believers. When people in a nearby community heard about the new church, seven of them walked the 15 kilometers (9.3 miles) to attend. Now, the church has a new pastor who is reaching both communities.

John works as the SACPI Director of International Church Planting, and he develops church leaders for rural areas in six African countries: Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, Botswana, and Malawi. Through partnerships with U.S. pastors and churches, like Matt Boyers of Crossroads Evangelical Church in Wauseon, Ohio, and entrepreneurship training with Partners Worldwide, church leaders are trained and communities are resourced so that they can become self-supporting.

Catch up on the latest news about this growing initiative at the Southern Africa Church Planting Initiative Facebook page.

