

community

THE HEART OF DEBARY | SEPTEMBER 2025

How We Grow

IMPLEMENTING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
11:30 HR Team			9:00 Food Pantry 11am Bible Study 6:30pm Worship Team 6:30pm Parenting Class	Noon - Pastor Study 1:30 Prayer Team 6pm -- Pastor Study	9am Council on Aging	
	7pm Boy Scouts 1	Ladies Study 7pm 2	3	4	5	6
10am Worship 11:30am ACTIVATE Step 1 7	7pm Boy Scouts 8	TASTY TUESDAY 11:30am 6pm Trustees 7pm Ladies Study 9	9:00 Food Pantry 11am Bible Study 6:30pm Worship Team 6:30pm Parenting Class 10	Noon - Pastor Study 1:30 Prayer Team 6pm -- Pastor Study 11	9am Council on Aging 12	13
10am Worship 14	7pm Boy Scouts 15	4:45pm Preschool Brd 6pm Finance Team 7pm Ladies Study 16	9:00 Food Pantry 11am Bible Study 6:30pm Worship Team 6:30pm Parenting Class 17	Noon - Pastor Study 1:30 Prayer Team 6pm -- Pastor Study 18	9am Council on Aging 19	9am Community Cares 20
10am Worship 21	7pm Boy Scouts 22	6pm Church Board 7pm Ladies Study 23	9:00 Food Pantry 11am Bible Study 6:30pm Worship Team 6:30pm Parenting Class 24	Noon - Pastor Study 1:30 Prayer Team 6pm -- Pastor Study 25	9am Council on Aging 11:30 SR. LUNCH BUNCH GoodFellas 26	27
10am Worship COMMUNION SUNDAY 28	PUMPKINS ARRIVE 5pm 29	7pm Ladies Study 30				



ACTIVATE - is a series of workshops (experiences) hosted by Pastor Mike on the first Sunday of each month. Everyone who is a member or desires to become a member is encouraged to attend Activate Step 1.

STEP 1 - Find Belonging - Learn about your story, our story together, and God's bigger story!

STEP 2 - Pursue Growth - Discover ways to grow spiritually through your friendships, thoughts, and habits.

STEP 3 - Make A Difference - Find out how you can become a contributor through loving others and serving.

STEP 4 - Change the World - Start sharing your story with your friends, your community, and around the world!



september birthdays

SEP 2 Judy Marek
SEP 2 Joe Forte
SEP 7 Ginny Davis
SEP 8 Debbie David
SEP 9 Miranda Cassidy
SEP 11 Linda Stewart
SEP 13 Rachel Haymes
SEP 18 Linda Howell
SEP 19 Robin Burson
SEP 19 Kaden Cassidy
SEP 22 Penney Friedrich
SEP 23 Louise Nixon
SEP 26 Betty Bishop
SEP 26 Ida Blakslee
SEP 29 Lisa Lutz
SEP 30 Julie Taylor



Dave & Becky Booth SEP 10 26 Years
Brian & Carolyn Stoll SEP 15 35 Years
John & Lynn Kophamel SEP 29 41 Years

HOW TO GROW

Most of us know what it's like to want to grow in some area of life – maybe it's in our health, our finances, or even in a hobby. We start strong, but before long, the treadmill becomes a clothes rack, the budget slips, or the guitar gathers dust in the corner. Growth doesn't just "happen." It's the result of intentional habits, steady commitment, and support along the way.

That's not just true for our physical lives – it's even more true for our spiritual lives. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength"(Mark 12:30, NLT). That's an invitation to grow in every part of who we are.

This fall, we're walking through a series called "**How We Grow**". Over four weeks, we're exploring the habits that help us grow closer to God and become the people He has called us to be. Just like physical training strengthens our bodies, spiritual habits strengthen our souls. The apostle Paul told Timothy: "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come" (1 Timothy 4:8, NLT).

Writers like James Clear (Atomic Habits) and Charles Duhigg (The Power of Habit) remind us that habits, not willpower alone, determine the trajectory of our lives. What we do consistently shapes who we become. Scripture affirms this truth. God gave His people rhythms – Sabbath rest, annual festivals, daily prayer – so that their hearts would stay aligned with Him. The early church picked up this pattern, devoting themselves to teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer (Acts 2:42).

Habits form us – whether we intend them to or not. The question isn't "Do I have habits?" but "Which habits are forming me?"

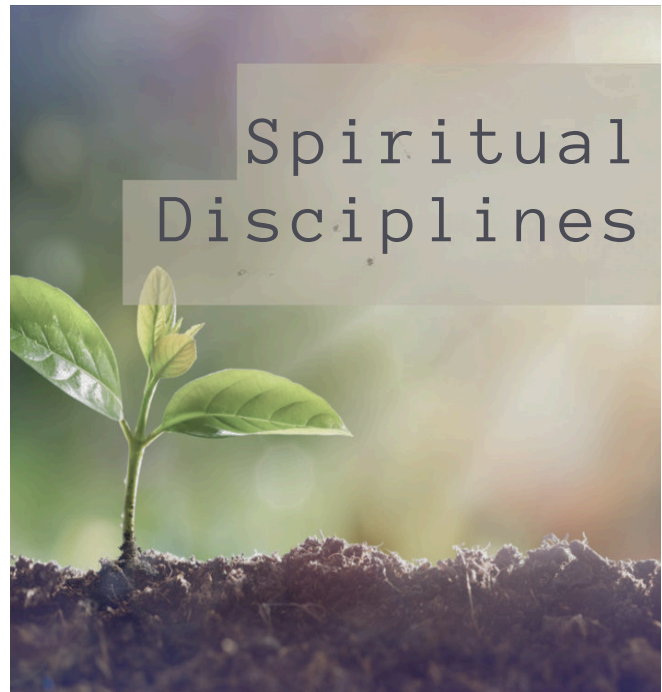
In How We Grow, we're focusing on four essential areas:

Spiritual Habits – Practices like prayer, Scripture reading, worship, and serving others draw us closer to God and root us in His presence.

Financial Habits – How we handle money reflects where our trust lies. Generosity and wise stewardship remind us that everything belongs to God..

Emotional and Mental Habits – Taking our thoughts captive, practicing gratitude, and choosing joy protect us from being swept away by fear, anger, or negativity.

Physical Habits – Honoring God with our bodies matters too. Rest, exercise, and healthy rhythms remind us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.



Each of these areas is connected. When we're spiritually grounded, it impacts how we handle money. When our emotions are healthy, we make more informed choices about our bodies. Growth in one area supports growth in another.

At the end of the day, this isn't just about becoming "better people." It's about becoming more like Christ. Our habits, our practices, and our daily choices are the chisels God uses to shape us into His image. And when we grow in Him, the world takes notice. We become, in our daily lives, living proof of a loving God to a watching world.

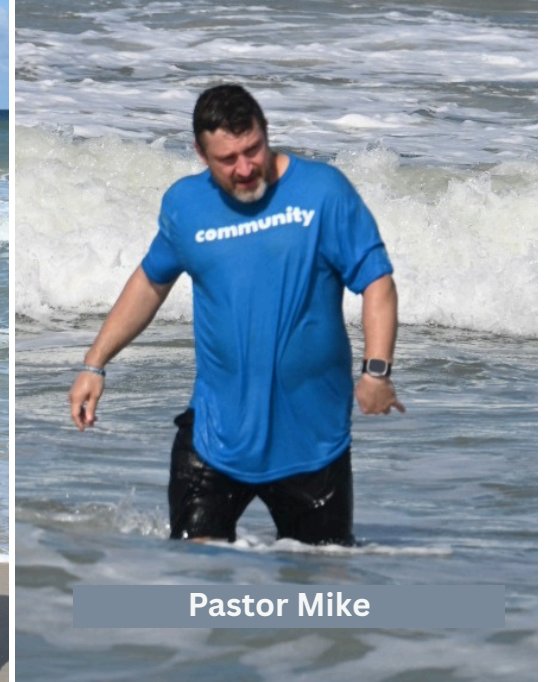
So, as we move through this season, ask yourself:

- What small step can I take today to grow spiritually?
- Which habit is forming me in ways I don't even notice?
- Who can I invite to walk beside me in this journey of growth?

Growth won't happen overnight, but it will happen – step by step, habit by habit, as we open our hearts to God's Spirit and to one another.

Together, let's commit to the journey of becoming all God has created us to be.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "MS" or a stylized version of the author's name.



Pastor Mike



Paul Benfield

BEACH BAPTISMS

SUNDAY
AUGUST
10



Deb Harner



Anthony Powers



Cristina Johnson

community



Holly Lyons

JOYFUL



celebration



Michael Johnson



community

KIDS

Our Community Kids groups are split between 3 ages.

- NURSERY:** Infants and toddlers under 3 years old
- PRESCHOOL:** 3 years old to kindergarten
- ELEMENTARY:** 1st through 5th grade

If you would like to volunteer, stop by and see Ms. Linda in the Community Kids room. (Background check required).

SEPTEMBER 2025	
 <p>Where Kids Experience God's Greatest Gift</p> <p>Over the next quarter our kids will discover and understand that God always loves us, we can trust God, and Jesus loves everyone.</p> <p>This month our Bible Memory Buddy, Rae the Stingray, will help us learn and remember the Bible verse from:</p> <p>Psalm 33:4</p>	<p>Week One</p> <p>God Calls Abram</p>
	<p>Week Two</p> <p>Issac is Born</p>
	<p>Week Three</p> <p>Jacob Steals Esau's Blessing</p>
	<p>Week Four</p> <p>Jacob and Esau's make Peace</p>



FUN FROM LAST MONTH



Team Family

SEPTEMBER 20
5:30pm

Ms. Linda is leading a new ministry partnering with families to strengthen their faith and their relationships with each other, with other families, with our church, and with Jesus.



Team Family™ Is A Year-Round Guide for **Intentional Family Ministry.**

Families will spend a fun time together each quarter with themes formatted around the four seasons of the year.

- Take Courage! (Fall)
- Comfort & Joy (Winter/Christmas)
- Amazing Grace (Spring/Easter)
- Rewind. Be Kind. (Summer)

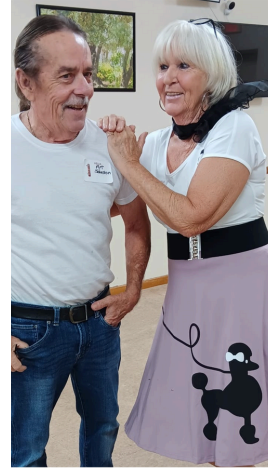


“Be strong and **courageous!** Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
Joshua 1:9

This fall, families will be reminded to take courage with them as they go about their daily routines. Courage is confidence that comes from knowing God is always with you.

There will also be a special focus on bullying this quarter.

So, take courage! To school. To work. To the dentist. To tryouts. To Thanksgiving. The Lord your God is with you each step of the way



Art & Kay use their unique gifts and talents to express their faith through serving. They always make serving at church FUN!

FAITHFUL SERVANTS ART & KAY JOHNSON

Art & Kay have been married for 42 years and involved with Community Church for over 20 years. They have an adult daughter and one grandchild. Kay was born in Orlando and Art moved to the area when he was 4 years old.

Art was employed by NCR for many years and then had an opportunity to return to school to receive his masters. He ended up teaching Marine Mechanics for over 20 years and eventually opened his own business offering marine repair training.

Kay was the manager of Deland Country Club for several years BUT, after meeting and falling in love with Art, she decided that she wanted to become a mail carrier (and save for her retirement). She was a mail carrier for many residents in DeBary for a long time. She retired from the post office after 34 years of service.

Art is a car enthusiast and enjoys days at the shooting range. Kay is an author and poet. And, she loves anything crafty, especially crochet. She has written many poems about Jesus and her growing faith. Watch for her new book of poems coming soon.

Art and Kay are both avid volunteers at Community. They are both involved with our Wednesday Food Pantry and our 3rd Saturday Community Cares. They are often seen on Sundays as ushers. Kay leads our Tasty Tuesday ministry for those 50+ - planning and preparing the luncheon meals for the 2nd Tuesday of each month. She is also a member of the rotating church Money Counter Team who count and process the weekly offering.

They always foster a joyful environment by showcasing a positive attitude and connect their service to God's bigger story by celebrating with food and fellowship. Art & Kay turn serving into a rewarding experience rather than a chore.

Don't forget to catch up with Art and Kay to say THANK YOU for serving God through Community Church.

P.S. Ask one of them about their first date!

Tasty Tuesday!

Tasty Tuesday
September 9
Tacos & Bunco




CHURCH PARSONAGE FOR SALE
SALE PENDING
247 Carmen Lane, DeBary
Contact Taylor Benfield: (386) 703-8703

FOOD PANTRY

COMMUNITY CARES

SEPTEMBER 20




Pumpkin Roll Ingredients

Donations Appreciated
SEPT/OCT

Team Family

SEPTEMBER 20
5:30pm



Meet me at the PUMPKIN patch

scan here to sign up for a shift



STARTING AT 5 PM

THE GREAT PUMPKIN UNLOAD

Volunteers Needed

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29TH




THE COMMUNITY CUP

OCTOBER 11, 2025 | DeBary Country Club

PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

FAMILY / BUSINESS HOLE SPONSOR
FAMILY / BUSINESS TEAM FOURSOME
SINGLE PLAYERS

BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR
LUNCH / RECEPTION SPONSOR

SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH



GoodFella's

pizzeria & restaurant

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26
11:30AM