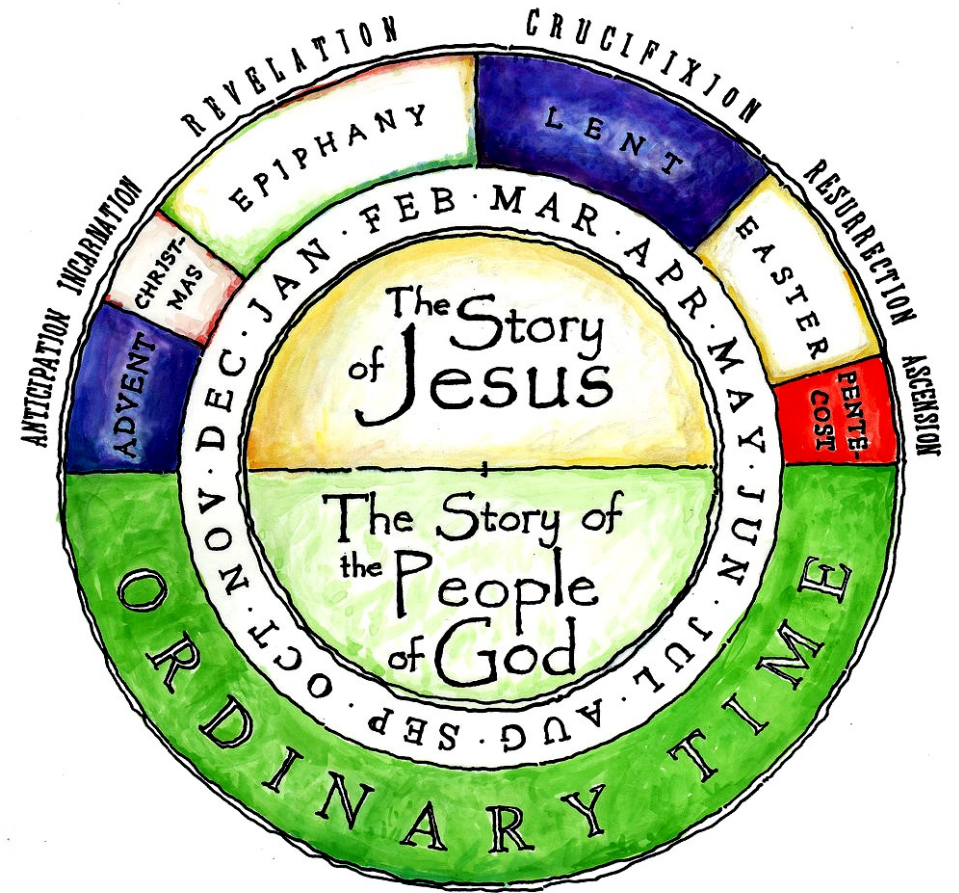


Guide to the Season

May 2024
Volume 3



Ordinary Times

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FMCE

June 2024 | Vol. 3

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Minister of Music



Rev. Gary Daniel
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Our Day-to-Day Lives

We have celebrated Advent, Christmastide, Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Eastertide. Now, it is time for “Ordinary Time” where we celebrate and recall Jesus’ ministry and teachings. We have just over six-and-a-half months to examine and restructure our lives by following Jesus’ teachings, being more diligent in our prayer time, delving into the scriptures telling of Jesus’ life and the miracles He performed, and striving to become more like Jesus in our everyday lives.

As we live our frenzied lives, may we all strive to find ways to grow in the knowledge and truth of our Jesus. Please, take time to read the scriptures and learn how Jesus wants us to live and love one another. Now, I’m fine to talk about doing this as I struggle with my own busy schedule, but I strive for this mark daily.

Our gracious, merciful Father wants so much to have a close relationship with each of us. Let’s experience Him in the common events of our ordinary, day-to-day lives and draw closer to Him amid the busyness.

Janis Luttrell

Administrative Assistant

Guide to the Season for Fitness in Health and Spirit

For while bodily training is of some value, Godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

~1 Timothy 4:8

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

~Galatians 6:9

As we move into longer days and a slower pace in terms of school and official activities, we are given time to enjoy this season. The fresh cut grass, the lingering sun, the time with family and friends outside.

We take breath every day. We don't even think about it. Our bodies need to continue to move, even if we are off from work, or can take off more time. As the heat comes in, come inside to exercise, utilize the pool where you live, head to the beach. As you enjoy being out in creation, it's a great time to remember the Glory of the Lord and His creation. How He knit together the solar system, created the flowers and the water we enjoy in the heat.

We were created for movement, if we weren't our bodies would not move. God didn't intend us to neglect our body in the summertime, just as you won't forget to breath, or eat, or sleep, or read the Bible.

Jenny Brown

Director of FMCE Family Life Center

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### OUR SUMMER & FALL SCHEDULE

We have our regular weekly schedule going on throughout the summer. It's a great time to start, you don't need a New Year to begin to move more. Here are a few things that will be going on this summer and fall. Please be mindful that we have limited space and equipment and require an RSVP for the special events listed below. All water events meet off campus and require participants to be comfortable in the water and willingness to get wet.

Saturday, **June 8**, 7-10am Tri-Jen, 5k, spin and aqua boot camp  
(until we all finish)

Saturday, **June 29**, 9am, Water Jog (1 hour)

Saturday, **July 27**, 9am, Water Jog (1 hour)

Saturday, **August 24**, 9am, Water Jog (1 hour)

No Classes Thursday, **July 18**-Sunday, **July 21**-Annual Fitness Conference

Monday, **December 9**, 5pm, Bike Boot Camp (90 minutes)

## Introduction

# The Season of Ordinary Time

You may be wondering why we chose to do a Guide to the Season for the Ordinary season. In this season no special events occur in the church liturgical calendar until All Saints Day in November. It is a 26-week season, including summer, when most people travel for vacation. It continues through the beginning of school, football season, and the most normal months of the year. So what is so special about the Ordinary Season?

If we are willing to be honest with ourselves most of our lives are lived in the ordinary. Our lives have seasons of ups and downs, graduations, 50th birthday parties, weddings and babies, and many other celebratory things. Why are those events so memorable and celebrated? Because they are once-in-a-lifetime events...not the ordinary. No, our ordinary lives are filled with job uniforms, sack lunches, misbehaving kids, phone calls at the wrong time, stress, ball games and dance competitions, community events, and coffee. They are filled with meetings, planning, phone calls from grandparents and parents, doctors telling us to lose weight (okay, maybe that's just me), and *Sean of the South* articles to get us through the week. Does God not care about these ordinary parts of our lives? Does He only care about the BIG seasons and the BIG happenings of our lives? No! God cares about the ordinary parts of our lives because they are the most common parts of our daily lives.

The Ordinary Season is my favorite church season because it forces me to think biblically about my life, to slow down and acknowledge the ordinariness of my created being, and to consider the depths of how I look for satisfaction in other things rather than Christ. The Ordinary Season is the longest in the church calendar because it is the longest season of our lives.

In this *Guide to the Season*, you'll find our staff's thoughts on why this season is impactful, but you'll also notice all the major events throughout the summer and fall. We have included these events so you can begin planning and using this ordinary time as a season of intentionality to be involved and supportive of the ministries of our church. Ordinary times, things, and people can be quite remarkable when you think of all God has done with a few ordinary people who chose ordinary faithfulness over the race for greatness. Let's enjoy the season together.

Yours Sincerely,  
Rev. Matt Jordan  
Senior Pastor



## Upcoming Events

### COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 26, 2024 ~ Memorial Day Weekend  
10:00am ~ Sanctuary

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday, June 2-6, 2024 ~ 5:30-8:30pm ~ Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary

### June Back Yard Wednesdays

June 12, 19 & 26, 2024 ~ 5:00pm ~ Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary

### FMCE Team Night

Sunday, July 14, 2024 ~ 5:00pm ~ Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary

### Fall Kickoff

Sunday, August 11, 2024 ~ 4:00pm ~ FLC & YBMH

### Combined Worship Service & Pot Luck Luncheon

FMCE Founders' Day Sunday ~ August 25, 2024  
10:00am ~ Sanctuary & 11:30am ~ Fellowship Hall

### Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Sunday, September 22, 2024 ~ 6:00pm ~ Fellowship Hall

### All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 3, 2024

### FMCE Team Night

Sunday, November 10, 2024 ~ 4:00pm ~ Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary

### Children's Christmas Nativity Play

Sunday, December 8, 2024 ~ 10:00am ~ Fellowship Hall

### Christmas Choirs Music Program

Sunday, December 15, 2024 ~ 3:00pm & 5:00pm ~ Sanctuary

### Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

C3 Contemporary ~ 5:00pm ~ Fellowship Hall

Traditional ~ 6:30pm & 11:00pm ~ Sanctuary

## Mom's Day Out & Stepping Stones Preschool

### 2024-2025 Calendar

(Some Dates Subject to Change)

Aug. 7th - First day of class

Sep. 2 - Labor Day Holiday— MDO/SSP Closed

Oct. 8th-9th - School Pictures

Oct. 14th - Columbus Day - MDO/SSP Closed

Oct. 27th - FMCE Fall Festival

Oct. 31st - MDO/SSP Trunk or Treat

Vision Screening-Date TBD

Nov. 11th - Veteran's Day Holiday— MDO/SSP Closed

Nov 22nd - Thanksgiving Program/Feast @10:30am

Nov. 25th-29th - Thanksgiving Break

# Understanding Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time is the longest season in the Church's year. When we think of the word *ordinary*, our natural associations are words such as *typical*, *routine*, or even *mundane*. Why would the church dedicate an entire season to this? Ordinary Time is anything but monotonous. These days, we grow into who we are called to be by imitating the lived reality of Jesus.

Comprising 33 weeks, it is divided into two sections; one short and the other very long. The six weeks following the Christmas season until the beginning of the Lenten season (this year - January 9-February 13, 2024), are the shortest weeks of Ordinary Time. The weeks after Pentecost Sunday (this year beginning May 20 and ending November 30) form the long stretch. On December 1, 2024, we will reenter the Advent/Christmas season.

Throughout the liturgical year, our concentration is on growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ. The richness of Ordinary Time is found in the opportunity to know Christ more intimately in the everyday realities of life. The scripture proclaimed in Ordinary Time reveals Christ's teaching, healing, and mission, allowing us to understand God who became human.

GREEN, is the color of Ordinary Time. You will see that color displayed on the altar cloth, and the stoles worn by the pastors and choir. Green is the rich color associated with new life and growth. We are reminded in this season that a relationship with Christ is about humility rather than pride; vulnerability rather than power. We learn that being a Christian is about including the excluded, eating with social and religious outcasts, and dismantling structures of sin and injustice. We learn that following Christ is about self-giving love that is only possible through authentic relationships. We need to immerse ourselves deeply in the spirituality of Ordinary Time because it contains the essence of who we are in the 'everydayness' of our Christian lives.

**Rev. Gary Daniel**  
Pastor Emeritus

## What's So Ordinary About Ordinary Time?

Ordinary Time is anything but monotonous. These are the days for growth spiritually in our lives. It is the days between Christmas and Lent and between Easter and Advent seasons. We spend most of our time in the "in-between," in the ordinary because most of us have the same routine in our very common, every day, ordinary, activities. We join families, raise children, and grow old. Then occasionally, we will experience extraordinary times when we celebrate special events such as weddings, births, birthdays, and anniversaries. Then, there are times we experience not-so-special events such as deaths, major illnesses or injuries, job loss, and natural disasters. These too are extraordinary, beyond the common. We cannot live full lives in the valleys, or on the mountaintops. We must live the "in-between" in the ordinary, but the ordinary is extraordinary. We must only have eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to understand.

**Tammy Ezzell**  
Director of FMCE MDO/SSP

# Ordinary Season

What a busy season this has been, beginning on February 14 as we celebrated Ash Wednesday, continuing through Lent, Holy Week, Easter Sunday, and the Easter season, and ending on May 19<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate Pentecost. Then finally, the Ordinary season. This is the second of two Ordinary seasons in the church year, beginning the day after Pentecost and ending Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, when we begin Advent Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ordinary time and summer are here. Finally, we can relax and take it easy; after all, that is what Ordinary time means, correct? Well... not quite.

The purpose of this time is to support new disciples and the entire congregation in living out our gifts and callings. Every year in church life we experience the contrast between the two central seasons of Christmas and Easter. During those times we see God at work in the coming of Jesus as a baby, celebrating the life events, death, and resurrection of Jesus. During the Ordinary or in between times, we join God's ongoing work in the world. during this season, some congregations may focus on church growth, and evangelism, or be more active in carrying the church into the world through different ways than during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

So, as we celebrate Jesus' teachings and ministry during this Ordinary season, I hope each of us will reflect on how we live as Christians and how we order our lives.

“Sing”cerely,

**Pastor Billy**

Associate Pastor & Minister of Music

## Kids' Events ~ June - November 2024

|            |                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| June 2-6   | ~ 5:30-8:30PM Vacation Bible School |
| June 12    | ~ Others First Service Project      |
| June 26    | ~ Others First                      |
| June 30    | ~ 5:00PM Color War!                 |
| July 7     | ~ 6:30PM Movie in the Yard.         |
| July 10    | ~ Others First                      |
| July 17    | ~ Others First                      |
| July 21    | ~ 5:00PM FMCE Masters Mini Golf     |
| July 22-26 | ~ Connect Camp at Hillcrest         |
| August 4   | ~ Promotion Sunday                  |
| August 4   | ~ 4:30PM Parents vs. Kids Field Day |
| Aug 11     | ~ 4:00PM Back to School Bash        |
| Oct 27     | ~ 6:00-8:00PM Fall Fest             |

# A Season Called Ordinary

## Ordinary Time

Every Wednesday morning, I go with Amy to the New Life program to listen to her give a devotional to the class participants. It has become one of my favorite times of the week. I always learn something I hadn't thought of before in the story of Jesus or a new perspective on a story I thought I knew by heart. I love seeing the participants taking notes, using and highlighting their Bibles, and slowly opening more to questions. As the weeks have passed, they are talking more to us, and I feel we are slowly building relationships. One morning, we took them a goody bag filled with candy and a bookmark, and their excitement over these bags made me seriously consider how simple, ordinary, little things mean the most.

These goody bags made me think about how we are in Ordinary Time at church. We don't have big events or holidays to prepare for now, but we have our everyday lives to celebrate. Like the goody bag of candy, we can celebrate and appreciate the little things. I think we get caught up in the big things, such as holidays and big events, and we forget that even though those are nice moments in our lives, most of our lives consist of the everyday, the ordinary.

In these simple, ordinary, everyday things we need to remember Jesus and all the sacrifices he made for us. These are the times we can celebrate life and being close to Jesus. What better way to appreciate Jesus than in our normal lives? Praying in the car on the way to work, listening to a praise song, watching a child play, eating dinner with friends, and spending time with family - all these and more are the perfect times to praise Jesus.

**Milesa Eagan**

Director of Children's Ministries

Life finds itself in the center of two roads: ordinary and extraordinary. The extraordinary path is short but wild. It is almost like riding on a dirt road with Bo Duke at the wheel and Sheriff Roscoe P. Coltrain on your tail! You aren't sure what will happen, but you know there is a jump and hood slide somewhere along the way.

The ordinary road is paved, easily visible, a normal road, and a normal experience like a daily commute. As life sits at the crossroads of these two paths we find ourselves going on both at different times. Though riding with Bo Duke would be exhilarating, it isn't a daily reality of our lives. Surely, there are seasons of excitement or challenge that we can best describe as extraordinary. Most of us, however, spend most of our lives in the ordinary and on the ordinary road. We go to work, drop the kids off at school, come home and cook dinner, go to bed, and repeat the next day. Some of us live at ballparks and volleyball courts. Some of us work 9-5, and some work 24/7. We all have different parts of life within the realms of the ordinary, but it is ordinary no matter what.

The ordinary is a beautiful place to be because it is in the ordinary where I see God the most. Since it is the ordinary where I spend most of my life, I see God most of the time in the ordinary spaces. The ordinary can be quite remarkable if we take the time to slow down and focus on how God is involved in our lives even in the ordinary days. God has used people such as Mother Teresa and the gift of food, the most ordinary and basic need of life, and changed the world. He used Martin Luther and his passion for the word of God to spark the Reformation. He used Martin Luther King, Jr., who loved his neighbor, walked and rode peacefully, and spoke boldly to usher in civil rights. God has used ordinary people and ordinary lives to do extraordinary things! How might God call you in this ordinary season to do something remarkable?

In Christ,

**Matt Jordan**

Senior Pastor

# Season of Growth

As with Lent, this is my first season of Ordinary Time, so naturally I had to research what these weeks mean in the liturgical calendar. I found that “ordinary” means *numbered* or *ordered* and refers to the rhythms of life. Ordinary Time is a season of growing in Christ and of evangelizing the lost. Actively observing Ordinary Time entails examining your habits to change or add any that will help you grow and mature as a Christ-follower. It means contemplating the normal daily life of Jesus before and after He began His earthly ministry to help you better connect to Him. It’s practicing gratitude and joy by thanking God for the ordinary, everyday things in life and asking God for opportunities to share the gospel with someone and disciple a new believer. Finally, it’s using this season to grow in a deeper community and relationship with your church family. All these practices require intentionality and are a large part of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. This makes me think of Hebrews 5:11-6:3: *We have a great deal to say about this, and it is difficult to explain, since you have become too lazy to understand. Although by this time you ought to be teachers... You need milk, not solid food. Now everyone who lives on milk is inexperienced with the message about righteousness, because he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature... Therefore, let us leave the elementary teaching about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works, faith in God,... the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And we will do this if God permits.* In these verses, the author isn’t saying that we ever outgrow the Gospel or our need for it. He’s saying that some believers are not maturing because they are not regularly studying and practicing the faith. No one gets physically stronger by sitting on the couch or runs a marathon without training. The same is true for spiritual growth and obedience to Jesus. Some tools that have helped me stay consistently in God’s Word, praying, and discussing Scripture with others are the YouVersion Bible app, the New City Catechism app, the Life On Mission app, Christian Station on Apple Music, Podcasts, and *New Morning Mercies* by Paul David Tripp. Check those out or find something else that you know you’ll pick up every day. Any bodybuilder or runner will tell you that consistency is key, so set reminders and don’t give up if you miss a day or two. I’m praying for a season of spiritual growth and maturing in the life of our church during Ordinary Time where we take seriously our commitments to Jesus, His church, and His commission to make disciples.

**Dr. Amy Young**

Director of Family Ministries

## Students’ Events ~ June - November 2024

|               |                                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| June 2-6      | ~ 5:30-8:30PM Vacation Bible School |
| June 9        | ~ 5:00PM Sunday Night Swim (SNS)    |
| June 12       | ~ Others First Service Project      |
| June 17-21    | ~ YMCA VBS Service Project          |
| June 23       | ~ 5:00PM SNS                        |
| June 26       | ~ Others First                      |
| June 30       | ~ 5:00PM Color War!                 |
| July 7        | ~ 6:30PM Movie in the Yard.         |
| July 10       | ~ Others First                      |
| July 14       | ~ 5:00PM SNS                        |
| July 17       | ~ Others First                      |
| July 21       | ~ 5:00PM FMCE Masters Mini Golf     |
| July 22-26    | ~ Connect Camp at Hillcrest         |
| July 28       | ~ 5:00PM SNS                        |
| August 4      | ~ Promotion Sunday                  |
| August 4      | ~ 4:30PM Parents vs. Kids Field Day |
| Aug 11        | ~ 4:00PM Back to School Bash        |
| Aug 18        | ~ 5:30-7:00PM Student Worship       |
| Aug 31-Sept 2 | ~ Behold Conference                 |
| Oct 27        | ~ 6:00-8:00PM Fall Fest             |