

## **Ferris State Campus Ministries**

### **Fall Update**

Dear friends,

As many of you know, much of my ministry involves working within our Athletic Department as a Team Chaplain. Over the years I have had many wonderful opportunities to walk along side of great student athletes and coaching staffs.

This fall I spent time working with our football and soccer programs again. I spend a lot of time at practices each week and then with teams at games – both home and away. I have the really awesome privilege of sharing God's word with them and praying with them each week. The favorite part of my job is building relationships with students and coaches. In the background of this picture (with head set on) is Coach Chris Boden - who's done a wonderful job as our offensive coordinator. Coach, his wife Jen, and son Brett have been attending our services at Fellowship CRC!



One of our seniors was Jake Hancock (offensive lineman). Jake's is a follower of Jesus, and lived out his faith - whether on the football field or in the classroom. He was one of our team captains, and a pre-season All-American and a wonderful role model. Jake has been faithfully involved with our weekly Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) group and has been instrumental in its growth over these 5 years. He and I have met weekly for accountability and growing together in God's word. Presently we are finishing the book of Joshua and reflecting on Joshua's character as it relates to leadership. He's been a brother in Christ, has become a close friend, and a great encouragement to his teammates.



For the past 5 years I've been involved with our Women's Soccer program and met Bri Borgman. Bri (a senior #10) is a very talented player and was honored as a Daktronics All Midwest Region Second Team player. Like Jake, Bri has also been very committed and involved with our weekly FCA meetings over these past 3 years and brought many of her teammates along to FCA.

I've been really blessed to be able to have this opportunity working with teams, coaches, and student athletes. Please continue to pray that I would have a tremendous impact on others around me, and that God would continue to open doors for the Gospel. Give thanks and praise for the support from our Athletic Director too.



Another unique opportunity that results from my involvement with our athletic teams is that when serious injuries occur I often have the chance to transport the player to Doctor appointment's or

for surgeries. This past month I've taken two of our football players and one of our basketball players to GR for MRI's and surgeries. It's a great opportunity to engage them and hear their stories. The two football players aren't Christians so that makes the trip even more interesting. A lot of the time athletes are very open to talking about faith matters, especially going into surgery they want me to pray with them. That gives me a naturally "in-road" for further spiritual conversations.

I also continue our weekly programming with our traditional students (Fellowship of Christian Students – FCS) on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Tuesdays we gather for praise and worship and scriptural teaching. It is a great time, giving students a chance to break away from their studies and be refreshed. Most that attend are from a church background. Then on Thursday an older couple from our church (Don & Mary Beth) lead a small group (co-ed bible study) for me.

In our Tuesday group there are a couple of students who are instrumental in planning outings and events. We try to bring both groups (FCS and FCA) together for different events/outings on a monthly basis. These past months we've had our annual fall square dance out at our farm, a weekend back-packing trip along the N. Country/Manistee Trail, and bi weekly Sunday evening bonfires where we enjoy fellowship over conversations about life and faith while making smores and enjoying cider or hot chocolate out at our farm.

I've had numerous opportunities during these past 3 months to fill in for pulpit supply in both RCA and CRC supporting churches, most recently in Woodville CRC (Classis Musk) last Sunday 11/27 and Grant RCA (Classis N.MI) this coming Sunday 12/4. This is always a joy which allows me to make connections with supporting congregations of classis.

I really consider this to be an extraordinary privilege to hold this position. Each year brings with it new challenges and opportunities to minister in the name of Christ in areas that could only be opened by God. I am very thankful for the partnership I have with all of you through Classis and again, I am always available to do pulpit supply or speak during a service involving mission emphasis. Thanks again for your prayers, encouragement, and support! May you be blessed in this Advent Season...

Peace & joy,

*Mike Wissink*

Campus Pastor  
Ferris State Campus Ministries  
(231) 5980-3800