

# STANDING IN THE GAP

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2023

## To be and make disciples of Jesus Christ

### THE PROMISE OF SPRING: AN ILLUSTRATION OF GOD'S WORK



We are approaching one of my favorite seasons: spring. Spring always brings the promise of new life, moving out of a cold, dead season moving into warm weather and God's workmanship on display through the colorful blooms. Spring itself can be a metaphor for what God does in every one of us. He brings us out of the cold, dead nature that was our past life into a life of bold colors and warmth. My prayer is we can be able to bring God's spring of the spirit to those around us.

"Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains." —James 5:7

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Communication Manager

# Why Gap?

By Brad Getchel

As I am approaching graduation I have been reflecting on my time here at Northwood. Thinking of all the late-night studying, the great times my roommate and I have had over the years, and the friends I have made along the way. But the background of nearly my whole time in college was Gap. I've come to realize in my reflection that the whole time Gap was there and I was a part of it. It provided me with the structure I needed to grow in my walk with God while I was here in college.



When you leave home and come to college it's a new experience. I have met multitudes of people who discovered their newfound freedom and abused it. Leaving the only life you've ever known can be a tough time for people. They get caught up in the way their home church did things then they find themselves with no foundation to stand on. Having a group like Standing in the Gap provides a spiritual home for college Christians while also exposing them to new ways of understanding God.

College is when students often begin to fully understand how the world works. This is often coupled with the newly found knowledge and wisdom that can be gained through education and experience. Having Gap at the Northwoods campus allowed me to take advantage of the experiences of those who were farther ahead of me in this Christian journey. And now that I have lived this experience I now have that same opportunity to mentor and guide the new members of Gap.

Gap is an amazing opportunity for university students to experience the fulfillment of Christ's words in Matthew 18: 20, "for where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them." I have witnessed events with our Northwood and SVSU Gap communities that manifest the love of God and make his presence known. The question is "why Gap?" my answer is "you get to experience the love of Christ in the community"

# The Impact of the 2023 Spring Retreat:

## Biggest Takeaways

- It was so nice being a part of a community
- The peace I was able to feel and have ~~that~~ <sup>in</sup> myself was awesome
- It was great fellowship & stewardship
- The worship engagement was definitely peaceful

Knowing that there are people just like me who love Jesus + each other so much that we are willing to leave everything at home for 3 days + worship/pray to our wonderful father.

Getting to worship with a love band is a beautiful experience + I will cherish every chance I get!

I see so much of God's guidance & care through all of you. I am so thankful to have seen him through you.

The biggest impact for me was hearing from various different people's views, and being able to apply to my own faith.

The best part was get closer to god and making some new and cool friends.

Thank you

No need to be fancy.

God is Good.

They friendships i was able to make with others.

Strengthening my friendships

within the church, while enjoying nature. God was able to make things more clear, due to life's distractions being on the back burner.

Real love comes from God. It's comprised of us as a family building each other up, looking out for other people disciplining your children because you want them to learn and do better, and loving your spouse without seeing other people or looking at her through the wrong lense. It all comes from God, whom we should love more than anyone or ~~anything~~ anything else, because he is love and we were his first, and he should be ours first.

# The Impact of the 2023 Spring

with everything else possible to do this weekend, I sure am glad that I chose to come to Camp Bretheran Heights. Thank you for all that you do!! This place rocks!

My experience at GAP Retreats have been nothing short of amazing. Coming to retreat is always a breathe of fresh air. I have done many things in my life but Retreat is one of my favorites. I have witnessed the holy spirit move in so many ways over the years. I am forever grateful for this experience and will forever cherish it.

"Love begins to be a demon when it tries to become a god."

This retreat has shown me how important it is to have like-minded friends.

I have created more <sup>meaningful</sup> friendships in this one weekend than I think I ever have. This was an amazing experience.

During this retreat, I have been blessed to be able to further encourage other younger believers and older believers in their faith. I also was able to learn the significance in understanding the four types of love and how they affect our perception on love in general. I can't thank you enough for such a wonderful experience.

Retreat has helped me heal from things that have come up in my life. It has given me peace and the confidence to continue to grow and overcome those obstacles.

Retreat always helps me ground myself in my faith and belief in Jesus. It's refreshing to have an environment where I'm able to be surrounded by like-minded individuals.

Strengthening my friendships within the church, while enjoying nature. God was able to make things more clear, due to life's distractions being on the back burner.

God's love is more than just a feeling.

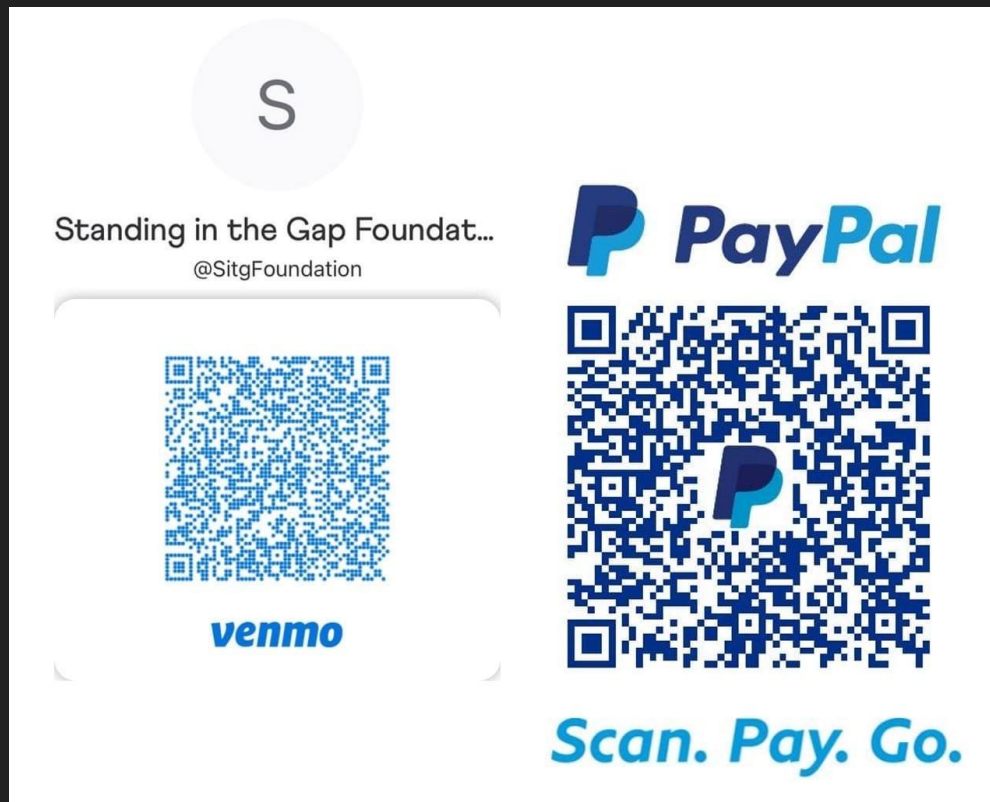
BIG COOL

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