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FAITH
Presbyterian Church

Vol. 5

July 1, 2022

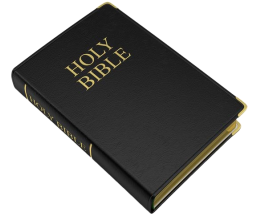
FAITH FAMILY FORUM II

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE



Pastor Karl Thompson

The summer is busy. There are so many great opportunities to play and have fun. In the midst of all the good activities, I want to encourage you to keep first things first. For example, you may go on vacation from your job and your home, but you must not go on vacation from the worship of God. The Lord's Day is still the Lord's Day even when you are on vacation. I urge you to make plans to join in cooperate worship even when you are on vacation. Find a local church and attend. It may not be a church that you would want to attend every week, but find the best church you can go to, and go worship God. You are never on vacation from the Lord.



AUGUSTINE & PELAGIUS By Frode Jensen

Pelagius, an Irish monk, taught that when Adam fell, he fell alone. His children could choose obedience or could follow the errant example of their father, Adam. It was their choice.

This teaching was in opposition to the doctrine of original sin. He was opposed by Augustine of Hippo, an African theologian. They debated by letter both privately and publicly for 25 years.



Pelagius conceded that sin appears to be universal but only because people give in to the bad example of others. He claimed it was possible to live a sinless life as Christ did. Augustine countered that victory over sin was impossible apart from God's grace.

Pelagius believed that anyone who chose to trust in Jesus and was baptized for the forgiveness of sins already committed could then live obediently and get to heaven in his or her own strength. Augustine preached that God alone called people to salvation and that none could believe or obey apart from the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

Pelagius insisted that people had the freedom of choice and held their own fate in their hands. Augustine responded that God's sovereignty and election are the first cause of each person's destiny.

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In 416 sixty-four bishops in Carthage asked Pope Innocent I to excommunicate Pelagius. Another North African church council made the same request. In January of 417 the pope excommunicated Pelagius. A council in 418 seconded the censure of Pelagianism, and the new pope, Zosimus, concurred. Pelagius died but his disciples continued to preach and teach his doctrines. The Council of Ephesus finally condemned Pelagianism as heresy in 431.

Pelagian beliefs have since reappeared as neo-Pelagianism, semi-Pelagianism, and modern Arminianism. Do you think babies are born innocent or that good works will get you to heaven? Check out Romans 3:10-12 and 21-24 to see what the Scriptures say.



TEACHABLE MOMENT By Pastor Karl

It is a hard job to rear children. There are so many pitfalls and opportunities to get it wrong, but there is also such great grace given to us from God. Part of the grace that He gives to us is His instruction to us on how to do this difficult yet extremely important job.

For example, Ephesians 6:4 says, “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” For today, let’s think about the fist full phrase, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath.” Although there are many ways that we might provoke our children to wrath, insensitivity and inconsistency are two of the biggest.

At every stage of our child’s development, there are things they are capable of and things they are not capable of. Potty training a 10 month old is going to be a frustrating exercise for everyone involved. A child that age is simply not capable of that skill. Expecting a 6 year old to babysit her 2 year old brother will definitely end in tears and will likely end with a trip to the emergency room. We need to be sensitive to what our children are capable of when giving them instruction and responsibility. To be insensitive to their particular abilities is likely to bring trouble.

Inconsistency in the application of discipline is also a way that we can set our children up for trouble. In order for a child to understand the rules of the house, the rules need to be applied consistently. What is punished today needs to be punished tomorrow. What is approved of today, need to be approved of tomorrow. When that is not done, the child is left confused, and often frustrated. So consistency is important.



FAITH TALENT SHOW



Lucy the dog trainer



The Thompson girls



The Thompson singers



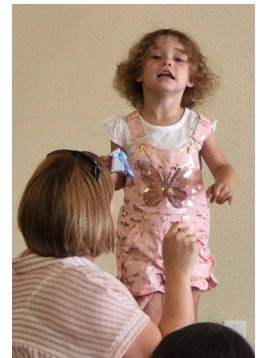
Arabella singing



Dale, Aja's dad



Kara and Brook Thompson



Marley Kunda & friend



Reformation music group—The Crouchers



FAITH TALENT SHOW



The Hippie and Tami (Marj Robertson & Tami Quinones)

Aerial Silk demonstration by Lucy Kunda



STAY SAFE ONLINE



Never trust a link sent to you by someone you don't know. By clicking the link you may be taken to a site that may look like your bank or credit card company but isn't. One thing a criminal can't fake is the actual website address of a company or bank. Instead of clicking a link in an e-mail, search for the Web address using a search engine to find the real one. Use that to ask the company about the message you received, or call using the number listed on your statements. When in doubt, check it out.

- *Never trust an e-mail that asks for your personal or account information* (called a phishing scam). These usually seem convincing (the shabby ones have spelling errors, but the high quality scams look impeccable). No bank or reputable company is going to send you an e-mail asking you to correct your information, validate your identity, or re-enter your password. Call the company directly.
- *The smarter scams often contain text warning you against fraud.* They do this because many people believe that an e-mail that warns them to be careful must be legitimate. That is not always true. This also extends to sites that claim they have protections in place for your privacy and security. Anybody can make these claims, but only certain sites protect you. Again always call the company.
- *Never respond* – or even open an e-mail with a deal that is too good to be true unless it is from a company that you know well and expect to get these kinds of offers from them. Scammers want you to react without taking time to think things through, so their e-mails frequently sound urgent, such as:
 - o ...“if we don't hear by tomorrow your account will be closed” (and you'll notice that the date of “tomorrow” never is listed).
 - o ... “this offer won't last, order now to ensure”...
 - o Never believe that someone you don't know is going to give you money.
 - o Do not believe a person from another country who just needs you to “help transfer funds” and they need your bank account number. Such scammers promise to give you a huge amount of money for helping them out. The result is an empty bank account.
 - o If you never entered a lottery, you did not win the lottery. Such scams ask you to provide your information and bank account number so they can transfer your prize money. Don't. The result is an empty bank account. No legitimate contest will ask you for money before you get your prize.
 - o Don't believe a really rich, famous person just wants to help you out... and that the celebrity also mysteriously needs your address, phone number, bank account information and so forth. The result is an empty bank account.

Guard your information well. It is better to be rude than to be ripped off, so demand validation, verification, and authentication before giving your information to anyone. If you still feel uneasy, say no or check further. If you ever have questions, ask your Deacons or Elders.



BUSINESS RECOMMENDATIONS

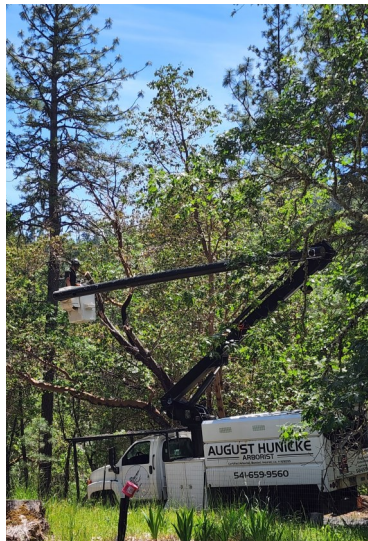
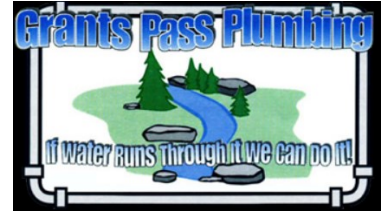


Linda Gay highly recommends a construction contractor who built her deck. David Graves of **Redemption Builders LLC** gave an estimate and did not go over budget. He was thorough, very detailed, and respectful.

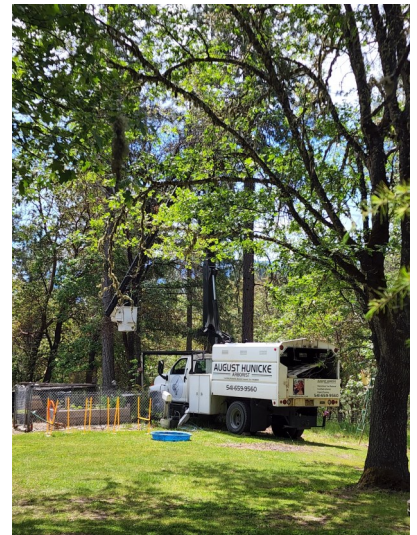
Call 541-660-6778 him or FaceBook messenger him.



A recommendation from Jorene Bierbower, **Grants Pass Plumbing**, 541-955-0330, a Christian owned business that is very highly rated by the Bierbowers. They had a water heater installed and over several years they have been dependable, honest and have provided service quickly.



A FANTASTIC tree company is **August Hunike**. He is efficient, an arborist, bonded, safe, and clean up is amazing. He can be reached at 458-229-0031. He is very knowledgeable in the removal of precarious trees close to homes, he uses a crane. Recommended by Linda Gay.



PONDERINGS

By Pastor Karl Thompson

June was pride month. During this month our culture gave special attention to LGBTQ+ issues and attempted to display these issues as mainstream. They are most certainly not actually mainstream, but even if they were, they are not pleasing to God. God has defined sexual immorality in His word, and it is clear that those who approve of the LGBTQ+ agenda are doing so in rebellion against God.

So what are we to do when our culture attempts to popularize the approval of flagrant godless rebellion? Step 1 is to keep trusting God. This sin is no surprise to God and although we feel the godless agenda is winning in our culture, God is using the sin of man for His own glory. Trust Him. Step 2 is to hold firmly to God's Word. Man is always exchanging the truth of God for a lie, so we must work diligently to reject the lies and hold to the truth. Step 3 is to love our neighbor. When we see our family, friends or coworkers believing poisonous lies, telling them the truth is the most loving thing to do. Matthew 5:13-16 teaches us that we are to be salt and light. When we trust Christ, hold firmly to the truth of God's word and love our neighbor, we will naturally be the salt and light that God calls us to.



FAMILY HIGHLIGHT By Allison Thompson

I had the opportunity to ask Frode and Jessie Jensen some questions recently. Most of these answers were written by Frode unless otherwise noted. It is wonderful for us to get to know our brothers and sisters/fathers and mothers in the faith. God has been most kind to our church in putting together just what we need for our blessing and His glory.

How long have you been at FOPC? We came in early 1981.

What brought you here? We had become consciously reformed through reading.

In what capacities have you served over the years?

(Frode) I taught Sunday school beginning in 1981, adults and teens and did so regularly until the last couple of years. I became an elder in 1985 and clerk in 1989 and have served continuously since that time. The denomination elected me to serve on national Committee on Diaconal Ministries for 3 terms, and I served on PNW visitation committee for I think 4 terms. Jessie was very hospitable, so we had guests after church many Sundays. (Jessie) I brought flowers to church for years, worked on decorations and organizing some events. We both did things for VBS. I taught Sunday school to the little ones for a number of years.

What was the most valuable lesson you learned in working with Pete Denhouting (a former elder at Faith)? Pete taught me to visit the people in their homes; he was very firm on elder visitations.

Tell me about your family. We have two children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren with two more on the way. Orrin, our son, and his family live in Solvang, CA; Darrah, our daughter, and her family live here.

What was your vocation prior to retirement? (Frode) My primary job was as a teacher; later I became an author/publisher, but I also operated three other businesses over the years. I worked as a carpenter/odd jobber at times, raised a variety of livestock: pigs, rabbits, chickens, ducks and a few geese, and I always had a vegetable garden and grapes. (Jessie) I taught 5th grade until we were married; then I became a stay at home mom and was involved at New Hope Christian school when our children went there. Later I did flower arranging.

How did you come to faith in Christ: (Frode) I was reared in the faith as a Lutheran. I always believed in Jesus, went to church and Sunday school, & had family devotions regularly growing up. I wandered a bit in college, but once married and in Grants Pass, we began attending church: Provolt Community Church, then Free Methodist, then OPC. I tried the two Lutheran churches in town first but was disappointed in their liberalism.

(Jessie) I grew up in a non Christian home. We were taught right from wrong, but Jesus was not talked about except when we lived with our grandparents for a short time while our house was being built just down the hill from them. They had devotions with my sisters and me and taught us the 23rd Psalm. Once in a while we went to church. That was my exposure in my younger years. I went off to college and came home for holidays and a very dear friend of mine had become a Christian and only wanted to talk about Jesus! I was not very interested. Life went on. The Lord brought Frode into my life, and we were married and had 2 children. We started going to church. (good for the kids, you know!) The more I was exposed to Scripture, the more I knew that I was a sinner in need of a Savior. In His perfect timing God saved me, and His peace and joy filled my heart. My life began to change as God gave me purpose and direction and the desire to honor Him in all that He gives me to do. Eventually we ended up at Faith OPC and have been involved there in numerous ways since.



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What have you been busy with since your children left home?

(Jessie) When our children left home, I pursued my love for flowers and worked part time at Rogue River Florist. We don't consider ourselves retired. We continue to be active in our church family serving as much as we are able. I continue to be amazed at the diversity of flowers God has created and spend much time outside enjoying and weeding them!

How has the Lord grown and blessed me?

(Frode) Blessings first: salvation by His grace alone, a marvelous wife (Prov 19:14), a nice family. lots of church friends, and pretty good health. Materially my vats run over and my granaries are full.

Growth: All the years of teaching Sunday school immersed me in God's Word. Teachers always learn more than their students. All the study and reading deepened my appreciation for the Lord and His work in my life and in the world, and of course I heard lots of sermons. Life also teaches lessons through circumstances. So good study, teaching, worship and fellowship with other believers along with life experiences; it all works together.

(Jessie) Believing in the sovereignty of God and knowing nothing is out of His control has been a great comfort and helped me deal with all the ups and downs of life. As I continue to learn about God, my knowledge of Him continues to grow, and I continue to love Him more. I am forever thankful that He brought me into His family.

What is something about you that might surprise us?

(Frode) 1) I drove a VW bus, actually had two of them, curtains and all. 2) I was a semi-professional folk dancer.

(Jessie) I spent most of my younger years as a ballerina with lessons and recitals!

What is one of your favorite Scripture passages? (Jessie) Psalm 97:1 "The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice." (Frode) Prov. 17:22 "A merry heart is like a medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones." It's all about attitude.

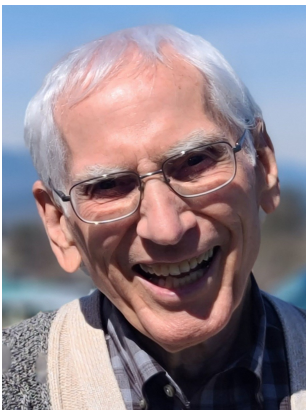
What is your prayer for FOPC? We pray that Faith OPC continues to preach God's Word faithfully through which God will save people unto Himself.

How can we pray for you? We ask that our grandchildren & great-grandchildren would be solid believers and active in their churches. For us personally, pray that we would age well and retain our strength to serve God.



TESTIMONY TIME

By Don Bierbower



The Psalmist wrote: *The length of our days is seventy years – or eighty if we have the strength.* He added, *They quickly pass and we fly away* (Psalm 90:10). Four score and seven years ago I was born. So, my years have gone beyond the biblical span. I pause in wonder how God has led me through these years.

I attended Sunday School at a nearby church in Southern California, a Foursquare Church. I made a profession of faith when I was about thirteen years old and was baptized. I attended there through high school. I read a booklet on the security of a believer and found it convincing. The teaching that a believer had to keep himself saved, that he could sin and become lost again was troubling. Some of the young people would go forward to be saved

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again and again. I was active in the high school Bible Club sponsored by Youth for Christ.

After high school I attended a non-denominational Bible Church. A representative from Western Baptist Bible College came to the church and gave a presentation. Two of us from the church enrolled. I was graduated from Western which was located in the Bay Area, but years later it moved to Salem and is now Corban University. I went one year to a Baptist seminary in Los Angeles which is now a graduate extension of Corban. I was graduated from La Verne College, accumulating enough credits for an elementary teaching credential. I taught public school for two years in the San Bernardino area and twenty-eight in the Antelope Valley in Los Angeles County. Three summers I went to Southern Oregon College for a master of arts in education.

I knew Jorene from church. I had had two of her children in my classes in public school. She was widowed. We enjoyed each other's company and were married in the summer of 1983 and vacationed in Tahiti. She joined a local Baptist church. I could not be a member because I was not premillennial, so I joined a Reformed Baptist Church which was about an hour's drive away.

While in Bible College I was introduced to the doctrines of grace. The president of the college was strongly Calvinistic as you might expect with the name Van Guilder. I read Boettner's *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination* and *Calvinism* by Warburton.

When retirement was on the horizon, we looked at areas that might be suitable. We drove through the Illinois Valley one summer. The trees, the mountains, and Lake Selmac left an impression. Later we bought a house on 3 ½ acres in Selma. Jorene worked as a floral designer for a few years and I did substitute teaching for almost ten years.

Through the years it has been my delight to have a part in various ministries in churches, serving wherever the door was opened to me: teaching Sunday School and Bible studies, serving as Christian education director, holding positions in church leadership, delivering sermons in worship services, writing articles for a church magazine.

I was able to spend one summer traveling in Europe. One place of particular interest was the catacombs outside Rome. Here, of course, is where the early Christians buried their dead and even met to worship. A Catholic brother, so called, led the small group of tourists down into St. Calixus catacombs. He pointed out inscriptions carved on the wall where the dead were interred. There was an X shaped symbol which he called a cross. I saw it as the Greek letter Xi which represents Christ. Another symbol caught my attention. It was a ship's anchor. This brought to mind the verse in Hebrews where the writer, regarding the certainty of God keeping His promises, penned these words: *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.* These Christians, many of whom were likely martyrs, had *this hope*—confidence and trust—that they were forever secure in Christ, being anchored to the Rock.

Some Christians have what they call life verses. I can't say that I have one, but I take comfort from Lamentations 3:22,23: *Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

It follows that a favorite hymn of mine would be *Great is Thy Faithfulness*. The first stanza is a prayer with Scripture addressed to God. And the chorus, also a prayer, is my testimony.

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father!
There is no shadow of turning with Thee,
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not,
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is by faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided –
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!



1 Peter 3:15 “Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you”.

My father said there is no God. Yet I knew he was wrong. From about the age of seven, the desire to know God has been a part of me. The Lord was calling me unto Himself way back then. My family did not attend church; there was no spiritual instruction in our home. On rare occasions I attended with friends, never really understanding what was taught. My friends were often Jewish, Christian Science and occasionally Roman Catholic.

At 15 years of age a new neighbor asked me to attend church with her and her family. Her kindness was appreciated, and I joined them in attending. The message that Sunday was of the Creator giving His Son, Jesus the Christ, to die on the cross that we might be forgiven from sin and have eternal life. This was the answer to my longing. I went forward in church that day. I believed. I wanted to learn more.

Within days of my becoming a believer in God and desiring to follow the Bible, obstacles appeared that separated me from Christian fellowship for a very long period of time, obstacles not of my choice but most effective in halting my spiritual growth. I continued to read the Scriptures, starting in the Old Testament but found that I did not understand. Many years later the New Testament opened to me, and that was the beginning of learning and growing in my knowledge of God’s word.

Over the years I attended several churches looking, desiring to learn, always feeling on the outside, not knowing how to learn, yet knowing that the knowledge of the Scriptures was my heart’s desire. My 5 children were growing up. I did not know how to teach them of the Lord as I really didn’t have the knowledge myself. As they grew older, I felt that I might appear foolish in sharing my beliefs with them. I didn’t have a good foundation. We attended some churches but not finding what was needed, a place where we could grow in knowledge and understanding of God’s Word. In my late twenties I was baptized to identify publicly that I now believed in Christ and desired to follow His teaching.

At 35 years of age, life had become comfortable and very good for our family. Then my dear husband became very ill. For three months he endured terrible pain. He would ask me to read the Bible to him. Not having a good familiarity with the Scriptures I would turn at random and read. Often the verses seemed meaningless. Yet they offered the comfort of being in God’s word. What comfort there was to read in Philippians, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Also the verse, “to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.” My husband went to be with the Lord.

Death was foreign to my life until then. I lacked a personal walk with the Lord; God seemed distant to me until then. But God is real! During this time of what seemed to me total devastation, the Lord comforted me. He did not remove the pain. He comforted me. I knew my dear husband was with the Lord. He suffered no more. I no longer had any strength in me. Within the next few years, I was to experience the death of 6 close family members and the critical illness of one of my young daughters.

At this same time I was growing more in my relationship to the Lord. The Lord has been a comfort and strength, an ever present blessing in each new situation. He has cared for my deepest need, bringing me to the desire to have Christ the Lord in my life and seek God’s direction in it. The Lord has and continues to give direction and purpose to my days.

Years before my son had as a teacher, Don Bierbower. The following year one of my daughters also had him as her teacher. I recall a friend mentioning Mr. Bierbower to me. She said that he was a very intelligent Christian bachelor, a world traveler; he loved kids, and would make someone a great husband. But she said he was very

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particular! My response way back then was if I were single, I would find him an interesting possibility. Years later several friends were mentioning this same man to me. They were arranging meetings including both of us. How very strange it was to remember this long ago conversation!

In the following five years I grew to know the Lord, and I grew to know Don as we talked often about Scriptures. At my request Don directed me to a church where there was more content in the teaching, and there was an active youth program.

We were married in Aug 1983. Don soon began to talk of an early retirement. He had gone to Southern Oregon College in Ashland while working on his Masters Degree. He really liked Oregon. For a couple of years, we visited the Illinois Valley, looking for a home. The Lord provided! He provided a home in Selma on the edge of the forest, a big contrast to our life in the desert of Southern California. He provided the home, the price and the sale of our California home, all in His time. (Ours too!)

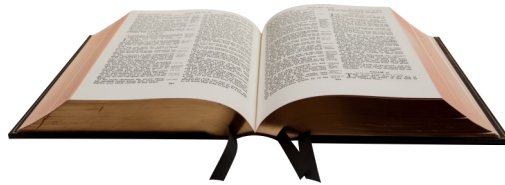
In the years we have lived in Oregon, my Christian life has developed, and my heart's desire has grown. That is to grow in knowledge, be settled and established in Christ and to serve as He directs. 1 Peter 1:5 tells us you who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 5:10 tells us that after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

Christ has given me freedom from the payment of sin
He has comforted me in times of despair;
He has carried me when I was too weak to continue,
He had brought healing to my soul,
He has strengthened me,
He has provided for my every need,
Christ has blessed and enriched my life.

God exists. He is real. He cares for our every need. He works all things for good. I am humbled by God's provision for me and His amazing grace. He is my heart's desire, and I long to worship Him.

HE IS LORD; HE ALONE IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL; HE IS LORD OF ALL!
Jorene Bierbower



A special thank you to Ed Plessier for using his equipment and taking his time to photograph all of us for church Directory. And thank you to Lisa for support.



PRAYERS

Let us come together in prayer for one another and let us think of our brothers and sisters who are ill or hurting. A special prayer for Carl Bucknell who fell off a roof and broke several vertebrae in his back. This will be a long recovery process.

Also keep Janine Johnson in prayer as she deals with being sick and having Covid while in Arizona and planning a month long trip with her children.

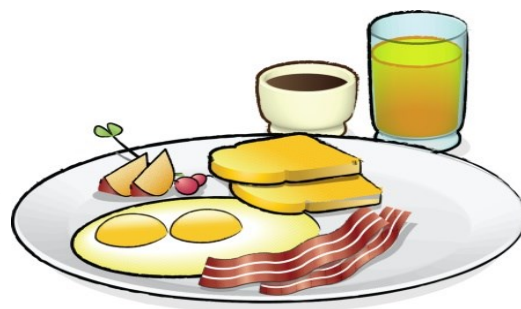
Pray for our shut-ins as they are not able to physically attend church and see all of us.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next Men's Breakfast will be held July 9th at 7:00am and will include a testimony from Keith Anderson. We will continue to study of godly character from I Timothy 3.

No meeting in August and September. We will start again October 8th.

See you July 9th for breakfast (bring a something to add) and fellowship. If you have a suggestion for the fall program, contact Keith Hansen.



Bible Study 6pm Wednesdays

Ron Strom is leading a study on the book of Esther, which has been called a biblical "superhero" story, and it is. But it's not Esther who is the superhero, nor is it Mordecai. It's the one Person not even mentioned in this 10-chapter book. It's God Himself. Come study Esther with us and discover how a sovereign God providentially acted through imperfect men and women to bless and protect His covenant people. It's a great story of loyalty, betrayal, courage and justice that glorifies our God

Keith Hansen is leading a study on the Finishing Well and includes the book Wrinkled but Not Ruined by Dr. Jay Adams. The purpose is to challenge, equip and review God's purpose for our lives from parenting to heaven, allowing God's truth to set the direction for open communication and fulfilled living and serving Christ between children, parents, and aging loved ones.

Have your children ever asked, "Why does Grandpa have those things on his ears?" Have you as married children ever wondered what you could or should do to encourage and protect your parents (after all, what if something happens)? Have you begun to ask, "What should I do with all this stuff that I am storing?" God's Word directed by His Spirit will challenge all ages to look at our relationships to deal with changes as we grow older.



FAITH CAMPOUT

You are invited to campout with other Faith brothers and sisters in Jacksonville, Oregon at Flumet Flat Campground. The entire campground is reserved for us, so there are lots of camp spots. You must bring your own water, but there is a vault toilet and trash service. There are lots of trails close by, Gin Lin Mining trail is right next to the campground and access across the street to have lunch along the Applegate River.

Map directions [here](#).



PARTY PARTY PARTY

Ladies Tea



Rachel Uhl, our party planner and her sidekick, Aja Kunda organized a fun ladies get together and crafted little tea hats.



COMING UP

July 3—Fellowship Meal

4th of July Picnic—Tom Pearce Park 11AM

July 9—7am Men's Breakfast

July 16—Annual Raft Trip

July 25—6pm Men's Meeting

August 25-Faith Campout

On hold for summer—Ladies Bible Study

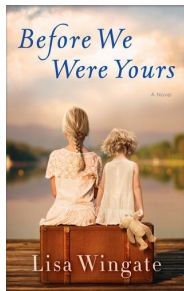
1:30pm Tuesdays—Stand for Life

6pm Wednesday—Bible Study

On hold for summer—Youth Night

July 31 —6pm Faith Academy





Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate



November 19,2020 Frode rated it 5 stars

Goodreads review by Frode Jensen

This book is not in the library.

Reading Lisa Wingate’s *Before We Were Yours* was a real treat. I liked it for a variety of reasons. She tells a good story, and her characters are pretty believable. The story is told from two points of view that alternate chapter by chapter throughout the book. The method works as pieces from the past are helpful in understanding the present. There is a small side story of romance, but it does not interfere with the basic narrative. The basic story unfolds in a progressive manner much like a mystery. There are clues dropped here and there, and things click into place as time goes on. There are a few surprises also, and that makes for interesting reading.

I learned about a subset of America that I had never heard of previously, the shantyboat people. They are part of the story; upper class folks and some shady characters also make up the cast of characters. The book is based on a true situation from the 1930’s to the 1950’s, but the characters are all fictional with the exception of Georgia Tann. She was the owner/operator of the Tennessee Children’s Home Society based in Memphis and made a living by getting young children by devious ways and selling them at high prices as adoptees. In other words, children were a commodity for her to be acquired and sold for a profit. Today we would call it child trafficking.

One of the two people who tell the story is Rill, the oldest of five children abducted from a shantyboat and placed in the TCHS home. The other is Avery, a 30 something single lawyer who stumbles onto the fact that her grandmother is not all she seems to be. Grandma Judy is in the early stages of dementia and living in a home that cares for such folks. Avery is one of three daughters of a Senator, and she is being groomed to take his place since he is battling cancer. There is a bit of a scandal brewing in that one of the Senator’s big contributors owns some elder care facilities and is embroiled in some controversy over lack of proper care for those in his facilities. A visit to one of those facilities by Avery and her dad puts her in contact with an older woman, May Weathers. May addresses Avery as Fern, and a dragonfly bracelet goes missing from Avery’s wrist. It turns out May has it, but Avery, her trial lawyer instincts aroused, wants to pursue why May has addressed her as Fern. That starts the ball rolling.

In the process of back and forth chapters, details come out that help Avery sort out a number of things including her grandmother’s secret life. Avery also manages to make some crucial decisions for herself and her own life. It is an engaging book. There are some unpleasant scenes regarding what happens to children, but there are some wonderful scenes of reunion and making things right. The author, through both May and Avery, makes some good observations about life, relationships, truth, and love. It is a book worth reading.



Have you had a good experience with a local business and want to recommend them or give a review? Let us know, email: office.faithopc.gp@gmail.com



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

There are many opportunities to help out at church:

1. Be a backup person to prepare the announcements and bulletin.
2. Be a backup person to record the Sunday evening prayer requests when Nikki is not available.
3. Straighten up the kitchen and stock items before the monthly Fellowship Meal.
4. Organize people to create the Missionary of the Month board.
5. Set up the Fellowship tables for our monthly meal.

If you have the time and desire to help out please let Marylou or Linda know, we would welcome some help. There is always help needed on the church grounds, just ask.

MORE BLESSINGS FOR HIS CHURCH

On May 22nd; **Kaleigh Van Delden** became a member; **John Meier** became a transfer member; and **Kayla Espy** was accepted by reaffirmation of faith. We are all so happy to have them as part of this church.



Special congratulations to our graduates:

Kaleigh Van Delden



On June 26th we welcomed new members Matt and Sarah Young.



If you haven't already been reading, jump in now and read along with us. There are two plans: **Through the New Testament in a Year** (one NT chapter per day) and **Through the Bible in a Year** (the NT plan plus three OT chapters per day). Imagine the value of all of us reading the same portions of scripture together.

You can see on the page NT (for New Testament reading) and OT (for Old Testament reading), and they are listed by date. Catch up is a day that a reading is not necessary, and you can use it to "catch up" or study. Reading the Bible is an enrichment to your life and to your relationship with God.

[Click here to see the Bible Reading 2022.](#)

A lot of care, time, and effort went into the publishing of this newsletter and we would love to hear your comments, recommendations, and thoughts. Drop us a line at:

office.faithopc.gp@gmail.com

Special thank you to the proof readers, Marylou Hansen and Frode Jensen. Thank you to Scott Croucher, our event photographer.

