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FAITH
Presbyterian Church

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FAITH FAMILY FORUM II

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

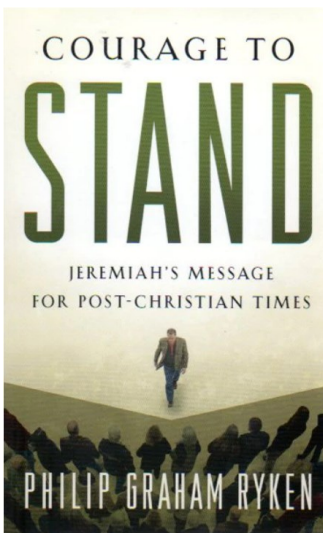


Pastor Karl Thompson



There are many good and godly ways that Christians can push back against abortion. One of the things that I do is to stand across the street from Planned Parenthood and hold a sign that reads, "Abortion is Murder." There are three benefits to this way of pushing back against abortion. First, I hope that someone headed to Planned Parenthood for an abortion will see the message and change their mind. We hope to immediately save babies lives. Second, I hope to confront people who agree with abortion. The way the world looks today, lots of people seem to think abortion is just fine. I want people to see that is not the case. I hope they stop to talk and are able to hear a reasonable argument as to why abortion is murder. Third, I hope to encourage like minded people to push back against abortion. They might not choose the same tactic that I choose, but I hope they will see our consistent concrete action and find a way to do something equally concrete and consistent.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY STARTING SEPT. 6



After a nine week summer break, the Ladies Bible Study plans to meet for our first fall session on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 10am-12pm. Our constant aim is to know Scripture more fully and thereby know God more fully. Marj Robertson guides the Bible study and makes it so interesting and links pieces of the Bible together for easy understanding. Our group has grown, and all ladies are invited. Please keep us in your prayers.

Our manual for the fall and winter session is *Courage to Stand: Jeremiah's Message for Post-Christian Times* by Philip Ryken. It is a very timely fit for our day.

Book Description:

Is the world turning its back on God? Much like in Jeremiah's day, society is becoming dominated by secular practices. Learn how to live, think, and feel in a godless culture as you study this prophet's steadfast courage and passion. You'll be encouraged to proclaim the truth of God's Word, regardless of the cost!



FAMILY HIGHLIGHT –JOHN MEIER

By Keith Heck

As members of the Body of Christ meeting at Faith Orthodox Presbyterian Church, it is one of our privileges to better know whom the Lord has brought to us to be part of our local family of God. Today John Meier is our focus.

Life began for John in Arlington, WA, on July 15, 1957. During WWII his father, a native of Bulgaria, briefly served in the German army; it was long enough to become an American POW. At the conclusion of WWII, he wanted to get out of Europe, immigrated and moved to Washington.

History is a bit foggy, but his father wanted an education, both secular and Christian.

Being a new believer, knowing that he needed this education and training, he enrolled at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (BIOLA). He graduated and became a traveling evangelist. During this time, he met and married John's mother; she was 18 when she married.

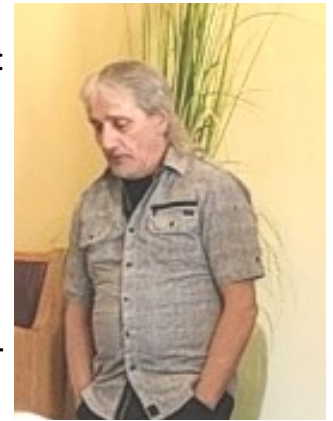
John's family consists of an elder sister, Sylvia, brother Steve with John being the youngest. The first home that John remembers was on Friday Avenue in Everett, WA. Ironic in that the first real memory from Friday Avenue occurred when John was about 7 or 8. Specifics are unclear although there was a great sense of fearful gloom and serious self-worth questions resulting from Friday Avenue.

His dad had stopped as an evangelist and began to work many hours outside the church to support the family. Consistent Christian fellowship began to be less and less. Soon John's father began to drink and party, living a profligate lifestyle that opened the door to much confusion.

John successfully completed Rose Hill Elementary School moving on to Olympic View Junior High School where he also graduated. He began High School at Mariner High but decided as a sophomore he didn't need "that stuff" anymore; he was bored! The seemingly free of all restraint lifestyle of the 70's became the norm. He would work anyplace that would pay good money in order to buy drugs and alcohol. John is by no means proud of this time in his life but also realizes that it was used by the Lord to show him his need of Christ.

John was running full tilt going nowhere. He had one good friend, Jed, with whom he partied. As God willed and worked, in 1975 his father and mother got re-involved in a local church. This changed the home greatly in a positive way. Once again attending church began. Talking of Christ and His Word began to take place again. And then Jed told John that he wanted to talk with John's dad about how "to get saved". The Lord also changed John's life at that time.

Knowing that he needed more formal Biblical education, he enrolled from 1979



John Meier



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through 1983 at Aldersgate College in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada. This was a Free Methodist school that opened in 1940 and closed in 1995. John left needing 6 credits to graduate. John's father was serving as a Free Methodist Pastor in California.

Upon leaving Aldersgate, John moved to Modesto to be with his family. Soon thereafter, he moved back to Prosser City, WA, where he worked, enjoyed a sober lifestyle and met the woman, Cheri, who would become his wife. She was from Grants Pass. He decided that he too would be happy in Grants Pass and moved! They were married in 1984. The Church of the Brethren was their home church. He was working odd jobs. The church needed a pastor. They issued a call to John to serve as their pastor; he did for two years, resigning in 1986.

Rationality is no protector for irrational action. Working found John, once again, face to face with drugs and alcohol. He succumbed to the temptation. The Lord's grasp has been ever so strong and sure as He has walked with John through some harsh times.

He is thankful that God granted to him 2 daughters. Naomi has 8 children and Meagan has 3 children. All of them still live in Grants Pass. John's full-time occupation now is as a caretaker for his disabled brother Steve. John is greatly appreciative and thankful for his Faith family.

VBS EVENT IN AUGUST

Vacation Bible Study was held at Faith OPC in mid-August and was very successful, thanks to all those who helped.



Special thanks to Aja, Sarah Y., and Sonja for all their work getting this together.

CARING FOR AGING PARENTS

Here are some suggestions to help the elderly stay in their homes and some helping ideas:

1. It's always nice to make a regular phone call, checking in and assessing their condition with tidbits of information or if they need any help. You and the parent should decide on the schedule. Of course a physical visit will see how well they are living independently. If you have siblings, work out a rotation of visits and help. Keep an eye out for a decline in hygiene or chores that are not able to be maintained by the parent; then determine who might help.
2. If you are able to hire outside help for housecleaning, errands and driving, make sure you go to reputable sites and meet the person in order to find a good respite care provider.
3. Obtain a list of all medications, doctors, dates of surgeries for the parents and have it on hand in case of unplanned medical visits. Have insurance information, bank information, and any other pertinent information necessary. Also discuss any upcoming appointments that your parents may have and see if they need to arrange transportation.
4. For a small donation, Food and Friends of Jackson & Josephine County will deliver meals to adults with disabilities or a homebound senior 60 and older. These are volunteers that deliver in both Josephine and Jackson county. You can also speak to the volunteer deliverer to get a sense of how your parent is doing.
5. Several stores will now deliver your groceries for a low fee or free. Your parent may need help learning how to order online, or they can write down what they need, and you can order it for them. This may curtail shopping sprees. However, your parent might enjoy getting out and going to the store, so be wise in this area.
6. Get to know the mail delivery person or newspaper deliverer, they may see your parent every day.
7. You can also contact your local Sheriff's office or Police station to give them emergency contact information should your parent call 911.
8. Several companies have medic alert bracelets or necklaces that for a small monthly fee will dispatch the correct help should your parent fall or be hurt or are lost near their home.



More information in our next newsletter....



BUSINESS RECOMMENDATIONS



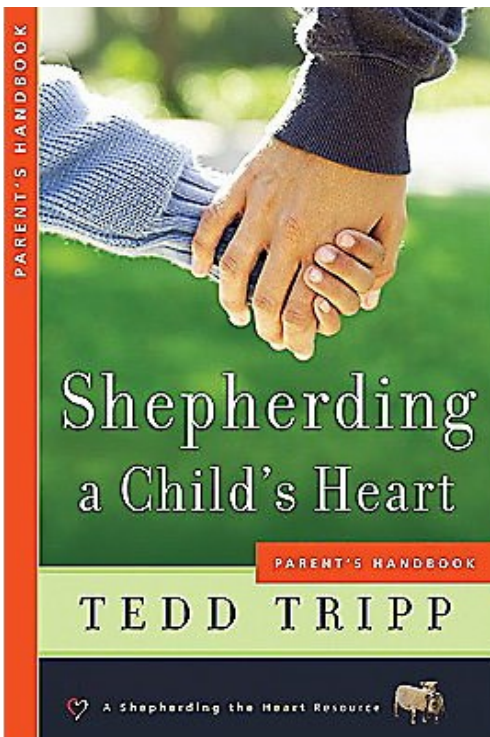
Trever Stevens has helped Linda Gay clear the dead underbrush on her property and also delivers full cords of firewood (oak, madrone, or fir).

He works on the fire lines with his equipment, so in the summer he is usually busy, but has full seasoned cords of split wood if you should need some.

Trever Stevens 541-660-9157. Call for pricing.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

By Pastor Karl Thompson



In his book, *Shepherding a Child's Heart*, Tedd Tripp teaches that children need more than simply behavior modification. Although having well behaved children is important to us, it should not actually be the primary goal. The primary goal is a child who lives in the fear of the Lord. Proverbs 3:7 says, "Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil." A child who is raised in the nurture and admonition of the Lord doesn't simply strive to do the right thing but strives to do so to honor the Lord.

This is why when we correct our children, we do not simply punish bad behavior, but we bring them to the cross of Christ. We teach them that they need a new heart, which only Jesus can provide. We teach them that all the best behavior will not please God without saving faith in Christ Jesus. Every correction is an opportunity to teach the Gospel and bring a child to Christ!





I was reared in an unbelieving home by two very loving parents; I shared them with my brother who was 6 years older than me. When I was 7 years old, our family moved from Kansas City, MO to Sunnyvale, CA.

When I was in sixth grade, our family was invited to meet the family of a girl my brother was dating (who eventually became his wife). I mention this because she had a brother, Allen Schacht, who was a sophomore in high school at the time, and he eventually became my husband. Our families became close friends and spent weekends and holidays together even before we became in-laws.

Al and I were engaged on my sixteenth birthday. I graduated from high school the next year, and a month later we were married with our parents blessing. He was 21, and I was 17. We hadn't planned on getting married quite that soon, but Al got drafted, and we wanted to get married before he reported for active duty, which we thought would be Viet Nam. Two days before he left, we found out they had assigned him to Signal Corps, and he served at the Panama Canal for two years. We were thankful but didn't yet know the One to give our thanks to.

When Al came home from Panama, we established our first home in Cupertino, CA. He returned to his job at Pacific Telephone & Telegraph, and I continued working as well.

In 1972 we had our first daughter, Jennifer, and 14 months later we had our second daughter, Heidi. I enjoyed motherhood and was able to stay home with the girls. We both enjoyed being married and being parents.

We had our issues, and our marriage and life were real, but overall we would have told you we had a good life and we were enjoying it. So you can imagine my surprise and shock when I'm going about my life one day and had this overwhelming thought, "There's got to be more to life than this." I just sat down on my couch; I couldn't believe what I was thinking. My response was, "Are you crazy; what more do you want?" I had never thought that before, and I didn't like it.

I had no idea that God Almighty was going to reveal Himself to me; He was giving me ears to hear, eyes to see and a heart to respond to the precious gospel of Jesus Christ. He was going to save me! My (and Al's) world was about to be turned upside down!

Two weeks later I had an (unbelieving) friend call and ask me if I wanted to go to church with her. Al and I thought it would be a good idea to take the girls to church, so he was going to come too, but the night before, he was invited to play in a flag football game, so the girls and I went to Sunday school, and Al went to play flag football. I was fine with that, and Al was too. I wasn't seeking God. Flag football or church? At that time in my life, I probably would have chosen to go watch him play flag football, but I had told my friend yes, so I went to Sunday school with her.

I wasn't seeking God but when I look back, He was absolutely calling me. I walked into that Sunday school class, and they were studying the book of John. It was the first time in my life that I heard the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, and I can honestly say I was never the same after that Sunday. All I could think about was Jesus! Who was He, and was He real? I couldn't wait to go back each Sunday and hear about Jesus and ask more questions.



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After about four weeks, the Sunday school teacher invited me to go for ice cream with her. She talked about the Lord, and she gave me a Bible. That's when our world started to turn upside down. I loved going to Sunday school because I learned about the Lord. Now I had a Bible, and I could read about the Lord anytime I wanted, and that's what I did as often as I could! One day I was reading the parable of the sower, and I knew I understood what Jesus meant before I read the explanation. When I read the explanation, and it was what I thought, I just got on my knees and begged God, "If you're real, can I be the last soil?"



Knowing nothing about the Bible and how to live out this wonderful reality of salvation, I just talked and talked to everyone I knew about Jesus. He was real!!! My husband, children, parents, brother, sister-in-law and friends: you can imagine their response. (It was valid even though I didn't think so at the time.) My husband told me he didn't marry a religious fanatic and there was no room in his life for one now. One of my good friends told me that I needed to go away until I got over Jesus and then come back. My life was changing drastically, and I didn't know what to do. I knew I couldn't get over Jesus even if I wanted to, and I knew I didn't want to get over Him. He was real, and He had changed everything! I needed wisdom and didn't realize it! (Wisdom had never been a part of my unbelieving life.)

During this time my Sunday school teacher approached me and told me I wouldn't understand what she was going to tell me but I would one day. I needed to leave the church I was attending because it was dead and find a Bible believing church and get involved with a ladies Bible study.

In God's perfect timing, He had just saved a very good friend of mine; she was excited about the Lord, too, and she invited me to go to her church. So, Jen and Heidi and I went there.

I was baptized and in the Lord's goodness and provision of what I needed, He led me to a ladies Bible study on being a submissive wife. Now that I was saved, no matter how much I loved my husband, he was not saved, and light and darkness will have issues. I needed to learn submission, to the Lord and to Al.

In 1978 we moved to Grants Pass. In September I started attending, Bible Study Fellowship and met a wonderful, caring, woman there who befriended me and that began one of the best and most influential relationships of my life. We both loved the Lord and wanted to grow. We would listen to Bible study tapes for hours and have rich conversations about our Lord. We still do to this day.

In one of those conversations, she introduced me to the Doctrines of Grace, which I did not respond well to, at all! We had to agree to disagree on that topic about God. I went to the Lord, praying that He would show me, from His Word, if it was truth. In His faithfulness to me, I began to read with new understanding about His sovereignty over all His creation, including salvation. Seeing Him as Almighty Sovereign God was like taking blinders off! I rejoiced then and still do over who He is!



My daughters and I began attending Faith OPC in 1983. It was our church family in the greatest sense of the word. They prayed and supported us through life. First Jennifer and then Heidi's public profession of faith, graduations, engagements, weddings, the births of 7 grandchildren, (meals for 2 weeks, with all 7 of them, and it was appreciated!) For those of you who don't know, the Lord in His goodness and mercy, saved my husband 15 years after He saved me! Our Faith family celebrated that with us too. Al became a member, and Faith was his church home for 22 years until the Lord took him home in 2013, and our Faith family was right there ministering to us. I praise the Lord for you dear brothers and sisters. You are a blessing.



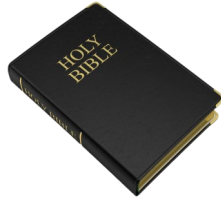
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I'm grateful that my testimony continues because God isn't finished with me yet. He is still growing my faith, my awe of Him, my delight in Him and my love back to Him. I pray my obedience too.

I'm so thankful He turned our world upside down those 46 years ago! To God be the glory!!!

Marlene



Robert Kunda weekly faithfully records and uploads the worship service and would like relief at the sound board and with the live stream.
Anyone interested to help please speak to Karl.

PRAYERS

Let us come together in prayer for one another and let us think of our brothers and sisters who are ill or hurting. Pray for Jorene who has been diagnosed with esophageal/stomach Lymphoma. This is a slow growing type of cancer. She is adhering to a strict regimen, pray that it will be successful.

Pray for Scott Weeks, who is in a care facility in Ashland to recover. Pray that the clot in his leg will dissolve. The infection in his bone is still an ongoing issue; a new doctor at the Ashland facility will be taking over Scott's care. Pray that the doctor will have wisdom and a genuine interest in Scott's case. Pray that Scott will be comforted and continue to be encouraged by God's Word.

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

From Frode: Jessie and I met with the surgeon. She recommended surgery of course. The actual composition of the lump is still in question since the biopsy results were inconclusive. The general thought is to remove the whole lump and then check it thoroughly to determine its nature. Jessie is somewhat inclined to follow that course, but the final decision has yet to be made. So, pray for wisdom and answers to a couple of questions, Dr. Frost was very nice and helpful as was her assistant. Pray for wisdom and give thanks that there is no urgency or pain associated with this issue. Thanks for your prayers thus far.

At this point Bill Potterf has ups and downs. He might feel pretty good in the morning and then poorly in the afternoon. He realizes it is a long haul to clear up his lungs. Pray for patience and healing. Pray also for Mary as she cares for Bill.



FAITH CAMPOUT

The Faith Campout was a success. It was hot and dry but the lake was close. We sang songs, made smores, and viewed the vast sky of stars. Special thanks to those who drove out for the day to visit.



Swimming & kayaking at Applegate Lake

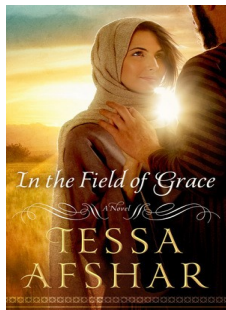


COMING UP

Sept 4—Fellowship Meal
Sept 10—3pm Samuel Duarte graduation (All Sports Park)
Sept 16—Drive-In Movie night
Sept 25 —6pm Faith Academy
Sept 26—6pm Men's Meeting
Oct 8—7am Men's Breakfast

Sept 6 10am—Ladies Bible Study
6pm Wednesday—Bible Study
1pm Tuesdays—Stand for Life

Youth Night—Starts in October
October Bible Study will move to Thurs.



In the Field of Grace, by Tessa Afshar



July 20, 2022 Frode rated it 4 stars

Goodreads review by Frode Jensen

This book is in the library and available to borrow.

This is the story of Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi along with a number of other fictional characters. It adheres to the Biblical account and embellishes the story with many details and events. Ms. Afshar brings these characters alive. They are real humans, fallible but with positive qualities, and the main three all have their God encounters where they are humbled and learn to trust Him more.

The author does a good job of recreating the time and place; she uses details such as food, clothing, agricultural practices, and celebratory activities as well as dialogue and interpersonal actions between a variety of characters. She manufactures from her imagination much of the story, but it fits.

The actual love story of Ruth and Boaz reads much like most contemporary Christian love stories. While Ruth and Boaz are attracted to one another, both are sure there is no hope for the relationship. He is too old and rich; she is too young and poor. Besides, she is a Moabitess, and he is an Israelite; the two don't mix. Over time, however, the Lord brings them together despite the odds.

The ending is interesting, and I didn't expect the story to finish the way it did, but the ending made sense. It is also a figment of the author's imagination. It is a good book, a bit contrived at points, but real life also seems so at times. For those who enjoy Christian fiction, a nice love story, and a well told tale, I recommend this book.



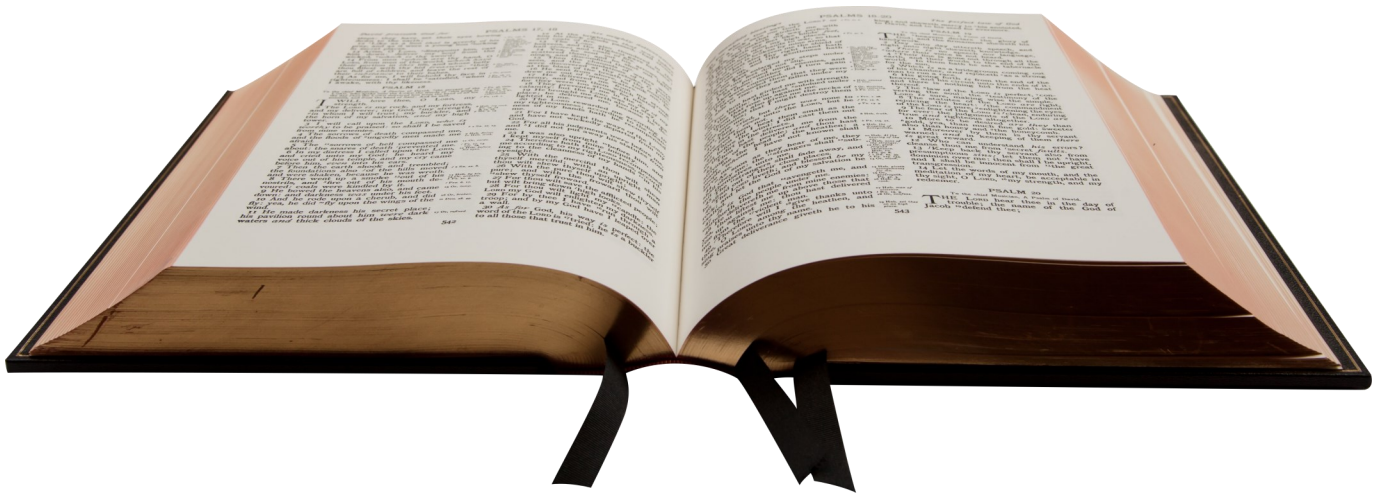
Have you had a good experience with a local business and want to recommend them or give a review? Let us know, email: office.faithopc.gp@gmail.com

MORE BLESSINGS FOR HIS CHURCH

On August 14, 2022, **Keith and Sonja Anderson** became members of this church. We welcome them!



And congratulations to Scott & Angeline Croucher who were wed August 20 and had the reception at Faith OPC in the Fellowship Hall.



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.

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.](#)