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FAITH
Presbyterian Church

Vol. 13

December 1, 2023

FAITH FAMILY FORUM II

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

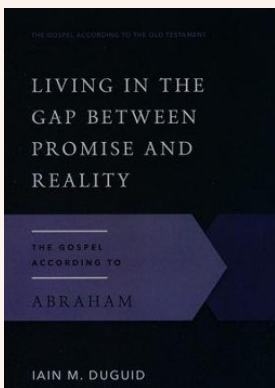


Pastor Karl Thompson

In the upcoming weeks we will be working together to make the worship space a place of prayer and quiet meditation prior to the worship service. Worship is not something that just happens because we are in the right place at the right time. There is real preparation that needs to take place. In Psalm 103 the psalmist calls on his own soul to praise the Lord. 1 Corinthians 11:28 calls us to examine ourselves before participating in the Lord's Supper. This is best understood to be a meditative process mediating on our apprehension of the gospel. These things and more can be part of the quiet process that comes before the worship service. Some people do this work on Saturday night, some do it on Sunday morning at home, and some long for more peace at church right before the worship service for this process. It is with a recognition of this desire for a very good thing that we will be working together to make the worship space a place of peace in the 10 minutes prior to the service.



JOIN THE LADIES BIBLE STUDY



God made Abraham glorious promises, but the patriarch still spent years living in a gap between their fulfillment and his day-to-day reality. We can often relate to him. Working through the Genesis account, Iain Duguid shows how Abraham, in both his faith and failure, points to Jesus and the gospel, providing an example and a profound encouragement for us today.

This new study will be at Faith on Tuesdays at 10am, starting, January 2, 2024.



GUESS WHO?

Article taken from Faith Family Forum February 1984

He was a cute little fellow, so we asked him in for a visit. He began to tell us of what he planned to do when he got a little bigger, and quite frankly, we were impressed. In fact, we were so taken with him that we asked him if he would stay with us. Without hesitation he gladly accepted our offer of hospitality. We looked forward to many wonderful years with this delightful fellow.

As he grew older, he came and went and brought back stories of where he had been. He sat and told us of sporting events he had seen, and we sat enthralled by his descriptions and with pictures he had taken. He also told us of far away places and we loved to look at his pictures of these areas of the world to which we had never been.

Oh yes, he also told some of the most fascinating stories. They weren't real, but by the time he got through telling them we thought they were.

We noticed a gradual change in our bright, young fellow. Some of the brightness became tarnished. The bright look of innocence faded from his eyes and was replaced by the look of an older, experienced person. He had become a bit more risqué; the pictures he showed us were a bit more suggestive. We watched and listened to him and felt we were learning more about the "real" world. Gradually his language became worse. The pictures became lewd. We were faced with a hard decision. Should we confront him, let him go on, or just throw him out? What would you do? He's in your house too! His name is Television.

(Interesting how this was written almost 40 years ago and the progression is the same).



FLOWERS AT CHURCH



The dahlias have been blooming alongside the church for all of fall. These flowers are beautiful and look amazing against the white church building. Thank you to those that donate time to keep these flowering and glorifying God's house.

Now they have withered away from the cold weather but they will be back next year.



TEACHING MOMENT

By Karl Thompson

I try to teach my children that there is a time and a place for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1). (Well nearly everything because there is never a good place for sin or rebellion!) Running and playing is great, in the right context. Yelling and screaming even has it's time and place. Children, or at least my children, have a hard time knowing when it is time to be still and when it is time to be explosive. In my discipline of them, I am trying to teach them to differentiate between the two and to have the self-control to do the right thing at the right time. It is a process that we need to be patient with, and over the years they gain the discernment and self-control necessary.

As we try to make a tweak to our church culture, by seeking to make the worship space a peaceful place prior to the service, it is an opportunity to teach our children this skill. We know they won't get it right away, but we will be happy to see them make small steps of progress as they learn. (I actually wonder if the kids will be quicker than the adults at making the change consistently. We will be patient with everyone!)



NEW MEMBERS

On October 22nd Kirt and Kathy Metcalf were received as new members. God is good and we are so happy they are in this body of Christ.



LOOKING TO FIND SNOW ?



We are blessed to live in a location where snow is easily accessible. Below are a few snow parks:



When you travel in winter conditions, you must carry chains or traction tires in or on your vehicle, and must use them, *when required by the signs posted*. Under some conditions, four-wheel and all-wheel drive vehicles may be exempt from the requirements to use chains. **You must have a valid Sno-park permit displayed near the lower left corner of the windshield of your vehicle if you park in a designated winter recreation parking area between November 1 and April 30.**



[Grouse Gap](#) is located on the back side of Mount Ashland.



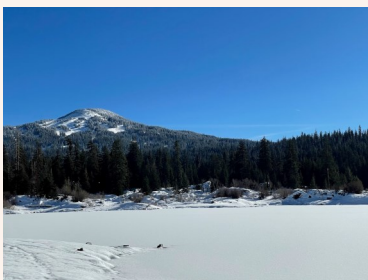
[Page Mountain Sno-park](#), the road going to the park may not be maintained, but it is a fun drive and nice little park.



[Table Mountain Winter play area](#). Located at 7432 Table Mountain Rd, Ashland.



[Thousand Springs Sno-park](#) and staging area.



[Fish Lake Sno park](#) is a great place for snow activities. They even have snow mobiles for rent.



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

By Karl Thompson

Fellowship, translated from the word Koinonia, refers to intimate spiritual communion or participation in a spiritual community. At Faith this is where we excel. We share in each other's lives, in both the mundane and the highs and lows. The deep spiritual conversations are part of this and so are the “trivial” conversations about the activities of our week. It gives me great joy as your pastor to see these activities going on before and after church.

In fact, my greatest concern about the changing the pattern of our fellowship before the worship service is that we might squelch the fullness of this fellowship. For some people, pursuing a vibrant conversation with someone, in the minutes leading up to worship, is the right thing to be doing. Although some level of preparing our hearts to worship is necessary, there are a variety of times and ways to do this. I cannot say that the only appropriate behavior immediately before church is to sit in silence. So, if you have good conversations to pursue in the moments leading up to worship, I encourage you to take advantage of our newly expanded fellowship hall. There is coffee and plenty of fellowship for your benefit.



FAMILY HIGHLIGHT-NEWSLETTER

Faith family, we would all like to get to know each other better and don't always have an opportunity to physically visit each other. It would be nice to highlight each member and or family with a little history. If you are willing and can email us with answers to the questions below we will publish your answers in an upcoming newsletter.

1. Where are you from and how long have you lived in Grants Pass?
2. How long have you attended Faith?
3. Were you raised as a Christian or when did God capture your heart?
4. Tell me about your family, include the pets too.
5. What is your vocation or if retired what was your vocation?
6. Can you share a special time that you felt the Lord's presence?
7. Share one of your favorite scripture passages.
8. What is your prayer for Faith OPC?
9. How can all of us pray for you?

Thank you for your participation and the newsletter comes out approximately every two months.

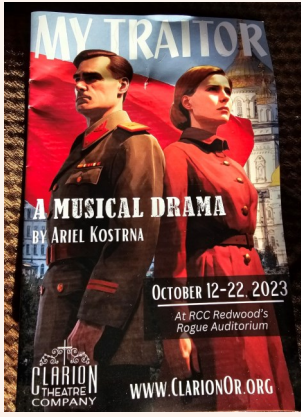
Email here:

[EMAIL](#)

If you have any articles you'd like to write and share in the newsletter, they would be welcomed.



MY TRAITOR—LOCAL WRITER



My Traitor is a play written by Grants Pass composer & playwright Ariel Kostrna, who is the daughter of Ron and Leanne Strom, "My Traitor" weaves the story of a fictional couple into the true history of a small Ukrainian town fighting against Soviet religious oppression in the 1960s. The show features 11 original songs and a cast of 21 local actors, directed by Rachel Kostrna, music directed by Ron Strom, and choreographed by Erica Bury.



WHAT WE CELEBRATE AT CHRISTMAS

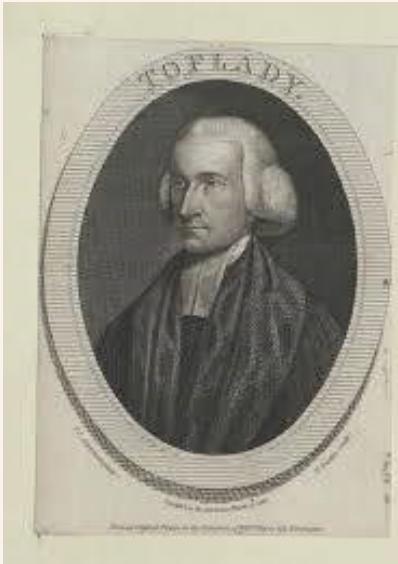
By R. C. Sproul

In [this excerpt](#) from [What Did Jesus Do?](#), R.C. Sproul reminds us that what we really celebrate at Christmas is the incarnation of God Himself.



What we celebrate at Christmas is not so much the birth of a baby, as important as that is, but what's so significant about the birth of that particular baby is that in this birth we have the incarnation of God Himself. An incarnation means a coming in the flesh. We know how John begins His gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." So in that very complicated introductory statement, he distinguishes between the Word and God, and then in the next breath identifies the two, "The Word was with God, and the Word was God." (*for more click on the above photo to finish reading*).





Augustus Montague Toplady

He was born on 11/4/1740 in Farnham, England.

His dad was a British officer who died in a war. His mother was known for her piety, but others thought she spoiled him. None of his relatives liked him.

On his 11th birthday he wrote, "I am now arrived at age of eleven years; I praise God I can remember no dreadful crime, so to the Lord be the glory."

At 12 he would preach to anyone who would listen. At 14 he began writing hymns. At 16 he was soundly converted listening to a sermon in a barn. At 22 he was ordained an Anglican priest.

He was a staunch Calvinist and didn't like John Wesley's Arminian theology. He said of Wesley, "I believe him to be the most rancorous hater of the gospel system that ever appeared on this island."

In 1776 Toplady wrote an article about God's forgiveness, intending it as a slap against Wesley. He ended the article with an original poem. It appears below, but slight changes have been made over time, notably the last line of the first stanza. Toplady died at 38 years old.



"Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee!
Let the Water and the Blood,
From thy riven Side which flow'd,
Be of Sin the double Cure,
Save me from wrath and make me pure.

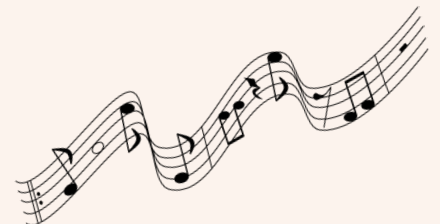
2.

"Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy Law's demands:
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for Sin could not atone:
Thou must save, and Thou alone!

3.

"Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to thy Cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for Dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly :
Wash me, Saviour, or I die!

"Whist I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eye-strings break in death,
When I soar to *tracts* unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne:
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee."



GONE TO HEAVEN

We lost our dear sister-in-the-Lord Kerry Goodwill on October 19, 2023—this is from her son, Peter:

Kerry passed away a little before 9 p.m. on Thursday evening, October 19th. She had slept through the day and passed peacefully into the presence of her Lord. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone at the church that has supported Rebekah and me during this difficult time. Particularly, I thank God that Caleb and Lisa Waggoner were willing to come over to help watch Kerry and were there to support us after she passed. It was such perfect timing that it could only have been from God. We are sad to not have Kerry with us any more but are joyful knowing that she has attained a perfect peace. We can also look forward to seeing her again on that glorious resurrection morning.

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21

NEW YEAR THOUGHTS



We have a new year rapidly approaching and the Admin team is working on rotating of Greeter, Nursery and Helper. Please let us know if you want to be added to the list or removed. As a greeter we ask that you arrive before church starts and greet people and hand out bulletin. If you notice any new people just remind them to fill out a welcome card that are placed in the pews. We do our best to schedule it on the calendar and send out email notifications. If you are unable to be a greeter on a particular Sunday we just won't have a greeter. It's so lovely to have families and happy faces when entering the sanctuary. Everyone participating is blessed and gets to know one another a little better.

We also have opportunities to serve in our nursery. We have a brand new nursery and the few children that are unable to sit with mom and dad during worship service, keep busy in the nursery. We ask if you are unable to fulfill your time slot in the nursery, please find someone to take your place. It is not necessary to be in the nursery the whole time, unless someone is in need. Usually we go in at the start of Pastor's sermon. A Helper is a young person that can help supervise the small children with an adult.



WHY DOES IT MATTER

Why Does It Matter If I Attend a Local Church?



Nathan W. Bingham & John Tweeddale



00:14 / 04:08



BUSINESS RECOMMENDATIONS



Father and son operate this business and came out to my house when I ran out of water. The well controller and a connection at the pump needed replacing. They showed me the parts that needed replacing and had them on hand and were very professional and reasonable. - Linda Gay



I've used this plumbing company for years. I text him a photo of what my problem is and he responds very quickly. He can usually quote prices over the phone so there's no crazy surprises. My water heater was leaking on the inside and he removed the old one and replaced it with what I wanted. He also insulated all the pipes from the water heater to the house.—Linda Gay



Yes, I have had a busy month with house issues, but the Lord is good and showed me the right people for each particular job. Vinne Ownbey, the owner of EV Excavation is a retired fireman from Grants Pass Fire Department, so he knows his forests. He cleared



brush and dead trees for me and will be back to burn the slash piles. - Linda Gay

**Anyone interested in planning events?
Rachel Uhl handles all the events throughout the
year and could use some help.
Please contact her if you can lend a hand.**

COMING UP

Dec 3 — Faith Fellowship Meal

Dec 9— Men's Breakfast 7am

Dec 16 — Faith OPC –caroling

Dec 22 — Jingle, Mingle, Munch

Dec 31—New Year's Eve sleepover

To view the church calendar— [CLICK HERE](#)

10am — Monday Stand for Life

10am— Tuesday Ladies Bible Study

6:30pm—Tuesday Night Book Study

6:30pm— Wednesday Bible Study

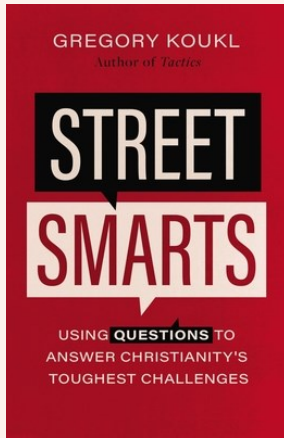




November 2023 Frode rated it 4 stars

Goodreads review by Frode Jensen

This book will be in the church library soon



Street Smarts
By George Koukl

The author breaks this book into two parts. The first part is about a quarter of the book, and he entitles it “Street Map.” Here he explains what it is like out on the street today. In short, it’s not like the 70’s when he became a Christian during the Jesus movement. He has a very good explanation of objective and subjective truth, probably the best I’ve read. Eve in the garden sees the fruit and it looks good to her. That’s subjective because it comes from inside her. God had told them not to eat of that tree; that’s objective truth; it comes from outside. Relativism is the culture of the street and has as its starting point that there is no fixed truth; everything is relative. You have your truth, and I have my truth; that’s relativism, and that’s what Christians will face on the street.

He also makes the case for asking questions, which is pretty much stated in the subtitle, “Using Questions to Answer Christianity’s Toughest Challenges.” He explains the advantages to this approach. The questioner is generally in control of the conversation instead of being on the defensive. It gives the questioner time to think. The answers from the challenger help the Christian to better understand that person’s position and therefore be able to better find the holes in the argument. The questions have an escalation to them from general to more specific. He likens his questions to the old TV show about a cop called Columbo, and he ranks his questions as Columbo #1, #2, and #3. Questions also don’t come across as confrontational, which helps to keep the dialogue more peaceful and less threatening. Instead of trying to convince someone of your position, you are attempting to understand theirs.

The latter portion of the book is entitled, “Navigating the Street.” In this section Mr. Koukl deals with a variety of questions about evil, God, science, abortion, gender, the Bible, and others. Each chapter is a mixture of his commentary on the issue and some of what to expect along with some sample dialogues. Some of the dialogues get pretty philosophical, but others are more straightforward. He makes the point that he is not out to convert those he speaks with. He is a gardener; others will hopefully harvest. He sees his job as putting a metaphorical rock in the shoe of the challenger, something that causes him to think about his position and perhaps re-evaluate his position.

This latter section is the meat of the book. He mentions that the dialogues he gives are examples. They are guides and samples of how conversations might go. They are not to be memorized since rarely will the conversations proceed along the lines he gives without some deviation. However, the first questions are almost always more general in that they ask for definitions or reasons. “What do you mean by X?” “Where did you get that idea?” “Explain that to me; I’m unclear about what you just said.”

I liked this book. It is readable and helpful. His presentation with commentary and dialogue keeps things flowing. It is a practical guide for modern Christians who are randomly confronted by those who accuse them of various Christian beliefs or attitudes.



POOCH CORNER

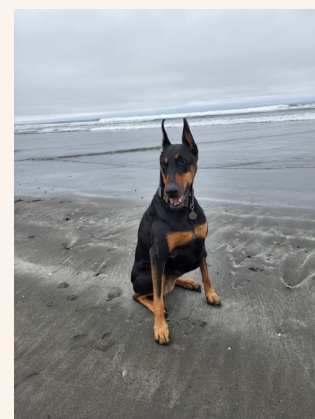


Can you guess the owner of this cutie? Read the hints and you can turn to the last page of the newsletter to find out who owns this pooch.

This nine-year-old Doberman Pinscher is a very sweet, well-mannered dog; although, she is a little stubborn at the dog park when she's having too much fun and doesn't want to leave. This girl loves her dinner meal and will eat anything and everything from the garden. She likes swimming and sunbathing (who doesn't!), and of course her stuffed toys.



(At this writing, this dog is dealing with a mass near her heart and doesn't have long to live.) With that note the owner is thankful to the Lord in choosing the perfect companion. Every day is enjoyed with her presence and the Lord is so amazing for letting me care for her. God is so gracious and good ALL the time.—owner



MEAL TRAIN

Our congregation always helps each other when needed and the meal train is no exception. Thanks to Sarah Young for organizing this wonderful, helpful service. If you would like to be added to meal train email please let her know and she will include you. It's an opportunity to help a brother or sister-in-the-Lord during times when it is difficult to make a meal or when convalescing. Sometimes it might be too much to make an extra meal for someone, so there are options to purchase a gift card, make a meal, or send a meal.



FAITH 2024 BIBLE ACADEMY

The session has decided to do a chronological approach to the Bible reading this year.

You will be given a chart each week. It will be on the church website, www.faithgp.org, sent via email, and in print on the table in the foyer each Sunday. The reading did begin in the Old Testament but we will be pausing and reading in the New Testament. The reading will consist of about a chapter per day except for Sundays. Sunday will be a review day; you will not have to read anything but a good review day. The session is asking you not only to read the Bible but also to react to it. The goal is to get you to think a little about what you are reading. You will find space to write on the chart; we are asking you to do two things; see below.

You will be asked to generate a short thought about the reading, probably 15 words or less will fit in the space given. It can be a summary, a reflection, whatever you decide. For instance, let's say you were asked to read Leviticus 25. It is relatively long being 55 verses, and it covers a lot of material: the Sabbath year, the year of the jubilee, and the redemption of property and of the poor and enslaved in that year. You could make a summary statement about content. *It covered the Sabbath year and the year of Jubilee.* You could reflect on the chapter's content. *God gave them specific rules for redeeming property and people. The 50 year redemption is a shadow of Christ's ultimate redemption. I don't think the jubilee system would work today.* You might even ask a question? *How would this affect investing in property in year 48?* The point is to get you to think a bit about what you have read.

The second thing you are asked to do is copy a verse you like. You are not asked why you liked it. Just pick a verse you happen to like for whatever reason and copy it down with the reference, V14 for instance. Sundays are review days. Again, you are asked to write two things. First, look at your chart and make some sort of statement about the reading for the week. Second, pick one of the six verses you had previously copied down. Write this verse in the review section and think about and maybe even jot a note as to why you picked it. At the fourth Sunday evening service of the month, we will talk about your review items, 1st week, 2nd week and so forth. It would be helpful for you to bring your sheets with you to that service. This is an experiment. We think it will take about 15 minutes or so per day to read and fill in the chart. After a time, maybe a couple of months, we will take a bit of time for evaluation of the process. Our desire is to get you involved with your Bible on a daily basis. If you have some other reading plan already in place with which you are comfortable and believe is profitable for you, that's fine; you can continue to follow that in lieu of what we are proposing. We will be continuing through 2024 in finishing the Bible reading, but will switch over to the New Testament.

Date	Chapters	Instruction	Notes
1-Jan	Review		Finish 2022 Reading
2-Jan	Gen 1	(1) Write down one thought (2) Copy 1 verse you like.	
3-Jan	Gen 2	(1) Write down one thought (2) Copy 1 verse you like.	

*Pooch Corner— On page 11, this dog is Teasa and belongs to Linda Gay.

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@gmail.com

Special thank you to the proof readers, Marylou Hansen and Frode Jensen. Also thank you to those that took photos and to Sarah Young our new church photographer.

