



# FAITH

Presbyterian Church

Vol. 19 July 2025

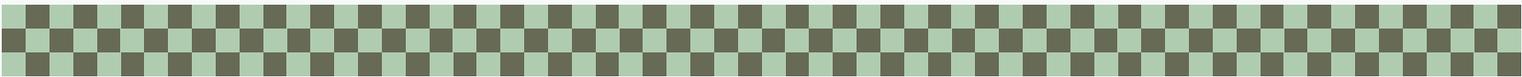
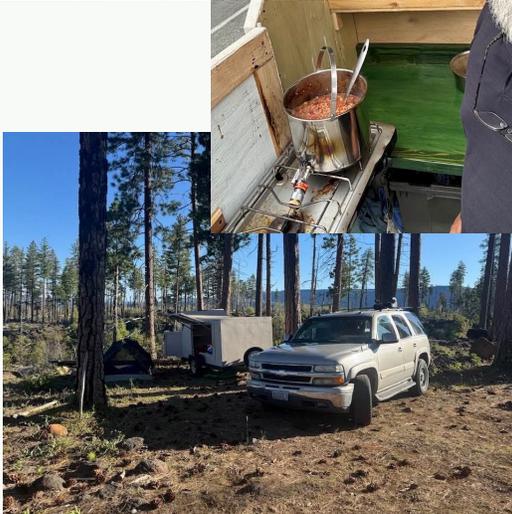
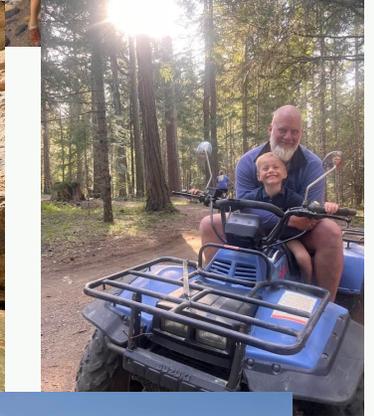
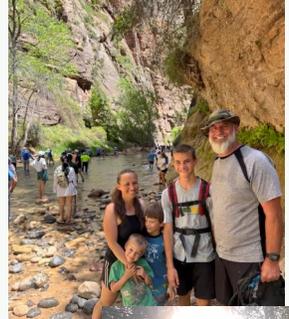
## FAITH FAMILY FORUM II

### PASTOR SABBATICAL

*A few pics that were posted on Pastor's FaceBook*



Pastor Karl Thompson



## THE OLD MAN AND HIS DOG

"Watch out! You nearly broad-sided that car!" My father yelled at me. "Can't you do anything right?" Those words hurt worse than blows. I turned my head toward the elderly man in the seat beside me, daring me to challenge him. A lump rose in my throat as I averted my eyes. I wasn't prepared for another battle. "I saw the car, Dad. Please don't yell at me when I'm driving." My voice was measured and steady, sounding far calmer than I really felt. Dad glared at me, then turned away and settled back.

At home I left Dad in front of the television and went outside to collect my thoughts. Dark, heavy clouds hung in the air with a promise of rain. The rumble of distant thunder seemed to echo my inner turmoil. What could I do about him? Dad had been a lumberjack in Washington and Oregon. He had enjoyed being outdoors and had reveled in pitting his strength against the forces of nature. He had entered grueling lumberjack competitions, and had placed often. The shelves in his house were filled with trophies that attested to his prowess. The years marched on relentlessly. The first time he couldn't lift a heavy log, he joked about it; but later that same day I saw him outside alone, straining to lift it. He became irritable whenever anyone teased him about his advancing age, or when he couldn't do something he had done as a younger man.

Four days after his sixty-seventh birthday, he had a heart attack. An ambulance sped him to the hospital while a paramedic administered CPR to keep blood and oxygen flowing. At the hospital, Dad was rushed into an operating room. He was lucky; he survived. But something inside Dad died. His zest for life was gone. He obstinately refused to follow doctors orders. Suggestions and offers of help were turned aside with sarcasm and insults. The number of visitors thinned, then finally stopped altogether. Dad was left alone.

My husband, Rick, and I asked Dad to come live with us on our small farm. We hoped the fresh air and rustic atmosphere would help him adjust. Within a week after he moved in, I regretted the invitation. It seemed nothing was satisfactory. He criticized everything I did. I became frustrated and moody. Soon I was taking my pent-up anger out on Rick. We began to bicker and argue. Alarmed, Rick sought out our pastor and explained the situation. The clergyman set up weekly counseling appointments for us. At the close of each session he prayed, asking God to soothe Dad's troubled mind. But the months wore on and God was silent.

A raindrop struck my cheek. I looked up into the gray sky. Somewhere up there was "God." Although I believe a Supreme Being had created the universe, I had difficulty believing that God cared about the tiny human beings on this earth. I was tired of waiting for a God who did not answer. Something had to be done and it was up to me to do it. The next day I sat down with the phone book and methodically called each of the mental health clinics listed in the Yellow Pages. I explained my problem in vain to each of the sympathetic voices that answered. Just when I was giving up hope, one of the voices suddenly exclaimed, "I just read something that might help you! Let me go get the article."

I listened as she read. The article described a remarkable study done at a nursing home. All of the patients were under treatment for chronic depression. Yet their attitudes had improved dramatically when they were given responsibility for a dog. I drove to the animal shelter that afternoon. After I filled out a questionnaire, a uniformed officer led me to the kennels. The odor of disinfectant stung my nostrils as I moved down the row of pens. Each contained five to seven dogs. Long-haired dogs, curly-haired dogs, black dogs, spotted dogs - all jumped up, trying to reach me. I studied each one but rejected one after the other for various reasons, too big, too small, too much hair. As I neared the last pen a dog in the shadows of the far corner struggled to his feet, walked to the front of the run and sat down.

It was a pointer, one of the dog world's aristocrats. But this was a caricature of the breed. Years had etched his face and muzzle with shades of gray. His hipbones jutted out in lopsided triangles. But it was his eyes that caught and held my attention. Calm and clear, they beheld me unwaveringly. I pointed to the dog. "Can you tell me about him?" The officer looked, then shook his head in puzzlement. "He's a funny one. Appeared out of nowhere and sat in front of the gate. We brought him in, figuring someone would be right down to claim him. That was two weeks ago and we've heard nothing. His time is up tomorrow." He gestured helplessly. As the words sank in I turned to the man in horror. "You mean you're going to kill him?" "Ma'am," he said gently, "that's our policy. We don't have room for every unclaimed dog." I looked at the pointer again. The calm brown eyes awaited my decision. "I'll take him," I said.



I drove home with the dog on the front seat beside me. When I reached the house I honked the horn twice. I was helping my prize out of the car when Dad shuffled onto the front porch. "Ta-da! Look what I got for you, Dad!" I said excitedly. Dad looked, then wrinkled his face in disgust. "If I had wanted a dog I would have gotten one. And I would have picked out a better specimen than that bag of bones. Keep it! I don't want it." Dad waved his arm scornfully and turned back toward the house.

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Anger rose inside me. It squeezed together my throat muscles and pounded into my temples. "You'd better get used to him, Dad. He's staying!" Dad ignored me. "Did you hear me, Dad?" I screamed. At those words Dad whirled angrily, his hands clenched at his sides, his eyes narrowed and blazing with hate. We stood glaring at each other like duelists, when suddenly the pointer pulled free from my grasp. He wobbled toward my dad and sat down in front of him. Then slowly, carefully, he raised his paw. Dad's lower jaw trembled as he stared at the uplifted paw. Confusion replaced the anger in his eyes. The pointer waited patiently. Then Dad was on his knees hugging the animal. It was the beginning of a warm and intimate friendship.



Dad named the pointer Cheyenne. Together he and Cheyenne explored the community. They spent long hours walking down dusty lanes. They spent reflective moments on the banks of streams, angling for tasty trout. They even started to attend Sunday services together, Dad sitting in a pew and Cheyenne lying quietly at his feet. Dad and Cheyenne were inseparable throughout the next three years. Dad's bitterness faded, and he and Cheyenne made many friends.

Then late one night I was startled to feel Cheyenne's cold nose burrowing through our bed covers. He had never before come into our bedroom at night. I woke Rick, put on my robe and ran into my father's room. Dad lay in his bed, his face serene; but his spirit had left quietly sometime during the night.

Two days later my shock and grief deepened when I discovered Cheyenne lying dead beside Dad's bed. I wrapped his still form in the rag rug he had slept on. As Rick and I buried him near a favorite fishing hole, I silently thanked the dog for the help he had given me in restoring Dad's peace of mind.

The morning of Dad's funeral dawned overcast and dreary. This day looks like the way I feel, I thought, as I walked down the aisle to the pews reserved for family. I was surprised to see the many friends Dad and Cheyenne had made filling the church. The pastor began his eulogy. It was a tribute to both Dad and the dog who had changed his life. And then the pastor turned to Hebrews 13:2. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers..." "I've often thanked God for sending that angel," he said.

For me, the past dropped into place, completing a puzzle that I had not seen before: the sympathetic voice that had just read the right article... Cheyenne's unexpected appearance at the animal shelter. His calm acceptance and complete devotion to my father...and the proximity of their deaths.

And suddenly I understood. I knew that God had answered my prayers after all.

~by Catherine Moore~



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## Note from Children's Sunday School

Training up our young people in the foundations of the faith is God's plan to carry the truth of the Gospel far beyond our generation. Our commitment in Sunday School includes—but goes beyond—familiarizing young hearts with the "stories" of Scripture. Our goal is to prayerfully seek the Spirit's work in moving that knowledge into heartfelt belief—filling each child's life with purpose and fruitfulness right now: in their homes, at church, and among friends.

This is a time-consuming, difficult task—and one that we are fully equipped by God to carry out.

We want to express sincere gratitude to those faithfully serving in this vital ministry:

**Chris Petty, Val Schak, and Ann Pimentel**—thank you for planting seeds of faith in the lives of our children.

As a member of **Faith OPC**, please prayerfully consider how God may be calling *you* to step forward: whether by assisting in a classroom, teaching, or simply interacting with the children of our church family. Every act of service makes a difference.

To get involved:

- Speak with **Elder Hansen** about Sunday School
  - Contact **Elder Anderson** to serve in **Vacation Bible School** or **Wednesday night activities**
- Children's Sunday School will resume this fall. Let's build a strong foundation of faith—together.

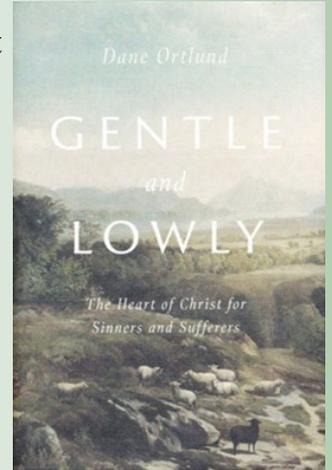


## LADIES FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Ladies will have an opportunity to enjoy a time of fellowship beginning August 11th. We will meet the second and fourth Monday of the month, from 6:30pm - 8pm. Layle Paredes will host our group at her home (close to Faith OPC)

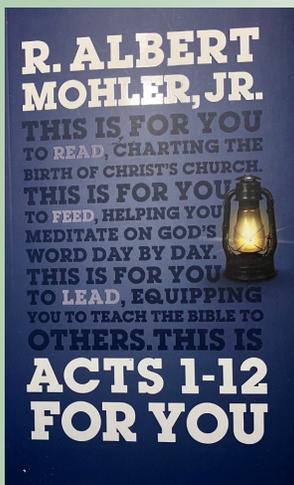
We will be reading the book *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund, as well as using the accompanying study guide also by Ortlund. We will be watching a DVD teaching by the author and discussing the study guide questions.

Ladies of all ages are welcome and invited, but there will not be childcare available. Due to the extremely limited parking available, we will meet at the church and carpool the very short distance to Layle's home. If you would like to attend, please call or text Sonja (541-450-1221) so we can order the necessary materials.



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## LADIES BIBLE STUDY



The Ladies Bible Study will resume Tuesday mornings this fall with a rich, in-depth study in the book of **Acts**. All women are warmly invited to join us as we dig into one of the most thrilling and foundational parts of Scripture.

We'll be using *Albert Mohler's second volume on Acts*, which explores:

- The missionary journeys, trials, and testimony of the Apostle Paul
- The Council of Jerusalem
- The spread of the early Church into Philippi, Athens, and Rome

If you desire deeper fuel for Christian life and mission, this study offers powerful insight and Spirit-led encouragement.

We are deeply thankful for the faithful women leading this study:  
**Ann Pimentel, Debbe Hemmer, Marj Robertson, and Laura Cent.**

We praise the Lord for raising up these women to guide and encourage others in the Word.

**Mark your calendar—our first session is Tuesday, September 9 at 10:00 AM. We look forward to seeing you there!**

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**Deer visitor,  
We love having you  
visit our church, but  
worship service is on  
Sunday.**



As the world is churning with chaos, we who know the Lord are resting in Jesus. We know God is in control, He loves us, and He is both our provider and protector. Grants Pass has many with people with no peace, no hope, and lost in their sin. Our world is an exceedingly difficult place without Jesus. While Cathedral Square now filled with new neighbors, we have not seen a steady stream of them coming up to check out our pretty white church on the hill.



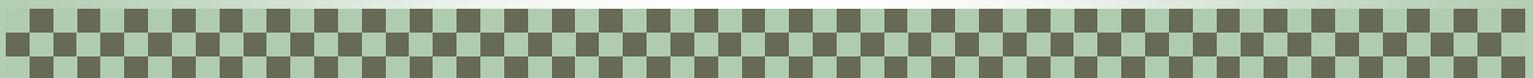
Traditional VBS programs are designed to teach children about the Gospel, but they also require a large number of people to effectively teach and care for large numbers of kids. It also typically only presents the gospel to children, not their caregivers. In Grants Pass, I have observed that many Christian families drop off their kids at multiple VBS programs throughout the summer, meaning places that we hoped to fill with unsaved children are instead serving as community babysitting programs for already churching families. Family Fun Night offers a distinct advantage over traditional VBS: it presents the gospel to the entire family, and is less likely to be filled exclusively with children from other churches. I was saved because I was invited to VBS, so have always appreciated it as an evangelistic outreach tool.

Keith and I just celebrated our 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary at Faith OPC, and we both agree that this is a very welcoming and warm family of believers. In an article about outreach, Sinclair Ferguson wrote about how the life of the church- the warmth and welcome- are unique in our time. Society tends to isolate people, leaving them alone and lonely. By welcoming the community to join us in fun, fellowship and a meal, we are giving them the experience of what a church family can offer. Did you realize how much your smile and kind words of welcome might mean?

Our community outreach this summer will be August 8<sup>th</sup> when we will host another Family Fun Night, from 4-7pm. We will offer a bounce house for little kids, an obstacle course for all ages, and water games in our upper parking area. Inside we will offer a coloring contest, a craft, and then dinner with a presentation of the gospel. We will be asking each of you to please consider helping in three ways: bringing a salad, sitting at a table, and praying for our event. Our largest event, last August, saw over 80 people from the community joining us, but we had several tables without a single Faith OPC member sitting there with them. A warm welcome goes a long way to build friendships!

This event will be posted on Facebook in several community groups, and when you see our event (those of you who are on social media) please share it on your timeline! By sharing the event page, we will be able to see the number of people who click “interested” and have an idea of how many

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folks to expect. It also helps if you “like” and comment on our event post, allowing more folks to see it. We will also have fliers and encourage you to invite family, friends, and neighbors! We will offer hot dogs, chips, and slices of watermelon, as well as asking you, our Faith OPC family, to bring salads. Please watch for signups in the lobby and let us know how you will be able to help make this event a wonderful outreach to our neighbors!

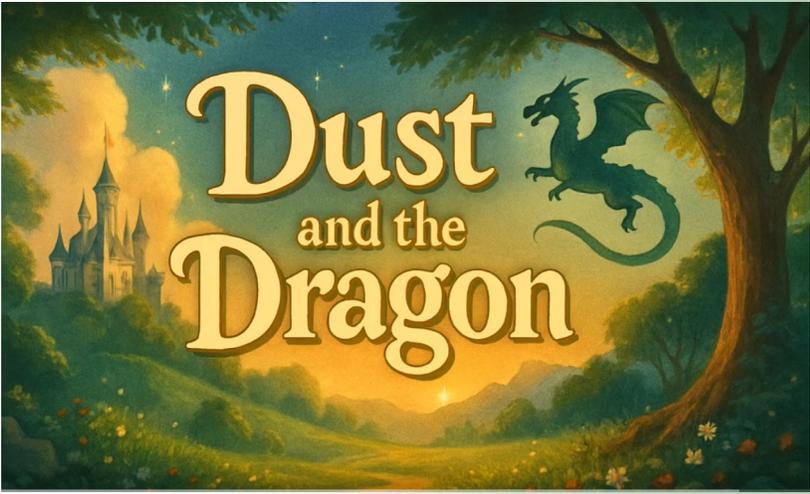
Fun and food will bring them in, and a warm welcome will encourage them to return...but the reason for all of it is the good news: Jesus.



**REMEMBER:  
AUGUST 8TH FAMILY FUN NIGHT, 4-7PM.**

**Website Hymnal & Faith Sings link**  
**Log into the members portion of our website and click on the song book you need (the link is working now). Please bring back any songbook you do not need from home.**  
**Thank you.**

Joey Uhl has developed a YouTube channel, *Only Dead in Adam*, and he creates stories. Click the photo to view and subscribe. →



The YMCA is hosting a Mother/Daughter Tea Party in September. This would be a charming event to share with your daughter (or borrow a daughter from a friend). Keep a lookout for more information.

Details to follow soon.



# July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Ask for freedom from guilt or pressure to "produce."	2 Pray that God would rekindle passion for ministry	3 Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen our prayer life	4 Pray for sweet, meaningful time with Allison	5 Ask for unity and peace in our family
6 Pray that laughter and joy would fill our house or campsite	7 Ask God to help us minister well to our children	8 Pray for wisdom and patience in parenting	9 Ask for shared moments that build lasting memories	10 Pray for honest, grace-filled conversations as a family	11 Ask God to deepen our bond as a couple and family unit	12 Pray that our children feel particularly loved during this time
13 Ask for spiritual renewal for each family member	14 Ask for deep conviction and encouragement through Scripture	15 Ask for humility and wisdom as we reflect on ministry practices	16 Ask that we would return to ministry with a renewed heart and vision	17 Pray for a good connection with our extended family	18 Pray for the temporary ability to forget concerns for the church	19 Pray that Allison get plenty of sleep
20 Pray for physical rest and restoration.	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



# RACHEL'S BABY SHOWER

In May there was a baby shower for Rachel and Ryan Lammers. They are expecting a baby girl.

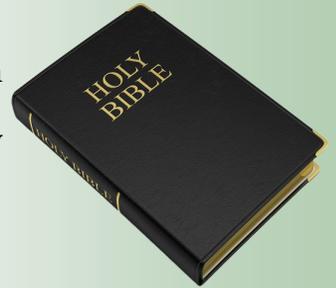


Have you noticed we are about midway through Pastor Karl's sabbatical? We have heard, Pastor and family are doing well, even taking a few trailer and car repairs in stride. Keep holding the Thompsons up in prayer. We are all so thankful that God is providing the rest and renewal needed!

On the home front (Faith) with the shepherd away, how are the sheep doing? God is supplying abundantly for the ministry to His church! Truly we can be rejoicing together for the 'one anothering' of all. As you have faithfully prayed, God has raised up many of you to assist in the work of the ministry. It is with a thankful heart that the ministry of God's Word and worship faithfully carries on, in fact is thriving. Thank you for watching out for each other, praying for needs and supplying the encouragement needed to shepherd all of us sheep.

Several have commented, "I don't know why I didn't start serving this way a long time ago. It's a commitment with a great joy!" Let's define some of these helpful areas: Opening/closing the building, making the coffee on Sunday morning, setting up the communion trays, taking the trash bins to the curb, preparing and cleaning up after fellowship meals, tidying up the sanctuary after worship, making an effort to greet others, especially visitors, quietly stepping up when a need is recognized and countless other things. Your giftedness allows you to recognize and it empowers you to serve the ministry of Faith, thanks be to God.

Here is a challenge. Let's all prayerfully evaluate how we are using our time. How often do your free moments get filled with the urgent or the convenient, rather than stepping back occasionally to plan what we know is important to our Lord. Make a list (yes, written) of scriptural priorities for the use of your time and talents. Review and pray through that list regularly. Perhaps you will discover that some of God's priorities for you are being crowded out at the last minute. (Like, oops got to go to ? so I can skip reading, praying or church now. I'll do double later...but it seldom works that way does it?)



Referring to the previous paragraph, God-directed sacrifices have been made and carried out during these months that have enhanced the ministry at Faith. You have adjusted your use of time to include needed service, multiplying the ministry time for your elders to shepherd and teach the Word. I humbly thank you for your 'doing'!

When our shepherd returns, let's be in a continuous mode of serving, filling in the gaps, so that he can faithfully focus on the ministry of the Word and shepherding. Together, let's commit our time and talents to 'the work of the ministry' for the glory of God. God will bless the fruit of His word through His saints.

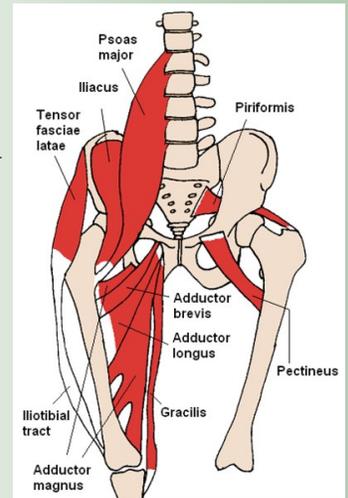


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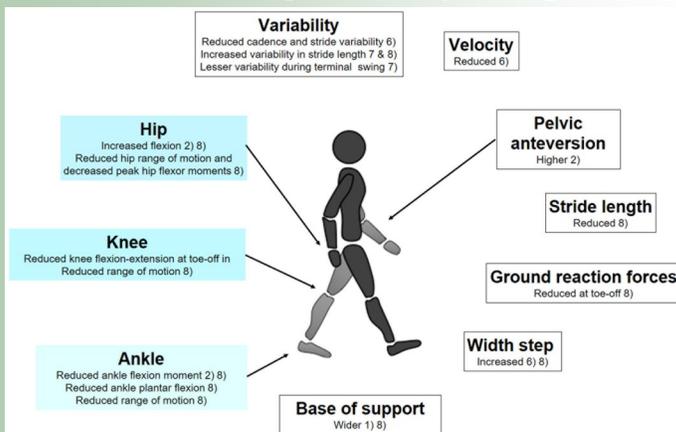
**At the end of July, we will welcome the Thompsons back at our monthly fellowship meal and include a welcome cake!  
Come join us and bring a dish to share, if you are able.**

LEARNING TO WALK PROPERLY

There are a surprising number of muscles in the leg. They allow us to swing our leg left, right, forward, backward, bend up, extend down, rotate left, and rotate right. Before hip replacement surgery a person loses strength in various muscles because of disuse. They stop being used because, well, it hurts to move the leg in that direction. During recovery even more strength is lost due to muscle inactivity and range of motion is restricted due to scar tissue forming at the joint. All this is to say that it took effort and concentration for me to get back on my feet. The journey began with the aid of a walker and taking tiny steps. This was followed by slightly bigger steps and much concentration. I had to listen to my body and process the feedback it was giving me. Am I over my center-of-gravity? If not, I might lose my balance. Am I putting too much weight on the joint too soon? Pain will tell me when it's too much. With time and practice I relied less on the walker for support and more on my lower body to remain upright. Transitioning from a walker to a cane was not difficult but still required a fair amount of concentration. I no longer had the protective "cage" of the walker around me to rely on. Balance requires many muscles to work in concert and the strength of my muscles was still a work-in-progress. So there were times I felt unsteady. Eventually I was steady enough that I no longer needed the cane. However, this does not mean that my legs had finished their rehabilitation journey. As previously mentioned, there are a surprising number of muscles in the leg and they all must work in concert when walking to propel oneself forward and remain balanced. Although I no longer needed a cane to walk, my muscles were "imbalanced." Some muscles were stronger than others. Some were weaker.



The fluid motion produced by the legs in propelling the body forward is called the "gait." You may have



heard this term used to describe the walking, trotting, or running of horses. Because my muscles were imbalanced, when I extended my leg forward to take a stride it might not go exactly straight forward. It might go a few degrees slightly off to the side. Also, scar tissue at the artificial joint slightly impeded my range of motion. I was taking a slightly shorter stride with my surgery leg (right leg) than the other. This, along with my stronger non-surgery leg (left leg), was causing my walking path to curve slightly to the right. Automatically, and without thinking, my body would compensate by directing my left leg slightly to the left. The analogy to this is if you are rowing a boat and you pull harder with one oar versus the other, the bow of the boat begins to go off to side. You compensate by pulling

harder on the opposite oar bringing the bow back to center. My misaligned and short strides were making my gait irregular. I said to myself, "People are going to think I'm intoxicated!" I began making the effort to concentrate on my gait...being sure to extend my leg in a straight line and taking a full stride...not only in extending the leg forward but also following through when extending the leg toward the back. It felt good to take a full, proper stride. Not only did it feel good physically but there was a mental satisfaction that it was being done correctly.

The spiritual analogies are many. Our spiritual walk, our "spiritual gait", relies on all of our "spiritual muscles" being sufficiently strong and balanced (ie, working in concert). Are we walking in a straight line? Are we losing our spiritual balance? Are we taking full strides? Are there "spiritual joints" that have lost their range of motion from disuse? God has provided the tools to help us have a full and proper spiritual gait: The indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Scripture, prayer, fellowship, teaching, memorization, service, and many others. Be sure to utilize all His tools.



First, note that the title is in the plural. That means we are talking about a number of governments. When most people hear the word government, they generally think of some sort of civil government, maybe a city council or a state legislature or perhaps Congress and the President of the United States. This thinking is most likely because dictionaries generally refine their definitions around political entities. If you were to go to [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) and look up government, politically oriented definitions is what you would find. However, there are all sorts of governments outside of the political realm. Let's take a brief look.

Most every sort of organization has some form or authority governing that body. It could be a business, a charitable organization, a school system, you name it. If a group has rules or some sort of structure, it has a government. Someone or a select group of people are running the show; they have authority to make decisions. Those who are in authority may be elected or appointed, but they are in charge.

A school system has a board. The board may or may not be elected. The board hires a superintendent. The superintendent has delegated responsibilities. He or she will hire people in lesser positions. In a large school district, there will be a central office along with certified and classified staff working in the individual schools. There is a defined chain of command; there is a government although it is not commonly referred to as such.

The church also has a government, but it is of note that church government falls into three general types: prelacy, independency, and Presbyterian.

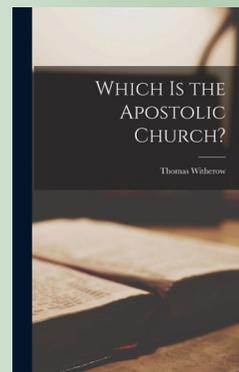
The prelacy type is hierarchical; Roman Catholicism is a prime example. There is the Pope at the top, then Cardinals, and so on down the line. A number of denominations utilize this form. Decisions are made from the top down and must normally conform to the established system.

Independency or congregationalism is when a church is independent and makes its own decisions, usually by a vote of the congregants. Obviously the congregation doesn't vote on everything, but they do select their leaders. There is a limitation in that there is no appeal beyond the individual church. An independent church may be associated with other independent congregations, but a local church is not bound by any decision their association might make. Baptist churches are an example.

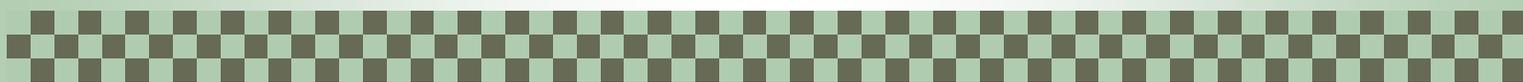
Presbyterian type churches have locally elected leaders, but they are subject to rulings of their regional presbytery and ultimately the General Assembly, which is the national body composed of delegates from each presbytery. This resembles a system of courts, so a local member can appeal a ruling to presbytery and even to the General Assembly.

For a full discussion of these three forms and how they comport with Scripture, I recommend reading Thomas Witherow's book, *The Apostolic Church, Which is it?* It was first published in 1856 and outlines six principles found in Scripture that describe the apostolic church and then applies those six principles to the three forms listed earlier. You should know that this book is read and discussed by those who go through the one-on-one discipleship program at Faith OPC.

For now I will make an interesting observation; you will note that the three forms of



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ecclesiastical government are mirrored in our federal system. The hierarchical form is like the executive branch. The independency or congregational form is replicated in the legislative branch, and the Presbyterian form mirrors the judicial branch. My guess is this fact was not taught in your civics class in school. It appears that Christian influence played some part in the founding of the US government even if the secularists don't acknowledge it.



### 4th of July Faith OPC Picnic

Meet at [Tom Pearce Park](#)

\$5 fee to enter the park



★ ★

# 4TH OF JULY PICNIC

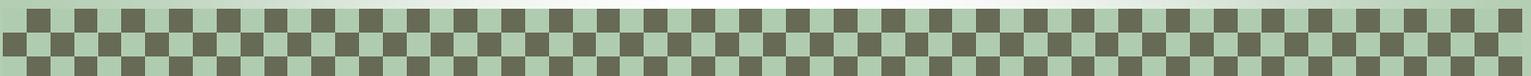
FRIDAY, JULY 4  
11AM – 1:30PM  
BRING YOUR LUNCH  
TOM PEARCE PARK SHELTER 2  
GRANTS PASS, OR

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Elder's BBQ

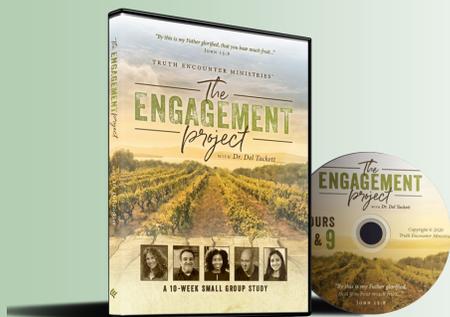
With hearts of joy for God's work through each of your lives as you have faithfully worshipped and served in the ministry of Faith OPC, the Elders want to celebrate together with you! Please join us **September 7<sup>th</sup>** after morning worship for a hamburger and hot dog feast. 'Gourmet meat' with all the fixings and we encourage you to bring a side dish or dessert to enhance the festivities.

God uses the gifts of all at Faith to worship and serve Him and as your leadership we THANK YOU!





Faith Sunday School and evening service participants are being challenged to draw near to God and consider His divine nature. His Truth is calling the saints to engage the world around us, our neighbors. The engagement project series does this by presenting and applying scripture in a refreshing/renewing way.



This is a journey to understand where we, His saints, are in God’s grand plan (Meta-Narrative) and the vision He has granted us as His representatives on

earth. We are seeing how He has entrusted the work of the Kingdom to the common, everyday Christian right here at Faith OPC. If you have missed any of this series, you can join on line at [deltack-ett.com](http://deltack-ett.com), engagement videos. Here is an overview so far:

*Tour 0- A Remnant of Hope*, deals with God’s grand plan five major ‘epochs’ in history: Creation; Fall; Redemption; Engagement; and Restoration. As followers of Jesus, we inhabit the fourth epoch, Engagement, in which it is our task to bring the light of God’s kingdom to bear upon an increasingly dark world. I Chronicles 12:32 speaks of an understanding of the times, to know what we ought to do. John 15:8 “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be my disciples.”

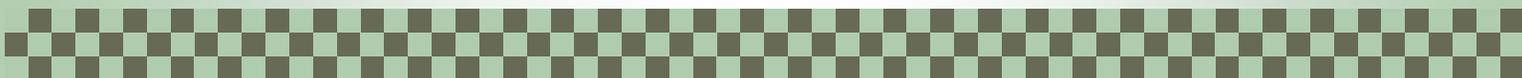
*Tour 1- Creation, the Endgame*, goes back to the very beginning where we gain a sense of our place in the broader view of God’s Meta-Narrative. God’s purpose in creating was to promote fruitfulness. His design of the world and everything in it involves all His creatures, and man in particular, in an active participatory role in the creative process. The goal/‘endgame’ of His plan is the proliferation and cultivation of flourishing abundant life. Ephesians 2:10 enlightens us to how God’s grace works through His saints to accomplish His purpose of creating new life. We are all made as saints to do this work.

*Tour 2- Fall, The River of Death*, saw God’s original plan frustrated and turned back upon itself. Satan entered the picture with a counter narrative. Once accepted by Adam and Eve, sin entered the fabric of Creation. A tipping point was passed beyond which the flow from life to life became an irresistible current of death leading to death. Life, fruitfulness, and goodness were all put at disadvantage and the world began running backwards. Romans 1 shows the confusion and downward spiral; in Galatians 4:4, God’s perfect timing reigns.

*Tour 3- Redemption, the Heart of God’s Love*, the crown Jewel, is presented. God couldn’t simply allow the world to continue on its downstream course to destruction. He could have wiped out everything and started over again, but Love, made this impossible. God chose redemption through grace. Genesis 3:15; But in light of Isaiah 6:13, the holy seed of God remained in the stump. Romans 8:23 reveals the hope we have in Christ through God’s plan.

*Tour 4- Engagement, the Royal Task*, is the era in which we are given a job. Now is the time and today is the day when the King’s messenger, namely you and I, go bearing the orders from our Sovereign in hand. We begin to fulfill the Royal Task: the task of sharing His redeeming love with the world by seeking the shalom (Godly peace) for our neighbor. Matthew 22:37-40 is the Royal Task: Love God; love neighbor; and love one another. James 2:8; “If you fulfill the royal law according to

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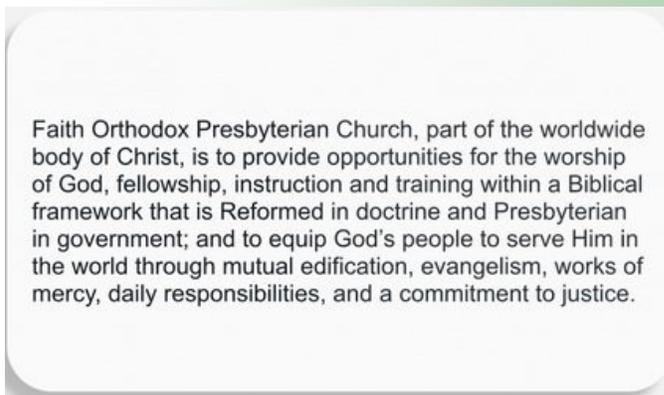


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Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing well.”

*Tour 5- The Vision, Engaging with Grace*, begins the practical aspects of the assignment Christ has given us as His Remnant of Hope. Saints fulfill this task with grace and sensitivity. Applying how to subject our speech, actions and behavior to the mission statement of the Royal Vision:

**“We will build real relationships with those providentially in our Jerusalem, through prayer and action, with grace and wisdom and truth, being attractively winsome, tearing down walls, building up trust, doing the work of the Kingdom.”** Colossians 4:5-6; engage with grace, Philippians 4:8-9; in a winsome way, and I Peter 3:15; ready to give a defense for the hope that directs our lives.

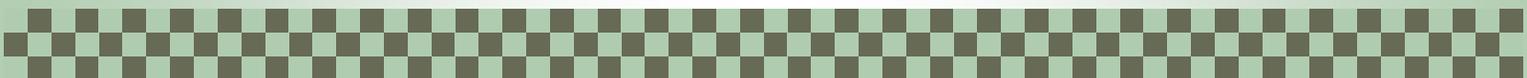


*Tour 6- The Vision, Engaging with Wisdom*, is the never-ending challenge of turning head-knowledge into heart-knowledge. When it comes to loving our neighbors as Jesus has loved us, we need His wisdom and practical know-how, learning to engage uniquely with unique individuals. It involves discernment and a willingness to listen and learn so as to ‘customize’ our words, actions, and responses to fit the requirement of each new situation. James 3:13-17; as saints we must sincerely ask/seek/pray for God’s wisdom. Colossians 4:5-6 encourages the wise use of every moment to speak with salty words.

There is more to come with Tours 7-9, and the rich observations and applications that God is giving each of us to live a fruitful life for His glory. Every believer here at Faith can grow in their maturity by believing these truths from Scripture. Review this teaching by going to [deltackett.com](http://deltackett.com) and join the **Engagement Project series**. Be encouraged to fill these long summer days with this mission:

**“We will build real relationships with those providentially in our Jerusalem, through prayer and action, with grace and wisdom and truth, being attractively winsome, tearing down walls, building up trust, doing the work of the Kingdom.”**

To help you with this ‘royal task’ the Admin team has made a business card available to help introduce your neighbor to Faith OPC, ask an elder for these cards.



## FAITH 2025 BIBLE ACADEMY

The session has decided to do a chronological approach to the Bible reading starting last year. You will be given a chart each week. It will be on the church website, [www.faithgp.org](http://www.faithgp.org), sent via email, and in print on the table in the foyer each Sunday. The reading began in the Old Testament but we paused and read in the New Testament for December 2024 but now back to the Old 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, v 14 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, 1<sup>st</sup> week, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2025 in finishing the Bible reading.

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.	

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](mailto:office.faithopc@gmail.com)

Special thank you to the proof reader, Marylou Hansen and the many article writers

Feel free to write an article anytime, just email to the above link.

