



THE LOOP

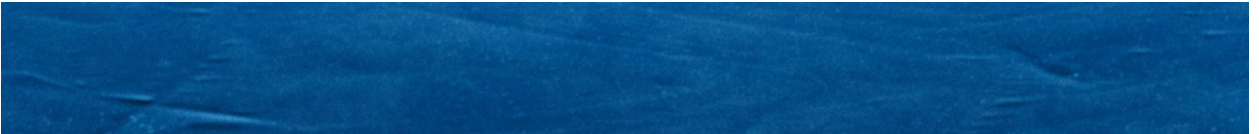
COQUILLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

JANUARY 2023

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| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| <i>A New Year... Again</i> | 1 |
| <i>January Calendar</i> | 5 |
| <i>21 Days of Prayer and Fasting</i> | 7 |
| <i>Canvas & Clay: Shipwrecked</i> | 11 |
| <i>Stay in the Loop</i> | 13 |
| <i>New Wine: A Devotion</i> | 15 |
| <i>The Meme Department</i> | 19 |





A NEW YEAR

...AGAIN

DR. RAY WHEELER

The New Year is a time I use to reflect and anticipate. This year offers both a familiar and unfamiliar journey for me. As I reflect on the past year, I have deep gratitude for friends with whom I have related, their help in keeping me honest in faith by asking questions and observing behaviors of which I am not conscious, sharpens me. I love

the laughter inherent in a good friendship – the good-natured ribbing and unabashed love encourage me. I am thankful for colleagues with whom I serve who have promoted my abilities and offered opportunities for me to further develop my skills as a leader. I am deeply enamored and thankful for Janice who walks with me in my most vulnerable

times and helps me gather my angst, fear, and concern to the feet of Jesus. All of this is familiar to me and each year I am amazed at the number of experiences and relationships that have influenced and encouraged me.

The unfamiliar aspect of this year emanates from a sense of uncertainty. The post-COVID

◀ PASTOR KAYLEE, PASTOR CAROLYN, JENINE, JENNIFER,
AND CHANTAL



PASTOR KAYLEE & DARLENE AS THE DANCING SNOWMAN
FROM THE INVITATION: A JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS

world is unfamiliar to me, I am left feeling like the scenery is familiar, but the compass directions have all changed. It is not unlike the feeling I had on my first visit to China when I could not find anyone who spoke English and I had to navigate a plane change in an unfamiliar international airport. Klaus Schwab and Thierry Malleret capture my sense of disorientation in describing the impact of COVID as a great reset of our economy, social order, geopolitical order, technology, industry, mental health, and view of humanity.

Schwab and Malleret define my sense of disorientation by pointing out that the speed with which things have changed can be baffling to our ability to assess both challenges and opportunities.



PASTOR SAM, KEN, TYLER, AND ADAM

*THE SPEED WITH WHICH THINGS HAVE
CHANGED CAN BE BAFFLING TO OUR
ABILITY TO ASSESS BOTH CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES*

I have more information and analysis than ever before and less time to decide. As I look toward 2023, I see more

opportunities and greater challenges than I can wrap my brain around. At times, I just want to retreat to a cave, with

a fire, a cup of coffee, and a good book. While the new year trudges irrepressibly at me I hear the invitation of Jesus, “follow me.” In past years I mapped out concrete plans and strategies replete with key performance indicators and defined milestones. And, I have some of them for 2023 – I am myself after all. But the invitation Jesus gives comforts me. I don’t know the ultimate direction of the



next year, Jesus does. And so, I accept Jesus' invitation. I am invested in doing the work of God's kingdom. I am expectant, I am humbled, I am comforted. And I give a similar invitation to those around me, let's follow Jesus, let's do the work of the kingdom not just in word but in action. Let's be the healing, comforting, delivering presence of God to one another and the world around us. Happy New Year! ■



ONE OF THE MANY FACES BILL MAKES AT WORSHIP PRACTICE

JANUARY



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----|----|
| New Year's Day Church | | Mens' Bible Study | | Celebrate Recovery | | |
| 8 Church | 9 21 Days Prayer & Fasting Begins | 10 Mens' Bible Study | 11 | 12 Celebrate Recovery | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Church | 16 | 17 Mens' Bible Study | 18 | 19 Celebrate Recovery | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Church | 23 | 24 Mens' Bible Study | 25 Grief Share Group Begins | 26 Celebrate Recovery | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Church | 30 | 31 Mens' Bible Study | | | | |



Israel Meeting: January 7, 10 AM in the Sanctuary. Registration is due on January 13.
For more details, see Pastor Sam Flaherty.

21 Days of Prayer & Fasting: January 9 - 29. (See next page.)

Grief Share Support Group: 13-week group every Wednesday, starting January 25.
For more details, see Pastor Sam Flaherty.

Church Service: Every Sunday Morning at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

Mens' Bible Study: Every Tuesday morning at 6:30 AM in the Sanctuary.
For more details, see Pastor Sam Flaherty.

Celebrate Recovery: Every Thursday evening at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
For more details, see Bill Howell.

Save the Date! Family Camp, 2023: June 7-11

21 Days of Prayer + Fasting 2023

JANUARY 9-29, 2023

21Days of Prayer +Fasting

We invite you
to pray with us.

21Days of Prayer +Fasting

PASTOR SAM FLAHERTY

Fasting and Prayer has been a regular part of our faith journey. Lovena and I have often fasted when faced with big decisions. We have fasted and prayed for all of you, our church leadership and of course for our own spiritual growth and Intimacy with the living God. If I were to give a basic Biblical definition of fasting: “Christian fasting is the act of intentionally abstaining from food or a regularly enjoyed good gift from God to focus on a



CHRISTIAN & MARLEY DRESSED UP FOR TRUNK-OR-TREAT, 2022


period of spiritual growth and deepening relationship with God. In the act of fasting, we humbly deny the flesh to focus on and glorify God, becoming more in tune with His Spirit.” Fasting should be a regular part of the Christian life, and although it isn’t commanded by Scripture, Jesus clearly expects His followers to fast regularly.

When Jesus taught on fasting in His Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 6:16, He didn’t

say “if” you fast, but “when” you fast. And in Matthew 9:15, He doesn’t say His followers “might” fast; but “they will.” It’s something that He expects of us if we are in relation with Him and expect to go deeper in our intimacy with Him.

Fasting isn’t easy because our natural tendency isn’t to deny the flesh but to gratify it. So the immediate result of a fast might be temptation and discouragement, which is why during the fast, we must keep in mind that Scripture

CHRISTIAN FASTING IS THE ACT OF INTENTIONALLY ABSTAINING FROM FOOD OR A REGULARLY ENJOYED GOOD GIFT FROM GOD TO FOCUS ON A PERIOD OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEEPENING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.



commands us to continuously die to self, and our rewards aren't stored up in earthly treasures but treasures in heaven.

Isaiah 58:6-9 tells us that fasting loosens the chains of injustice, unties the cords of the yoke, sets the oppressed free, and breaks every yoke.

Fasting is more than cutting something out for a period of time; it's a sacrificial lifestyle before God and telling Him "I belong to You, not to the things of this world." Fasting isn't simply a one-time act of humility, it's a continuous sacrifice of servant living for God and for others.

A few things I have learned about fasting:

- Fasting & Prayer aren't a diet.
- Fasting & Prayer do not help me gain God's acceptance or love.
- Fasting & Prayer help me turn my focus from the world to God.
- Fasting & Prayer help me understand God's vision and perspective.
- Fasting and Prayer help me set aside flesh barriers and receive spiritual strength.
- Fasting and Prayer renew my love for Jesus and revive His presence in me.
- Fasting & Prayer demonstrate to God that I am serious about Him by fixing my eyes on Him alone.

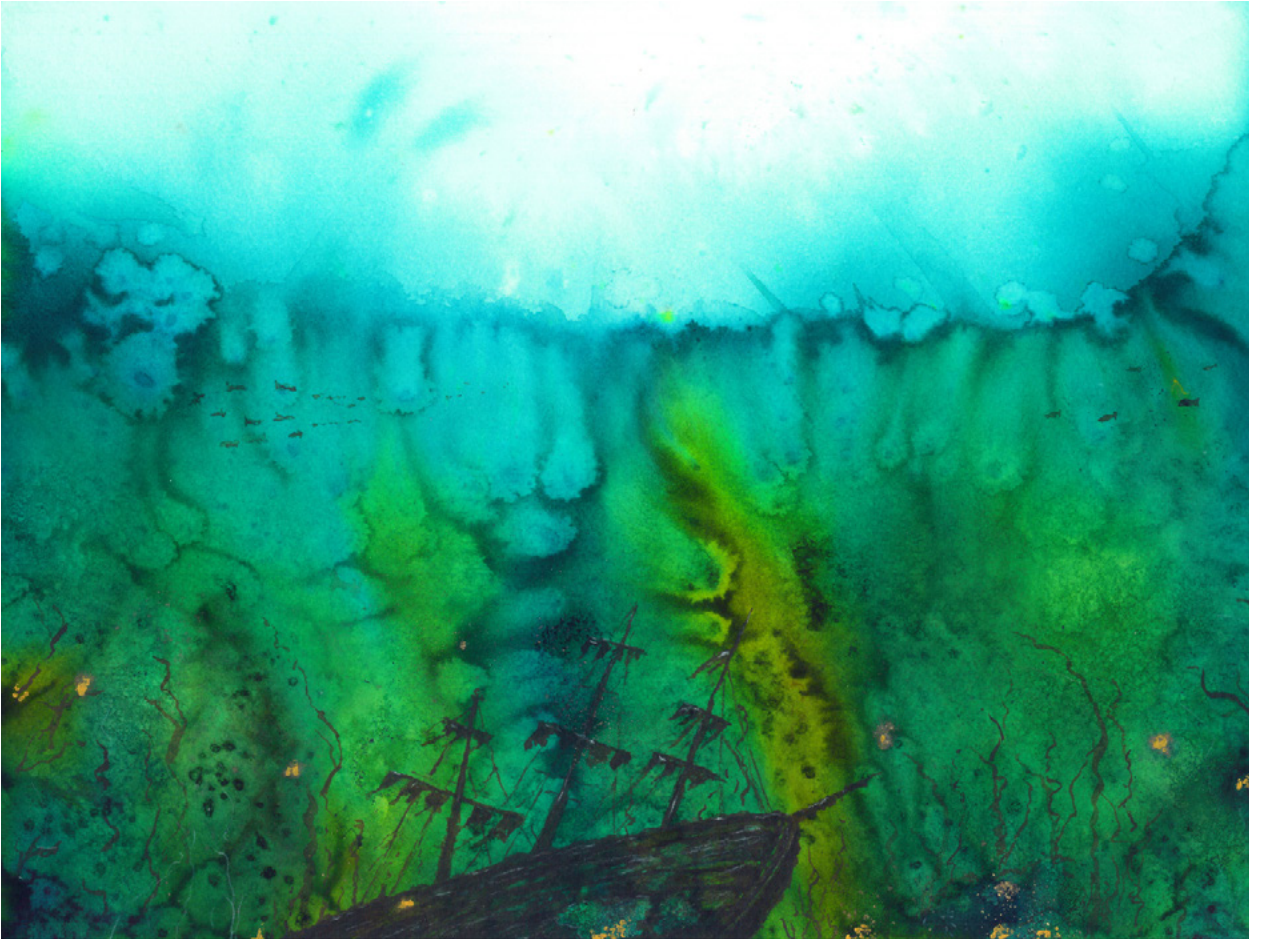


SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP PRACTICE, FEAT. TYLER'S TAZMANIAN DEVIL SOCKS

Anything that you give up for a period of time with the purpose of focusing more on God can be considered a fast. It should be limited to a set time.

Fasting is documented all throughout the Bible, and

is frequently referenced as an act of worship that is accompanied by prayer and repentance. Lovena and I would like to invite you to participate with all of our Foursquare family in 21 days of fasting and prayer. ■



CANVAS & CLAY

LISA LEWIS

I love water! Everything about it. From an ice cold glass to drink to wading in a creek. I especially love moving water. It brings me a sense of peace. Especially with the roaring of the ocean, I find myself quiet and with my Father.

While experimenting with a new painting technique I wanted to try in watercolor, this picture was created. It evolved into a shipwreck.

This painting speaks of how I have felt many times over the past few years. I have felt like I was drowning in sorrow, drowning in pain and the business of life. I have

felt shipwrecked...all alone... broken...being torn apart.

As I was painting this, God spoke to my heart: “Look at how colorful, how beautiful this is, look at the schools of fish, look at the hidden treasures. Can you see the calm serenity in the moving waters?”

This painting represents all of that to me. Even when I feel I am drowning and wrecked, my God has me. He shows me the beauty, the treasures, He shows me peace and most important He shows me I am never alone. ■



ARTIST, LISA LEWIS

STAY IN THE LO



THE INVITATION: A JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS SHOWS TOOK PLACE ON THE FIRST WEEKEND OF DECEMBER. IT WAS A HIT! BETWEEN THE FOUR SHOWS, THERE WERE ABOUT 650 IN ATTENDANCE. WE ALSO RAISED OVER \$2,000 FOR THE COQUILLE HIGH SCHOOL BAND AND DRAMA DEPARTMENTS.

POOP



ON DECEMBER 1, ADAM WAS SWORN IN AS A DEPUTY SHERIFF FOR COOS COUNTY.

“EVERY SINGLE DAY SO FAR HAS BEEN EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS A HANDCRAFTED JOURNEY ORDAINED BY GOD. I DON’T KNOW HOW LONG IT’S MEANT TO LAST, BUT I CAN SAY WITH FULL CONFIDENCE THAT IT’S EXACTLY WHERE I’M SUPPOSED TO BE.” ADAM BURGO



NEW WINE

A DEVO BY
REBECCA MORGAN

When Jesus was asked why His disciples didn't fast like the Pharisees (Matthew 9:14-17, Mark 2:18-22, Luke 5:33-39), His answer was simple. Or was it?

Upon first reading, we can understand that Jesus is saying there is a time for fasting and it wasn't time yet. But when He goes on to talk about mixing old fabric with new and how new wine poured into an old wineskin will cause it to burst; His answer suddenly becomes more interesting.

I often find myself very grateful that Jesus took the time to use parables to teach us such deep, rich spiritual lessons. What a loving, patient

Savior! By giving our minds a picture of something we can understand, He highlights this new relationship with God that He has come to earth to introduce. All through the Old Testament we saw how the old covenant- the old way to approach God- required following God's laws and commands which included the sacrifice of animals to atone for our sins. But when Jesus came to earth, His mission was to be our sacrificial lamb and to radically change how we go about having a relationship with our maker.

Jesus was often challenging the Pharisees and religious leaders because, as humans often do, they had taken a good thing and added to



MOË & VICTORIA

it. Over time, the heart of following the law was lost and had been reduced to a list of do's and don'ts. To make matters worse, it had even become a contest of sorts to see who was more righteous. In His sermon on the mount, Jesus called for more than outward obedience. In essence, He was saying "You're obedient. But what's in your heart?"

So when we think about fasting and praying, maybe the place we should start is by questioning our motive. If we have fallen into that sneaky way of thinking that a relationship with God is formulaic, it's time to reevaluate. Just because we dot all our I's and cross all our



PASTOR SAM, LOVENA, AND JEAN

T's doesn't mean the result will be receiving what we want. Rather, prayer and fasting is a time of unconditionally positioning ourselves in worship before God. When our focus starts on the spectacular glory of the One True God, our minds begin to be transformed and renewed. And as that happens we can begin walking in that new life Jesus came to bring us.

Last year, Pastor Kaylee talked about the different filters with which we see ourselves and the world around us. What a timely message. Sometimes we come to the Lord in prayer with a filter that keeps us from really hearing Him. Filters can leave us confused about what it looks like to have a prayer answered. I know there have been multiple times in my life when I assumed

that God didn't bring a breakthrough simply because I had already decided what that breakthrough would look like. In reality, He had indeed answered my prayer for help and gave me exactly what I needed in that season. Sometimes He has altered my circumstance and other times He has altered my perspective. But in all the situations, He was faithful whether I recognized it in that moment or if it took years for me to see what He did.

When I remember those times, I tend to think about 1 Kings 19:11-13 when God told Elijah to "go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about the pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind.

After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave."

WHEN OUR FOCUS STARTS ON THE SPECTACULAR GLORY OF THE ONE TRUE GOD, OUR MINDS BEGIN TO BE TRANSFORMED AND RENEWED.

Had Elijah assumed the powerful and showy wind, earthquake or fire were the Lord, he would have missed the actual presence of the Lord.

Friends, let's throw out our to-do list, take off our filters, put away the 3 steps to self-righteousness formulas and pause the assumptions. As we

enter into a time of fasting and praying while we begin a new year, let's simply come into the presence of God with a posture of expectancy like Pastor Sam has been encouraging us to do. Let's pause and speak words of gratitude for the new way of life Jesus gave us, and then ask Him to help us walk fully in it! ■

THE MEME DEPARTMENT

Other people: What's so funny?

My brain:



[GOD CREATING DUCKS]

Waterproof that chicken and give it a kazoo.

Paul: "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ."

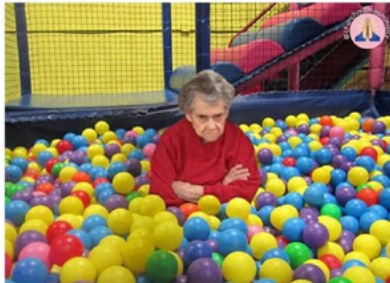


God creates the Kangaroo

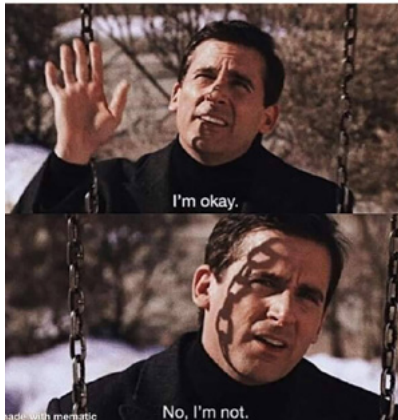
Angel: That's a cute animal!

God: Thanks, it has pockets :)

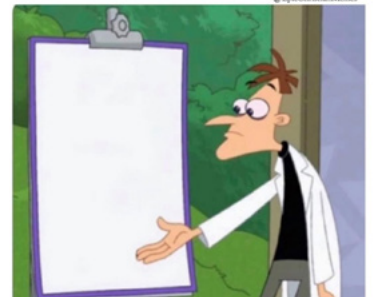
The older brother at the prodigal son's return party



David in the psalms:



Here's a list of all the times God has failed me



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