

THE LOOP

COQUILLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

JANUARY 2024 | VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

Editor:
Kaylee Hanks

Contributors:
Ken Duke
Kaylee Hanks
Sam Flaherty
Victoria Flaherty
Darlene Kupersmith
Carolyn McGuire
Lee Thompson

Special Thanks:
Darlene Kupersmith

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HAPPY NEW YEAR



ELIZABETH'S BAPTISM ▲

BRANDON & SHELLEY, ►
TRUNK OR TREAT, 2023



PASTOR KEN DUKE

THE TIME IS UPON US WHEN most of us will celebrate the goodbye to 2023 and express our hope in the upcoming year of 2024. Our hope, for many of us, is based on it being a better year than the past year. I certainly am hoping that will be true. 2023 opened for me on Dec 31st of 2022 when I fell and broke my ankle, which to this day is still somewhat painful at times. This single event changed our year completely.

So, the hopes we had for 2023 have moved forward to 2024. MaryKay and I have made some fantastic plans for the upcoming year. What kind of plans and hopes do you have in mind for 2024? I sure hope they are plans on facing the year in faith of our Lord, for He has faith in you. Our Lord expressed it when He spoke to the Jewish people in the midst of the captivity in Babylon, one of the most difficult times they experienced as a people.

Jeremiah brought the prophetic word of Hope to the people in Jeremiah 29:11; "For I know the thoughts I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." In context, this word of

hope directly told the people there were better days and years ahead, *if* they did one thing: keep their lives aligned toward Him.

WHAT KIND OF PLANS AND HOPES DO YOU HAVE IN MIND FOR 2024?

So, let's keep our lives aligned toward Him this coming year; for when we do, we will even see the difficulties of this life are rooted in Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are *"the called"* according to His purpose." (Emphasis mine). Yes, you are one of "the called," so face the year ahead with faith, hope, and love. The rewards are beyond our comprehension to what He will do in and through our lives. ■



◀ BILL & MARCI, TRUNK OR TREAT 2023

▼ IZAAK & ZAYA



JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 TRIBE	4 Celebrate Recovery	5	6 Ladies Book Club
7 Church	8 21 Days Prayer & Fasting Begins	9 Mens' Bible Study	10 TRIBE	11 Celebrate Recovery	12	13
14 Church	15	16 Mens' Bible Study	17 TRIBE New Family Fellowship Winter Camp Reg Deadline!	18 Celebrate Recovery	19	20
21 Church	22	23 Mens' Bible Study	24 TRIBE New Family Fellowship	25 Celebrate Recovery	26	27
28 Church Potluck	29	30 Mens' Bible Study	31 TRIBE New Family Fellowship			Winter Camp

Save the Date: Family Camp, June 19 - 23, 2024

Ladies Book Club: Saturday, January 6 at 11 AM at Kaffe 101 in Coos Bay.
For more details, see Kimberly Moore.

21 Days of Prayer & Fasting: January 8 - 28 (See next page).
For more details, see Pastor Sam Flaherty.

Winter Camp Registration Dealine: Wednesday, January 17.
Jr. High & High School Winter Camp is February 2-4, 2024.
For more details, see Pastor Victoria Flaherty.

New Family Fellowship: Wednesday Nights, January 17 - February 7, 6:30 - 8:30 PM in the sanctuary (See page 18).
For more details, see Pastor Sam Flaherty.

Church Potluck: Sunday, January 28, after church in the Fellowship Hall.
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.

TRIBE: Jr. High and High School Group, every Wednesday Evening from 6:30 - 8:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
For more details, see Pastor Victoria Flaherty.

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



We are “Praying the Word” with the global Foursquare community.

JANUARY 8 - 28



PASTOR KAYLEE HANKS

WHEN THE LORD IS calling you to fast, what do you choose to give up? In my experience, there are times when the Lord asks me to set something very specific aside for a while, like social media, TV, or a particular meal during the day. Other times, I struggle to know if there is something in particular or if He just wants me to be more intentional in general.

Fasting is about purposely focusing and redirecting

our attention to God, to temporarily give up something in our lives to humbly seek and draw closer to Him.

In the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal from 1 Kings 18, Israel had been without rain for a few years because of their idolatry, so Elijah confronts King Ahab and issues a challenge: The One True God vs the false god and goddess, Baal and Asherah. Elijah and the prophets of Baal were to each prepare a bull as

an offering, and the God who answered with fire from the sky would be considered the true God. So the prophets prepared their bull, called on the name of Baal, danced around the altar, and cut themselves from morning until evening in attempts to receive a response from their god, but there was no answer.

Then, Elijah prepared his altar, the bull, and a trench. Then, he had the people pour 12 large jars of water all over it. The bull and the wood were completely soaked, and the trench was full. Elijah prayed to God. “Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench” (Verse 38).

A group of us has recently read a book called *Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools*, and in one of the chapters, the

author writes about this story in the Bible and how water was a precious commodity at this time because of the lack of the rain. Elijah “is offering the most lavish sacrifice he can possibly bring. That’s significant” (p. 150).

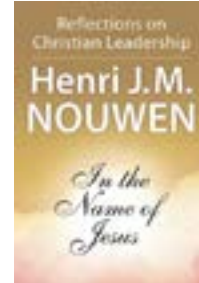
As you seek the Lord about what to fast, think about these two key questions: 1. What is the most lavish thing in your life right now? 2. Is there something in your life that, if you gave it up, you would definitely notice? Something that would be a noticeable sacrifice?

In 1 Kings 18 story, the Lord desired for His people to turn their hearts back to Him. Elijah sacrificed something very precious to the Lord, and the Lord answered. In the same way, what do you need to sacrifice to the Lord in these 21 days in order to help posture your heart more toward Him? ■

STAFF PICKS

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE BOOK RIGHT NOW?

PASTOR SAM & PASTOR RAY



IN THE NAME OF JESUS: REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP
HENRI J.M. NOUWEN, 1989

"I like the focus and orientation back to Jesus and the highly relational aspect of Jesus that was written about." - Pastor Sam Flaherty

CAPTIVATING: UNVEILING THE MYSTERY OF A WOMAN'S SOUL
JOHN & STASI ELDREDGE, 2005



"This book looks at womanhood in a biblical light and explains why women struggle with the things they struggle with. The authors don't communicate what you are doing wrong and how to fix it; instead they communicate why women function the way they do and where God is in it all because God created something beautiful in women to be captivating. This book looks at the desires women have for adventure and to be captivating." - Pastor Victoria Flaherty



ELF: THE CLASSIC ILLUSTRATED STORYBOOK
BASED ON THE FILM WRITTEN BY DAVID BERENBAUM, 2020

"I am currently working on next year's Christmas play, and I'm praying about how to make a sequel to Elf that expresses what the Lord wants to say to our community." - Darlene Kupersmith

PRAYING LIKE MONKS, LIVING LIKE FOOLS: AN INVITATION TO THE
WONDER AND MYSTERY OF PRAYER
TYLER STATON, 2022

“I went in to this book with the question, ‘How do I stop treating prayer like a formula or a superstitious ritual?’ I got my answer. This book came at the perfect time for me; Staton’s basis of a loving relationship with the Lord mixed with Jesus’ current relentless pursuit of and desire for a deeper relationship with me has created breakthrough in the way that I talk to God.”
- Pastor Kaylee Hanks



“MaryKay and I are co-reading this book. She started it and suggested that we read it together. It is a book that challenges us to look at our life, our calling in Christ, and be more intentional. It has been extremely challenging and directional for me.” - Pastor Ken Duke

“This book broadened my concept of prayer. It broadened my concept of the different methods and how to do them. He was very concise in how he wrote about that.” - Pastor Carolyn McGuire ■



▲ KAT'S BAPTISM
◀ PASTOR SAM & MARGARET

REFLECTIONS ON PRAYER



LEE THOMPSON

DEFINITIONS OF PRAYER are: an earnest request, entreaty or supplication. A humble and sincere request to God, an utterance of praise, thanksgiving, or any spiritual communion with God. Jesus gave us a model prayer in Luke 11:

So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

The definition of fast is to abstain from all or certain foods, or to eat very little or nothing. In His teaching (Matthew 6:16), Jesus taught not to be a hypocrite when fasting; it is between you and God. Fasting is when you give up your own desire, to get closer to God, and become completely honest with Him. So important!

Examples of prayer and fasting are found throughout the New Testament:

Matthew 21:21-22

Jesus says that if we have faith and do not doubt, we can move a mountain. And whatever things you ask

in prayer, believing, you will receive. That is a very powerful statement He gave us. Of course, this is believing prayer with authority spoken in accordance with God's

will and purpose. I find that remembering who He says He is helps in so many ways in my walk with Him. In order to believe and trust when I pray - whether the answer comes in



MIKE & MANIKA, TRUNK OR TREAT 2023



◀ TRACI, TRUNK OR TREAT 2023

▼ PASTOR VICTORIA LEADING WORSHIP



yes, no, or not now – I know He has my best interest in mind. I can totally rest in and trust Him. When we receive Jesus, His Spirit comes in and gives us the ability to do what He did.

Acts 13:2-3

The leaders of the church fasted and prayed, seeking God’s direction for the church. It was the beginning of the missionary ministry, which eventually took the gospel to the whole world. Many

churches fast together as a group of believers for various reasons.

Matthew 11:28-30

This is the only place in the Bible where Jesus opens His heart and lets us know who He says He is. The heart is the center of who we are; it is what defines us and directs us. Proverbs 4:23 says: “keep your heart with all diligence for out of it spring the issues of life.” The heart is a matter of life. It is what makes us

human. It drives all we do. It is who we are. When Jesus tells us what animates Him most deeply, what is true of Him when He exposes the innermost recesses of His being, what we find is *gentle* and *lowly*.

Gentle translated from Greek occurs just three other times in the New Testament: the first Beatitude (the weak will inherit the earth, Matthew 5:5), the prophecy quoted from Zechariah 9 found in Matthew 21:5, and in Peter’s encouragement to wives for their conduct (1 Peter 3:4). Gentle Jesus is not trigger-happy, harsh, reactionary, easily exasperated. He is the most understanding person in the universe. The posture most natural to Him is not a pointed finger, but open arms.

Lowly is generally translated as humble in the New Testament. The word does not refer to humility as a virtue, but in the sense of being considerate and meek. Jesus’ point in saying that He’s lowly is that He is accessible. ■

STAY IN THE LOOP



PASTOR SAM FLAHERTY

January Sermon Series

AS WE HEAD INTO THE NEW year, I find myself both excited and anxious. The excited parts of me are fairly simple to identify. Mainly, that God is doing wondrous things in my own life and in our communities across all ages. I am especially excited for our younger generation.

So why anxious? I really don't know. Are there areas in my life and/or my own faith that I hold back due to a lack of trust in God? It is always the question I ask. If there is a deeper longing in me to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, what does that look like?

We will kick off the New Year with a series exploring what a contemplative Christian life might look like. Just from a practical perspective what is prayer, fasting, time with God, reading His word, and more entail, and what impact does this have on me and on all of us together as prophetic community?

Jesus said in Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." I am spending time reflecting on this with God. Together we will spend more time on this and so much more as we lean into deeper meaningful relationship with the living God!

New Family Fellowship

WE ARE EXCITED TO OFFER a 4-week class led by our pastors and staff beginning Wednesday January 17–February 7 from 6:30–8:30pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome. We will get to know each other and learn together what Foursquare is, the story of Foursquare, the story of Coquille Foursquare,

what our core values are, who our leaders are, and so much more. Our time will be interactive around tables as we get more acquainted with each other and how we are on mission together. Whether you have attended for years or just a few weeks, we encourage all to come. ■



THE MEME DEPARTMENT



when you wanna be petty but the Holy Spirit got your back



Lego of your doubts & fears, Peter



All created image from the phrase, "Jesus flipping over the tables in the temple."



Ezekiel chapter 1:



When you're worshipping but also ready to duel Darth Vader



I already told you I am not turning your water into pumpkin spice latte



COQUILLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

1546 N. HEMLOCK ST., COQUILLE, OR, 97423

541-396-5548 // PCFOURSQUARE.ORG

   @COQUILLEFOURSQUARE



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