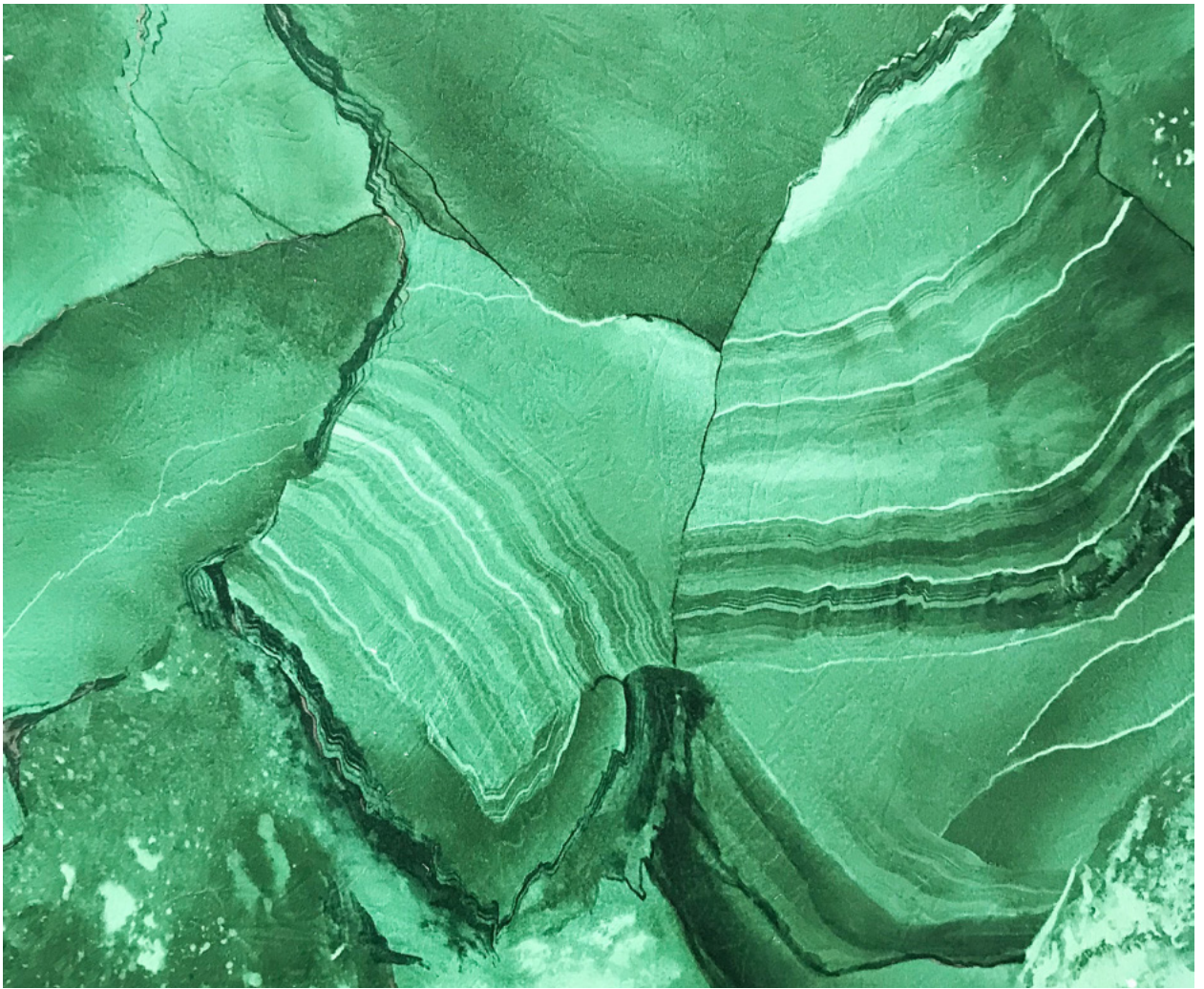


THE LOOP

COQUILLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

MARCH 2023

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3



<i>Compassion First: Our Connection</i>	1
<i>March Calendar</i>	5
<i>Water Baptism</i>	7
<i>Canvas & Clay: A New Reality?</i>	13
<i>The God Who Speaks: A Devotion</i>	15
<i>Color Me!</i>	19





COMPASSION FIRST

OUR CONNECTION PASTOR SAM FLAHERTY

In August of 2005 Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast. At the time I was on staff at Canby Foursquare Church. Lovena and I began to coordinate resources and teams to serve the Waveland, MS area. Our task was primarily to serve as chaplains to the first responders. The loss

of life and property was devastating. Over the next several months we resourced numerous teams and resources valuing well over \$100,000 from our small church in Canby, Oregon.

During this same time Mike Mercer was coordinating efforts 10x our size in the

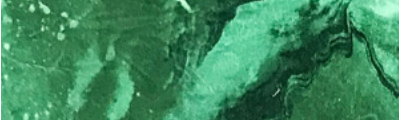
New Orleans area as a Foursquare pastor from Beaverton Foursquare Church. Soon after Katrina he and his wife were stirred to serve the Indonesian families. Specifically, young girls who were being sold for sex. Not long after Mike founded Compassion First, we ran into each other at a Foursquare

◀ TYLER, JACOB, LOVENA, KEN, AND KAYLEE AT WORSHIP PRACTICE



conference. We had lunch and we suddenly realized our Katrina connections/stories were closely tied together. We became fast friends and Mike shared his heart for Indonesia. I was in awe not only for how God moved he and his wife but also for their obedience and creation of Compassion First.

Soon after getting exposed to Compassion First, I presented them to our Coquille Foursquare Council and church family. We have supported Compassion First now for several years as part of our “Global Missions.”



PASTOR SAM & LOVENA WITH COMPASSION FIRST TEAM MEMBERS, VALERIE & MIKE

Compassion First serves from several locations in Indonesia. Their mission is to provide long-term, hope-filled solutions for child survivors of sex trafficking and exploitation. Compassion First believes in the inherent dignity and strength of each person made in the image of God. They serve these precious girls and families with respect and honor.

Compassion First has three main areas of work:

Prevention and Outreach: Building relationships with vulnerable cemetery communities and working together towards community flourishing.

Rescue and Advocacy: Establishing trusted partnerships with law enforcement, the



government and local organizations working together for survivor's rescue and advocacy.

Aftercare: Shelters providing safe and supportive relationships in a therapeutic environment for child survivors of sex trafficking, resulting in healing and transformation.

Over the years we have had Mike Mercer (CEO & Founder), Valerie, Becky, Winda (Indonesia) and other staff visit us in Coquille and serve our community as well. Their work and God stories are always so inspiring and moving. Because of the integrity of the

Compassion First Team in the United States/ Indonesia, combined with their low overhead model, we know that almost all of our donated dollars are directly impacting the lives of young girls in Indonesia. Our church currently gives \$300 monthly. Many others also give designated funds to Compassion First.

Over the coming two months we will have more exciting news about Compassion First. Please join us Sunday, March 5 at Bay Area Foursquare Church for a night of worship and the sharing of God stories with Compassion First. ■

MARCH



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

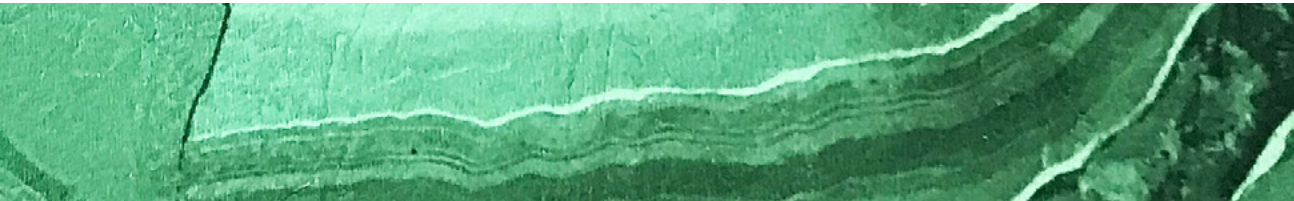
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4
			TRIBE Grief Share	Celebrate Recovery		
5 Church Worship Night	6	7 Mens' Bible Study	8 TRIBE Grief Share	9 Celebrate Recovery	10	11
12 Church	13	14 Mens' Bible Study	15 TRIBE Grief Share	16 Celebrate Recovery	17	18
19 Church	20	21 Mens' Bible Study	22 TRIBE Grief Share	23 Celebrate Recovery	24	25
26 Church	27	28 Mens' Bible Study	29	30	31	



Worship Night with Compassion First: Sunday, March 5th, at Bay Area Foursquare Church. Join us for a night of worship and sharing God stories.

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 at 6:30 - 8 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

For more details, see Victoria Flaherty.

Grief Share Support Group: Wednesday Evenings at 6:30 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.

WATER BAPTISM

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023

STORIES FROM PASTOR CAROLYN & PASTOR SAM

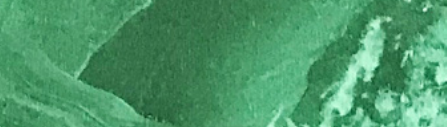


PASTORS SAM & LOVENA AND THE GEORGE FAMILY
GETTING BAPTIZED LAST EASTER

PASTOR CAROLYN
MCGUIRE

When I was a pre-school child, my father became a Christian. The men he worked with were mostly Catholic, so he joined their church. My mother, not wanting my brother and me to be raised Catholic, had us dedicated in one church and water baptized in another. Basically, we were dedicated and baptized Protestant.

When I became a teenager, I accepted Christ as my Savior. I wanted to know more about water baptism and wanted to be obedient to anything the Lord would have me do.



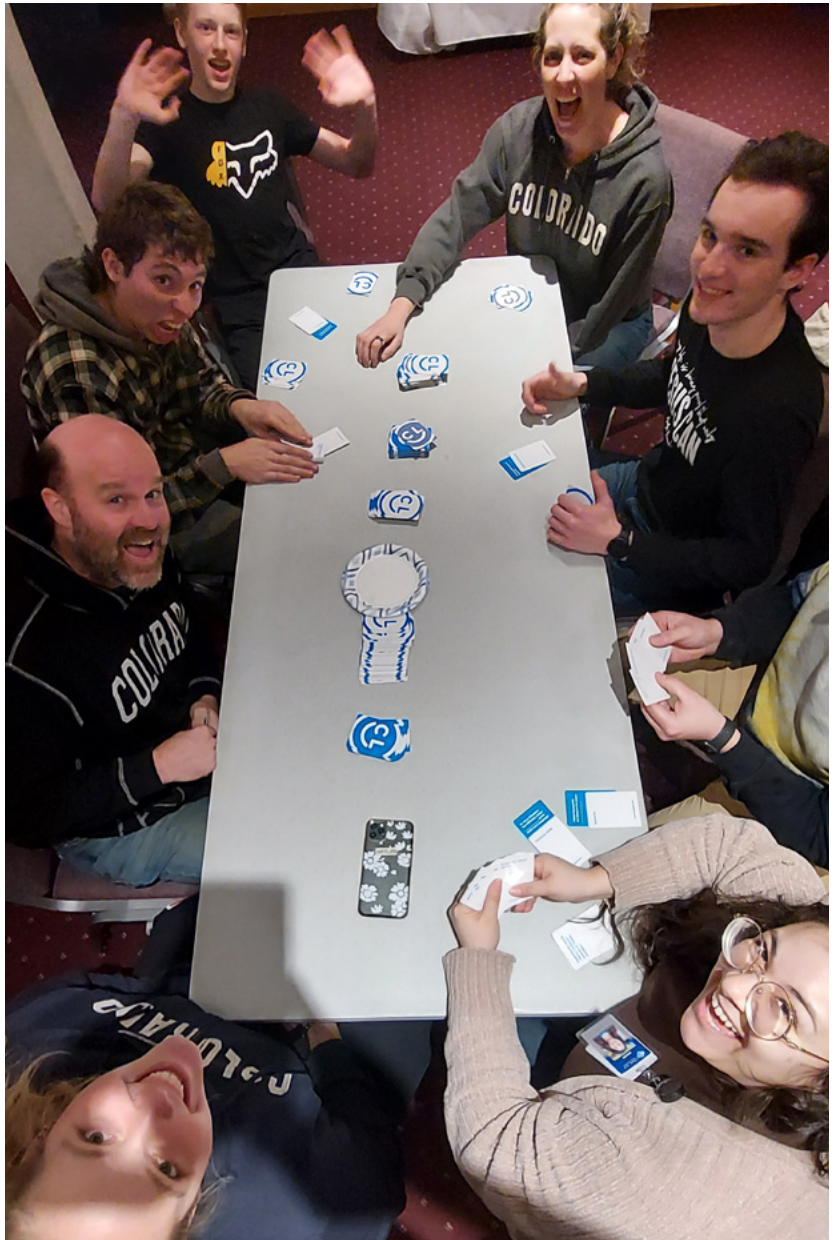
SAM, TYLER, AND ANDY. ANDY LOVES TO SMILE.

I wanted to be baptized as a Christian who had accepted the Lord as my Savior. As Peter said in Acts 2:37-38, “Repent and be baptized.”

Foursquare’s Declaration of Faith declares: “We believe that water baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, according to the command of our Lord, is a blessed outward sign of an inward work; a beautiful and solemn emblem reminding us that even as our Lord died upon the cross of Calvary so we reckon ourselves

now dead indeed unto sin, and the old nature nailed to the tree with Him; and that even as He was taken down from the tree and buried, so we ourselves are buried with Him by baptism unto death; that like Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father even so we should walk in newness of life.” (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:37-38; Galatians 3:27-28; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:20-21; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:41; Matthew 28:19-20)

Being baptized in water



THE YOUNG ADULTS FROM BAY AREA FOURSQUARE JOINED US FOR GAME NIGHT IN JANUARY



SAM PROBABLY KICKING KELSEY AND JACOB'S BUTTS AT GOLF DURING GAME NIGHT

gave me a deeper sense of belonging to the Lord and His family and being obedient to Him. At age 16, my pastor asked me to teach my first Sunday School class. I loved sharing the Bible stories with the young children. I became their “pastor.”

As a young person, I totally gave myself to the Lord and wanted to serve Him for the rest of my life. I spent hours

reading and studying the Bible as I wanted to know more of what my Lord had for me and how I could better serve Him.

Following high school graduation, I entered Life Bible College (now Life Pacific University). I’ve been in the ministry ever since. The decisions that I made as a youth have guided my steps all of my life.



A RARE SIGHT: PASTOR SAM ON THE FLOOR, LOVING ON A BIG FLUFFY DOG. ALSO, HE ISN'T WEARING CROCS!

PASTOR SAM FLAHERTY

Part of my church background growing up included Foursquare churches, Baptist and non-denominational churches. Perhaps the most notable experience was when the Baptist pastor went to a conference and came back spirit-filled. Growing up in all of these faith communities, water baptism was always made available for the believer. I am especially thankful for my mom and dad who didn't press us three boys into any decisions in

regards to our choices. They always showed us the living God through the Bible and real life experiences. It wasn't until around 12 years old that I and my two brothers wanted to be baptized. We really wanted to be baptized by our grandfather. So we made the trip to Ashland, Oregon. We met grandpa at a church where he was filling a large built-in baptism tank with a garden hose. Grandpa didn't clean the tank out so there was an ungodly amount

of bugs (all dead) floating in the water and it was freezing cold. None of that mattered when grandpa began to speak. Grandpa baptized all three of his grandsons that day. Grandpa prayed over us and I will never forget the infilling of God's Holy Spirit. We were crying, some speaking in tongues and empowered to our freezing core.

Water baptism is a beautiful outward expression of an inward work in the believer.



One of my favorite passages of scripture is from Paul in Romans 6:3-8 (NLT), which says:

“Or have you forgotten that when we became Christians and were baptized to become one with Christ Jesus, we died with him? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised as he was. Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power

in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also share his new life.”

In other words, when you are lowered into the water, this represents the fact that you died with Christ and were buried with Him. When you are brought up out of the water, you identify with Christ in His resurrection, and the beginning of your new life as a Christian. This is also why we baptize by immersion, because it more accurately portrays what happened to us when we

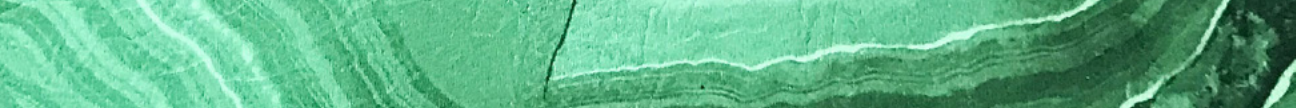
became a Christian.

In addition to representing your identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection, baptism is important because it is a public declaration of your faith in Christ to others.

To this day I always share and pray with everyone being baptized that they will receive an infilling of Holy Spirit as part of their decision to be baptized! Have you been baptized? Want to talk more about it? Ask any of our pastors and plan to be baptized on Easter Sunday April 9!



CANVAS & CLAY



A NEW REALITY?
KAYLEE HANKS

I often find myself struggling between living in the new life that God has for me and living in the old life of who I was. I am learning how to work through the old to truly put on the new. It feels like the reality of Christ is such a continual culture shock compared to the lies that I used to believe about myself, people, and the way the world works.

But Jesus is changing my life. As he transforms me, He shows me certain habits and processes that I had made a part of me a long time ago. He says, “Hey, you don’t need this anymore. I can handle that for you.” Jesus has pointed out walls

that I have built around my heart, self-drawn lines that I vowed to never cross, and processes in my mind that I rely on too much when I feel uncomfortable. These were measures that I built and put in place myself and in my own strength as I grew up. They were meant to protect me and help me cope when things were too hard.

But I have Jesus now. His strength is enough in any situation, and I take refuge in Him. For me to keep and maintain the measures that I built is about as absurd as needing helium-filled balloons to help you float in outer space. ■



ARTIST, KAYLEE HANKS

THE GOD WHO

"I AM WITH YOU. I LOVE YOU. I AM YOUR GOOD ENOUGH"

DARLENE KUPERSMITH

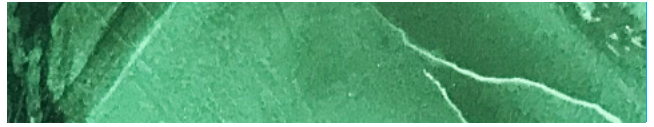
For many years I really struggled with a lie: "God does not speak to me." And that lie in turn, enforced other ones. It seemed like He spoke to others, but not to me. "God, it feels like You are not here with me. I guess I'm not good enough." I felt invisible and unloved. Not noticed, not heard and not spoken to.

Those lies still try to raise their ugly heads. But the reality is this: My Lord is the Good Shepherd that speaks to His sheep. A good, good shepherd that loves His sheep and desires to lead us to everything

that brings life and wholeness. A good, good Father that speaks to His children. He is so close to me that I live and move and have my being in Him! He is God with us. He sees me! I do not have to be good enough. HE IS my good enough! I realized the truth of my part in this struggle. It's not that He doesn't speak to me. It's that I need to learn to listen. I need to learn to talk to Him more. To ask questions. To trust in His great love for me. I want to be expectant that He will speak to me. To be watching for Him. My prayer now is this. "Lord, help me to look to You more. Teach me to listen. Help me remember that you do love me and YOU ALONE are my good enough."

*HE IS SO CLOSE TO ME THAT I LIVE AND MOVE
AND HAVE MY BEING IN HIM! HE IS GOD WITH
US. HE SEES ME! I DO NOT HAVE TO BE GOOD
ENOUGH. HE IS MY GOOD ENOUGH.*

SPEAKS



EVAN, WILL, AND LIZ PLAYING MARIO KART AT GAME NIGHT

I want to become, more and more, an attentive sheep that listens for His voice and runs to Him. I know there is no limit to the ways He speaks. Some of the obvious ways are through His word, through others, through events, and through creation. He speaks in many other creative and sometimes even funny ways. I'd say speaking through a donkey is pretty creative! (See bible verses at the end.)

One of the ways He speaks is through repetition. Last week, I popped onto K-Light radio for a brief bit and heard Brant Hanson share this scripture: "Fear not, for **I am with you**; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you,



VICTORIA, REBECCA, DEBBIE, LOVENA, TRACI, KAYLEE, AND LISA

Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”—Isaiah 41:10

The part that stuck out to me was, “I am with you.” Honestly, I didn’t spend much time paying attention to it. The following day it popped up again. I can’t remember where, but I heard it again. Someone mentioned Isaiah 41:10, and this time I got it! I realized God was speaking to me. He desires to bring life

and wholeness to that place in me that still needs to know that He is with me always. He wants me to know just how very much He loves me. I know it in my head, but do I really know it? He actually likes spending time with me! There is a book I read decades ago called, “The Practice of the Presence of God,” by Brother Lawrence. I remember reading that while at his humble job in a kitchen doing dishes, Brother Lawrence would



deliberately spend time with the Lord and focus on the fact that God was there with him. He learned to enjoy and even love his time doing dishes because it was there he developed an awareness of the great love and presence of God. I'm going to have to look that book up again.

I have been with the Lord for a really long time. The truth is I do remember times, even at the age of five, that He

was there, speaking to me. Sometimes we forget the ways He has loved us and just need to take the time to remember. I don't have to be good enough for him to be with me. He is my good enough. He is here with me. Right here and now. He sees me. He desires to speak to me. He even loves me. I can live expectant of hearing the voice of my Good Shepherd ... "Baaah."

He is my Shepherd

(Psalm 23, John 10:2-5)

He sees me
(Genesis 16:13)

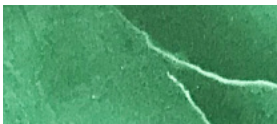
He speaks
(Numbers 22:28)

He is near
(Acts 17:28)

He loves me
(Psalms 109:26, Psalm 139)

He is my good enough
(Jeremiah 23:6) ■

COLOR ME!



DRAWN BY VICTORIA FLAHERTY



COQUILLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

1546 N. HEMLOCK ST., COQUILLE, OR, 97423
541-396-5548 // PCFOURSQUARE.ORG

   @COQUILLEFOURSQUARE

