



THE LOOP

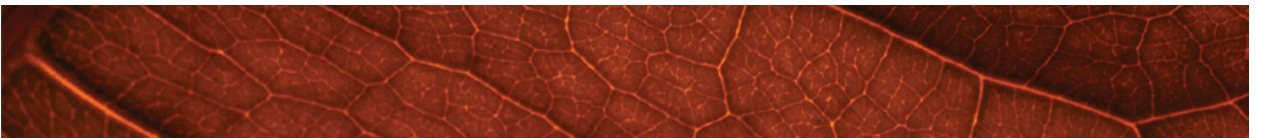
COQUILLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

OCTOBER 2023

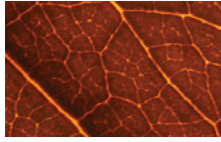
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 10



<i>Halloween</i>	1
<i>October Calendar</i>	5
<i>Trunk-or-Treat</i>	7
<i>Sing a New Song: Selah</i>	9
<i>Call to Me</i>	11
<i>Stay in the Loop</i>	15
<i>Fall Crossword</i>	19



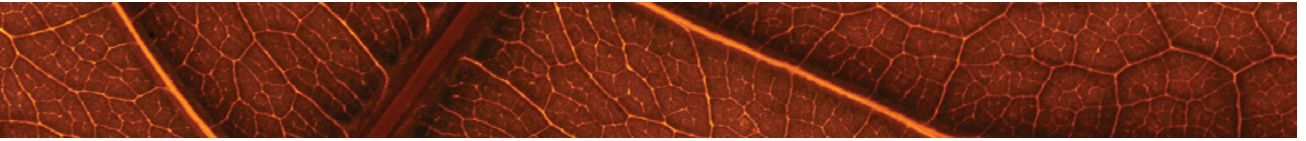
HALLOWEEN



PASTOR CAROLYN MCGUIRE



PASTOR SAM AND IZAAK



When I was a young teen, my older brother and I would put on costumes and go out the evening before Halloween to see if we could fool some of our neighbors into giving us treats. We would knock on a door and say, “Tonight we bake, tomorrow we feast! Tonight we bake, tomorrow we feast!” It was amazing! Some thought it was Halloween and they had forgotten. To answer our request some would give us candy and some would give us coins. On Halloween, we would put on a different costume and go out again. After touring our neighborhood, we would put on different costumes and

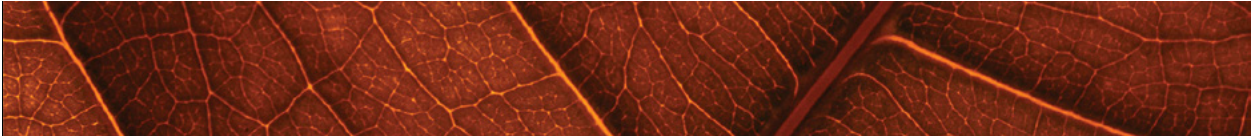
go back to the houses that gave the best treats. Such shenanigans!

Halloween is a holiday celebrated each year on October 31. The tradition originated with the ancient festival “Samhain”, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1st as a time to honor all saints. Soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween. Over time, Halloween evolved into a day

of activities like trick-or-treat, carving jack-a-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating treats.

Halloween’s origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts who lived 2,000 years ago, mostly in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1st.

This day marked the end of summer and harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that



on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred.

On the night of Oct 31st they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth.

In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops. Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests to make predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort during the

long, dark winter.

To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals. During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes.

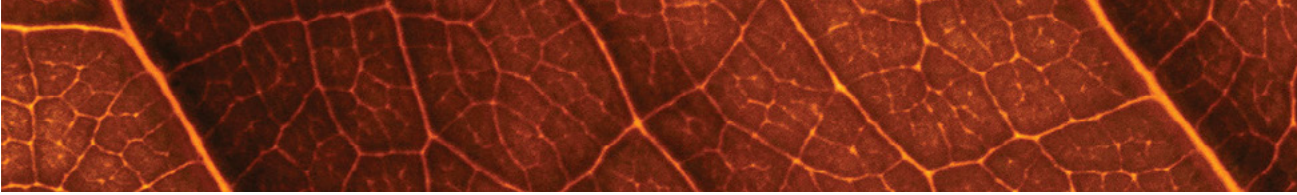
When the celebration was over, they re-lit their hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier that evening, from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter.

While I appreciate the history and traditions of Halloween, I personally prefer to celebrate the conclusion of the harvest season. The season begins to change from summer to fall, and the harvesters gather in the last remaining produce of the year. Fall has always been my favorite time of year! I enjoy watching the leaves changing colors. Just so, in our lives the Lord has many seasons for us. Spring time is a time of refreshing and new growth, and in fall (every day of our lives) the Lord wants us to shed our old leaves (habits, sins, relationships, etc.) and allow them to die out that He might grow new life in us. ■



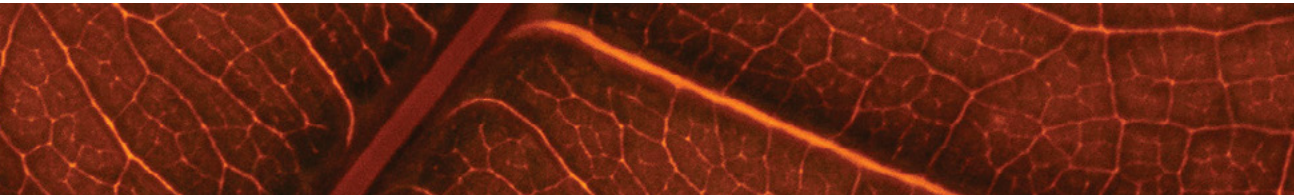
PASTOR SAM AND LOVENA, PASTOR VICTORIA, AND STUDENTS AT TRIBE SWIM NIGHT

OCTOBER



SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Church		Mens' Bible Study	TRIBE	Celebrate Recovery		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Church		Mens' Bible Study	TRIBE	Celebrate Recovery		Fall Family Fun Day
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Church		Mens' Bible Study	TRIBE	Celebrate Recovery		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Church		Mens' Bible Study	TRIBE	Celebrate Recovery	Young Adults Gathering	
29	30	31				
Church		Mens' Bible Study Trunk-or-Treat				



Fall Family Fun Day: Saturday, October 14th, 10:30 am - 1 pm at Mahaffy Ranch.
For more details, see Pastor Sam Flaherty.

Young Adults Gathering: Friday, October 27, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
For more details, see Pastor Victoria Flaherty.

Trunk-or-Treat: Tuesday, October 31st, 6 pm at Les Schwab.
For more details, see Pastor Victoria 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 am in the Fellowship Hall.
For more details, see Pastor Victoria Flaherty.

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

TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 31ST AT LES SCHWAB

PASTOR VICTORIA
FLAHERTY

Last year I got to be a part of Trunk or Treat for the first time since I moved here 3 years ago. I was prepared for fun but was surprised by just how much fun it was! There were so many families that came. And interacting with the kids was a blast! It was also so awesome to see everyone's creativity in making their themed trunks.

Traditionally, Halloween is a very pagan holiday and there can be some hesitation from churches to participate. However, I am reminded of John 17:16 where Jesus says

about His disciples, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." The Greek word here for world means "ungodly multitude". When we set up our trunks and participate in the festivities on October 31st we are not surrendering our convictions of faith to join the world. We are creating a safe place where kids can have fun and we can extend the love of Jesus while connecting with families in our community.

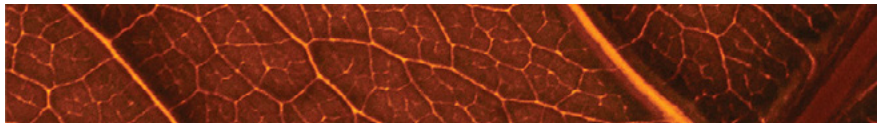
"Preach the Gospel at all times, use words when necessary." – Pope Francis

Join us this year! We need candy donations (look for the box in the sanctuary). We need trunks, and lots of them (last year we had close to 20! Can we get to 30 this year?). And we need prayer.

Pray for safety, opportunity, grace, peace, and joy. Pray that our reaching out would be felt as the hand of God reaching in love to his beloved children whom He longs to draw near. ■



EVAN AND KELSEY, TRUNK-OR-TREAT 2022



SELAH

Chorus

Selah, Selah

Pause and praises rise

Selah, exalt

Let the heart of our praise lift you high

Verse 1

A sweet perfume to You, Lord

Let our voices ring out with Your praise

We humbly quiet our hearts

And pause in the presence of Your Name

Verse 2

You send a Father's help

Lift my head from the weight of the pain

You surround me with Your love

Pause in the rest of this place

Bridge

Oh praise Your Name forever

Oh praise Your Name forever

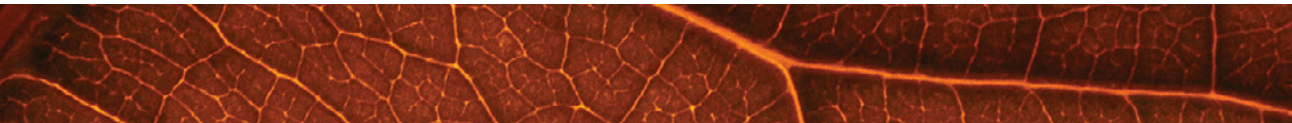
Oh praise Yahweh forever

God of my heart

God of my peace

I trust in You

WAVING A NEW SONG



LOVENA FLAHERTY

Not too long ago, I was reading the bible in Psalms, I noticed a word that stood out. It was not translated into English, and I would later find out it was not translated because theologians originally struggled to understand its meaning. The word “Selah” eventually was said to probably be a musical term meaning “to Pause” or “rest” or stop for a count. Selah stood out so much I started writing a song about it. God kept bringing it back to my heart.

Looking back, it makes sense to me that the Holy Spirit made that word stand out to me because it was a time of a lot of busyness and stress. I

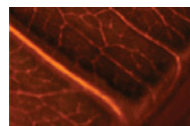
am naturally driven by many factors in life. Ministry, work, finances, volunteering, helping others and ect, etc, Housing cleaning, ect. All this and more fill most of my minutes in life and I am tempted to use the few extra minutes I have to myself to “check-out” or escape. But what I have found is that although these “escape” times do temporarily help me find the strength to get back at it (Life), they do not fix me in a way that is deep and true and lasts.

I love how the Passion Translation of the Bible interprets Selah as “Pause in His Presence”. Although I think we all need to have time

to just check out, I have found that as I pause in His (God’s) presence I am able to truly rest and connect with God, to hear from him, and drink from a well of His love and wisdom and healing that will never run dry. My new song “Selah” isn’t just about resting, it’s about resting in “Him” the God of everything I need.

John 4:14 TPT- but if anyone drinks the living water I give them, they will never be thirsty again. For when you drink the water I give you, it becomes a gushing fountain of the Holy Spirit, flooding you with endless life. ■

CALL TO ME



A DEVO
DANIEL BOONE

“Call to me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things which you do not know” Jerimiah 33:3

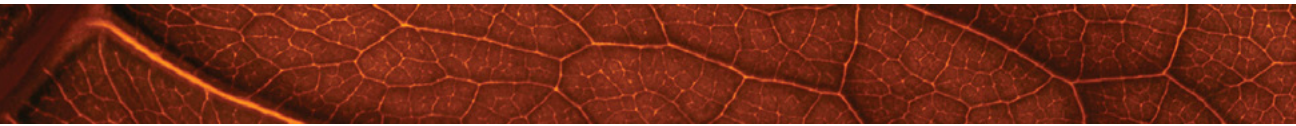
This encouraging invitation to pray and converse with God came to Jeremiah while he was in prison in Jerusalem. The city leaders had him locked up because his prophecies were all bad, about how Nebuchadnezzar and the Chaldeans were soon to ransack Jerusalem and burn it down and take the captives away to Babylon.

Jeremiah was a prophet chosen by God from his youth. As such, he was receiving Gods’ words without any effort on his part. The hard part for Jeremiah was to deliver Gods’

word to the community, who did not want to hear it. Early on, God tells him “Do not be afraid of their faces for I am with you to deliver (preserve) you.” Later on as he is feeling the heat of persecution, Jeremiah reiterates that idea, praying “But the Lord is with me as a mighty, awesome One.”

Praying scripture back to God is very powerful and helpful in that it shows our faith in the Word, reinforces our belief in God’s Word and shows God we are paying attention. It is not nagging to remind God of his promises, rather it shows we believe the promises and it lifts us up.

Prayers are as widely diverse



and unique as the people who pray them. Praying to God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit is really striking up a conversation with the Creator of All Things. It builds up the God/human connection. It can make you feel great! Reaching out to God can give us new perspective and open our hearts and minds to things we have never considered before.

Prayer is a very personal, individual quest to strengthen one's relationship with God. At the same time, prayer is very often a group activity. Matthew records for us Jesus' words in Matt18:19-20; "I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in



LORI, SARA, AND KAITLYNN'S BAPTISM



TREVOR'S BAPTISM



PRESTON'S BAPTISM

heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” Agreeing with others in prayer would seem to be a more potent supplication than an individual prayer. Find a friend and agree in prayer.

I had been married for at least 12 years before I ever prayed with my wife. We learned to pray together in a marriage-boosting seminar called “Nova Shalom.” We make time now to pray together nearly every day. It is a great activity to keep us bonded and aware of what’s going on with each other.

In First Thessalonians 5:17-18 Paul encourages us to “pray without ceasing (uninterruptedly), in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Certainly prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude are some of the most popular, but to be able to “pray

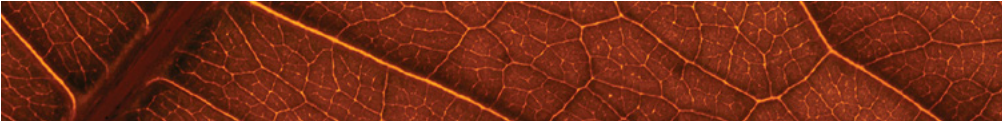
without ceasing” would be a huge accomplishment. Is it attainable?

Just a few years ago during praise and worship here in our church, we sang an unfamiliar song with the refrain “I’m so

PRAYING SCRIPTURE BACK TO GOD IS VERY POWERFUL AND HELPFUL IN THAT IT SHOWS OUR FAITH IN THE WORD, REINFORCES OUR BELIEF IN GODS WORD AND SHOWS GOD WE ARE PAYING ATTENTION.

full of answered prayer, I’m so full of answered prayer.” I stopped singing and started an internal dialogue with myself: Wait, what? No, I’m not. Really? After about 30 seconds of being flummoxed by the idea that I was full of answered prayers, I had the Halleluia moment and totally embraced the concept. I am full of answered prayers!

Pray on. ■



STA

THE TRUTH ABOUT FAMILY: WHERE DOES JESUS FIT? PASTOR SAM FLAHERTY

The truth about family! I am fairly confident I can state that every family has a story or two or three of how broken, dysfunctional and/or painful they are due to all sorts of various reasons. Guess what? Jesus isn't exempt (with exception to His Father)!

When I actually read the genealogies of Matthew 1 and Luke 3, I am struck by two things. First: I can't pronounce most of the names...at all! Second, Jesus' family is messed up!!

When Jesus enters the narrative of God's love

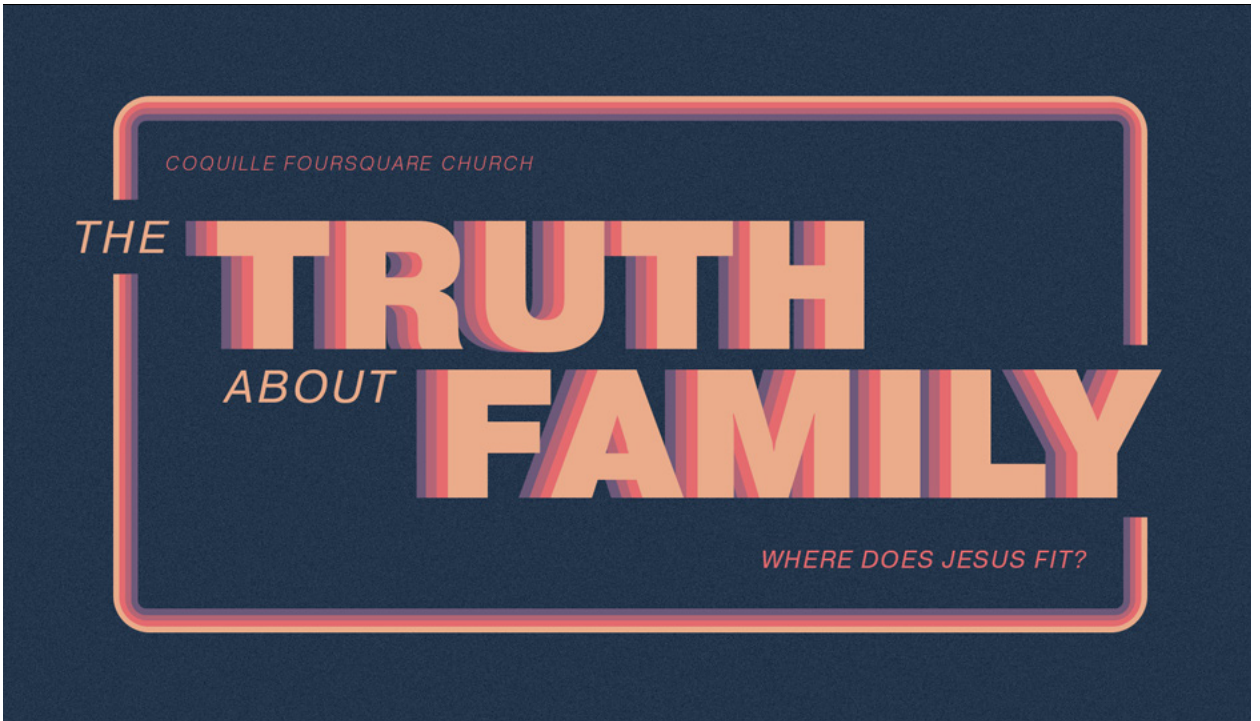
story for all of us, He loves unconditionally with an extravagant love. The Father's heart and love for us is exposed through His Son Jesus in radical and transformational ways.

It doesn't matter my family of origin, the story of my past sins, and so on. What speaks louder than anyone or anything to the depths of my soul is God's unconditional love for me. Then He calls me out to love back. Not only to love God but to love others with the same life giving transformational love that Jesus shares with all of us.

Families are messed up, sometimes. BUT GOD loves our broken families! In our next series we will take a look at Jesus' family and how He redeems their broken stories.

What does that matter to us today? What is the difference between "First Love" and "Second Love?" All of this and more as we set the stage for Jesus' Birth this Advent Season.

AY IN THE LOOP





PASTOR SAM SWOONING OVER JOSHUA AARON, 2017



PASTOR SAM, JOSHUA AARON, LOVENA, AND KELSEY

JOSHUA AARON: MY “MAN CRUSH” PASTOR SAM FLAHERTY

On more than one occasion I have referred to Joshua Aaron as my “Man Crush.” Why? I need to go all the way back to junior high.

I’ve had a love and strong affinity for music – all my life. Especially for artists who wrote and sang their own music. In junior high my absolute favorite artist was Keith Green. I marveled at the type of songs he wrote and sang.

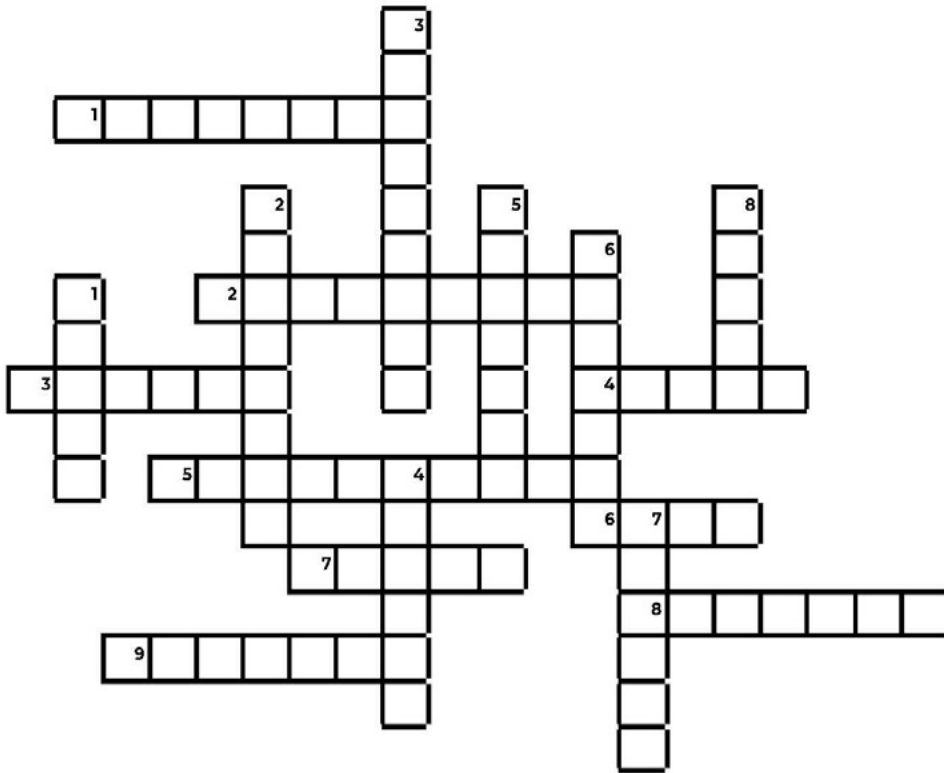
Fast forward to over eight years ago and I am in love with the type of songs Joshua Aaron is writing and singing. Most of his songs are written with a blend of Hebrew and English and incorporate tradition and culture while glorifying God. His powerful music videos often display

the beautiful landscape of the Holy Land.

When Lovena and I led our first Israel Tour for Coquille Foursquare in 2017, I messaged Joshua Aaron and we began a dialogue. He is very kind and gracious and also agreed to come meet us at our hotel on the Sea of Galilee. He arrived with his ukele and worshipped with us.

Since that time Joshua Aaron has become extremely popular and tours all over the world sharing the Gospel with his music. For over three years I have been inquiring if he will be on the West Coast. Well, here he comes! May 26, 2024 we will worship with Joshua Aaron again. This time in Coquille! Why Not Coquille!! ■

FALL CROSSWORD



DOWN

1. Pumpkin and squash are varieties of _____.
2. A nut-filled pastry dish
3. October 31
4. _____ turn colors and fall.
5. The faithful will reap a _____.
6. "The best time to wear a striped _____ is all the

time." - *Spongebob Squarepants*

7. _____ make delicious pies, turnovers, and crisps.
8. The answer for 7 down makes this classic fall drink.

birds.

3. The season after summer
4. Baby oak tree
5. Starbucks popular fall drink: Pumpkin _____ .
6. Sky confetti
7. Neck sweater
8. Morton, Illinois: The _____ Capital of the world.
9. A bundle of food for animals in the winter.

ACROSS

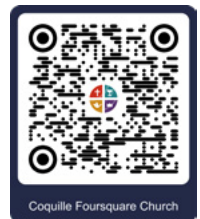
1. High school on Friday. College on Saturday. Professional on Sunday.
2. This may be frightening to

COQUILLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

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

541-396-5548 // PCFOURSQUARE.ORG

   @COQUILLEFOURSQUARE



SEE PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE LOOP ON OUR WEBSITE