



# The Grapevine

A Publication of First Congregational Church of Salida



Welcome  
Autumn

Fall 2023 ISSUE  
Volume 13, Issue 3

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## Pastor James Frost

Have you ever heard anyone say this before? "I love Jesus, but I don't do church."

This is the beginning of a conversation that I have had countless times with people of all different ages, backgrounds and experiences.

As well as: "I'm a Christian, but I don't have to go to church in order to love Jesus."

Now our salvation is not based on our works or church attendance. But it's also true that when we surrender our lives to Him, we naturally desire to learn more about Him, to be a part of the body of Christ and to be held accountable and pointed toward sanctification. We are called to live out an active faith.

One of my favorite verses is 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new." So when we truly repent, surrender and choose to follow Jesus, we are given a new heart, one that desires godliness and holiness. We are given the opportunity to make the daily choice to leave our past lives behind us and move forward toward the righteous life that He has set out for us.

Another favorite of mine is, "If anyone claims to live in Christ, he must walk as He did" (1 John 2:6).

I have watched people who claim to love Jesus hurt the people around them deeply. I have witnessed affairs, divorce, hypocrisy, greed and excessive pride. I have watched some of our closest friends walk away from the church for the reasons stated above and many more. I have seen deep hurt caused by the church and have watched faithful churchgoers turn bitter, angry or broken because of the way these events occurred.

I want to ensure you that I'm not sitting behind a computer screen, lacking empathy or compassion towards the hurt that many have likely felt. It's all very real, and I have felt it too. And I am also not ignoring the fact that the church is full of sinful people, nor that there is hard pain and baggage to come along with it. But I am simply turning my eyes to Jesus, the author and perfecter of my faith and my hope. I have made the choice to not allow the sinful, broken people of the church (those



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who look just like me) not to be a stumbling block that keeps me away from my sinless, perfect and loving Heavenly Father who simply wants to draw us to Himself.

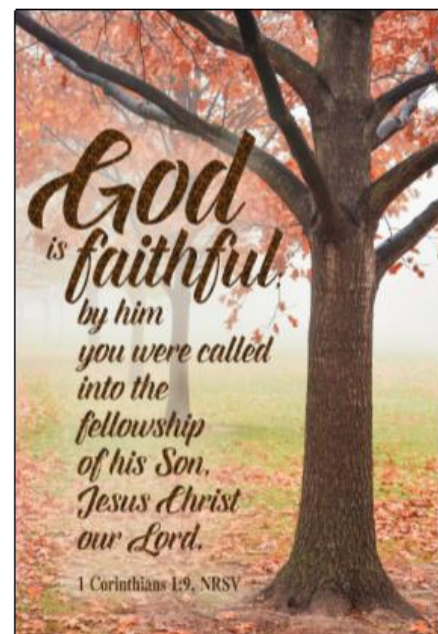
The church isn't primarily a building or a set of programs or events. It's a family. A broken family, yes. But a family all-the-more, seeking God to love more, serve more and share light in a super, super dark world. And we see throughout the Bible that Christ Himself was part of the church. His apostles were as well. And remember this from our Hebrews study? "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near" (Heb. 10:24-25).

The apostle Paul said, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many" (1 Cor. 12:12-14). He also said, "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" (Eph. 4:11-12), while one more time he says, "You were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Cor. 1:9).

I fully understand that the 'American Church' may not be what Christ had in mind. And we must be wise and discerning when choosing a church to ensure that it is bible-believing and bible-teaching. But although some church buildings themselves may not be the same as the church in Jesus' day, it is still made up of people who love the Lord (although imperfectly) and come together to hear His word. While the contextualization has changed, the mission remains the same – to glorify God and make disciples. Though the way we do things now may look a little different than first century Rome, it's the same mission and strategy that propels us forward; assembling for worship, connecting in community, training up disciples.

I can almost hear some of your thoughts as I type this:

- Our worship is too cheesy and old fashioned.
- The pastor isn't available enough.
- I have too much going on in my life.
- My husband/wife doesn't want to go so I don't go.
- People aren't welcoming.
- It's an awkward experience.
- It's not the church that Jesus designed it to be.
- Having kids makes it too hard to get there.
- And, of course, the most popular: Church is a corporate design



Continued from page 3

created by man for the consumption of money; it is a place which promotes religion rather than faith and relationship.

-And there's way too many more.

I've heard it all before. And, to be honest, many of these things I have thought myself. I'm not above the doubt or scrutiny, either. But, you guys, how will we fix what is broken in the church or help the people of the church if we refuse to be a part of it? If you evaluate your life today, are you choosing busyness or bitterness over worship? We can sit behind the scenes criticizing or we can live out an active faith – serving and getting involved – making real changes, loving on real people, living life alongside real pain.

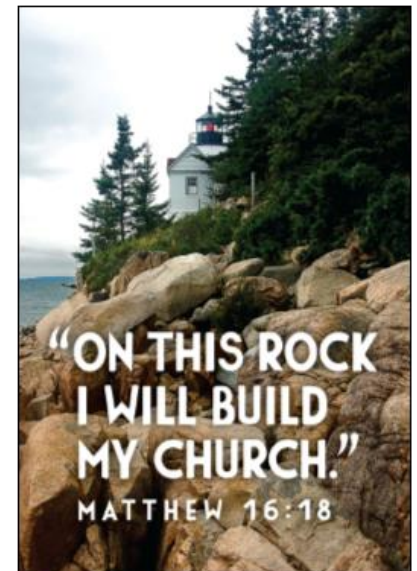
The Enemy is strategic. He has come to steal, kill and destroy your faith, a relationship with God and relationship with other believers. So if we constantly choose sleeping in on Sundays and breakfast with our family over church, if we choose a night out drinking, line-dancing, or karaoke over genuine community, sharing real life with one another and holy living, then we aren't making a difference in the church that we may or may not see so many problems with. But we're simply allowing the issues that we feel so strongly about to perpetuate as we carelessly look on.

I've witnessed church-hopping, where people treat church like Goldilocks treated beds. People want that "just right" perfect-feeling church, but when they can't find it, they simply walk away. All the enemy had to do is distract them. But to that I say: Choose a place and stick with it. You'll never find perfect. We should not be looking at what we can get from the church, our hearts should be set on what we can give the church, and to God.

And as a reminder, the enemy has the power to use both good and bad things to keep you from God things – but only if you let him. He uses distraction, bitterness, hard-heartedness, pride, awkwardness and even feel good/treat yourself days to his advantage.

C.S. Lewis said it perfectly: "The perfect church service would be the one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God. But every novelty prevents this. It fixes our attention on the service itself; and thinking about worship is a different thing than worshipping. It is mad idolatry that makes the service greater than the god."

Dear friends, God is the focus of the church. The service nor the people need to be perfect for you to hear His life-changing word. True life change happens in the church. We truly grow when we connect with every day people, pour into them and allow them to pour into us.



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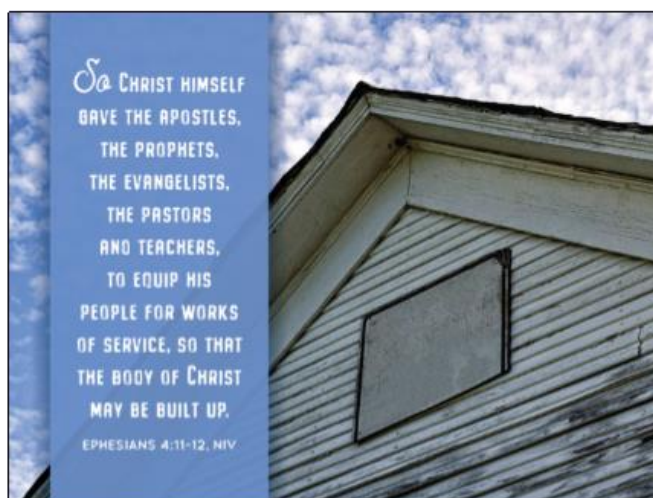
The local church, led by Jesus, is the hope of the world and God's means to disciple the nations and hasten his return. Matthew 16:18 says, "...On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

So how can we despise or resent the church when Jesus not only said He was going to build it, but that He would use it to storm the gates of hell? That's something I want to be a part of! Don't you?

It's true that there are churches out there which have fallen into the trap of trying to accumulate numbers rather than turning hearts toward God. But this isn't the healthy church that God intended for it to be. A bible-believing, bible-teaching church comes together as a reminder that we can only experience fruitful mission when we are fully abiding in and drawing strength from the true vine (John 15). His word is our daily bread.

And in a world offering countless different perspectives, there is one place that people can find truth (John 8:26). The church is a lighthouse in an ethical and immoral fog (Matthew 5:14-16). So if you claim to know and love God, yet do not have a desire to be a part of His church, I lovingly implore you to evaluate your relationship with Him. Get in His word and read what He has to say about His calling for us.

People, there are one hundred or more things that we could do that would hinder us from sharing life with God's people, and if you're hesitant, I challenge you to choose intentionality and join in worshipping God this weekend! I promise you that as many reasons as you might have not to go, there are even more reasons to trust God and pour your life and heart out for Him alongside His people.







**Welcome**  
*Our New*  
**Members**

September 11, 2023



**Jennifer Frances**



We celebrate what the Lord has done in our midst for 113 years.



## TO SOME SPECIAL PEOPLE...

Thank you JANNA LOU & DAVE BAKER for kicking off the start of Fellowship Lunch after our Summer hiatus. As tradition would have it, Janna Lou made her Back-to-School Sloppy Joes... And a green salad with their delicious homegrown tomatoes.

And... Thank you to our Dessert Queens Linda Kendall and Vicki Pelucca. Linda made a berry cobbler and Vicki made a chocolate tart. Delicious!

Thank you to all those who helped cleanup in the kitchen. We appreciate everyone chipping in to help!



**Thank you Pastor James for all you do for our church family. And, Lu too.**



Someone showed me a post on Facebook that First Congregational Church of Salida was having a fundraiser for a 2022 Harley Davidson motorcycle for a preschool. A \$100 donation per ticket.

I was curious because there has been nothing lately regarding the preschool. So, I decided to check with Dave Baker, Trustee Chair, since there had been no vote about a preschool at our church. Others were curious as well.

Here is what Dave had to say.

The Trustees need to discern whether or not having a preschool should be brought to the congregation or not. There are several things which need to be addressed such as:

- Are our facilities able to accommodate a preschool? What we might have to do to get State approval?
- Is there a demand for a preschool in our area?
- Cost to start up - Employee salaries. Employee availability.
- Costs involved for facilities and equipment.

And many more things we need to know, so our congregation will have the positives and negatives of such an undertaking to be able to vote. Your board does not want to shoot from the hip and if we run into a deal breaker the idea will die.

Once information is gathered, then there will be a meeting to present this information, hopefully by the end of the year.

I also asked about the motorcycle fundraiser raffle. How could we have a fundraiser for a preschool that has not been approved. Dave said it was a proposed preschool. If the preschool does not materialize, the money goes into our general fund.

*Diane Suzuki*



2nd Tuesday  
**FELLOWSHIP**  
**LUNCH**  
12:00 Noon



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

If you would like to host a luncheon, please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board located in the Fellowship Hall.



AUTUMN... Shorter days, falling leaves, oranges, crimson, yellow, and brown all around--- Lots of pumpkin, too.



## *Women's Christmas Tea*

**Saturday, 2 December 2023**

**11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**





Get into the Christmas Spirit... Our 7th Annual Women's Christmas Tea will be held on Saturday, 2 December 2023, in our Fellowship Hall.

Be a hostess. Decorate a table. Invite up to eight women to share in an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship.

Details will be forthcoming soon. If you have any questions, see Lu Frost.

**Make your season bright  
by joining us**









*2 Corinthians 4:5*  
 For we preach not ourselves,  
 but Christ Jesus the Lord;  
 and ourselves your servants  
 for Jesus' sake.



Melody Ireland with her son, Sid Stone.

# PRISON MINISTRY




*Four Decades & Counting...*

Rock of Ages Ministries has been used of God to partner with local churches and assist in fulfilling the Great Commission. Together we are making a positive impact in local communities, both, nationwide, and around the world. Every week our missionaries preach the Gospel message to thousands in the prisons, schools, military facilities and people of all ages.

Since May 1991, Rock of Ages missionaries have worked in foreign fields reaching out to inmates and public-school students with the life-changing power of the Gospel of Christ. Rock of Ages has established ministries on six continents.

The lives of students in public, private, and alternate schools in the United States and abroad have been positively impacted through the Rock of Ages Ministries Prison Prevention Program since 1996. Our missionaries partner with local churches to teach moral values and character-building classes in our public schools that help strengthen and develop today's youth. Youth that were on the path to prison have changed the direction of their lives through our Character Under Construction curriculum.

Whether in the prisons, schools, or military facilities Rock of Ages is committed to proclaiming the Gospel of Christ.





**SUPPER CLUB**

September 29, 2023



Thank you for the Frosts for hosting the September Supper Club!

Lu made her special saucy burgers, of course. Grillmaster Pastor James manned the BBQ. These burgers have become the tradition to start off Supper Club after the summer hiatus.





# Concert in the Park



**MoBand**





## JESS'S STOCKSHOW LIFE

*Jessica Holloway*

I've been showing goats for about 7 years now. I also started breeding goats with my mom and we now own HHCB Boer goats.

Showing goats is actually a lot harder than it looks. One would think that after doing this for so long I would win every show. But you would be surprised how many "easy wins" turn into learning experiences.

Recently I showed at the California State Fair, and the California Youth Ag Expo. I learned quite a bit from those 2 very competitive shows.

One of my favorite things about showing and jackpotting is educating people on agriculture and what role market and breeding stock play in the country. Sometimes it's surprising when I see people twice my age asking me questions which have always been "common knowledge" in my eyes. But I think the best is when little kids come up to me with bright eyes asking to pet my goats.





**YANNIS ANG'S ADVOCACY PROJECT***Yan Yan Chan*

Founded in 1968, The Manteca Youth Focus (MYF) competition philosophy is to develop and empower youth in order to help them become well-rounded, optimistic and motivated young people with a strong desire to be the best they can be in order to make meaningful contributions in their community. The combination of guiding and developing young people's character, ability, intellect, and volunteer services constantly challenge them to "reach for the stars."

The Board of Directors of Manteca Youth Focus (MYF) are united in their belief that all youth should have the opportunity to assist young leaders in the pursuit of higher education, develop personal talents, and provide services throughout the community. The program evolved to add the "Community Advocacy Project" speech phase which challenges all youth participants across all age divisions to develop a platform to address an issue in the community for which they would like to have a positive impact.

Marcus, Yannis, and Charis Ang have been participating and volunteering in various community projects for the last several years. They were overjoyed to have won a number of prizes during the competitions based on their age categories. Each phase of competition is assigned a percentage. These percentage factors are graded according to academic achievements, personality interview, communicative skills, stage arts, volunteer services, and community advocacy speech.

Yannis won the title of the Miss Young Manteca of 2023. She has high regard and gratitude for our service men and women who are away from their families. She initiated "Sweet Treats for Troops" (STT) advocacy project to fulfill one of her duties serving as Miss Young Manteca. STT is a project that provides candies/sweets to the military troops. To accomplish this, she would like to carry out a fund raising project to purchase candies/sweets and to cover the costs of packaging/shipping to the military troops. She personally designs and hand makes various unique and beautiful bracelets to all donors. Her goal is to raise \$500 before December 1, 2023 in order to have sufficient time as a Christmas favor to the military troops.





## **My Favorite Hymn “Be Thou My Vision”**

*As Requested by Peggy Velthoen*

*Dan Beynon*

Around the year 433, High King Logaire of Ireland decreed that no fires should be lit before the start of the pagan Spring Festival. However, since it was Easter, Patrick (later Saint Patrick) lit a fire atop Slane Hill to mark the beginning of the Holy Week. King Logaire was so impressed with Patrick’s devotion that he forgave Patrick and recognized him as the first Christian missionary to Ireland. So what does this have to do with the hymn “Be Thou my Vision”? The tune that this hymn was eventually set to is called “Slane”, after the hill. No one knows who wrote the tune, but it originated in the area so it was named after the hill and the devoted act of Patrick.

The words to the hymn are believed to have come from a poem written by Saint Fallan, a 6th century Celtic monk and follower of St Columba. We don’t have any original copies of the poem, but a copy from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. So you can see the basis for the hymn is very, very old.

Written in the original old Irish, the first verse looks like this:

***Rob tu mo bhoile  
a Comdi cride.  
Ni ni nech aile,  
acht ri secht nime***

It wasn’t until 1905 when a linguist named Mary Byrne used a literal translation to yield this first verse:

***Be thou my vision,  
O Lord of my heart.  
None other is aught  
but the King of the seven heavens.***

But it wasn’t until 1912 when Eleanor M. Hull, in her Poem Book of the Gael created a metrical, poetic version of Byrne’s work in sixteen rhymed couplets that have been used by editors to build the version of the four (or 5) stanza hymn so widely treasured today. (More on the 5<sup>th</sup> verse later.) Now the first verse is more familiar:

***Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.  
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.***

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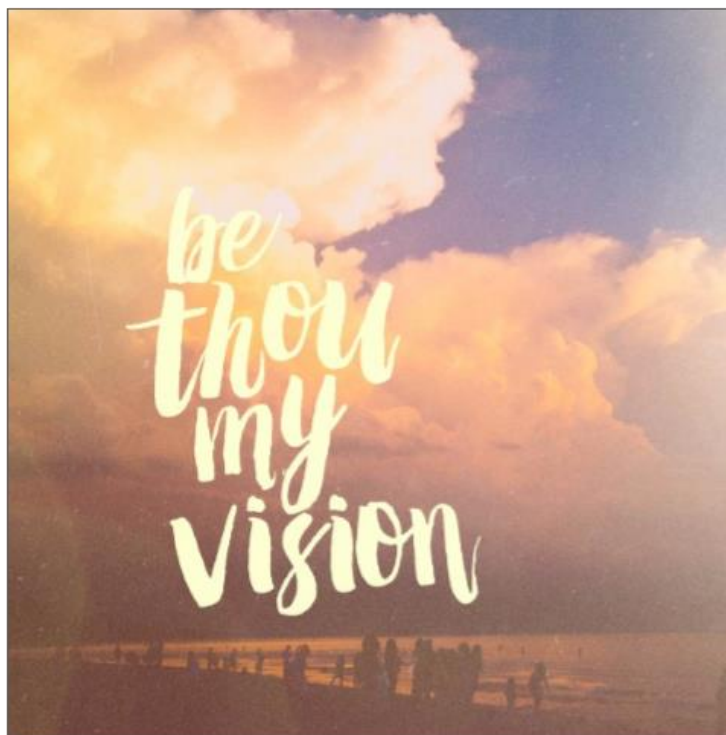
Concurrently, Patrick W. Joyce published the traditional tune SLANE (remember the hill). Thus paired with the English text, the “Be Thou My Vision” is sung today first appeared in the Irish Church Hymnal in 1919.

The 5<sup>th</sup> or “middle verse” is often overlooked in current hymnals, but included in some modern versions:

***Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight  
Be thou my armor, and be thou my might  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r  
Raise thou me heav'nward, o pow'r of my pow'r***

It is interesting to note that Saint Fallan went blind as he grew older but before completing his poem. With that in mind, “Be Thou my Vision” takes on a whole new meaning.

If you would like to see all sixteen verses for this song, let me know and I can send the complete text to you.





**HAPPY 92<sup>ND</sup> BIRTHDAY, CAROL!**

CAROL HERTLE  
celebrated her  
92nd Birthday  
on  
5 September 2023.



**HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, ETHEL!**

ETHEL EASTBURN  
celebrated her  
90th Birthday  
on  
27 September 2023.



**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY AT FCC**

SATURDAY, November 4, 2023

at 9:00 a.m.

Please join us for the next informative study. Breakfast will be provided. Hope to see you there!

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AT FCC**

SATURDAY, February 3, 2024

at 9:00 a.m.

Please join us for the next informative **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**. We will be providing a lite breakfast followed by a study on the life of a woman from the scripture. Hope to see you there. Bring a friend, or two!



1:00 P.M.

2nd Wednesday of each month

See Phyllis Agers for book. Check with the office for meeting location.

Sold	October 2023
Private Peaceful	November 2023
Lydia Cassatt Reading the Morning Paper	December 2023
Articles of War	January 2024
The Memory Keeper's Daughter	February 2024
Picture Bride	March 2024
One Hundred Years of Solitude	April 2024





Sept 2023

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

**Psalm 23:6**

Dear Pastors, Families, and Friends,

God's promises are so good and encouraging! It is a great comfort to know that His mercy and goodness follows us wherever we go, and our ultimate destination is eternally dwelling with Him. It matters not where our journey takes us between times, we have goodness behind and ahead!

I was approached by an inmate after one of our services this month. Angelina was so excited to tell me about her cellmate. She had been talking to her about heaven, and warning her that hell was real. The cellmate began to be concerned about her soul, and Angelina was able to give her the gospel. Her cellmate prayed and asked Christ to save her. Angelina told me this was the first person she had ever seen come to Christ because of her personal efforts. It is a great thrill to see that the Holy Spirit working inside the institution through those that are living there.

Our service at Southfork continues to grow. The men there are actively working to reach the camp with the good news of Jesus Christ. The men are meeting daily for prayer and devotionals as they recognize God's call upon their lives. I admire their fervor and desire to be used of God.

At OSCI, we also are seeing active outreach among the men. Joe has been bringing his cellmate, and got him signed up for the prisoner discipleship institute program. If an individual completes that entire program, they will have answered some 38,000 questions about the Bible. In the month of September, we prayed with 15 people to receive Christ.

A special thank you to those that sent in money to help with the stocking program. Christmas is not very far away now, and your assistance in putting a Christmas Stocking and Gospel tracts in the hands of the inmates is so appreciated. Your prayers and monthly support are such a blessing and words can not express my appreciation for your faithfulness. I pray that you have a wonderfully blessed holiday season as we finish strong in 2023.

Your Partner in the prisons:

*Brother Stone*

Rock of Ages Missionary

**Send Correspondence To:**

Timberline Baptist Church  
24645 SW Old Hwy 99 W  
Sherwood, OR 97140

**Send Support To:**

**ROA Missionary #191**  
Sidney & Gayla Stone  
PO Box 2308  
Cleveland TN 37320

*2 Corinthians 4:5* For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

Dr. Terry R. Ellis, President  
Dr. Ricky Dunsford, Exec. Vice-President



PO Box 2308, Cleveland, TN 37320  
(423) 479-3243 [www.roapm.org](http://www.roapm.org)

# Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 7 - Julie Felber
- 8 - Gilbert Romero
- 14 - Rick Kendall
- 20 - Cindy Beynon
- 23 - Phyllis Agers



- 4 - Claudia Lopez
- 21 - Deborah McDonald
- 24 - Wade Meier
- 25 - Vicki Pelucca
- 26 - Phillip Lopez
- 30 - Diana McKechnie  
Anna Deane



- 1 - Lu Frost
- 3 - Geno Marino
- 9 - Mariah Leach
- 11 - Roberta Steen
- 14 - Chris Geletich
- 18 - Jackie Zuniga
- 19 - Diane Suzuki
- 22 - Phyllis Nelson

## ANNIVERSARIES

### OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

- 10/9 - Jim & Kristy Waterman
- 11/16 - Dave & Janna Lou Baker
- 11/28 - Jim & Georgette Leach
- 12/12 - Pastor James & Lu Frost
- 12/29 - Rick & Linda Kendall



If you have a change for the Church Directory, such as a new address, phone number, or email update, please submit your changes to the office at [fccofsalida@yahoo.com](mailto:fccofsalida@yahoo.com). We will include this information in the future issue of The Grapevine. Thank you!





## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FCC

### TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Fellowship time 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
Every Tuesday, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

### BOOK CLUB

Second Wednesday of the month, 1:00 p.m.  
See page 19 for list of books to be read.

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Every other month. Held first Saturday of month at 9:00 a.m., next meeting February 3, 2023.

### MENS'S BIBLE STUDY

Every other month. Held first Saturday of month at 9:00 a.m., next meeting November 4, 2023.

### PRAYER GROUP

Every Wednesday morning, 9:00 a.m.

### SALVATION ARMY COMMODITIES

Second Monday of the month, 7:30 a.m.  
Help assemble grocery bags for community distribution.

### FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 12:00 p.m. We do not meet June, July & August.

### SUPPER CLUB

Every 3rd Friday of the month, 5:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. We do not meet June, July & August.



## THE GRAPEVINE ONLINE

You can read *The Grapevine* on our website at [FCCofSalida.org](http://FCCofSalida.org). Choose "Publications" from the top row menu and scroll down to view the current issue.

Our website is updated weekly to include a video of our current and past worship services. You can also find the current issue and all past issues of *The Grapevine*. Our homepage includes our upcoming scripture and message for those wishing to read the passages before Sunday service.

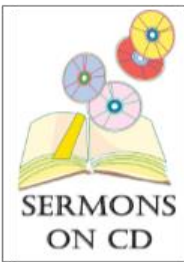


If you need assistance from the Church Office please contact Elizabeth our Church Secretary at:

209-545-1156

Email:  
fccoosalida@yahoo.com

Office Hours:  
Monday thru Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Friday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.



CD's are available for each Sunday service. Please contact the Church Office to request a copy. You may also listen to sermons on our website at FCCofSalida.org.

## PASTOR'S CONTACT INFO

Pastor James Frost is available in the Church Office Sunday through Thursday. For emergencies he is available 7 days a week. He may be reached at:

Office: 209-545-1156

Cell: 626-320-2361



## GRAPEVINE DEADLINE

### DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT 2023 ISSUE

To Be Announced

**Keep submitting articles & photos so we'll be ready for the next issue**

If at all possible, please e-mail your submissions to fccoosalida@yahoo.com. By e-mailing, it makes it easier for Elizabeth to format your article into the newsletter. We are always up against the time factor, and e-mailing expedites the process as she can cut and paste rather than retype the entire article.

Keep the articles coming in... We appreciate everyone's efforts. Remember... Without your articles, there would be no Grapevine.

## ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

All articles submitted should be publication ready: How you submit it, is how it will appear. You may:

- E-mail to fccoosalida@yahoo.com
- Mail to : First Congregational Church of Salida  
P.O. Box 1039  
Salida, CA 95368
- Hand deliver to the Church Office, "Newsletter" slot behind Elizabeth's desk.