



THE FOUNTAIN

CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9:00 AM— 4:30 PM

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Follow Us on Social Media

Facebook @ The Fountain Christian Church

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www.thefountaincc.org

Staff E-Mail Addresses:

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Psalm 72:3

“Let the mountains bring peace to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.”

A LESSON FROM LEAVES

Sam Sears

I am one of those people who enjoys seeing the leaves change colors. I don't mind the colder weather that it forecasts; in fact, I love it. I love snow, heavy blankets, warm chili and — although I shouldn't partake — hot chocolate. The fall leaves signal the point of transition. The reds and the yellows in my yard stick out amongst the other dull brown leaves and withering grass. Once they fall, the various colors have always reminded me even the of the colorful sugary cereal I would enjoy as a child. As much as I love seeing them, getting rid of them is still a chore.

Cleaning up leaves is easier than it once was. There is less raking when you have a leaf blower, and the final product takes up less space when that blower also doubles as a mulcher. I was using mine recently, while my son followed in my footsteps and raked away. Our eyes met when I blew a large amount towards his little pile to combine with his. He looked at me, shrugged his shoulders and placed his palms upward. I could almost hear him ask, "What's the point?"

It may be inefficient, but I tasked my son with raking, even with a leaf blower available. He may have been a little jealous, but he doesn't have the strength to hold the leaf blower for long. I could have done the whole yard without him, using the superior technology and my more developed strength. When it comes to raw data, he was simply inefficient, compared to what I was able to do, but that wasn't the point.

The reason my son was using a rake was not because it was the best way to complete the task. It wasn't about the task; it was about who I want him to be, not just what I wanted him to do. I wanted him to work with me, not apart from me. I wanted him to learn and develop his ability to work outside, and even work through something that is "boring." No screens, no music in our ears, just a task that needs to be completed. He will face many similar tasks like that in life. He will get stronger. I was able to give him a preview of that with a few minutes of the leaf blower. His arms got

tired quickly, but he was encouraged that he could grow into it. During the raking itself, his mind was on completing a chore for a small amount of money and a short-term reward. My mind was on training him to be faithful.

When God calls us to follow him, to comfort one another, to serve one another, and to reach out into the community as ambassadors, He doesn't assign us the task because of how effective we are. He also doesn't send us out alone. He doesn't need us to compare our efforts with others, and He knows that much of the work is endless, just like I knew that more leaves would fall. Stay faithful to His instructions; He knows what he is doing with you.

Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men..." (NASB 95)





Thank you!

God and our “church family” have been in our corner as we mourned the loss of our beloved Ann. Your thoughtfulness with cards, food, visits, and supportive prayer has been amazing and appreciated.

The flowers, both personal and from the “Bible study Ladies”, were beautiful. Your help with the “celebration of life” service and luncheon afterwards, coordinated by the staff was wonderful tribute to Ann.

Our “Thank You” to all of you seems so small compared to all you have done for us, but it comes from our heart.

Sincerely,

The Johnson Family

The Fountain Christian Church

Christmas
Eve

6:30PM

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Thoughts by Carrie Guy

When I think about the past few months it has been filled with some amazing moments and some sorrowful ones as well. Losing Ann was hard, honoring her was special. We have so many amazing women in our church that I've really learned to cherish the times I have.

Retreats like the one we took last month to Monterey provide some terrific opportunities. Opportunities to talk, about life, about God, and about who we really are. It allows you to get to know someone you might only say hi to as you file out of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. It allows you to discuss scripture in a way that goes deeper into our lives as everyone opens up. This year as we discussed Freedom in Christ, we really looked at 4 main passages: Matthew 16, Matthew 4, Ephesians 4, and Galatians 5.

We each were reminded that our God is the victor and we can walk in that freedom.

I hope you will consider joining us next year. We will do a small group to Monterey in the Spring and then take a large group to Hartland in September.



You don't have to wait until next year to join Women of the Fountain. This month is our annual Christmas Luncheon and we'd love to have you join us. Be sure to sign up either through the office or at the connect desk.

The other thing I've had the pleasure to be part of lately is the Fountain garden. Not only am I learning so much, but I'm also excited about the potential we have to use the garden to make a difference and connect with our neighbors. We have dedicated the garden to God and look forward to what he wants to do with it.

I'm excited to see all the ways God is using our church and shaping us in the process.





2022 Womens Beach Retreat



We had a great time studying "Freedom in Christ" in God's Word, on a beautiful artichoke farm just minutes from the beach.



The staff would like to offer
a loving THANK YOU to our church family for the wonderful
staff appreciation gifts this year.

We are blessed by your love, generosity and faithfulness!

Wishing you blessings this Christmas season,

Sam, Carrie, Chuck, Romy, Matt & Sheila



2023 Calendars Available
**FEATURING ORIGINAL
ARTWORK BY A LOCAL ARTIST.**

Crosslink Development International

2023

**Women's Health Project
«Tree of Life»**

**Аялдардын ден-соолук долбоору
«Жашоо дарагы»**

MINIMUM DONATIONS OF \$15

Supports Women's Health Project

A LOOK INTO OUR LIBRARY

Roma Swanson

I would love to introduce you to some books available for Christmas season reading.

We have something for the old and young.

There is the thoughtful treatise by Lee Strobel *The Case For Christmas*.

There is the small collection of true stories called *Heart of Christmas* that remind us once again of the beauty and majesty of the Christmas season and its power to work wonders.

There is even a board book for the little ones called *Sounding Joy* by Ellie Holcomb that recites in a delightfully illustrated way the Christmas story and the celebration of that Joy to the whole world.

Regardless of your taste, we have a book for you.

May the beauty and wonder of Christmas fill your hearts and minds this most wonderful time of the year!

Rona Swanson



Carol with us!

DECEMBER 4TH AT 4:30PM, SIERRA MEADOWS
(BEFORE AN ENCHILADA DINNER)

AND

DECEMBER 11TH - MULTISITE

MEET AT CHURCH AT 3:45 TO CARPOOL
OR 4PM AT QUAIL PARK, SHANNON RANCH

*Come be a blessing to others! You don't
have to be a professional singer.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

December 2022

Pray for the desire and opportunity to effectively share your faith! Our Nation and Leaders. Teachers & Students in Visalia. Our Brothers & Sisters at Elim.

Health: Ana Morales, Bonnie Henson, Donna Eastin, Heather Smith, Jason McKaughan, Jean Lamb, JoAnne Jordan, Kevin Guy, Kevin Ray (DHF pastor), Marilee Douglass, Pam Shattuck, Fred Wilder

Cancer: Bill Morland, David Thomas, David Welch, Janet Hagan, Joe Grant, Keith Moore, Mike Gunning, Olly Ajluni, Sandra Campbell, Shannan Ajluni

Other Needs: Nina Suttles (Vision)

Military: Brett Boland – Virginia, Michael Reid – San Diego, CA, Preston Correa – Marine, Tyler Richwine – Marine

Missionaries: some of our missionaries cannot be listed for their safety.

Nationally Based Global Mission Organizations: Adolfo Ibarra, Crosslink Development International, Central Missionary Clearinghouse, Soaring for Christ, Radical Truth, Maven, Gideons International, Our Daily Bread Ministries, Jews for Jesus, Pioneers, Team Expansion

Local Ministries: Care Pregnancy Center, Good News Jail Ministry, Hands in the Community, Love In the Name of Christ, Stephen Ministries, Tulare Kings Right to Life, Turning Point, Visalia Rescue Mission, Visalia Senior Housing

Ukrainian Individuals in danger: Michael, Andrew, Alex, and Angela. (Last names withheld for safety.)

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

December 2022

Bev Coffman	2
Margy Lauffenberger	2
Earl Subejano	5
Avery Joe Sears	6
Jeanita Hendren	9
Lina Garcia	10
Gerald Gibbons	10
Les Coffman	11
Karen Gunning	11
William Switzer	11
Dana Switzer	12
April Kesterson	14
David Saffell	19
Keith Moore	23

Wayne Geis	25
Patricia Hayes	26
Larry Lewis	29
Robert Brooks	30
Audrey Ray	30
Carl Shane	31
Greg Stowers	31

Happy Anniversary!

Kevin & Sharon Turl	29
Sam & Heather Sears	31

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

November 2022

Average In Person Attendance

70

Total Giving

\$ 28,666.13

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> <div>*Family Night</div> <div> <div>Children's classes</div> <div>Youth Group</div> <div>Men's Bible Study</div> <div>Women's Bible Study</div> </div> </div>				1	2 6:30 Men's Group	3
4 10:30 Worship 4:30 Caroling Sierra Meadows	5 12:00 Ladies Christmas Lunch	6 10:00 Staff	7 6:00 *Family Night	8	9 6:30 Men's Group	10
11 10:30 Worship 4:00 Caroling	12	13 10:00 Staff	14 6:00 *Family Night	15	16 6:30 Men's Group	17
18 10:30 Worship	19	20 10:00 Staff	21	22	23 6:30 Men's Group	24  6:30 Christmas Eve Gathering
25 10:30 Worship 	26 HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED 	27 10:00 Staff	28	29	30 6:30 Men's Group	31



The Fountain
1023 N Chinowth St
Visalia, CA 93291



Coming Events

Caroling - 4:30pm - December 4th at Sierra Meadows

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Caroling - 4:00pm- December 11th

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Christmas Eve Service - 6:30pm

Stop by our website for more information on Bible Studies
and coming events at www.thefountaincc.org