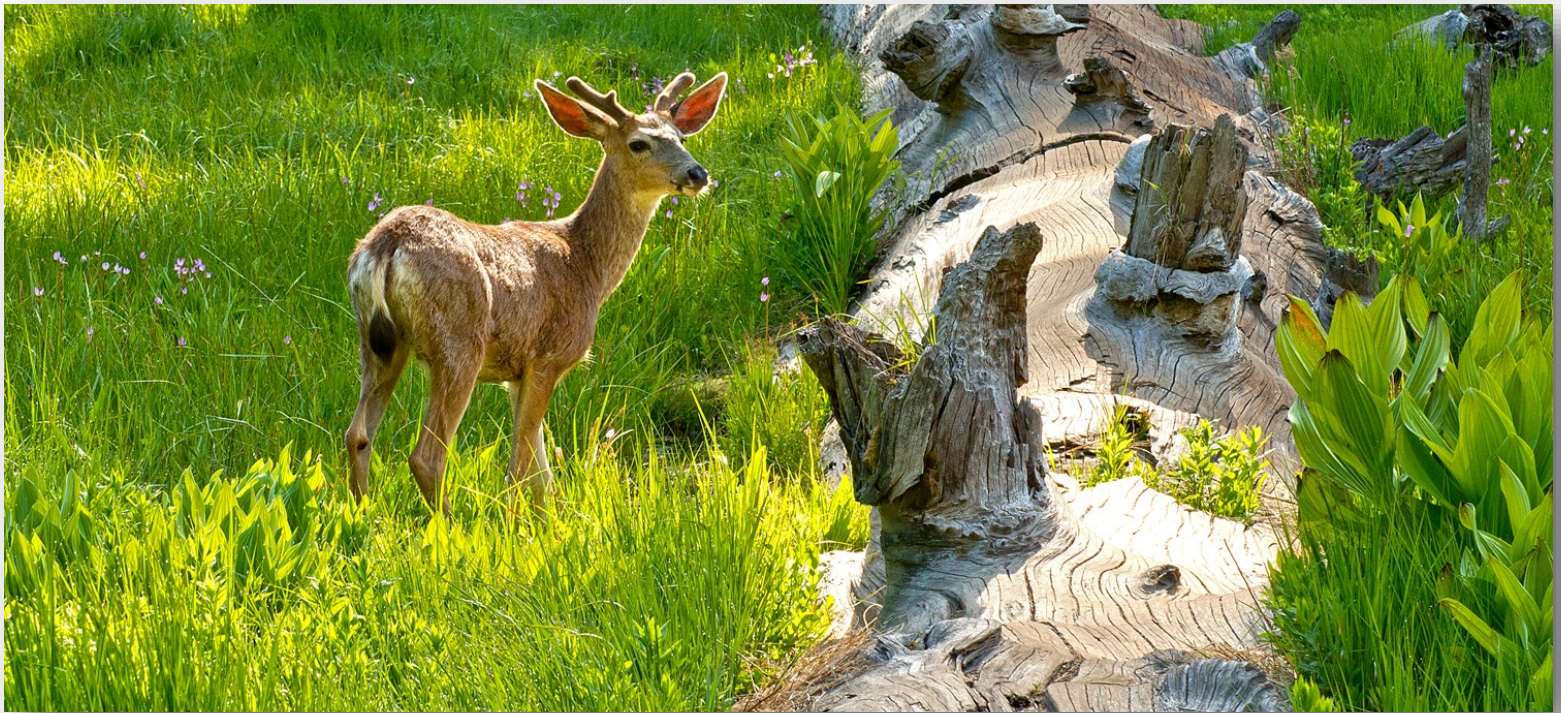




THE FOUNTAIN

CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Office Hours:

Tues. -Thurs 9:00 AM— 4:30 PM

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Visalia, CA 93291-4114

Phone: (559) 732-6623

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Website: www.thefountaincc.org

Follow Us on Social Media

Facebook @ The Fountain Christian Church

Instagram @ thefountain_vis

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Brandon@thefountaincc.org

Davey Totty, Office Administrator

Davey@thefountaincc.org

www.thefountaincc.org

New Office Hours Starting June 1st - Tues - Thurs 9:00AM to 4:30PM

Psalm 42:1

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God.”

A PSALM INTERRUPTED

Sam Sears

Psalm 23 is one of the most well-known and well memorized passages of scripture. Because it is traditionally read at funerals, even non-believers and non-churchgoers routinely hear it, as pastors, priests, and friends reflect over the life of a deceased loved one. We use it at funerals because it speaks of someone guiding us through our life's journey, and a funeral is both a time to reflect over someone's else's completed journey, and to ponder a bit about our own.

You likely know it well, but to refresh your memory, here is the entirety of the short psalm, in the NASB 95 translation, written by, or at least commissioned by, King David.

Psalm 23:1 "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. 3He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. 6Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. "

I think we need to read this passage more often. If this is an overview of our journey with our shepherd guiding us over the course of a lifetime, I think that we need to review it frequently. Reviewing the Psalm can be like an adventurer checking their map. It may remind us, that yes, the valley of the shadow of death is on the path... but look what's on the other side. We need that encouragement, and that reminder, that the map was made by one who has journeyed before us and that the house of the Lord is on the other side of whatever current challenge faces us.

TobyMac must agree with me. As long I've been aware of contemporary Christian music, I have been aware of the artist TobyMac, first with DC Talk and then his solo career. I grew up, and still respect, hymnals, but I remember being a young person and hearing "Jesus Freak" performed by a local cover band, for the first time. Hearing bold declarations about Jesus, and a bold declaration of a younger person's allegiance to Christ, in my own language and style, was so powerful and encouraging. I knew I wasn't alone, and knew God

was still working in my generation too.

As the years went by, I have a lot of memories associated with TobyMac. I heard him live. I had a car wreck while listening to a TobyMac song called "The slam." I can recall his song "Diverse city" further growing my heart towards people who don't look like me, lived in different places and even spoke different languages. As of late, his song "I just need u" has had the most emotional tug on me.

After beginning the song, he begins to read from Psalm 23, verse 4, and uses the King James translation, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me, Thy rod and thy staff ..." Then he begins to sing, "They comfort me ..." and rather than continue the psalm, the words are interrupted, and he sings in a way that expounds on the text of scripture.

He sings, "when I'm beat down, broken Hold my heart when it's split wide open Turn these eyes to my sole protector Break the will of this born defector." In the song Tobymac doesn't take the time to explain that each of us are "defectors" or rebels as we sin, and that we must submit our selfish desires to Christ, but knowing we can't do that on our own, he moves on. "Cuz' all I know, all I know, Is You're my only hope." Indeed, we can't be good enough. Then the chorus kicks in. "When I'm up when I'm down, (uh, huh) When the wolves come around (tell me) When my feet hit the ground I just need, I just need You."

"On my darkest days (uh, huh) When I'm losing faith (tell me) No, it ain't gon' change, I just need, I just need You Lord, I need You, Yeah, I just need You" And then he repeats the following 4 times, "When You pull me closer, I come to life."

We all face ups and downs, wolves, or ravenous enemies, in our lives. We all just need to get up every morning, whether it's a dark day, a day of doubt, or whatever else. Each of those days, we need our Shepherd to guide us, and that will not change. As TobyMac says, as God pulls us closer, we "come to life." Life outside of God's presence may have momentary flashes of pleasure, but it's merely existing, in comparison to the richness of living in God's love.

I said this song has had personal impact lately. Recently, my dad has had some health issues, with heart concerns flaring up in a serious way. I have had a

A PSALM INTERRUPTED

Sam Sears

few of my own health issues. The world in general is changing and we as Christians face increasing cultural pressure. We stay busy as a family and we as a church are going through a time of change. I was feeling generally down and mopey on a recent night, I was a little pouty and grumpy about how much work needed to be done, feeling pulled in a lot of directions, bummed I had to pull out of the doctorate program I had been accepted for, bummed another project was going slow and desiring to spend more time reaching our community for Jesus than some of the other tasks I had on my plate allowed. The pouting and grumbling didn't help, but the next day, this song did.

We had sung this song as a family on a recent road trip. "I just need u" may not be the best congregational worship song, but it's amazing for small family sing-a-longs and it's great to sing all alone. I was driving, and I ended up having to spend time with my truck in park to have a little extra prayer.

As I sang along, the words became my prayer. I didn't need to focus on the difficult tasks in front of me, nor could I solve my dad's heart issues from afar, or even if I was present with him, I couldn't stop the passage of time, and I couldn't "fix" everything. What did I need for my hurt? I just needed Jesus. It's not even possible to do all the things on my plate sometimes, my only hope is in no one but Jesus.

I'm not saying that for sympathy, or to make it

sound like I was in a worse spot than I was, or am. I'm saying that with transparency to encourage anyone else in a similar spot. We can only put our hope in Jesus, no one else can get us through. Life's valleys and the challenges will come, but we are meant to go through them, not stay there, and we aren't alone. While I cried a little in praise music, my tears released my grumbling heart, and the tears moved from being about feeling a little overwhelmed by life, to being overwhelmed by God's love and provision.

Maybe I'm getting softer as I get older. Worship and prayer, especially when I'm all alone, has been a place where I can cry, just a little. I don't have to "be tough" for anyone else. I don't have to power through the hurt. I don't have to focus on comforting someone else, rather than processing my own pain. We do need to do that sometimes, especially parents, leaders, and servants, but we can't do it all the time. I could and still can give God everything on my mind and heart and know He will love me anyways. It's a cathartic release. I don't just mean an emotional release in a therapeutic sense, it's that, but it's sometimes a way to release whatever I'm holding on to or dealing with and put it firmly in God's hands. If things are rough, or extra difficult, I'd encourage you to get alone, read and pray through scripture, and worship God. Put your eyes on the shepherd, rather than the shadow of the valley of death, or even the wolves around you.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

June 2023

David Ajluni5
Peggy Jones.....9
Anna Tollison12
Chris Stone14
Warren Turl.....16
Roger Johnson19
Alina Garcia.....22
JoAnne Henderson.....23
Ruth Kurihara25
June Glick26

Bill Jordan..... 27
Carolyn Subejano 27

Happy Anniversary!

Caleb & Karen Gunning..... 3
Bill & Debbie Bianchi..... 18
Chris & Carol Stone 19

THANK YOU SHEILA!

Sam Sears

Sheila Ronk has been the glue that holds the office together for nearly 20 years. For 4 ½ years she has had the difficult task of keeping me focused and reminding me where everything is in the office. She has accepted a new opportunity and we are going to miss her!

Only she knows just how much I talk to myself while working out a problem on the computer or digging for a reference in a book while studying. She, and other ladies of the Fountain, got me hooked on thieves cough drops and essential oil diffusers instead of candles. Anytime I had an issue, she had an essential oil for that! She has been kind and welcoming to everyone who comes through the door and everyone who calls.

May God Bless you on your new adventure Sheila, and if we can ever help, your Fountain family is always here for you!



THANK YOU SHEILA!

Sam Sears

Our budget for this project is \$50,000. But because we have established a **Gift Matching Fund**, your **GIFT will be DOUBLED!**
(\$100 = \$200, \$500 = \$1,000)



**The design, fabrics and colors shown in these computer images may need to be adjusted as the project is finalized.

Central Vision Project: Nearly 2 years ago we began a building improvement project. At the time we had two services, and it was designed to help both. It would address lighting issues that washed our projected area, allow us to still see the Fountain and the trees outside, and allow us to close the window for a darker look and to prevent nighttime glare for candlelight services or movie nights. The movie nights it would allow could provide a great way to get more folks into our building and ultimately to Jesus.

Earlier this year we had 2 experienced pastors give us a spiritual health assessment. They affirmed our need to upgrade where we project for Sunday mornings to better connect with younger families and to have clearer visuals for all. As we are nearing our goal, we are rechecking prices. Because donations are matched, we are currently less than 7,000 from completing our goal. We thank all of you have contributed and would welcome any who are able to go beyond their regular tithes and offerings and help us close the gap.



Congregational Meeting to confirm new Deacons

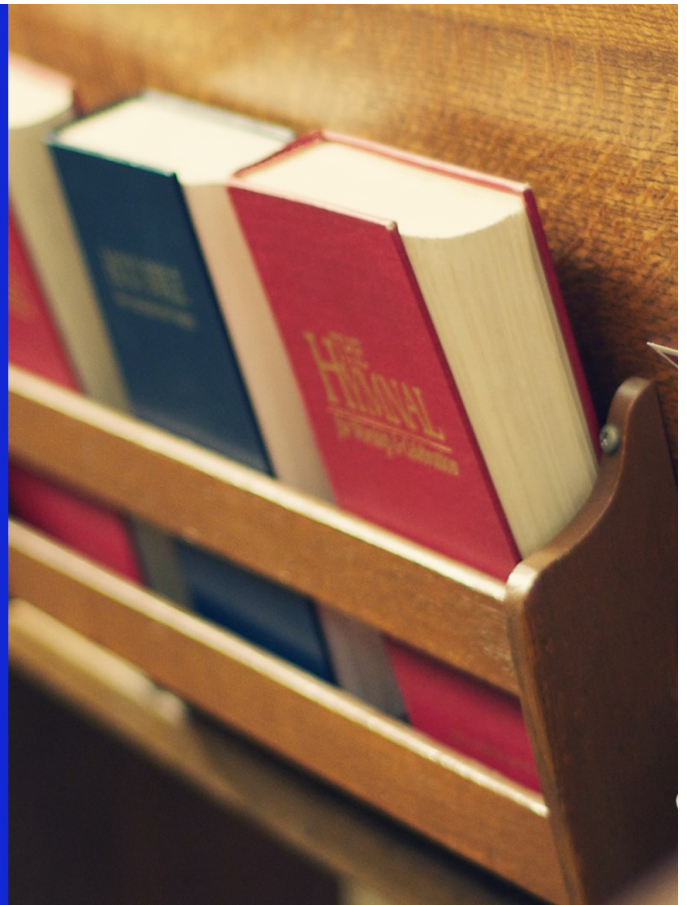
6/25/23
After Service



Hymn Night Coming Soon!

We know many in our body and our community enjoy classic hymns. While we no longer have two separate services, why can't we set a special night aside to get together, sing some of the classics, and have some extra fellowship.

stay tuned for details!



A LOOK INTO OUR LIBRARY

Rona Swanson

Rooted In Wonder

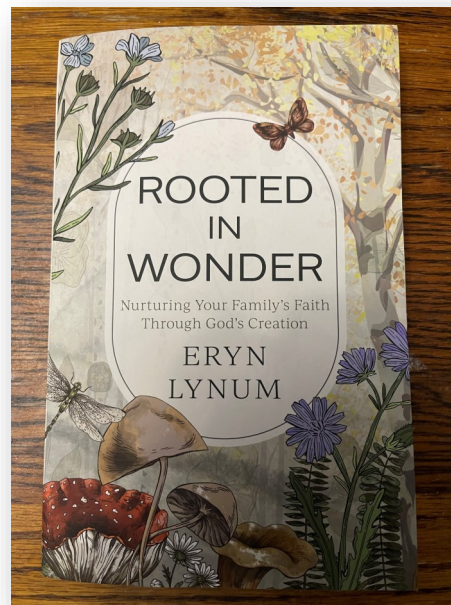
I am eager to introduce you to a beautiful book called Rooted In Wonder by Eryn Lynum.

So many kids are hooked on their electronic devices and the games and distractions they provide.

This book encourages a re-connection with the outdoor world of wonder and a re-connection with the Maker of Heaven and Earth.

Eryn weaves the beauty of creation with the delightful, deeper discovery of the Creator of all this vast and remarkable beauty.

Even if you are not an “outdoorsy” type, you will be with the wonderful and practical ways that Eryn introduces the wonder all around.



PRAYER CONCERNS

June 2023

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, Ann Elder, Bonnie Henson, Donna Eastin, Fred Wilder, Heather Smith, Jason McKaughan, Jean Lamb, JoAnne Jordan, Jordan Lewis, Kevin Guy, Kevin Ray (DHF pastor), Marilee Douglass, Pam Shattuck, Steven Hall, Tim Sears

Cancer: Bill Morland, Charlene Brazil, Clay Jones, David Thomas, David Welch, Joe Grant, Keith Moore, Mike Gunning, Olly Ajluni, Randy Gurule, 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.)

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

May 2023

Average In Person Attendance

Total Giving

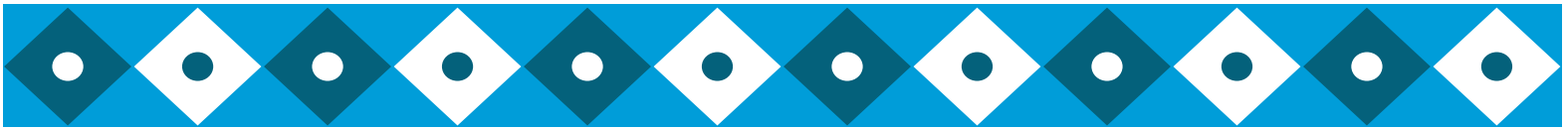
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June 2023

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 10:00 Berean Watchmen	2 6:30 Men's Group	3
4 10:30 Worship 12:00 Deacon Meeting	5 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	6 10:00 Staff	7	8 10:00 Berean Watchmen	9 6:30 Men's Group	10
11 10:30 Worship 12:00 Elder Council	12 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	13 10:00 Staff	14	15 10:00 Berean Watchmen	16 6:30 Men's Group	17
18 10:30 Worship	19 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	20 10:00 Staff	21	22 10:00 Berean Watchmen	23 6:30 Men's Group	24
25 10:30 Worship 11:30 Congregational Meeting	26 10:40 Prayer Warriors 12:00 Women's Bible Study	27 10:00 Staff	28	29 10:00 Berean Watchmen	30 6:30 Men's Group	



The Fountain
1023 N Chinowth St
Visalia, CA 93291



Coming Events

Congregational Meeting - June 25th - to confirm new Deacons

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