



**From the
Pastor**

The Griefshare Ministry was started by David and Nancy Guthrie. When Nancy Guthrie's daughter, Hope, was born, she quickly learned that something was wrong. Doctors informed her and her husband, David, that all of the little things that weren't quite right with Hope were evidence of a deeper, more serious problem. They were surprised to hear that their daughter had a rare metabolic disorder and would not live past her first birthday. Out of that painful loss was born a ministry that has helped thousands of people cope with grief.

Griefshare is a 13-week program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them. We will begin a community Griefshare Group on Wednesday, January 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the CE Room. Cost is \$15 and includes the workbook. See Pastor Jim for details.

If you or a loved one has experienced a recent loss, or is grappling with grief, this could be a helpful setting for them.

In an article in 2016, Nancy Guthrie (who is a terrific Bible teacher!) she detailed some helpful insights about helping people grieve. Here are some of those.

There's no timetable.
People grieve differently.
It takes time to heal. Time
does not heal. We have to
take certain steps.

1. Grieving people don't expect you to have words that will fix this, but they do want you to say something.

To a person who has lost someone they love, it is as if a hurdle has been erected between them and everyone else until the loss is acknowledged in some way. So say something. Of course oftentimes we don't say something because we're afraid we'll say the wrong thing. Sometimes we don't say something because we want to say something meaningful, insightful, or helpful and we can't come up with anything. But people who are grieving don't expect that you are going to say something that will make everything okay, or that you're going to come up with some spiritual or emotional insight they haven't thought of to this point. They just want you to say something simple like, "I'm so sad with you."

2. Grieving people don't want to hear a story about your own or someone else's loss.

My theory is that in our effort to fill up the awkward silence, or in our desire to demonstrate that we really do "get" what they are going through, our brains go on a search for a match to the current situation. That's natural. But when a search result comes up, we don't have to say it out loud. Instead, we can keep the focus on the person

who is grieving and how the loss has impacted them. We might think the story of our experience or someone else's will be helpful. It won't be. Their own loss is all they have space for in their thoughts, conversation, and hearts right now, so keep the focus on them.

6. Grieving people long to keep on hearing their loved one's name.

The greatest fear grieving people have is that the person they love will be forgotten. The person is gone from their presence and they're afraid that person will be erased from everyone's thoughts. To hear someone simply speak that person's name is like a balm to the soul of a grieving person.

If you'd like a reprint of the article, I'd be happy to give it to you. If you, or someone you know might benefit from Griefshare, let me know.

You go nowhere by accident!

Pastor Jim

Notes:



- 1) Our Cookies and Cocoa Outreach went very well. Over three Saturday evenings, we handed out dozens of cookies and 870 cups of hot chocolate. We had some people tell us that they had seen us for a few years and always wanted to stop, and this year they did! Thanks to Kate Hendrix, Paul Moran, Randi Rodgers and Beth Stochl for being cheerful and hard working hosts.
- 2) I encourage you to come to the Prayer Meeting on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the Office. Come once a month, or every week, and pray!
- 3) We will ordain and install new elders and deacons on Sunday, January 12th. Thank you to those who have served so faithfully: Elders Karen Edwards and Staci Edwards and LaVeta Rhoy; Deacons Nora McKinsey, Nawatha Reed, Judy Salyer. And we welcome new Deacons Betty Baughman, Martha McNamara, and Judy Salyer. We welcome new elders Larry Mitchell, Paul Moran and Karen Edwards
- 4) A Congregational Meeting is called for February 2nd to approve the pastoral salary package and to review the year end reports.
- 5) We are partnering with Youth for Christ on a ministry to junior high students at Mae Hensley, and there will be increased activity in January. Please pray for those involved that we might be a welcoming place for students to explore faith.
- 6) We have been granted an additional \$25,000 grant from the Stockton Presbytery!
- 7) Some personal notes, I finished the year with over 3,700 miles walked, an average of 10.2 per day. I have also now given platelets 100 times.

2020 Pledge Cards

The Finance Committee is developing a budget for 2020. Pledge cards help us in predicting our annual income. If you feel so led, please submit a pledge card and turn it into the church office.

Mariners Meeting on January 17th



On January 17, 2020, following the Mariner's 6:00 p.m. potluck, Mariner's will learn from Liane Reyes about Casa de Modesto, a Modesto retirement complex with all levels of care. (Lee Heim, our usual financial guru for Mariner's annual January gathering will present in February instead because of a prior January commitment.)

New Members Class on January 18th at 9:00 a.m.



A brief two hour meeting will be held for those wishing to know more about Harvest, or who want to become members of Harvest on Saturday, January 18th. Meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. at the Stochl house, 3802 Bella Flora

Dr. RSVP to Pastor Jim at (209) 681-6466 or harvest.pastor.jim@gmail.com

Women's Bible Study to Restart on January 10th



The Women's Bible Study will restart on January 10th at 10:00 a.m. at Margaret Kuglin's home, 1204 Chardonnay Court in Modesto (behind CVS). All women are welcome to this informative study on John's Gospel.

Men's Bible Study to Restart on January 3rd

The Men's Bible Study will restart on January 3rd at 8:15 a.m. in the Youth Room at church. All men are welcome to this informative study on Mark's Gospel. Donuts will be served!



Harvest Presbyterian Church
1813 Moffet Road
Ceres, CA 95307

POSTAGE



Mission Statement ~ With God in control, the mission of the Harvest Presbyterian Church is to proclaim and bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and nurture the faith of our church family.

Harvest Leadership 2020

Deacons

Virginia Bathe (Moderator) (2021)
Betty Baughman (2022)
Patty Correia (2021)
Kate Hendrix (2020)
Martha McNamara (2022)
Judy Salyer (2020)

Elders

Tom Bennett (2021)
Michael Cousins (2020)
Karen Edwards (Clerk/Mission) (2020)
Brandy Meyer (2021)
Larry Mitchell (2022)
Paul Moran (2022)

Church Information

Church Office Phone: (209) 537-3519
Website: www.harvestpres.org
Pastor Jim Stochl— harvest.pastor.jim@gmail.com
Prayer Requests—prayer@harvestpres.org
Bonnie Middleton —secretary@harvestpres.org

Office Hours

Tuesdays: 8:30 —10:00 a.m.
Thursdays: 2:00—6:00 p.m.
Fridays: 8:30 —10:00 a.m.

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29</p> <p>Worship— 10:30 am</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Alpha Circle— 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Choir—5:30 pm</p>	<p>3 Starbucks</p> <p>Men- 7:00 am Men's Bible Study— 8:15 am</p>	<p>4</p> <p>National Spaghetti Day</p> 
						
<p>5</p> <p>Communion— 10:30 am</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>AA—7:00 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Praise Team— 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>HYPE—5:30 pm Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm Griefshare— 7:00 pm</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>Choir—5:30 pm</p>	<p>10 Starbucks</p> <p>Men- 7:00 am Men's Bible Study— 8:15 am Women's Bible Study— 10:00am</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Bookkeeper— 9:30 a.m.</p> 
<p>12</p> <p>Worship— 10:30 am</p> <p>Installation of Deacons/Elders</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>AA—7:00 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Praise Team— 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>HYPE—5:30 pm Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm Griefshare— 7:00 pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Session—12:00 p.m. Presbytery Finance Comm— 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Choir—5:30 pm</p>	<p>17 Starbucks</p> <p>Men- 7:00 am Men's Bible Study— 8:15 am Women's Bible Study— 10:00am Deacons 12:00 pm Mariners 6:00p</p>	<p>18</p> <p>New Members Class— 9:00am @ Stochls</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Worship — 10:30 am</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>AA—7:00 pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Praise Team— 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>HYPE—5:30 pm Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm Griefshare— 7:00 pm</p>	<p>23</p> 	<p>24 Starbucks</p> <p>Men- 7:00 am Men's Bible Study— 8:15 am Women's Bible Study— 10:00am</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Bookkeeper— 9:30 a.m.</p> 
<p>26</p> <p>Worship— 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>End of the Month Potluck</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>AA—7:00 pm</p>	<p>28</p> 	<p>29</p> <p>HYPE—5:30 pm Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm Griefshare— 7:00 pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Choir—5:30 pm</p>	<p>31 Starbucks</p> <p>Men- 7:00 am Men's Bible Study— 8:15 am Women's Bible Study— 10:00am</p>	<p>1</p> 

Sunday School Schedule*

- 1/5** Anette Arias (Martha McNamara)
1/12 Staci Edwards (Nawatha Reed)
1/19 Brandy Meyer (Patti Arbizu)
1/26 Beth Stochl (Judy Salyer)



* This schedule may change! Check with Brandy Meyer or Bonnie Middleton if you have any conflicts or questions.

Regular Prayer List

Health Issues:

Susan Bennett
Warren Cawley
Nora McKinsey
Dorothy Nelson
Frank Reed
LaVeta Rhoy
Ruth Strange
Casey van Rys



Other Concerns:



1—Michael Cousins



15—Frank & Nawatha Reed



"Why do I need to go to church?
I pray every Sunday. And I pray extra hard
when we're inside the 10-yard line."