

RAYS of HOPE JOURNAL

November 2022, Volume 40, Issue 11

Mission Statement

Cross of Hope is a Spirit-centered community that shares in Christ's love through worship, education and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships with God.

Reformation Sunday Baptism and Confirmations

Because Jesus makes you free, therefore you will be free indeed. (see John 8:36)

God's word of love set you free into a life of love.

The gift of baptism anchors us in the Divine Love of God for forgiveness, life and salvation. On Reformation Sunday, we experienced this good news through the Baptism of Ethan McCalin and the Affirmation of Baptism of Alex Abeyta, Elise Hielkema, Mia Maldonado, Hunter Streff, and Ethan Wright. By holding these two rites together, we saw clearly the power of God's word to hold, connect and send us into faithful living the reformation life of love. God continue to bless you for this journey!



In Reforming Peace,

Pr. Adam



Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
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This Journal of Cross of Hope Lutheran Church is published each month for the enrichment of the mission ("Loving God • Transforming Relationships • Serving Others"), for the life of the people of God at Cross of Hope and our community.

Pastor: Rev. R. Adam Berndt

Production Editor: Lynne Bagby

Editorial Staff: Beth Cretsinger

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Columnists: Pastor Russ Sorensen

Contributors: The Church Mouse

Reporter and Writer: Mary Bresnahan

Photographer:

Council Communication:

Margie Reed-President Pat Benchik-Vice President

WE WANT YOUR NEWS ITEMS

Deadline is 10th of the month for the following month's edition. Send E-mail articles to office@crossofhope.org or deliver to church office.

Stewardship

Stewardship involves your time, talent and treasure. Contact the church office for assistance in getting started in any of our ministries. Please remember Cross of Hope in preparing your will.

Cross of Hope School News Walk-a-Thon









THANK YOU for supporting

our children in our 3rd Annual Walk-a-Thon! **Total pledges collected were \$3,834.11.** This money will go directly towards our soon to be installed playground equipment. Congratulations to Ms. Debra Gonzales' 1st/2nd grade classroom. Sixty percent of her students collected pledges! They will get to enjoy a pizza Party!

School Online Registration

Tuition for the 2022-2023 School Year

Elementary Tuition

Kindergarten - 5th grade: \$7,075

Preschool Tuition

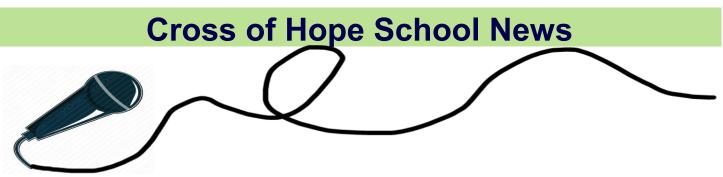
T/TH: \$2,290 M/W/F:\$3,430 M-F \$5,720

For more information:

https://www.crossofhope.org/schools

or contact Debra Alba (505) 897-0047,ext. 110

COH School Continued from page 2



The Roving Hoper

As interviewed by: Mary Bresnahan

Thanksgiving is coming. What better way to reflect and celebrate than getting thoughts from children. The Roving Hoper went into Cross of Hope Elementary School and visited with the children asking, "What is your favorite thing about Thanksgiving." Here are their answers.

Kindergarten



"The leaves change colors. We eat turkey." Laura

3rd Grade



"We go to Grandma's house. I like to see all of my family." Saylie

5th Grade



"Going to my grandparents in Ohio – near Cincinnati. We watch football – the Bengals." Mitchell 1st Grade



"You can eat the turkey. It's my dad's birthday. He's 33. Milo

4th Grade



"I like the food: turkey, mashed potatoes, and corn. Then sherbet for dessert."



And so, we hear from the youngest among us. Besides food the number one thing mentioned was being with family.

Enjoy your family. Happy Thanksgiving!

Council Corner Margie Reed, COH Council President

I find it hard to believe that it is already November. It was just yesterday that we were planting flowers and trying to keep cool Now we are into the month when it is time to plant crocus, daffodils, and tulips outdoors for the wintry weather to help bring next spring's season.

Personally, I have a tough time accepting the fact that it is dark so early, heavy coats and hats are needed and it's windy and bitter cold with a chance of snow. However, the best part of this time of year is - Thanksgiving. This is my husbands' favorite holiday. Family around the table, turkey, stuffing, gravy, enjoyable conversation, time to share why everyone is thankful.

I am thankful for my family and friends but there is another group of people for whom I am especially thankful, and that would be the Cross of Hope Church Council. As president of the Council, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such a talented group of people who bring a wealth of knowledge, great ideas and good judgement to the meetings.

Your Council includes Margie Reed, President, Pat Benchik, Vice President, Janet Conlon, Secretary, Tim Fuller, Kathy Gorman, Sherrie Simek, Kristi Valdez, Pastor Adam Berndt and Todd Bramley, Church Treasurer. We currently have one seat open on the Council due to Sharon Halstead's move to Colorado. If you are interested in becoming a member of our church council, please contact Pastor Adam or Margie Reed.

Our meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month. The Fife, Drum and Bagpipe group meet on the same evening which makes for an interesting serenade during our meetings.

Some of the motions discussed and approved over the past couple of months include:

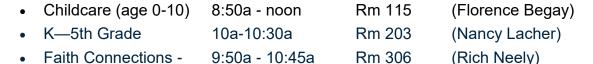
- Hired a new Director of Communications
- Hosted a successful Congregational meeting with approval of the 2022-2023 budget
- Elected a new council member Sharon Halstead and Church Treasurer Todd Bramley
- Elected Council leaders for 2022-2023
- Updated and distributed the Employee Manual to all teachers and staff
- Approved Courtney Knutila, Preschool Teacher to the position of Preschool Director
- Celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Cross of Hope

Cross of Hope is the Charter Organization for Boy Scout Troop 126. Our Scout Ministry expanded this summer when we welcomed Girl Scout Troop 10624 and provided a meeting place for them. In addition, we approved the request by Cub Scout Pack 12 to be their Chartered Organization.

If you have any questions about the Council, what we are working on or something you think needs to be discussed please do not hesitate to contact one of the members. If you would like to read about our meetings, minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

"There is something here also for seasoned men and women, still a thing or two for the experienced to learn – fresh wisdom to probe and penetrate, the rhymes and reasons of wise men and women start with God." Proverbs 1:5-7

Sunday AM Classes





*The Faith Connection group on Sunday AM is specially designed as a drop-in opportunity for those interested.

• MidHigh and SHY 10a - 10:45a Rm 304 (Rowynn Adams)

* * (The Bilble Study with Pr Rick Alpers ended on October 23. Stay tuned for another in the Spring of 2023.)



The Mission of Cross of Hope Faith Connections
Groups... To provide an opportunity for all people to
share Christ's love and authentic community in a small
group setting where lives are transformed through growth in
faith and service to others.

- The Nature of Faith -

There are multiple small groups and locations for Making Faith Connections.

Sundays @ 9:50am Facilitated by Rich Neely and located at COH

Sundays @ 12:30pm Facilitated by John Valdez and located at COH

Sundays @ 1:30pm Facilitated by Jan Wormwood and located at COH

Wednesdays @ 10:30am Facilitated by Sheri Phillips and located at group members homes

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm Facilitated by Pastor Pat and located at COH

Thursdays @ 1:00pm Facilitated by Jan Anderson and Lois Caipen and only over Zoom

The Faith Connection groups on *Sunday Morning at 9:50am and Wednesday Night at 6:30pm* are specially designed as drop-in opportunities for those interested.

Weekly topics in November

November 6 Faith: Presence in Community! Luke 6:20-31 (Blessings and Woes)

November 13 Faith: Strength for Challenging Times Luke 21:5-19 (Destruction of the

Temple)

November 20 Faith: Self-Giving Love! Luke 23:33-43 ("Jesus remember

me when you come into your

kingdom."

For Specific information or questions about these groups please contact Pastor Russ

Contact: Pastor Russ Sorensen 505-400-8206; Email: r2sorensen@gmail.com

Camp @ Cross of Hope (Wednesday Evenings)

Schedule:

Bible Study/Fellowship:

6:30p – 7:30p Mid-High Youth/Confirmation Rm 302 Pastor Adam 6:30p – 7:30p Sr. High Youth – Rm 304 Rowynn Adams

6:30p – 7:30p Adult Making Faith Connection group (*Open to drop- in) – Pastor Pat – Rm 306

(*The Faith Connection group on Wednesday night is specially designed as a drop-in opportunity for those interested).

6:30p - 7:30p Voices of Hope (Choir) Sanctuary Thomas Ropp



Tea by the Sea

Ladies, get out those hats and invite your friends to come to the 14th Annual Friendship Tea...

November 5, 2022 at 1:00 pm

Things are in full swing as the Banner Babes get ready for our annual fundraiser, the Friendship Tea. There will be a delicious luncheon, raffle items galore, and entertainment. Of course, the most important thing is there will be a couple of hours of fellowship.

If you still need a ticket contact Diane Carrico Leeon.carrico@gmail.com













Who is our "Masked Hoper" question:

What family of six has four birthdays in December?

See page 11 for the answer.

The School Library Nook

I can't think of anything more comforting than a good book and a comfy a nook where I can let myself enter that wonderful world of the story. This is what I want the school library to be – a place to find a good book and a space to enjoy. We had such a great Scholastic Book Fair!!! Thank you Nancy Lacher and all the volunteers. \$2000 was our lofty goal, but sales totaled \$4000. Whew! Thank you to all who purchased books. With that accomplishment we now have \$1700 to divide among the classrooms and the library for new books. What a gift! There are so many good books in the library. I challenged the older students to read a "classic" book. For example, The Three Musketeers, Anne of Green Gables, Oliver Twist and many more. They seem to enjoy them once they start. In addition to all the new books, I've rearranged the library again. It seems roomier with the books on the outside walls. Please come and check it out.

I've also made room for adult books. There are many books those in Bible Study might enjoy. We also have an entire shelf of Luther books. The bottom shelf is filled with classic commentaries by William Barclay, a very popular biblical scholar from the 1960's.. Oldies but

goodies.

It is a joy to be the librarian for the school. I love children and books – how much better does it get than that! Thank you too for opening and supporting the library. Libraries are essential.

Blessings,

Ms. Pat, the library lady, (Pr. Pat Mohr-Kelly)

"It is an awfully sad misconception that librarians simply check books in and out. The library is the heart of a school, and without a librarian, it is but an empty shell."

Jarrett J. Krosoczka (b. 1977. American author and illustrator)



Luther House



The Fall semester is off and running and we are excited about all the amazing things happening here. We have a group of 12 more participants at our Wednesday evening meals, and many more students participating in our other events. We spent the summer practicing Spiritual Care through play! We went roller skating, bowling, camping, and to a United Soccer Game. In addition, we hosted in-depth text studies and preached at several community churches using

our dialogical preaching approach called "Refractions".

Would you like to get involved? Here's How:

Pray- Please keep us in your prayers as we seek to nurture an inclusive community of faith.

Visit- all are invited to join us on Wednesdays at 5pm for our shared meal. We would love to get to know you better! We love to visit the wider community as well.

Provide a meal- We love home cooking and free food. Please consider providing a meal for our Wednesday night gathering.

Support- Consider supporting us financially. You can donate directly to Luther House on our website at www.LutherHouseNM.org or send a check to Lutheran Campus Ministries of NM, Inc. 1805 Las Lomas Rd NE Albuquerque, NM. 87106

Fundraiser for our Youth



Our Mid-high and Sr. high Youth will be selling Mia Bella's Candles and scentsations.. Browse our beautiful selection of premium scented natural wax candles and other gourmet products on November 13 in the Great Hall. These products make awesome gifts for all of the favorite people in your lives! Help give the gift of scents. If you would like to preview these wonderful products, go to:

scent-team.com/Patrice

Service Opportunities

COH's Crisis Care Ministry is soon to be embodied by two separate teams:

1. Hospitality - a long-standing team providing service by hosting various events. Currently staffed by 37 volunteers.

2. Care Team - New! And Now Forming! Three areas of service:

Transportation Crisis Care Meals Interface with Community Services

Coordination for the teams is being

provided by Claudia Russo. We hope to be up and running very soon and details for obtaining assistance from the Care Team will be published in upcoming Hope Filled Happenings. In the meantime, if

Ways you can

you would like to be a part of this team, and could provide assistance from time to time, please contact Claudia at care@crossofhope.org

Materials and guidelines will be sent to anyone volunteering.

Lunch Bunch

ddbecrets@gmail.com.



The Lunch Bunch will be meeting Wednesday, November 9 at 1pm at Luigi's Restaurant 6225 Fourth St NW Questions? Contact Beth Cretsinger Call/text (505) 249-1162, or email



ADDRES



Wendy Sylvester 1 Elisa Mclellan 2 7 **Conner Bramley** 8 Ron Cordova Marcella Johnson 8 Kat Cooley 10 Karen Schwartz 11 **Gregory Morrison** 13 Nicolas Orbinati 13 Trisha McClain 13 Cody Schuman 14 Lois Castro 14 Lynn Kymes 15 Chris Morgan 15 Joy Thornhill 17 Bruce Molde 17 Elise Hielkema 18 William Casto 18 Laura Berndt 18 Hans Zimmer 19 Beth Cretsinger 24

Address and Phone Updates

Russ Edwards

Brookdale, 300 Valencia Dr SE, Apt 134 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87108



COH Confirmands. and newlybaptized, Ethan McClain, stand with Pastor Adam

Baptism of Ethan McClain



26 29

Nancy Morrison

Linda Molde

	Day	Years
Kevin and Elyse Benham	2	3
Mary and Dick Bresnahan	5	51
Joey and Lisa Fields	5	11
Nicole and Victor Bencomo	9	21
Jim and Mary Hughes	24	16
Antonio and Debra Alba	27	28







Heart Strings

Herb Delker

6404 Santolina Dr NW Albuquerque, NM 87120

Carroll Werling

2331 Westside Blvd ŠE #202 Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Karen Reiten

899-1504 4841 Shin Avenue NE Rio Rancho, NM 87144

John Fries

Gardens - Retreat Villas Assisted Living 4100 Jackie Road SE, #15 Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Bobbi Dopslaf

10400 Universe Blvd. NW Apt 815 Albuquerque, NM 87114

Carrol Russell

974 Old US 70 West Old Fort, North Carolina 28762

Dale Bauer

Uptown Rehabilitation Rm 419A 7900 Constitution Ave NE Albuquerque, NM 87110

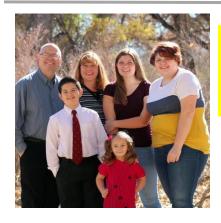
Alan Johnson

Taos Health Care, Room 604 1340 Maestas Taos, NM 87571 (Please include room number)





dogs.





The Adams Family

As interviewed by: Mary Bresnahan

Laurie

December 17, 1976

Birthplace: Phoenix, AZ

Birthdate:

Occupation: Teacher/Learning Specialist

Hobbies: Sewing, exploring nature with the kids,

photography

Children: Rowynn, (December 13, 2002), Carly

(January 4, 2005), Jericho (December

16, 2008), Violet (June 10, 2016)

Marriage: August 8 1998 at Cross of Hope

Jason

December 27, 1974 Albuquerque, NM

Terminal Manager for Central

Basketball: particularly NBA Golden State Warriors, baseball: New York Yankees, Lobo games, chas-

ing after kids.

Did you ever meet a family that almost has a lock on birthdays in December? That would be the Adams family. Note they intentionally chose a different month for their wedding!

Laurie moved from Phoenix to Albuquerque when she was four years old. Interestingly her new neighbor was Deney Perkins (that wasn't her name then), a fellow Cross of Hoper. They have been friends ever since. Laurie has three brothers – two live here and one in Utah. She attended UNM receiving a B.S. in Education and an M.A. in Elementary Education. She started attending Cross of Hope in 1995 when her family moved to the Westside. Her parents attend COH as well.

Jason is an Albuquerque native. He has a brother and a sister, both live very close by. He attended UNM receiving a B.A. in Criminology with a minor in Political Science. Jason proudly carries a "pocket diploma." UNM gave them out for a few years. In all my years of interviewing I have never seen such a thing! Yes, folks are always asked if they have a degree but no one ever asks to see it. (Of course, there are other ways to verify that!)

Jason started his career working inside a bank vault counting money. From there he got to experience the public when he went to work for Hertz. Next came Intel where he was involved with inventory and logistics. He traveled quite a bit keeping track of inventory at different locations. When the contract ended it was a good thing since there were additional children and he needed to be at home more. His next employer was Shamrock Foods and then back to

Adams continued from page 11

Hertz. He finally ended up at Central Transport coordinating moves across the country. If you have a logistics question, Jason is your person.

In the meantime, Laurie was holding down the home fort. She taught in Rio Rancho from 1999 to 2007. When the girls were small, she ran a daycare for two years. She spent one year teaching at Cross of Hope and then went back to Rio Rancho from 2009 to 2021. Last year she started at Explore Academy, a local charter school. Conveniently, all the children are attending school there, except Rowynn. That has made for some interesting stories. Once, Violet went into Laurie's office and fell asleep. Nobody knew she was there. The scary part was when the siren went off for a fire drill. That really scared Violet. Another story was when Jericho jumped off the slide and broke his arm. He went to his mom's office and went to sleep under her desk. In his words, he thought he could sleep it off. Laurie now knows to look under her desk. You never know who might show up!

Both Jericho and Violet are adopted. They are biological brother and sister. They are Jason's cousin's grandchildren. Jericho was in CYFD custody for about four months. Jason got a call from his mother advising him of the situation but not thinking Jericho would be taken from his home. The next call came nine months later. CYFD's first option is to try and reunite the child with its mother. The second is a family member. Jason and Laurie went through a lot of paperwork, including some training. Finally, Jericho came to them as a "foster child." Going through "all the hoops" took from March 1 to July 19, 2010. Finally, they could adopt him. They went through the court in Roswell since it wasn't as stacked up with cases as Bernalillo and would be faster. Then Violet came along. They received a phone call from her mother. They had one week to prepare for her arrival. Every day during that week, people brought what they needed. (Definitely an example of God showing up!) They had to go through the same paperwork but the process was very smooth. Violet arrived in January 2020. Things took longer for her adoption to be finalized because of COVID. On March 26, 2021, everything became legal. Rich Neely, another member of Cross of Hope and family lawyer, helped with the legal items, and the adoption was held via Zoom. Laurie has had a nice relationship with Jericho and Violet's mother. Rowynn and Carly were happy to have new siblings.

Jason and Laurie grew up living one mile away from each other. They both went to Manzano High School and were in Student Council. They were a couple years apart but never met. They both went to UNM and still never met. Finally, they were in the same class. They each had a friend, and the friends knew each other. While the friends were chatting they introduced Jason and Laurie. Jason had to ask Laurie many times for a date before she finally agreed. I guess we can say the rest is history. Next year they will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary.

Now time for the children's interests:

- Rowynn is a sophomore at UNM studying paramedicine. Rowan has gotten EMT certification
 and wants to be a paramedic in a national park. They play the cello and guitar. Rowan is artistic
 and loves various crafts (knitting, crocheting, cross stich, and sewing. Having watched Rowynn
 here at church, they are definitely a natural leader. Currently Rowynn is active at Luther House
 on the UNM campus.
- Carly is going to be a Senior in high school. She works with fiber arts she wraps herself in a long piece of silk and does acrobatics with it. She is in the Rio Rancho Youth Choir. She also draws, creates murals, reads and is the president of the National Honor Society. She works at "Icicles" which is an ice cream shop near Cottonwood. There are two other Cross of Hope girls

Adams continued from page 12

who work there too.

- **Jericho** is in 8th grade. He LOVES bicycles. He goes around and finds bicycles that have been thrown out. He brings them home and repairs them. If he has to buy a part, he will sell the bike to make a little money and recoup what he spent. Otherwise, he may give the bike away to someone who needs one.. He sees himself working in a bike shop someday. (He is such an entrepreneur he might own one someday.) He loves the two family dogs: Valentine, (a basset hound) and Indigo (a bull dog). He says they follow him everywhere. Indigo likes him because he feeds him. However, Valentine gets fed by Jason in the middle of the night when he wakes him up.
- **Violet** is excited about entering first grade this year. She likes going to school, especially since her mother is there too. She spends her down time chasing after her brother Jericho and her cousin James. She enjoys singing, riding bikes, swimming, and nature (especially mud).

Make sure you ask to see Jason's "pocket diploma." He has been waiting for this since 1997!



John McWilliams (upper right) volunteering at the Welcome Desk. We still have two hour slots available for answering phone calls and welcoming visitors. If interested, contact Linda Willoughby at office@crossofhope.org.





Ron Cordova and Rudy Simek (left) are ushers extraordinaire! Some might call them Mutt and Jeff!

Humorous Trivia:

Who was the best business woman in the Bible?

Pharoah's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Celebrating A Milestone Birthday and Pastor Appreciation



Hostesses Claudia Russo, Wendy Harrison, Deborah Rivera, and Nancy



Pastor Adam– now as old as the Church!



Argyle Socks!

One of many great gifts.



Pr. Adam and Sylvia Oelsner share a birthday laugh!

Celebrations Continue in November!

Join us on Sunday, November 20 as we celebrate birthdays for some dignified parishioners:

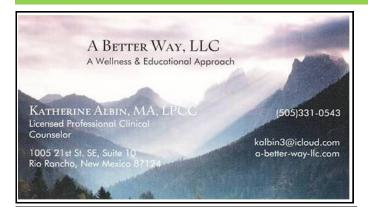
Miriam Anspach Herb Delker Russ Edwards Robert Hauert John Fries Doris Herrmann Ruth Hinkel Guenter Krumlinde Marjorie Pool



All of these parishioners have celebrated birthdays that have put them in the 90 Plus Birthday Club here at Cross of Hope this year. Pastor Adam has a long way to go to catch up with you!.

When you need these services, please think of Rays of Hope sponsors.

We thank them for their continued support in offsetting the costs (by \$10 per month) associated with producing Rays of Hope each month.



thrivent^e

Stacey E Marz

FIC, CLTC* Financial Consultant

Valley Consulting Group stacey.marz@thrivent.com connect.thrivent.com/stacey-marz

O 480-237-3669 2222 S Dobson Rd, Ste. 700 Mesa, AZ 85202 **O** 505-271-0065 7600 Jefferson St NE, Ste 25 Albuquerque, NM 87109

Cross of Hope School (Preschool-5th Grade) Debra Alba Director of School Ministry

6104 Taylor Ranch Road, NW (505) 897-1832

email: esdirector@crossofhope.org website: www.crossofhope.org



Register online now for the 2022-23 school year (Preschool - 5th Grade).

Link to School (PreK-5th) Registration

Cross of Hope Church and School Congregational Council Team cohcouncil@crossofhope.org

Pastor Adam Berndt, Margie Reed- President, Pat Benchik- Vice President, Janet Conlon-Secretary, Tim Fuller, Kathy Gorman, Sherrie Simek, Kristi Valdez

thrivent

Matthew J Klandrud

ChFC®, RICP®, CKA®

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Shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/85-0294144 to generate donations for Cross of Hope and check out our AmazonSmile Charity Lists to donate items we need

most.





A Mobile Research Unit for Clinical Trial for Alzheimer's Prevention parked in the COH parking lot on October 15. This was in conjunction with the Walk to End

CROSS OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW Albuquerque, NM 87120

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Mission Statement

Cross of Hope is a Spirit-centered community that shares Christ's love through worship, education and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships with God



505-897-0047 • office@crossofhope.org www.crossofhope.org

Facebook Page: Cross of Hope Church

Worship Times:

On-Site Sunday - 9:00 a.m. Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Digital: Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

Devotions: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.

RAYS OF HOPE JOURNAL

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November 2022

November Book Suggestions

Recommended by Dee Gutierrez

Praying our Goodbyes - Joyce Rupp

This book may help anyone who has experienced loss, whether a job change, the end of a relationship, the death of a loved one, a financial struggle, a mid-life crisis, or and extended illness. Learn to reflect, ritualize, and re-orient yourself—to heal the hurts caused by goodbyes and the anxieties encountered when one season of life ends and another begins.

Magnificent Grace: Savoring the Greatness of God-Margaret Feinberg

In a world that often stressed perfection, God's grace gives us the strength to face our imperfections and faults. Gods provision is far greater than our lack. This study will help empower you to understand God's Grace.

The Ragamuffin Gospel- Brennan Manning

God gives us His grace, willingly, no matter what we've done. We come to Him as ragamuffinsdirty, bedraggled, and beat-up. And when we sit at His feet, , He smiles upon us, the chosen objects of His "furious love". This meditation will help you to understand His Grace.