

RAYS of HOPE JOURNAL

November 2023, Volume 41, Issue 11 Mission Statement

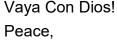
Cross of Hope is a Spirit-centered community that shares in Christ's love through worship, education and outreach to develop and strengthen relationships with God.

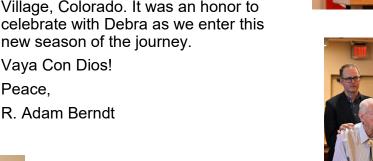
Called by God to Word and Service

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord... to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:4,5,7



Cross of Hope was blessed to mark God's call for Debra Uppendahl-Alba through the Rite of Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Service on Sunday October 15, 2023. Jim Gonia, Bishop of our Rocky Mountain Synod presided and Adam Berndt, Pastor of Cross of Hope preached as the Holy Spirit moved through our morning together. Debra is called to serve as Deacon through Bethany Lutheran Church in Cherry Hills Village, Colorado. It was an honor to celebrate with Debra as we enter this new season of the journey.



















Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW
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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.

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Margie Reed-President Sherrie Simek-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.

Cross of Hope School

Wonderful additions COH School was able to purchase with the help of all of the school's fundraisers.

Thank You!









Currently accepting enrollment at Cross of Hope School.

Please click on this link to begin our Online Registration process:

https://ch-nm.client.renweb.com/oa/?memberid=2059

Campus tours are available for those families interested in becoming more familiar with Cross of Hope School. To schedule a tour prior to registering your child/children, please contact Susan Rivera, Director of School Ministry at 505-897-1832 or email esdirector@crossofhope.org. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Cross of Hope School is a welcoming, Christ-centered community providing high quality education in a nurturing environment that respects each child's development.

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.



Time Change November 5
Don't forget to turn your
clocks back!

School continued from page 2

Cross of Hope School News



Tis the Season to begin celebrating!

Our school has been blessed abundantly by the families and the congregation the past few months. We have had an extremely successful book fair, walk-athon and Cross of Hope spirit "swag" sale that provided funds for our school. These funds enabled us to replace some worn and damaged toys in our preschool, create an engaging learning space in our library, and purchase some technology equipment that will support our students. We celebrate the generosity of all those that contributed to our fundraising efforts.

This month we will be collecting food items to donate to **The Rio Grande Food Project** beginning on November 11 and ending on November 17. Please join us in blessing this incredible outreach here in Albuquerque. We will be selling **Butter Braids** to complete our fall fundraising during this time as well. These incredibly delicious pastries are a family favorite for holiday gatherings. If you are interested in purchasing a few loaves of deliciousness, please see the envelope at the welcome desk. We celebrate the ability to share with others in need!

We will be hosting a **Flu Shot Clinic** on Wednesday, November 8 from 2:30pm - 5:30pm. Adults as well as children are welcome to attend and receive their shots. We celebrate a healthy community.

Our church and school community will gather together to share our gratitude for all of God's bounty with a **dessert gathering** on Thursday, November 9 from 6pm - 7pm. Bring a dessert and celebrate with us!

Finally, we look forward to sharing the amazing progress our students have made through progress reports in preschool, and the end of 1st trimester report cards and conferences in elementary school. We will then all enjoy a long weekend to celebrate the **Thanksgiving** holiday November 22 through November 24. I am extremely grateful to this incredible congregation for the love and support of the work we do here at Cross of Hope Church and School.

Blessings

Susan F. Rivera, Director of School Ministry, esdirector@crossofhope.org



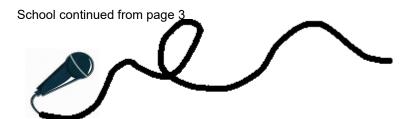






Walk-a-thon

PJ Day
School continued on page 4



The Roving Hope-r

By Mary Bresnahan

November has arrived and the beginning of the holiday season. It came to my attention that many people were reading & saying "Hopper". From that arose the question for the COH students, "What is a Hoper?" Most did not know what that was – but they knew what "hope" was. Here is what we learned.

First grade Andrea and Evolette



Evolette is hoping for another Magic Mixie plus a kitten she can cuddle with.

Andrea hopes for a kitten to sleep with. She has fish, chickens and a cat.

Second Grade Henry



"I hope for another tablet to replace the one that broke. I am happy." Since he was very hungry, he was "hoping for noodles" (and got mac and cheese, grapes). "I am hoping for pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving." Turkey was not on his list of likes.

Third Grade Addisyn



Addisyn is "hoping to spend time with my mom." She was also hoping we would let her finish her tacos. In November she is "looking forward to my dad's birthday on November 21."

Fourth Grade Addison



Addison did know that a "Hoper" was - a "person who hopes. "I hoped for a guinea pig and I got my wish. I reminded her about me wanting her dog. She said, "I hope you won't take my dog but you can take my brother." (Many laughs knowing the latter two things won't happen.)

Fourth and Fifth Graders reading and teaching games to our Kindergarteners on Fridays







Council Corner

by Margie Reed COH Council President

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 107:1)

The COH Council gathered in prayer and devotion in the Great Hall on October 17, 2023, for their monthly meeting.

Items in the Consent Agenda for approval included the September 19, 2023, unapproved Council meeting minutes; the purchase of the Deacon stole for Debra Alba, and the unanimous approval, of the 2023-2024 budget, at the September 24, 2023, Congregational Meeting. Even though the items, except for the September 19, 2023, unapproved Council minutes had been approved earlier, we use the Consent Agenda as a way to make sure the results are included in the minutes, and they are on the record.

Todd Bramley presented a comprehensive review of the Budget and Balance Sheets as he does each meeting.

It was also that time of year to approve the Health Insurance plan for Pastor Adam. A motion was passed to increase Pastor's annual compensation, effective January 1, 2024, to cover the increased cost of health insurance and \$150 a month to fund HSA. The Council unanimously approved it. Pastor Adam abstained from voting.

Sherrie Simek gave an update on the Safety Committee and the School and Church Safety Manual. The Safety Committee includes Ron Cordova, Margie Reed, Karen Schwartz, Rudy Simek, Sherrie Simek and Linda Willoughby. Safety protocol updates currently in process are the critical incident kits updated for teachers and offices, and school safety drills practiced and enforced. The Safety Committee would also like to educate all church parishioners regarding safety procedures and protocols in the event of an emergency.

Last month's Rays of Hope contained an article on what to look for and what to do in case of a fire or lockdown during a service or event in the Sanctuary or Great Hall. If you haven't read it, please dig out your September issue and read it. It is extremely important.

At the September meeting, Pastor Adam assigned homework to all of the members. We were to read the Bylaws and Constitution of the Church. There was a great deal of discussion on understanding the various sections and a wide array of questions. Additional review is anticipated.

At this printing Advent and Christmas service times are under discussion as well as dates for Los Posadas and Hanging of the Greens.

On behalf of all the members of the Cross of Hope Council, a very blessed Thanksgiving to you all!



Camp @ COH and Youth @ COH

Youth News and October Highlights

This is the second rotation for our Camp@CoH. It's going well, with more kiddos attending each week. We now average around 30 youth per week, with three groups called villages: an elementary group who named themselves Act's (Amazing children of the Cross), and our MHY and SHY villages. We also have a Mama's and Papa's Group. Each village sits together for our meal and does their Bible study together.

This rotation we are studying Fruits of the Spirit and have had a fun time with it by singing Fruits of the Spirit at each campfire worship and incorporating Fruits of the Spirit into our meals, games, and Bible Study. For example, when we studied love and peace, we asked kiddos to dress like a hippie (those folks in the 60's who claimed to be all about love and peace) First we had to explain what a hippie is (ha!) Pastor Adam and I dressed up to demonstrate.

In addition to camp experiences, our youth participated in the monthly Love God, Love Neighbors event on October 8. At that event, our children learned about working with therapy dogs. They also participated in our Star Party on October 20 where we gathered together at Mariposa Basin with telescopes. We looked at the moon, Jupiter and its moons, other galaxies, and twin stars.

The highlight for us this month was the affirmation of baptism for 5 of our youth. On October 29, Gabby Cortinas was baptized. Jericho Adams, Greta Williams, Leilani Streff, and Zach Zimmer affirmed their baptism in front of the congregation. Congratulations to all of them and God's blessings on their continued faith journey

We appreciate all the ways you support our youth ministry, the meals, the volunteering, the emotional support, and the ways you encourage your children to come and participate in the youth opportunities at Cross of Hope.

Live well, laugh often, love much!

Nancy Lacher nlacher@crossofhope.org 505 934-0401









The Mission of Cross of Hope Faith Connections Group
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.

COH Small Group Ministry

Gather with us at Cross of Hope for a worship and small groups. are wrapping up the letters to God's people with a focus on **Community Life**. We hope for this time to Transform our relationships with God, self, and others!

Nov 5 Your Belonging with God I John 3:1-3 and Matt 5:1-12

The Kingdom of Heaven Future Hope or Present Reality?

Have you ever wondered about Jesus' words of a promised kingdom of heaven? How does a promise of that kind of kingdom intersect with everyday life and challenges? Is it similar or different from our earthly experience? Is it only about a future hope after we die, or does it somehow connect with our present reality? Yes! Another both/and kind of wrestling match that Jesus loves to present in his parables of the kingdom.

Following All Saints Sunday on November 5, Cross of Hope's Sunday Sermon and Small Group series for November will be focused on three of Jesus' most challenging parables of the kingdom of heaven. What will be offered is not simple, formula answers to post on your wall somewhere in your house. We believe that Jesus invites us into a challenging and surprising time of rediscovering what it truly means to "trust in the Lord with all your heart!" The God who loves and creates you and everything that exists is still active in love for the world through you. The Redeemer that we celebrate on Christ the King Sunday on November 26 is a gift of hope for the sake of the world.

Schedule

November 12 Prepared! Matthew 25:1-13

November 19 Gifted! Matthew 25:14-30

November 26 Surprised! Matthew 25:31-46

Open group meetings: Sunday's 9:45am and Wednesday's 6:30pm

Talk with Pastor Russ Sorensen about other available time options at r2csorensen@gmail.com or (505) 400-8206

If you are interested in trying out a small group opportunity this year, contact the church office at (505) 897-0047, ext. 102 or Pastor Russ

Reformation Sunday Baptism and Baptismal Affirmations



On Reformation Sunday, we experienced the anchor in love given to all of us through the Baptism of Gabriela Cortinas and for the Affirmation of Baptism of Jericho Adams, Leilani Streff, Greta Williams, and Zach Zimmer.











Heart Strings

Members of COH unable to worship with us on a regular basis. Please contact and let them know we care.

Elisa McClellan 7 **Conor Bramley** 8 Ron Cordova Marcella Johnson 8 10 Kat Cooley Karen Schwartz 11 Gregory Morrison 13 Trisha McClain 13 Lois Casto 14 15 Chris Morgan Joy Thornhill 17 17 Bruce Molde Elise Hielkema 18 William Casto 18 Laura Berndt 18 Hans Zimmer 19 Ryan Hale 19 Beth Cretsinger 24 Nancy Morrison 26 Linda Molde 29

Dale and Edee Bauer 4905 Wagon Mound Trail NW Albuquerque, NM 87120

John Fries

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

Karen Reiten

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

Carroll Werling

Palmilla Senior Living 10301 Golf Course Rd NW Apt 144 Albuquerque , NM 87120



<u>Day</u>	Years Married	
Kevin and Elyse Benhem	2	4
Mary and Dick Bresnahan	5	52
Nicole and Victor Bencom	o 9	23
Jim and Mary Hughes	24	17

The Church office will be closed on November 10 in observance of Veteran's Day and on November 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving.



Marjorie Pool

Fairwinds@Rio Rancho, Apt 376 920 Riverview Dr SE Rio Rancho, NM 87124



Young at Heart Celebration and Happy Birthday Pastor Adam October 22



The Church Mouse

I'm Thankful for.....

"Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 106:1 As I was looking for a Bible verse that mentioned thanking the Lord, I came across quite a few. Thanking the Lord for what we have in our lives is always on our mind, but especially during this time of year. Don't you love the Fall? The leaves are turning a beautiful gold, and if you don't believe me, just drive over the river on Paseo del Norte or Montano. The trees are magnificent. Fall brings cooler days and before you know it, it's time to get ready for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Now, what will you have to be thankful for this year? Just think about it. I once challenged a group of teenagers to tell me what they were thankful for. They couldn't say living things, no parents, sisters, brothers, friends, boyfriends or girlfriends. They had to think of something that wasn't alive. If we hadn't limited what they could say just a little bit, they all would have said cell phones. So, without people, pets and cell phones, what are teenagers thankful for? Several boys said video games, television sets and other electronics. The girls leaned toward beauty items. My favorite was the young lady who said she was most thankful for her curling iron. I'm not making that up.

So, what are you thankful for? You can start out with family, even grumpy old Uncle George. Yes, you can put your pets on the list. After all, they're family too. But, then think of other things you are thankful for. Maybe it's an invention or something you like to eat. Or, maybe it's something you've been able to accomplish or maybe even your job. We could go on and on. Just take a minute during this month and think about everything and everyone in your life. That Thanksgiving list will grow and grow. Yes, it's a wonderful time of year.

Community Outreach

Our Church Community continues to reach out to help others in our community. The Ramp Project continues to create ramps for people needing them to get in and out of their homes. Cross of Hope Church was able to raise more than a thousand dollars for the Walk for Alzheimer's. Below are pictures of our outreach efforts..



Our Ramp Project Volunteers (pictured above and to the right)





Members of our Church gathering for Walk for Alzheimer's (pictured left and below)





The Happy Hop-ers

Rosemary and Rich Neely

By Mary Bresnahan

Rosemary (Rose)



Rich (Richmond)

Birthdate: September 29, 1953 January 7, 1955

Birthplace: Washington, D.C. Overland Park, KS

Marriage: March 13, 1982 Bethel Park, PA

Children: Nick (Abq), Katie (Portland, OR)

Occupation: Family law attorney Retired Pre-K teacher

Hobbies: vegetable garden, bicycle, singing, opera, singing, knitting, sewing, reading murder

news junky, opera mysteries, bicycle

Rich was born to Merle and Ann who met at Ft. Jackson, SC while Merle was serving in the Army. Rich was born while the family was living in Manassas, Virginia. After the family moved to Baltimore, MD they relocated to Pittsburgh PA by the time Rich was three years old. Rich had two brothers (one older and one younger) who are both deceased. Rich's father died two weeks before he graduated from law school. His mother lived to 90 years old.

Rich's dad graduated from Penn State and worked as a sales engineer designing hydraulic and pneumatic systems. He designed the air brake system for BART (the San Francisco transit system) and for roller coasters. You might owe a fun ride to Rich's dad. He was an Irish tenor and sang in the church choir. Rich sang in the choir from the age of two. So now we know how he got his start. Rich's mother was a homemaker and worked as a telephone operator. She organized a kindergarten for the neighborhood kids which was held in the basement of their house.

Besides his vocal talents, Rich played the clarinet from the age of three years old until he was a senior in high school (he still has it). When he was a junior, he had his first role in Kizmet. Although he and Rosemary went to the same high school (Bethal Park High) they didn't know each other. Rich attended University of South Carolina receiving a B. A. in Russian History in 1975. He then went on to law school at DuKane University in Pittsburg, receiving his J.D. in 1985 and an L.L.M. from the University of Denver in 1985.

Rosemary attended Penn State and did babysitting for some of the professors to earn extra money. She started as a French major. This afforded her the opportunity to nanny for one of the professors for a semester in France. When she returned to Penn State, she changed her major to Early Childhood Education, graduating with a B.S. in 1978. Her next stop was Washington D.C. for a job in a day care center while continuing to nanny for a professor for some extra cash. After one year, and not making much money, she went to secretarial school, so she could support herself.

Now they were both back in Pittsburgh. Here comes the fun part – Rosemary and Rich met in a Presbyterian church choir! Funny how things happen. Rich had just started law school. He was

Neely's continued from page 11

working full-time and attending law school. They got married in 1982 in the Presbyterian church where they met. Once Rick finished law school, they were off to Denver for Rich to attend tax school. While there, Rosemary worked as a typesetter.

Rosemary was always encouraged by her parents to "go West." They talked about living someplace where the sun always shined. Pittsburgh was always gray and gloomy. Since Rosemary's parents had retired to Rio Rancho, NM, Albuquerque became an easy transition after Denver. Once they arrived Rosemary got a secretarial job at J.C. Penny. Rich worked in a law firm until he opened his own practice.

When they had their second child, Katie, Rosemary stayed at home. After two years, with two children, Rosemary decided to go back to work. She started at a pre-school, Bright Beginnings. She became a director at Wesley Kids Preschool at First United Methodist church. After attaining her Master's in Multi-Cultural Early Childhood from UNM in 2004 she taught at Lavaland Elementary for 22 years until she retired in 2023 as a National Board Certified Teacher.

Rosemary's parents were Bill and Nell Clark. She has two brother. Matt lives in Katy, TX and Dave splits his time between Arizona and Washington State. Somewhat similar to her and Rich's story, her parents lived 50 miles apart and never knew each other until they met in Kansas City. Nell was the church secretary at the Methodist church and also worked for an insurance company. She had a degree in Sociology, but never worked in the field. However, she was active in the community. Bill, her dad, had his doctorate in Chemical Engineering from the University of Kansas, after Master's work at Marquette University and the University of Chicago.

Rosemary's family lived in Kansas City until Rosemary was twelve years old. They moved to Bethal Park, PA where her father work for DuPont. After he retired, he and Nell did a lot of international travel, This was good since he died in his mid- 60's.

Since Rosemary recently retired, she is figuring out what she will do besides her beloved bike riding (her happy place), sewing and knitting. She plans to brush up on her French and get better at Spanish. A river cruise to the Bordeaux Region of France is in the works in May 2024 with her brother Dave and a cousin and their spouses.

Rich and Rosemary have been active at Cross of Hope since they joined in 2014. They are both in the Voices of Hope Choir, Rich leads a Sunday bible study and Rosemary serves on the Pre-School Board. A fun thing you should know about Rosemary – when she sings, she keeps time with her toes (easiest to see when she is wearing sandals).

Youth @ COH Candle Sale

Our Mid-high and Sr. high Youth will be selling Mia Bella's Candles and scentsations. Come browse the great selections. See and smell the deliciousness of fruits and the beauty of the outdoors. These candles make great gifts for favorite people in your lives.

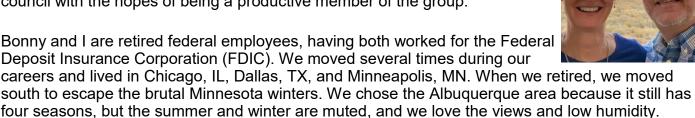
Candles will be sold between the 9am and 10:45am services in the Great Hall on November 12.



Two Great Commandments

Bob Arseneau, Council Member

Hi. My name is Robert "Bob" Arseneau. My wife, Bonny and I moved to Rio Rancho, NM from St. Michael, MN during the COVID pandemic in 2020. It took us a while to find and join Cross of Hope Church, but we became members in the spring of 2022. Bonny and I have found the people at Cross of Hope to be friendly, kind, and welcoming. We belong to a small group that meets on Wednesdays and are members of the Lunch Bunch, both great activities for building community. In the spring of this year, I joined the church council with the hopes of being a productive member of the group.



The political landscape in our country continues to deteriorate. Both parties are using fear mongering to persuade us into their camps. Some in the political process are trying to get us to hate each other (i.e., people with opposing viewpoints). Everyone is entitled to their own opinion in America, which is one of things that makes America great. You don't have to agree with somebody else's viewpoint/opinion, but per the two Great Commandments, you do have to be respectful and kind. ("You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.") The Great Commandments are in Matthew 22:35–40, Mark 12:28–34, and Luke 10:27.

My final thoughts on going through the current political cycle, as somebody who is trying to be a good Christian: Don't judge, stick to the facts, and as Christians we are called to love and love starts with respect and kindness. Exercise your right to vote and vote for the individual who most exemplifies your Christian values.

Special Needs Christmas Party

Happy Birthday Jesus!

Come join us for our very first Special Needs Christmas Party on December 2 from 1pm to 3pm here at Cross of Hope. We are looking for youth and adult volunteers help out in a variety of ways including assisting our students in decorating Christmas cookies, making ornaments and joining them and their families in singing and celebrating the birth of Jesus. For more information contact Patty Westerfield at 505-250 5186, or pattyw50@aol.com

Happy Birthday

Special Needs
Christmas Party
Dec 2nd 1-3 pm
at
Cross of Hope Church

Special Needs Christmas Party Attendee and Volunteer registration links:

Special Needs Christmas Party Attendee Registration Form

Special Needs Christmas Party Volunteer Registration Form

Food for the Soul Tea

Banner Babes 15th Annual Friendship Tea, "Food for the Soul"

Right:

Banner Babes showing off raffle items and wearing Hats decorated for "Food for the Soul".





Two Cool Hippies

Hippie Night at Camp @ COH

Lunch Bunch

Come and join us for some fellowship and food! Wednesday, November 8 at 1:00pm at the Olive Garden at the corner of *Coors* and Ellison *Road* at 10500 *Coors Blvd* By-Pass NW

Please Contact Leeon Carrico Call 505-554-1128 Leeon.carrico@gmail.com



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.

Matthew I Klandrud, ChFC®, RICP®, CKA®



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The Symphony Orchestra of Albuquerque, NM

Christmas Concert Dates

Sunday, December 10 2pm Heights Cumberland 8600 Academy NE

and

December 17 2:30pm St John XXIII Community Church 4831 Tramway Ridge Dr NE

Susan Rivera, Director of School Ministry **Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School**



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Cross of Hope Care Outreach Transportation **Emergency Meals** Family Emergency

Medical Appointments Other Appointments Necessary Errands

Assistance is available:

- www.crossofhope.org/forms
- · Email: care@crossofhope.org
- In the Great Hall
- Call COH office (505)897-0047x102



Illness

Death

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.

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November 2023

November Book Suggestions

Recommended by Dee Gutierrez

Daughter of Cana (Jerusalem road book 1) - Angela Hunt

Thomas and Tasmin, twin siblings hired to oversee a wedding feast in Cana, worry when the host runs out of wine . . . until a guest tells Tasmin to have the servants fill the pitchers by the gate with water from the cistern.

Increasing Your Faith Beyond the Mustard Seed: 36 ways to increase your Faith - Alan Houge

Trust is a cornerstone in every relationship. Without it, no relationship will prosper. God calls us to have blind faith in Him. If we do not blindly trust Him then we will never truly plumb the depths of a relationship with Him.

Love Does: Discover a secretly incredible life in an ordinary world - Bob Goff

Can a simple concept shift your entire world? Bob certainly thinks so. When it comes to loving your neighbors, rather than focusing on having the "right answers" or checking the "right boxes," what if you decide to simply DO love? To shamelessly show love and grace to those around you? What would that look like?