



Love • Transform • Serve

RAYS of HOPE JOURNAL

October 2024, Volume 42 Issue 10

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.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Rev. 22: 1-2

Grounded in Gratitude

Thank you.

Please know that I felt your prayers as I presided over the wedding celebration for Caitlein Bye-McCleskey and Chase Rosenberg, the memorial worship for Susan McWilliam and Robert Bye, and represented you at the bedside of Linda Ehlers before her death on September 18. As I wrote last week in my Letter to the Community, it feels like a heavy season for Cross of Hope, and *thanks be to God for the promise of the river of the water of life that nourishes the tree of life that spans that great, heavenly river on either side sprouting leaves for the healing of the nations and is hope for our journey together.*

A journey that we anchor in Christ and ground ourselves in gratitude. I am thankful for *you!*

I invite you to be grounded in gratitude:

- For Ron and his great team of Ushers that help set up and host in our worship space;
- For Lynne and Claudia and their great team of Hospitality and Care that decorate and welcome the community to our Great Hall with great sensitivity and intention;
- For RC and your wonderful staff who work so hard throughout the week so the community can gather and be present for one another in worship;
- For Tom, Amy, and all the musicians that offer their gifts to lead us in songs of praise;
- For Greg and Nancy and all who help share worship beyond the walls of our building;
- For Margie and Sherrie and all the Church Council leaders who faithfully steward the ministry we share.

Please know how grateful we are for all the ways *you share in ministry, and what a blessing it is to be your pastor on the way.*

Peace,

Pr. Adam



Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School

6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW

Albuquerque, NM 87120

Phone Number: (505) 897-0047

E-mail: office@crossofhope.org

On the web at: www.crossofhope.org

cohouncil@crossofhope.org

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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Sherrie Simek-Vice President

Cross of Hope School

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Online Registration for the 2024-2025 year

[Click Here for Registration Details](#)

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



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, lbagby@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.

Care Outreach

Transportation

Medical Appointments
Other Appointments
Necessary Errands



Emergency Meals

Family Emergency
Illness
Death

Assistance is available:

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



Cross of Hope School Happenings

ABQ Balloon Aloft

Join us as we experience the Quintana's Balloon,
"New Beginnings" up close!

Cross of Hope Parking Lot

October 4

6:45 – 7:15am

This will be a great time for some community fellowship, hot beverages, and some sweet treats!

There will be a table set up for those interested in ordering school Spirit Wear at this event!



Mark your Calendars





The Roving Hope- r

By Mary Bresnahan

School is in full swing. We have several new teachers who have yet to be introduced to you. Each comes to us with years of experience and a desire to be in a faith-led environment. We are lucky to have them. If you have the opportunity, come to chapel on Wednesday at 2:30pm, say “hello” and introduce yourself. It doesn’t matter if your child is in their class or if you have a child in our school or just want to know what is going on.



Meet Angela Durham. She teaches kindergarten. She taught in the Albuquerque Public School system moving through grades K to 8. Her last assignment was at Navajo Elementary.

Angela retired from teaching but her friend, Linda, (whom you will meet next) invited her to apply at Cross of Hope. Angela was prompted by her sense of curiosity. She wanted to know how teaching at a “church school” would be different from APS. Additionally, she wanted to enhance her own faith. As you know, “God” or prayer cannot be mentioned in a public school. The children in the public school system had no idea what holidays meant other than a day off.

Additionally, she mentioned that she “forgot how to be kid.” At Cross of Hope it is nice to be creative again; not just teaching for a test. “It is not just a job.” Angela is glad to be at Cross of Hope. She has been able to “reaffirm her faith” which is important to her.

Linda Aragon is our first grade teacher. Linda taught in the APS system in the first through third grades until just before COVID. She was having health scares so took a medical leave of absence. She occupied her time (and got healthy) taking care of her five-month-old granddaughter. The latter’s parents were both teachers and were busy adapting to COVID changes.

Linda decided to come back to teaching when she saw an email regarding jobs available at Cross of Hope. She loves the challenge of teaching the children and the reward that follows when they get it. She loves working with kids – to watch them grow and become confident. Linda says she really loves first grade and is happy to be at Cross of Hope.



We appreciate our front desk volunteers! Thank you Beth Christians for all of your smiles and help keeping our school children safe!

Roving Hoper continued on page 5

Roving Hoper continued from page 4



Natasha Van Scyoc is our second grade teacher. Natasha taught at the Zuni Christian Mission School on the Zuni Pueblo for five years. When her grandma died in October 2022 she decided to move to Albuquerque in 2023. She was at Abundant Life Christian School and taught fifth through seventh grades focusing on literature, Bible and also PE. Natasha experienced the change from a small community to a big city. They both have their positives and negatives. Cross of Hope reminds her of her time on the pueblo.

Natasha saw the ad for a teacher on-line. She loves the kids. It is nice to see their growth. She describes her kids as "bright." Some of them think like the fifth graders she had. She said the atmosphere here is "servant oriented" and nurtures the kids to solve their own problems. Natasha is glad she found Cross of Hope.



Our Fall Walk-a-Thon was a Huge Success. Thank you to all of our fantastic volunteers and donors.

**Cross of School will be on Fall Break October 9-14.
There will be no school.**

Church Council

By Margie Reed, COH Council President

Our last Council meeting was held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 6:30pm. The meeting started with a special devotional by Bob Arseneau and followed by prayers for Linda Ehlers.

Sadly, the next morning, we learned that Linda passed away peacefully and is now with God in her heavenly home. Linda was an asset to our Council and will be missed.

Fall is certainly in the air, and it is nice to have our fall schedule back here at Cross of Hope. Our services are back inside at 8:45am and 10:45am with Faith Formation, Small Groups, and Pastor Rick's Bible study in between the two.

Since Pastor Adam was attending a two-day meeting at Ghost Ranch, Greg Morrison, lead the elections of officers for 2024-2025. Margie Reed, Sherrie Simek, and Janet Conlon were elected President, Vice President, and Secretary, respectively. Their terms will run until the next Congregational Meeting in August 2025 when nominations and elections will be held for new officers.

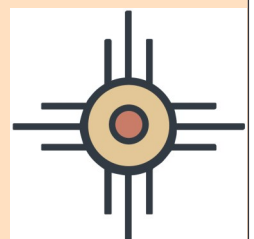
The Council welcomed our new member, Ron Cordova, elected at the August 25, 2024, Congregational meeting. Due to an additional vacancy in the Council, a special election was held, and Jessica Williams is our newest member. Both Ron and Jessica will serve a two-year term until the Congregational Meeting in August 2026. Leadership book updates are currently in process and will be distributed to the new members at the next meeting.

Our Preschool Director, Courtney Knutla is getting ready for the upcoming Preschool Accreditation in November. There were several documents still required for the process and the Council was able to help with crafting them. A new "Conflict of Interest statement" is being added to the Employee Manual and A Statement of Faith" and a "Community Covenant" which are in the Council Leadership books were reviewed, signed by Council Members, and placed in our file.

According to the Treasurers report in September, we start the year where we left off in July in a strong financial position.

The Church Council has a general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are here for you!

The church office and school will be closed on October 14 in observation of Indigenous People's Day.



The Rite of Installation of **Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni** as Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

will be on October 5, 2024 at 4pm This will be live streamed if you would like to watch.

<https://youtube.com@augustanlutheranchurch4906/streams>



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.

Getting Our Bearings

Making Faith Connections small group ministry began its next series on September 15 and will explore the questions raised in the gospel texts for each week. Who is Jesus? Who am I? Who is all this gospel stuff about? Come, drop in and make faith connections on Sunday at 9:45am before or after worship!

Oct 6	Who is Worthy?	Mark 10:2-16	
Oct 13	Who is Holding Us Back?	Mark 10:17-31	
Oct 20	Who is Leading the Way?	Mark 10:35-45	
Oct 27	Who is Free in Christ?	John 8:31-36	Reformation
Nov 3	Who is Cheering Us On?	John 11:32-44	All Saints

Want a more consistent small group experience? Contact Russ Sorensen at r2csorensen@gmail.com to be connected with, or start, a small group!

Balloon Fiesta offers a Free Day

The Balloon Fiesta's volunteer board of directors unanimously voted for New Mexico Day. Balloon Fiesta is so appreciative of the support this event receives throughout our state. Allowing residents into Balloon Fiesta free on October 7 is their way of saying thank you!, Each New Mexico Resident is required to show a photo ID or a utility bill to verify residency. **Please be advised that parking will not be free. Parking for all fiesta sessions is \$20.** In addition, there are no Park and Ride opportunities on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays so you will need to pay for parking on Monday.

Tea Time!



**Don't Be Late for a
Very Important Date!**

Alice In Wonderland is the theme for the Sixteenth Annual Friendship Tea sponsored by Cross of Hope's Banner Babes.



Please be our guests for this year's Annual Tea On November 2, 2024 at 1pm. Doors will open at noon for all check items for raffle. Raffle tickets are

As always, there will be a delicious luncheon, raffle items aplenty, and "mad, mad" excitement to feed the soul.

Tickets available for sale October 20 between church services.

Lunch Bunch



Wednesday, October 9

Olive Garden

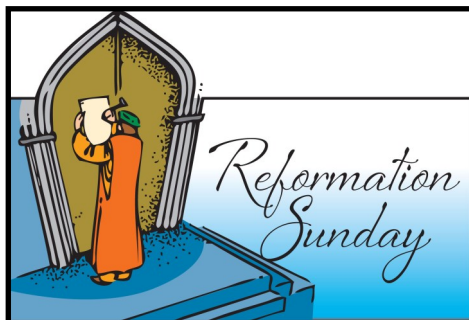
10500 Coors Blvd Bypass NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114

Near Cottonwood Mall

Please call Leon Carrico or email him for a head count by October 7.

Phone: 505-506-7707 or 505-554-1128

Email: leoncarrico@gmail.com.



**October 27
One Service
10am**



Heart Strings

Members of COH unable to worship on site.

Carroll Werling

Palmilla Senior Living, 10301 Golf Course Rd NW Apt. 144
Albuquerque, NM 87114
(918) 639-8044

Caitlein Bye-McCleskey	3
Kathy Albin	4
Marisol Wickert	5
RC Jordan	9
Janet Conlon	12
Dee Gutierrez	13
Deney Perkins	14
Jan Anderson	19
Amy Ellis	20
Gabriela Cortinas	25
Adam Berndt	26
Kathy Gorman	28
Anthony Girard	29
David Pressel	29
Keri Sutter	31



	<u>Day</u>	<u>Years Married</u>
David and Toni Kovarik	3	47
Michael and Patrice Leddy	16	42
Chris and Julie Morgan	22	41

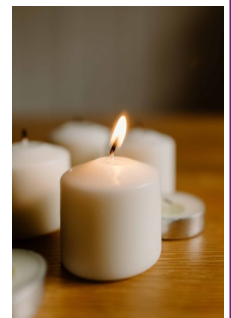


Cross of Hope Member, Robert Bye, died peacefully Sunday, September 15, 2024. His memorial was held on Sunday, September 29.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



Linda Ehlers, Cross of Hope member, passed away on September 18. Date and time of Linda's memorial service will be shared soon.



We celebrate the newly married:

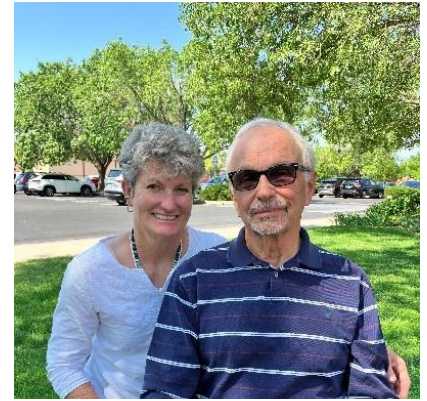
Caitlein Bye-McCleskey and Chase Rosenberg
Alec Bramley and Abigail Vermette



The Happy Hope-r

John and Nancy Lacher

By Mary Bresnahan



Nancy

John

Birthdate: June 27, 1957	August 7, 1948
Birthplace: Carlsbad, NM	Baltimore , MD
Married: June 20, 1981	Where: Albuquerque, NM
Occupation: Teacher, Principal	Copy Shop Owner
Hobbies: Horses,. Gardening, bird watch- ing, hiking, reading, traveling	Copiers, gardening, BMS motorcycle, skiing

We are all used to seeing John and Nancy around Cross of Hope doing something important to help all of us. Like what you ask? John keeps our precious copiers and printers running, producing beautiful documents or keeping the north side of the church gardens looking fabulous. Nancy is always helping to guide the school in different ways, including teaching when we were short a teacher or leading the youth group. She has served on the church council and will serve as an assisting minister, when asked. I can only think we would be in a pickle without these two valuable church members.

So, wouldn't you like to learn a little more about both of these gifted members?

Nancy was one of five girls born to Wilbur and Alma (Meyer) Klattenhoff. Wilbur was a Lutheran pastor in Carlsbad, NM. When Nancy was two years old, they moved to Albuquerque when Wilbur started Christ Lutheran Church on the east side of town. Nancy's sisters are spread around but are still close by. One sister, Carol, is in Albuquerque, Susan in Las Cruces, Linda in El Paso (with her family in Las Cruces) and Kay in Taos. Nancy refers to herself and her sisters as "free-range children."

Nancy always enjoyed children and wanted to be a teacher. She graduated from the University of New Mexico with a B.S. in Education in 1979. Later ,she went on for an M.S. in Special Education earning her degree in 1983. Then came the Ed.D. (Doctor of Education) in 1990.

Nancy's teaching career began at Monte Vista Elementary School in the Nob Hill area. She retired from Seven Bar Elementary School on the west side in 2015. She racked up a total of 35 years in the education field with 15 years as a teacher and 20 years as a principal. Now she is enjoying retirement and keeping busy with Cross of Hope activities and playing with her "fur babies." This includes two horses, Gunner and Oakley, and two donkeys, Pancho and Lefty. She and John share two rescue labs, Butch Cassidy and Sundance Kid.

Lacher's continued from page 10

Now to learn more about John. His father, Larry, was an Episcopal minister in Baltimore, MD. His mother, Katharine was a teacher. John has two brothers – Billy has passed away, and Tom, lives in Atlanta, GA.

As was the situation when John was a young man, he entered the Air Force (before he would be drafted which meant no choice but the Army). He spent one year in Thailand followed by Tacoma, WA and his final station was Albuquerque. He worked as an aircraft mechanic. When he was discharged, he returned home to Baltimore. He spent a little more than four years there and worked for a copier company. He returned to Albuquerque and got a job with Xerox. At the time they were BIG in the copier business. He stayed with them for nine years and then started his own copier business. When technology was antiquating copiers, John decided it was time to close his business after 25 years and retire.

John is the type of person who likes to keep busy. Cross of Hope helps him do that. When he closed his business, John donated a Xerox 9500 copier (name "The Unknown Soldier") to the church. It has been ten years and he keeps "The Unknown Soldier" running. He also takes care of the lights and the north side garden. John does enjoy cars along with his BMW K1600 motorcycle.

John and Nancy met while Nancy was working part-time at Sears while attending college years. Somehow Nancy managed to break the copier! John to the rescue! He came to repair the copier. "The rest is history." Now you might wonder, "Does Nancy know more about copiers? or "Does John keep her as far away from copiers as possible?" You'll have to ask them yourself.

John and Nancy are a fun couple with wonderful senses of humor. If you haven't met them, it is worth your time or at least you can say "thanks" for all they do at Cross of Hope to keep us running smoothly.

Youth News

Our Middle and High School Youth will be having their annual candle sales on October 27 and November 17. Please join them in the Great Hall for some great seasonal scents!

If you would like to purchase online contact:

Patrice Leddy

[Email Patrice Leddy](#)

Phone: 505-280-6943

Mobile Phone: 505-280-6943



Cross of Hope Property Volunteers

Cross of Hope should be cared for in a way that demonstrates its sacred nature and purpose. Members share the responsibility to keep the property and grounds clean, orderly, and everything in working order. We are also asked to assume a greater responsibility for Church cleaning and care.

We are always looking for volunteers to fix small property problems in the Church and School. It would be a blessing to be able to call a volunteer for help before we have to call one of our vendors, usually at a high cost.

If you have experience in plumbing, carpentry, painting, cleaning, we would love to have you spend a little of your time volunteering to help us when we need help fixing something.



Some examples are:

- Fixing leaks in toilets, faucets, sinks, dishwasher, etc.
- Repairing broken items such as tables, chairs, desks, to name a few
- Painting when needed (usually in the summer)
- Cutting and installing ceiling tiles (when needed)
- Breaking down cardboard boxes and taking it to recycle center (weekly basis)
- Cleaning – folding chairs, tables, chairs in Sanctuary, glass doors in and around the Great Hall (as needed)
- Snow removal on Sunday mornings (when needed)

There are a lot more things that need to be done to help keep our property safe, clean, in working order, and welcoming to the congregation.

Special thanks to Anthony Soto, Bill Casto, and Hans Zimmer, who signed up during our Ministry Team Fair on September 8 to be on our 'call list' for property assistance. If you would like to add your name to our list, please contact Margie Reed, (505) 366-7149; cohcouncil@crossofhope.org.

Community Outreach News



Cross of Hope Church is having its annual Blessing of the Animals and Pet Food Drive on Sunday, October 6.

All Food will go to Watermelon Mountain Ranch.

Bible Study– The Important Letters of Paul

Pastor Rick Alpers is offering a sequel to the class he taught two years ago on the four gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John told about Jesus' life and teachings. In this Bible study we find the deeper, theological significance of these in the teachings of the Apostle Paul. We not only will learn about the salvation plan for humanity through Jesus, but we will also get some important revelations about the early Christians, their beliefs, and the congregations they formed. We will cover Romans, First and Second Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, and Philippians, .

This six part class began on September 15 and starts approximately five minutes after the close of the 8:45am service. Each class lasts about 40 minutes. You are encouraged to bring your own Bible.



Mark your calendars!
TAYLOR RANCH
Flea Market/Rummage Sale
Craft Fair

Saturday, October 5, 2024
8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Cross of Hope Church Parking Lot
 6104 Taylor Ranch Rd NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120
 Contact Louis Garcia (505) 3219019

Cross of Hope Gardeners



Our gardening team takes pride in keeping Cross of Hope clean, beautiful, and welcoming. Currently there are four members who meet on Friday mornings (weather permitting) to work outside and around the property. The Hope Gardeners take care of all landscaping outside and around the Church and School.

- We each take on an area to pull weeds, plant flowers, take care of shrubs and trees. These areas include the Kachina Street side of the building; the ditch next to the fire station; the area behind the sheds; the sidewalk area along Taylor Ranch Road in front of the Church; all the gravel areas around the building; the flower garden next to the south side of the building and the two circle gardens in front of the Church entrance.
- We pull weeds, trim roses, plants and shrubs around the church and school as well as cleaning up the shrubs in the parking lot median strips.
- Depending on the season the grass needs to be seeded, fertilized, and mowed.
- We rake and clean up the big garden (on the south side of the building) the two circle gardens in front of the church entrance and the newest garden, next to the fence also on the south side.
- In the spring, we plant flowers, fertilize plants and shrubs, and get everything ready for summer.
- Flowerpots are planted with either real flowers or silk flowers (if there isn't any water nearby).
- Summer maintenance is the time when we make sure weeds are pulled and everything is watered.
- Two of our members come to COH every couple of days to clean the parking lot if we had a storm and to rake the sand around the building.
- Sometimes we trim tree limbs and branches as needed.
- There is maintenance needed in and around the school playground such as weeding and sweeping up the sand from the sidewalks.

At the Ministry Team Fair in September, Linda George signed up. We look forward to putting her green thumb to work. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Margie Reed at (505) 366-7149 or cohncouncil@crossofhope.org.



Our End of Summer Concert was a great hit!

Thanks to Cynda Wylie and all of our Praise + Team.

Picture Courtesy of RC Jordan

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 J Klandrud, ChFC®, RICP®, CKA®

Wealth Advisor

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 2222 S Dobson Road, Ste 700 Mesa, AZ 85202
 6565 Americas Pkwy NE, Ste 200 Albuquerque, NM 87110



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

Pastor Adam Berndt, Margie Reed- President,
 Sherrie Simek- Vice President, Janet Conlon-
 Secretary, Bob Arseneau, Linda Ehlers, Tim
 Fuller, Greg Morrison, Kristi Valdez, and Ron
 Wirths

thrivent

Stacey E Marz, FIC, CLTC®

Financial Consultant

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 6565 Americas Pkwy NE, Ste 200 Albuquerque, NM 87110



**Symphony Orchestra of
 Albuquerque
 Fall Concert 2024
 "In Celebration of Youth"**

Beethoven: Egmont Overture
Mozart: Piano concerto No. 12 in A
Bizet: Selections from "Carmen"
Vandall: Piano Concerto in G Major

Dates and Locations:

October 13, Sunday 2pm
 Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church
 8600 Academy

October 27, Sunday, 2:30pm
 St. John XXIII Catholic Community Church
 4831 Tramway Ridge Dr. NE

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



6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW
 Albuquerque, NM 87120-2639

esdirector@crossofhope.org

School (505) 897-1832



**Courtney Knutla, Preschool Director
 Cross of Hope Lutheran Church and School**



6104 Taylor Ranch Road NW
 Albuquerque, NM 87120-2639

pssupport@crossofhope.org

Preschool (505) 899-0928

www.crossofhope.org



Cross of Hope Care Outreach

Transportation
 Medical Appointments
 Other Appointments
 Necessary Errands



Emergency Meals
 Family Emergency
 Illness
 Death

Assistance is available:

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



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.

 Rev. R. Adam Berndt, Pastor

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

Facebook Page: Cross of Hope Church

Worship Times:

On-Site Sunday - 8:45 am
Sunday - 10:45 am
Digital: Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

Devotions: Monday-Friday 9:00 am

October Book Suggestions

Recommended by Dee Gutierrez

Humility: The Path to Holiness - Andrew Murray

Do you desire to be humble? Did you know that faith and humility are inseparable? Andrew Murray teaches how these two virtues work together and how you can experience true humility in this classic devotional.

Overwhelmed - Perry Noble

Stressed out? Anxious? Overwhelmed? Good news—you're not alone!

No one ever said life was going to be easy. Between financial struggles, marital issues, health scares, and the regular, run-of-the-mill problems of everyday life, it's easy to feel weighed down and trapped by your circumstances. In times like these, it's tempting to just throw in the towel and quit. Well, don't do it!

The Remarkable Soul of a Woman - Dieter F. Uchtdorf

If you are feeling overwhelmed with change, challenges, or checklists, you may wonder how you can partake now of God's happiness and find your pathway to peace, hope, and joy.