



A Summer of Food & Fun!

Feasting on Faith: Exploring Hunger & Abundance in God's Kingdom

June 16 – September 1, 2024

As a church, Community of Faith is truly committed to ending hunger – both locally and globally through ministries like our Food Pantry and Rise Against Hunger. Sometimes, however, you might wonder why this is a priority to people of faith? Did Jesus care about feeding hungry people? Where in the bible does it say this is a priority to God at all? We're so glad you asked!

This summer, we're going to do a DEEP dive into the Bible around hunger-focused texts. We're going to start with the Old Testament and walk through scriptures exploring God's miraculous provision and abundance for His people. Then, we'll follow up with the New Testament and focus on scriptures illustrating Jesus' use of meals to gather those most in need of His love.

We'll accomplish this through ONE worship service at 10 AM for the whole community, a hands-on engagement hour following at 11 AM, and a variety of special events sprinkled throughout the summer.

Our adult Sunday School will meet from 8:30 – 9:45 AM, and children's church will be offered during the service.

Old Testament

THEME: Trust and faith in the God who always provides for our needs.

June 16 | Hospitality Genesis 18:1 - 15
Abraham and Sarah prepare a meal for unexpected guests.

June 23 | Trickery Genesis 25:29 - 34
Esau sells his birthright for a bowl of stew.

June 30 | Obedience..... Exodus 13:3 – 10
The Hebrew people eat a quick meal before leaving Egypt.

July 7 | The Miraculous Exodus 16
God provides manna and quail in the desert.

July 14 | Hunger 1 Kings 17:8 - 16
A poor mom shares her food with Elijah.

July 21 25th Anniversary Food Pantry Weekend
Evening celebration, Sunday worship & a round-table discussion on where we go from here to end hunger locally.

New Testament

THEME: God's abundant, and often unexpected, welcome.

July 28 | Breakfast John 21:1 - 13
Jesus prepares breakfast for his disciples, on the beach.

August 4 | Lunch Luke 19:1- 10
Jesus has lunch with a tax collector.

August 11 | Dinner Luke 10:38 - 42
Jesus eats dinner at the home of his friends.

August 18 | Midnight Snack Luke 11:5 - 13
Jesus tells a story about a midnight visitor.

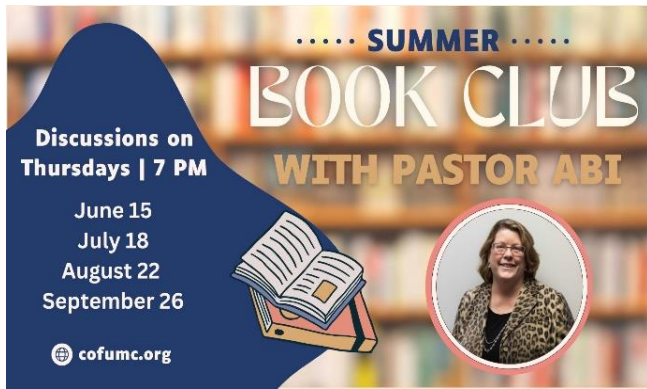
August 25 | Party Luke 14:16 - 23
Jesus tells a story about a big party and we'll host our own "feast" with a community-wide covered dish potluck!

Sept. 1 Serve Sunday (Labor Day Weekend)
Roll up your sleeves and bless our neighbors through hands-on service projects.



Summer Mission Opportunities

- 1. Food Pantry – Every Week!**
- 2. Christmas in July –** Bring a toy or toys for our Angel Shop this Christmas.
- 3. School Supply Drive in August for Dogwood ES –** Bless a child in the fall when the school year begins again.



Summer Book Club

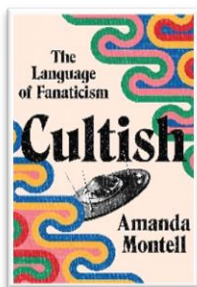
Pastor Abi has some books she'd love to share with you this Summer! You choose which book(s) you'd like to read, and you choose which book(s) you'd like to discuss with Pastor Abi and with others.

One night each month, Pastor Abi will hang out at one of the restaurants in our neighborhood shopping center (across the street from the church) – if you show up that night, you can join Pastor Abi for a discussion of the book and what it means for our faith and life.

Discussions on Thursdays at 7:00 pm

- **June 13 (Big Buns)** – *Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism* by Amanda Montell
- **July 18 (Ned Devine's Irish Pub)** – *Why I Left, Why I Stayed* by Tony and Bart Campolo
- **August 22 (Pierro's)** – *Take This Bread* by Sara Miles
- **September 26 (Ned Devine's Irish Pub)** – *Transforming* by Austen Hartke

Here Are the Books...

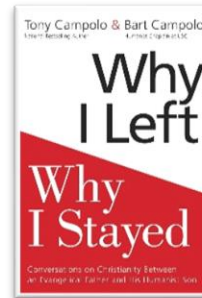


Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism by Amanda Montell

Our culture tends to provide pretty flimsy answers to questions of cult influence, mostly having to do with vague talk of “brainwashing”. But the true answer has nothing to do

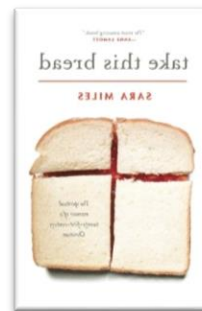
with freaky mind-control wizardry or Kool-Aid. In *Cultish*, Montell argues that the key to manufacturing intense ideology, community, and us/them attitudes all comes down to language. In both positive ways and shadowy ones, cultish

language is something we hear - and are influenced by - every single day.



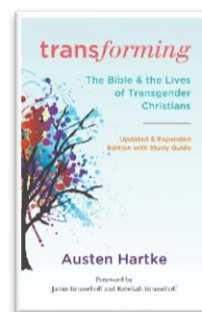
Why I Left, Why I Stayed: Conversations on Christianity Between an Evangelical Father and His Humanist Son

A dialogue between an evangelical pastor and his humanist son: “Rarely are questions of faith genuinely debated with [such] sincerity, insight, and compassion.” —Bryan Stevenson, *New York Times*—bestselling author of *Just Mercy*



Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion by Sara Miles

Raised as an atheist, Sara Miles lived an enthusiastically secular life as a restaurant cook and a writer. Then early one winter morning, for no earthly reason, she wandered into a church. “I was certainly not interested in becoming a Christian,” she writes, “or, as I thought of it rather less politely, a religious nut.” But she ate a piece of bread, took a sip of wine, and found herself radically transformed. The mysterious sacrament of communion has sustained Miles ever since, in a faith she'd scorned, in work she'd never imagined.



Transforming: The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians by Austen Hartke

In 2014, *Time* magazine announced that America had reached “the transgender tipping point,” suggesting that transgender issues would become the next civil rights

frontier. Years later, many people—even many LGBTQIA+ allies—still lack understanding of gender identity and the transgender experience. Into this void, trans biblical scholar Austen Hartke brings a biblically based, educational, and affirming resource to shed light and wisdom on gender expansiveness and Christian theology.



Two Page Plan [FINAL]

MISSION

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Your mission is your deep sense of why. It's the ultimate reason you exist and is rooted in Scripture. It's not going to change, and it will always push you forward. You'll never really accomplish it, and it doesn't have an end date.

VISION

To be a church that is creative, fearless, diverse and vibrant, where everyone is welcome regardless of where they are in their faith journey.

While your mission is eternal, your vision is for a particular season in ministry and can change once accomplished. Everyone in your church can be involved.

PROFILE

A01: Affluent, influential, and successful couples and families living in prestigious suburbs: • High aesthetic expectations • Philanthropic attitudes • Sporadic attendance • Global awareness.

B10: Affluent middle-aged couples and families enjoying dynamic lifestyles in metro areas: • Aesthetics and spirituality go together • Open-minded and respectful of cultural nuances • Faith as a moral anchor.

C13: Spiritual life as lifelong learning • Global perspective • Denominationally loyal • Generous to the church • Value faith-based non-profits • Liberal attitudes but protective of comfort zones.

Most churches say "everyone" and while that's a great sentiment, it could set you up for confusion. Instead, think through who you are and what you do, and wrestle through who you are called to reach and most likely to reach. Categories are taken from the Mosaic USA® consumer segmentation model by Experian.

VALUES

Authenticity
Community
Creativity
Curiosity
Service

Values are words or phrases that describe who you are and how you behave. Some can be aspirational, meaning you're striving to personify them. Some can be obvious (e.g., we believe the Bible), but you should try to be specific.

DISTINCTIVES

Reconciling Ministry Network
Anchor for 7-10 Scouting Troops
Large community network for food distribution
Considered friendly, warm, safe and kind place

Similar to core values, but an opportunity to be even more descriptive. This is what makes you different from every other church in town. This is where you reflect your unique DNA. These often show up in your communication.

KEYSTONE MINISTRIES

Worship / Music
Food Pantry / Mission

Your church does a lot of things, but not all of them are equally important. Call out the ministries that hold your church together. What would fundamentally change your DNA if they went away?

STRATEGY

Set vision, priorities, outlook, and annual goals. Through ministry huddles and regular leadership board and staff meetings, equip ministry leaders to use Ministry MAPS & Evaluation Tool to execute our plan.

The most overlooked part of most church plans, strategy answers the how question. What are the steps you are taking in pursuit of your purpose?

TWO- AND TWELVE-YEAR OUTLOOK

In Two Years:

Worship comes in many colors, sounds, and senses, both inside and outside our walls. Fresh ideas are embraced, and authentic connections are made, energized, and brought out into the world. All generations are celebrated: children, youth, teens and adults growing, learning, and serving God together in new and different ways. We create strong partnerships that help support our ministries along with a congregation who regularly experiences the benefits of generous giving. There is beautiful space for all who need it and resources available to those in need. All are welcome.

In Twelve Years:

250 weekly attendees each Sunday in church and another 250 served outside our walls. Many families with children with full children's Sunday School classes. Praise & Worship band led by young people. Budget in surplus with healthy savings account. Systems in place to support growth. Evangelism and ministry teams in place to serve the needs of our community. Food Pantry able to serve 500+ families a week. Partnerships established with other faith communities, schools, commercial and non-profit organizations.

This is a place to crystalize your mission, vision, and goals and describe what your church will look like a few years from now. By giving words to your picture of the near-term future, you help people see where you're going.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND TWO-YEAR GOALS

Growth: *We will fearlessly share the love of Christ by providing enriching worship, spiritual formation, and service experiences with special emphasis on reaching the next generation and their families so that we grow both numerically and spiritually.*

- **COMMUNICATE:** Establish a communication strategy that provides a process for outwardly focused communication designed to connect and engage with those not yet a part of the church.
- **WORSHIP:** Grow to an average of one hundred people attending weekly worship services with 20% of them being children, youth, or young adults.
- **NOURISH:** Create a clear discipleship plan for children, youth and adults that enables people to grow and flourish on their faith journey.
- **SERVE:** Increase the number of volunteers by 20% serving in mission and outreach opportunities to alleviate suffering both locally and globally.

Sustainability: *We will develop key ministry systems so that we ensure our ability to bear fruit today, and for generations to come, and to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us.*

- **BUILD:** Build a robust system to help us know and celebrate everyone we meet.
- **SHARE:** Create an environment and culture where volunteers are excited about sharing their passions, abilities, and gifts through one of our ministry teams.
- **GIVE:** Provide age-appropriate materials, tools, and classes to help foster members' generosity.
- **SUPPORT:** Create a prioritized roadmap (proposals, cost estimates and timelines) to ensure that the building and grounds can support our current and future ministries.

Innovation & Collaboration: *We will engage in fresh expressions of ministry and create new partnerships so that we reach people in our community who would otherwise not be connected to Christ and the Church.*

- **DEVELOP:** Determine the best framework to enable sustainable growth of the Food Pantry, including the potential development of a non-profit.
- **EXPLORE:** Explore at least three new models of ministry and service so we may grow outside our traditional walls and get to know and serve people in the community.

Your goals originate from your mission and vision and you're tracking success through metrics and reporting. The intent is not to have too many, but to lift up a handful of goals that will be easy to understand and track. Alignment happens here.