



— the Chapel at Seaside —

# FROM THE TOWER

DECEMBER, 2022 | VOL 4

## Did you know? Christmas Edition

Here at the Chapel at Seaside, it is our desire that each of us is drawn away from the part of this season that makes us feel anxious and overwhelmed to the heart of the season that is truly and quite literally bringing us the ultimate peace; the birth of Jesus.

A few ways we are working to make this easier for you is through our services on Sunday as Andrew teaches through the themes of Advent. You can find each of these sermons on the Apple podcast App. And we also created an Advent Guide to draw you in and remind you (almost) daily what this whole celebration is about. You can pick up a hard copy at the Chapel,

or you can download the digital version here. This even has a playlist we created for you to sharpen your focus. We are gathering for worship on Christmas Eve at two services, and we hope that you will join us for one. We will fill the Chapel and set up the Grove and other outside seating with blankets, hot cocoa, cookies and all the things to make it feel festive.

This year, Christmas falls on Sunday morning. This only happens once every 5-7 years. When we choose to not gather on the day it may seem odd, but it is good to remember that one of the things that God calls us to regularly is to rest and celebrate. Since we will have gathered the night before to worship and celebrate the birth of Jesus, we are taking the



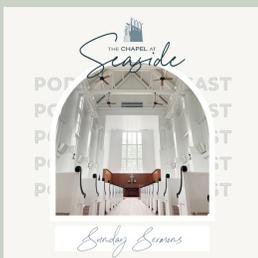
opportunity for our staff, their families, and all those who volunteer and serve to make our services happen to be able to celebrate the birth of Jesus together in their homes. We believe this is honoring to God and to the values we hold for making sure that we are tending to our families and loved ones as an act of discipleship to Jesus.

## Bible Study

Bible Study will begin meeting again Jan 11th. We will continue our journey through Genesis, picking up in Gen 24. Men will meet at **8:30am** and women will meet at **10:00am**.

## PODCAST

Check out the latest sermons from the Chapel at Seaside on Apple Podcasts or most places where podcasts are streamed.



## Book Shelf for the new year

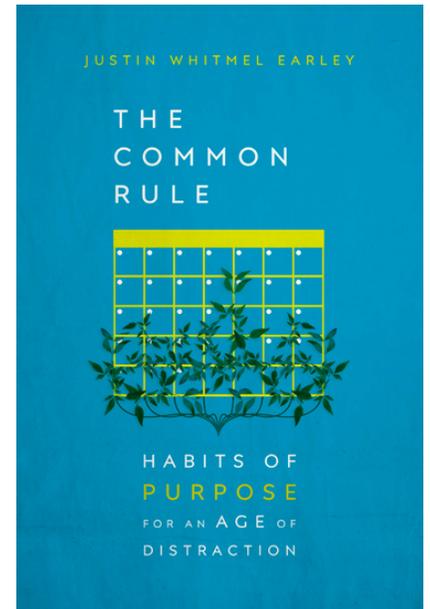
We didn't really feel like you would have time to grab a book and read it in its entirety before the new year, so we thought we would help you set the stage for the new year. Many people use Jan 1 as a kick off to make some changes they have been thinking about, but if you get to Jan 1 and don't have things ready...chances are, you aren't starting anything. So, as we head into the new year, here is a recommendation to set your new year off on the right foot. For more of these kinds of recommendations, we have a whole article on gift giving.

This month we are recommending the book *The Common Rule: Habits of Purpose for an Age of Distraction* by Justin Whitmel Earley.

I first heard about this book in January 2020. I picked it up shortly after that and it changed the way I think and operate. I realized in my reading of this book that when we aren't intentional about our faith, time, habits, relationships and so on, there will be missed opportunities that will lead us in a direction we likely do not plan on going. As the book says, habits form us more than we form them, so what are we doing with what we have?

As you begin this new year, let us follow a better way where we are fully present, fully engaged and we will see our life, faith, and community will be more life giving, because we have built habits of purpose.

-Andrew Beard



Last Months Rec:  
The Happiness Advantage  
-Shawn Achor

## TEAM WORK



Jeff Nichols is our IT Manager and handles the audio and video production for us on Sunday mornings and we are blessed to have him. Here is a word from Jeff!

I grew up in Southern California and early on in life, I realized that I really enjoyed working with audio and video equipment. From my teen years, I was involved with churches and Christian bands, playing keyboards and running sound. In 1986 I met my wife Betty when she needed a keyboard player for her ministry band and found me (it's a good story!). Over time our friendship deepened and we fell in love. We got married in 1994 and shortly thereafter we accepted the Worship Leader position at a small church on California's Central Coast, staying on for 9 years. We had our three boys during this time Jeffrey 25, Jonathan 24, and Jordan 22. About 2008, we began to feel that the Lord was directing us to leave California and relocate to the Southeast. We spent a few years in the Nashville area before settling here in Santa Rosa Beach Florida.

Betty used to work at 'An Apartment In Paris', one of the shops in Ruskin Park.

On Sundays, she would sit outside waiting for customers and listen to the Chapel services. She heard about their men's Bible study and suggested that I check it out which I did. I found out that the Chapel's sound man was moving away and offered to help out while they looked for a permanent replacement, that was in 2017. I remember coming home the first time with the set of keys for the Chapel. I thought about the large set of keys my father had for the church we attended while I was growing up and how he would let me make sure that all of the doors were locked after services.

In 2019 we started live-streaming our Sunday services. At that time 75% of our attendees were from out-of-town and we wanted to offer services online. Most recently we have added audio live-streaming of Pastor Andrew's sermons as a podcast.

I am blessed to be a part of the Chapel staff and love working with Andrew, Sarah, and Daniel on Sunday mornings. Dan and Sarah Cornwell as well as all of the volunteers make this a place so welcoming to everyone, And most importantly, the consistent focus on lifting up the 'Name above all Names', Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior is just so awesome!

## Gift Giving with Purpose

Are you still looking for the perfect gift to get the people in your life? Well, we can't really help you on that...but we can make some suggestions for some meaningful gifts that may make a spiritual impact in someone's life. Here are a few suggestions from us. Just click the item description to link to purchase sites or call your local shops! None of these recommendations are paid advertisements...just things we love.

If you have **kids in your life**, you are constantly looking for things to do and read with them.

We are always going to recommend the [Jesus Story Book Bible](#).

You should also check out [Ted Dekker's new children's books](#).

I have also received recommendations for (but have not yet read) the [And They Found Dragons series](#) for older kids.

For a variety of options, I love the [Daily Grace Co](#) for things like Bibles, Bible studies, study tools, journals, [highlighters](#) and pens. (they also have cute jewelry.)

### Gifts to get instep with the spirit in the new year:

[New Morning Mercies](#) is for anyone.

We are always fond of the team at [She Reads Truth and He Reads truth](#). They have a variety of ways for [Kids to learn about scripture](#). But what I love is that they have a [subscription for men and women](#). [Get your reading plan delivered to your door and always have a plan to dig into the Word of God DAILY](#). These books are not only created with scripture first, but they teach you how to read and reflect on the Word...and they happen to be beautiful. Their team also releases a weekly podcast to enhance your study experience. They also have a great selection of bibles. This is Sarah's go to for her personal reading plan.

**For someone who loves to experience meaning in all things.** Check out these books.

[Every Moment Holy](#) is an extraordinary book of liturgy for different moments that may pass without meaning.

And the book, [Liturgy of the Ordinary](#) is wonderful for someone who is having a hard time finding spiritual depth in mundane moments of life.

**For the art lover**, check out prints from our buddy, [Scott Erickson](#). He has a variety of books on prayer and art prints to get you thinking deeper. We love his [Visual Prayer Prints](#).

**We hope this is helpful!**

## Outreach Efforts in our City



[Chapel at Seaside Outreach](#)

If you would like be a part of our outreach team [click here](#) or scan the QR code with your phones camera. This is the best way to stay connected to all of our mission opportunities. You can also join this group through the church center app!

On Christmas Eve the Chapel will give 50% of the offering we receive to our missional partners. If you are curious who we partner with, visit our [Give Page](#) to see our current partners and read about what they do! We continue to seek ways to serve our community, so we are always assessing more partners to work with for the transformation of the world.

# Mark Your Calendar

Join us Sunday, January 1st to ring in the New Year together at our normal 10:00 worship time.

We will also join together at 9:00 that day for our Communion Service.

