



The Chapel at Seaside FROM THE TOWER

DECEMBER, 2023 | VOL 15



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 anxious and overwhelmed to the heart of the season that is truly and quite literally bringing us the ultimate hope, peace, joy, and love; the birth of Jesus, our Messiah and King.

This year our Advent Guide is all about the times in scripture that God shows up in form to His people. What can we learn about who God is and what He desires for us in our relationship with Him? We hope you will download or grab a copy and follow along. We create these guides for two reasons.

1. To take the work out of “what should I do to draw close to the Lord daily in this season” for you.
2. Because we believe that there is power in people learning and practicing the same things at the same time!

Daniel has curated our playlist to go along with the season, give it a listen.



Advent Guide



Advent Playlist

This year, Christmas Eve is on a Sunday. We will turn our Sunday morning 10am service into our first of 3 Christmas Eve services. All three will end with candlelight...we love this tradition.

Our evening services will be at 4:00 and 5:30. We will fill the chapel, have the grove ready, and will also have a tent with a screen on the lawn. We will also have some hot cocoa and blankets to ensure peak cosiness and festive feelings outside!

We cannot wait to have you join us for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

We will not have childcare or Kids Church for any of our services on Christmas Eve.

All this information and links are available at Thechapelatseaside.com/christmas



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 with perfection, but we can make some suggestions for some meaningful gifts that may make a spiritual impact in someone's life...or for yourself.

None of these recommendations are paid advertisements...just things we love.

For Kids

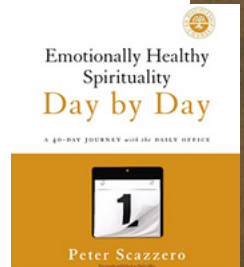
If you have kids, you are constantly looking for things to do and read with them. We are always going to recommend the Jesus Story Book Bible.

One of the resources that we have LOVED is this book, Imaginative Prayer. It has been as amazing for us as it has been for our kids.



Daily Devotion

If you are looking for a way to turn your heart to the Lord rhythmically, but don't know how - we have recommended this book before and believe that it is an amazing tool! Check out the Day By Day - from Emotionally Healthy Spirituality.



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 both Andrew and Sarah's go to for our personal reading plan. It takes the guesswork out of what we should read next.

Books we find enjoyable or helpful

John Mark Comer has a new book coming out in January called Practicing the Way. You can pre-order it now, we have read it, and highly recommend it.

This would be a wonderful book for anyone who wants to dig deeper into what it looks like to follow Jesus and become more like Him.

We really would suggest you read anything that John Mark has written.

We have a long list of recommended readings, but a few of our favorites from this year have been

Beholding - by Strahan Coleman.
A Non-Anxious Presence - by Mark Sayers

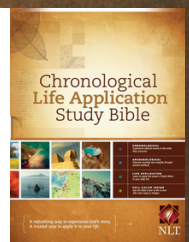
Bible Nerds Unite

Here are a few resources we love.

NLT Chronological Life Application Study Bible

The Bible Recap

Reading the Bible with Rabbi Jesus: How a Jewish Perspective Can Transform Your Understanding



For a variety of options, I love the Daily Grace Co for things like Bibles, Bible studies, study tools, journals, highlighters and pens for both men and women.

Missionally Minded

We mention every week that “your money doesn’t go to just keep the lights on”. Annually we give away approximately 20% of our budget to our missional partners and those in times of need. If you are curious who we partner with, visit our [Give Page](#) to see our current partners and read about what they do! Here is our statement on who we decide to partner with.

Scripture calls for us to proclaim good news through word and action by meeting the needs of the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, prisoner, widow, and orphan. When we care for those who are often overlooked, we are caring for Jesus and living out the Kingdom of God.
On earth as it is in Heaven.

On Christmas Eve the Chapel will give 50% of the offering we receive to our missional partners. This year we are going to give to [Point Washington Medical Clinic.](#)

We believe in the work and healing that comes through Point Washinton Medical Clinic. This is a local outreach just a few miles from The Chapel that serves our community and beyond in caring for those who are sick and often overlooked. We love being able to partner with an organization that sees people and serves them to help bring them health and healing.

Over the last 3 weeks we have given away 50% of each week’s offering to some of our ministry partners. Because of you and your generosity, we are able to give more than we had planned for. As well, we let people know that if they want to dedicate gifts directly to a specific ministry, we can make that happen.

[Young life](#) received a \$10,000.00 check, which was matched by a donor! This will help this organization pay their employees, operate their ministry, and draw kids into spaces to hear about how much the Lord loves them. Praise the Lord that this organization is in our community helping to disciple our young people!

[His Voice Global](#) received a check for \$4,800.00! This will go toward thier mission of raising up leaders among the vulnerable in East Africa!

[Be Generous](#) received a check for \$13,960.00!

Some of this will go to the foundation of a carriage house they are building for transitional housing! You should really read up on this org. They are Jesus focused, local, and doing some really important work.



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! If you want to give, simply go to thechapelatseaside.com/give.

WAYS TO GROW

Last fall we made the intentional choice to go slowly with our Bible Study. Over the last year and 3 months we have studied the Book of Genesis, Ruth, Jonah, and 1/2 of Matthew. We are having a great time journeying through scripture with you slowly. With the end of the year on us and the new year starting we are taking a pause to dig into the Advent season and plan for what is next.

Our Bible Studies will begin meeting again Wed, Jan 24th. We will continue our journey through Matthew, picking up in Matthew 13.

Men will meet at **8:30am** and women will meet at **10:00am**.

Our **20's and 30's group is growing and thriving**. This group meets for Bible Study on Thursday Mornings at 8:00am at the Chapel. This group also meets weekly for community. To join this group and get information, [click here](#), or email Sarah@thechapelatseaside.com

We believe that church isn't just what happens on Sunday mornings, but is what happens when we Gather. Home groups are our hope for you, the community of believers, to be the Church to each other. Each week we create a sermon discussion guide and make it available for each home group to talk about what it means to live like Jesus in community. We believe in community that meets together with regular rhythm. You may have a few families that you have connected with and you would like to form a home group, or you may want to join in with an existing one. If you are looking to be a part of a home group, please reach out to Sarah@thechapelatseaside.com and we will do our best to get you plugged in asap!

There will be another TEA for the Ladies in the new year, stay tuned!

THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

As we prepare for all the end of the year responsibilities, it's easy to blow past where we've been, what we've done, and thoughtfully consider what is next. It's much easier to overwhelm ourselves with to-do lists, fixate on what hasn't been done, or honestly, just disconnect; Que Sera, Sera and let things just work themselves out. I am honestly so guilty of this. Left to my own devices and tendencies, I just assume all will work out in the end...but that shirks all the responsibility and puts it on other people (including future Andrew...).

So what should we do as we consider the end of one season and the beginning of the next?

I think we should ask ourselves the question, who do I want to be 12 months from now. Sure, we all have some ideal version in our mind of ourself. Funnier, better looking, taller...maybe these are just my wants...but you likely have something too. To be more caring, more thoughtful, more generous, more prayerful, more contemplative, more loving, more present, more peaceful, understanding, calm, self-controlled...honestly to be more like Jesus.

To be more like Jesus isn't a to-do list and it isn't an empty slogan. Our hope is that as people of The Chapel, we will abide in him, we will be changed by him, and we will embody his ways. Everyday we have opportunities to rest in Him, to spend time reading scripture to know more about Him, spend time in prayer and silence waiting upon and listening for Jesus. Everyday we have opportunities to be changed by him. Not just in a saving, justifying, new life kind of ways, but in every day actions, decisions, what we think about and dwell upon can be changed by abiding in Jesus. Then our call, is to live like Jesus lived and embody his way of life.

We began this journey in the fall encouraging our people to take time to sabbath. To take intentional time to stop, rest, delight and worship. I know it has been transformational for many of you and I hope you don't think of it as a fad in the fall of 2023, but a step in your discipleship. You know we didn't just sabbath because it's a popular spiritualized self-care, but because Jesus did it and it makes us stop trying to bow down to the ways of the world, and trust in the one who created it. Hopefully in your times of sabbath you spent time in prayer...if not, no worries, we will help you with this. This new year we are excited to challenge you to become more prayerful. We will share some messages, offer some additional resources and more to help us become more prayerful people. Prayer isn't empty words that we hope changes situations, it changes us and the world around us.

2023 may not have gone like you hoped and honestly you have limited control over 2024. But one thing we can do is pray. Not just at the dinner table, but intentionally connecting to the divine.