

### Our Storyline

You were created for connection: connection to Christ and to a community of His followers. But fear gets in the way, which can make you feel hopeless. And no one in a church should ever feel hopeless. We understand. We've experienced the same fear and failures. But we've accepted Christ's invitation to live without fear and to open ourselves to deep, meaningful connections. When you open up and overcome fear, you can go from hopeless to hopeful and start living a life overflowing with joy, grace and compassion.

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## Genuine Faith

### 1 John 4:7-21

*In the church, we divide easily because we love shallowly. (Francis Chan)*

#### Know love

- We, who were once enemies of God, have been reconciled by the blood of Christ and adopted into the family of God.

#### Love one another

- Sacrificially
- Unselfishly
- Completely

#### The empowerment for loving others

- We cannot love apart from God. It is only through the Holy Spirit we are able to bear the fruit of love.

#### The result of loving others

- Though no one has seen God, they see what He is like through our love
- Maturing love casts out fear

"I love God" can be tested by the person's love for the community of God.

### **Reflective Questions**

- Who in your life has shown you sacrificial, unselfish, and complete love? How?
- Reflect on when you first experienced God is love. How is your life expressing that love to others?



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## ABOVE ALL

Next week we will begin a sermon series on Colossians. It is sure to speak strongly with relevance to our lives today. Barry would like to encourage you to read through this short but powerful letter from the Apostle Paul before he launches his first message next Sunday, January 23rd.

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## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

We support Hallman Elementary families by providing a safe place for kids to go after school on Tuesdays & Thursdays. The After School Program is launching this Tuesday, January 18th and we still need a couple more volunteers serving either Tuesday or Thursday from 3-4:30pm. If you are interested, please fill out a connection card & Pastor Karen will contact you.

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## BLANKETS FOR THE HOMELESS

Please bring any extra blankets that you can spare to the blue barrel in the Lobby through the end of this month.

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## COOKING UP SOME BUNCO THIS FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 6:30-8:30 PM IN THE GYM

Bring small prepackaged store-bought snacks to share. Be ready for competition, laughter, and connection with others! Sign up in the Lobby today.

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## SMART & READY SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

Men's Monthly Gathering in the Coffee Shop from 8-9 AM

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## FAMILY CONNECT

January 30th is a 5th Sunday which means it's time for Family Connect! Families, join us in the Gym after church for pizza & BINGO as we celebrate and strengthen our partnership in guiding your children to relationship with Jesus. Sign-up in the Lobby.

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## ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 6:30—8:00 PM

It is a new year, and with a new year comes our Annual Membership Meeting, where our Elder Board will update you on the past year, as well as plans for the future. We will also vote to approve the budget, new elders, and affirming Tyler as our new Senior Pastor. This will be in person, as well as on Zoom. Programs will be available for Nursery through 5th grade.

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### GUESTS & VISITORS

We are delighted you chose to attend our gathering today. Use the Connection Card in the back of the chairs or our online Connection Card ([newharvestch.org/connect](http://newharvestch.org/connect)) to share your prayer requests and to let us know that you joined us today.

A graphic with the word "Welcome" written vertically in a stylized font, next to a graphic of a door or entrance.