

Giving: To support the ministry of High Plains Fellowship, there are multiple ways to give: The offering plate, the box on the table in the narthex, online through our website, or mailed to 7661 McLaughlin Rd, PMB 344, Falcon, CO 80831. Please make any checks out to High Plains Fellowship Church

Mailing Address: Please mail church correspondence to:
High Plains Fellowship, 7661 McLaughlin Rd. PMB 344, Falcon, Colorado 80831.

Website: Articles, announcements, study guides and sermons can be found at highplainsfellowship.com

Prayer Chain: To add your name to the prayer chain email list or to submit prayer requests, contact Alice Horn.

Ministry Contacts

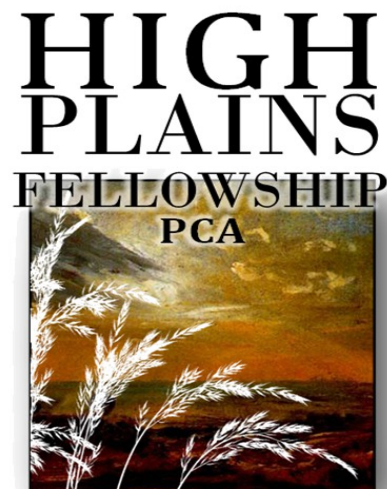
Pastor	Phone	Email
TE Wesley O'Neill	518 505-8159	ewoneill3@gmail.com
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TE Dr. Dominic Aquila	719 237-2708	daquila6@aol.com
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RE Donavon Dejong	719 495-9290	ddejong2@icloud.com
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CL Spears	760 445-2434	clspearsjr@yahoo.com
Treasurer		hpf treasurer@gmail.com

Ministry Fund

	Weekly	Year-to-date
General Fund Required	\$2,423	\$38,768
General Fund Received	\$2,292	\$29,744

HIGH PLAINS FELLOWSHIP PCA
a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Meeting at:
4355 Los Ranchitos Drive, Falcon CO, 80831
highplainsfellowship.com
Phone: (719) 298-4283



The Lord's Day
April 21, 2024

10:00 a.m. Worship

Order
of
Worship

WELCOME! We're glad you're here to worship with us. Visitors - please fill out the Welcome Card located in the seat-back in front of you. Feel free to add prayer requests and place your Welcome Card in the offering plate or in the box located on the Welcome Table in the Narthex. We look forward to seeing you again.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE VERSE OF THE YEAR

Philippians 3:13b-14

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

PRELUDE

"Tell Me The Stories of Jesus"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

From Psalm 108

My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn! I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is great above the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! That your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by your right hand and answer me!

*INVOCATION

*HYMNS OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE

“Praise Ye, Praise Ye The Lord” # 112
“Lift High The Cross” # 263

READING OF THE LAW Deuteronomy 8

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

Congregation - Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—based on Psalm 51:10-12

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Psalm 103:8-14

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

***HYMN OF ASSURANCE** # 261

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

CONFESSION OF FAITH p. 857

Westminster Confession of Faith XV.VI

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY** # 731

PASTORAL PRAYER (followed by The Lord’s Prayer)

SERMON SCRIPTURES Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON Pastor Wesley O’Neill

“Entering the lists”

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT** # 520

“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

*BENEDICTION

***HYMN OF BENEDICTION** #730

*“May the grace of Christ our Savior and the Father’s boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit’s favor, rest upon us from above.
Thus may we abide in union with each other and the Lord,
and possess in sweet communion, joys which earth cannot afford.”*

****Indicates congregation standing, if able.***

Our accompanist — Carrie Lucas

All music used by permission; CCLI# 1211335

Each Lord’s Day sermon is posted on highplainsfellowship.com/sermons

~ Announcements ~

~ **Children’s Sunday School:** (Preschool — 6th Grade) meets in the children’s room following the worship service.

~ **Adult Sunday School:** Today we continue the study on the devotional use of the New Trinity Hymnal. We will look at individual hymns and learn something about the author, the composer, the flow of thought, and draw out devotional thoughts for our personal and corporate use.

Dear Friends,

Dear Friends,

Here is the second part of the article by Lindsay Carlson from the Gospel Coalition giving some guidelines for communication to avoid those awkward times when we embarrass ourselves (or others), or avoiding challenging but necessary topics out of fear that we will offend.

I've reprinted the first section of the article again for context This week is for those who listen.

It's not too late to bring gift cards for the Mascotti family who lost their home and pets a couple of weeks ago.

Here are the links for this week's hymns.

112 Praise Ye, Praise Ye The Lord <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

263 Lift High The Cross <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

261 What Wondrous Love Is This <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

520 Jesus Thy Blood and Righteousness <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

Till next Lord's Day;

Pastor Wes

The Things We Dare Not Say Pt. 2

Lindsey Carlson

My name is Lindsey, and I frequently speak before I think.

I'll never forget the time I innocently asked a new friend if it was 80s night at church, only to quickly realize it wasn't. That's just how he dressed. With no luck, I tried to back gracefully out of the conversation.

Sometimes my *faux pas* hit on more sensitive subjects. Once when speaking about the difficulties of homeschooling four kids, I discovered the woman I was talking to had only been able to have one child. What overwhelmed me was something she longed for. Then there was the time I expressed financial concerns to a close friend whose husband was in his second year of unemployment. I tried to choose my words carefully, but looking back, bringing up finances at all may have been foolish. I've

also been on the receiving end of uncomfortable exchanges—like the time a friend voiced her humiliation over a high number on her bathroom scale that, for me, was a number so low I hadn't seen it since college.

Gospel Opportunities

Whether it's body image, money, joblessness, singleness, or infertility, personal hot buttons in relationships abound. We know these areas of conversation can be painful, so we try to avoid them like the plague. Rather than filter our words wisely, we relegate entire subjects to an ongoing mental list of untouchable topics. I call them "the things we dare not say."

Yet building walls does little to foster open communication inside our spiritual communities. In fact, it can prevent us from seeking prayer and wise counsel, or pursuing repentance and confession. When a friend *does* dare to venture into one of these topics, rather than being quick to listen and slow to speak we think, "Why would she bring this subject up with me? Doesn't she know how careless she's being?"

But what if instead of ringing alarm bells, hot topics became opportunities to extend mercy? What if instead of creating distance, uncomfortable conversations became places to practice the gospel of grace? As speakers and listeners indwelt by God the Spirit, we have the best filter of all. Because of his omnipotent presence, we have the chance to gently de-escalate the emotional intensity of topics we've labeled "off-limits."

Here are a few suggestions based on what I'm learning.

As One Who Listens

1. Strive to be a charitable listener.

Do you assume the best of others when speaking? They're most likely voicing their own problems, not trying to inflict pain. If something said hurts your feelings, attempt to cover the offense in love and move forward. And when you can't, lovingly bring it up for the sake of reconciliation.

2. Listen with ears that hear past your personal pain.

God allows us to experience personal pain and heartache so we might show compassion toward one another. Even when friends don't voice their pain in palatable ways, draw from the compassion God has shown you time and time again—and freely offer the same love and grace to those who are hurting. Instead of filtering everything that's said through your own experiences, strive to sympathize with theirs.

3. See their need.

Like Jesus, strive to see the needs set before you. Instead of thinking of yourself and how your friend's problems make you feel, ask the Holy Spirit to help you discern what you can offer your friend in the moment. Whether it's a listening ear, an encouraging word of truth, a faith-filled prayer, or a gentle admonishment, you'll be better prepared to love and serve others when you focus on the person in front of you.

Like a Nursing Mom

As we seek to listen and speak in a way that honors Christ, we can learn from the life of the apostle Paul. In his first letter to the Thessalonian church, he writes that he became like a "nursing mother taking care of her own children" ([1 Thess. 2:7](#)). He gently cared for the needs of others. He was ready to share with them "not only the gospel of God" but also himself, because they had become "very dear" (v.8).

Whether we're speaking or listening, is our goal to share "not only the gospel of God" but also ourselves? Even when we have our own personal pain and baggage? Do we consider others "very dear" and look to care for them with our words like a nursing mother?

If so, we must strive to regularly and systematically de-escalate the emotional intensity of "the things we dare not say" as both speakers and listeners. In doing so, we'll be better equipped to carry the good news of grace, watch it take root, and ultimately bear fruit in our own lives and those we're deployed to love.

Lindsey Carlson is the wife of a church planter, a mother of five, and a Texas transplant adjusting to life in Baltimore, Maryland.

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