

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

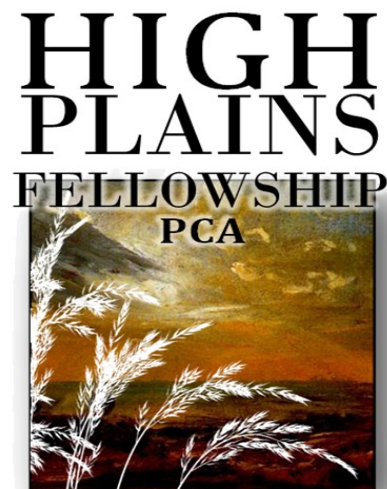
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Ministry Fund

	Weekly	Year-to-date
General Fund Required	\$2,423	\$41,191
General Fund Received	\$2,509	\$32,253

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 28, 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

"And Can It Be"

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 111
Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations. The works of his hands are faithful

and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness. He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name! The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

***INVOCATION**

***HYMNS OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE**

“I Sing The Almighty Power Of God” # 119
“Hail To the Brightness” # 346

READING OF THE LAW Psalm 30

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Psalm 130: 3,4,7,8

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

***HYMN OF ASSURANCE** # 334

“Breathe On Me Breath Of God”

CONFESSION OF FAITH p. 856

Westminster Confession of Faith XVI.I

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY** # 731

PASTORAL PRAYER (followed by The Lord’s Prayer)

SERMON SCRIPTURES Psalm 22

SERMON Pastor Doug Lee

“Darkness and Light”

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT** # 591

“Jesus Call Us”

***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 — Marcia Veatch

All music used by permission; CCLI# 1211335

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

~ *Announcements* ~

~ ***No Sunday School this morning.***

Of Elephant Eggs and the Gospel

I remember a trip that Kathy and I took to the Ft. Worth Zoo. The weather was perfect and, as usual, the reminders of God's glorious creation were delightful. It also was a day when there were a number of school field trips cruising around.

One favorite place is the elephant area. We marveled once again at their sheer size, the marvelous sensitivity of their trunks, their touching social interaction, and the amazing fact that these huge creatures walk on their tip toes... it's true, look it up! (A 5 ton "en pointe", but sadly, without a Tutu!) We also noted that there were very large rubber or plastic balls, 3-4 ft. in diameter, in the area with them for their play. One school group came up, 1st or 2nd grade, I believe, and one of the kids looking into the enclosure at the elephants and the rubber balls, yelled out in great glee, "Look, Elephant eggs!"

Even those kids who knew that elephants don't lay eggs were taken by the concept and at once began to spin out the "what if" game that kids play. What if they did? Wouldn't it be great if...? Their "what ifs" became more creative and wonderfully silly very quickly. The teacher, sadly but understandably I suppose, put a quick end to their conjecture as it was time to move on.

I admit to being captivated by the "what ifs" of that situation, because, of course, God could have made elephants lay eggs as readily as he created birds to do so. What if we lived in the world of Pooh where heffalumps are lurking to steal our honey? What if there were a Dr. Seuss elephant like Horton that could faithfully guard an egg in a nest in spite of Lazy Maisie's long absence? On a more practical level, sort of, what would a 3 elephant egg omelet look like? How long would it take for a farmer to gather the elephant eggs every morning? How would you get a dozen elephant eggs back from the store? I hesitate to go on!

God has given us our creativity and imagination, and it is fun and healthy to allow our imaginations to run within broad sanctified boundaries. Great literature, beautiful paintings, inspiring music, interesting movies, remarkable architecture, great institutions of learning and research, marvelous inventions, are all outcomes of giving our imaginations free play.

A greater wonder that we often fail to value, however, is one that is not a product of our imagination, but is a glorious product of God's creativity. By creativity I don't mean invention of a novelty or even the beauty and complexity of Creation. I mean His creativity in finding a way to solve the unsolvable problem of our sin, which eternally separates us from a Holy God and which seemingly blocks His decree to call a people to himself. Of course, in His wisdom He accomplished it through the cross. As the old Hymn says, "O, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary!"

The Gospel is a wonderfully creative work of God for our redemption; not man-made but God-breathed. It is more amazing even than elephant eggs, because it is true, and because it is true, the “what ifs” become “Therefore”!

Rom 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 6:4 - We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Rom.8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2 Cor. 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Here are the links for this week's hymns.

119 I Sing The Almighty Power Of God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTFICORK0Uc>

346 Hail To the Brightness <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DV8A7nDY64>

334 Breath On Me Breath Of God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMSy9Ugpjo0>

591 Jesus Call Us <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNvlodZln9E>

See you all on May 5!

Pastor Wes