

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope you had a great Christmas and New Year season and that you were able to make some great memories!

I recently came across a song by Pat Barrett titled "Into Faith I Go"

*I've never been good at change
If I'm honest, it's always scared me
But I can't deny this stirring deep inside me
Now I know it's time to stop resisting*

*"Cause I'm not getting any younger
Fear is a such a sad way to live a life
So face to the wind, I'm jumping out, I'm walking in
Every single thing you want to show me*

*To the ups and downs, the highs and lows
The taking in, the letting go
To tears and laughter, the great unknown
To the open journey, into faith, I go
Into faith, I go*

*Nobody said this would be easy
Anyone who did never went through anything painful
But faith is not some fragile thing that shatters when we walk through something hard
So, we walk on whatever may come*

*To the ups and downs, the highs and lows
The taking in, the letting go
To tears and laughter, the great unknown
To the open journey, into faith, I go
Running like a child in an open field
Stepping off the edge, I'm facing all my fears
If this is what it feels like to be born again
I'll be born again*

*So when I feel like giving up
When I feel like throwing it all away
I look back over my shoulder
And I can see Your goodness every single step that I have taken*

*And it beats like a drum
And it rings like a bell
And it sings like a choir
And it's leading me on my way
Oh, You lead me on my way*

*To the ups and downs, the highs and lows
The taking in, the letting go
To tears and laughter, the great unknown
To the open journey, into faith, I go
Into faith, I go*

This song resonated in my heart on so many levels, particularly because of the season that we as a church family is going through.

1. Change is not easy. I laughed because I thought about how we are creatures of habits, like where we sit in church! We prefer not to have to change what we are familiar with and used to. Familiarity is good and has value through life; I cannot deny that. However, many times, change is good and allows us to grow as people.
2. God is helping us to rediscover who we are. The PEAK process has been a tremendous time for us as a church. God is wanting us to rediscover who we are as a church and who we are to our community. He is trying to help us see how we can have a greater impact on our community for his cause. This is very exciting to me!
3. It is scary. Definitely,...change can be scary but we get to go through the future changes with God as our leader. How can that not be exciting? I like to liken it to the journey of the Israelites out of Egypt. God is wanting to guide us through this new season and, even more so, He wants to show us works and miracles beyond our understanding and our finite minds. I am ready for that!
4. This is an exciting journey! I do hope there are many of you who see this as an exciting journey. Have you ever had the thought that "exciting journeys" are for the younger generation? We are only as young as we think! I remember many years ago we had this elderly couple who had been a part of CAC for many years. We were in the process of introducing contemporary praise music into the church. Henry and Jessie said we need to do this even if it is loud and different. How can we reach the next generation without this? What an attitude for a couple in their 80s!
5. There will be ups and downs but we have to remain committed through these ups and downs. It is so important that we face the ups and downs together as a family and not give up on each other. When there are ups and downs in our family, we do our best not to just leave and abandon the family. Let's all hang

in there as a family, as a team. Sometimes when a group of people face a life changing event together, there is tremendous growth and bonding. I hope we all see this as that kind of an opportunity.

6. God has always been faithful and He will continue to be faithful. Looking at the years of CAC's existence, God has always been faithful and I have no reason to think that He will be any different than He has been during the last 6 decades! Our January 9th session is the session where we will look back at the history of CAC and learn from our history.

Are you ready for 2024 and for the new adventure God is going to lead us on? Are you ready to see changes that will allow us to be more impactful to our community? Are you looking forward to seeing some amazing miracles that can only be explained by the God factor?

Let's join hands and walk this journey together, hold up one another, pray for one another and embrace anyone else who enters into our doors to become part of our community.

Here are the remaining sessions:

January 9 – Story Session—what do we need to know about our church so we can repeat what is good, redeem what needs to be accounted for and restore wounds we have inflicted or received.

February 6 – Map Session—How will we know we are on track? MAP provides a framework to ensure we stay on track with our cardinal directions, CGI and what our story revealed to us.

March 5 – Remember Session—what do we need to remember from our PEAK journey?

We are anticipating having our Pastor Next profile by the end of our February meeting. We now have the Pastor Search Committee formed that came out of our PEAK Team.

Once again, I want to remind you of who is on the PEAK Team: Dennis Beatty, Brent Beck, Sandi Beck, Nick Charbonnier, Marilyn Greenleaf, Rachel Keen, Lindsey Lessley, Adam Mower, Marlin Myers, Nancy Pickett, Jeff Reister, Jenny Schuening, Joshua Stager, Jim Trigg, Mel Yamase.

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