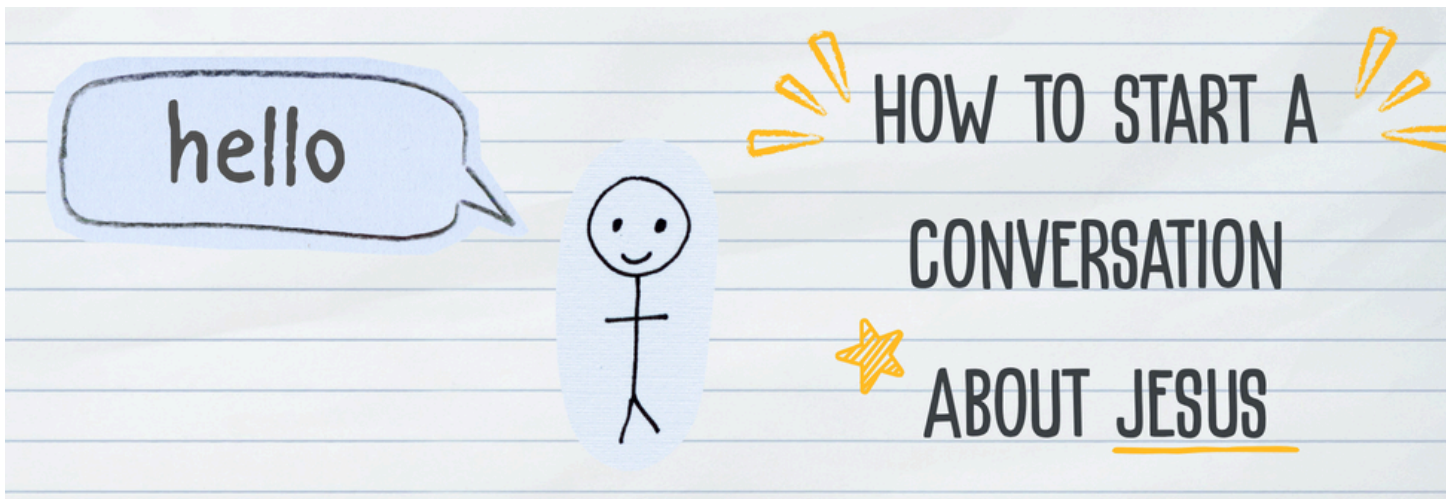


SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026

REDEMPTION HILL CHURCH



This Week: Jeff Marshall will be preaching on Exodus 5:22-6:13



What's Going On

Sun. 08/23

Sunday Worship; Communion
Sunday

Sun. 08/30

Sunday Worship @ 10am: All-Age
Service

Tue. 09/01

Food Distribution

Wed. 09/02

Youth Discipleship Back-to-
School Bash

Thur. 09/03

Prayer Gathering @ 7pm

Sun. 09/06

Taco Sunday-Outdoor Service &
Lunch

Sat. 09/12

Nor/Cal Women's Conference

By Gloria Furman

A friend of mine likes to say, "The best gospel presentation is the one *given*." That's true. And convicting. Many good books, sermons, and seminars can help us prepare to share our faith. But none of these resources can do for us what we often find the hardest thing to do: *just start the conversation*.

We often feel helpless when it comes to our friends and their eternities. We justify the self-centeredness that ignores our neighbors. We subtly, maybe even subconsciously, question the truths that would loose our tongues and break other peoples' chains — all in favor of maintaining a more comfortable silence. If we're *brutally* honest with ourselves, we're content to avoid our fears, accept our obstacles, and nurture our self-centeredness. So, we tell ourselves that someone else will share the gospel; or that the potential awkwardness, rejection, or persecution are not worth it; or that God is not likely to save those people anyway. God help us.

Thankfully, he does help us! We need God's help to lift our eyes

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and see we are surrounded by dead people who desperately need us to preach the gospel and live out the life of Christ in their midst. When we focus on what's really real — the facts that God exists, his wrath against sin is coming, his gospel is the only way to eternal joy, souls are precious and perishing, and the lost sheep will hear their Shepherd's voice — then evangelism becomes utterly exciting.

Your Forever Neighbor

Evangelism will not happen forever. It is a means to one great end. Human beings — every single one of us in history — are created in God's image for eternal purposes and one immense goal: to bring glory to God. When we read C.S. Lewis's words about the eternal significance and destiny of our neighbors, we get a sense of the weightiness and joy that come from sharing the gospel:

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. (*The Weight of Glory*, 45–46)

History, and everyone in it, is going somewhere. That means that, while no two conversations, no two train rides, no two lunch breaks, and no two walks at the park are the same, they are all filled with infinite potential. And time is literally running out.

Like the wind, we do not know where the Spirit might blow on our ordinary days (John 3:8) — and that is exciting. Vertically-challenged Zacchaeus climbed a tree because he felt he needed to see Jesus for some reason (Luke 19:1–8); the Ethiopian eunuch was “randomly” pondering Isaiah 53 during his commute (Acts 8:26–40); Sergius Paulus, a highly educated official, asked Paul to bring him God's word (Acts 13:7–8); and a Roman jailer was set free after he begged Paul to tell him what he must do to be saved (Acts 16:25–34). How would these people call on him in whom they have not believed unless someone tells them (Romans 10:14)? Could it be that the Spirit is already at work in the lives of the people around us in ways we haven't noticed yet?

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Pray:

- Jeff & Sarah Caldwell: Married on 08/08.
- Mary Campbell: Recovering from knee replacement 06/29.
- Steve Campbell: Praise for successful foot surgery on 08/04; pray for recovery.
- Linda Hubley: For comfort from the Lord, his Word, and his people. For continuance of the perfect peace she currently experiences. That she would make the most of every day, especially during the “better” periods between treatments. That she would identify and make the most of opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.
- Dan Hughes: For the right employment opportunity that allows him to honor God, serve the community, and earn a sustaining income.
- Kathy Hughes: CT scan mid-September, following-up from June's radiation treatments for lung cancer. Pray for a good result and that no further follow-ups will be needed.
- Greg Jackson: God's guidance and direction, family reconciliation.
- Kevin Moore: Comfort over continued grieving over his daughter, Christine.

Prayer Continued:

- Jenn Welch: That the 5 nodules identified by CT scan are benign and harmless.
- Jim Zillion (Cliff's step-father): Removal of fluid on lungs; wisdom for doctors re: possible heart surgery.
- Ben Benning (Carolyn VanGorkom's father) - recovery from a broken hip; for Carolyn & Melody as they care for him in Cameron Park.



Gloria Furman will be speaking at the NorCal Women's Conference on September 12.

Cost: \$85 per person. Includes light breakfast, lunch, & snacks.

Register at NorCalWomensConference.com or via the QR code above.

Registration closes August 30th.

Embrace the Awkwardness

If we want to take advantage of opportunities to share our faith, we have to learn to embrace the so-called awkwardness. In some cultures, it is deemed awkward to raise the issue of spiritual matters in conversation. But take heart: in whatever culture you live, God has already raised the issue. If he has raised your soul from the dead, the conversation has begun.

You sit next to your coworker as the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

You stand among other travelers in the queue as a sojourner whose citizenship is in heaven.

You interact with people in this age of intolerance and virtue signaling as one who is humble and contrite in spirit, and who trembles at God's word alone.

You supervise children at the park as one who has been born again to a living hope.

You drink water with your hiking club as one whose heart overflows with rivers of living water.

You lay on a bed in the hospital as the recipient of a spiritual heart transplant — your stony, dead heart for a living heart of flesh.

Your family members watch you live out a thousand deaths to self (and eventually death itself) as a new creation in Christ.

If our chief concerns are about avoiding awkwardness, it would be more awkward not to talk about eternal things. You and I never know those who have been, who are, and who will soon be wrestling with these weighty spiritual issues, waiting for someone to bring them God's word. Believe that God is both willing and able to give you what you need in order that you might joyfully spread the word about his Son in any and every cultural scenario — however seemingly awkward it may feel at first.

Everyday Examples

God governs the cosmos in such a way that your everyday life shines the light of the gospel in all the strategic places and relationships in which he places you. "The earth is the Lord's" (Psalm 24:1), and Jesus is with you as you go and make disciples in his world (Matthew 28:18–20).

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A coworker of mine has a practice of sharing what she read that morning in her Bible with the people she encounters as she goes about her day. This is intentional on her part, but I also think she can’t help herself — she simply overflows.

Another coworker pays for her lattes and chocolate croissants at the cafe she frequents, sits down at a table, and then, when the server brings out her order, explains that she is about to pray for her meal and asks, “What can I pray for you?”

“How was your weekend?” is a question that another friend asks at work every week. And when the person returns the question, they talk about the sermon they heard at church. Another friend asks people to listen to her Scripture memory recitation for the day to help double-check her memory (and spread the word!). Talking about the word that is our very lives (Deuteronomy 32:47) is, naturally, something the Spirit leads word-dependent, word-filled people to do.

The Most Effective Place to Start

Perhaps you are praying that God would open for you a door for the word, so that you can “declare the mystery of Christ” (Colossians 4:3). And you unashamedly believe the gospel is indeed God’s power for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). But you’re still not sure where to start when God puts someone in your path.

My friend led a training session about how to share the Christian faith. In one especially valuable lesson, the group has some volunteers don a traditional outfit of someone from a different cultural background. They acknowledge how it might feel intimidating to talk with people who look different, eat different foods, speak different languages, and believe different things. But beyond all of the potential hurdles, there is *one* thing you could say to start a conversation (and friendship) with anyone from anywhere. Across the globe, this is the most effective thing you can say in order to start a conversation:

Hello.

In whatever language you speak, your *hello* could initiate the first conversation among many that God uses to draw someone to himself. Maybe the first conversation becomes *the* conversation. “Hello” is a small word, but it says to someone, “I see you.” And that means something to everyone, no matter where they’re from in the world.

For *hello* to pass over your vocal cords, it requires only a mustard seed of faith in our great God. In addition to your faithful prayers that God would open a door for his word, the gospel, also ask him to give you everything you need to greet people in his name and be a blessing to whomever he puts in your path.

Furman, Gloria. “How to Start a Conversation about Jesus.” *Desiring God*, 7 Nov. 2018, www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-to-start-a-conversation-about-jesus.



CHURCH OF
THE MONTH



Points for Prayer:

- A future home for our church. Pray that God would open the right doors, give our elders wisdom, and clearly direct our next steps.
- A Worship Ministry leader. Pray for someone who loves Christ deeply, embraces the mission and values of our church, and can help lead our congregation in God-centered worship.
- Our fall spiritual growth journey. Pray for wholehearted participation in our six-week church-wide emphasis called Following Jesus in Philippians; pray for spiritual growth, and for many opportunities for our people to invite friends and neighbors to join us.
- Our family. Pray for me as I travel to Little Rock to care for my sister and my 90-year-old mother. Pray for my sister as she has, and recovers from, major surgery. Pray for strength for our family, and wisdom as I help care for both my sister and my mother.

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

KEN TAYLOR

Serving in Japan



Points of Prayer:

- Praise for the successful All Japan Combined concert last June 24, 2026 in Tokyo, Japan. Pray for the 350 Japanese gospel choir members on stage and approx. 800 in the audience.
- For a reservation of a large hall in Tokyo for next year June or July 2027. We have not been able to reserve a hall for next year.
- For all the preparation for Fall 2026 Hallelujah Gospel Family resources. Textbooks, music charts, instrumentation, etc. that go to about 1,000 gospel choir members.
- New initiatives to reach the 99% of Japanese. For my new for-profit corporation to attract new customers who will become part of a new community and then make relationships that will introduce them to Christ and the church.



Registration Closes Soon

Developed to answer the call of Ephesians 4:12, "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ," the **Ministry Leadership Certificate** equips pastors, ministry leaders, and lay leaders with practical skills, biblical wisdom, and effective leadership tools for faithful and fruitful ministry. We invite you to take a BOLD next step in your ministry journey and join us.

- Course Overview: visit <https://www.venturechurches-ncnv.com/mlc/>
- Cost: \$300, plus the cost of books
- Start Date: September 8, 2026
- End Date: June 18, 2027
- Orientation Meeting: September 8, 2026
- Contact: [Andy Flowers](#), Director of Leadership Education

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026

Today...

Communion Sunday



Taco Sunday

On September 6 we'll be holding an outdoor service, followed by a taco lunch. There'll be food, fun, and fellowship! We'll also have volleyball and waterslides. It's a great opportunity to invite your non-church-going family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

Sign up in the Foyer to bring food.

Serve with the Food Distribution

1st/3rd Tuesday
12:30pm - 2:30pm



PRAYER GATHERING

1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS
7-8pm

Save The Date:

10/16-10/18

Man Camp

Sat. 10/24

Harvest Party

PRAY
for the
Swansons

Points for Prayer:

- Removal of any fungus on the valve, pacemaker, and in the blood as well as medication side-effects.
- Protection from infectious emboli and vegetations.
- Restoration of natural ventricular heart beat
- Clarity in decision-making and the fungal source.
- Thwarting of spiritual schemes/attacks in light of Revelation 12:10-11.
- Christ's renewing strength, peace, and joy.
- God will be glorified in this affliction and, as John 9:3, says "...that the works of God might be displayed in (me)."

NEW TO REDEMPTION?

Hi there!

Whatever your background or situation, we're glad you've decided to join us this morning. You might find it helpful to know that:

- There are bathrooms available in the lobby and in the courtyard.
- Nursery services are available for infants. We also dismiss children for age-appropriate learning (toddlers through 5th Grade) during the main teaching time (except on the 5th Sunday of the month).
- A nursing room and changing facilities are available in the Sanctuary building.

Refreshments are available after the service - please stick around and say hi!

We look forward to getting to know you!

FIND COMMUNITY

Hungry for deeper, authentic relationships? We've got Men's, Women's, and Youth Discipleship Groups to help us grow together in grace. We meet weekly to discuss Scripture and pray. *Contact the Church Office for location and availability.*

Men's Groups

Mon. Evenings - Santa Rosa
Tues. Evenings - Rohnert Park
Weds. Evenings - Santa Rosa

Women's Groups

Weds. Mornings - Santa Rosa
Weds. Evenings - Rohnert Park
Thurs. Evenings - Santa Rosa

Youth (6th-12th Grade):

Youth Discipleship is now on its summer schedule.
Contact Kellen for more info: kellen@RedemptionHillSR.org



Get In Touch

Mailing address: P.O. Box 571,
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
office@RedemptionHillSR.org
Tel. 707-576-0130
Office hours: Tues 9 am - 5 pm

Ministry Team

Elders:

Tim Swanson - Pastor/Elder
Kelly Hubley - Elder

Staff:

Wendy Cunningham - Worship Ministry
Director
Kellen Eddy - Youth Ministry Director
Sarah Mee - Church Administrative
Assistant / Tech Team Administrator
Alisa Swanson - Hospitality & Facilities
Administrator

First Aid

An AED and a Life-Vac anti-choking device are located in the Foyer. A box of other first aid supplies is in the Fireside Room, above the refrigerator.

LET'S CONNECT!

We'd love to get to know you better and welcome you into our family. If you're ready to get connected, please fill out a few details and leave this in the offering box on the back wall of the Sanctuary. Or, better still, scan this code and fill it out online. Someone will be in touch soon.

First name:

Last name:

Email:

Phone:



**These are the Aaron and Moses
to whom the LORD said:**



Exodus 6:26

**"Bring out the people of Israel from
the land of Egypt by their hosts."**