

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

# REDEMPTION HILL CHURCH



This Week: Pastor Tim Swanson will be preaching on Hebrews 1:1-4



***Male Friendship  
Is Declining.  
Wives Can Help.***

## What's Going On

**Sun. 09/14**

Sunday Worship

**Tue. 09/16**

Food Distribution @ 12:30pm

**Wed. 09/17**

Youth Discipleship @ 7pm

**Thur. 09/18**

Prayer Gathering @ 7pm

**09/21**

Sunday Worship @ 10am

**10/03-10/05**

Man Camp

**Sat. 10/25**

Harvest Party

## By Winfree Brisley

Last fall, my husband hesitantly mentioned that some guys from church were planning a weekend away to play golf, and they'd asked him to come. Before I could tell him I thought it was a great idea, he started to list all the reasons he probably shouldn't go. He didn't want to leave me to parent solo for a whole weekend. It was baseball season, and he'd miss our sons' games that Saturday. He wouldn't be able to help with this or that around the house.

I was grateful for him considering our family, but that conversation gave me pause. Why did my husband seem to think he'd be letting our family down if he spent a weekend with friends?

### New Day for Dads

Over the last few decades, I've noticed growing emphasis in conservative evangelical churches on men demonstrating servant leadership through practical help in the home. Dads change diapers and rock fussy babies. They wash dishes and fold laundry. They spend their evenings and weekends at home with their families, playing with their children and giving their wives a break.

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This tracks with wider cultural trends. Compared to dads in 1965, today's dads spend about triple the time caring for their children each week and more than double the time on household chores. These are welcome changes.

But at the same time, male friendship has declined significantly. Men report having half as many close friends as they did 30 years ago. Of course, declining male friendship is multifaceted—men don't have fewer friends simply because they're helping more at home. But I wonder if there's a connection. As both church and culture have encouraged men to take on more practical responsibilities in the family, have we unintentionally discouraged men from taking time to cultivate friendships?

### An Unnecessary Love?

In some spheres of life, we affirm that a man being away from home is part of a larger good. It's good for him to go to work and earn income to provide for his family or go to the doctor for a checkup to maintain his health. Those are assumed to be necessary uses of his time, worth being away from home for.

But when a man takes time to go to a football game with his brother or play a round of golf with a friend, we tend to think of it as optional recreation. Sure, it'd be nice for Dad to have fun once in a while, but only if it doesn't leave Mom with the kids too long. We can slide into thinking of a man's time as a zero-sum game in which spending time with friends means taking something away from his wife and children.

Perhaps we instinctively understand C. S. Lewis's observation in *The Four Loves* that friendship is the least "necessary" of loves. He explains, "Without Eros none of us would have been begotten and without Affection none of us would have been reared; but we can live and breed without Friendship." We understand that marriage and child-rearing are foundational to human existence and to our responsibility as believers to fulfill the creation mandate.

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"Have we unintentionally discouraged men from taking time to cultivate friendships?"



## Pray:

- Julia Basch: Experiencing flare-up of postural tachycardia syndrome.
- Mike Basch: Broken wrist.
- Cindy Berg (Wife of Bill); Healing & peace during recovery from back surgery.
- Noel Dachauer: Wisdom on and healing for long-standing health issues.
- Students, teachers, and education staff returning to school.
- Tim Swanson: Recovering from fungal infection.
- Jenn Welch: Recovering from major surgery on 03/27 to remove all cancerous areas.
- Devon & Ashley Litchfield: Married on 6/21.
- Linda Saunder's son: Recurrence of benign tumor.
- Jeff Marshall: Healing and endurance for him and Renee
- Shirley Oliver: Undergoing treatment for cancer.





### Points for Prayer

- Pray for our midweek Community Groups to continue to realize spiritual growth through discipleship and the study of God's Word.
- Pray for wisdom for our leadership team (Elders and Deacons) to lead well, teach well, and be protected from Satan's attacks.
- Pray for continued growth in our understanding of personal worship throughout the week and not just during our Sunday morning gatherings.

Without friendship, we may be able to physically survive, but that doesn't mean we can spiritually thrive. Lewis goes on to explain that while friendship "has no survival value . . . it is one of those things which give value to survival." He says that friendship is God's "instrument for creating as well as revealing" beauty in us. And it exhibits a glorious nearness to heaven because it "increases the fruition which each has of God." Friendship with other believers helps us become more like Christ and know him better.

And if that's true, then a man spending time with friends has the potential to be a blessing to his family, not a burden, as Samuel James has argued:

Christian men need to see how their obligations of love and loyalty to one another are deeply connected to their roles as husbands and fathers. Your friends are not merely a "break" from home. Rather, in Christian friendship, love and solidarity are shaping you in a way that will reverberate in the hearts of your wife and children.

I would add that Christian wives, too, need to see the value of these connections. When our husbands spend time investing in friendship with other Christian men, we lose some of their time and help. But we can gain in other ways. As our husbands are spurred on in their faith and find rest and refreshment through friendship, Lord willing, they'll lead and serve our families from a place of greater spiritual health.

Of course, wisdom pursues balance. Just because it's valuable for men to make time for friendship doesn't mean they should spend every Saturday on the golf course or in a deer stand. Plenty of men, even Christian men, need to spend more time at home. But the majority of Christian men I know aren't neglecting their families; if anything, they're neglecting friendship.

### Necessary Correction

I don't know what it'd take to reverse declines in male friendship at a societal level. But within an individual family, it might be as simple as a wife's encouragement when her husband mentions meeting a friend for breakfast or joining a pickup basketball game. When I consider why my husband was hesitant to bring up the golf trip last fall, I'd like to blame it on messages from church and culture. If I'm honest though, it has a lot to do with messages he's received from me.

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Particularly when our children were younger, I conveyed in subtle (and not-so-subtle) ways that when he spent time away from home, he was burdening me. Yet every time there's a women's ministry event at church, my husband gladly takes care of the kids so I can go. Every time a friend asks me to meet for coffee or invites me to a girls' night, my husband encourages me to say yes. He's never hesitated with his response or sighed and slumped his shoulders when I've wanted to spend time with friends. His sacrificial service is a wonderful example for our sons—and me.

My husband ended up going on that golf trip, and it has led to more opportunities to play with these guys from church. It's led to more opportunities for connection when they see each other on Sundays and text in their group chat in between. These are guys my husband had known for years at a distance but now counts as friends.

So at the beginning of this year as we planned our family calendar, we reserved days for my husband to play golf. Playing a few more rounds this year will mean he spends a little less time with our family. It'll mean that I care for our kids solo on a Saturday here and there. But that's a small price to pay compared to the eternal value of Christian friends.

Brisley, Winfree. "Male Friendship Is Declining. Wives Can Help." The Gospel Coalition, 1 Sept. 2025, [www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/male-friendship-declining-wives-help](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/male-friendship-declining-wives-help).



#### Points for Prayer

- For the continued development of the multi-congregational disaster response plan that is being developed to help the church shine brightly when our community needs it most. For the that Adam's helping host training this month for representatives from churches in each supervisorial district. They're working to resource map of what ways churches are ready to help.
- For the growing hunger for prayer that is stirring in the Body of Christ in our area. Specifically, that the prayer walks in our city would deepen our commitment to the Great Commission, provide a growing understanding of what it means to serve Jesus faithfully in Santa Rosa, and deepen our relationship with God as we exalt Jesus in this place.
- For Faith and Blue Sunday (Oct. 12th) as congregations across the city will have the opportunity to honor and pray for law enforcement.

## Pray for Pastor Tim

- Praise the infection was detected in its early stages.
- For relief from the side effects of his medication.
- That his PICC line does not get infected.
- That the infectious emboli in his leg would continue to dissolve without causing further problems.
- For the identification of the right drug to suppress this... lifelong
- That God would miraculously heal him.
- For courage, stamina, and peace for Alisa as she cares for him.



The Harvest Party is our annual fall outreach event. We run numerous carnival-style games, give out abundant snacks and treats, provide dinner (a chili cook-off), and have a lot of fun. Costumes are encouraged!

### Reaching Out

As well as being a highly enjoyable event for the church body, it's an opportunity for us to invite in the local community and our unchurched friends and neighbors. In celebrating God's goodness, we can let them know that we're thankful for them, and that they're part of God's goodness to us. For those who might be hesitant to come to a church service, the Harvest Party is a fun, easy, no-pressure way for them to meet other members of the Redemption Hill family in a safe, welcoming environment.

### Inviting Our Neighbors

We have many invitations that we would like to mail to our local community. ***Join us after the service next Sunday to affix mailing labels to these invitations.*** Lunch provided!

### Helping Out

There are many ways to serve in the weeks leading up to October 25th and on the day itself. Check the sign up sheets in the Foyer to see how you can get involved.

### Candy!

If you would like to donate candy for the Harvest Party, please bring it in by Sunday October 12th.





SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025



## Man Camp 2025 - Registration Now Open

Join us for our Fall Men's Conference at the beautiful Harbor Lite Lodge in Fort Bragg, which offers comfortable hotel rooms and a spacious two-story conference room for inspiring meetings and shared meals. This year, we're excited to hear from R.W. Mackey on Friday & Saturday, and Greg Thomas on Saturday & Sunday. Don't miss this unique opportunity to connect, grow, and make lasting memories with your brothers in Christ.

This weekend offers us the chance to step away from our regular routines to be refreshed by the Spirit through time in His Word, fellowship with His people, and relaxation in His awesome creation along the Mendocino coast.

**Who:** All guys from Redemption Hill Church and Windsor Christian Church, in high school and older, are invited to attend.

**Food:** We will provide a BBQ dinner on Friday evening, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. We encourage you to join some of the other guys at one of the many local restaurants on Saturday evening.

**Activities Available:** Hiking, Biking (both mountain and road), Golf, Shooting Range, Ax Throwing, Board Games, Beach, Deep Sea Fishing, Hang Out & Relax.

### Accommodation Options & Cost:

- \$470/person- Single occupancy room (King Bed) (includes registration)
- \$255/person- Double occupancy room (Two Queen Beds) (includes registration)
- \$188/person- Triple occupancy room (Two Queen Beds + Cot) (includes registration)
- \$50/person- Registration only (provide your own accommodation)



**Student Discount:** High School students receive 50% off (double and triple occupancy only). Please register and pay the full amount online, then forward your confirmation email to [office@RedemptionHillSR.org](mailto:office@RedemptionHillSR.org) and we'll reimburse you the difference.

**Scholarships** are available. Speak to Kelly Hubley for more details. *If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, please mark your gift as "Benevolence".*

# 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):

Restarts on Sept 3. 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays.  
Contact Kellen for more info: [kellen@RedemptionHillSR.org](mailto:kellen@RedemptionHillSR.org)



## Get In Touch

Mailing address: P.O. Box 571,  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402  
[office@RedemptionHillSR.org](mailto: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  
John Hansen - Children's 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: .....





Main Focus	He Upholds the Universe
Bible Verse	Hebrews 1:3
Memorize	"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature"

# THE RADIANCE OF HIS GLORY



HE UPHOLDS THE UNIVERSE  
BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER