

May 1, 2022

# The View

*“Sirs, we wish to see Jesus.” — John 12:21*

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## Welcome Visitors

Our goal at the Folsom church of Christ is to do everything according to God’s word, including respecting its silence.

We are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church; we have no earthly “headquarters.”

“The six elders oversee this church and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily for the benefit of our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don’t understand something, please do not hesitate to ask the preacher or one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God’s word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

**Please fill out a visitor’s card and put it in the collection plate located near the entrance.  
We do not solicit donations from visitors. See page 4 for more information.**

## Schedule

### The Lord’s Day

#### 9:30 AM Bible Classes

*Auditorium: Colossians*

*Room 15/16: Great Old Testament Texts (Psalm 32)*

*Room 12: Young Adults Class*

*The Gospel of Mark.*

*Does the evidence prove that Jesus is the Christ?*

*All young adults and college age are invited.*

#### 10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today: Zach McGinnis  
on “Jesus, Our Friend”

***Livestream at 10:30 <https://tinyurl.com/5f2cbm3y>***

***Bible Class @ 2:00 PM in room 12 on Judges***

***Bible Class @ 5 PM — A Study of Prayer in the Psalms (Auditorium)***

***Young Peoples’ Class, 5 PM @ David & Christie Posey’s home***

***Middle school class: monthly (contact Dan Stegall at 818-209-9810)***

There are several on-going Bible classes in the homes of members. Check with David Posey or one of the other elders if you would like to join one of those classes.

### Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

#### Bible classes for all ages

*Auditorium: Colossians*

*Room 15/16: Great Old Testament Texts*

*Room 12: Young Adults Class*

# Better Bible Classes

As far as I know, all of our members appreciate the effort of the Bible class teachers here at Folsom. I have not heard any negative comments about any class. Though we do our best to be informed and familiar with the book or topic we are teaching, no teacher is an “expert.” (Is anyone an “experts” on the Bible?). However, we have many talented teachers at every level of knowledge and every teacher we assign to teach a class takes the job seriously and prepares carefully for each class, whether it is the youngest class or one of the adult classes. I am heartwarmingly impressed with the amount of preparation our teachers put in, even for the youngest of our kids. I hope all of us appreciate that effort.

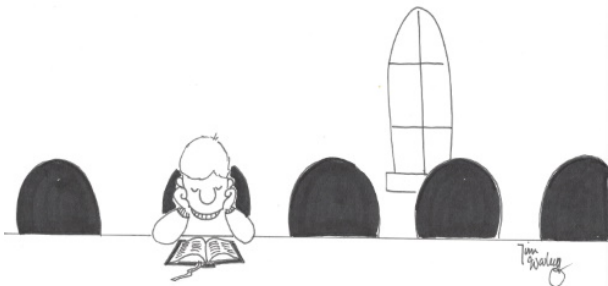
Having said that, I also know that every Bible class can be better, starting with the ones I teach. But the responsibility for the success of a class, especially the older ages, does not rest entirely on the teacher — it depends on the students as well. When the teacher is clear about the text or the topic that will be covered in the class, and communicates that to the students, then the burden for a “good class” shifts at least to some degree to the students.

In the class I’m involved in teaching right now, it is apparent that the students are studying because they ask great questions and make excellent comments. I hope that is happening in all the classes.

What you can you to make the adult classes more interesting and profitable for everyone? Here are a few, probably obvious, things you can do:

- 1. Be here.** You encourage us with your presence. And, it may just happen that something that has been on your mind will be mentioned in class. You never know. (Remember, “Doubting Thomas” missed the very evidence he needed to know because he skipped out on an assembly).
- 2. Bring your Bible.** This seems to be a “no-brainer” but I still see people in services without a Bible in hand. Phones and iPads are OK, but we miss that “rustle” of the leaves of a printed Bible.
- 3. Study the lesson before class.** Did you know every fourth-grader has his or her lesson done before class, just about every class? Some of us need to catch up to them.
- 4. If you have a question or comment, speak up.** We are all here to learn; there are no stupid questions — and no “rolled eyes” are allowed.

— David Posey



The type of small group Bible study introverts prefer.

## The Clarks

As we all know by now, the Clarks, Randy and Sally and Jeff and Sara, are moving to Texas. Jeff and Sara have already moved and Randy and Sally will be leaving on Thursday (Wednesday will be their last service here as regular members; we expect many visits in the future. If we were giving them going away gifts, my selfish choice would be Southwest Airlines points).

Several have moved within the last year, for various reasons. We miss all of them. This one is especially difficult because we have gotten close to all the Clarks, including Jude and Avery and because of the active role the whole family has filled here since Christie and I moved here exactly one year ago today (as I write this on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>).

Personally, this is difficult because Randy and I have been close friends since that time. We have been through a lot together and have served for many years together as elders. I’m not going to say much here; he knows how I feel. So I’ll just speak for all of us in saying that we will miss the Clark family very much; that it won’t be the same around here; and we will miss — more than words can express — Randy’s role as an elder here. He has been a huge reason for the “success” we have enjoyed in both spirit and number here.

We hope and pray for safe travel and an uneventful move into their new home. I know all of the Clarks will bring a huge blessing to the church that they will be attending in Texas. — dp

### Review

## Changes in the format for the observance of the Lord’s Supper starting today

The elders have decided to change the format of the observance of the Lord’s Supper, effective Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. We are doing this for two main reasons: (1) to better focus our attention on this all-important time in our service and (2) to provide an opportunity for some of our younger men to participate in the public service.

Here’s the new format:

1. The Lord’s Supper will be observed at the end, **after the invitation song**.
2. The man who heads the Lord’s supper will give a short talk.
3. Prayer is said for the bread and then the emblems are passed out. We are continuing to use the self-contained bread and fruit of the vine containers.
4. After passing out the emblems, the men reassemble at the front table and the prayer for the fruit of the vine is offered.
5. At this point the men will give a full minute for everyone to meditate.
6. The one heading the table will pass out the baskets for laying by in store to the men serving at the table and a prayer will be offered for the contribution.
7. Men will pass out baskets for the offering.
8. When that is complete the man heading the table will ask everyone to stand for the closing prayer.

Note: the men serving the Lord’s supper will meet in classroom 13-14 before services with one of the elders to make sure of assignments.

From *Cultural Translator*, April 29, 2022

["The Cultural Translator" is a weekly newsletter I subscribe to because it helps me keep up with the challenges our young people are facing and gives us a peek (and only a peek) into their world. Some of the information they provide may be disturbing (see this week's "slang of the week") but it's important to be as informed as possible. When it comes to helping our young people navigate these difficult times, ignorance is *not* bliss.]

## Slang of the Week

**"Villain Arc:"** Used by people, especially girls, who are tired of pretending to be "good" and have decided that the events in their life or the world have launched them into a stylized and aesthetic period of "evil" (e.g., "My best friend's boyfriend cheated on her, so she bought a ton of tight dresses and started doing really heavy eye-liner. I guess this is her villain arc.")

## "Too Much, Too Soon"

**What it is:** An article and a short documentary from the *New York Times* examines the neuroscience behind the mental health crisis in today's teenagers.

**Why it offers new in-**

**sight:** The reporting here synthesizes several things we know about teens right now. The onset of puberty continues to drop to an earlier age, with many kids starting sexual maturity while still in elementary school. This occurs at the same time that young people are being absolutely deluged with different types of digital information and experiencing a new awareness of social structures around them. However, that doesn't mean that the "brake-system" in the brains (the prefrontal cortex) is keeping up with these other changes. Some teens feel trapped inside their bodies as they wait for their brains to mature. One mental health professional interviewed reminded parents that talking to teens early about suicidal ideation, self-harm, and other issues isn't going to introduce or suggest these issues in a way that causes them to happen, but could in fact be a powerful preventative measure.

*Too Much, Too Soon* sheds new light on the serious issue of the teen mental health crisis in America. Our children are experiencing one of the most significant and potentially traumatizing times in their lives, puberty, earlier than ever before. Alongside this early sexual maturity is the unending onslaught of data and social awareness from social media.

However, our children are still children. They aren't becoming extraordinarily mentally mature; they're stuck in the limbo of having a young brain in a growing body. As a result, they can feel the dissonance of that limbo and its effects on their emotional and mental

health. The [National Alliance on Mental Illness](#) suggests that talking with even very young children about mental health can help set them up for success as they process through these growing pains. Making comparisons between mental and physical illnesses and the treatments required for each (such as "when we have the flu, we go to the doctor, and when we are depressed we can talk to a therapist"), asking them to draw what their feelings look like, and just listening and validating their emotions as they seek to express themselves can all be part of the conversation about mental health.

Even though puberty has changed for Gen Z and continues to change for Gen Alpha, it's still something that's happened to every single one of us. This time can be an especially significant one for starting discussions about how God understands our suffering. It can be a time to learn that even the most difficult things can remind us of His faithfulness.

The Psalms are one of the first places we look when we think of crying out to God in our pain. However, the Psalms are not only a story of suffering; they are full of promises that our suffering has purpose and will not

"...the Psalms are not only a story of suffering; they are full of promises that our suffering has purpose and will not last forever."

last forever. A teen struggling with mental health might find solace that they are not alone in their struggles in passages like Psalm 42:3-4: "My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all

day long, "Where is your God?" These things I remember and I pour out my soul within me."

As you urge your teen to read Psalms to process their pain, you can also remind them that there is hope to be found in its passages, too. A particularly beautiful reminder of God's faithfulness is found in Psalm 121:7-8: "The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

As difficult and confusing as our situations may be, they do not stop God from being God. God's constant care for our struggles, decisions, and daily lives is assured and trustworthy. Believing this promise, as with many promises found in the Bible, is obviously harder to do than to say. Here are some ways you can start conversations that will help teens integrate an understanding of God's faithfulness and care for our situations into their day-to-day:

- When do you feel closest to God?
- Do you feel like God understands what you are feeling? Why or why not?
- How can I help you feel less alone and lonely when you are struggling? How can I pray for you?