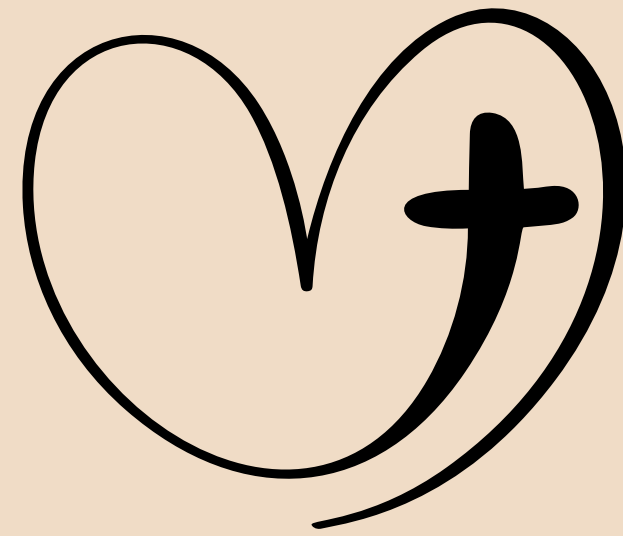


SPIRITUAL CURIOSITY



TELL ME YOUR STORY

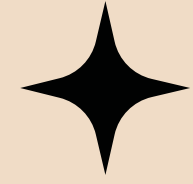


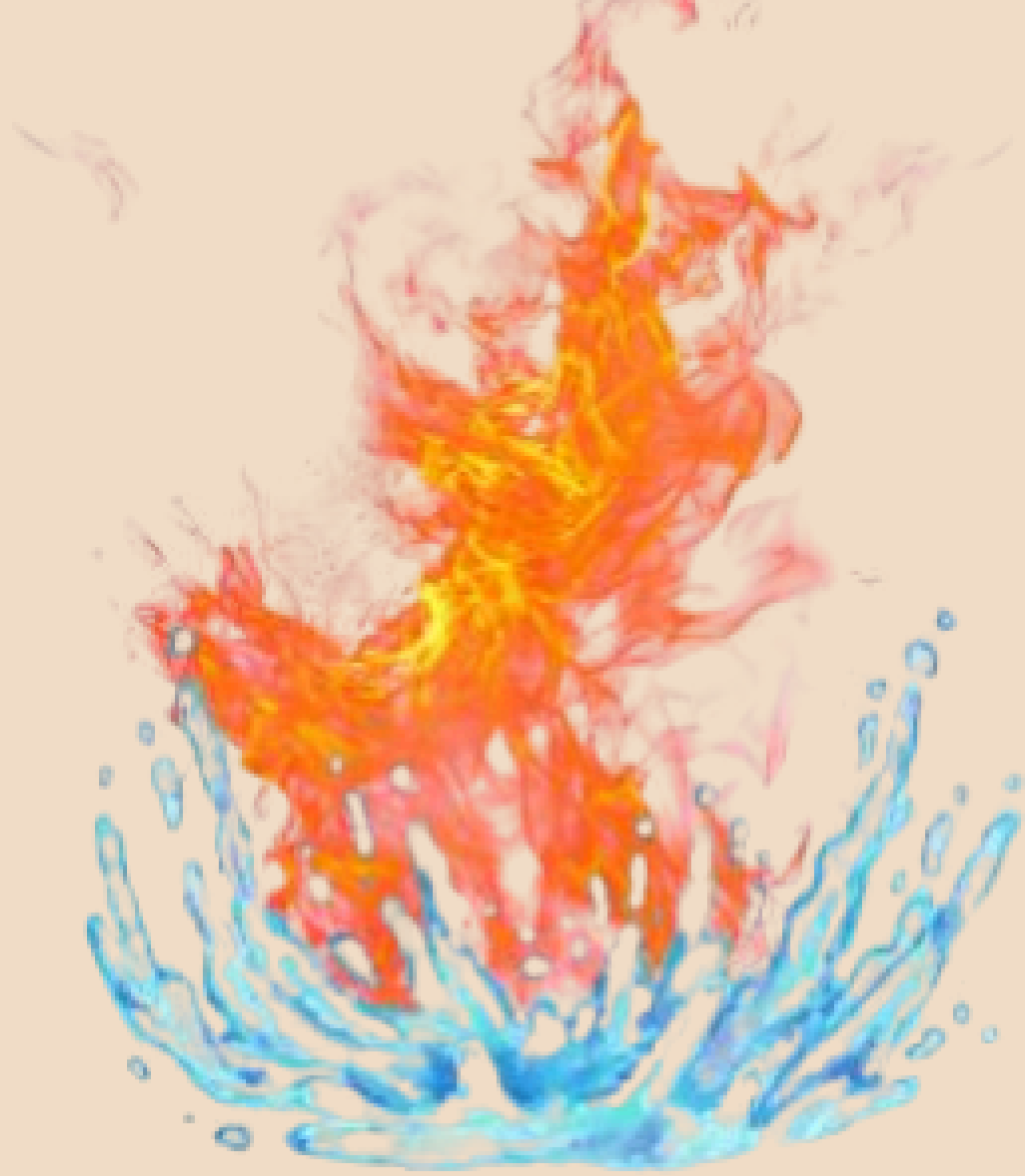
A “Behold the New has Come!”
Faith and Worship Practice



Psalm 107:1-2a

Give thanks to the LORD, for
he is good his love endures
forever. Let the redeemed of the
LORD tell their story...



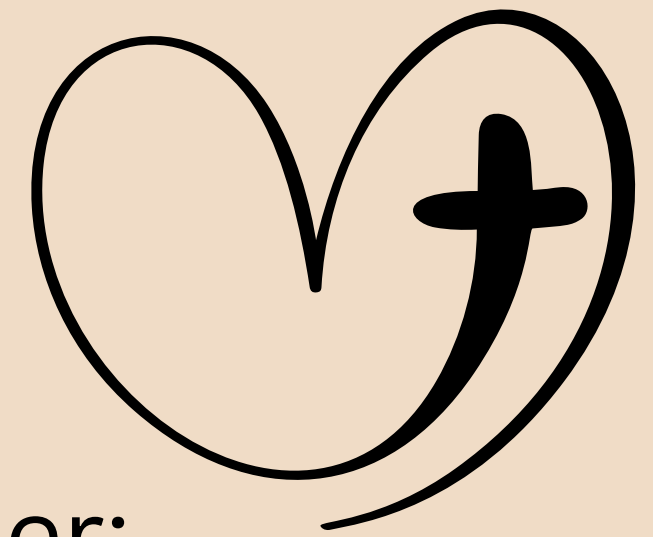


BEHOLD

the new has come

WHY BEHOLD THE NEW HAS COME? --- to move toward a new way of being church in the world as we train baptized members to live out their baptismal promises and equip people for ministry in their daily lives and to be church in the world.

Five Promises of Baptism



1. To **live** among God's faithful people;
2. To **hear** God's Word and to **share** in the Lord's Supper;
3. To **proclaim** the good news of Christ through Word and Deed;
4. To **serve** all people following the example of Jesus;
5. To **strive** for peace and justice in all the earth.

WHAT IS BEHOLD THE NEW HAS COME?

To behold something is to see it in a new way, with wonder and awe. Behold the New is about how we are beholding our faith and living the promises of our Baptism out in the world every day. It is about expanding our idea of church as more than a building, embracing the idea that the church is everywhere, every day.

The Behold the New Project is a way of talking about our faith that challenges us to live out our faith out in the world every day. At school. At home. At work. At the grocery store. When we are volunteering. When we are celebrating. When we are frustrated. When we feel alone. When we reach out to a stranger. In all times and in all places.

Your congregation is invited to join in the experience. You are invited to use the Behold the New has Come tools to keep our promises at the center of wherever we find ourselves. We are already living out our promises, but often times, we do not realize that we are doing this. Behold the New expands our understanding of baptism. Baptism isn't just a one-time event or a box to be checked. Parents, sponsors and the entire congregation are a part of the promises. And the promises are made to be ongoing – throughout our entire lives.

“Behold the New!” shines a light on how we are living out our faith together every day.

This Behold the New has Come Worship Practice, ***Tell Me Your Story***, can help us look at how we are living out our faith every day. Be creative and curious... Here are some ideas for using these conversation starters...

1. Create space for 5-7 minutes of conversation in worship. (*You could also do this before a council meeting, choir practice, Bible study, during the annual meeting, or any gathering of the congregation.*) Introduce it by singing a verse of I Love to Tell the Story and read Psalm 107:1-2a.
2. Share one of the weekly questions. Invite folks to think about their answer for a minute. Invite folks to share their answer in pairs to the questions. Allow 2 minutes, then switch. Practice putting words to faith and listening carefully. *Challenge:* share this story with someone you aren't related to or know extremely well; someone who doesn't know this story already. AND/OR
3. Invite 14 different people to share their answer to one of the questions in worship on Sunday morning over the course of the next 14 weeks. AND/OR
4. Invite folks to video record their answer and share the recordings in worship.
5. Use these questions to create a "Curious Faith Journal" in a paper notebook or computer file. Invite small groups to meet periodically to share what they have written in their journals.



Children are naturally curious!
As CHILDREN OF GOD, Jesus asks
each of us to practice being curious.



Behold the New! invites us to pause, to make time and to
take time to be curious about how we experience God.

Tell Me Your Story is a simple practice that helps us put
words to where and how we see God in the world. It is a
guide to sharing these stories and to listening to others.

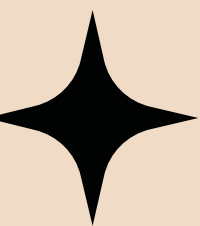


Here's how it works

This is designed to be used in worship for a set period of time, say 3 months. For each worship, a new question will be asked.

Folks will be invited to respond (as they feel comfortable), to share their story by answering a question or set of questions...

1. During worship - with a neighbor or to the whole congregation.
2. Through email response to a newsletter or print communication.
3. Through video recording - possible shared during worship if you are given permission to do so.
4. Be creative in making space and time in your faith community for sharing these brief five-minute stories.



Tell Me Your Story ✦

Week One Questions

What can you tell me about your baptism? The who, when, where, how? If you were an infant, What stories did your parents tell you? Do you have a photo? Godparents? Candle? Gown? If you were older, What do you remember? What does baptism mean to you today?



Baptismal Promise #1
Live among God's faithful people.

Tell Me Your Story ✦

Week Two Questions

Who was the first person to tell you a story about Jesus? What did you learn about Jesus from this person? What do you know or remember about this person and their faith in God?



Baptismal Promise #1

Live among God's faithful people.



Tell Me Your Story ✦

Week Three Questions

Tell me a story about a time when you said a prayer? Who taught you to pray? What name do you use for God when you pray? Is prayer easy or difficult for you? Why? What is your prayer life like?



Baptismal Promise #1
Live among God's faithful people.



Tell Me Your Story ✦

Week Four Questions

Do you have a bible? When did you get your first Bible? Do you still have it? Where is it? What is your favorite Bible story/Bible verse?



Baptismal Promise #2

Hear the Word and share in the supper.



Tell Me Your Story ✦

Week Five Questions

Tell me a story about a time when you felt especially close to God in nature. Where were you? Is there another place where you feel close to God?



Baptismal Promise #1

Live among God's faithful people.



Tell Me Your Story ✦

Week Six Questions

Have you ever experienced doubt? Describe a time when your faith was tested. Have you ever doubted that God loved you? ...that God existed? Who helped you through this time?



Baptismal Promise #1

Live among God's faithful people.



Tell Me Your Story ✦

Week Seven Questions

Do you experience or sense God with you in ordinary times, in your every day activities? Where have you seen God or how have you experienced God working in your life recently? In the past week?



Baptismal Promise #3

Proclaim the Good News about Jesus through word and deed



Tell Me Your Story ✦

Week Eight Questions

Does your faith make a difference
in your daily life: at home, on a
farm, at school, at work? How?

Through what activities?

Do you ever talk about your faith
in Jesus to other people outside
the church? Who?



Baptismal Promise #3

Proclaim the Good News about
Jesus through word and deed



Tell Me Your Story ✦

Week Nine Questions

Over the years, who has been influential in your faith life?
Were there people, places or traditions that shaped your faith?



Baptismal Promise #1
Live among God's faithful people.



Tell Me Your Story ✦

Week Ten Questions

What does being a disciple of Jesus mean to you? How are you following the example that Jesus sets for us in the bible?



Baptismal Promise #4

Serve all people following the example of Jesus



Tell Me Your Story. ✦

Week Eleven Questions

How are you “serving all people” in Jesus’ name?” Is serving others an important part of your faith life? What does it mean to be Jesus for the people we encounter each day?



Baptismal Promise #4

Serve all people following the example of Jesus



Tell Me Your Story ✦

Week Twelve Questions

List some of the happiest and saddest moments in your life.
Where was God in those times?
How did God show up in perhaps even unexpected ways?



Baptismal Promise #1
Live among God's faithful people.



Tell Me Your Story ✦

Week 13 Questions

How are you caring for the earth?
How do you see God's creation - ALL
of creation - as good, just as God
declared it in the beginning?
Do you see people, as well as plants,
animals, all the water & land as
equally valued and respected?



Baptismal Promise 5

Strive for justice and peace in all the earth.



Tell Me Your Story ✦

Week 14 Questions

Where do you see injustice in our world today? Give an example of how you respond when you encounter injustice?



Baptismal Promise #5

Strive for peace and justice in all the earth





Going Deeper

These questions are used in helping anyone who wants to go deeper to write their own Spiritual Autobiography. In a small group setting, invite participants to work on these questions at home. Over the course of several weeks, each participant can share a piece of their story with the small group. Contact Laurie Skow-Anderson if you want to DIG DEEPER with some of the more difficult questions used in Spiritual Autobiography work.

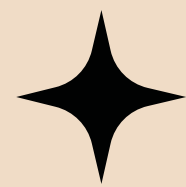
Faith

✦ Email: lskowanderson@cord.edu



Psalm 107

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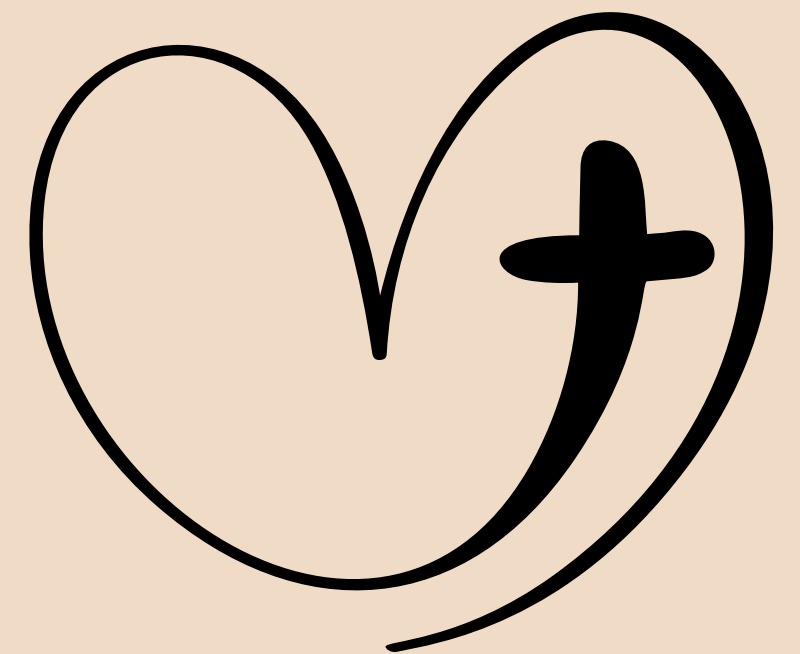


I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story because I know it's true.
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story!
'Twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and His love.





Prayer

Jesus, Jesus you are with me, as I step into this day.
Give me strength and give me courage, as I follow in your way.
Jesus, Jesus in this moment, help me to be much braver,
As I share the well-known story, of your love with my neighbor.
Amen.

