



**Congregational Meeting**  
Sunday, February 11, 2018

Vision - Patrick Lafferty  
Financials - Veech Li

## What's the Big Idea?

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GRACE  
MILLS RIVER

## Continuity with our heritage

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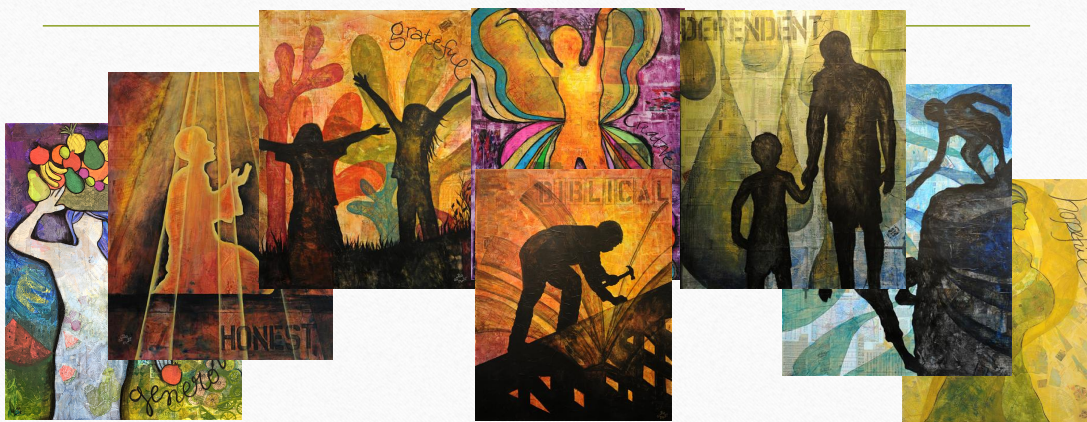
“Taking the Gospel to the Mountains”

”To know Him and make Him known”

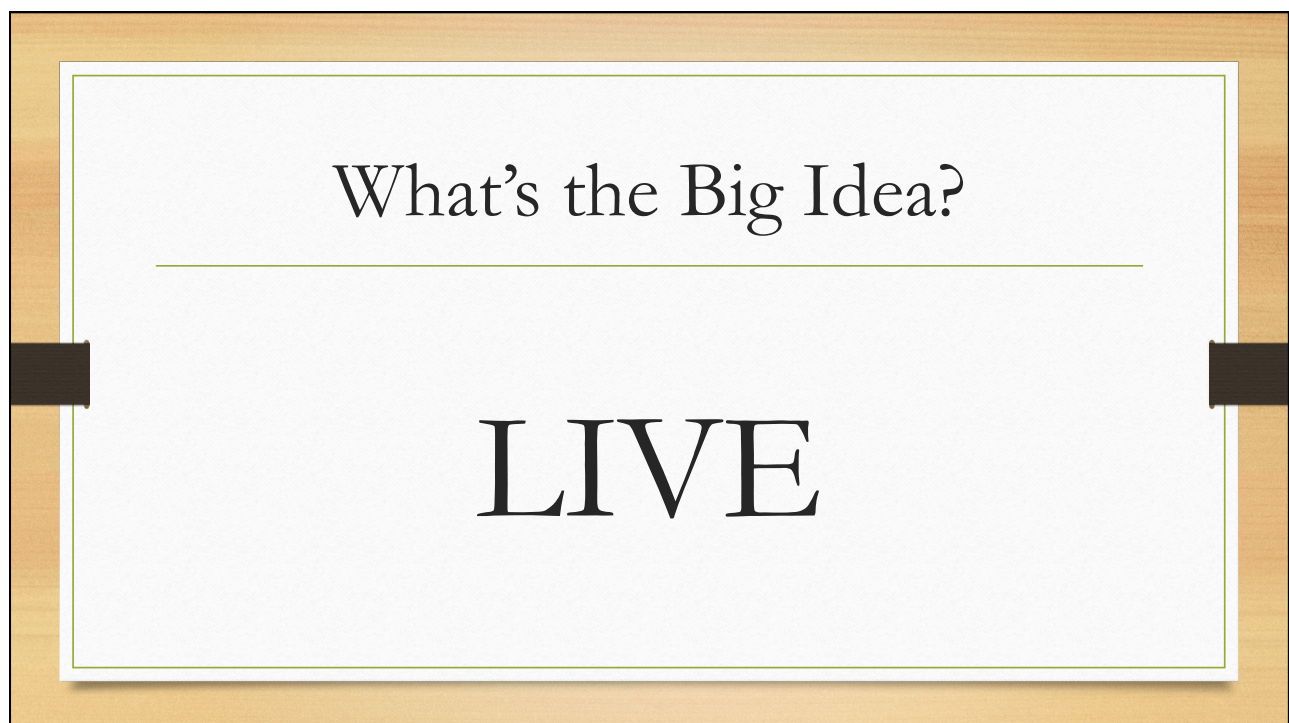
## Continuity with our heritage

- Missional Living
- Community & Care
- Collaborative Leadership

## Continuity with our heritage







# LIVE

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Gen 2:7 . . .breathed into his nostrils the breath of life

Gen 2:9 The tree of life. . .

# LIVE

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Psa. 119:77 Let your mercy come to me, that I may live;

# LIVE

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John 1:4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.  
2 Cor. 5:15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

# LIVE

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Gal 2: 19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. . . It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God

What's the Big Idea?

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LIVE

LIVE:

for God's World

as God's Family

in the joy of God's gospel



# LIVE: for God's world

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Gen 26:14. . .in your offspring all the nations of the earth  
shall be blessed

# LIVE: for God's world

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Jer 29:7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent  
you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in  
its welfare you will find your welfare.



## LIVE: for God's world

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Mk 12:29-31 Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

## LIVE: for God's world

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Matthew 6: 9, 10 Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

## LIVE: for God's world

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Gal 6:10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone. . .

## LIVE: for God's world

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Rom 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things.

# LIVE: for God's world

Illumination:  
*what's our story?*

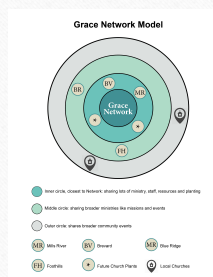
Cultivation: *what needs nurture?*

Preservation: *what needs  
protection?*

Restoration: *what needs fixing?*

# LIVE: for God's world

## Illumination



## Cultivation/Preservation/Restoration



# LIVE: for God's world

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- Local Missions Team
- Faith in our Work?
- Not just in but *for* our neighborhoods, schools?

# LIVE: for God's world

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*How can we be cool to this surrounding community?*

*How can we be generous to this area?*

*How can we serve this area such that it would be a loss were we to disappear?*



## LIVE: for God's world

*If the church is an alternate world, if it's supposed to be what human life would look like under the lordship of Christ, if it's supposed to be a counterculture, it should be filled with people who are reaching out and who are repairing other people and repairing neighborhoods and so forth.*

Tim Keller

## LIVE: as God's family

1Chr. 16:28 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

Gen 12:3 . . .in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

## LIVE: as God's family

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John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Eph. 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

## LIVE: as God's family

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Gal 6:10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

# LIVE: as God's family

- wash one another's feet.
- love one another
- Honor one another above yourselves.
- Live in harmony with one another.
- Accept one another,
- instruct one another.
- serve one another in love.
- be patient, bearing with one another in love
- Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,
- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.
- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- teach and admonish one another
- encourage one another and build each other up,
- spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
- Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.
- confess your sins to each other and pray for each other

# LIVE: as God's family



Tish Harrison Warren

...the church doesn't merely communicate information; it also creates the conditions for personal and communal formation.



# LIVE: as God's family

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- Community Groups
  - Grace Classes
  - Shepherding Parishes R I V E R

# LIVE: as God's family

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**In most cases the only way that the Christian gospel will appear plausible to our neighbors in the years to come will be to the extent that we can ground this alternative vision of reality in alternative forms of community.** When I was a student at L'Abri my tutor liked to say that the challenge L'Abri presented to its non-Christian students was showing them an attractive community existing as a consequence of the Gospel while they tried to decide what they thought of the Gospel. So they had this entire way of life being lived out in front of them that they enjoyed and admired, all of which was a result of Christian faith—and it was within that space that they were then studying the claims of the Christian faith.

Jake Meador



## LIVE: as God's family

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*How can we become the family known for its “one-anothering”?*

*How can we cultivate among us “coolness,” candor, courage, and compassion?*

## LIVE: in the joy of God's gospel

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John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full

Heb. 12:2 . . .looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

## LIVE: in the joy of God's gospel

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James 1:2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds. . . .

1John 1:4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

## LIVE: in the joy of God's gospel

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We'll only be formed as a family,  
and thereby furnished to be for the world,  
through being ravished by the news of our salvation by  
Grace

## LIVE: in the joy of God's gospel

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*What is the gospel and why does it matter?*

*What of the gospel is hard to believe and harder to practice?*

*How does one in a joyless world see the joy of the gospel take root?*

## What's the Big Idea?

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*BEAUTY*





## What's the Big Idea?

### Psalm 27:4

One thing have I asked of the LORD,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to inquire in his temple.



## BEAUTY



Francis Spufford

To write towards a reader who has no reason to trust you or to be interested. . . requires you to make contact with the stories they are telling of their life, and to lay alongside them. . . the stories you tell of your own; and then try to join both to the central story, told so it can be heard again, by which the immensely narrative religion of Christianity hopes to interpret all others.



## What's the Big Idea?

*If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.*

Antoine de St-Exupery

LIVE:

for God's World

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