

Hello, Dear Church!

August is here and the summer is beginning to fade. As much as I have enjoyed meeting visitors of the Crystal Coast, I'm looking forward to a reintroduction to the Island with less traffic, lines, rain, and heat!

I have been reflecting quite a bit on God's creation this week. The girls and I went to the Pine Knolls Aquarium, and it was incredible to see the variety of God's handiwork. He is a true Artist. It was also humbling to learn about the ways in which these creatures are experiencing harm and decline due to human activity. It is a reminder to me that we are "stewards of creation" (Gen 1:28), and our actions matter. God cares for the fish in the sea and birds of the air, too, and we should do what we can to ensure we leave the world better than we find it. Christianity is just as much physical and practical as it is lofty and spiritual.

We are working hard this month to finish updating our church directory and website for improved communication. Just as a reminder, please make sure your information is up-to-date with Dorla. If you are involved in any ministries and have additional information or photos/videos to share, please let me know so that I can put them on the website.

I have also begun to upload sermons to YouTube/the website. You can find the first one here: [Forgiveness](#). Share it with people in your lives who may benefit from a word about forgiveness! I am putting the finishing touches on our new church app that can be downloaded on your phone, and there you will be able to find announcements, events, devotionals, sermons, and more in one place. I know, I know—there is an app for *everything* these days, but if you are going to have them, better one for the church than Tik Tok!

Finally, I hope more of you will join us Wednesday mornings at 11 a.m. for Bible study. We have had a good crowd thus far, about 30-40 people, and I hope it will grow!

I hope you all have a blessed week. Remember that God loves you and cares for you, and I love you too!

With love,
Pastor Zach
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