

# NORTHHAVEN CHURCH NOVEMBER 18, 2018

## FIRST SUNDAY

### REV. JAKOB TOPPER SENIOR PASTOR



**Office Hours:**

Monday - Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Return Service Requested

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### A Good Life, Not An Easy Life



When dedicating babies, a pastor friend of mine always prays that God will gift the child with a good life, not an easy life. Now that my daughter, Hadley, is almost old enough to dedicate, I've thought about the implications of those words more than ever. I remember

watching other parents' children being dedicated and remarking how beautiful a prayer that is. Now that it's my daughter, it doesn't sound so beautiful. It almost sounds like a threat.

I think of the wonderful women and men who lived good lives and the price they paid to do so. Dorothy Day was a key figure in the Catholic Worker Movement, a pacifist movement that combines direct aid for the poor and homeless with nonviolent direct action on their behalf. She's one of my heroes, and I hope she will be one of Hadley's as well. All of her life, Day received death threats and violent opposition. And that seems to be true for many of my heroes: Jesus,

Rosa Parks, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther

King, Jr. Good lives, but far from easy. Tragic even. Is this really what I want for my daughter?

It's an honest question and a good one for me to ponder. It challenges me to examine my own self and answer whether or not I really believe what I say I believe. Is Jesus' way of life—the peacemaking and nonviolence—really the best way of life in a world plagued with violence? Is speaking out with the underdog and the oppressed worth it, if it puts one's own life at risk?

Yes. It is for me. I've found true life with Jesus and can choose no other way. But do I get to choose that for my daughter? No, I don't. It's a question each of us has to answer for ourselves. That's why, as Baptists, we don't really call them baby dedications but family dedications. Whenever Alyssa and I stand before the congregation with Hadley in our arms, we will pledge, in partnership with all of you, to raise Hadley in such a way that she will grow up knowing the love of God in her life. But as Baptists, we also believe in "soul freedom." Hadley must choose for herself whom she will serve. Will she make choices aimed at making her life easier and more comfortable like so many of us do? Or will she choose to be a good person, serving Christ and others with her mind, strength and spirit?

I'm counting on you, NorthHaven. I need your help to model for her the radical way of Christ and the radiant love and life that flows forth from it. When the time comes for Hadley to choose, I trust that your witness will lead her to choose a good life, not an easy life.

Jakob



*NorthHaven: An inclusive family of Christ followers, inspiring, challenging and equipping each other to participate in God's great story.*

## NOVEMBER YOUTH NEWS:

- NOVEMBER 6TH - CLASSIC 50S, 4:15 - 5:15
- NOVEMBER 7TH - SERVICE PROJECT WEDNESDAY NIGHT
- NOVEMBER 11TH - FRED JONES ART MUSEUM & HIDEAWAY PIZZA, 4:00 - 6:30
- NOVEMBER 13TH - TROPICAL SMOOTHIE, 4:15 - 5:15
- NOVEMBER 14TH - WORSHIP WEDNESDAY NIGHT
- NOVEMBER 21ST - NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES
- NOVEMBER 27TH - STARBUCKS ON 24TH, 4:15 - 5:15
- NOVEMBER 28TH - WEDNESDAY NIGHT AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

SUNDAY MORNINGS BIBLE STUDY - WE WILL FINISH OUR STUDY ON THE BOOK OF JAMES AND BEGIN OUR STUDY ON THE BOOK OF RUTH.





### NorthHaven Gallery

presents

## AN EXHIBITION

of the artistic work of

# Gala Van Eaton



Throughout the month of November 2018  
in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor,  
Price Education Building Gallery

**Grand Opening**  
**Sunday, November 4**  
**2-4pm**

Please contact Gala, 405-826-8518, or  
Sheri in the church office, 405-321-8170, for private showings.

Article by Don Schooler

### PUBLICITY STUNTS & ART PRANKS

Never thought I'd see something like what happened on October 5<sup>th</sup> of this year. A thing that had people's blood pressure going up, that caught the attention of even the most casual of art enthusiasts. A gilded-framed, spray-painted canvas going to auction of a young girl in a windswept dress letting a red, heart-shaped, balloon float away, by the street artist who others give the name "Banksy." It was sold at Sotheby's for \$1.4 million. But as soon as the final auction house gavel came down you could hear gasps of shock as the canvas began to drop through a shredder hidden in the bottom of the frame. Looking up from his bid sheet, the auctioneer and others watched in disbelief as the bottom half of the canvas slide through a shredder, never suspecting Banksy had hidden it in the bottom of the painting's tacky, golden frame. The bottom half was never going to be the same, but the top half remained intact as the canvas jammed up the shredder.

To explain what happened Banksy uploaded a YouTube video on the Wednesday following the auction; the artist hoping to let the world know that the painting was supposed to be completely destroyed, as it had in rehearsal. However, as clearly you can see by the auction house reaction, the shredder jammed. The YouTube video, entitled "Shred the Love," is really down right kind of sad and a little funny at the same time. There are lots of different ideas about the value of street art, but never is it boring or uninteresting. Street artist Banksy's YouTube video from the crazy, Sotheby's auction can be seen by going here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxkwRNIZgdY>.

To address the reasonable fear that the successful auction winner had wasted \$1.4 million, and to stop them from making a run to the closest attorney to sue Sotheby's for the destroyed "Girl with Balloon" painting, many experts immediately came around declaring the painting considerably MORE valuable because of its unique provenance. Owning an original Banksy AND it being THE art piece that made the art world stop and take notice would be pretty cool. The art world would not desert something that made everyone gasp in fear all at once. BTW, if you are thinking that the piece's name likely changed, you are correct - it went from being called "Girl with Balloon" to "Love Is In the Bin." I imagine that in the history of art, never has a Certificate of Authentication been issued as quickly as was done by Pest Control, Banksy's authentication body.

Going forward, it'll be interesting to see if other artists try public stunts/pranks for similar notoriety. What might there be to do? This got me thinking, what other "stunts/pranks" have captured the public's attention? Keep in mind, what some make as merely a "stunt/prank" in the art world, others might find to be pure genius, which is fine because art should make you think. Sometimes it makes you think deep thoughts, like reflecting on the terrible grief in Picasso's "Guernica," or you cry when you understand why the lady is lying in the field looking up at the house in Andrew Wyeth's "Christina's World." Never can one look at a clock the same after seeing Dali's "The Persistence of Memory," or maybe something as simple as going into your backyard brings to mind Monet's "Garden at Giverny." The Sistine Chapel ceiling is most likely as close to seeing God as most of us will get this side of death. Or, sometimes art is just so profoundly weird and odd it makes you say "What was THAT?!" and leaves you bumfuzzled. I guess time will tell whether Banksy's stunt/prank turns out to be a "Goodbye" or a "Good buy." We'll see.

Never the less, I know I've carried on here for quite a bit, seemingly as confused as the shredded Banksy painting, so I'm going to try and wrap this up. Before I do though, here are some other publicity stunts/pranks I've thought of, if you want to add your own, please do. If you come up with some really, wacky good ones (I'm looking at you Randy Ridenour) please tell them to me at church, I'd love to hear them. Here you go:

- A favorite of the art world, Marcel Duchamp's "Fountain" - an upside down, ceramic urinal, on the wall without comment.
- Lie! Fake! Fabricated! The 1968 U.S. moon landing. (Joking- just seeing if you're paying attention.)
- And there's Orson Welles' 1938 dramatic radio reading of H.G. Wells' "War of the Worlds."
- "Hurt" should've been his middle name - Evel Knievel's failed 1974 attempt to jump the Snake River.
- You ever been "Rick Rolled"?

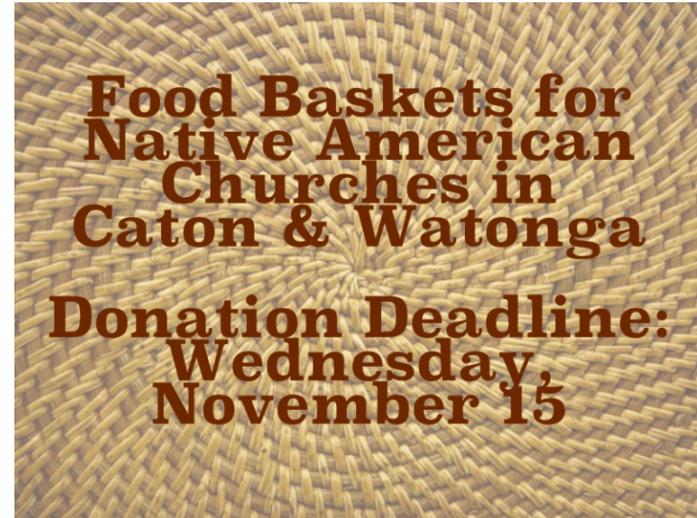
For those who don't know what I'm talking about - "Rick Rolled" is when you get tricked into clicking on a hyperlink that is labeled one thing but actually plays Rick Astley singing his 1987 hit "Never Gonna Give You Up." Speaking of hyperlinks, if the YouTube link above fails, try this one. - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQw4w9WgXcQ>. Was that too obvious? You didn't fall for it? I didn't "Rick Roll" you? You sure? Why don't you go back and re-read the first word of each line above. ~ Until next time, Don.



Come help us  
decorate the church for Christmas!  
Bring Christmas goodies to share  
as we trim the tree and  
listen to Christmas carols.  
Fun for the entire family!

List of items we are collecting:

- Canned hams that do not need refrigerating
- Large (5lbs.) bag of corn meal
- Large bag of flour
- Large bag of rice
- Canned sweet potatoes or yams
- Canned corn
- Canned green beans
- Ground coffee
- Bag of candy for the kids



November 1: Janet Dulin  
November 1: Randal McLain  
November 1: Cindy Rieger

November 2: Josh Lockett  
November 2: Angela Paganoni  
November 5: Donna McCutcheon  
November 8: Norma Franke  
November 9: Mike Bumgarner  
November 15: Autumn Lockett  
November 15: Van Tran  
November 15: Maryann Wilson  
November 16: Caleb Joyce  
November 17: Kimberli Hester  
November 17: Teri Jordan

November 17: Carol Lockhart  
November 18: Vickie Hill  
November 18: Jacie Joyce  
November 20: Sam Garner  
November 20: Deb McLain  
November 20: Don Schooler  
November 20: Clay Tarter  
November 21: Caroline Carpenter  
November 30: Keri Fullbright



Each year my family heads to my cousin's home for Thanksgiving. We can always count on some things being the same. The food is wonderful of course. The desserts and hot cider melt in your mouth. The stories and laughs fill the house and a great time is had by all. But the one tradition I love the most is that of the Thanksgiving Tree. My cousin and his wife set up their Christmas tree in time for Thanksgiving. However, the decorations on it are not that of Christmas. There are no lights or fancy ornaments. Instead leaves cut out of colored paper hang by ribbons. Each one has a memory or a moment of gratitude written on it. Years and years of the things that we thank God for. Marriages and babies, college acceptance letters and the acquiring of driver's licenses, thank you notes to each other for the support through trials, and so much more fills that tree. And on the table near the tree is a basket of blank leaves and pens for we have new thanksgivings each year.

As we enter into November there are many ways to inspire your kiddos and all of those who gather with you at Thanksgiving to count their blessings. A journal left out for writing in, a paper chain with memories written on the links, or thank you cards exchanged between friends and family are all meaningful ways to reflect on what God has given to us. What traditions happen in your family? Send me an email, I would love to know!

With a Grateful Heart,  
Kim



# View of a Call Weekend with the Toppers

What a wonderful weekend getting to know Jakob, Alyssa, and Hadley Topper. It started out on Friday, October 19 with a dessert fellowship and question and answer session. On Saturday, October 20, we met for pastries prior to another question and answer session. What's a Baptist gathering without food! Both events were well attended as we got to know the Toppers better and they got to know NorthHaven. The worship service on Sunday was a real blessing. After the service, the church voted unanimously to call Rev. Jakob Topper as our Senior Pastor. Jakob's first Sunday with us will be November 18. A big thank you to our Pastor Search Committee for a job well done!



## Choices and Opportunities

Have you ever experienced missed opportunities? Probably, yes. No matter what your age, missed opportunities occur for all of us. What causes us to miss out? Surely, we must prioritize when making choices and certainly motivation figures in. When you are a child, the adults in your life steer you toward opportunities they feel are best for you. As you get older, that responsibility becomes yours. Have you ever made a decision that seemed to be a poor choice? Then what seemed like not the best ended up being a good choice after all? I would venture to say we all have made some form of that decision. Decisions in life are sometimes a guessing game, full of surprises.

So, what influences us as we face new opportunities, new doors to walk through? As I thought about new opportunities and challenges, I realized **fear** influences us greatly. Ugh! That is NOT what I want. A couple months ago, I mentioned Zach Williams' song, Fear Is A Liar, where he sings, "Fear, he is a liar; he will take your breath, stop you in your steps. Fear, he is a liar; he will rob your rest, steal your happiness." Fear can be paralyzing; it can take your breath and stop you in your steps. I know it is easier said than done, but we really shouldn't let fear make decisions for us.

Another thought about what holds us back might be not seeing an opportunity when it is right in front of us. It's like we have blinders on. It is much easier to just do what we are used to than push ourselves outside our comfort zone. Later we look back and realize we missed out on an opportunity, all because we didn't want to take a risk. John O'Donohue says, "Risk might be our greatest ally. There can be no growth if we do not remain open and vulnerable to what is new and different. Sometimes the greatest challenge is to actually begin." Each day we have a chance to start anew; it may just entail a change of attitude or perspective. Life is full of choices.

Francesca Battistelli sings, "Its your life - what you gonna do? The world is watching you. Every day the choices you make say what you are and who your heart beats for. It's an open door. It's your life." That will preach! Who does your heart beat for? Wow.

In her new book, Dare to Lead, Brene Brown offers these words, "As you think about your own path to daring leadership, remember Joseph Campbell's wisdom: 'The cave you fear to enter holds the treasures you seek.' Own the fear, find the cave, and write the new ending for yourself, for the people you're meant to serve and support, and for your culture. Choose courage over comfort. Choose whole hearts over armor. And choose the great adventure of being brave and afraid. At the exact same time."

So, if there's an opportunity, give it a look. Be brave. Go through the open door. Who does your heart beat for?

Cheryl

**Women's Winter Bible Study 2019**  
*Contemplative Prayer & The Sermon on the Mount*  
 "Religion without personal prayer experience is basically useless and maybe even dangerous...  
 [substituting] law and morality for those scary [and out of control] encounters with God."  
 Richard Rohr

How does Jesus' sermon inform our inner attitudes and problems?  
 Why might and how can I practice contemplative prayer?

Sign up in either atrium for:  
 Tuesday nights: January 8 - March 26, 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
 OR  
 Thursday mornings: January 10 - March 28, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.  
 More information or questions? Gala Van Eaton, [gala.vaneaton@gmail.com](mailto:gala.vaneaton@gmail.com) OR 405-826-8518