

# Evangelism for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church

Presbytery of Milwaukee

September 26, 2023

## Acts 1:7-8

- Modern Christianity understands being a witness as telling someone about your faith.
- The biblical view of bearing witness is bearing witness to the reign of God.

# 8 Habits of Evangelism Preamble

- The good news of the gospel is that God fiercely loves us and is actively at work reconciling broken systems, relationships, and lives, indeed all of Creation.





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## Evangelism

- Evangelism is that dimension and activity of the church's mission which, by word and deed and in the light of particular conditions and a particular context, offers every person and community, everywhere, a valid opportunity to be directly challenged to a radical reorientation of their lives.
- David Bosch





New Life





## Isaiah 43:18-21

- Do not remember the former things  
or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches,  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.



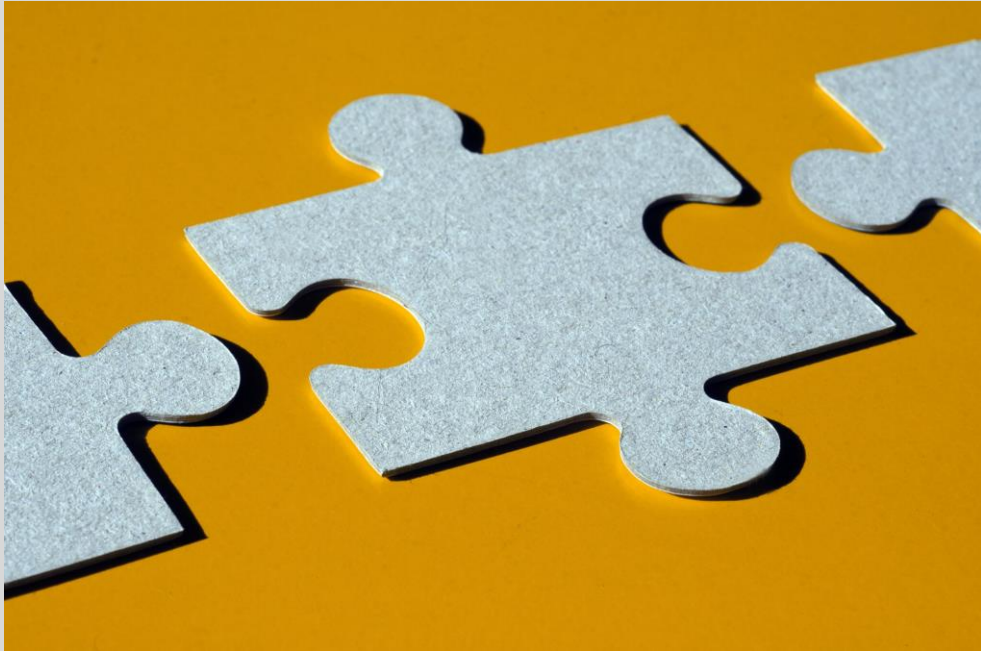


# A New Thing

- It is a longing for the past that prevents us from seeing the new possibilities that lead to growth and yet unrealized possibilities




# Ground of Being and Becoming



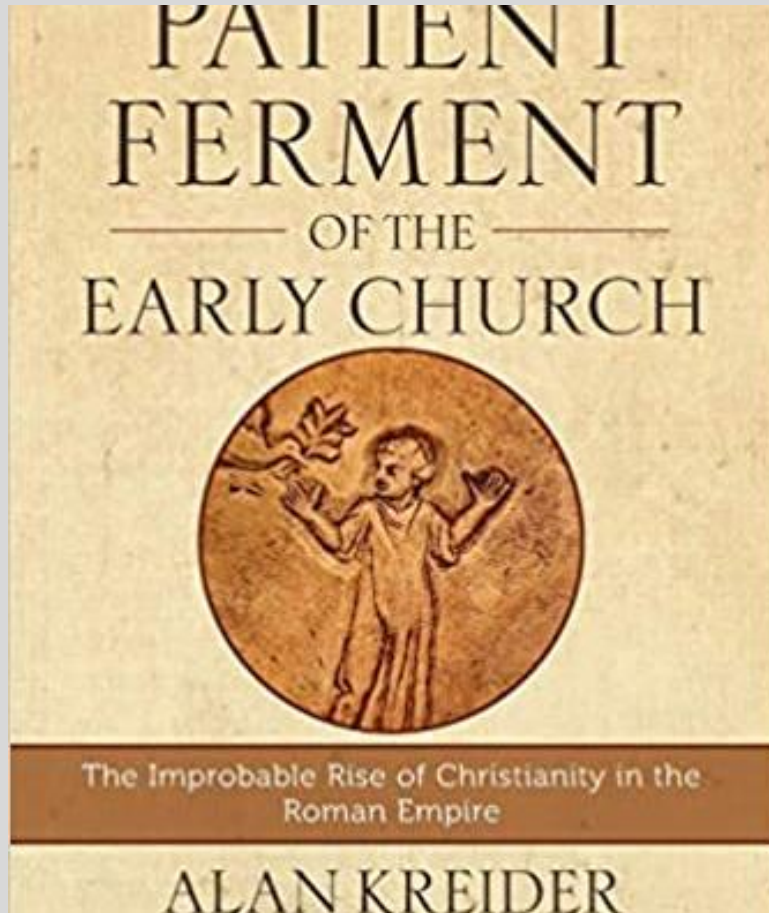




Question



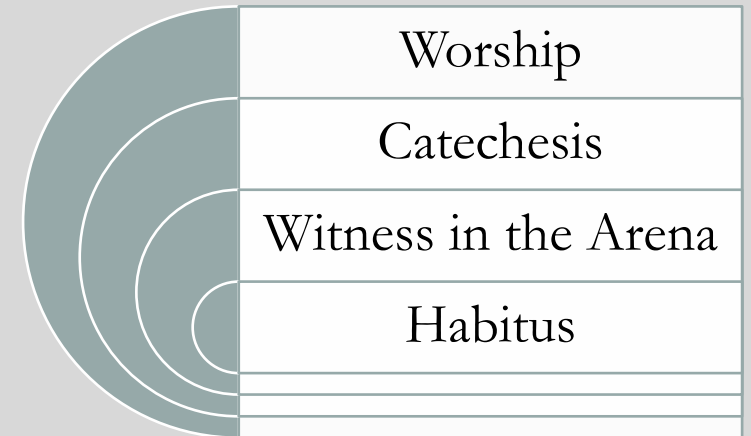
What do you find  
hopeful about Danielle,  
Kevin, and the church?



# The Early Church



# Christian Witness





MATTHEW 25

## Matthew 25 Vision

Building	Dismantling	Eradicating
Building Congregational Vitality	Dismantling Structural Racism	Eradicating Systemic Poverty





# 7 Marks of Vital Congregations

Lifelong Discipleship Formation

Intentional, Authentic Evangelism

Outward Incarnational Focus

Empower Servant Leadership

Spirit-Inspired Worship

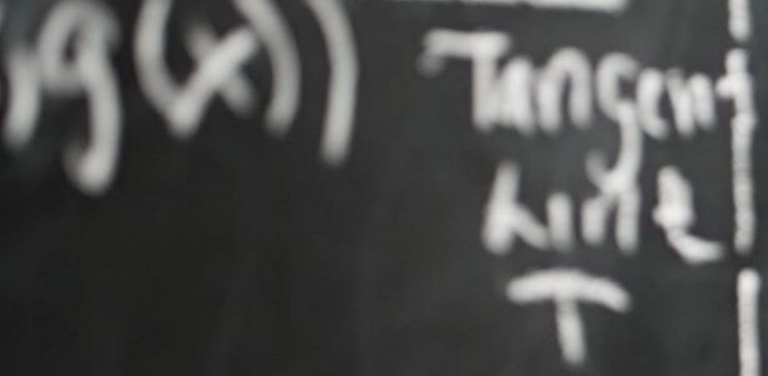
Caring Relationships

Ecclesial Health

A woman in a light blue shirt and dark pants stands on a wide staircase that ascends towards a large, bright, glowing rectangular opening at the top. The scene is set in a dark, cavernous space, with the light from the opening illuminating the steps and the woman's silhouette. The overall mood is one of hope and aspiration.

LIVING AS EASTER PEOPLE





$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^2 - x^2}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 + 2xh + h^2 - x^2}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2xh + h^2}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h}{h(x+h-x)}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x+h-x}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$$

$$f'(x) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+\Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$$

$$f'(a) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$$

# 8 HABITS OF EVANGELISM

# 8 Habits of Evangelism



Radical Welcome

Worship

Sacraments

Prayer

Justice

Teaching

Fellowship

Generosity



# Radical Welcome

- Expanding the Table
- Who is Missing Around the table
- We invite and make room, but we also go
- The Example of Jesus



# Worship

- Mission of God
- What did we learn from the pandemic
  - What have we lost? What losses have we grieved?
  - What have we gained? Where have we seen new life and growth?





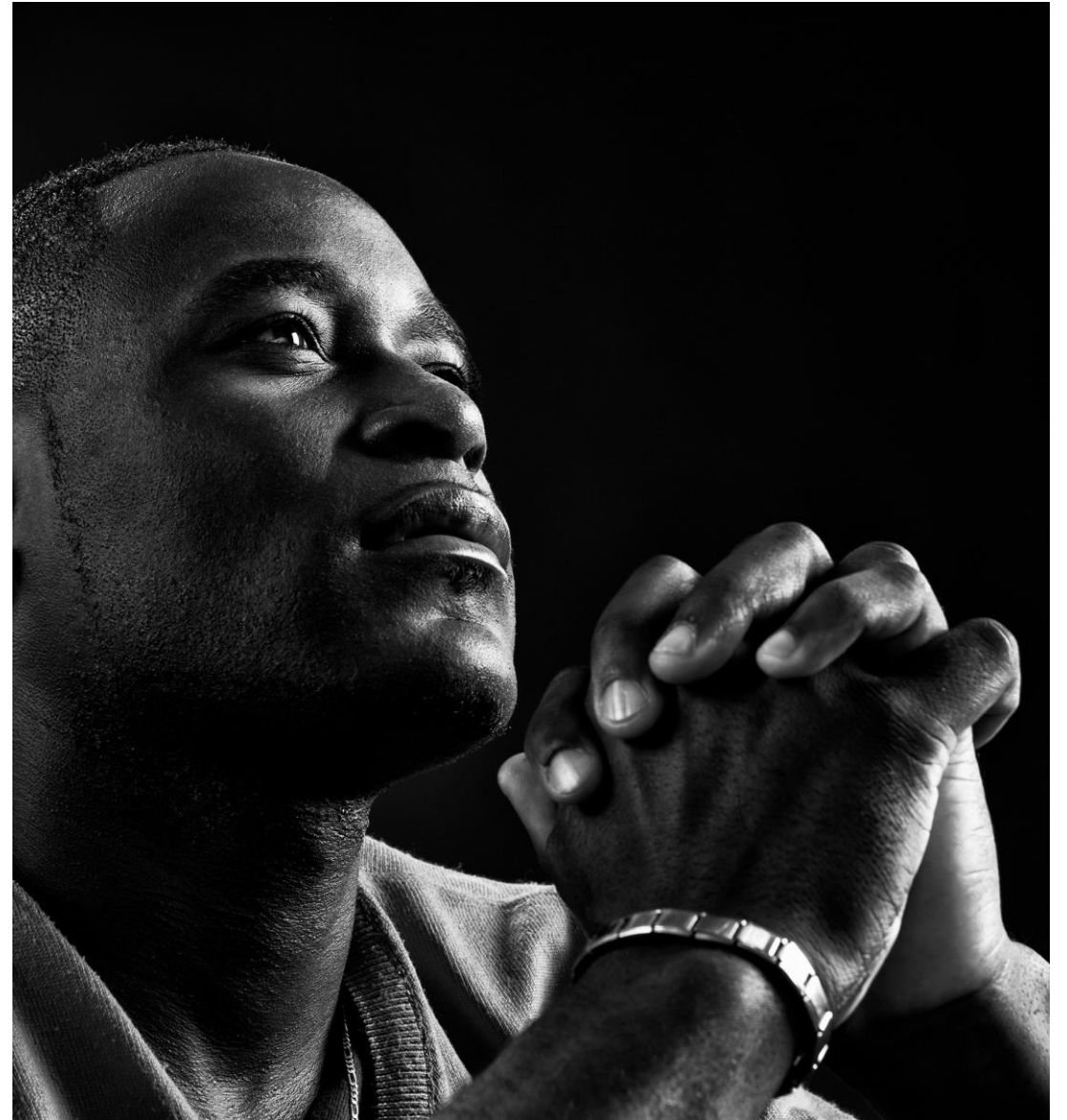
# Sacraments

- Living in the moment
- Welcome
- Ordinary becoming extraordinary
- Rest
- Reflect
- Resist



# Prayer

- Prayer draws people to God
- Praying with others
- Prayer walks
- Praying for community



# Justice



- Justice is what love looks like in the public arena
- Acts 6
  - Who is being missed in your community (who are the Hellenist widows)?
- Habits for justice
  - If you see something, say something
  - If you say something, do something
  - If there are not enough seats at the table, go get a chair.



# Teaching

- Evangelism is declaring and living the good news that God is working things out, making things right. We walk in this light.
- As a cookbook is about cooking, the Bible is about living.
- Cooking brings people together.
- If “making disciples” is “training in a way of life” or “practicing all that Jesus commanded,” how does this change the way we think of evangelism?





# Fellowship

- The way we relate to others is a practice of evangelism
- Listen and pay attention
- Watch Jesus and do what he did
- Acts 2
- What if the way we best make disciples is by showing people the fullest incarnation of Jesus that we can manage and resting in that? How can your faith community show others your fullest incarnation of Jesus?

# Galatians 5:22-26

- But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.
- <sup>23-24</sup> Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way. Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified.
- <sup>25-26</sup> Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives. That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.



# Generosity

- Giving good things to others freely





# Information

- <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/vital-congregations/>
- [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/evangelism/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/evangelism/)
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