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**gather**  
Summer 2022

THE  
*Colorado*  
FIVE

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## LIFE SUNDAY & NEXT STEPS SUNDAY







Ah... summer! Around here, our greatest hope is to take every opportunity to equip each family to be who God made them to be and work in His designed order. We also know that it requires time together to accomplish this. That is what we love about summer. We purposefully scale back on Wednesday nights and Sunday nights to give our families time to rest and spend time with each other, our neighbors, and our friends. Those are the relationships the church needs most: those opportunities God gives us to be a light in a dark world and to love on and care for our neighbors as a family.

We are excited about a couple of opportunities this summer. That's right, it is time for the 4th Annual Gathering!! Mrs. Ginger has already booked our food trucks, the games are picked and coming together, and the teaching is on the docket! For those that have not had the chance to experience the Gathering, you won't want to miss it. Though we have two services on Sunday mornings, we specifically take these four Wednesday nights in July to come together as one church family. We have a blast eating some good food, playing a game together (like Family Feud or Reverse Charades), and enjoying a time of teaching. We sit around the round tables in the Gym with folks we may not know and get to know one another, then discuss what was taught that evening. Kids in 2nd grade and younger will head to the Kids End for a teaching time specific to them. They'll learn the same things we're talking about in the Gym, on their level, so that we are equipping families to have good conversations together.

I am also looking forward to a new sermon series that will start Memorial Day weekend entitled "Can I Ask That?". We have seen through the years too

many people walk away from the faith because they were coached never to ask a question about God, whether that was because someone could not answer it or didn't know where to look. But God can handle our deepest questions, and we are going to walk through some of those together this summer. We will be updating our resource areas with some materials that we have used while preparing for this series. Let me encourage you to check them out for yourself. Remember each of those books or resources in the Parent's area has a QR code on the first page that you can scan to go directly to where you can order a copy for yourself.

And last but certainly not least, we are excited about Vacation Bible School on July 11-15. This is a great time to invite your neighbors with kids entering Kindergarten thru 6th grade to join you and teach them about the Lord and His ways. This is an all hands on deck event as we assemble teams for live drama, teachers, group leaders, recreation, and snacks. Basically, if you can name it, we do it during VBS. This is a great time to jump into using all God has given you to serve within the church in a fun environment.

What a summer God has in store for us, and all of that will wrap up with LIFE Sunday on August 14! LIFE Sunday is where we recapture all that God has done over the year and where He is leading us as we start the Fall and the busyness of school comes again. Personally, between LIFE Sunday and the Gathering, I can't tell you which is my favorite. They are both at the very top. I look forward to seeing you all throughout the summer in each of these endeavors!

*We love y'all!  
Pastor Grey*

AnswersVBS

# Zoomerang

Returning to the Value of Life

July 11-15  
8:30 am - Noon



# G'day, mate!

Are you ready for the trip of a lifetime as we zoom off to the Land Down Under? Be prepared to experience the jaw-dropping beauty of the Great Barrier Reef, the arid temperature of outback afternoons, the architectural marvels of Australia's modern cities, and the fascinating eucalyptus forest, home of the koalas.

At Zoomerang Vacation Bible School, you'll marvel at the unforgettable wildlife, culture, and beauty of Australia while exploring the wonder and value of life, from the lives of preborn babies to eternal life in the kingdom of God.

## Register your child at [walnutstreetbaptist.org/VBS!](http://walnutstreetbaptist.org/VBS)

(VBS is open to kids entering Kindergarten-6th grade.)

Pre-Registration ends on Wednesday, July 6



# PARENT Resources

CORY CARTWRIGHT

This parenting gig is an ever-changing and ever-challenging endeavor. We constantly strive to guide, lead, steer, and occasionally drag along the children God has entrusted to us. Like myself, I know that you want to raise good, law-abiding citizens. But even more pressing for each of us is raising young men and women who passionately love and follow Christ with all that they are. That is a seemingly more difficult task, but one in which God's Holy Spirit is there to guide us, and the church is there to walk alongside you in this process.

For some reason, we can find ourselves feeling as if we are all alone in this parenting struggle. We see other families and begin to play the comparison game. It can seem like other parents have everything figured out while we feel as though we are drowning. Many of us are just trying to either emulate or go in a completely different direction than the parenting we received as children. And we're figuring all this out in a world that

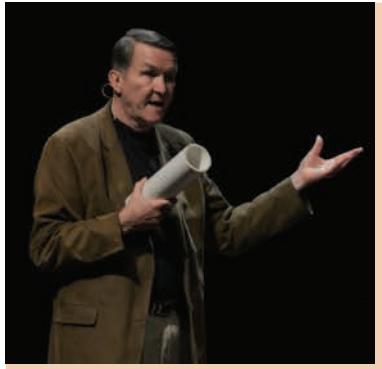
has rapidly changed, seemingly overnight. As a student ministry and a church, we want to come alongside you as you try to figure out how to parent well. We want to give you some encouragement at times, and at other times challenge you to fight the good fight and make the most of your time as a parent. You have so much coming at you, and we don't want to be just one more thing in the onslaught of communication you receive.

---

*Fight the  
good fight  
and make  
the most of  
your time as  
a parent.*

---

Our desire is to be a cheerleader from the sidelines as you are in the trenches of life. This fall, we will start sending a monthly message where we'll share various tools from reputable organizations that have a Christ-centered focus. You'll be able to subscribe to receive an email each month and be notified of the occasional resource you can grab from our Parent Resource Area. Here is a sneak peek into some of the content we desire to share to help you as you love and lead your student.



## Heart Connection

I can't seem to get the idea of heart connection out of my head. Dr. Richard Ross from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary shared this idea with us when he came and taught a few years back. He illustrated the connection that parents have with their children using a PVC pipe placed on his chest. Our faith (and values and attitudes) move to our children through a conduit. The pipe represents that relationship, as well as the strength, warmth, closeness, and intimacy of that relationship. I am a visual learner, and the image of Dr. Ross with the PVC pipe over his chest has stayed with me. As he shared the importance of keeping an open communication line, I couldn't help but think about how many times I clog up the connection with my own agenda. Sometimes I find myself using the pipe to hit the head of my child/children rather than using it to transfer life and help to my kid or allow them to share with me what is going on in their lives.

Good communication is essential to any healthy relationship and is especially important in our relationships with the children God has entrusted to us. In the quest for independence, our children begin to tune their ears to others around them. It is vital for us as parents to work hard to keep the lines of communication with our children open.

*Listed below is an article from Dr. Kathy Koch, Founder, and President of Celebrate Kids in Ft. Worth, TX. She shares a practical exercise that we can do to keep the communication connection open with our kids as we interact with them in everyday situations.*

## Our Words Matter



Words matter. Our words matter.

Clear communication is essential. Without it, frustration builds. There's less success and more stress.

Specific words are directive. Instructive. Encouraging. Helpful. Motivating. They can paint a more detailed picture in people's minds of what we want them to do.

That's what the word "landfill" did for me on the signs at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati. Tossing something in that section of the three-part container meant it was going to the landfill. That was much more powerful for me than the typical words used – garbage and trash.

*Continues on next page.*



You can find more helpful resources from Dr. Kathy Koch and Celebrate Kids at [celebratekids.com](http://celebratekids.com)

Obviously, I've always known garbage ends up in a landfill, but I tend to forget when tossing garbage. I couldn't forget at the convention center. I wonder if some who approached the container with stuff to toss sorted it more carefully after seeing that word than they might have.

Let's use specific, descriptive language this week and beyond.

Rather than telling your children and others, "That was good!" tell them why it was good. Was it accurate, thoughtful, unique, organized, beneficial, neat, complete, creative, or something else?

Rather than telling children and others, "You are good!" tell them why they are. Were they patient, other-centered, loving, generous, kind, gentle, wise, helpful, respectful, or something else?

Rather than declaring, "That's unacceptable!" tell them why it is. Were they careless, self-centered, argumentative, rude, messy, incomplete, foolish, demanding, insincere, prejudiced, or something else?

Make sense? I hope so. Let's do this!

Such practical and doable helps to encourage real conversation and healthy interactions with our children. A simple shift in how I communicate everyday that help them know how we feel in a much more intentional way.

## The F.A.Q. (Families Asking Questions)

There are more conversations like this on the way! At the beginning of this article we mentioned that we're launching a monthly e-mail newsletter for parents this fall. That newsletter will be called The F.A.Q. (Families Asking Questions), because that's what this is all about. None of us have it all together, and it's okay for us to be open with each other about things we're still figuring out. In the coming months we'll address social media, communication, and more questions that we should be asking as we seek the Lord and raise our kids to do the same.



If you want to subscribe to The F.A.Q., scan the QR code or text **THEFAQ** to **22828**.

# Upcoming EVENTS

## JUNE 2022

### Y JUNE 1

*YOUTH 80'S SKATE NIGHT | 6:00PM*  
Meet at Twilight Skating Rink, 2700 Phillips Dr.

### L JUNE 2

#### *LOOKING FORWARD LUNCH*

Join us for a driving tour of Williams Baptist University and the Williams Works program. See page 15 for more details.

### V JUNE 4

*VBS CRAFT ASSEMBLY | 9:00AM*  
Meet Ms. Mary in the Gym to help assemble crafts for this year's Vacation Bible School.

### C JUNE 5

#### *CAMP SILOAM FINAL BALANCES DUE*

### T JUNE 7 & 21

#### *TABITHA SEWS | 9:00AM*

Open to individuals interested in sewing/crafting for ministry purposes.

### Y JUNE 8

*YOUTH BLOCK PARTY | 5:00-7:00PM*  
Meet at Walnut Street at 4:00 pm.

### N JUNE 12

#### *NEXT STEPS CLASS | 9:00AM*

Meet in Room 122 to learn more about Walnut Street and how to take the next step towards membership.

### F JUNE 15

*FAMILY FISHING NIGHT @ CRAIGHEAD PARK | 6:00PM*

### Y JUNE 15

*YOUTH "CRAIGHEAD PARK & CONVERSATIONS" | 6:00PM*

### Y JUNE 17

*YOUTH PINNACLE MOUNTAIN HIKE*  
Leave Walnut Street at 9:00 am.

### F JUNE 19

#### *FATHER'S DAY*

Family Dedication in both AM Services.

### K JUNE 20-24

#### *KIDS SUMMER CAMP*

Camp Siloam, Siloam Springs, AR. Email [mary@walnutstreetbaptist.org](mailto:mary@walnutstreetbaptist.org) for more info.

### Y JUNE 27-JULY 1

#### *YOUTH SUMMER CAMP*

YM360 Generate Camp at John Brown University, Siloam Springs, AR. Email [cory@walnutstreetbaptist.org](mailto:cory@walnutstreetbaptist.org) for more info.

## JULY 2022

### O JULY 3

*ONE SERVICE SUNDAY | 10:30AM*  
One worship service at 10:30 am. No Sunday School

### T JULY 5 & 19

*TABITHA SEWS | 9:00AM*  
Open to individuals interested in sewing/crafting for ministry purposes.

### G JULY 6, 13, 20, 27

*THE GATHERING | 6:00PM*  
Food trucks open at 5:00 pm.

### L JULY 7

*LOOKING FORWARD LUNCH | 12:00PM*  
Join us in the Gym for a Gospel Singing Program and potluck. Special Music provided by WSBC musicians and Hymns of the Faith.

### Y JULY 7

*YOUTH BIBLE STUDY & SNO CONES | 6:00PM*

### N JULY 10

*NEXT STEPS CLASS | 9:00AM*  
Meet in Room 122 to learn more about Walnut Street and how to take the next step towards membership.

### V JULY 11-15

*VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL | 8:30AM-12:00PM*  
More Info on page 6.

### Y JULY 21

*YOUTH SIX FLAGS TRIP | 7:00AM-11:00PM*  
Leave Walnut Street at 7:00 am.

### Y JULY 28

*YOUTH BIBLE STUDY & CRUMBL COOKIES | 6:00PM*

### F JULY 31

*5TH SUNDAY FAMILY WORSHIP*

# The Rock!

His work is perfect,  
For all His ways are just;

JUNE 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	Y	2	L
5	C	6	7	T	8	Y
12	N	13	14	15	F	Y
19	F	20	21	T	22	23
26	27	28	29	30		
	KIDS SUMMER CAMP					
	YOUTH SUMMER CAMP					

JULY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	O	4	5	T	6	G
10	N	11	12	13	G	14
	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL					
17	18	19	T	20	G	21
24	25	26	27	G	28	Y
F	31				Y	29
						30

*A God of faithfulness  
and without injustice,  
Righteous and upright is He.*

**DEUTERONOMY 32:4**

**AUGUST 2022**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	T	3	Y	4
7	N	8	9	10	Y	11
14	L	15	16	T	17	Y
21	A N	22	23	24	C Y K	25
28	29	30	31	C		

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	L	2
4	C	5	6	T	7	C
11	A N	12	13	14	M	15
18	19	20	T	21	22	23
25	W	26	27	28	29	30

# Upcoming EVENTS

## AUGUST 2022

### T AUGUST 2 & 16

TABITHA SEWS | 9:00AM

Open to individuals interested in sewing/crafting for ministry purposes.

### M AUGUST 3 & 10

MINISTRY SAFE TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS | 6:00PM

### Y AUGUST 3

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY & ANDY'S | 6:00PM

### L AUGUST 4

LOOKING FORWARD LUNCH | 12:00PM

Join us in the Gym for a guest speaker and potluck.

### N AUGUST 7

NEXT STEPS CLASS | 9:00AM

Meet in Room 122 to learn more about Walnut Street and how to take the next step towards membership. Open to prospective, new, and current members.

### Y AUGUST 10

YOUTH PREP & PRAY FOR FALL SEMESTER | 6:00PM

### L AUGUST 14

LIFE SUNDAY | 10:30AM

One Service, no Sunday School. Lunch to follow

### Y AUGUST 17

YOUTH PRAYER FOR SCHOOLS | 6:00PM

### C AUGUST 20

COLLEGE MOVE-IN DAY

Williams Baptist & Arkansas State

### N AUGUST 21

NEXT STEPS SUNDAY

### A AUGUST 21

AWANA KICK-OFF | 5:00-7:00PM

Pool Party at Mt Zion Camp.

### K AUGUST 24

KIDS GAGA BALL TOURNAMENT | 6:00PM

### Y AUGUST 24

YOUTH SLIP-N-SLIDE | 6:00PM

### C AUGUST 24 & 31

"CAN I ASK THAT?" | 6:00PM

Three week study in the Sanctuary on Wednesday nights.

## SEPTEMBER 2022

### L SEPTEMBER 1

LOOKING FORWARD LUNCH | 12:00PM

Join us in the Gym for a guest speaker and potluck.

### C SEPTEMBER 4

CONNECTIONS LUNCH | 12:00PM

Want to know more about Walnut Street? Join us in the Gym immediately following the 11:00 am service for lunch and more information.

### T SEPTEMBER 6 & 20

TABITHA SEWS | 9:00AM

Open to individuals interested in sewing/crafting for ministry purposes.

### C SEPTEMBER 7

"CAN I ASK THAT?" | 6:00PM

Three week study in the Sanctuary on Wednesday nights.

### N SEPTEMBER 11

NEXT STEPS CLASS | 9:00AM

Meet in Room 122 to learn more about Walnut Street and how to take the next step towards membership.

### A SEPTEMBER 11

AWANA BOOK START | 6:00PM

### M SEPTEMBER 14

MIDWEEK ACTIVITIES BEGIN | 6:00PM

### W SEPTEMBER 25

NIGHT OF WORSHIP | 6:00PM

# *Looking Forward* MINISTRY

The Looking Forward Ministry is for those who are looking forward to the next stage of life! Whether you are stepping into being an empty-nester or retirement, we hope everyone feels comfortable and excited to join our monthly luncheons. Periodically, the Looking Forward Ministry will provide lunch. If you or someone you know is uncomfortable or unable to provide a dish for potluck, please consider another option. Providing rolls, a jug of tea, a box of chicken, a tub of ice cream, commercially prepared desserts, etc. are just a few ideas, but not necessary. There is always enough for everyone to eat.

## **2022 MONTHLY LUNCHEONS** **First Thursday of Each Month**

### **JUNE 2**

#### **Williams Baptist University & Williams Works Program Tour**

Meal: Provided by Williams Baptist

Leaving WSBC: 9:30 am

Sign-up Deadline: Sunday, May 29

*A tour of the Wings of Honor Museum in Walnut Ridge will follow lunch. Sign up at the Looking Forward Wall.*

### **JULY 7**

#### **Gospel Singing Program**

*Special Music by WSBC Musicians and Hymns of the Faith*

Meal: Potluck

### **AUGUST 4**

#### **God's Glory Through Your Story**

Guest Speaker: Micah Putman

Meal: Potluck

### **SEPTEMBER 1**

#### **The Blessing and Sacrificial Love of Fostering Children and Adoption**

Guest Speaker: Drew Dunnam

Meal: Potluck

### **OCTOBER 6**

#### **Craighead Forest Picnic Day**

Meal: Provided by Walnut Street

*We will also be touring the Crowley's Ridge Nature Center.*



# Can I Ask That?

**Can I love Jesus and  
struggle with depression?**

**Isn't marriage supposed to  
be easy?**

**Is faith blind?**

**Does church really matter?**

**Why does God allow me to  
suffer?**

**Would a loving God send  
people to hell?**



**It's okay to ask hard questions.  
New sermon series  
starting May 29.**



# THE Colorado FIVE

You know, they say if you don't like the weather in Arkansas, just wait a day and it'll change. Or in the last few months, just wait a couple of hours!! These temperature swings make me think of our friends in Loveland, Colorado, as their weather has been doing much of the same these days. As far as Colorado weather goes, it's easy to think of it as just a cold place. Sure, it gets immensely cold there, but honestly, the weather is not too far off from our own in some ways. The day may start at 13 degrees, but you better be ready for the 60s as the temperature will be there shortly. Or maybe the day started without a cloud in the sky and ended with a blizzard! Craziness!

I get excited every time I think about what God is doing in and through Walnut Street in Jonesboro. He is certainly at work on our physical property, but perhaps even more beyond our campus as we have taken our first steps in church planting in Loveland. The work that God is doing just a few states over is incredible, and the opportunity for each of us to partner as individuals, families, and a church family is great!

As many of you already know, Josh and Jacqueline Elliff moved to Loveland, CO in July of 2021 with their 3 kiddos and a very clear direction to see God "pull His church out of the ground" in Loveland. They started with just themselves but shortly were joined by Dallas and Britney Smith and their 3 kids

from Texas, and later by Jeremy and Brittany Wheat and their kids from Louisiana. Just a few months later, Austin and Morgan Sowerbutts, a newlywed couple from Walnut Street, began their life together on the plains of Loveland. And in just a few weeks from now, another couple from Walnut Street will be headed to Loveland to join God in His work. Just writing this is incredibly revealing of God's working thus far. He is bringing 4 different couples from 4 different parts of the country to see the gospel take root in Loveland, a place where ninety percent of those living in the region name no God. Those ninety percent, more than likely, relocated themselves to Loveland because of the grandeur of the creation of an amazing God who loves them incredibly, yet they do not even know Him.

What is even more incredible is that you and I have the opportunity to take part and join God in His work in Loveland together through a new avenue we are calling "The Colorado 5". The Colorado 5 has been birthed out of our Monday morning prayer meetings for Planting/Revitalization. We are burdened for these four, soon to be five, families who have transplanted themselves to a very lost part of the country. We want to see that they feel encouraged and joined, never alone in God's work. You and I know that there is an interesting dynamic in the New Testament, never once mentioning a follower of Jesus that was not also directly connected to a local



body of fellow followers of Jesus. The Word of God is clear in directing us to encourage one another day after day so that the hardness of heart and deceitfulness of sin wouldn't creep in and draw people away. These planting couples are on the front lines, and the devil will stop at nothing to discourage them in their work and decision to join God in Loveland.

That is where The Colorado 5 comes in. I believe that God is inviting each of us to join Him in encouraging these couples. We want to see one group, team, family, d-group, or class from Walnut Street make a trip to Colorado each month so that every month they are reminded, in person, that they are not alone. The best part is that The Colorado 5 is not a trip where the Elliffs or their core team families have to make time to watch

over us, but where we can independently accomplish five things during our time there.

While you're there, (1) take some time to prayer walk Kinston, Railway Flats, Spring Apartments, Chapungu sculpture park and promenade shops, and Northern Lakes development. (2) Prayerfully find ways to intentionally love on the staff at River Church. (3) Interact in the community, share the gospel with at least four people, and connect them with River Church. (4) Be available to assist Josh with any current activities. This can include picking one of the organizations or businesses Josh mentions and packing care packages/dropping them off, but you may be invited to do any number of things to help Josh and the team prepare for whatever they are needing at the time. (5) Lastly, spend one day at either Estes Park, Devils

Backbone, or other natural areas. Use that time to take a moment and thank God for the beauty of this area. Pray for people not to worship the mountains instead of the God who created them!

I hope you will accept this invitation from God to join Him in coming around and loving on this place, joining in the work He is doing in Loveland, CO, and getting on the front lines, if only for a weekend this year! I remember what Dr. Richard Ross challenged us with last year, to lead our families to mix ministry and vacation. My family and I are heading to Loveland for The Colorado 5 amidst a vacation ourselves, and I hope you will seek the Lord's guidance for you and your family to join in one month this year as well!

Let's see these families encouraged and thriving in the midst of a difficult place as God pulls His church out of the ground in Loveland, CO.

If you want to know more about what it looks like for you and your family, friends, d-group, or class to take a trip to Loveland, or more about The Colorado 5, email [staff@walnutstreetbaptist.org](mailto:staff@walnutstreetbaptist.org) so we can set up a time for you to meet with a staff member.



Bro. Grey Falanga has been the pastor of Walnut Street since 2018. He is married to Sarah Elizabeth Falanga. Together they have three children: Rhett, Caroline, and Mary Ellis.

## THE Colorado



**1. PRAYER WALK** Kinston, Railway Flats, Spring Apartments, Chapungu sculpture park and promenade shops, and Northern Lakes development.

**2. LOVE ON** the staff at River Church.

**3. INTERACT** in the community, share the gospel with at least four people, and connect them with River Church.

**4. ASSIST** Josh with any current activities, including but not limited to picking one of the organizations or businesses Josh mentions and packing care packages/dropping them off.

**5. THANK** God for the beauty of this area as you spend one day at either Estes Park, Devils Backbone, or other natural areas. Take a moment to pray for people not to worship the mountains instead of the God who created them!



AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>

One Service at 10:30am | No Sunday School

What is God doing in the life of Walnut Street? Join us on August 14th to find out! We love to celebrate what God is doing here on our campus and with mission partners around the world. On Life Sunday, we come together for one service at 10:30 am to look back over the last year and talk about where God is leading us in the future. Afterward, we'll have lunch and fellowship with each other in the Gym.



**VIEW EVENTS TAB IN THE INFO HUB  
ON OUR APP OR WEBSITE FOR MORE  
[WALNUTSTREETBAPTIST.ORG/EVENTS](http://WALNUTSTREETBAPTIST.ORG/EVENTS)**



New here?



NEXT  
Steps  
SUNDAY

## AUGUST 21<sup>ST</sup>

### Regular Sunday Schedule

Do you know what your next step looks like? We want to inform and equip you to do whatever God has called you to next! We set aside this Sunday to look at several different opportunities in the life of Walnut Street that may be where God is moving you so that you can pray, make, equip, or go. In the Gym, you'll find tables with information about all the areas where you can get plugged in. This will include everything from Sunday School classes, to volunteer opportunities, to information about upcoming mission trips. Whether you're brand new to Walnut Street or a long-time member, God is still at work and is leading you to join Him in it. This is the perfect place to take your next step.

# GATHERING



## WEDNESDAYS IN JULY

*Come join in on all the fun!*

The Gathering is back! Join us for tons of fabulous food provided by local food trucks. Test your wits and skills in fun-filled games! Afterward, listen to a great message that is sure to fill the soul just as much as we've filled our stomachs. Food trucks open at 5:00pm, then at 6:00pm we'll hear a great message shared by Grey. This is one of our favorite annual events, and we can't wait for everyone to gather again!