



Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, praise his name;
proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

- Psalm 96:1-3

Have you ever heard a song from a Broadway show that moved you in a powerful way? Or maybe you've had the experience of watching a musical where the story line spoke of love or redemption. The Apostle Paul taught the early church to examine culture, and where there was evidence of God's story, to use those moments to point people to the love and grace of Jesus. This month, we're exploring some of the sounds and stories of Broadway, and naming where we encounter the Gospel.

Encountering the Gospel on Broadway

JAN 9

FOR GOOD – Rev. Brittney Stephan

Romans 1:8-12

The Bible repeats again and again the call to be in community – to encourage one another, to love one another, to bring out the good in one another. With inspiration from one of the highlights of the hit Broadway musical, *Wicked*, let's explore the invitation to be a Christ-centered community.

We are called by Jesus to work together for the good of our community.

Featuring "For Good" from *Wicked*.

JAN 10-15

Monday	Read Romans 1:8-12. How does mutual encouragement strengthen the faith of a community?
Tuesday	Read Proverbs 17:17. How can being a good friend be a practice of faith?
Wednesday	Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11-28. What can we do together to build a stronger and more faithful community?
Thursday	Read Galatians 6:1-10. How can you help carry the burdens of others to support them?
Friday	Read John 15:9-17. What does Jesus teach his followers about community and friendship?
Saturday	Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7. How can encouraging one another help a community face difficult times and suffering?

CIRCLE Study Questions:

1. What song do you listen to if you need to be encouraged or uplifted?
2. The lyrics of the song "For Good" from *Wicked* include, "I've heard it said, that people come into our lives for a reason, bringing something we must learn. And we are led to those who help us most to grow, if we let them, and we help them in return." How would you state this truth in terms of your faith?
3. In what ways does Clay Church do a good job of encouraging one another to do good? In what ways could we do a better job of encouraging one another?
4. What can make encouraging one another difficult in community?
5. How are you encouraging others in their faith?

FaithFit Challenge: Write a note of support or encouragement in faith to someone this week.

Encountering the Gospel on Broadway

JAN 16

TO DREAM THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM – Rev. Dr. Carolyn Scanlan-Holmes

Ephesians 3:14-21

As Paul writes to encourage the church in Ephesus, he tells them that together they are the household of God. Then, encouraging them to witness together, he reminds them that God's power is beyond imagination. With inspiration from the hit song from *The Man of La Mancha*, let's explore what it means as followers of Jesus to believe that when we are the church together, God can do the impossible.

With faith in God, together we can “accomplish far more than we can even ask or imagine.”

Featuring “To Dream The Impossible Dream” from *Man of La Mancha*.

JAN 17-22

Monday	Read Ephesians 2:17-22. What does it mean to you to be part of “God’s household” where the Holy Spirit dwells (NIV)?
Tuesday	Read Ephesians 3:8-13. How have you witnessed God using surprising sources to share God’s love or speak God’s truth?
Wednesday	Read Ephesians 3:14-21. How are we witnesses to God doing “immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” (NIV)?
Thursday	Read Acts 4:24-31. How can gathering together as the church give us confidence to do things we can’t do by ourselves?
Friday	Read John 14:11-14. What do you think Jesus meant when He said His followers would do even greater things than Him?
Saturday	Read Ecclesiastes 3:9-12. Are we able to imagine or dream a bigger dream as a part of the church? Why or why not?

CIRCLE Study Questions:

1. What’s the best musical you’ve ever seen, or your favorite song from a musical?
2. What is a dream you have for the world? How can being part of a faith community help us imagine a future we can’t imagine by ourselves?
3. How have you witnessed the church doing things that seem impossible, or that would be impossible for someone acting alone?
4. How has being part of a faith community given you confidence, ideas, or visions of what could be, that you wouldn’t have without that support?

FaithFit Challenge: Tell a story. Write down, or share with someone, a story of when you witnessed a faith community doing something that one person couldn’t have done alone or that you wouldn’t have imagined possible.

Encountering the Gospel on Broadway

JAN 23

NEVER ALONE – Rev. Jill Moffett

Romans 8:38-39

In the celebrations of life, in the trials, in the times when we're searching, and the times when we're lost, we hold onto this truth: God is with us. God never leaves us alone. God is always seeking us. With the inspiration of a hit song from *Dear Evan Hansen*, let's reflect on how we share this good news with everyone!

With God, you are never alone. Even better, you can carry God's presence to others so they know they are never alone.

Featuring "You Will Be Found" from *Dear Evan Hansen*.

JAN 24-29

Monday	Read Jeremiah 50:6. What can cause us to lose our way in life?
Tuesday	Read Romans 8:31-39. What does the Bible say can separate us from the love of God in Christ?
Wednesday	Read Luke 15:1-10. How does it feel to know that God is always searching for those who are lost?
Thursday	Read Ezekiel 34:7-16. What is our role, as followers of Jesus, in seeking to reach those who are struggling or lost?
Friday	Read Luke 15:11-32. How can we, as the church, better share the message that God never stops loving you and seeking you?
Saturday	Read Psalm 23. How can or how does the promise of God's presence shape how you live your life?

CIRCLE Study Questions:

1. Share a time in your life when you were depressed, struggling, hurting, or lost. What helped to pull you through that time?
2. In Luke 15, why do you think the shepherd wasn't content with just having 99 of his sheep safe? Was it worth leaving the majority to go search for the one? What does this say about God?
3. How does the promise of God's presence shape your life and the life of the church?
4. The chorus of "You Will Be Found" says, "Even when the dark comes crashing through, when you need a friend to carry you, and when you're broken on the ground, you will be found." How can you, or your Circle, actively seek to find those who are struggling, depressed, or lost?

FaithFit Challenge: Google and read the lyrics to the song "You Will Be Found." Then read Luke 15 and Psalm 23. Share with someone the promise you find in these words.

Encountering the Gospel on Broadway

JAN 30

THE IMPORTANCE OF BELIEVING – Tori Yoder

Matthew 17:20

Jesus teaches his disciples the power of believing, telling them that with faith like a mustard seed, they can move mountains. What does he mean? Visiting moments from *Finding Neverland* we will see how believing makes all the difference for us and those around us.

Even with the smallest amount of belief, God can enable us to do the unimaginable.

Featuring music from *Finding Neverland*.

JAN 31 – FEB 5

Monday	Read Matthew 17:14-20. What do you think Jesus means when He says with faith you can move mountains?
Tuesday	Read Romans 10:9-13. What does it mean to you to believe in Jesus?
Wednesday	Read Mark 9:14-29. Do you think it is ok to have doubts and questions, to ask Jesus for help with “unbelief” (NIV)?
Thursday	Read 1 Peter 1:8-12. How can believing in Jesus bring more joy in our lives?
Friday	Read Luke 8:4-15. What can get in the way of believing, or cause you to waver in your faith?
Saturday	Read Luke 17:5-6. How can even the smallest amount of faith and belief have a large impact?

CIRCLE Study Questions:

1. How have you experienced the power of prayer and of faith?
2. In the time of Jesus, Herod had slaves literally move a mountain to build a palace for him. In Matthew’s Gospel, what do you think Jesus means when He says with faith you can move a mountain?
3. “Picture a land that you never have seen where life is eternal and evergreen, a future of happiness all in your hands, all in this place of your dreams.” These words from the song *Finding Neverland* are about Neverland, but could just as easily describe our belief in heaven. How does believing in Jesus and His promise of heaven provide hope and strength for difficult times in life?
4. What story can you tell of believing in Jesus that might bring hope or joy for someone else?

FaithFit Challenge: Start and finish each day this week with the prayer from Mark 9:24, “I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief!”