



Guest Speaker

KAREN GUNSTREAM

Karen Gunstream is an ordained Nazarene pastor who specializes in counseling, ministerial leadership, discipleship, and spiritual formation and care. She has been speaking at retreats since 1990, and brings an intense message of the good news of Christ, infused with her natural humor and fun.

Karen grew up in a Christian home, primarily in the Orange County area. During the Jesus movement of the late '60s, she discovered first steps in walking with Jesus. It was a time that demanded not only knowing why you believe, but also growing in worship fully from the heart. From that time to the present, Karen says, "I am a growing Christ follower. I trust Him as my Savior from the brokenness and separation from God that all humans are born into. Likewise, I am delighted that He is my Lord as I discover, explore, and participate in the Kingdom of God."

Karen wants to share with us what she has learned about knowing God intimately. It is not just believing Him intellectually, but experiencing Him personally. God has shown her through His word, through His family, and through personal contact, that the entire trinity of the living God is faithful, delightful (including fun), joyful, and good. God is love!

Karen's desire is to point Christians to a deeply fulfilling relationship with Christ. She strives to equip followers to navigate this complex inner and outer world by knowing God and hearing from Him. She hopes to whet the appetites of pre-Christ followers to greatly desire this awesome Good News through Christ. Her presenting style will add some knowledge-based teaching, facilitate attendee questions, and help us all probe beyond fill-in-the-blank type answers to answers that satisfy the need to know how to apply what God is saying.

On a personal note: Karen was one of Jan Unfried's roommates in college. Their friendship has spanned the years of time. Separated by a few states, they do not get together often. When they do meet face-to-face, there is an instant reconnection because of their mutual love for Jesus and each other. Karen is also related by marriage to our beloved Olive Knoll's Rhodes clan (you can ask them all about the connection). They have experienced a variety of family reunions and rich fellowship together in the Lord.

Karen and her husband have been married for 44 years and currently live in Parker, Colorado. Her husband, Bill, is a business owner/operator of a restaurant franchise, and is energized by bringing the great love of God into the workplace in many ways. They have three children and 7 grandchildren (soon to be 8 in August). Their children and spouses all love Jesus and are serious about following Him. Karen is in transition in her ministry position, and is excited to see what God is preparing for her in the near future. We are blessed to have her with us during our retreat weekend in Cambria!