

Spring 2026

A Study Through 1 Samuel

# After God's Heart

Join a LifeGroup

Ends Easter Morning

Beginning today, Sunday, **February 1**, we kick off our Spring sermon and Life Group series in **1 Samuel**, titled *After God's Heart*. The series will run for **eight weeks**, carrying us all the way to Easter...and there are some really fun and meaningful things coming alongside it, so stay tuned!

Okay, have your Bible ready at 1 Samuel 1 also today, have your communion elements ready if you are joining us online, (we provide the elements at our live service), as we will gather at the Lord's table together. Don't forget that our Life Groups start meeting this week so it is the perfect time to jump in too!

Our live worship service begins at 9 am in the Sanctuary located at 463 South Stage Coach Lane in Fallbrook and/or join us online by going to [sonrisefallbrook.com](http://sonrisefallbrook.com) then click "service".

OTHER EXCITING NEWS TODAY - after our live service we will be celebrating the annual SonRise Chili Bowl! A culinary competition featuring cutting edge chili and cornbread culminating in a champion being crowned! All of us get a great meal, (all provided at no charge), and lots of fun so make sure to join us!

Coming soon...

Friday, February 13 - Kids Night Out. We watch your kids for a few hours and they have a blast!

February 22 - All-church, annual Congregational Meeting immediately after our live service.



LAST BUT NOT LEAST, pasted below is a great email from our recently retired, world-class organist/pianist, John Redford. Please take a moment to read John's email as it is full of his appreciation and some fun highlights.

Dear SonRise family,

Thank you so much for the generous gifts and well wishes!

First, the unique organ pipe tribute:

Margo (teary-eyed): that is the coolest thing!

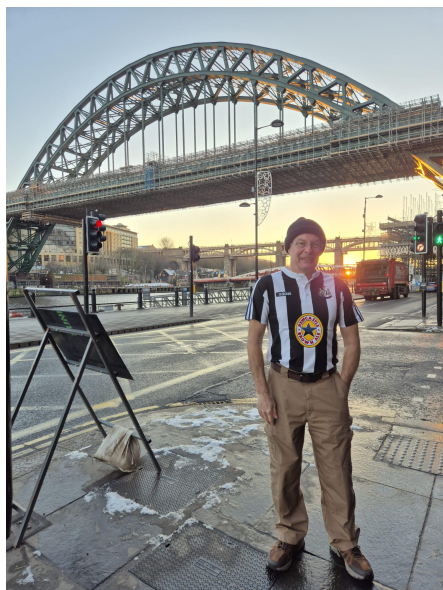
Lauren: that's insane!

The Newcastle United football (sorry, *soccer*) shirt:

We just got back from England last night. We made a point of going into Newcastle (where I was born) to get some souvenir photos. This one is at the stadium. The gates that you see are a legacy of the original stadium which existed when my Dad took me to my first game in 1971: a one-one tie with Liverpool. Newcastle have beaten them in almost every subsequent game -- isn't that right, Banning?!



Here's the iconic Tyne bridge which is featured in the star on the Newcastle Brown Ale label. It's undergoing repairs for the centenary in 2028. A passer-by exclaimed, "You're a proper Geordie!" (You can look that up.)



As for, the incredible cash gift -- wow. Well, I'm certainly not going to waste it by paying the bills. I've spent some of it already. During our trip to England we had a little four night holiday on the Algarve coast in Portugal -- lovely. We'll also use some of it to buy a light-weight canoe. Margo's been an avid canoeist all her life, and taught girl scouts for several years. It will be an incentive for much enjoyable relaxation and recreation. Everybody seems to be taking cruises; even the upcoming Fallbrook Chorale show has a "Love Boat" setting. We'll probably join the bandwagon later in the year and take an Alaskan cruise. Thanks again!

What's next?

Margo and I have a mom-and pop rental property business which we manage ourselves. We're expecting Margo's Mom will come and live with us -- she's currently languishing somewhat in a nursing home in her home town in Iowa -- and since our three kids are still living with us, Margo and I and her Mom will move back to one of our former homes. That way we'll all have a bit more space. More renovating to do -- oh joy. Technically Alan is our renter and has his own part of the house; Ian and Lauren simply live with us -- we enjoy it! Lauren had a challenge last spring. She's been dealing with epilepsy since she was eight, and had her third brain surgery in March. She's doing very well though. Physically, she recovered almost immediately. Emotionally she's getting there and has started applying for jobs again. My Mom is doing very well at 86. I have another trip booked for April.

Regarding music, this pretty much sums it up: <https://www.thebash.com/piano/john-redford>

Actually, the pleasure of working on the great American and British popular music is more important than the little bit of money I make from the occasional gigs. It's a healthy way to get the happy chemicals flowing. It keeps the brain and body active too. I'm excited about investigating the jazz harmonic language which now fascinates me (it was anathema to me when I was young).

That's about it. Hopefully I'll see many of you at the Fallbrook Chorale Fundraiser show in March. If not, then at Easter. God bless you.

Thanks again, and all the best for 2026,

John