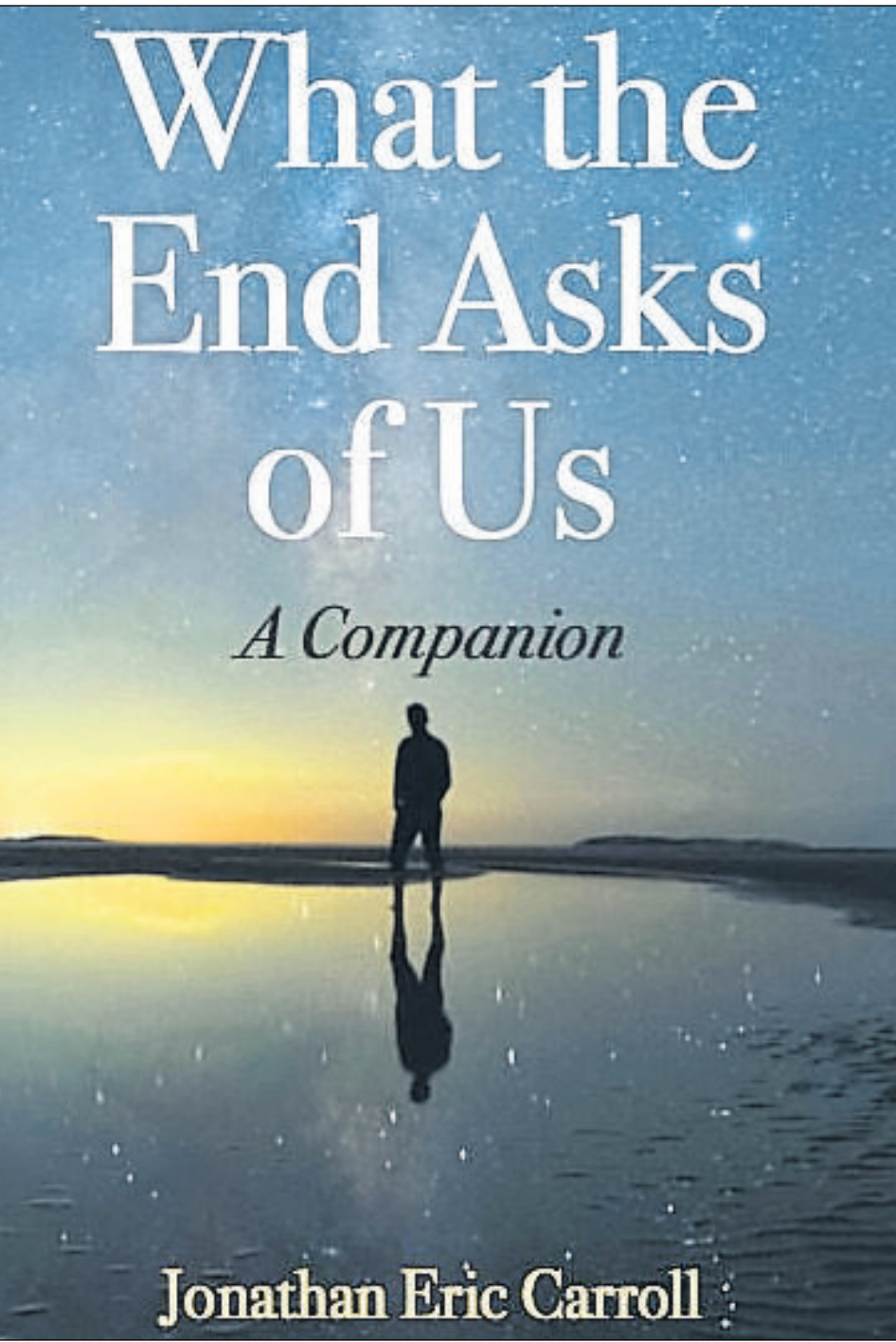


Worship

FAITH & VALUES



Submitted
“What the End Asks of Us,” written by a former Kentucky pastor, went on the market Oct. 1.

Former pastor shares lessons from the grieving in new book

BY MICHELE LOHMAN
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Dr. Jonathan Eric Carroll, a psychotherapist, philosophical practitioner and former pastor announced that he will release his first solo-authored book, “What the End Asks of Us: A Companion.” Carroll describes the book, which was released this month, as “offering philosophical company for anyone facing dying, grief or the work of caring for someone through either.”

Carroll, who is the former pastor of Owensboro’s First Presbyterian Church, said he used his ministry years plus experience leading grief support groups in Owensboro and Lexington. “This book is really a record of what the people of First Presbyterian, those good people who sit across from me in my practice daily and the loving souls of the Good Grief Group taught me first,” Carroll said. “They let me into hospital corners and hospice beds and kitchen tables at three in the morning and trusted me to be present for things that can’t be taught or rehearsed.”

Carroll said his passion for helping those experiencing grief, whether it is from death, divorce or the loss of a job, stems from his early life experience growing up near Virginia Beach.

On Dec. 16, 1988, Nicholas Elliot, 16 years old at the time, entered Atlantic Shores Christian School

armed with a semiautomatic handgun, which he had hidden in his backpack.

Once the dust had settled, one teacher had been killed and another was shot twice by Elliot’s 9 mm handgun.

“I experienced grief at a young age with a shooting that took my math teacher who was like a second mother to me ... then a year and a half later, my dad died at 46, just after I turned 15,” Carroll said. “So, grief has been a very close neighbor of mine — a very raucous, rowdy, up-at-all-hours kind of neighbor, and I’ve just had to learn to welcome that neighbor to the neighborhood, realizing that they’re not leaving.”

He continued, “So, I’ve tried to befriend and learn from it, and as a result, unbeknownst to me, it set me on a path where what I did more than anything was sit with people who were grieving. Even as a pastor ... those lovely, gorgeous people allowed me into their homes at all hours of the day when, you know, you don’t want to see anybody... You’re literally grieving the dying or the death of someone you care about more than anything in the world. And — for whatever reason — they wanted me to be there because, I guess, of whom I represent and because of the nature and scope of our relationship. And it was such a humbling thing.”

“What the End Asks of Us: A Companion” draws on philosophical movements and traditions such as Stoicism, existentialism, phenomenology, Buddhism and Taoism, which Carroll says cater more to “readers who no longer trust the religious answers they were once

given,” while still respecting those who value their faith.

The book, which is divided into five parts, is described by Carroll as “addressing those who are dying, those who are grieving, and those who are giving care, before gathering its threads in a closing section on what remains.”

“(The book) is for everybody, not just the religious, not just the non-religious,” he said. “Because dying and grief and caregiving are universal. And I wanted to offer a companion for people to have something that can sit with them in the room, like I’ve had the privilege of doing for so many.”

Carroll said he wasn’t motivated to write the book because he thought the market was lacking something of its kind, but because the subject matter spoke to him and his thoughts were “needed.”

“My publisher said this is absolutely addressing a gap (in the market) because as I argue in the book, the bookshelves seem to sag and bend under the weight of all the grief and death and dying and lost books that have been written from particular perspectives, specifically certain religious perspectives across the religious spectrum, but I have not come across a lot of literature that addresses these demographics,” Carroll said.

“What the End Asks of Us: A Companion” was published through Wisdom/Work, is available for purchase in hardcover, paperback or ebook versions.

It will be available on Amazon.com, along with other book retailers, and on Carroll’s website, jonathanericcarroll.com.

lawn chairs, concessions available for a small fee. Donations welcome to benefit the Zion Resurrection Church Building Fund. POC: 270-361-9157.

UPCOMING
Battle Ready Women’s Enrichment, 5 p.m. Nov. 6,

Abundant Life Church, 1511 S. Dixie Blvd, Radcliff. Conference style evening of worship, teaching and fellowship with Pastor Adalis Shuttlesworth. Vendor boutique to shop and support small businesses, games, door prizes, photo booth. POC: 270-351-9990.

Pope Leo shares views on 'The Joy of Love'

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV urged Catholic leaders to courageously accompany families in their weaknesses and failures, as he embraced one of Pope Francis’ most contentious teachings about welcoming Catholics in second marriages and otherwise “irregular” unions on Wednesday.

Leo opened a weeklong, closed-door conference assessing the implementation of Francis’ 2016 document “The Joy of Love.” Leo called the text an “important” step in the church’s long tradition of ministering to Catholic families for the sake of passing the faith on to future generations.

The document covers a host of issues relating to how the Catholic Church can better minister to families today as they cope with issues such as poverty, war, LGBTQ+ children and divorce. But when it was released after a yearslong consultation, “The Joy of Love” immediately sparked controversy, because it opened the door to allowing civilly remarried Catholics to receive Communion.

Church teaching holds that unless these Catholics obtain an annulment — a



ANDREW MEDICHINI/Associated Press

Pope Leo XIV caresses a baby as he leaves after his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square, at the Vatican on Wednesday.

church decree that their first marriage was invalid — they can’t receive the sacraments, since they are seen as living in sin and committing adultery.

Francis didn’t create a church-wide pass for these Catholics, but suggested that bishops and priests could do so on a case-by-case basis after accompanying them on a spiritual journey of discernment.

In his opening remarks, which reporters were invited to watch, Leo didn’t refer specifically to Francis’ opening to civilly remarried Catholics. Speaking in English, he seemed keen to redirect the conversation to the broader issues facing young people and families today, including how to

incorporate sex and intimacy within the Christian vision of marriage.

He urged the bishops to pay specific attention to families in their weakest moments, to listen to them, and to look at whether the church is able to respond to them.

“The experience of fragility raises the question of whether we are able to remain close to one another when life no longer corresponds to what had been hoped for, and whether we can recognize the work of grace even in situations marked by limits, wounds and apparent failure,” Leo said.

The pontiff challenged the bishops to consider what kind of church people encounter when they are most fragile.



LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given, that sealed bids will be received by the City of Vine Grove, Hardin County, Kentucky, hereinafter referred to as the Owner, for the construction of the following project:

OTTER CREEK ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Sealed bids may be delivered or forwarded by certified mail, until **11:00 a.m.** local time on the **30th day of October, 2026** to the City of Vine Grove, 300 West Main Street, Vine Grove, KY 40175. Proposals received after such hour will be returned unopened.

After the hour of **11 a.m. on October 30, 2026**, the bids shall be opened and publicly read aloud. The place of opening shall be the City of Vine Grove, City Hall, 300 West Main Street, Vine Grove, KY 40175. All interested citizens are invited to attend. Should any citizens require special provisions, such as handicapped modifications or non-english translation personnel, the City of Vine Grove will provide such provisions as long as the request is made by **October 23, 2026**.

The project generally consists of the following: removal of existing bridge structure and abutments; construction of new bridge abutments; installation of provided 82-foot concrete box beams and appurtenances; construction of concrete bridge deck; general clearing, excavation, earthwork and grading; installation of provided guardrail; maintenance of traffic for road closure; replacement and modification of roadway approaches; restoration and seeding.

Plans are available for public inspection at City Hall. Copies of the Plans and Specifications for the project may be obtained from Heritage Engineering LLC, at 642 South 4th Street, Suite 100, Louisville, KY 40202 or via email at tmarconi@heritageeng.com. There is no charge for PDF copies of the plans or specifications.

Questions pertaining to the plans and specifications shall be directed to Mr. Tony Marconi, P.E. via email at tmarconi@heritageeng.com or (502) 562-1412, ext. 1226. All questions must be submitted no later than 5 pm on Thursday October 22, 2026.

The work to be performed and the bid to be submitted shall include sufficient and proper sums for all general construction, mechanical installation, labor, materials, permits, licenses, insurance, and so forth incidental to and required for the construction of the facilities.

Each bid must be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the title of the Project and the name and address of Bidder. All bids must be submitted on the bid forms as identified in the Contract Documents.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check or acceptable bidder’s bond made payable to the Owner, in a sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the highest aggregate bid. The check or bond will be held by the Owner as evidence that the bidder will, if awarded the project, enter into a contract with the Owner upon notification to do so within ten (10) days of said notification.

Approved performance and payment bonds guaranteeing faithful and proper performance of the work and supplying of materials, to be executed by an acceptable surety company, will be required of the Contractor at the time of contract execution. The bonds will be in the amount of 100% of the Contract Price and must be in full force and effect throughout the term of the Construction Contract plus a period of twelve (12) months from the date of substantial completion.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid, or all bids, or to accept any bid or bids, or to make such combination of bids as may seem desirable, and to waive any and all informalities in bidding. Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the above scheduled time for the opening of bids or authorized postponement thereof. Any bid received after the time and date specified shall not be considered. No bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for at least ninety (90) days.

A conditional or qualified Bid will not be accepted.

All bidders shall be certified for bridge construction of the appropriate length with the Kentucky Department of Transportation. Each Bidder shall provide proof of certification with their bid.

Award will be made to the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder. The lowest, responsive, responsible bidder must not be debarred, suspended, or otherwise be excluded from or ineligible for participation in federally assisted programs under Executive Order 12549.

All applicable laws, ordinances, and the rules and regulations of all authorities having jurisdiction over construction of the project shall apply to the project throughout.

Bids shall be properly and completely executed on bid forms included in the Specifications.

The Owner may make such investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the Bidder to perform the work and the Bidder shall furnish to the Owner all such information and data for this purpose as the Owner may request. The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such Bidder fails to satisfy the Owner that such Bidder is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Agreement and to complete the work contemplated therein.

Each Bidder is responsible for inspecting the Project site(s) and for reading and being thoroughly familiar with the Plans and Specifications. The failure or omission of any Bidder to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve any Bidder from any obligation with respect to its Bid.

Bidders on this work shall be required to comply with the provisions of the President’s Executive Order No. 11246, as amended. The Bidders shall also comply with the requirements of 41 CFR Part 60 – 4 entitled Construction Contractors - Affirmative Action Requirements.

CITY OF VINE GROVE

WORSHIP CALENDAR

SATURDAY
Free Community Movie Night, arrive 8:15 p.m., movie at dusk, Upton Community Center, 377 College St., Upton, hosted by Zion Resurrection Church. Movie is “David,” the new animated movie from Angel Studios. Bring blankets and