Open and. Affirming Coalition Webinar: Technology for Good - Using AI in Ministry
Presentation by the Rev. Sarah TevisTownes, host the Rev. Derek Terry with tech and moral support from Wende Gonzalez,
Relational Communications Coordinator for the SW Conference of the UCC.
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Derek Terry 0:02
All right now let me see.

Wende Gonzales (on Zoom) 0:05
It's recording.

Derek Terry 0:08
Right. Welcome, welcome, welcome one and all to the opening affirming coalition Tech for Good webinar with the awesome pastor Sarah.

And so let's just jump right in. We're gonna ask pastor Sarah to introduce herself, and then we'll, we'll start, go ahead. Great. Hi, I'm Sarah Tevez, towns, I'm the pastor at church of the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I also have a very large digital ministry in presence with over 200,000 followers now, across Instagram, and Tiktok. And that's a disorganized dot religion. I also have a background in computer science. And I'm not the expert of all experts on AI. But I know there's a lot of wisdom in this room and a lot of creativity. And I do use artificial intelligence a lot already. In fact, I would dare to guess most of us use AI in our daily lives a whole lot. We just don't think of it as AI because it's become mainstream.

Pastor Sarah 1:18
But that's why I'm here to talk to us about how to build more inclusive communities using AI in our ministry.
So I'm curious, y'all can put in the chat,
I'm curious to hear from y'all. What is your familiarity with AI? And what are some questions that you want to make sure I answered today?

Wende Gonzales
It'll take me too long to type it out. Um, so do you think that it can, that you think it can be used for evil purposes? So like, like harm, can it harm? Can it harm people? Can it? Depending on what you know, what the inputs are? Can one nation or entity decide that they're going to use it or, you know, to hurt other other entities?

Pastor Sarah 2:26
Yeah, that's an excellent question. And I will definitely touch on that.
All right, so some in the chat I hear, you know, we don't know much about it at all. So this is great, because this is a really broad overview, an introduction to some of the tools that we can use. We will also talk about ethical considerations. But the first thing I want to tell you is that AI is unavoidable right now. And it's a big deal. And for educational purposes, I am going to share a little clip from John Oliver, who has an extended version on AI.
Derek, is that okay? To share? Okay. All right. I'm going to share that now.
And some of my Tiktok friends as well who've weighed in,
Let me know if you can't hear sound. Here we go.

John Oliver (clip for educational purposes)
It seems like everyone is suddenly talking about AI. That is because they are largely thanks to the emergence of a number of pretty remarkable programs. We spoke last year about image generators like mid journey and stable diffusion, which people used to create detailed pictures off, among other things, my romance with a cabbage and which inspired my beautiful real life cabbage wedding, officiated by Steve Buscemi. It was a stunning day. Then at the end of last year came chat GPT from a company called Open AI. It is a program that can take a prompt and generate human sounding writing in just about any format and style. It is a striking capabilities since Chuck GPT was made publicly available its popularity has exploded in January, it was estimated to have 100 million monthly active users making it the fastest growing consumer app in history. And people wouldn't using it and other AI products in all sorts of ways or one group use them to create nothing forever a nonstop live streaming parody of Seinfeld and the YouTuber grande use chat GPT to generate lyrics answering the prompt right and Eminem rap song about cats with some stellar results. Cats cats cats open home crowd they're sneaky and sly with their eyes on the ball. They're the kings of the house they ruin. The man who loves cats can can tell from this verse. They're independent, do what they please but they always come back when you have some teeth. They rub against your hair. They're the best companions. They're always near me. They're the kings of the half their revenue. They don't need to spam you.

Pastor Sarah
That's not bad, right? This tech is not just a novelty. Microsoft has invested $10 billion into open AI and announced an EO powered being homepage. Meanwhile, Google is about to launch its own AI chat bot named Bard. And there are so many applications for ministry. I've used it in the last couple of weeks to summarize articles in the week's news, organize my workflow, translate documents into other languages, cite sources, clarify emails and by writing in general, make contracts with guests staying at the church workshop how to communicate with challenging volunteers, clarify legislation affecting my community, create computer programs and languages. I don't know how to code in, write object lessons based on my

sermons, outline presentations, designed bulletin covers, and imagine new ways my community can become more affirming of LGBTQ plus people.

So today, we're going to discuss what is AI? What can it do for you? What can't it do for you? And then those ethical considerations? And how might it be used for nefarious purposes, and how we do need to be careful about it.

And a lot of legislation is being considered right now that's aimed at doing that, I think that's really important. And then at the end, we're gonna have some more conversation and brainstorming and just have some fun with it, and see if we can't solve some of the problems that you're having, and use AI to your benefit, and questions—put questions in the chat anytime, or just blurt them out, and I'll do my best to answer them.

One of the most important things that we need to clarify and this is especially true for people who think about AI is like, C3PO level intelligence, like an independent robot walking around and making their own decisions.

That is not the kind of AI we're talking about. And so this next little clip will clarify. Right now we only have available to us what we call narrow AI. So I'm gonna have some friends help explain.

Clip from. TikTok:
What is artificial intelligence like seriously, what is it? Well, when people think of artificial intelligence, many of them will think something that's conscious, but it's not alive, like Terminator, or some other thing like that. But that's not what artificial intelligence is that artificial consciousness. Most artificial intelligence is just that intelligence. Let's start with the fact that you've probably been using some form of AI for a while now, sometimes, without even realizing it. As experts have told us the ones that technology gets embedded in our daily lives, we tend to stop thinking of it as AI. These new programs are generative. They are creating images or writing text, which is unnerving because those are things that we've traditionally considered human. But it is worth knowing there is a major threshold that AI hasn't crossed. Yet, a lot of people confuse artificial neural intelligence with artificial general intelligence. Artificial Narrow Intelligence is a input to be output as automated spam, email capture, self driving cars, speech recognition, online advertising, and visual inspection using supervised learning, and machine translation. Artificial General Intelligence is a machine that can do anything a human can do, we are hundreds of years behind for that trust. In order for AI to currently work, we have to input correct data, usually an AI team is there to check. And then you need large neural networks plus correct data to meet the AI work. Without that the AI just gonna be putting out crap and it's just not legitimate. So you always got to check it anyways, general AI would look more at the kinds of highly versatile technology that you see featured in movies like Jarvis in Ironman or the program that made

Joaquin Phoenix fall in love with his phone in her. All the AI currently in use is narrow. So start to cap and let's start fear mongering and learn what AI really is.

Pastor Sarah 9:08
All right, so don't panic. Robots will not be taking over the world anytime soon! They will be aiding humans who may desire to take over the world, right? But just like any tool, it is a tool so it can be used. for beneficial purposes. It can be used for nefarious purposes, it is a tool.

So let's start with some of the tools that you can use immediately, even if you don't have any kind of programming background. And here's the caveat. As I'm putting this presentation together, I realize is everything I'm about to say something that you could just get an answer from Chet GPT or Bard about? The answer is yes. And **Chat GPT and Bard cannot replace the unique individuals that are in the Zoom today.**

Those that have all kinds of ideas. And, you know, you also get a chance to talk to a real life pastor who's been using this technology in ministry. And there is a wisdom in the room and the Spirit is in the room, and chat GPT can't replace that. But let's start with Chat GPT and Bard, which are two of the most versatile and powerful tools available right now. And they're super user friendly.

And I think you may be able to get something out of them. Alright, so let's start with Chat GPT. And Bard Bard is a newer one out that's from Google, both of these are still very much in development, chat GPT has been around for a little bit longer, it is free for the public to use. You go to chat.openai.com To access it, or you just Google Chat GPT. And you'll get that GPT four is not accessible to everybody.

All right. So my advice. **If you want to figure out what Chet GPT can do, you have to play with it and see,** it has blown me away what this program is capable of doing. But it does have boundaries. And there are things it is terrible at doing. And we'll talk about that in a minute too.

But play with it, you have to try it out, experiment, converse with it.

Also, as a boundary trainer, I have to remind you, like all other things on the internet, if you wouldn't want your grandmother, your church, your lawyer to be reading it, if you don't want it showing up on the news, do not put it in chat GBT.

It's not like all of this can become public. But with screen capture, you know, there's somebody behind the scenes who has to evaluate whether Chet GPS responses are good or bad. Somebody in my congregation works for Bard and Chet GPT. And they evaluate chat GPPs responses and try to make them better. So even though those responses are sanitized for personal information, and that kind of thing, theoretically.

Don't put all your business in there without like, sanitizing it for names and right.
Don't assume it will keep confidentiality.

All right. So let's give me an example. **I asked it, could you help me come up with some ways that my church could use Chat GPT to create a more inclusive or an environment that's more affirming, to LGBTQ plus people?**

Pastor Sarah 12:30
Here's what I came up with. First, it said, certainly, using chat GPT to create a more safe and affirming environment for LGBTQ+ individuals in your church is a positive step toward inclusivity and acceptance. I will say Chad GPT leans progressive politically in terms of United States.

And that's just how it is. Here's some ways you can leverage Chad GPT for this purpose.

Alright, first thing it tells me is pastoral counseling. And I was like, oh, gosh, I don't know how I feel about that. I'll ask it about that in a second. But it said, it can provide guidance on how to better support and create a safe space. All right, I'm curious about that.

Creating Safe Space guidelines.

Now notice, the very first thing it says is not we'll write it for you, it says collaborate with LGBTQ plus members of your congregation to create safe space guidelines. And then it can assist in drafting those guidelines and making them clear, inclusive policies. Right, it can help you draft those, such as policies on gender-neutral restrooms, and gender-inclusive language chat, he can help you with that. It can help you with education. It could even draft an entire lesson plan with like breaking out how many minutes you're going to talk on each thing. and design it for a specific group.

Inclusive sermon preparation, you can give it your sermon, could put in the whole text, let's say I say you work off a manuscript and say, Is there anything I said? Like are there some examples I could use to make this more inclusive? How did I do with inclusive language, right?

14:21
It can encourage you to do supportive literature, all kinds of different things. It can help you plan outreach events, trainings, and workshops, community engagement. And here's what I love. I really do appreciate Chad GPT clarifying remember, using technology is just one tool. **In creating a more informed gaming environment. It should be complemented by genuine efforts to foster understanding empathy and acceptance within your faith community.** Regularly seek feedback from LGBTQ plus individuals to ensure your efforts are making a positive impact and to identify areas for improvement.

So it says listen, you can consult me but really, you want to reach out to the community and I appreciate that a lot. All right. So I told that I was skeptical about using Chet GPT for pastoral care. And it's like, well, here's what I meant.

For information-gathering scriptural references, it does have access to the entire Bible. All right. So if I said, All right, I want some LGBTQ plus affirming scriptural references. Or can you give me some examples of empathetic communication? It can do that. Isn't that wild? A robot can say, I understand this can be a challenging and emotional journey for you. Your love and support for your child are important. And we can explore ways to navigate that together. That's pretty impressive coming from a robot, you know, all right. Oh, and it says, Remember, chat, GPT should complement not replace pastoral counselors role, right? Yes. Amen to that. Thank you, Chet GPT. So those are just a couple of the things that came up with in 30 seconds. And I think it's a good seed for more conversation and more thought.

Alright, pastoral care applications I've used it for you're stuck about how to help somebody. And you want to brainstorm situations with somebody with their permission. All right, don't go to chat GPT and say, chat up to somebody who's on the phone. And I don't know what to say to them. No, no, no, no, no, no, no.

Please disclose that you are using chat GPT.

So sitting with somebody, we've been talking about artificial intelligence. And they were talking about how they were really stuck because of some theology they grew up with that made them feel worthless, and they were having a hard time asking for the money, they need to pay rent, basically, you know, they need they need more money at their job, but they, they weren't sure how to do that. I said, What if we, you know, use chat GPT? Well, the stuff Chat GPT said, broke everything open.

It wasn't the end of the conversation. But I did know in the moment, we were both stuck. And it was a way to get unstuck. All right. Oh, you can use it to Rp difficult situations.

17:14
So I want to give you an example. Let's say there's someone in your life, who loves to draw you into drama. And they're incredibly difficult. And then let's imagine your therapist says,
you know, there's this method called the gray rock method. It's a great tool for dealing with toxic people. And it would be good for you to practice and you think I don't want to practice with toxic people. I don't want to be around toxic people unless I have to be. You can ask chat GPT to roleplay, a toxic individual. You give them all the characteristics of that individual and say I want to practice this method. Will you please evaluate how well I do? And tell me some other responses I could have given that would keep me from getting drawn into drama. Now, Chad gptc doesn't like playing toxic people, you might have to convince it. You might have to massage it, get it to give it what you want. But but that has been incredibly helpful. It can also be a tool for healing, right? Asking you what's something from the Bible that would help me comfort my inner child who was bullied. It'll give you a list of scriptures.

Caveats: **Chat GPT chatbots prefer customer service over truth.** All right, so they were trained on human communication. How often do we lie to people to make them feel good, Which Chat GPT does all the time.

So here's an example. How many letters are in the word 19? There are eight letters. Are you sure? I apologize. They're actually nine letters.

There are eight letters of the word in it, but it's lying because, right. Oh, **Chat GPT and Bard are creative. They are terrible at presenting factual information.** They are terrible at it. Do not ask them for historical data. Use your library, use Google use Bing, whatever you use to research Google Scholar.

19:06
I'll give you an example. I told that I'd like to honor some members of the United Church of Christ who have made a difference in the fight for LGBTQ plus rights, who are five people I should consider. And I'm sure y'all can think of five people off the top of your head. But here was its first response. Reverend Dr. Cameron Park Partridge was the first openly gay man to be elected president of the United Church of Christ. And he served in that role from 2013 to 2019.

19:32
How much of that is true?

Zero. Okay, he's Episcopalian. He is a Trans activist, who's the first trans person to preach at the National Cathedral but he is not United Church of Christ, nor did he serve as our president. Right? Just totally made it up. This is all from Bard. Right? Even more people. I mean, Matthew Vines does run The Reformation Project but he's not a UCC pastor. Right.

Dr. Amy Butler did serve UCC churches. But the book that it says she wrote, is not a name of any book, anywhere. It just made it up. It is a creative problem solver. It will tell you something that sounds good. Part of that is it uses predictive text. So it guesses based on the context, what's the next word that should come? Right. So, but it's making stuff up.

The nice thing is both will apologize. If you tell it that is not true. "I'm sorry, I've provided incorrect information.

Now, Bard just introduced like yesterday, a fact checking feature, and it's great. Oh, look at this has a new fact check feature. **Really the best fact-checker is going to be you.** And I encourage you not to take anything that Bard or Chad GPT says as fact they are creative problem solvers. They are not good at historical information, period. But let's submit this question and see how it does. Who are three current or historic UCC pastures are members of the UCC. That would be good to honor during Black History Month, I'll submit this. And it's going to come up with three people for sure. They will likely be historical figures.

And then it's going to make up some biographical information for them. A key word being made different. Alright, so it has Sharon Watkins is a the current President of the United Church of Christ, who now we know that is not the case. James Cohn.

Did you know James Cohn was an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ? He was not. And then Reverend William Barber, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, right. So see, some of it is accurate. And it also includes some books that he's written, none of which are oftentimes, the books I normally misnamed. I would not trust any of this.

But the good news about Bard is there is this new feature where you type the Google and it actually uses the internet to search to see if it can determine whether the information it provided you was correct or not.

All right, so Sharon Watkins, not if it's red, not true. So everything it's said about shirt. Sherman is questionable. James Cone, it's given us a lot of true information. Cohen's work has been influential in the United Church of Christ. But was he an ordained minister in the UCC? No.

And this information, if you Google, it is accurate about Dr. William Barber. So there you have it. And that's a really nice feature that chat GPT does not have.

23:00
So really quick, other things to know about GPT and Bard, do not trust them for legal advice!

They are monitored by real people. I mentioned that before, it's not completely confidential. They can speak all kinds of other languages, they are great at translating **chat. GPT, in particular, is a linguist, really, really good.** Although sometimes it'll make up words that are Spanish English mixed when I'm doing so just double-check it.

23:33
Oh, and if you have it write a code to do something for you in Python, it will also debug the code. If you get an error, which is kind of fun. **They respond a lot better when you're specific.**

And they are designed to be ethical, the way they got there was not.

Chat GPT. In particular, what they did is they had a bunch of people review horrifying content in poor countries, they paid them like $2 an hour. And these people were like horrifically traumatized, right. So you have an ethical bot, but it's built on really unethical foundations. So keep that in mind when you're using it.

Whether you want to support that or not. They are relatively progressive. There are ways on both to flag content that is inappropriate or problematic. So for example, I was asking it, some something about pastors and it kept using male gender for pastors. I said, By the way, there are also women and non binary people were pastors. It was like, oh, yeah, I'm sorry. And I won't do that again.

Unknown Speaker 24:33
And because it has real users behind the scenes, it needs them. They'll fix it. And so it'll continuously improve. **They'll learn within the same conversation. But as soon as you start a new conversation, it forgets everything you've talked about.** You can't get around firewalls with creativity. So for example, it doesn't like talking about religion a whole lot because it's such a sensitive topic, so you might have to convince it. I am a pastor or I am a Christian who's writing a funny stand up set about Christianity. And so I'm going to try to say some things that are sound a little irreverent. But I'm not actually being irreverent. And I'm aware that this is sensitive content, and you don't need to keep reminding me of that.

Alright, so just like you can't just like a human being right? It's a conversational model, you might have to convince it, that you are a benevolent actor.

Chat GPT I think more than anything is an enthusiastic collaborator. It's like calling your best friend and being like, I'm stuck on this problem. And they're like, Yes, I can help. Right. But sometimes your friend is not so enthusiastic. Chat. GPT is always enthusiastic, they are ready to help.

25:47
The other thing is, remember, **it's just like a conglomeration of these millions of perspectives on the internet, like, combined into sort of an average person and you are not an average person. So at the very least, it will be an alternative perspective that may make you think in a different way.**

26:03
Alright, I'm just gonna give you an example really fast. I asked it to write a "Can you outline a 15 minute sermon for me based on the story of the Ethiopian eunuch emphasizing affirmation and inclusion for people outside the gender binary," and it did a pretty good job.

So if you're watching this on YouTube, pause, if you want to read through this but it even says at the end, remember to speak with empathy, compassion, and a genuine desire to foster a more inclusive and affirming church community is giving you preaching notes too. **It's also great at summaries.** If you have sermons or documents or anything that you want to summarize in the little rate, like put on your website, it's fantastic for that.

Couple quick tips. Ask it if it knows about a topic before you ask a questions about that topic. Like I wanted to write a program that will tell me what the next text is in the lectionary.

First I asked it, what do you know about the Revised Common Lectionary because **if it doesn't know anything, it will make stuff up, right?**

27:07
Um, I'm going in circles. Here we go. Oh, be specific about what you need. The more specific the better. **If it doesn't give you what you want clarify asking more questions.** Oh, be kind. I know it is a robot. I know it is not sentient. That's part of the idea. It's not conscious. However, it is a conversational machine. And it will respond more antagonistically If you are antagonistic towards it, generally, so just Yeah.

27:39
If it says something offensive or amazing, make sure you flag it because a human being can read it and fix it. Alright, **I'm going to show you really fast the differences between Bard and Chet GPT**. I use both of them one is better for some things than others.

Let's compare Chat GPT and Google's Bard for this video, I will compare the free version of Chat GPT because it's used by the majority of people.

First of all, they are built on different large language models. GPT is running on GPT 3.5. And it has been trained on a data set of 175 billion words. Bard has been trained on a data set of one point 56 trillion words. However, more data set doesn't necessarily mean better output speed GPT will generate the response in real time and you can even read it along. However, it can be very slow sometimes. Also, if you're not happy with your response, you can retype the prompt or regenerate the response and you will have to wait again bars on the other hand will take few moments to think then it will spit out the whole response instantly.

I also like the draft option (on Bard), which gives you three different responses at the same time. And you don't have to regenerate another response and wait for it. Chat GPT doesn't have access to the internet. By default, you can install extensions, but they will not be able to perform complex tasks Bard is connected to the internet. It also can analyze entire websites and give you tips for improvement. And actually good ones.

Content generation: GPT is better at content creation and creative writing. It is also better at answering questions and summarizing texts.

Bard is better at accessing information because it's connected to the internet. I don't code but the majority of people say that Chat GPT is better at code generation debugging and explaining code snippets.

Please let me know in the comments your opinion.

Also Bard has two small but important advantages over Chat GPT. First one is the ability to explore the answer straight in Docs for Gmail. It all depends on your preferences and tasks you need to perform. I've personally used both. Yeah.

29:57
and they're always in development. I will say my favorite thing to do on Bard, everybody was talking about Israel and Palestine last night. And I felt like **I really needed to make sure that I was up on the latest news. And so I said, Bard, are you available? You know, can you read the news about ISRAEL PALESTINE over the last seven days and summarize it for me? And it did.** So during the meeting, I had a quick review of what had happened. And I googled it because it's the last seven days it's dataset is much older. So it had to look at the internet. And of course, I can fact-check it. But you know, I thought that was great.

All right, questions.

Before we move on to our next little, I'm gonna get out of here for a second. Let's take a breath. And it's a lot of information.

Derek Terry 30:45
I have a question. Yeah. So I'm not familiar with either Honestly, you're the first person ever to even show me chat GBT. So when he said, It's not hooked up to the internet

Pastor Sarah
Correct

Derek Terry
You get an app?

Pastor Sarah 31:00
So it is an internet website. **It's drawing from… think of it like an online encyclopedia.**
So **it has access to all of this data, but its data is limited. I think it ends the end of 2021. So it has no idea what's happened in 2022 or 2023**. And it has no ability to look that up.

That's another way if you want to play with Chat GPT you can be like well, in the year 2023. We're all driving flying cars and I want to know how to fly and it will believe you because it does not know any better.

And Bard - when it first gives you a response, it's the same. Unless you say can you please read the news from Google? It will give you a response from a dataset as well. It's little Encyclopedia of billions of articles. But if you want it to look something up for you, it also can chat GPT can't do that.

Derek Terry 32:02
Really helpful because I when I when I think of AI I always think of it's perfect for facts. So when you cuz you know that's what I like if I ask Alexa.

Pastor Sarah
Like a search engine. Yeah, exactly. Alexa, exactly.

Derek Terry 32:18
This what I found on the web.

Pastor Sarah
Exactly.

Derek Terry
But when you say this is a creative platform. Oh, so that's why it's not taking over? Because it's Yeah.

Pastor Sarah
And barred can't either. Yeah, it only has access to the data that is given. And then it's highly moderated, highly edited. There are so many controls. And you can hear Chat GPT has certain biases. And Bard has certain biases too, like I felt offended. It was using male language for God today. And I was like, Can you not do that anymore? And and it was like, okay, of course. But chat GPT I've already we've had that conversation.

Unknown Speaker 33:10
I'll give you an example. I had it right last night just for my own entertainment. But imagine the parable of the lost sheep. But instead of looking for the lost sheep, it's Jesus was looking for Where's Waldo? Like from the Where's Waldo books.

And it wrote the sweetest story about friendship, and like believing in people and not giving up on them. And I was like, Can you write it in the style of the New Revised Standard Version? And it gave me a new, right like, it is phenomenal. If you play role playing games like Dungeons and Dragons. The writing is extraordinary. Somebody had it write a Shakespearean sonnet about their dog the other day that I thought was brilliant, right? You saw the m&ms, the cat rap earlier.

It is extraordinary. It can write prayers for you. If you're really, really stuck. I've used Chet GPT for some of that I never copy and paste, right? But it can give me a direction.

It's like a friend you would call like, I would be like, Oh, Derek, I'm doing this, you know, coming out a service tomorrow. And I just don't know what to say is a blessing. And you could seed me with some ideas.

The other thing you can do is say, hey, Chat GPT I really want to put together a document for this event. Could you ask me 10 questions that I should be considering as I prepare for that event?

All right. So it doesn't even have to give you the content. But like, what should I be thinking about? What am I missing?

It's exceptional. **I do think it's important to declare when we use it,** in part because like somebody used it was at Washington State, there was a school shooting. And they use chat GBT to write the letter to the parents about how to deal with the school shooting. Now the letter was very compassionate. And it was well said, and I understand that if you're in the administration, and you just had a school shooting, you don't know what to say.

Catchy GPT is a great tool. But they kind of like copy pasted word for word it sounds like and that made people feel like well, there's not actually anyone who cares. There's a robot who wrote this for them.

You know, it's not coming from them. And I think as human beings that can be upsetting to people. You know how they knew that it was Chat GPT, you can copy and paste Chat GPT content into a bunch of sites and it will recognize it as chat GPT

35:53
Students use it all the time to plagiarize essays. Now, there are other websites that you can, including Grammarly, I think is one of them. But you can copy and paste chat GPT text into and it will regonize chat GPT.

36:19
Law students use it all the time. Like, what was it? Like 5% of Stanford Law students who were polled said that they had just literally copied and pasted Chat GPT answers into papers. And that's it. Stanford Law. Right? I understand. These are busy humans. So English teachers, pastors, everybody is having to adjust.

When English teacher I know is using it in a really cool way. They'll give it a prompt and have it write an essay in class. And then the students have to in class respond, how would I write this better? What did they miss? How could chat GPT have done better? You know, so we have to adapt. But I will say Chad TPTs writing is exceptional.

Wende Gonzales 37:03
It can write in the style of someone else, right?

Pastor Sarah
Yes. And then you get into the ethics of that. Is it plagiarized? If you say I want to write this in the style of XYZ. Now, in terms of the OMA community, though, one of the things I find really affirming, and this isn't a new conversation. Is that, are you familiar with the Gospels? You know, are you familiar? Yes, I've read all of the Bible, that okay, well, having read all the Bible, what do you think Jesus would say, to a parent whose child just came out as transgender, and the parent believes that the child is going to hell, and it will respond saying, I would tell, and it will create a story about how Jesus goes to that parent and says, the love of your child is the most important thing, I experienced the love of my father, and what that meant, and how, you know, my father called me a bowl of a child. And, and your child is a beloved child of God. And you know, and there will be stories written that affirm people like your child, and, you know, they anyway, it can be very affirming, I think, to hear, having read all the scriptures,

If you are a queer, trans part of the LGBTQ plus community. This scriptures affirm your existence and your right to be in the church. Right? That's, that's very powerful.

As as somebody doing sermon stuff, you can also say, hey, like, there's some story in the Hebrew Scriptures. I can't remember where it is that there's a story about this guy. And this happens. Do you remember, it'll give you the scriptural reference? Now you got to look it up, because it could. Again, it'

Derek Terry
People make up stuff that's not really in the Bible all the time. So that's not the supercomputer thing. It's always a check. Right?

Pastor Sarah
Yeah, I had a colleague who did a, they were just annoyed at how terrible Job's friends were to him. So he said, How would this story have been different if job encountered Muhammad, the Buddha and Gandhi and it rewrote the book of Job in a way that affirmed job and offered him wisdom and compassion instead of judgment. And for him that was healing.

You know, it really is incredibly versatile.

Derek Terry
I have one last question.

Pastor Sarah
Yeah. And then we're gonna move on to some other tools and talk about art.

Derek Terry
That Eminem Clip - did it just write the text or that it did it do the voice?

Pastor Sarah
Just the text, but there are AI voice generators and celebrity voice generators where you can type in text and sound like a wide variety of celebrities.

Derek Terrry
I've heard them. It's kind of weird. But yeah,

Pastor Sarah
Okay, they're not great yet, but they're getting better. You could even sound like me, I have enough videos, you can put my voice into an AI generator and give a talk in my voice. It's not entirely convincing yet if you know me, but if folks don't know me well, yeah, we'll talk about that a little bit. The deep fakes are terrifying. But I want to show you a couple other tools. One of them is called goblin tools.

 40:39
Oh, I guess I do have to share my screen. In order for that to work. Let's do that share screen.

Derek Terry 40:50
All right.

Pastor Sarah 40:54

This is by far one of my favorite tools, if only for the entertainment value, it's called goblin.tools. It breaks down tasks, magically breaks them into smaller steps. And generally, it just helps you manage your workflow. And it has a bunch of other tools too. But let's say for example, I'd like to organize a protest against people banning books in my local community. And I want to know what steps are required. You'll notice those chili peppers on the right, you can adjust that if you're needing a lot of breakdown, you put it five.

One chili pepper means you know, you can probably figure it out, you just need sort of a general outline, so I'll put it at three. For the purposes of this.

When you have your task input, click the plus button to add it to your list of tasks that will finish click the little magic wand next to your task. And then it will break your task down into all the required steps. And if you want one of those steps broken down further, you just click the magic wand next to the corresponding step.

There's social tools like the formalizer where you can turn your spicy thoughts into classy ones or vice versa. So for example, let's say you have a colleague who just isn't responding to email, you can write down what you really think. And then it will turn it into a more professional sounding correspondence.That delightful.

I**t saves you a lot of time .** Now I wouldn't cut and paste. Put it into your own words or whatever. You can also make it more sociable, more to the point less emotional and more passionate, more sarcastic is one of my favorites. It also has a tool called the judge. If you're not great at reading the tone of emails or want to know how the tone of your own emails or texts comes across, put the text in here and it will give you an assessment of how your message comes across.

The chef… This is funny, write what ingredients you have and it should come up with a recipe that you can use.

So if you're looking at the church pantry and wondering what can we make out of this for the church potluck, here is a tool for you.

It even gives you cooking instructions. If you try this, please let me know how it goes.

43:46
And if you're someone who processes out loud, you can just turn on your microphone speak to the compiler, which is another option on here. Tell it about all the things you have to do today. And then it will transform your brain dump into an actual list of tasks. And it's incredibly good at this you can then add them to your magic to do list as well.

Programs like this are available. This is just one of them that I highly recommend. It is a game changer. Also it's fun.

Derek Terry 44:21
Alright, so let's goblin tools. This is another one I don't know about you, but I have some older people who are always asking me how to do things online.

Pastor Sarah
Okay, if your coworkers are asking you to explain things all the time, this is what you should do. Go to scribd.com and get the Chrome extension it'll make you a how to guide for any online process. So just download the extension hit start recording and do whatever process you need to explain exactly as you normally would. Then when you're done hit stop recording and scribe makes you this automatic step by step guide complete with screenshots and texts that you can edit and share the incredible so and I did that with the goblin tools and there it is it created like everything I just told you on the video. It shows you how to do it

Derek Terry 45:02
Absolutely amazing.

Pastor Sarah 45:05
All right. grammerly is another one a lot of people love. It's good for editing content writer friends love it. All right, let's move on to AI art.

This is a image I made, David slays Goliathimagining David and Goliath in a Lip Sync Battle in drag.

So there are a lot of AI art programs, I could send you that if you want.

Adobe Firefly is the one I'm going to highlight right now, because AI art is inherently unethical, it's really problematic. My artists, friends, some of them are just saying don't use that at all. So keep that in mind. People in the artist community are saying it is really, really problematic. Adobe Firefly promises that they only draw from Adobe stock images, openly licensed content content and public domain content.

Now, is that accurate? I don't know. But they're trying. So Adobe, Firefly is fantastic.

46:15
Let's say you want to make a bulletin cover. All right. And I type in two women named Naomi and Ruth who are queer icons in the Bible, hug each other and show each other their love in the desert surrounded by mountains. And these are four images that came up with all which I think could be a decent bulletin cover, you know, here's some more.

I had them dressed like hikers in New Mexico.

Now, be careful playing with it, you only get so many opportunities on. It's the same on dolly and some of the other ones. You can buy credits for five bucks. But

You know, it doesn't always do great. I tried to have it dress in more traditional New Mexico style. And it was very creative with that. But look at the picture in the bottom left.

All right, drawing hands. It's hard for everyone, especially AI. Now here's the good news.

Oh, and about hands, I'll get the hands in a second. But specifics help. The more specific you are about the lighting, the shading the angle, you can say I want this coming from a camera angle, you know, from this height looking at this direction, and this, you know, whatever style. By the way, Chet GPT is really great at helping you write prompts for AI art programs.

So if you describe to chat GPT, what you want, it'll tell you something that's more likely to get you what you want.

Derek Terry
Yeah, but I thought these were pretty, pretty great.

48:00
The nice thing about AI art is you can also create images you just can't find anywhere else. So I was doing a video about cowboys in the south and black cowboys in the early in the Wild West, you know, and I also found out that a bunch of cowboys rode camels. Alright, who has a picture of a black cowboy on a camel, zero people that I could find on the internet. There weren't a lot of cameras period, I felt like two pictures of cowboys on camels. But there's a lot of writing about it. And so I can put a cowboy on a camel and have that image.

Now, this image I love, right. I love this image. But we have the hand problem. She's got six fingers, which which is not a problem, right? It's okay to have six fingers. But you know what if I don't want her to have six fingers? Well, we can do this on Adobe, Firefly. And a variety of these programs now have something called generative fill. This is where you take one of your own photos that you want to edit. You put it into their program.

And you can see there are a whole bunch of options but we're just going to do the generative fill. And so I'm going to erase this hand here and then ask AI to imagine what could be there instead. And it's actually going to give me three possible options. And the second option if you zoom in is with just five fingers. So pretty exciting.

Speaker 1 49:35
AI is fun, but there are so many ethical challenges. So including that it's hurting artists. Derek, you and I talked about this, we'd really love to be able to pay artists and commissioned artists to do our bulletins for example, to do art in the church. A lot of churches can't afford to. And a lot of places are saying, well, why illustrate my novel, I could just have al generate art for my novel. And plagiarism and privacy issues are big, and there are other dangers. So let's listen really fast. I think John Oliver covers it

John Oliver clip (for educational purposes only)
There will undoubtedly be bumps along the way. Some of these new programs raise troubling ethical concerns. For instance, artists have flagged that AI image generators like mid journey or stable diffusion not only threaten their jobs, but infuriatingly in some cases have been trained on billions of images that include their own work that had been scraped from the internet. Getty Images is actually suing the company behind stable diffusion and might have a case given that one of the images the program generated was this one, which you immediately see has a distorted Getty Images logo on it. But it gets worse when one artist searched a database of images on which some of these programs were trained, she was shocked to find private medical record photos taken by her doctor, which feels both intrusive and unnecessary. Why does it need to train on data that's sensitive? To be able to create stunning images like John Oliver and Miss Piggy grow old together, just look at that, look at that thing. That is a startlingly accurate picture of Miss Piggy in about five decades. And me in about a year and a half, it's a masterpiece. This all raises thorny questions of privacy and plagiarism and the scene.

Pastor Sarah
Right. And the other thing is, because AI is trained on actual images, the biases that we have in our society show up in AI art as well. Now, a lot of programs like you saw, there was some diversity in the people that were depicted in the images I showed you before. And those were, I didn't prompt it to show me people from different backgrounds, or different racial groups or whatever different ethnicities, it did that on its own. Not all AI programs do that. And they're still working on it.

And they have to, like, they have to deal with the fact that we live in a racist society. We live in a sexist society and homophobic society, right? So they have, they have to adapt to that and account for that. So for example, there was one, I was trying to make images of a pastor dressed for Coming Out Day, right, what would be a great LGBTQ plus supportive thing. It only gave me male images. When I put Pastor, I even put pastor in a dress, and this is what it came up with. All right. Right pastor and address these are the pastors and address all have facial hair. Now when I said female pastor, it came up with stunning images of women. All right. These are not real women, as these are all stapled to fusion. Women. You'll find the same in other professions. Like if I said a nurse with a mustache, this is what it comes up with. All right, 100% of the images on this particular thing. Were women now. Firefly is better about it, but that's what you have. Alright, so I want to ask you, what are some of the practical uses of Ayar in your ministry setting that you think would enhance your ministry without compromising your ethics?

53:28
Sometimes I need a in my work with social media, newsletters and websites, sometimes I just really need a good graphic to go with my story or article or social media posts. And so yeah, I, I, I use Canva. And they have some AI generation. And so it's still in the works. You know, it's it's, it's not the greatest sometimes, but now they have these all cool AI tools that you can change what they give you. So yeah, so that's one thing that I'm using Ayar more.

Yeah, it's so convenient because you've come up with something creative and special and there is no photo for it. There's not a graphic for you or, you know, niche content, whatever it is.

Wende Gonzales
I didn't know Canva did that. I think it's pretty new, right? Ah, it's new in Canva. Yeah, it's pretty new. It's it's less than a year. I think that that it came out. And I'm not sure if you can use it in the free version or not i The paid version. And I think they keep trying to tell me about it. And I'm just like, go away.

I think they're doing something that with words, like I say they keep, like punched in me that they can like magic words or write something magic,

Pastor Sarah 54:49
right? Yeah. I don't think I've tried that one yet. But Firefly has something similar.

Derek Terry

I felt like that's where I'm going to try. I feel like I spend a lot of time trying to come up with my own, like, you know, social media posts, do I need some email? It sometimes it takes me a long time to like, get the words that I need. And just watching you do. Like, just like, I felt like it's like those writing prompts. Like, if you just get me started, I can go there. But I feel like it will save a lot of time. Like, how do I work this? Right?

Pastor Sarah 5:56
And even so even on chat GPT I know Bard has the microphone, but at least don't I have accessibility features turned on on my phone. So I can just tap the mic anytime and speak to text. And I can just say, Listen, I really want to communicate this. And you can just kind of talk to it like it's a person. Can you compose an email that communicates what all the stuff I've just told you and understands and then puts it into a cohesive? It is a time saver for sure that way.

Derek Terry 6:33
See I'm interested in that. And I'm interested in trying to use it for my art I've learned to draw. So sometimes like I don't know how, like, you know, certain things, and sometimes YouTube isn't it's good for like the visual, but sometimes just to just to see, to see words describing what what it is, or what do I need to create something or me I'm interested to play around with it, honestly.

Pastor Sarah 7:04
Yeah, I used it, I made clothing and I was struggling with what to wear to Nashville to the Dove Awards And I was like, Can you give me some examples of a pastor who's dressed like a pastor, but it's going to an award show in Nashville and is trying to support the LGBTQ plus community. And I didn't like I didn't end up making any of the outfits that it showed me. But it gave me a sense of the feel. And right because it's drawing from like, the devil words over the years and what people wear. And I like I just had a better sense of where to start.

Wende Gonzales 7:40
And can it generate patterns?

Pastor Sarah
No, it can't generate patterns from the image. But that would be amazing. Yeah. I bet you could design a program to do that. It doesn't exist as far as I know, yet. It doesn't. I just wondered. Yeah, but as somebody who says, sewist.com is great. And you know, the patterns are like $4, but you give it your measurements, and you kind of pick different options, and it puts them all together and drafts it magically. They do have human beings who spot check it and make sure that it's all correct. And that's the thing, all of this AI is edited and watched and supervised by human beings. None of its out there on its own just doing its

own thing. The only time we've like released AI into the wild, it's gone really, really badly. Like there was that Twitter chat bot that was supposed to learn from people's tweets and ended up saying like horrible things within a very short amount of time. So moderation is a massive issue in AI ethics. And it's really hard to do.

Derek Terry 9:02
How do you.. you said that we should alert? So if I use AI to create a bulletin board or if I use it to write an introduction to the sermon.How do you like do you say that you put it in the bulletin like how do you usually inform?

Pastor Sarah 9:19
Yeah, so if you um so if you just use it word for word, then I would put somewhere on the bulletin. You know, today's bulletin introduction was created with support from AI or with Chad GPT. I mean, you could chat GPT specifically if you wanted to, or with help from Google Bard. I really also your voice is probably going to be different than Chat TPTs voice. I've never had it output something where I was like I'm going to use that exact thing. But it is good as a starting place. Especially if you're writing something that's very difficult and very sensitive.

And judging sort of how an email comes across email in particular, because you, you don't like more talking in person, you get more feedback. So yeah, I find it really helpful. And that's probably why the people at the university used it to write the letter to parents about the school shooting, because it's a very sensitive topic, you don't know what to say. And it wrote something really great. They still should have used it as a starting place and put it in their own words.

Also, I think we have to do some education around AI because there are people like you were saying, you got some some harsh comments about the fact that we're even talking can AI be used for good?

And when do you use a really good question about can this be used by other governments for nefarious purposes?

Absolutely. Just like any tool, I mean, we're already using AI for nefarious purposes. Our police used facial recognition, to find a friend of mine who happened to be photographed in a Facebook picture, right? They picked somebody up at Black Lives Matter protest, they scanned all of her Facebook pictures, and then they used facial recognition to find other people who were at the protest that they could call in for questioning or arrest. That is super problematic. And that's a use of AI that I think is not okay. And right well, and they used it also ticket but then they also used it to catch the people who stormed the Capitol, right and tried to stop democracy or whatever they're trying to do. It's really rough. Right? If there are unethical people, they will use it unethically. And there is a fear that automation will replace people's jobs.

Right. One interesting thing I did ask AI about. That's why we need the algorithm to be transparent. So we know how do you get from point A to point B? Right? I was, you see the inputs, you see the outputs, you don't know how it gets there. And so I asked Chad GPT, let's imagine a hypothetical boardroom where you're discussing the ethics of AI, put 10 historical characters on that board, how do they feel about transparency?

It put 10 ethical people on there. And they all said that algorithm should be open source. And I said, Okay, well, who on this theoretical board, let's imagine who from history would advocate for no transparency that all this AI should be proprietary people should like because, you know, capitalism, and we want money instead of transparency. And it said, well, and Rand and Ronald Reagan.

So now, this is a hypothetical situation. It's not real. But there are major ethical considerations. I do believe that people can make a ton of money from AI. And I don't think that they're all thinking about the implications on artists, on writers on human beings who are affected by this. So passing legislation that controls AI, and some might regulate it, just like every other industry seems valuable.

We'll ask more questions a minute. Do you have any pressing questions at this moment?

<looks at chat>

Okay. Let's talk about the future. This is scary stuff. I think a little bit of a scary All right. So voice synth filters, right filters are dangerous, because I can make myself look online. Look, it'll do my makeup. For me, it'll change my voice, it can make me sound like a great singer. **All of a sudden, I'm this avatar that's really separate from who I am in real life, psychologically, that can be incredibly damaging.**

We've already seen that on Instagram and other platforms where it's especially hurt young women and body image issues and all of that, if you are always presenting a filtered version of yourself, and that's who everyone is liking and commenting and loving. How do you feel about your real self, you know? So that's that's really problematic.

Voice synth - so you can take this entire webinar and plug it into a program that can give a different webinar and call my family and ask them for money. So I recommend everybody have a code word with their family and with their congregation with Anybody who you might ask money from, make sure you have a code word my family does. And we ask it if they ask any kind of strange things. Because somebody could leave a voicemail and say, Oh, hey, it's Derek. And, you know, Can you can you help me out? Right, Wendy can call Wendy can call. Hey, we didn't get your money for the clergy retreat. Can you

please send a check or Venmo me at this address? I wasn't Wendy. Alright, so make sure you have a codeword. Let me show you an example. Just to show you how good it has gotten.

Speaker 5 15:39
Do you notice anything weird about my voice? You might, but you probably don't. And that's because Artificial intelligence has gotten so good that you didn't realize this was a synthesized clone of my voice. That's right. That wasn't me talking. That was artificial intelligence that was AI talking a perfect clone of my voice with just a couple minutes of audio input into this website, which is by far and away the best voice synthesizer on the planet.

And the crazy thing about it is that it mimics it almost identically with pauses with inflections with the right cadence. And you can even make it say the same thing over and over and over again in a variety of different ways. Good. Hello, my friends. How are you doing today? Great. Hello, my friends. How are you doing today? Weird. But Hello, my friends. How are you doing today? Well, hello, my friends. How are you doing today? Not so good. Hello, my friends. How are you doing today. So that's crazy. And keep in mind that AI has entered an exponential growth curve. And right now is the worst set it'll ever be the next few years are gonna get absolutely crazy. Follow me, I'll keep you updated.

Speaker 1 16:38
So there's other programs. A website. And apparently Xerox and zoom are already using it. This is a website called Synthesia, and I'm showing it to you. It's not the only one out there like it, there are a lot of them. They seem to have great metrics that they claim, including zoom. If you work for zoom, you will get trainings like this. But this is one of the future innovations, which is that I think you're able to use avatars or even an avatar of yourself done to create presentations that then you can port into different languages and the AI will do that for you. Let me show you a couple examples.

Video from Synthesia 17:24
I'm Alex and here's a quick Synthesia product demo. To begin, choose from a wide variety of fully customizable video templates. Then select your preferred AI avatar. Now type and text in over 120 languages. And choose a narration style or local accent connects. This is how we sound in English. What do you think? I see is commerce Winona spaniel. Katy Perry. Was Seco Moses, son of Jose? Comprehensive?

18:02
Is the technology out there to take videos of you and make you into an avatar? And then have you give presentations in 100 different languages? Yes, that technology is out there. It's expensive. Corporations are using it though. Obviously, they can do it with a model. They can do it with you. I don't think the applications for churches and community groups are there yet.

However, in the future, potentially. There are opportunities here to expand the sharing of the good news into other languages, which is really cool. You could actually have someone sharing your content in an accent that sounds great to them. All right. So stop it their reactions to that content.

Derek Terry 18:57
I get scared for political ads. Yeah.

Pastor Sarah 19:02
Yeah. If you're on a candidate's website, so this is the thing I feel like we have to get better at recognizing and being skeptical. Yes, period. You know, we've got because of all the scam calls and all of that I think we've gotten a little bit better. Like the IRS calls me all the time. So does FedEx and UPS. None of them are real. Right? We're gonna arrest you in the next five minutes. If you don't rub a robber. It's like no, you're not you left a message 10 hours ago, obviously I'm not arrested, but the same thing is gonna happen with AI and it's just gonna get better and better. And instead of saying we're the FBI, they're gonna say where your mother and they're gonna have a recording of your mother's voice and that's really scary.

And people are already doing that like they are a big thing on NPR about it. How like one Mother, like cashed out somebody $500 because she thought her daughter, who was in college was kidnapped or something weird. And yeah, my grandfather got a call. I don't think it was this type of situation. But my mother calls me and she's like, are you in jail? And I'm like, No, I'm sitting on my couch. And I'm like, she's like, where are you? I'm like sitting on the couch. I just cut the grass. I really need to shower. But I'm telling you no, like, I'm going to this old thing. And she's like, Well, someone who's called your grandfather said you were arrested and needed money. And I don't think it was my voice. But he ate it. You know, he's older. He doesn't. I mean, he doesn't really pay attention to what I sound like sometimes. And

So yeah, yeah, that reminds me, I should call my mother and tell her about, can I talk to my kids about it. But I think it's important to educate our elders, especially.

Derek Terry
Especially for us. And when I say us, like your platform is way bigger than mine. And when you're doing this type of work, people come people attack us in various ways. And you this, you know, like, we have a big target. And he does all it takes is one person to do something crazy.

Pastor Sarah 21:25

Yeah, they're fake accounts that pop up all the time, and they can just copy and paste your videos already. And then they can Yeah, they can call people use your voice. That's really scary. Yep. So so there are these scary sides to AI. **And so maybe that's our big takeaway is that we have to get better at recognizing what human feels like, and stay tethered to something real ourselves.** I think using filters, and that kind of thing on ourselves, and using voice modulators, it can be like, psychologically a little disturbing. You know, like, I don't even like dressing up as Karen, right, like, and seeing that on screen and be like, I know, that's me. But I'm in a blonde wig and acting as part and that's in saying some awful things, and I don't like it. So I think we have to stay tethered to something real. And I think that's actually a place where the church can step in. And keep us tethered to community and to people that matter to something human.

And maybe, like, sometimes, it might be cool to use Dall-E for bulletin covers, but every now and then, to find resources to support a local artist or to support like I used to.

Derek Terry
I paid for Christmas gifts four years ago, using, like, you would send me a picture and I would literally draw a cartoon of you based on that picture. And it was, you know, I charge 25 bucks. And people love them. People love seeing themselves cartoons. But now that's, you can do that all day long with an app. And some like it's really cutting into my like, it's all of a sudden cut into it. Can change it. I could change it to look like a cartoon, but it can't bring out the characteristics that you do.

Pastor Sarah
Exactly. But it's not personal

Derek Terry
Exactly it's not personalized.

Pastor Sarah
It is definitely inferior. Ai art is inferior period.

Derek Terry
Absolutely. And then people start asking me oh, what app did you use? And I'm like, illustrate brain. Yeah, like it's digital. But it's like, Hey, I'm two hands. The Apple pencil like this is three hours, like so. 25 bucks. Yeah. Now, like you're making a lot, but I can do it while I'm watching TV. And you know, I did 100 of them over the course of the year that was, you know, a nice little income. Yeah. But that's gone way down since

Pastor Sarah 1 24:13
Interesting. Yeah. And that's the kind of impact I think we're gonna keep seeing. And so also as creative people, I think that people who are creative who adapt and start using AI are going to be the ones that thrive instead of seeing it as an enemy saying, Okay, well, how can I use this as a tool for good?

Derek Terry 4 24:32
That's I'm going to ask chat GPT. So hey, I have some questions. Like, what do you think like, what is some ideas?

Pastor Sarah 24:39
Right? Yeah,

 24:40
and I think that's another thing. I mean, there are people who've used chat GPT to enhance their business and make money and certainly, you know, say, Hey, these are my skills. Can you help me put together a business plan? These are my skills, this is the time I have to spend. These are my goals. What are some ways to put that all together and it does a pretty good job of that honestly. So, yeah, but I do think, right Could you could you use AI art? i There are rules about you're not supposed to use AI art and then profit off of it.

25:13
Oh, I know somebody who's creating it and then putting it on putting it on. Things to sell on Etsy now, right? And yeah, that's No, I

 25:25
No, I don't think you're supposed to do that. Yeah, you're not?

25:27
You're not?

Pastor Sarah 1 25:28
Yeah. Especially like, depending on what you're using it for. Great. So if you're putting royalty free images on cards, right, but you're not supporting? I don't know, it's a lot of the AI art programs that do phenomenal stuff, are pulling from actual artists, right? You're doing stuff in the style of someone who has honed their craft, they've gone to school, they've done all this work. And they're struggling and you're profiting off of their work. Yep. Without paying them anything. Right there. I didn't talk

about AI music. That's another thing that's new. You can have it right to a jingle, you can have it right you background music, and it's pretty. It's pretty good. Wow. It's crazy.

Derek Terry 26:19
Makes me think of the guy. I can't think of his name. Now. He was the official Obama photographer while he was president Zimmerman, something like that.

So you know, I follow him on Instagram for years. And the images are also well, you know, the, you know, the citizens, we taxpayers pay for that, that role in all the images that he took, are in the public domain. Yeah. So he's talked about how he has been in stores and seen his images, which are in the public domain, but there are published, you know, portraits of Obama, like, full on portraits, that, that he's taken. And he doesn't get any, you know, no. Money, he doesn't even get in like, mentioned, or Thank you, or, Hey, we're publishing this book. So it's just in that and I think, like, with us being a church, we have to always talk about the ethical, moral, you know, like, like, the whole idea of what is this doing? And, and even if I think it's for good, like, what is the price of that ticket? Like, what is it? Can you hold on to your integrity while doing it?

Pastor Sarah 27:37
Exactly. I mean, the moment we start to compromise our integrity, we've lost, it's just, we have to hold on to that. Yeah, so for bulletin covers, right now we are having we're not using AI art, although, because I've been talking to my congregation, I usually have been collaborating with an artist in the congregation to put together something for the bulletin using AI. But ya know, we're trying to ask folks, if that's something that like that they'd like to volunteer to do you know, or should we take up a collection and try to sponsor because it's mostly our young people who want to practice their art and try to imagine bulletin cover stuff. Their favorite we had a young person draw Jesus as a panda walking on the water, carrying communion. It was fantastic. Panda Jesus,

Derek Terry
Also, that and maybe that's something there is a good way as we as we wrap up, that's something for us to creatively imagine how do we as a church engage the creatives within our churches, like when we talk about ministry ministry is not just standing, wearing a wearing a robe, but we have all across our denomination and all across this humanity period, there are creatives and people who are doing things and is there a group or listserv or Fiverr for for the UCC, like, is there some type of clearing house or people are saying, hey, I need a bulletin cover. This is what my budget is, you know, like some just waste for us that would be so helpful, like a directory, right? If we want to commission a portrait of, you know, a founder of our church who's you know, retiring and we want to honor them or a memorial bench or something. Right? We want somebody

to carve a memorial bench or we'd really love it designed for new choir robes and but you know, who could do that? That would be amazing.

Pastor Sarah
That's something. Yeah. Imagine how does this happen ?I do believe the spirit moves. And I do believe that that's part of what inspires creativity. And that's not present in AI. Right? But we can bring our touch to it, right? It's all drawing from people who were inspired. And it's putting it all together. So I think it's going to be a complicated, complicated path. But it's been fun talking to you all about it. Ah,

Derek Terry 30:25
This was, first of all, let me just say, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you. Because just the amount of work, and thought and thoughtfulness that you put into this presentation, this far exceeded my expectations. And it was really helpful for me, and so just thank you. And I know this is going to be super helpful for all the people who watch the YouTube. And when we send it out to our 10,000 email list saying, this is something I know people are so so many people are so afraid, but like you started with, it's not going away. And so how do we look at it as good and not evil?

Pastor Sarah 31:09
Like Anything - How can we protect ourselves and make sure we pass regulations so that we do kind of create a safe safeguard, you know, it's like all tools when we talk in the boundary training, Power is power, it's another resource, and you can use it and the more power you have, the more you can hurt or help. And so if we, if we look at this as power as a resource, it's something we can use for good. And Chad JPD is awesome at coming up with ways you can use it for good to build a more inclusive community. I think that's awesome. Absolutely.

Derek Terry 31:49
Absolutely. And so thank you for doing this Pastor Sarah, thank everyone who came who's watching it. Lter, we get to spend some more time in classes here on the 24th of October. This is a little less scary for people. But it's the whole idea of our social media brand. And how we identify that and yeah, so I'm excited about that.

I hope some UCC marketing folks come to that one because I want to hear more. I have not yet had a conversation with our marketing, folks. But I'm hoping to one of these days I've reached out and I'm I'm hopeful, but we did have Reverend Timotheth talk to them.

Yeah, we're he's amazing, isn't he?

Pastor Sarah 32:54
Well, and Reverend Derek Terry is a TiKTok star himself. Huge social media platform now on Instagram as well.

 33:02
You're rushing to follow right now? Oh, gosh,

3:06
yeah, follow him immediately.

 33:08
Ya know, I don't know. I think it's because I was there in the beginning. And I helped build a community. And so I think and formula that works. And I take breaks. I do, too. I've been off the last week. I think I posted something today to Instagram saying basically, I'm doing a lot. I'll see you in a couple of weeks. But I take I take months, the negativity sometimes just and I'm just like, I'm like this. It's hard enough pastor and you know, we had some weight break ends at the church and some, like some crazy stuff. So I said, You know what? It's just, but I feel the feel the itch, and it's just like, well, you know how it is. It's just, I have a love hate relationship with social media.

I think the creativity side is really fun. That's what I love that part. And because I've curated a great audience on Tik Tok, I love being there, Instagram. It's not, I'm not there yet. But the bigger I get, the more well in the more moderation tools. But one of the things I'll talk about in a couple of weeks is not just how to build your brand, but how to get out of your niche, and how to find your niche and then get out of it.

So find the rest of the body of Christ. Because I think in Christianity, in our lives, we end up very segregated and very siloed and one of the things I love about social media is it brings me together with people that I would never meet otherwise, and has exposed me to cultures to religions to all kinds of stuff, right? Like because of speaking of which, yeah, I'm now worried about my friends who are in Israel. One wouldn't have I know they I knew anybody who is an Orthodox Jew who lived in Israel before Tiktok. But because of this, this clergy group that we built and you know, I, it shifts the way I experienced the world and world news, for sure. You know, some happens in Atlanta even Well, now I know people there, right? And they're broadcasting what's going on in the moment right at the protest at COP city, or, you know, at their grandma's wedding, you know, grandma's 85, and get married again. And like, I've never been to a wedding of an 85 year old. And that's awfully fun

that they're inviting the whole world. You know, you get to experience stuff you never would in your little pocket of the world, and it has transformed me. So we'll talk more about that. That's UCC.

Derek Terry 35:53
Perfect, perfect picture of the UCC. Perfect, perfect, perfect. It's October 24 7pm. Eastern.

Pastor Sarah 36:00
And you've got a bunch of webinars coming up. Isn't there one like a couple days?

Derek Terry 36:05
We have a book club in a couple days. We're reading the Coss and the Lynching Tree by James Cone. Which is why when James Cone made his way into this presentation, I said I he thought he was ame. Evidently,

Unknown Speaker 36:20
I thought he was UCC. But then it was at least clarified. That was not the case. Yep. These are all getting so much better every day too. And I think the biggest thing is folks like you, like us, our show busy. And there's so much going on. And if we can use those to offload some of the stuff we're not good at. Like I am terrible at reading and responding to emails and I get stuck sometimes trying to find the right thing to say. If it can help me compose a response that makes sense. That's professional to some kind of company that keeps reaching out then. Hurray, I can move on with my day and do pastoral care.

Derek Terry 37:12
Perfect, perfect. Perfect. Thank you so much, Pastor Sarah, thank you so much, everyone, we'll see you in a couple of weeks and take care and god bless. Yeah.

37:25
Should we stop record? Okay, I'm still here. Sorry.

Unknown Speaker 37:29
Let's see. No, you can stop recording because I'm the host.

Transcribed by https://otter.ai and edited by Pastor Sarah TevisTownes for accuracy.