

FPC Press

SINCE 1909

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

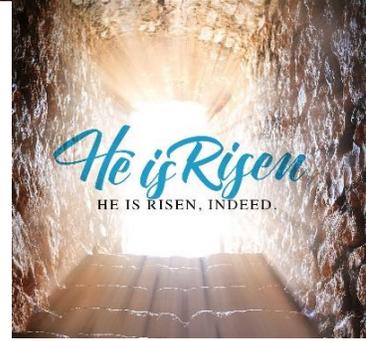
Turlock, California

April 2021

Published Monthly



A Message From Our Pastor's Heart Rev. Dr. Craig J. Wright



Spring Greetings Church Family,

It is the beginning of Holy Week. I should be looking toward Easter but I am looking back instead. I will catch up in the next day or two and be right on time for our celebrations of the resurrection, I promise. For now, though, I need to take care of some business that has passed. About two weeks ago you all gathered after worship to say thanks to me for 12 years of service as your pastor and you wished me a happy birthday for my 60th. So many of you contributed to a gift that was grand and overwhelming. Thank You all so much! To feel appreciated is a wonderful thing, that is why I hope that you all know how much I appreciate you. I still consider it a privilege to serve First Presbyterian, I am sure I will always feel that way. Thank You – Thank You – Thank You!

Now I read once that the happiest decade for many people is their 60's. The article suggested this was because by 60 you know who you are, what you like and dislike, and you order your life around those things. At 60 you graciously decline invitations to do things you do not enjoy and are willing to participate in things that give you joy. By 60 you are probably finished climbing the proverbial corporate ladder and are having thoughts about retirement, travel, time with grandkids and volunteering, and the like. I am looking forward to the next ten years of life with a newfound optimism.

I am also thinking about legacy. Not my legacy as much as ours. What will First Presbyterian be like in the next decade? Will we adapt to changing times and continue to be relevant to our community and our world? Will we trust

God and each other and seek to accomplish great things for Christ? Will we in the next decade embrace our mission statement, to “Know Christ and Make Him Known” with renewed energy? Will we participate in the new “roaring twenties” as this pandemic moves into the past?

I pray that we will. I pray that we all catch a new vision. Oh, not like this old pastor enjoying his 60's, but a new vision that energizes us to bring the messages of grace, and love, acceptance, and forgiveness to the world around us in a joyful fevered pitch.

One thing we know for sure looking forward past this last year or so, one thing we know for certain, is that people have been alone – stressed – afraid and hurting. And the roaring twenties at FPC needs to be a newfound commitment to being a place and a people who bring friendship and healing to the world around us. In the approaching post-pandemic time, we will have our arms wide open! Our vision for mission. Ministry, and property restored- together we can craft an amazing legacy of love in Turlock and around the world.

So, thank you for appreciating me and thank you for your generosity. Now let's get our church ready to “pull out the stops!” If you need that phrase explained ask Dr. Kidwell or Barbara Bort. Now back to the Easter sermon –

Blessings on you all,

Pastor Craig

Announcements

WELCOME BACK

WE ARE BACK & IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU!

Together Again – In Person
Service Times 9 & 11am



GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS
MEDITATIVE PRAYER
REFLECTION

APRIL 2ND

5:30 – 8:30PM



YOUTH MINISTRY

GLOW IN THE DARK GAMES
SUNDAY, APRIL 11th • 7 – 8 pm

HIDE IT IN YOUR
HEART
WEDNESDAYS ZOOM

6:30 – 7:30 PM



Easter is almost **HERE!**

Every day until Easter there is a Devotional Message which you can find on our website at fpturlock.com.

On Good Friday, April 2, there will be a time to gather in the Sanctuary between 5:30 pm and 8:30 pm. This will be a time to silently reflect on Christ's journey to the cross. This will be a time of quiet music, candles, and thoughtful meditation.

On EASTER SUNDAY, **April 4**, our first Worship service will be a Sunrise Service at 6:45 am in the Breezeway! The other two Worship services will be in the Sanctuary at 9 am and 11 am, and Communion will be served at all three services as we celebrate our Risen Lord!

*Christ is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed!
Alleluiah!*



CHILDREN MINISTRY

Join us in person Easter Sunday morning as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection! We will meet in Voight Hall. If you are unable to join us in person, celebrate with the online video and activity packets.

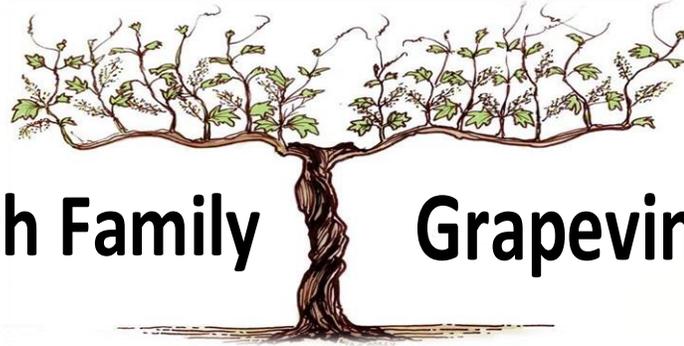
Big Wednesday will continue to be online only until further notice.



Happy Easter
HE IS RISEN
Celebrate the Savior!



*Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade." 1 Peter 1:3-4*



Church Family Grapevine

Ongoing Prayer Needs Key Code:

P-Personal, F-Family, G-Grief, H-Health, S-Surgery, PG- Pregnancy, E-Employment, ST-Safe Travel, A-Adoption, SA-Salvation, M-Military



Brugger, Betty (H)

Brunton, Bob (H)

Craft, Joanne (S,H)

Drescher Family (G)

Gaffney, Rick (S,H)

Josh, Sheila (H)

Lansing, Del (H)

McClellan, Barbara (H)

Murdoff, Charlotte (H)

Peterson, Mark (H)

Reeves, Jean (H)

Runsten, Tricia (Darlene's Daughter) (H)

Sargis, Mabel (H)

Smith, Betty (H)

Rev. Springer, Paul (H)

Wiegman, Joyce (H)

Residents & Employees of Covenant Living
& Turlock Nursing Rehab

Birthdays

Apr 3 Robert Traut

Apr 5 Joshua Clegg

Apr 6 Sophie Meiselman

Apr 7 Irene Lanchester

Apr 9 Dick Freeman

Apr 13 Ryan Njock

Apr 16 Marge Lipe

Apr 17 Noma Arakelian

Apr 29 Beverly Knutsen

Anniversaries

Apr 2 Rick & Ruth Gaffney

Apr 21 Mark & Alison Aldax

Apr 27 Candace Peterson

& Tom Holsinger

Apr 28 Bill & Emily Bishop



*If we have missed your birthday or anniversary,
please contact the church office.*



Dear Church Family,

THANK YOU for the kindness and concern expressed in the shower of phone calls, and cards of condolence, which I have received over the past two months, following the death of my husband, Richard. It was also touching to receive the lovely prayer shawls from our church prayer shawl ministry, especially from Marilynn Brunton and Polet Yonan. I also appreciate the work Polet put into preparing a thoughtful program for our family graveside service. And finally, I wish to express our gratitude to our Pastor, Craig Wright, who delivered a beautiful homily on the "Unconditional Love of God", which provided us with consolation and comfort.

I thank all of you for "being there". ~ Vivien Huntley



BABY SHOWER



in honor of

FLORENCE EYABI

Sunday, April 11th at 12:30 pm

Voight Hall

after 2nd worship service

RSVP Pat Weisel

pweisel33@gmail.com

by April 9th

BABY BOY

Turlock Gospel Mission has continued to serve meals and provide services to the homeless community even during the Covid-19 closures and state wide- restrictions. FPC provides 75 meals the second Sunday of each month. Due to the Covid-19 rules, FPC's Missions Committee has been providing 75 take-out prepared meals the second Sunday of each month. If you wish to help prepare, serve or donate please contact Martin or Jana Purdy or any member of the Missions Committee. Only about one-two hours per month is all is needed on the second Sunday from 4:30 – 6:00 pm.

Turlock Gospel Mission provides a warm bed and a safe place:

The Emergency Overnight Shelter is open 365 days per year and is open to women and their children (boys aged 10 and under) on a first come, first served basis. Sign-in begins at 4:15 pm daily. Women and children join us for a dinner meal at the Restoration Shelter dining room and are assigned to a bed in the dorm, where they are able to stay until 7:00am. Shower passes are available and bins with personal belongings are secured.

Men and Women's Restoration Program:

The Restoration Program is a year long, life-changing Bible-based program designed to help individuals with recovery, vocational training, and spiritual development. This includes recovery from addiction, domestic violence, childhood abuse, co-dependency, and more. Lives are transformed through housing, meals, case-management, counseling, discipleship, education, job training, and support groups. To apply, please email our Shelter Director, Lacey Pometta at lpometta@turlockgospelmission.org.

Day Center:

Turlock Gospel Mission operates the only Day Center in Stanislaus County, this center provides a safe place for those in need to connect with critical services. The Turlock Gospel Mission Day Center is open Monday through Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00PM.

Day Services include:

1. Clothing & Hygiene
2. Cooling and Warming Shelter
3. Meal Services
4. Case Management
5. Community Service and Diversion Services Opportunities
6. Assistance with pet food and veterinarian services
7. Provides a safe environment during the day...a positive alternative to the parks.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. **On April 4th**, Easter Sunday, we will be taking our annual One Great Hour of Sharing special offering.

This is one of the four special offerings FPC participates in annually each year. The work of church wide special offerings is made possible only by your generous giving. If led, please help support by bringing your donations to the church on Easter Sunday or drop/mail your offerings to the church office dedicating your offering on the memo to "OGHS". Thank you for your continued support.

PRESBTERIAN WOMEN MINISTRY

We have changed dates & times of our meetings to every third Thursday morning of the month. **Our next gathering will take place on Thursday, April 15th at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom - PW 2020-2021 PW/Horizons Bible Study: INTO THE LIGHT Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament** by P. Lynn Miller. All women of the church are welcome to attend. This month, we will be on Lesson 7, which is entitled “Creation Lament”. The main scripture is taken from Isaiah 24:4-6, 8, 19 and Romans 8:19-23. The main idea is the creation itself laments. Creation has had cause to lament from almost the very beginning of time. The first lament in scripture, following Abel’s murder by his brother Cain, sets the pattern to cry out to God to right wrongs. Abel himself is not present to lament, but his lament finds a way to be present to God. God hears those who suffer and responds to the groans and cries and leads us to freedom and peace.

In this lesson, we are asked to reflect on places in creation that call us to praise God. Is there one place in particular over all others that we want to go and reflect on being the voice of that creation to lament to God? What would that lament sound like and what would be the need for the creation to flourish and not perish?

The central theme of the INTO THE LIGHT Bible study is that through faith we are connected one to another. “Lament gives us common ground” and together we find HOPE through our prayers of lament. Contact Candace Peterson, Bible Study facilitator, by e-mail for further information, for a copy of an individual lesson, or to get the Zoom invitation for the April meeting.

If you would like to donate, please send your donation to our Treasurer, Elaine Neely, and make your checks payable to Presbyterian Women. *For any questions or more information, please contact Vivien Huntley.*

♪♪ Notes from the Music Room ♪♪

Do you remember last Easter? I remember watching our Easter Service – then looking for other events on TV. My calendar reflects the beginning of Covid-19.

With many question marks and lines through events canceled. We thought this would be over by May? June? July? And then eventually there were just a lot of empty days. A few ZOOM meetings began to emerge as a new way of life took shape. We learned to cope without much personal contact outside our families. We resorted to reading and TV and eating and...

The Music Room was quiet. No bells. No choir. No singing (except in the shower)! No organ. No piano! But then we discovered that we could play bells hung from a tree! One person playing alone or with only piano accompaniment. Or music recorded with a single instrument. Our music could not be quieted!

OUR MUSIC COULD NOT BE QUIETED! Covid could not stop the music! Slowly there were new notations on the calendar. “Record Bell Tree.” “Record Violinists.” “Record Bells with chimes.” And those recordings began to be aired in our Worship, and in our ZOOM worship! And we, making the recordings were having fun! Praising God and making music! It was like we were laughing in the face of COVID! I hope those of you on the receiving end were able to smile and enjoy our musical offerings!

And NOW – we can begin to gather! What JOY! We will still broadcast our worship for those not ready or able to join in person, but progress is being made! And for EASTER we will have a great treat! For those who wish, we will SING the HALLELUJAH CHORUS from Handel’s Messiah after worship IN THE PARKING LOT – WITH MASKS ON – as it will be broadcast. So bring your copy of the music if you have one, or we will provide copies for those who would like to sing along!

HALLELUJAH! AMEN!

Rev. Wendy Warner, Director of Music



GUATEMALA MISSION MINISTRY

We hope you enjoyed your tri-tip dinner! We served 151 dinners. Between the profit from dinner sales and generous donations we raised over \$2,400. Adding that to the \$1,600 in previous donations and the \$6,000 grant from presbytery, we are past the halfway mark to meeting our goal of providing two houses (complete with beds, stoves, wash stations, and bathrooms), fifty wheelchairs, and food for twenty families.

We will be going to the mountain region of Coban, Guatemala this year. It has a large population of indigenous Mayans who still wear the traditional clothes. It was devastated by hurricanes Eta and Iota as they swept across Central America causing flooding, landslides, and washed-out roads. Many families lost houses and many lives were lost.

Please take a look at the cost of materials and prayerfully consider helping us meet these needs.

Food \$50

Wheelchair \$170

Wash Station \$85

Bed \$220

Stove \$300

Bathroom \$720

House \$3,200

Guatemala Mission Team



The Bethel Ministries team has been keeping very busy since the start of 2021. We have already built 11 houses and given out approximately 250 wheelchairs in different parts of the country! Everything is different because of COVID restrictions, but we are so thankful to still be able to do the work we love in serving others. Thank you, Church Family, for all of your prayers and support. We look forward to having FPC's team come in June!

Much love and appreciation,

Ben, Emily, and Lily Mooney



FPC SESSION



Session last met on March 15, 2021 utilizing the Zoom online meeting platform.

Of interest:

- A play structure, donated to the church, will be installed where the merry-go-round formally was behind Voight Hall.
- Consensus to allow a sign to be installed in front of the portable classroom that is used by Serenity Fellowship.

Presbytery News:

- It is official. The Presbyteries of Stockton and Sacramento will officially merge on July 1, 2021 and will be known as the Presbytery of North Central California (NCCP).
- The Administrative Commission for the Cortez Presbyterian Church has a new directive to close the church and sell the property, and to work to discern ways to ensure the legacy and heritage of the Cortez congregation continues.
- Nancy Clegg, Stated Clerk of both the Presbyteries of Stockton (7.5 years) and Sacramento (9.5 years), will be retiring effective June 30, 2021. Congratulations and Happy Retirement to Nancy!

In service,

Pat Wallace, Clerk of Session

When new deacons join the Board of Deacons, a flurry of paperwork is supplied to them containing, among other things, their flock lists with contact information. All new deacons have now received that paperwork. In addition, they've had individual time with moderator to go over details concerning deacon responsibilities during pandemic times and additional tasks that will be carried out during more "normal" times.



At our March 15th Zoom meeting, additional questions were answered regarding flock lists and contact information. In addition, Wendy reported that there was a good turnout for the return to live worship services on March 14th in our sanctuary.

As deacons, we all look forward to a return of safe, in person deacon meetings and seeing all of you face to face (or eyes to eyes) in church!

Blessings, Darlene Runsten and Lynn Posluch, Co-Moderators

PER CAPITA

THE TIE THAT BINDS US TOGETHER!

All Presbyterians are called to take part in the whole church's ecclesiastical and administrative work through per capita giving. This money is crucial to the overall health of PC(USA).

This year our per capita giving opportunity is \$26.00 per adult member. Our church pays this fee each year based on our membership numbers. With your donation you can feel the assurance that all of us are meeting the responsibility of recouping this money back into our general fund.

Thank you for your generous per capita giving in the past. Please don't forget to designate your check for "Per Capita", payable to FPC! We hope you will prayerfully consider giving again this year.

FINANCE UPDATE

Income & Expense Year to Date
Ending February 28, 2021

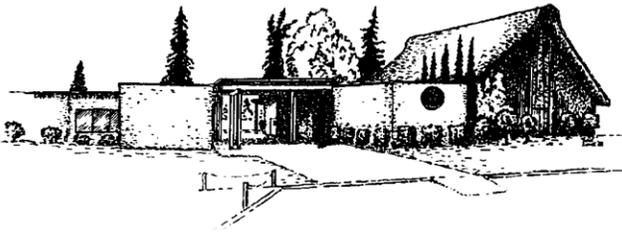
YTD Income:

Contributions	\$ 21,322.40
Other Income	\$ 2,606.20
Interest	\$ 24.91
Total Income	\$ 23,953.51

YTD Total Expenses	\$ 22,201.45
Income/Expense Difference	\$ (6,516.59)

Cash Assets:

Unrestricted	\$148,035.06
Restricted	\$ 44,484.11
Total Assets	\$192,519.17



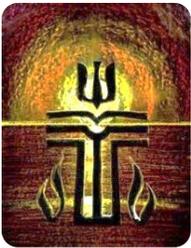
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 Website: www.fpturlock.com



Facebook:
www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch



Big enough to meet your needs...Small enough to know your name.

Church Staff
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Craig Wright
Parish Associate: Rev. Wendy Warner
Children Ministry Director: Marcy Wright
Youth Ministry Director: Stephanie Anderson
Tutoring Ministry Director: Meredith Lawrence
Director of Music: Rev. Wendy Warner
Administrative Assistant: Polet Yonan
Bookkeeper: Russell Limprecht
Accompanist: Dr. Wayne Kidwell
Organist: Barbara Bort
Child Care: Ester Salgado

ELECTED DEACONS AND SESSION OFFICERS		
<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2021</u> Marilyn Hoobyar Priscilla Peters Pat Wallace Michael Yonan	<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2022</u> Robby Avilla Dan Hardesty Joey Reyes Adria Sanders	<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2023</u> Michael Betts Donna Harrison Candace Peterson John Sims
<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2021</u> Susan England Valerie Keesey Lynn Posluch Darlene Runsten Cyndi Sims	<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2022</u> Lynnai Badal Lynette Betts Sheila Josh Mary Peterson Rebecca Staley	<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2023</u> Alison Aldax Niki Higdon Marlana Mizicko Jana Purdy Arabella Solhkah

