

The Kirk

Our mission is to glorify Jesus Christ
and to be instruments of
God's healing, reconciling,
life-giving presence in the world.

September 2017

first presbyterian church of san luis obispo



With help from Wikipedia, these are the facts as we know them: On Monday, August 21, 2017, a total solar eclipse would be visible in totality within a band across the entire contiguous United States. It would only be visible in other countries as a partial eclipse. The eclipse began in Lincoln City, Oregon, at 8:46 am PDT and ended in South Carolina at 5:04 pm EDT.

Making a buck is at the core of the American experience, is it not? No surprise then that a trinket industry, fueled by hungry entrepreneurs, sprang up faster than "weed" shops in Colorado. In Lincoln City, for example, hotel rooms were sold out and had been for some time. You could buy eclipse-themed t-shirts, coffee mugs, sunglasses, buttons and more. Restaurants and cafes offered specially-named items on the menu. The eclipse was big business.

What is an eclipse? Quite simple, really: An eclipse occurs when the moon stands in front of the sun, that is, between the sun and the earth, blocking its light.

A moon is not supposed to do that. And, truth is, the moon doesn't do this very often. The last time in the U.S. was 1979, and the last time the moon positioned itself in front of the sun all the way across the contiguous United States was June 8, 1918, almost 100 years ago.

During an eclipse what we have, in modern vernacular, is a situation in which, basically: The moon is "photo bombing" the sun's "selfie". The moon is upstaging the source of our power. In southern terms, the moon is mooning the sun. For a few hours, the moon is going rogue.

I was thinking with all the hoopla of the eclipse, we have a super reminder of our role as followers of Jesus. Here it is in simple terms: Jesus is the Son. We are not. We are moons. We should not step in front of the Son and block the light. We should reflect the light and point the way to the Son.

Jesus used many metaphors to describe Himself and His ministry. "I am the Bread of Life," He said. "I am the Living Water." "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." "I am the Good Shepherd."

But He also said, "I am the Light of the world" (John 8:12). Let us learn to reflect Him and not block His light as we move through our days.



presbyterian
WOMEN

POTLUCK & BIBLE STUDY KICKOFF

All women: you are invited to a fall potluck lunch. We will meet at 9:30 am in Wilson Hall on September 7th to start the day, with the new Bible Study entitled "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community Of Christ in Hebrews." Even if you are not in a study group come and learn the basics of the study and enjoy the fellowship of friends and lunch. We only do this twice a year so come and enjoy- we always have a good time.

Mary Blythe will share a creative means to the study. We will also take part in a mission project by collecting diapers and wipes for the Living Word program for migrant moms whose husbands are working on our behalf in the fields.

We have several Bible study groups that meet at various days and times. If you are interested call Dorothy at 541-6779, or email calvint5@charter.net.

PW GUIDELINES

This year new guidelines have been written and approved by the Presbyterian Women Board Members in our church. We have determined procedures with a understanding of our position in the church and our position with the newly non profit organization of Presbyterian Women Incorporated. We invite interested women to join us on the Presbyterian board, in Bible study groups, or attend activities we sponsor. Just so you know, we are education and mission oriented.

It has been determined that the Synod no longer will be collecting cancelled stamps or Campbell's food labels. As much as we have appreciated your faithful and dedicated service in this project we will no longer collect them.

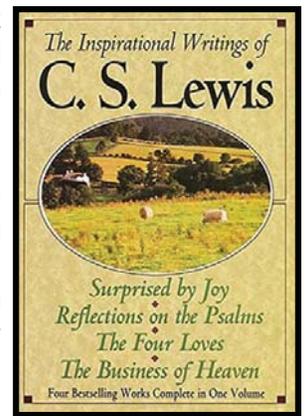
-Dorothy Truesdale, Moderator

Library Review

The Inspirational Writings of C.S. Lewis is a book in the library that is a collection of four of C.S. Lewis's popular books. This book and the other C.S. Lewis books that we have in the library are now on the book cart.

C.S. Lewis, one of the world's most celebrated authors, writes candidly, clearly, and from the heart about the deepest human concerns of faith, joy, and love in this outstanding collection of four of his best loved works.

Surprised by Joy is a moving chronicle of a modern man who loses and regains his Christian faith; Reflections on the Psalms explores their relevance to contemporary life; The Four Loves sheds light on human affection, friendship, erotic love, and the love of God; and The Business of Heaven is a collection of meditations for every day of the year.



As Lewis wrote, "Joy is the serious business of heaven," and that business, and that goes into making it successful, is celebrated in the writings contained in this special collection. (Review from Amazon)

ADULT ED OFFERINGS

New Adult Ed series begins September 10 with instructor Kate Murray



Do you like learning about history, literature, language, and culture? Political intrigue?—think: Alexander the Great, Emperor Constantine, and King Henry VIII. This 10-week course reviews the history and challenges of translating the Bible from ancient times to the present. The first 5 classes cover ancient translations, including Greek and Aramaic versions of the Hebrew Bible and vernacular translations in the early Christian era. The second half of the series covers English translations: the earliest Anglo-Saxon attempts, pre-cursors to the King James Version, the KJV itself, and the profusion of modern translations along with the issues of connecting with readers today. This course will also interest those who appreciate the Bible—which includes all of us!



Sign up with Kate in the courtyard between services on August 27 and September 3. Questions? Contact Kate at katym2@gmail.com or 858-395-3001.

Music News AT FIRST PRES

It is time to get our Fall Season started after a great Summer of music in Worship with the help of Alison Lewis, Craig Updegrove, Sarah Dirk, Kenneth Hand, Mia Purdin, Libby Parker, Alan Armstong, Bill Bartlett, Andrew Vigil, and Phil Sillas. Thanks for your leadership and dedication to serving for the First Presbyterian Church Music Department

The choirs have had a chance to warm up and refresh with a glorious Choral Workshop with Thomas Davies the last Saturday of August, and we are preparing for a Fall Workshop for the Handbells. Stay tuned!

The schedule for the music programs is as follows:

Music Group	Rehearsal Day	Time	Start Date
Chancel Choir	Wednesday	7:20 pm	August 30 th
Beginner Handbells	Wednesday	5:30 pm	September 6 th
Advanced Handbells	Wednesday	6:15 pm	September 6 th
Praise Choir	Sunday	6:15 pm	September 10 th
Children's Choir	Wednesday	4:30 pm	September 13 th

All groups are open for additional musicians to join. There is no audition, just a few questions to see which group suits you best. Come see me (Becky) and let's find a place for you in one of our music groups. It is a healthy way to keep breathing!!

I look forward to preparing musicians for our combined Holiday Choir for our Feast of Lights program December 16, 2017. The theme is 'Carols Around The World', with a few surprise versions of the Lord's Prayer in other languages. If you want to come just for those rehearsals, keep watching your newsletter for more information to come.

Psalm 92: It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High.

Blessings to you all,
Becky Falasco
Director of Music FPCSLO
208.604.1278

children's ed NEWS

I would like to give a shout out to everyone who helped with VBS 2017. "Faith Lab" was amazing and would not have been possible without all of the volunteers before during and after. Children's Ed appreciates every one of you and can't wait until next year!

We are busy planning for the Fall and Winter. Watch for more details. For now here is what you need to know:

We will continue with one worship service until September 3 and go back to two worship services on September 10.

WEDNESDAYS AT THE ROCK RETURNS!

Begins September 13 at 4:30 pm

Mark your calendars and save the date!

We are adding a new component to this program this year: Piano lessons. Alison Lewis (our church Organist) will offer piano lessons to those kids who are interested. Alison will give private lessons in exchange for singing in the Children's Choir and hopefully joining our Wednesdays at the Rock program. What a fantastic opportunity! If your children are interested in this please contact Jen for details.

COMING UP

Fall Frolic: October 22 at 2 pm at Dave Bauer's home

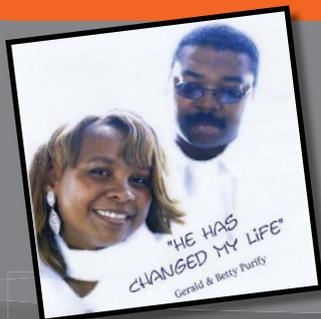
Movie Night in the parking lot: November 3

Advent Night: December 3

Christmas Program and Bake Sale: December 10

Here's to a great start to the school year!

UPCOMING EVENTS

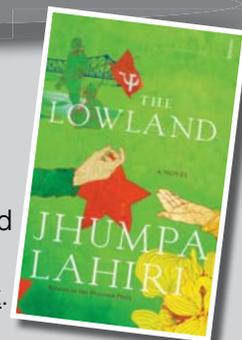


BROWN BAG CONCERT SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 • 12:00 PM

Join us as Pastor Gerald Purify and Co-Pastor Betty Purify sing contemporary and traditional gospel music. Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate will be for sale.

BOOK BROWSERS in the Library SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 • 7 PM

Book Browsers will be meeting on Tuesday, September 5 in the Library to discuss *The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri. In October we will be discussing *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Shervem at 543-1473 or dshervem@charter.net.



SANTA BARBARA PRESBYTERY MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 2017 • 9:30 AM

Our very own Dennis Falasco will be installed as the new moderator of the Santa Barbara Presbytery. A light luncheon will be served. Keep your eyes open for more details as the date approaches.

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

The Legacy of Mary Stewart Rhodes

Mary Rhodes and Al Rhodes were active church members, with Mary last serving the church as a Deacon. As a final service Mary included the church in her will.

The Mary Stewart Rhodes Bequest was created in 1997 when her trustee sent the modest LEGACY GIFT splitting it between the Deacons and an unspecified endowment. Since 1998 Mary's bequest has provided over \$5000 in those two categories.

You too can **Leave A Lasting Legacy** as a memorial to a loved one or yourself and designate it for Mission, Education, Music, Worship, Youth/College ministry, Budget or a new idea to support the mission of our church.

If you would like to consider a gift of any type, please talk with a member of our church's Endowment Committee: John Eichler, Jerry Kaml, Jane Maxwell, Bert Townsend, Dorothy Truesdale, Roger Verity, & Virginia Walter.



Hello First Presbyterian SLO Family! Here is a quick catch up on what the Youth have been up

to this summer! Early in June we went to San Diego for our summer camp. This year we had five students go along with three staff and it was a wonderful time of building our relationships with each other and our understandings of God. Throughout the summer we have had Youth Group each week ranging from pool parties to driving out to see sunsets in Montana De Oro State Park. We have gone to the Ravine Waterpark and had a lock-in here at the church, just to name a few. We would like to thank all who have supported us and provided for us as a group to learn, laugh, and love this summer. We are extremely thankful and we cannot say it enough. This fall we will be back to our normal programming of having Middle School Youth Group on Sunday evenings from 3-5 pm and High School Youth Group Sunday evenings from 6-8 pm. If you have questions regarding the Youth program or want to become more involved, please contact Ryan Joslin and he will get you the info you need!

-Ryan Joslin, Interim Youth Director

CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY, ESPECIALLY:

For the **Rev. Dennis Falasco** as he pastors our congregation,
 For our **elders and deacons** as they lead and guide us,
 For **Jen Rabenaldt** and our Children's Ministry,
 For all those involved in our Youth Ministry, especially leaders **Ryan Joslin, Sarah Dirk, and Jake Wolfe**,
 For **Joel Drenckpohl** and the Front Porch Campus Ministry,

For those who are undergoing treatments for various health issues,

For our church's elderly, especially those confined to their homes or care centers, like **Allene Anderson, Cathy Anderson, Charles Blair, Gladys Brannum, George Daniel, Jean Honeyman, Jeanne Hoyt, Lorna Hudson, Stella & Starr Jenkins, Marie Kammenzind, Hulda Nickel, Joy Reed, Idabelle Shields, Dottie Jean & John Stechman, Ernest Triebel, Carol West, and Richard & Lou Wiens**,

For the **women and men** who do so much to support the countless ministries, missions, and activities of our church,

For the **local and global missions** our church supports,

For members and friends serving in the military: **Drew Descary** (stationed at Camp Pendleton), **Laura Kraemer** (attending Navy Medical School in MD), **Jim Shelton** (deployed on an aircraft carrier), **Michael Poe** (stationed in Florida), **Joseph Sall** (son of Anne Ramirez; stationed in Carlisle, PA), **Travis Hatakeyama** (grandson of the Luensers; stationed in Germany), and **Brendan Humphrey** (grandson of Leila & Bob; on Navy Aircraft Carrier).

And for all of us as we serve God wherever He calls us.

Happy Birthday!

TO THE FOLLOWING SENIORS (OVER 85) WHO HAVE BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| STELLA JENKINS | SEPTEMBER 3 |
| RICHARD ANDREWS | SEPTEMBER 11 |
| HULDA NICKEL | SEPTEMBER 19 |
| | (105 this year!) |
| GLENN CARLSON | SEPTEMBER 21 |
| CATHY ANDERSON | SEPTEMBER 25 |
| BOB WILLIAMS | SEPTEMBER 26 |
| LOU FOGO | SEPTEMBER 29 |

To everyone else who has a September birthday!

Our church records may be incomplete. If we have overlooked anyone, please contact the Church Office at 543-5451.

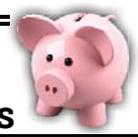
a heartfelt "thank you"

Dear Friends of FPCSLO,

So many of you have reached out to me during my spinal surgery and recovery period. Thank you so much. It is always encouraging to feel the loving care and prayers being given on my behalf during this time.

I feel so fortunate to be a part of this church family; the special friendships, time after time, have given the strength needed to move forward.

*Blessings,
Judith Gates Gibbs*



taking care of (church) business

TREASURER'S REPORT			
July 31, 2017			
	Actual		Budget
	July	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Income	\$50,728	\$337,219	\$358,609
Expenses	\$57,164	\$357,334	\$358,609
Difference	(\$6,436)	(\$20,115)	\$0

As part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the church is asked to pay a per capita apportionment. This year the level of support is \$80.00 per member. Per Capita income received to date is \$6,500.

*-Your Budget & Finance Committee
the kirk | September 2017 5*



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
San Luis Obispo

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Our Guiding Themes:



DEEPEN OUR
CONNECTIONS
WITH GOD



DEEPEN OUR
CONNECTIONS
WITH EACH OTHER



PURSUE
WHOLENESS



PRACTICE
CHRIST'S RADICAL
HOSPITALITY

Worship Schedule (Starting September 10th)

First Service | 8:45 am

Education Hour | 10:00 am (Wilson Hall)

Second Service | 11:00 am (Traditional)

Skilled Childcare Available