



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
San Luis Obispo

The Kirk

February, 2018



The church's season of Lent is coming up, and I must say that Lent can be a tough season. A season of introspection, a season of cold days, a season of gray.

The excitement and joy of Christmas is now a distant memory, as are our New Year's resolutions. And the beauty of spring seems like a distant hope through the fires and rain of this past month. In Lent, we just seem to settle into a long line of gray cold days.

These gray days are usually tough on our happiness, but they can be good for our spirituality. I say that because these are the days when we have to look into our souls to find the joy and light because there is no other place to find it. And that is why we should (need to) attend worship.

Worship is critical to the well-being of every individual because it teaches us to see the unapparent presence of God. Just ask Martha and Mary. This can also happen in daily devotions just as easily as it can by entering the fullness of the sanctuary on a Sunday morning. Either way, when we worship we are entering into the holiness of our own souls. A soul of doubt and destruction, souls of discord and debility, could then turn out to be our meeting place with God. The truth is, when seeing God, we encounter more light than we can handle— certainly enough to pierce through the gray cold days that seem to try and envelop us.

This is why Lent is a pretty important season for those who choose to live by faith. It is the time in the Church year when we focus our vision on the “Reality” beneath reality. By that I mean that the miracle of rebirth only comes after the finality of death. And that is how joy is found in Easter. Without Lent, Easter would not have it's profound affect on our spirituality. The warmth always comes from the fire within, and the fire within is ignited by the spark from a gray cold ember we call hope.

Humbly,
Dennis

UPDATED CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

For your convenience, the Church Office will now be open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm.

CHILDREN'S ED NEWS

We are off to a great start. After the hustle and bustle of the holidays and all the activities that go with it we are thankful for a chance to slow down - a bit. We have lots of fun activities coming up. Get your calendars out and save the dates.

WEDNESDAYS AT THE ROCK

We are learning about the parts of worship and the liturgical calendar. We will also be making banners for Wilson Hall.

Wednesday schedule

Music - 4:30 to 5:15

Lesson and Activity - 5:15 to 5:45

Dinner - 5:45 to 6:15

Gym Time - 6:15 to 6:45

Devotion/Quiet Time - 6:45 to 7:00

All kids Kindergarten through 5th grade welcome

Middle School kids are also welcome - they can be Jr. Helpers and participate in all the activities. Childcare provided for younger siblings.

*We love it when special guests come and share a talent with us - painting, tree grafting, story time, clay, wood working ... If you would like to do this let Jen know.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ART PROJECT

The art projects will be on display in the Sanctuary Windows from Ash Wednesday (February 14) through Easter. It is always so meaningful to see what the participants come up with. Make sure to join us for the Soup Supper and Ash Wednesday Worship Service on the 14th.

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP PROGRAM

April 29 at 5:30 pm in Wilson Hall

The kids will be putting together and presenting their very own Worship Program from what they learn and do on Wednesday's at the Rock. Details to come.

SUMMERS AT THE ROCK

We will be continuing programming in the summer in week-long camp formats. The dates will be June 11-15, July 9-13, and August 6-10.

All dates are subject to change. More details to come.

Thank you for your support, love and prayers. If you want to participate in anyway with our Children's program let Jen know.

Your Children's Ed Committee

Teri Cueto, Becky Falasco, MaryEl Hansen, Bonnie Kraemer, Becky Moseley, and Diane Shervem

Teachers

Diane Shervem, Kathrine Gross, Karlyn Tremaine, Stephanie Vigil, Anna Walden, and Ashley Carder

ADULT EDUCATION

THE REFORMATION REVISITED

January 28-February 18 during the Education Hour

*How have our lives been affected by the Reformation?
What lessons does the Reformation offer?*

Class 1: Martin Luther

Featuring guest speakers from Mt. Carmel, Jack Senter and Bob Grosse

Class 2: Noted Reformers and their theological concerns

Class 3: Erasmus: The Failure of Conservative Reform

A Dutch Renaissance humanist, Catholic priest, social critic, teacher, and theologian

Class 4: The Council of Trent (1545-1563)

A Roman Catholic response to the Protestant Reformation, addressing many Protestant disputes, and clear statements about Catholic doctrines on salvation, the sacraments and the Biblical canon.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

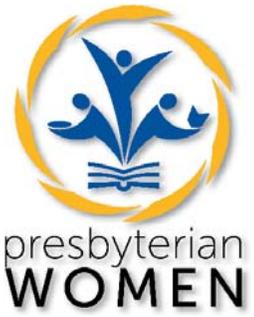
The next lesson for the Presbyterian women studies will be Lesson 5. Each lesson is independent in nature so if you can join us you are more than welcome.

There are several groups meeting at different times and locations. The Dorcas group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 am in the Library. For more information call Dorothy Truesdale (541-6779). The Friendship group also meets with Dorcas but also meets on every Thursday on in the Library. Call Barbara Gillson (543-0475) to find out more. The Virginia Terry group meets the second Wednesday evening at Dorie Larson's home at 7:30 pm. Call Dorie (544-7512) for additional information. The WOW group meets on the first and third Wednesdays at 12:45 pm. call Nellie Beecher (544-1627) for more details.

Lesson 5 is on Hebrews 3:1-6 and 11. We are connected to the past, which forms our present faith and community. The faith tradition informs us and links us with believers in all times and places. Come to a study and see how Hebrews 3:1-6 links the story of Moses to who Jesus is. Chapter 11:1: "Now faith is the assurance of thing hoped for, the conviction of things

not seen," linking faith and hope. How does faith work?

Does your family have traditions? We would like to hear about them. Come to a study and learn how our Christian traditions shape our lives, our families, and community.



We thank all who donated to the PW Thank Offering. Over \$1,100 was given to support mission opportunities for wonderful and necessary programs. One of the programs submitted for a Thank Offering Grant is for a South County Shower the People project. Dana Easton has been active in working with this interfaith group to get funding for mobile showers and bathrooms to provide showers for the homeless, which we take for granted in our daily lives.

Looking ahead- in March we look forward to honoring women for their efforts in God's service and another mission opportunity with the PW Birthday Offering. Just think about the women who are church leaders and how much women do!

-Dorothy Truesdale, Moderator

LIBRARY REVIEW

Merton's Palace of Nowhere written by James Finley is a book that has been added to the library.

"For forty years, James Finley's Merton's Palace of Nowhere has been the standard text for exploring, reflecting on, and understanding the rich vein of Thomas Merton's thought. Spiritual identity is the quest to know who we are, to find meaning, to overcome that sense of "Is this all there 'is?'" Merton's message cuts to the heart of this universal quest, and Finley illuminates that message as no one else can... Rather than encountering techniques for prayer and meditation, we find in this book a genuine search for God...At the heart of the quest for spiritual identity are Merton's illuminating insights—leading from an awareness of the false and illusory self to a realization of the true self.

As a young man of eighteen, Finley left home for an unlikely destination: the Abbey of Gethsemani, where Thomas Merton lived as a contemplative. Finley stayed at the monastery for six maturing years and later wrote this book in order to share a taste of what he had learned on his spiritual journey under the guidance of one of the great religious figures of our time." (Review by Amazon)

Other books in the library that are written by Thomas Merton are The Seven-Story Mountain (autobiography), The New Man, Contemplative Prayer, and No Man Is An Island, and a CD set of remastered actual presentations, "Thomas Merton on Contemplation." The library also has a CD Set about Merton's work – "Thomas Merton: A Spiritual Guide for the Twenty-First Century." These books and CD sets are on the library cart and available for borrowing.

SLO BOAT

SLO Boats met at our annual Epiphany Dinner on Friday, January 5 in Wilson Hall. The following activities have been selected for the coming year. The dates for all have not yet been set:

April: Elfin Forest Walk led by a docent-P. Murray, M. Seeber, A. Wilson

May 12: Oklahoma at the PAC– J. Seeber, B. Gregg

September 7: Bald Spots– Springers, Evans, Buccolas

October: SLO Symphony Rehearsal– J. Masten-

Watson, B. Gregg, P. Rodewald

To Be Determined: Service Activity-Responsible for Shelter Dinner

Please watch for final details in the Kirk and the bulletin.

If you wish to be on a SLO Boat email list please let Pam Rodewald know by calling (805) 215-2396 or by email at psrmony@mac.com. We hope to see you!

DEACONS

ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP DINNER

February 14 at 5:30 pm in Wilson Hall

Worship at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary

We begin the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, February 14. We gather for dinner and experience the communal joy of being pilgrims on a journey together. Deacons provide a warming and delicious soup dinner. As we share our meal, we will have the opportunity to begin our support of the One Great Hour of Sharing, an ecumenical offering that supports the relief fund of the National Council of Churches. The meal is followed by a worship service in the Sanctuary. Lent begins with the imposition of ashes marking our foreheads (optional), and we enter into a time of self-examination and prayer to mark our hearts again as belonging to God.

The Deacons invite you to join with your church family for this very special evening. All you need to bring is yourself, an open heart, and your place setting! (This allows our Deacon Board to get to the worship service!) If you have any questions, please contact Leila Humphrey @ 544-2619 or 459-6373.

UPCOMING EVENTS

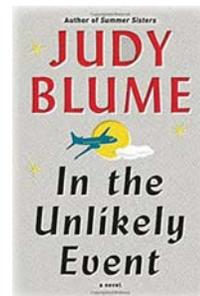


BROWN BAG CONCERT

Friday, February 2, Brown Bag concert welcomes back *The Mudskippers!* Gil and the guys will rock Wilson

Hall at noon.

BOOK BROWSERS will meet on Tuesday, February 6 at 7:00 pm in the Library to discuss *In the Unlikely Event* by Judy Blume. In March, we will discuss *Rosemary, the Hidden Kennedy Daughter* by Clifford Larson. Questions? Contact Diane Shervem at 543-1473 or dshervem@charter.net.



JAZZ VESPERS

Celebrate the joy of traditional New Orleans jazz with the Rag Bone Saints next Jazz Vespers on February 18 at 4 pm. Reception to follow.

WINTER GRACE Save the date for March 10! The LIFE Board is doing a mini-conference this year which will culminate with lunch. We don't normally do a conference every year. This is an experiment and we hope to get feedback about this.

Some things to look forward to include Pierre Rademaker, history and future of SLO; Jane Maxwell, techniques of painting watercolors; and Kate Murray, Blessed are the Peacemakers: a study of three Old Testament women. Again we are fortunate to have Eugenia Gamble as our kickoff speaker!

Brochures and sign-ups will be available the middle of February!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN THE NEW YEAR, ESPECIALLY:

For the Rev. Dennis Falasco as he guides 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 Cathy Anderson, Charles Blair, Gladys Brannum, George Daniel, Jean Honeyman, Jeanne Hoyt, Lorna Hudson, Starr Jenkins, Marie Kammenzind, Hulda Nickel, Joy Reed, Idabelle Shields, Dottie Jean & John Stechman, Carol West, and Richard & Lou Wiens,
For the family and friends of Ernest Triebel who passed away in December,

For Charlotte Roberts, as well as family and friends of Ed, who passed away in December,
For Starr Jenkins, as well as family and friends of Stella, who passed away in January,

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 Los Angeles)
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)

Brendan Humphrey (grandson of Leila & Bob; on Navy Aircraft Carrier)

R. Brooks Anderson (grandson of Dorothy Truesdale; on the USS North Dakota)

Sean Gillson (grandson of Barbara & Gene)-stationed on Whidbey Island

For all of us as we serve God wherever He calls us.

ENDOWMENT

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

Have you included our church in your will or trust? Several if not most of the gifts included in the First Presbyterian Church, San Luis Obispo Endowment where given as bequests after a member's death. These include the Dorothy Wilson Bequest for One Great Hour of Sharing, the McMillan Youth fund, the Mary Rhodes Fund and others.

Several members have informed the Endowment Committee about the church being included in their wills or trusts. One such family is Bert and Elaine Townsend and another is Lou Fogo. There are others not named here. If you have included the church in your will but not informed the Endowment Committee, please consider sharing that news with the Committee. Such information will be released only with your permission.

A cash gift from your estate is the simplest step to take. Other gifts may be IRA's, securities, cash value life insurance, or even real estate or other property.

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

Even a modest gift will make a difference.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Thanks to all congregants who gave in addition to their pledged amounts. These additional funds (over \$40,000) enabled us to complete the 2017 budget year with minimal erosion of the church reserves. Copies of the complete 2017 church financial report will be available at the Congregational meeting or in the Church office afterwards.

Virginia R. Walter
Chair, 2017 Budget and Finance Committee

FRONT PORCH

Thank you to all who generously donated their time and resources to Front Porch in 2017. We met our budget for last year and are starting 2018 with a small surplus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To the following senior (over 85) who has a birthday in February:

Carolyn Luenser, who will turn 85 on February 24.

To everyone else who has a February birthday!
If we have overlooked anyone, please contact the Church Office at 543-5451.

GREEN PASTURES

Would you like to serve people in need within our Community? If so, the Green Pastures Ministry is in need of volunteers willing to work one Wednesday per month from 1:00 to 4:00 pm with another volunteer. We serve the homeless, working poor, and unemployed.

Blessings abound in this Ministry. Call Dorie Larson if interested at 544-7512.

CONCERT SERIES

"TEN BIBLICAL SONG TEXTS FROM THE PSALMS"

by Antonin Dvorak

Sunday, February 11 at 3:00 pm

Jim Seeber, baritone

Allan Jacobson, accompanist



HOMELESS OVERFLOW

FPC will be hosting the homeless overflow during the month of March through April 15th. Sign-ups have started! Please bring your calendars and then look for us in the courtyard between services. We will plug you into a date that works for you. Chaperones are especially needed the last two weeks of the month. We believe you will find that what starts out as a sacrifice of one night in your own comfy bed is transformed by sharing the radical hospitality of Christ. The overflow shelter cannot function without a large, loving and dedicated number of chaperone volunteers. We need you!

If you have any questions, please contact anyone on the Coordinating Team:

Tim and Margo Smith
544-6232 tamsmith@charter.net

Jackie and Ben Parker
555-7090 sloparker@gmail.com

Brian and Petra Patterson
544-2906 petrapatterson@sbcglobal.net

Steve and Mary Ann Brown
544-2256 sf81brown@charter.net



**FIRST
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CHURCH**

San Luis Obispo

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FIRST SERVICE: 8:45 am

EDUCATION HOUR: 10 am

SECOND SERVICE: 11 am

Skilled Childcare Available