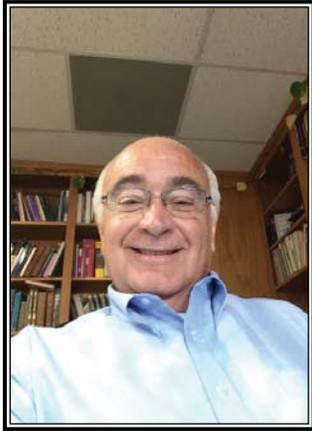




FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
San Luis Obispo

The Kirk

March, 2018



Someone once asked, “What happens when God grants the gift of genuine Christian fellowship?” The answer is that deep, joyful sharing replaces the polite prattle typically exchanged by individuals in the church parking lot.

I’ve always wondered what makes a community biblical as opposed to a community that is merely social. I’ve seen many churches and community organizations provide merely social community (which, in church terms, we call “fellowship”), which meets a genuine need for friendships and a place where, as the old Cheers theme burned into our minds, “everyone knows your name.” But over these past three and a half years I have sensed a growing profound sense of biblical community as we take our worship time central as our expression of humble thanksgiving to a loving God.

For these past few years Becky and I have participated in various groups within this church. This past year and a half, while Becky was leading the music department, we have celebrated significant growth in unity in this department, and now we celebrate that growth with Scott coming on board as we look toward future generations to find spiritual growth and a Christian home through our worship time. All that said, there is still plenty of room for growth and encouragement. We now have ads on the radio seeking to reach out to the unchurched hoping to attract those who are looking for a place they can feel welcomed and find spiritual growth and fellowship. As folks attend our worship service or various programs I hope you will encourage involvement and participation. I know that over this year we will still find times to celebrate new births, as well as mourn the passing of dear friends. All of this should help us gain fresh insight into the meaning and importance of biblical community. Meaning that some spiritual growth can happen only through suffering, pain and the in the depths of sorrow. Some can only happen through the heights of joy and celebration.

This Church is a Christian community. It forces us into relationship with a small circle of people who are becoming closer than family through the holy power of God guided by His Spirit. I am overwhelmed with the tender care you have continued to show Becky and I since we’ve moved here. That unconditional love you have shown her regarding her giving of time and talent to our music department has enriched our ministry with you and you with us. Community is not just a place for those who are suffering to find comfort but for those who are comfortable when they find suffering. We are Christ’s community. Together we join Christ in his suffering, and as a result. “When others are troubled, we are able to give them the same comfort God has given us” (2 Cor. 1:4) .

Where can we become more connected with other Christians so that we might weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice? Here at First Presbyterian Church, San Luis Obispo.

Humbly,
Dennis

CHILDREN'S ED NEWS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Thank you to everyone who participated. The art projects will be up until Holy Week. If you haven't already, please take time to visit each station, enjoy the art work and take a minute to reflect on the meaning behind each station.

March 25 is Palm Sunday. The kids will be singing and participating in a service project for our homeless overflow guests. We are collecting socks to add to blessing bags that we are putting together. Socks of all sizes are welcome. If you can donate a pair or two we would really appreciate it. Socks can be brought on Sundays or left in the office during the week. Thanks for helping us out.

Wednesdays at the Rock continues to be a blessing to all those who attend as well as those who lead. The kids are working hard on learning the parts of worship and all about the liturgical calendar. We will also be making banners for Wilson Hall which will be debuted on April 29 when the kids will present a worship program for all to enjoy. Please join us at **5:30 pm on April 29 in Wilson Hall.** Wednesdays at the Rock will continue through May and then will be on break until the fall.

SAVE THE DATES

We have lots of plans coming together for the summer. Get out your calendars and save the following dates:

June 11-15 from 9 am to 12 pm:

Summer Camp-“Getting S'more of Jesus”

June 16 at 5 pm: All church Bonfire at Port San Luis

July 9-15 from 9 am to 12 pm:

Summer Camp-“Christmas in July”

August 6-10 from 9 am to 12 pm:

VBS-“Where's Jesus”

More details to come!

Thank you to everyone who came to the All Church Baby Shower. We love our new families and look forward to them being a part of our church family for years to come. Your support means a lot - not only to them but to Children's Ed.

If you would like to help in anyway; donations, time, sharing a talent, Wednesdays at the Rock, Summer Camp or VBS ... let Jen know.

Happy Spring!

Your Children's Ed Committee

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

WORSHIP

Our grateful thanks to the Deacons for a delicious soup supper and great evening of fellowship. And to Dennis, Scott, Anna, and Alison for a warm and meaningful Ash Wednesday service. If you missed it – we missed you.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday: March 25- 8:45 & 11 am

Maundy Thursday: 12:15-12:45 pm- Communion and stripping of the Sanctuary

Good Friday: 8 pm- Tenebrae (service of darkness)

Easter Sunday 4/1/18: Three services- 6:30 am at Dave Bauer's home, 8:45 & 11 am in the Sanctuary
Looking forward to worshipping with you as we commemorate this special week in our church calendar.

The Worship Committee meets on the second Tuesday each month at 4 pm. The committee includes the Liturgy Committee as well as the Sanctuary Arts Committee. If you would like to join in the special privilege of making worship happen in our church please contact me, Bob Gordon, at 541-1532 or sloffwrs4u@aol.com.

Watch for the emphasis words of the sermons appearing each week in the Sanctuary.

See you in the Sanctuary,
Bob Gordon, Chair of Worship

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW BIRTHDAY OFFERING 2018

“Welcome To This Place” is three hospitality centered projects for the 2018 Presbyterian Women’s Birthday Mission Offering. This offering, founded in 1922, continues to offer grants that will make an impact on people’s lives. The first project is support for:

The Cottage Village, a tiny house community for low income individuals and families in Cottage Grove, Oregon. The offering will support building 13 houses and a centered shared use area. This program will provide a compassionate and a protective community for vulnerable people.

The second project is for **Village of Grace**, a center for physical and spiritual health in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Originally established by Presbyterian Mission workers, it is now operated and administrated by the Honduran women. The center also offers hospitality for retreats, workshops and mission teams from PC(USA).

The third project is support for **The Dwelling Place** in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. It will be a new facility which will to provide physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of women and their children following their escape from a violent partner. A lot will be purchased, a multi-use building will be constructed for living space, an office, and one on one case management sessions.

Here is your opportunity to give as you have been blessed, generously and led by the Holy Spirit. Your support for these three projects can be placed in the Birthday Offering envelopes which can be found in the the pew pockets.

BIBLE STUDY

Hebrews 4:16 - *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

The Bible study for March is on Lesson 6, which is a look at the book of Hebrews with a theme of suffering and compassion. Not to anxious to deal with suffering! As we look at our suffering and God’s compassion we

look at how Jesus, in his humanity, suffered for us and how the suffering and joy were a part of his earthly ministry. The Hebrews were suffering because they were being persecuted and as we know many still suffer persecution in today’s world. Let’s discuss how we can help change mindsets and lean on Jesus in our trials, as God does not turn away from those who suffer.



March is also a month to **Celebrate the Gifts of Women**. This is an opportune time to thank the women in your life, in your family, and especially in the service of our church. Women touch lives in tender loving ways; are strong in business matters; teach with patient and endearing methods; provide mission support with sensitivity and strength; and many work behind the scenes in numerous ways and we are not aware of of them but know they love their work and we love them for their contributions.

I am taking this opportunity to thank one of our women who wears many hats. **Dana Easton Thorne** has spent several years as Treasurer and Member of Presbyterian Women and member of the Green Pastures team. She is a Deacon who works on and serves memorials and receptions and other Deacon duties; she works on Vacation Bible School and serves the children in many capacities. Dana has been active in the community effort to work out funding and services for the “Shower The People” project for the homeless. We are going to miss her here in SLO as she and Rick move to Colorado. Thank you Dana and Rick for all you do. May God bless you as you take on a new life.

-Dorothy Truesdale, Moderator

SLO BOATS

On Saturday, April 14, join the SLO Boats for a docent led walk through the Elfin Forest in Los Osos, followed by lunch at Celia's Garden Café. We will meet at 9:15 am in the church parking lot. Because parking is limited at the Elfin Forest we will be using the church van. If necessary we will arrange car pools as well (maps will be available). The docent led walk starts at 10:00 am.

The Elfin Forest is a small protected wilderness area that is home to over 200 plant species, many of which may be in bloom in mid-April. It is also home to many species of birds and butterflies. The lookouts offer beautiful views of the estuary and Morro Rock. Our walk will be on the handicapped accessible board walk which provides access for those with walkers and wheelchairs. There are benches spaced along the boardwalk for those who might wish to sit and rest.

After our walk, which will last about an hour, we will go to Celia's Garden Café in Los Osos for lunch.

RSVP by April 7 to Anne Wilson (439-2701 or wilsonag42@gmail.com) or Marilyn Seeber (773-9125 or maribai@netzero.net)

DEACONS

BEAUTIFUL EASTER FLOWERS

Sign ups begin March 11 • \$10 donation

Once again, glorious flowers will fill the sanctuary on Easter. When you make a donation for an Easter plant, your gift is used in four ways. You add to the beauty of the sanctuary; honor or remember your loved one; bring joy to the homebound, ill or bereaved who receive the plant; and contribute to the Deacons' ongoing flower ministry.

Deacons will be taking Easter flower dedication sign-ups before and after services on March 11, 18 and 25. For questions or additional sign-ups, you can contact Joan Green (541-9421) or Peggy Estes (596-0210).

UPCOMING EVENTS

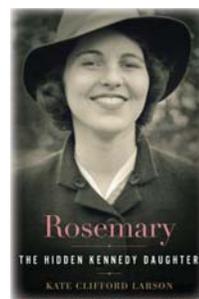
BROWN BAG CONCERT



Friday, March 2, Brown Bag concert welcomes Merrie Bande featuring Cassandra Tarantino, flutes; Jennifer Sayre, harp; and Andrew Harp, percussion in Back

Beyond Bach, Renaissance dances guaranteed to get your toes tapping and your hands clapping.

BOOK BROWSERS will meet on Tuesday, March 6 at 7:00 pm in the Library to discuss *Rosemary, the Hidden Kennedy Daughter* by Clifford Larson. Our book for April will be *The Gentleman of Moscow* by Amor Towles. Questions? Contact Diane Shervem at 543-1473 or dshervem@charter.net.



WINTER GRACE Please join us for a mini Winter Grace. We are fortunate to have Eugenia Gamble as our kick off speaker! We will have presentations by Pierre Rademaker, Kate Murray, Jane Maxwell, and Jim Seeber. In addition Alison Lewis will provide music during lunch! Please look for LIFE Board Members in the Patio starting February 25 to assist you with reservations! Reservations are due by March 5.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the church members who gave words of comfort and encouragement following Ed's passing. They were such a blessing to myself and the family. The church staff was so helpful with the planning and the service was very meaningful and was truly a celebration. The deacons did a beautiful reception as always. I feel blessed to be a part of this church family.

In Christ,
Charlotte Roberts

CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

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

For the Rev. Dennis Falasco as he leads our congregation,
For our elders and deacons as they 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, Lorna Hudson, Starr Jenkins, Marie Kammenzind, Hulda Nickel, Ralph Nunley, Joy Reed, Idabelle Shields, Dottie Jean & John Stechman, Carol West, and Richard & Lou Wiens,
For the family and friends of Jeanne Hoyt who passed away in January,
For Dana Easton & Rick Thorne, as they relocate to Colorado. It is hard to imagine our church family without them! They have been an active, integral part of our church family for many years, participating and serving in so many ways. They will be greatly missed. Their new address is 6220 W. 61st Ave., Arvada, CO 80003. Our prayers and best wishes go with them.,
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

Long range life planning is always a challenge. The church too must plan for its future as a place of worship as well as offering missions and programs for the congregants, the community and the world. The Presbyterian Foundation helps our church do just that and Church's Endowment Committee is charged with monitoring our invested funds, among other responsibilities. Forward looking and dedicated church members have blessed our church with generous monetary gifts which have been placed in the New Covenant Funds at the Foundation.

Another responsibility of the Committee is to assure that every donor's wishes for how her or his gift is to be used are fully met. Those areas may include programs or projects such as music, worship, education, missions, and Presbyterian Women, just to name a few ways the Church's Mission is being enriched.

The committee operates under guidelines adopted by Session and recommends an annual allocation of funds for designated program areas based on a prudent percentage of earnings and preservation of the original gift. The 2018 recommendation is 5%, or about \$25,000.

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

Even a modest gift will make a difference.

FRONT PORCH

Thankfulness and appreciation fills the hearts of the Front Porch Council as we reflect on the generosity of our many supporters who helped us more than meet our budget for 2017 and start 2018 with a surplus. We can now focus on Front Porch and how what happens at the coffee house, Wednesday night meals, and Saturday worship is truly the church. The love of Jesus is being expressed daily in authentic interactions between and among staff and students, whether sharing a cup of coffee, working on a difficult assignment, sharing personal struggles, or a moment of laughter.

A task force from Presbytery Council visited with the Front Porch Council in February to clarify the relationship between the two groups. How can Presbytery support Front Porch in its development as a new worshipping community? What are the best lines and methods of communication between Front Porch and the Presbytery Council? It was the first step in establishing a dialogue that will continue into the future as Front Porch works to establish and solidify its funding sources (churches and individuals are primary). Without the benefit of a pledging congregation, Front Porch must find consistent sources that can allow for the continued growth and development of the program. It has been exciting to see students begin to step up in the past year by making regular contributions through Venmo because of their love of “the Porch.”

If you would like more information or to visit, please contact Joel Drenckpohl, Dom, or Ryan or any of the Front Porch Council members: Mary Blythe, Valerie Evans, Tad Miller, or Susan Updegrave.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To the following seniors (over 85) who have birthdays in March:

Mary Ruth Mach- March 6
Shirley Keif- March 21
Bernice Carlson- March 24

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

HOMELESS OVERFLOW

Dear First Pres Family,

THANK YOU to all who have signed up to be overnight chaperones. We still have a few openings to fill. Please contact Tim or Margo Smith (544-6232 or tim.margosmith@gmail.com) or go to the online sign up calendar <https://tinyurl.com/FPC-Homeless>

Our other needs: Hospitality Greeters

We will need “Hospitality Greeters” to work a little over an hour on some nights. You will come in at 5:45 and leave no later than 7 pm. Our Hospitality Greeters will be on site to welcome our guests, set out water and supplies while overnight chaperones go through orientation. We hope this allows participation for those of you have wanted to participate in this ministry, but have not been able to spend the night. You can sign up on the calendar at church, contact the Smiths, or go to the on line sign up calendar <https://tinyurl.com/Greeters-FPC-2018>

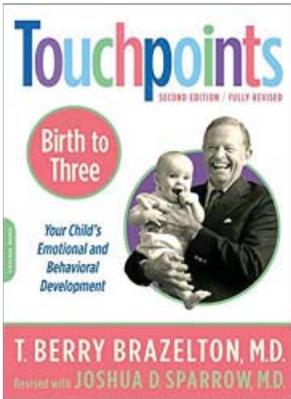
Snacks/Breakfast food: Hard boiled eggs, fruit, instant oatmeal, herbal tea & granola bars. You can drop this off in the kitchen on Sundays, or anytime M-Th 9 am-4 pm.

Heart felt thanks from all of the Homeless Overflow Team: Steve Brown & MaryAnn Foster, Jackie & Ben Parker, Brian & Petra Patterson, Craig & Susan Updegrave and Steve Walker

MEMBERSHIP

The Congregational Life Committee is looking for members to join a Membership Encouragement Committee. This committee would come together to brainstorm and put in place ideas to help our membership grow. Encouraging new people to visit and become involved in our church family is the responsibility of the entire congregation. Please contact Pam Rodewald (215-2396 or psrmony@mac.com) if you would be interested in assisting in this endeavor. Thank you for considering this activity.

LIBRARY REVIEW



Touchpoints: Birth to 3 by T. Berry Brazelton is a book that has been recently added to the library.

All over the U.S. and in over twenty countries around the world, Touchpoints has become required reading for parents of babies and small

children. T. Berry Brazelton's great empathy for the universal concerns of parenthood, and honesty about the complex feelings it engenders, as well as his uncanny insight into the predictable leaps and regressions of early childhood, have comforted and supported families since its publication in 1992. In this completely revised edition Dr. Brazelton introduces new information on physical, emotional, and behavioral development. He also addresses the new stresses on families and fears of children, with a fresh focus on the role of fathers and other caregivers. This updated volume also offers new insights on prematurity, sleep patterns, early communication, toilet training, co-sleeping, play and learning, SIDS, cognitive development and signs of developmental delay, childcare, asthma, a child's immune system, and safety. Dr. Sparrow, Brazelton's co-author on several other books, brings a child psychiatrist's insights into the many perennial childhood issues covered in this comprehensive book. No parent should be without the reassurance and wisdom Touchpoints provides (Review from Amazon)

Additional books by Brazelton - *Touchpoints: 3 to 6*, *The Irreducible Needs of Children*, and *Discipline: The Brazelton Way* have also been added to the library and all can be found on library cart and are ready for borrowing.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello First Presbyterian Family!

The youth ministry has been busy in this New Year. In January, we had the chance to go to Winter camp at Hume Lake and it was a blast! We took four students and each of them had so much fun, as well as grow so much in their faith. In February, we had both Boy's Night and Girl's Afternoon events, where our students had the opportunity to fellowship with one another in smaller groups. This weekend we will have another event where we will be playing some games in a park and having lunch together. Youth Ministry continues to have weekly programs such as youth group for Jr. High called Basecamp Sundays 3:00-5:00pm and youth group for High School called The Summit is Sundays 6:00-8:00 pm. We also have Coffee Talk every Friday from 5:00-7:00 pm at Kreuzberg coffee for both ages. Things we are looking forward to that are coming up is a Craft Day here at First Pres where both ages will be making some fantastic art to hang in Beck Lounge on March 3rd, and a surprise event on St. Patricks Day so look out for more details! Finally, we have set dates to attend Summer camp at Hume Lake August 12-18. It will be an amazing week of summer and spots are first come first serve! Thank you, for all of your prayers and support of the youth ministry and its staff. It means so incredibly much to us!

Blessings!
Ryan Joslin

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 31, 2018

	Actual		Budget
	Month	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Income	\$59,586	\$59,586	\$51,229
Expenses	\$50,897	\$50,897	\$51,236
Difference	\$8,689	\$8,689	(\$7)

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 \$7,700.

-Your Budget & Finance Committee



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

San Luis Obispo

PO Box 591
981 Marsh Street
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93406
tel: 805.543.5451
email: churchoffice@fpcslo.org
web: fpcslo.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FIRST SERVICE: 8:45 am

EDUCATION HOUR: 10 am

SECOND SERVICE: 11 am

Skilled Childcare Available