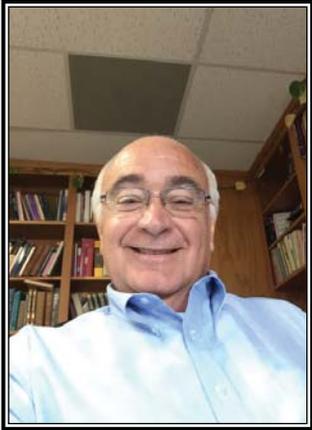




FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
San Luis Obispo

The Kirk

April, 2018



There is an unforgettable sentence from the Apostle Paul when he says, “We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 1:2-3). Paul is very good at matching faith, hope, and love as key words in many of his letters. This seems to indicate to me Paul is urging us to make an “event” of our faith by the way we live, not just when things are comfortable and the weather is fine, but when we are challenged by other Christian theology, especially in the midst of a storm.

One winter, while living in Idaho, I had a conversation with one of my neighbors who was in charge of a herd of horses. We were talking about the horses and the very cold weather we had experienced for a couple of weeks. I made the observation, “You keep

the horses in barns during the winter months, don’t you?” The wrangler enjoyed the next few minutes, telling me that, quite to the contrary, horses stayed outside during the winter. “We even feed them out in the field.” I was amazed and followed up with what I thought was a reasonable second question: “But you don’t ride them in the winter, do you?” He answered me that his horses loved to be ridden in the winter at below-zero temperatures. One final sentence he said really struck me: “Of course, after every ride it’s very important to walk them around and completely wipe them down so their sweat doesn’t chill them.” It was then that I realized wrangling horses at below zero temperature is hard work, and not everyone is up to it.

I believe that through hard work of being “united” as a presbytery (and that doesn’t mean we are all at the same theological perspective) we are enabled to develop our full stride as human beings and as a connectional body of Christ. It’s through hard work of agreeing and disagreeing about our interpretation of scripture that anyone develops skills and talents for the weather we’re in. Hard work helps us feel accomplished. It not only strengthens our hearts, but also our hands and our heads; not only about what we think and feel, but also about what we do and what we care about most. This is true with wrangling horses, as well as a congregation in San Luis Obispo, and a Presbytery in Santa Barbara.

There is no easy way to love and grow in our love of God or for the people in our lives, and that is because of these three spiritual ingredients the Apostle Paul give us – faith, hope and love – they are not meant to be mere sentiments or feelings of temporary affection or inclination. All three are made to get us through tough weather. Paul was right when he defines love as work (“labor of love”) which comes in times of severe conditions in the various seasons of our lives as individuals, as a church, as a presbytery.

If one of our qualities is that we are connectional as a denomination, and if one of our qualities as a church is that we are caring, then we ought to work through our theological differences in the stormy times. Even though we find that our faith is being challenged (which might be a good thing), and that our hope is in Jesus Christ (not in the Book of Order), and that our Love should be experienced through Christ’s example to the world “that none should perish”, especially those in his church. Please continue to pray for our Presbytery as we go through these stormy times and losing our family members for self righteous theological issues.

“And now, the greatest of these is love.” Amen.

CHILDREN'S ED NEWS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in the All Church Baby Shower. It was a huge success. The three families definitely felt the love. You all are a blessing!



We are currently seeking volunteers to help on Wednesdays for Wednesdays at the Rock. The program runs from 4:30 to 7:00. Dinner will be included.

Please let Jen know

if and when you can volunteer for this ministry. The kids are amazing and teach us something every week. We would love to see you there!

SAVE THE DATES

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

April 29 at 5 pm: *Wednesdays at the Rock Worship Program.* The kids are really excited to share with you what they have been learning. They are learning about the elements of worship and the liturgical calendar. Please join us in Wilson Hall.

FPCSLO Summer Camp (each session is 9 am-12 pm)

June 11-15: "Getting S'more of Jesus"

July 9-15: "Christmas in July"

August 6-10: "Where Is Jesus"

Mark your calendars now and join us for three weeks of fun, fellowship and learning. More details to come. Volunteers are always welcome to help with this program. Let Jen know when you are available to join us!

Wednesdays at the Rock will continue through May. All kids are welcome! The kids enjoyed singing and participating on Palm Sunday. They put together blessing bags for our homeless guests for their monthly service project. They are truly starting to have and share their hearts for serving. We have also been

working on connecting with our adopted school in Haiti. The kids made cards and a video to share with the kids in Haiti. We also donated the funds we raised to purchase soccer goals and soccer balls. We can't wait to hear back from the Haiti Team upon their return.

Thank you for your continued love and support-

Your Children's Ed Committee

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

MISSIONS

HAITI TRIP

The Haiti Team will visit St. Esprite, the grade school we sponsor, the week of April 16. We are taking many items to support the kids and the school. If you have any school supplies or other items you would like to donate, please give them to Steven Walker by Sunday, April 8.

PRADO WEDNESDAY LUNCHESES

For a number of years Ben Parker, Dana Easton, and others have graciously organized and/or cooked the Prado Wednesday lunches. The Missions Committee has found a few people to fill in over the coming months (except for April), but we need to develop a more stable schedule. The Committee proposes that different major church organizations each take one month per year. Please discuss this at your next committee, organization, or board meeting and then contact Steven Walker, Chair of the Missions Committee, as soon as possible.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BIBLE STUDY

We are now on Lesson 7, "In Community with HOPE and SUPPORT for the present and future in God's Sabbath rest." Sabbath rest has a prominent place in the creation of God's universe. Rest is our reward for a race well run. When we honor rest we find hope and support... for today and in the future.

It may not be that our eternal God needed rest; creation is infinite... we are finite. Our bodies and minds are allowed only so much energy for a lifetime, in bursts of days and hours and years.

Come to one of our groups to learn how hope and faith is expressed in the book of Hebrews as we study Lesson 7. Watch the church calendar for when the groups meet or call Dorothy at 541-6779.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

This PW international program was established in 1956 in seeking peace and reconciliation for those suffering from World War II. The women in our church now support this program by prayer and by collecting our least coin at our Bible study groups. The Least Coin allows all nations a way to give equally despite varying economic conditions. Funds collected are distributed by the International Committee to individual projects and programs throughout the world today. In 2017 grants were given to the following countries: Asia \$37,000; Africa \$43,000; Europe \$27,400; Latin America \$38,600; Middle East \$13,900; and North America \$20,000.

These funds support many programs that include: leadership development and empowerment; programs on diversity/dialogue; mother/child protection; conflict resolution; domestic violence; health care and education; risk reduction for women; schools for children; support for crime victims; and much more.

Your support is welcomed by donations to the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Make checks out to FPC and memo PW/LC or you can go to flc.net.ph.

Lastly, I'd like to thank you all for your loving and tender care upon hearing the news of my son Roger's passing. I was touched by all your calls, emails, and beautiful cards. They were very helpful and consoling. I am blessed to have my FPCSLO family. Thank you for serving our beloved Lord in such a beautiful way.

-Dorothy Truesdale, Moderator



THANK YOU

I hope this newsletter finds you well! I am finishing up my last year of college here at Cal Poly as a Sociology major, concentrating in Social Services. Between being a student and working here at the church with the kids, I have spent quite a lot of time the last three years with an on-campus ministry called Cru, often known as Campus Crusade. God has graciously led me to pursue a life lived for Him and has called me to love others radically. With God's provision, I plan to dedicate my life fighting against social injustice.

I have been given the opportunity to join Cru Central Coast on a Spring Break mission trip to Puerto Rico! I will be traveling with a team of 20 other students to help with relief leftover from Hurricane Maria that hit the country back in September. We will be partnering with GAIN (Global Aid Network) tarping homes without roofs, working on repair projects, and packing and distributing food and hygiene supplies to all those who lost so much to the hurricane. During my time in Puerto Rico, I will have the opportunity to love and serve the people there. Our ultimate goal is to exemplify the Body of Christ to those living on the island. Our trip to Puerto Rico is not just to "help fix things", but it is to be an encouragement and show our Cru Staff and their partners that we care.

Thank you so much for your generous support!

Sincerely,
Katherine Gross

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.

RSVP by April 7 to Anne Wilson (439-2701 or wilsonag42@gmail.com) or Marilyn Seeber (773-9125 or maribai@netzero.net). See the March Kirk for more details!

Save the date! The SLO Boats activity in May will be meeting for dinner after attending "Oklahoma" at the PAC on Sat., May 12 at 2:00 pm. A flyer will be sent with details about tickets to those on the SLO Boats email list. If you wish to be on that list please contact Pam Rodewald at psmrmony@mac.com or call her at (805) 215-2396.

DEACONS

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

To those of you who made donations to the Easter flowers "in memory of" or "in honor of" loved ones, the Deacons thank you. The lovely plants adorned our sanctuary on Easter and then were delivered to those who were unable to attend a service, were truly challenged by life events this past year, or were in need of some extra cheer. To those of you who help the Deacons deliver the Easter plants, we thank you.

Throughout the year, the Deacons continue to deliver flowers to parishioners who are homebound, ill or bereaved. You may have noticed flowers decorating the kiosk between services. The Christmas poinsettias, Easter flowers and "Sunday" flowers are funded solely through your donations for the plant dedications and those earmarked for the Deacons Fund. The Deacons Fund is not part of the church budget. So, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for helping us with these flower ministries.

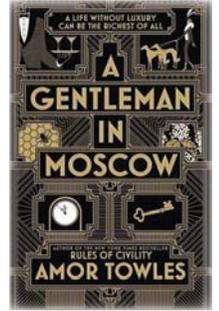
COMING UP



BROWN BAG CONCERT

On Friday, April 6 at 12 pm, keyboard stylist extraordinaire Bob Harway and chanteuse nonpareil Judy Philbin will bring their collaborative musical phraseology to the Brown Bag Concert. Fair Trade coffee and chocolate available.

BOOK BROWSERS will meet on Tuesday, April 3 at 7:00 pm in the Geneva Room to discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. Our book for May will be *Finding Zouf* by Zoe Ferraris. Questions? Contact Diane Shervem at 543-1473 or dshervem@charter.net.



JAZZ VESPERS

The next Jazz Vespers will feature Vocé, Cuesta College's premiere vocal jazz ensemble. Join us Sunday, April 15 at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Reception to follow in the Geneva Room. A meditation will be presented by Tad Miller.

FPC CONCERT SERIES On April 22 at 3 pm, we have the privilege of hosting a concert by handbell expert Elizabeth Mays. The program will feature a variety of music, including original works for bells, as well as arrangements of a few familiar tunes with keyboard accompaniment and a few other instruments. Elizabeth is the first student to graduate with a BA in Music with a specialty in handbell performance from the University of Redlands. During this time she was adjunct Faculty at Azusa Pacific University directing handbells, and graduated with a Masters' degrees in both Conducting and Handbell Performance.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

Please pray for our church family, especially:

For the Rev. Dennis Falasco as he leads our congregation,

For our elders and deacons as they guide us,
For Jen Rabenaldt and those who give time to 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 Wiens,
For the family and friends of Lou Wiens, who passed away in March,

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)

Chris King (grandson of Lois Morgan; serving in the Middle East)

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

ENDOWMENT

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

Our church has a new Endowment.

Lou Fogo wanted to fill an oft neglected need: Church maintenance. Paired with the desire to fill that need was her wish to create a memorial to her late husband, Al. The new fund, The Alden Fogo Church Maintenance Fund was created February 15, 2018. Lou made the initial donation to open the fund, which her estate will add to, and others may donate to it at any time. Lou knows it is just plain good stewardship to keep up repairs to church property!

Al and Lou joined the church in 1955 during the time of Pastor Jim Bell, serving the church in diverse ways. Al was an elder and busy donor, contributing equipment and funds to all special and everyday needs. Lou, who can be found in the Chancel Choir most Sundays (a 45-year member) has also been an elder, active in Presbyterian Women (an Honorary Life Member), spent several years as wedding hostess, and chaired and/or served on other committees. Her gift will continue to support our church indefinitely.

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.

FAIR TRADE

A warm cup of coffee (or tea) in our hands is perhaps the most tangible connection we have with small farmers around the world. It represents warmth, hospitality, fellowship, hard work and life's pleasures both fine and simple. Our use of Fair Trade through Equal Exchange and their Interfaith Coffee Project offers us the opportunity to reach out to neighbors overseas not only with the prayers and offerings we give, but thru the purchase and use of their beverages during our coffee fellowship time and at our many events. Not only do small farmers receive living wages for their products, but by being part of the Interfaith program fifteen cent per pound purchased by PCUSA churches is donated to our churches Small Farmer Fund administered by the Presbyterian Hunger Program to invest in additional projects. Of course we are only a small part of this, but that fund amounted to \$11,819.30 in 2016 alone. To continue to provide this quality coffee and tea and benefit these wonderful programs, we count on your donations on Sunday mornings during Coffee Fellowship time.

We have also offered Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate to all who wished to purchase for personal use. We began this service twenty years ago upon the recommendation of Elaine Horton who learned about the Equal Exchange fair trade program at one of our churches annual conferences. Since then fair trade products have become much more readily available through local stores, we will be discontinuing that part of our program. Beginning after Easter, our current supply of coffee, teas and chocolate will be available at reduced prices in our courtyard between services till sold out. Thank you for support you have given to this cause.

HOMELESS OVERFLOW

MARCH AND APRIL UPDATE

THANK YOU for all you are doing for our sheltering program. You have stayed overnight, provided snacks, moved meetings, and attended events in Wilson Hall with cots stacked around the room. And, most importantly, you have wrapped everyone with prayer.

We have had a cold and rainy month so far, for the most part. We wish you could hear all the "Thank yous" and "Bless yous" that our guests say each evening and morning. As of mid-month, we have been sheltering an average of 25 guests, including 6-8 children each night.

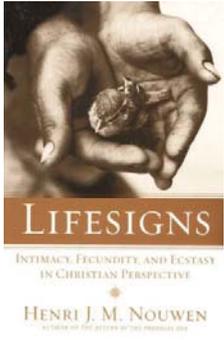
We have also had the opportunity to work with some great Cal Poly students, who are coming in to serve as chaperones. Here is a quote from one of them: "Thank for this opportunity. The church was so warm and it was a great experience getting to meet with the shelter guests and play with the kids."

Speaking of April... We need two greeters each night for Sunday April 8, Tuesday April 10 and Wednesday, April 11. "Hospitality Greeters" work a little over an hour. You come 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.

You can sign up on the board at church, or contact Tim or Margo Smith (544-6232 or tim.margosmith@gmail.com)

Thanks from all of the Homeless Overflow Team:
Brian & Petra Patterson, Craig & Susan Updegrove,
Steve Brown & MaryAnn Foster, Jackie & Ben Parker,
Steve Walker and Ed Musolff

LIBRARY REVIEW



Lifesigns by Henri Nouwen is a book that we have in the church library and which can be found on the library cart. He is also the author of the book that was the basis of the class "The Prodigal Son" which has just finished.

The inspirational writings of Henri Nouwen have touched millions of readers all over the world. Much beloved as a lecturer, spiritual guide, and especially as an author, he communicated a profound message of hope that finds great resonance in today's world.

In his now classic work *Lifesigns*, he explores what he saw as three of the most vital aspects of his ministry. The first of these is the Gospel invitation to intimacy, which Nouwen describes as communion with God and relationship with others. The second is the call to fecundity, exhorting us to be open to a fruitful life of change and growth. And the third, the experience of ecstasy, extends the Gospel promise "that your joy may be full." Inspired by L'Arche, the worldwide network of communities where handicapped people and their assistants try to live together in the spirit of the Scriptures, Nouwen shows how these three elements offer the essential key to a life free from the domination of fear and filled instead with hope and love. (Review by Amazon)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Kathy Loper – April 3

Richard Dickey – April 3

Diane Brocato – April 12 (turning 85 this year)

Ralph Watson – April 23

Harry Butler – April 25

Charles Blair – April 27

Margaret McCallum – April 29

To everyone else with a April birthday!

If we have overlooked anyone, please contact the Church Office at 543-5451.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello First Presbyterian Family!

This past month we've had a lot of fun in the Youth Ministry Program! We have had a few events this past month including a Craft Day where students made wonderful art. Some of the art is hanging right now in Beck Lounge if you would like to check it out.

Youth Ministry continues to have weekly programs such as youth group for junior high called "Basecamp" and youth group for high school called "The Summit." We also have Coffee Talk every Friday at Kreuzberg coffee for both ages.

We still have spots available for Summer Camp at Hume Lake from August 12-18. Please contact the office if you would like to sign up your student. We are excited as we begin the last quarter of this school year as we near Spring Break and Easter. We will take the weekend off on Easter Sunday and encourage students and families to spend time together on that day.

Thank you for all of your prayers and support of the youth ministry and its staff. It means so much to us!

Grace and Peace,
Ryan Joslin

PLEASE NOTE

Please be aware that the SLO Marathon is coming up on **Sunday, April 29**, and the bank across the street from the church (Pacific Premier Bank) is the main sponsor. They will not be able to allow church attenders to use their parking lot that day. Also, please be aware of altered traffic patterns. You may have to alter your usual route to church.



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
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