



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*San Luis Obispo*

# *The Kirk*

May, 2018

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH!

As we move toward Pentecost, the birthday of the church, we would do well to remember our structure and value as a mainline denomination “PCUSA”.

During the sixteenth-century Reformation, when John Calvin (of who we are celebrating 500+ years of influence) organized the church in Geneva, giving authority and responsibility to elected representatives of the congregation, was a radical notion. For one thing, it threatened the way responsibility and authority, both in the church and the civil arena, had been exercised for centuries, namely on the basis of power or heredity. Bestowing authority and responsibility on a few by the many was a new, revolutionary concept. For another thing, the Presbyterian principle was a part of the

great cultural upheaval we know as the Enlightenment. Enlightenment thinkers said that men and women are capable of making important decisions for themselves. In fact, that capacity, the Reformers taught, is God’s gift to every human being. It doesn’t sound so revolutionary to us today because we live in a society based on those very principles even though they may be taken for granted. And in this fascinating year of our political folderol, I find myself daily grateful for the major part my denominational tradition has played historically in the evolution of democracy.

In our church, the congregation annually elects a Nominating Committee, made up of representatives from two Boards—Session/Trustees, and Deacons,—with a majority from the congregation at large. The Nominating Committee’s job is to bring a slate of nominees for the offices of Elder/Trustee (the Session), and Deacons, to our fall annual congregational meeting.

The congregation hears the report and votes on the Nominating Committee’s recommendations. Officers serve for a three-year term. The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) allows for two consecutive three-year terms. This system works. Overall responsibility and authority for the life of this church resides with the Session, which annually elects its Clerk, who functions as keeper of the records, parliamentarian, umpire, and spokesperson. The Pastor is the presiding officer, with vote, called the Moderator. The Deacons elect their own officers as well.

All of this is to say that it is all far more messy and cumbersome than a hierarchical system, but it works. And it provides the church with the energy, imagination, and faithful leadership of its own members. You ARE the church.

I heard a friend of mine, who is the pastor of a church like ours, say recently that his major problem is finding enough jobs to engage the many, many competent leaders in the congregation. We don’t have that problem. Every year the Nominating Committee recommends and we elect amazingly gifted and faithful individuals

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# CHILDREN'S ED NEWS

## VBS/SUMMER CAMP

Visit [www.fpcslo.org](http://www.fpcslo.org) to register. Three weeks are available. Each week has a different theme, and you can sign up for one, two, or all three.

*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"

Junior high and high school kids can sign up to help. They can earn community service hours or First Pres SLO hours. Nursery care is available and volunteers are always welcome! Any questions contact Jen at 805-543-5451 ext. 205 or [jen@fpcslo.org](mailto:jen@fpcslo.org). Looking forward to it!

## WEDNESDAYS AT THE ROCK

This program will run Wednesdays through May. We are so proud of our kids and how they have participated in worship.

## SAVE THE DATES

**May 13** - Youth Sunday

**June 3** - Christian Education Sunday - We will honor all of our educators, especially Katherine and Ryan

**June 16** - All Church Bonfire - Port San Luis - 5:00pm

Thank for all you do to support our kids and leaders!

*Your Children's Ed Committee*

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

# YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello First Presbyterian Family!

This past month we've had a lot of fun in the Youth Ministry Program! We've 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*

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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

**Jean Honeyman** – May 1 (turning 90 this year)

**Gene Gillson** – May 4

**Marie Kammenzind** – May 9

**Dorie Larson** – May 28 (turning 85 this year)

**Ray McKelvey** – May 29 (turning 85 this year)

**Carolyn Dickey** – May 30

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

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## BIBLE STUDY

Bible study groups will enjoy the 8th lesson of “Clouds of Witness, The Community of Christ in Hebrews” with a study of *In Community With the Household of Faith*. We women are that community of faith. How does that work? God calls us to build a house of love and faith together so we might welcome friend and stranger alike. We will cover the basis of how we can come together to do this in this lesson. Join us. Help us to build that house. Several scriptures will lead the way: Hebrews 3:1-6 and 13:1-6; Numbers 12:7; James 1-4; and Psalm 127: 1-2.

## BIRTHDAY OFFERING

Thank you all for supporting the PW Birthday Offering. This Offering will be forwarded to the Creatives Ministries Committee to extend our hospitality for a safe home to those suffering in unsafe and dangerous environments. Women and children can build new lives as they heal and begin to feel safe and protected. Thank you for your loving kindness.

## SHOWER THE PEOPLE

Last year Dana Easton was working with the “Shower the People” project to fund the purchase of mobile, self-contained shower trailers for the homeless. The Interfaith Coalition, with Dana’s contacts, applied for the Thank Offering Grant and they were endorsed by the PW of the Presbytery and they were granted \$44,000. We are so proud of Dana’s efforts and the work she put into making this possible.

“Arise, Shine, Your Light Has Come” is the theme for the upcoming Presbyterian Women’s Churchwide Gathering, to be held in Louisville, Kentucky on August 2-5, 2018. Louisville is the Presbyterian Church’s home location of offices. Tours will be available as well as some exciting workshops, speakers, and gatherings as a whole body.

There will be a training class for Presbyterian Women to become **Disaster Preparedness Trainers**. The trainers will go out to congregations and Presbytery to train locals. This training will be held in conjunction with the gathering on August 1. PDA will provide two nights lodging for July 31 and August 1 and meals for August 1. For more information go to [www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/pw-pda-application](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/downloads/pw-pda-application) or email [beth.snyder@pcusa.org](mailto:beth.snyder@pcusa.org). For registration materials to attend the Gathering go to [www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) or, contact Dorothy at 541-6779.



## CELEBRATING 30 OF A 230 YEAR LEGACY

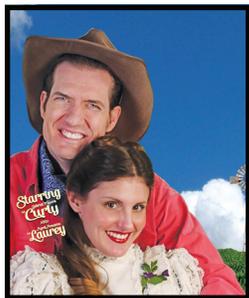
Presbyterian Women have been strengthening our churches in the US since 1789. We celebrate 30 of these years because of the 1988 reunion of the church and the birth of a new Presbyterian Women USA.

Our mission remains mission and ministries. We nurture faith through prayer, Bible study, supporting the mission of our church, and working for peace and justice. Our two annual offerings support worldwide causes and our local mission giving supports national and international causes as well.

PW is a corresponding member of General Assembly with a voice. PW incorporated as a non profit and is a part of the PCUSA's Mission Agency Organization. Always reforming and staying relevant is helping us to be leaders to witness to the promises of God’s kingdom.

-Dorothy Truesdale, Moderator

# COMING UP



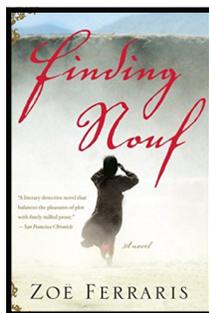
## BROWN BAG CONCERT

Terrific event on tap for the May 4 Noontime Brown Bag Concert! Meet Maestro Brian Asher Alhadeff and the stars from the upcoming Opera San Luis Obispo production of OKLAHOMA!, a Citywide Arts Collaboration. Enjoy a preview

with some of the most sublime music Rodgers and Hammerstein ever produced.

**BOOK BROWERS** will meet on Tuesday, May 1 at 7:00 pm in the Geneva Room to discuss *Finding Nouf* by Zoe Ferraris. Be watching for the email asking you for your nominations for the books for our 2018/2019 reading list.

After our nomination list has been created, you will receive another email asking you to vote. At our June 5th meeting, we will share and discuss our list and leader assignments for next year.



Internationally acclaimed author and historian, Dr. Kate Larson, will be at FPCSLO on Saturday, May 19, from 3:30-5 pm to present a talk titled, *Legacies and Memorials of Harriet Tubman's Extraordinary Life*. Harriett Tubman was an American abolitionist who was born into slavery. She escaped and later made numerous missions to rescue scores of enslaved people using the network known as the Underground Railroad. She also served in the Civil War and later became an activist in the struggle for women's suffrage. This lecture is one of three presentations given by Dr. Larson in conjunction with the San Luis Obispo Master Chorale's performance of Ron Kean's "The Journey of Harriet Tubman" on Sunday afternoon, May 20, at 3 pm in Harman Hall of the San Luis Obispo Performance Center. Dr. Larson is the Consulting Historian for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. For further information, please go to [slomasterchorale.org](http://slomasterchorale.org).

## PASTOR'S NOTE, CONTINUED:

to serve as officers. And I believe that this next slate of officers will be as gifted as those whom they will be replacing. But sometimes you are hard to find or hard pressed to say yes. So as we come to celebrate the birthday of the church at Pentecost, and as we look to be a witness to this community we can certainly realize the needed work that will lie ahead of us as we seek to continue to "glorify our Lord in season and out."

On behalf of the entire Presbytery, congregation and staff, I want each of you who will be asked to prayerfully consider your role in this church and in our denomination to know our deep gratitude for the faithful leadership you can provide. The next few years ahead will be particularly important in the long life of this Presbytery and First Presbyterian Church. Major decisions will be made about personnel of our Presbytery, our programming, and our mission. I am grateful for the competence and faithfulness of the people we have elected to lead. And I am grateful for the hopeful confidence of the congregation that elected them and for the patience and generosity of all who have supported our capital campaign and our budget and our continuing aspiration to be a blessing as we have been blessed.

# 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 all who help with 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 Bob Humphrey, who passed away in April,

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 (in Maryland)

Jim Shelton (deployed on an aircraft carrier)

Michael Poe (stationed in Florida)

Joseph Sall (stationed in Pennsylvania)

Travis Hatakeyama (stationed in Germany)

Brendan Humphrey (on a Navy aircraft carrier)

R. Brooks Anderson (on the USS North Dakota)

Sean Gillson (stationed on Whidbey Island)

Chris King (serving in the Middle East)

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

## CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

A gift of memory! Now there's a thoughtful way to create a lasting legacy. Donations of cash, securities, property, insurance policies or other assets are welcomed and when coupled with memories, especially of a loved one, make a unique gift.

Several women bequeathed funds to help Presbyterian Women carry out it's work in your church. They were Dorothy Wilson, Mary Wade, Jeanette Taylor, Marg Cass, Florence Salmon and Elaine Horton. They left a combined total of \$25,000 which is invested in the Presbyterian Church USA Foundation by the PW Board. The dividends & interest are administered by the PW Treasurer according to the wishes of these women. Some funds are used to develop leadership, support local missions, provide scholarships for young girls, or seed money for programs if needed. The fund is entitled the "Remembrance Fund" in their honor.

Two women, Ida Holdsworth, also bequeathed funds for the benefit of Presbyterian Women's missions work. Ida's fund was placed in our church's Endowment Fund with benefits going to the PW Board according our Endowment Committee's annual distribution policy. Elaine Horton decided to create separate Permanent Funds at the Foundation, with proceeds to benefit our Youth Ministries programs in addition to Presbyterian Women.

These combined funds provide support for local, national and international work that benefits God's children and churches. These projects vary in focus, some for women and girls but mostly families. They include Wycliffe, Lifewater, Care Corps, God's Hidden Treasures, and many local non-profits.

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 Truesdale, Roger Verity, & Virginia Walter.

*Even a modest gift will make a difference.*

# FRONT PORCH

College students need more than coffee to survive and thrive in college. They need more than the weekly Wednesday night dinners provided by members of our church and other churches in the area. They need more than the breakfast each finals' week provided by the Front Porch Council and more than the cookies that Valerie collects from church members that same week. Coffee and food are important, and we thank everyone who donates.

Front Porch offers more than a coffee house for studying, socializing, and just hanging out. Front Porch offers a place that encourages students to see themselves and everyone else as children of God. It is a place that helps them understand that God loves each and every one of his children. This is especially important with the current crisis on campus related to some students making poor choices. It is a place to talk about difficult issues like race in the comfort of acceptance and love. It is also a place to take a break from the stress, to play bingo and bunco, or to go camping with friends and staff from Front Porch. It is a place to share songs, poems, and other spoken word offerings during open mic night. And, it is a place to gather to worship our Lord each Saturday evening.

Front Porch is so much more than a coffee house, and we thank you for your generous and continued support.

# HOMELESS OVERFLOW

*“You have made us feel like we are home.”*

This was a quote from one of our Homeless Overflow guests, a young mom with 2 children.

Thank you for all the ways you have supported the Overflow sheltering for the last 6 weeks and made them feel at home. Our “thank you” list is long and includes: prayer support, overnight chaperones, greeters, food providers, scheduling changes, goodie bags provided by our youth along with socks that were donated by our congregation, and 2 Saturdays when different kitchen crews came in VERY early to make breakfast for our guests. There was extra work for Michael Felton, our Facilities Technician, and also Mia, Kenneth and Tracy, that was met with grace and good cheer.

We were able to be channels of God’s love in action not only for our guests, but also for the Cal Poly students that came in to serve as chaperones many nights.

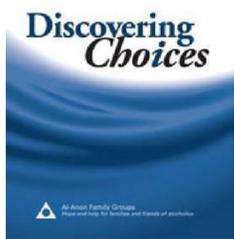
“What CAPSLO does and what this church provides for these families is truly unique and SLO is so lucky to have such an amazing community. The people here are not different from us at all but instead are just at a different time in their life in which they can use a supportive hand and a warm bed at night.”

“This experience has shown me the importance of serving the community, and I’m encouraged to see CAPSLO and the churches provide services for those in need.”

We are proud and humbled to be a part of this loving church family.

Your Overflow Team

# LIBRARY REVIEW



Discovering Choices: Our Recovery in Relationships, written and published by Al-Anon, is a book that has been added to the church library.

There are no simple answers to the complex challenges inherent in any relationship with an alcoholic (or addict). Al-Anon was founded

to address these very challenges, and *Discovering Choices* tackles specific issues in a practical and helpful way. Each chapter looks at an aspect of the Twelve Steps, adapted from Alcoholics Anonymous, and offers insight, experience and hope for the reader. There are anonymous personal stories at the end of every chapter, which often help the reader relate their own experience to the topic being covered in depth.... The chapters progress in an orderly fashion, building a solid foundation for recovery and gaining a new and more realistic perspective. (Adapted from a book review by foglobe.com blog)

Though this book specifically addresses families experiencing alcoholism it is applicable to any addiction. Other books by Al-Anon that are also in the library are: *From Survival to Recovery*, *Paths to Recovery*, *In All Our Affairs*, *The Dilemma of the Alcoholic Marriage*, *Opening Our Hearts: Transforming Our Losses*, and *How Al-Anon Works*. All of these Al-Anon books are located by D.D. #178.1 in the library.

This church is also a location for a regular Al-Anon meeting which meets every week on Thursday at 5:30 pm in the Geneva Room.

# MISSIONS

## PRADO WEDNESDAY LUNCHES

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

## SLO BOATS

*Save the date!* The SLO Boats activity in May will be meeting for dinner after attending “Oklahoma” at the PAC on Saturday, 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.



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# **SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS SUNDAY, MAY 19**

**ONE SERVICE at 10 am**  
**EDUCATION HOUR at 11 am**

*Skilled Childcare Available*