

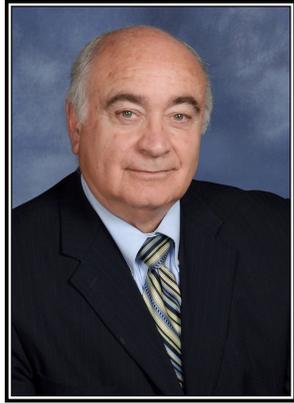


FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*San Luis Obispo*

# *The Kirk*

March 2019



## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR, DENNIS FALASCO

What do you do for a living?

*1 Thessalonians 5:10-12*

*10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 12 Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you.*

I was recently at our Presbytery's Mission Conference and a vendor who was running one of the booths under the tent stopped to chat with me about wanting to know what it was like to live in the area. I could tell he was from the mid-west because of his language and by some of the opinions he had about "Californians" which led us into one of those typical conversations that we clergy types tend to stumble into. After some winsome discussion of the beautiful surrounds, the great ocean air, and the peace and quiet of such wonderful surroundings, the gentleman's wife asked the question, "So, what do you DO?"

Now, let me say upfront that I'm humbled to be a pastor, love my work, believe it's important and there is no finer calling. But I have noticed that, despite my inherent "charm" and thinning hair, people who are not church-connected usually associate the "p-word" with some slickly coiffed TV preacher spouting platitudes or denouncing someone or something. It's no secret, and rightly justified, to any minister that our "profession" has gotten a much deserved rap in recent years due to the scandals, silliness and downright stupidity from some of my colleagues. Telling someone you are a pastor is, at least in some settings, the social equivalent of burping — people are still polite to you but they tend to look at you with skepticism.

Add to this the fact that when I tell people my vocational title, they usually respond in a couple of ways: One, they want to tell me all the reasons why they haven't been in church lately (even though I'm not their pastor). Or, two, they want to tell me all the things that are wrong with "organized religion." When this happens I find myself nodding my head a lot and making some sarcastic joke like "Well, if you came to my church you wouldn't find us too organized." All in all, it makes for a conversation that is significantly less fun than a beer commercial during half time at a ball game. So after having used the "p-word" for the umpteenth time in answer to the question and receiving the standard socially awkward stare, I have decided I would come up with a different description for my profession.

There are a lot of different ways I could answer that question but, after much deliberation, I've determined my best answer: "I'm a builder." After all, that's most of what we clergy actually do when you get right down to it. Preaching, of course, is tandem amount to the "building up" of the body of faith; so is counseling, so are meetings with committees, so is just about anything else I do. Pastoral ministry is one of the very few professions that gets to "build up" the body of Christ every day.

Most people love to be renovated. Think about it -- it's all about the structure. Consider this biblical fact: Jesus was a carpenter. I believe that was because everyone around him knew he could add support to their lives. I imagine him surrounded by people, listening to their social, physical, and spiritual construction needs, telling a few about "in my Father's house are many mansions", laughing, crying, making connections. That's why people followed him. They wanted to have more stability.

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR CONT...

So if you believe the statement made during the Reformation: "The Priesthood of all Believers" the next time someone asks you what you do, try this experiment — tell them, "I'm a builder" and see what happens. I'm guessing that you'll get to hear their stories while you tell a few of your own. Maybe you'll even get an opportunity to support them in a new way. At the very least, it'll make for more interesting building conversation.

## BOOK BROWSERS

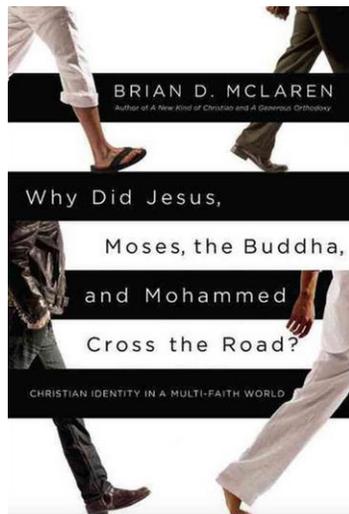
Book Browsers will meet on Tuesday, March 5, at 7:00 in the library to discuss Killers of the flower Moon by David Grann. We will discuss Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate in April.

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Shervem at 805-543-1473 or dshervem@charter.net.

## LIBRARY REVIEW

Why Did Jesus, Moses, Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?: Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World

by Brian McLaren has been added to the library and is on the book cart.



Can you be a committed Christian without having to condemn or convert people of other faiths? Is it possible to affirm other religious traditions without watering down your own? In this book Brian McLaren proposes a new faith alternative, one built on "benevolence and solidarity rather than rivalry and hostility." This way of being Christian is strong but doesn't strong-arm anyone, going beyond mere tolerance to vigorous hospitality toward, interest in, and collaboration with the other. ....Blending history, narrative, and brilliant insight, McLaren shows readers step-by-step how to reclaim this strongbenevolent faith, challenging us to stop creating barriers in the name of God and learn how affirming other religions can strengthen our commitment to our own. And in doing so, he invites Christians to become more Christ-like than ever before. (Review from Amazon)

## 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

And to everyone else with a March birthday!

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

## COMING UP

### BROWN BAG CONCERT

March 1st a favorite local musician and singer Les Beck will be performing. Join your friends for a tuneful noon full of music. Concert begins at 12 pm

### FPCSLO CONCERTS

Sunday, April 7th at 3pm Formed in 2012 as an international touring ensemble, the Zurich Beethoven Trio has delighted audiences in Switzerland and the United States with its presentation of classical and contemporary repertoire blending the reedy voice of the clarinet with the rich depth of the cello and the wide range of the piano.

### ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP & SUPPER

Wednesday, March 6th you are invited to the annual soup and bread supper at 5:30 in Wilson Hall before the 6:30 Ash Wednesday service in our Sanctuary For many of us, Lent is a very special time in our Christian year. Observing Lent prepares us to celebrate Easter more fully. The Board of Deacons would like to offer a simple meal of soup with bread and beverage. It is a time of community fellowship which incorporates the Lenten theme of fasting (the simple meal). \*Please bring your own place setting. Questions? Please call Leila Humphrey at 544-2619 or 459-6373

### LENT NIGHT

Sunday, March 3rd at 5 pm. Lent Night will be much like Advent Night - and we know you love Advent Night! We will be putting together the Stations of the Cross art project. We are doing this as an all church event this year and will be creating the Stations during this time. The Stations will then be displayed in the Sanctuary starting March 6 - Ash Wednesday - and will remain until Holy Week. Please join us and add your touch to one or all of the Stations.

## DR. JACK SPRINGER PREACHING

Sunday, March 3 - "Mountain With A View"

## WINTER GRACE

Saturday, March 2 at 8:30 pm. The morning will include an opening speaker, choice of 2 workshops, and lunch with special music! Workshops include: Natural Solutions with Essential Oils, The Parables - Signs of a New Age, From Mission to Mosque: The Sacred Architecture of San Luis Obispo, Improve Your Public Safety Knowledge.

## FRONT PORCH

As winter quarter at Cal Poly draws to a close (where does the time go?), it is time to reflect on what a blessing it is to have Cal Poly and Cuesta College right in our backyards. College students bring an energy and vitality to our community that would not otherwise be here. They often provide services when completing their senior projects and are interns in local businesses. One senior class remodels and updates a home each year for a low income or disabled person or family. They are the servers in the restaurants where we eat and clerks at the stores where we shop. All fraternities and sororities have a philanthropic component and hold or assist with fundraising for nonprofits.

Many of us enjoy athletics and support the Mustangs and/or the Cougars at sporting events. Art events at the PAC or CPAC, both vocal and instrumental music and dance, draw many community (and congregational) members.

Some of those college students find a home at Front Porch. Front Porch provides emotional, social, and spiritual support that helps enable students to be a vital part of our community. Your support is appreciated and helps Front Porch to be that place.

Consider thanking a college student when you see one around town. They are a blessing to us all.

For more information on Front Porch or to visit, please contact Mary Blythe, Tad Miller, or Susan Updegrove, Front Porch council members, or Joel Drenckpohl, director at 818-731-4984 or [director@frontporchslslo.org](mailto:director@frontporchslslo.org)

## YOUTH

Hello First Presbyterian SLO Family! We are so excited for our upcoming Spring events.

Here are our plans for March:

### Worship

Every Sunday 8:45 and 11:00 Please join us!

### Power Hour

Every Sunday 10-11am

### High School Youth Group

Sundays; 6-8pm

### Jr. High Youth Group

Fridays; 5-7pm

### Bake Off

March 1st; This event will challenge our students in creative and fun ways! Can't wait to see the crazy things they make.

### Escape Room

March 15th; Locked in a room with friends and the only way out is to put together your noggin? Sounds fun!

### Jr. High Camp

March 22-24; This will be an awesome time to get to know the jr. highers even more and to give them a fun event to look forward to.

Our youth group will also be joining in on the Lent night and Ash Wednesday festivities. Come say hi and meet the students and youth leader staff! We'd love to talk.

Thank you again, it is a huge blessing to be a part of this amazing family. If anyone has any questions regarding the youth program or wants to become more involved, please contact Jen Rabenaldt and she can get you in contact with the youth staff!

### Youth Staff,

*Brecken DeOilers, Jake Wolfe, Kelsie Krueger,  
Hailey Firstman*

# CHILDREN'S ED

## Lent Night

Lent Night will be much like Advent Night - and we know you love Advent Night! We will be putting together the Stations of the Cross art project. We are doing this as an all church event this year and will be creating the Stations during this time. The Stations will then be displayed in the Sanctuary starting March 6 - Ash Wednesday - and will remain until Holy Week. Please join us and add your touch to one or all of the Stations.

March 3 - 5:00 to 7:00 - Wilson Hall - bring a finger food to share

## Mark your calendars ...

The Children's Ed. Committee is busy planning for the Summer. We will offer three separate weeks of VBS

June 10 - 14

July 8 - 12

August 5 - 9

We will be adding an additional session for older kids this summer - watch for details!

It may seem early but if you are interested in volunteering to help with this amazing program please let Jen know. We have lots of opportunities available and would love to have you join us.

## Story of the Month ...

One of our sweet 3rd graders made the connection at Wednesdays at the Rock dinner - the Adult Ed. class participants are joining us for dinner - as to how much First Pres. is supporting the program. She asked Jen lots of questions about this topic. When their discussion was done she got up - went to each table where adults were sitting and thanked them for supporting Wednesdays at the Rock.

We are making a positive difference in the lives of the children in our community. We love to see those light bulbs go off in a child's head and especially love to watch them put their new knowledge into action. Thank you for your continued support of Wednesdays at the Rock and all of our programming.

*Jen, Teri, MaryEl, Diane, Anne and Bonnie*

# ADULT

## EDUCATION

### ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

**FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 31**

### "LIVING OUR MISSION"

The Adult Education Class for the month of March will be focusing on various issues of social justice plaguing our community. Local experts and members of the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee will lead each session.

Every Sunday we recite our Mission Statement charging us all to be instruments of God's healing, reconciling, life-giving presence in the world. Throughout this series we will look in the Gospels for direction on ways to glorify Jesus Christ and put our faith into action as we practice Christ's radical hospitality by *Living Our Mission*.

Feb. 24 What does Scripture say about Justice?

March 3 Homelessness and Poverty

March 10 Restorative Justice

March 17 Mental Health

March 24 Human Trafficking

March 31 Immigrants and Refugees

Classes will be held between services from 10:00 to 11:00 in Wilson Hall.

*Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee*

# CONGREGATION

## CARE CORNER

Please pray for our church family, especially

For the **Rev. Dennis Falasco** as he guides our congregation,

For our elders and deacons as they lead us,

For **Jen Rabenaldt** and those who help with our Children's Ministry - **Karlyn Tremaine, Stephanie Vigil, Grace Power Smith, Delaney Romo, Anne Walling and Ian Rabenaldt,**

For all those involved in our Youth Ministry, especially leaders - **Jake Wolfe, Becken DeOilers, Hailey Firstman and Kelsie Krueger,**

For **Joel Drenckpohl** and the Front Porch Ministry,

For those who are undergoing treatments for various health issues,

For those of our church family who have recently had surgery,

For our church's elderly, especially those confined to their homes or care centers, like **Cathy Anderson, Linda Beyer, Gladys Brannum, George Daniel, Jean Honeyman, Lorna Hudson, Starr Jenkins, Donna Kubasak-Sibley, Ben McRee, Ralph Nunley, Joy Reed, Idabelle Shields, Dottie Jean & John Stechman, Carol West, Richard Wiens,**

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

For members, friends & family serving in the military – **Nic Beem** – serving overseas

**Drew Descary** – stationed in San Diego

**Laura Kraemer** – Navy Medical School in Maryland

**Michael Poe** - stationed in Meridian, MS

**Joseph Sall** (son of Anne Ramirez)– stationed in Carlisle, PA.

**Travis Hatakeyama** (grandson of Luensers) – stationed in N. Carolina

**Brendan Humphrey** (grandson of Leila) –on the Carl Vinson - Navy Aircraft Carrier

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

**R. Brooks Anderson** (grandson of Dorothy Truesdale) – stationed in Groton, CT

**Chris King** (grandson of Lois Morgan) – stationed in Colorado

For all of us as we serve God wherever He calls us. If you have a prayer concern, please call the Church Office at 543-5451.

# MUSIC

## FPCSLO CONCERTS

Sunday, April 7th at 3pm Formed in 2012 as an international touring ensemble, the Zurich Beethoven Trio has delighted audiences in Switzerland and the United States with its presentation of classical and contemporary repertoire blending the reedy voice of the clarinet with the rich depth of the cello and the wide range of the piano.



# BUDGET & FINANCE

## HALF PRICE SALE!:

### 2 Los Osos Valley Memorial Park Lots

Plot #501C & D in Serenity Garden area \$2,495

Plot #228D in Garden of Memories area \$1,750

Call First Presbyterian Church of SLO office or 805-543-6244

*-Diane Brocato of Budget and Finance Committee*

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer's Report - JAN, 2019			
	Actual		Budget
	MONTH	Year to Date	Year to Date
<b>Income</b>	\$70,784	\$70,784	\$51,733
<b>Expenses</b>	\$44,580	\$44,580	\$51,733
<b>Difference</b>	\$26,204	\$26,204	\$0
<p><b>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 \$83.00 per member. Per Capita income received to date is \$4168</b></p> <p><b>Your Finance &amp; Stewardship Committee</b></p>			

# ENDOWMENT

## CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

### 2018- A YEAR OF ENDOWMENT FUND EXPANSION

During 2018, two new funds were added to the First Presbyterian Church Endowment; the Ernest H Triebel Domestic and International Mission Fund and the Sharon L. Kaml Handbell Endowment. Both of these funds along with their creators were described in KIRK articles last year.

Including the new funds, a total of \$48,111 was added to the Endowment in 2018. The other donations went to the McQuaid Choir Fund and the Alden Fogo Church Maintenance Fund.

The end of year Endowment value was \$552,751. Due to market fluctuations the value of the fund shares decreased by 3.5%. Early in 2018 the Session authorized a 5% allotment for the benefit of the church and it's missions totaling \$25,888. Since 1998, \$252,240 has been allocated to help pay for church programs including education, missions and church operations.

The total Endowment value remains strong, with plenty of saved reserve, so it is expected that the Session will authorize a 4% allotment for 2019. Continuing the Endowment growth trend, two more funds are being created this year, expected to be approved by Session in February. Watch for announcements of the new Carrie Vermeer Community Outreach Fund and the David Williams Homeless Programs Fund.

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

**Even a modest gift will make a difference.**

# MISSIONS

## GET ON THE BUS

"Get on the Bus" brings children and their care givers from throughout California to visit their parents in prison. For several years we have been sponsoring a bus that brings children to San Luis Obispo to spend time with their fathers at CMC, and we are now planning for this year's special day, which is Saturday, May 18. For many of these children this is the only time during the year they are able to spend time with their fathers.

As a bus sponsor we provide financial and volunteer assistance. The cost for the bus is \$2,500.00, half of that amount coming from donations. We no longer take a special Sunday offering for Get on the Bus, but you have the opportunity to contribute at anytime for this worthwhile outreach program. If you make a donation, please note on the check that it is for "Get on the Bus". If you donate directly to the Get on the Bus Program, please specify on your check that it goes to Bus #7 FPC. Thank you in advance for your support, insuring that we can continue helping families stay connected.

*Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee*

# PRESBYTERIAN

## WOMEN

### BIBLE STUDY

After a clear understanding in lesson Five, of how God worked with Jehoshaphat ( the great great grandson of King Solomon ) because "he sought the God of his father and walked in his commandants," and " his heart was courageous in the ways of the Lord, " shows us how God will be with us if we are faithful and obedient. The March lesson helps us to see how God will be with us "Through Our Trails."The trails of Isaiah will be included in Lesson Six and will continue to show how the love of God's promise conveys the depth of His love. Join us anytime in our study, watch the Sunday bulletin for more information or call Dorothy at 805- 541-6779.

### CELEBRATE WOMEN

Each woman in our church has a meaningful relationship with God. How that relationship expresses

itself is how she serves God. Some pray for others, some prepare meals, some share in worship services, or on church committees. Some teach Sunday classes or in Bible study groups. There are endless ways they are serving behind the scenes. What if they were not present in these services....what a massive void that would be. So let us CELEBRATE the gifts these women provide us. Presbyterian Women sets aside the month of March to focus on women's gifts of service. Over the years this church has chosen one woman a year to Honor. This month we can select hundreds who give services. I only wish we could name them all. But as time goes by be aware of who they are and THANK THEM, when you see them in service.

### THE BIRTHDAY OFFERING 2019

God is Faithful, and are heirs with Christ of the Covenant. Ninety seven years ago women launched the Birthday Offering which has funded more than 200 mission projects. Presbyterian Women's commitment to mission is timeless. This year we have the opportunity to bless the faithful of Christ by supporting these four selected projects: Disaster Response Team in Charlotte North Carolina. They will expand their services in support to people affected by human-made or natural disasters by securing safe space with food, hygiene, and school kits along with many other services. The next project is the Effingham Child Development Center in Illinois. They serve children and families with different abilities. They will be able to learn and play together. The center will improve their play ares, and equipment. The Third project is the Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky. They care for people who are sick, poor, lonely or vulnerable due to infirmities of age or poor health. The facility needs beds, mattresses, tables, cabinets, etc. The final project is called Wings of Refuge in Iowa Falls, Iowa. The refuge provides a safe and healing space for women victimized by human trafficking. The center needs for enlarging so they can serve more women to restore their identity, opportunity for hope as well as transition into independent living.

We ask that you give as you have been blessed generously and as led by the Holy Spirit.

# DEACONS

## BEAUTIFUL EASTER FLOWERS

Signups begin March 31st ~ \$10 donation

Once again, glorious flowers will fill the sanctuary on Easter. When you make a donation for an Easter plant dedication, 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 31, April 7 and 14.

For questions or additional sign-ups, you can contact Joan Green (805-541-9421) or Peggy Estes (805-305-8747).

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# MARCH EVENTS

### 1st

-Brown Bag Concert @ 12pm

### 2nd

-Winter Grace @ 8:30am

### 3rd

-Dr. Jack Springer preaching Sunday morning:  
"Mountain With A View"

-Lent Night @ 5pm

### 6th

-Ash Wednesday Soup Supper & Service:

Dinner @ 5:30pm

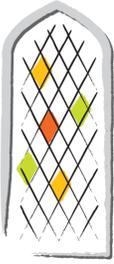
Service @ 6:30pm

### 10th

-Daylight Savings Begins

### 19th

-Session Meeting @ 7pm



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*San Luis Obispo*

PO Box 591  
981 Marsh Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA  
93406  
*tel:* 805.543.5451  
*email:* churchoffice@fpcslo.org  
*web:* fpcslo.org

## **TWO SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**8:45 AM SERVICE**

**EDUCATION HOUR at 10 am**

**11:00 AM SERVICE**