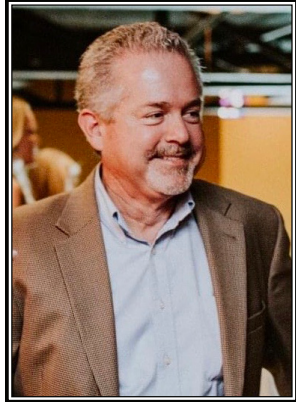


**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
*San Luis Obispo*

# *The Kirk*

## February 2021



Since it's February now, I guess we can stop saying Happy New Year!

I think we've held on to that greeting of celebration a little longer than usual this year, mostly just to make sure that 2020 was really over! We are well and truly into 2021 now, and there are some important and meaningful days ahead.

Last month we spent some time focusing on what it means to be the church. The sentence we shared was: A healthy church is built on a foundation of Jesus Christ, and expressed through fellowship, worship, discipleship and mission.

That's been a good focus for us. It's easy in a year where everything was disrupted to lose sight of who and how we're called to be. Spending those four Sundays on the nature of the church was a reminder that God calls us together to be a reflection of his love to each other and to the world. We need that prompt every so often.

That will lead us to two messages coming up in early February. The Sermon on the Mount is the longest recorded teaching of Jesus that we have. It stretches across almost three full chapters in Matthew's gospel (5-7), and shows us how to see the world through the values of the Kingdom of God, Jesus' favorite thing to talk about. Early in this sermon, in Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus teaches us about how the world should experience us, as Salt and Light. We're going to spend two Sundays on those ideas as a way to build on what we learned in January about being the church.

That will take us to the next season in the church year, the season of Lent. I'll say more about this in the coming weeks, but for now I'll simply say that Lent is such an important time—it invites us to reflect and repent and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter. We'll begin that season with Ash Wednesday on February 17th—soon we'll be sharing some special ways to honor that day.

For now let me invite you to continue to pray for our church and our witness in this community. We bring all kinds of traditions and shades of belief to our life together, but let's be united in our commitment to be reflections of Jesus Christ here in SLO and wherever else we might be. We're on this journey together, and I look forward to seeing what we do next!

Blessings to you and yours. Stay safe and healthy, and remember to wear your masks.

Pastor John

# CHILDREN'S ED

Happy New Year! We are keeping in touch virtually and safely. Our kids and families are amazing. Even through the challenges they stay faithful. Of course I get asked almost every week - when can we come back? I sincerely wish I had an answer. When the day safely comes for us to be together again ... I will be shouting it from the roof of the Hart building. In the meantime - please wear your masks and wash your hands.

We had fun with an Epiphany porch drop. Sharing stars and Epiphany activities. Watch for a couple "porch drops" in February.

Feel free to call, email or text Jen with any questions, joys, concerns. We are here for you - always - even if not in person!

Wishing you all the best in 2021,  
Children's Ed Committee

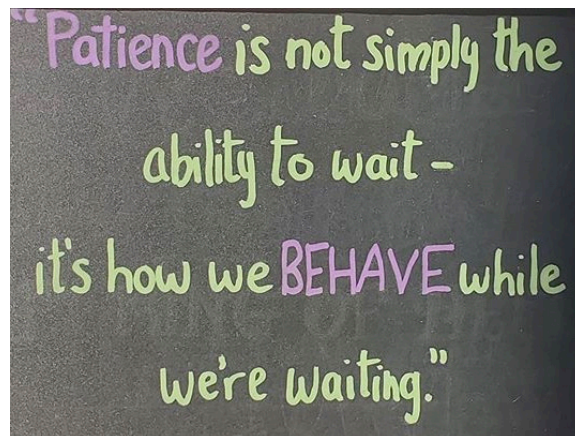


# YOUTH

It goes without saying that we are all Zoomed out. But, the youth are showing up (virtually) and staying strong. We are currently meeting via Zoom if for no other reason than to see each other. We share highs and lows, lessons, challenges and time to be goofy. We are finding ways to do service projects which can be challenging when we can't be together. If you have any ideas or needs - that we are safely allowed to do - please let us know. We would love to be of help and service. The Youth enjoy a virtual game day on Saturdays and are participating in a new on line game called "Among Us" This leader hasn't a clue what any of that is about but the kids love it and it is safe and a fun way to stay connected while doing a little team building. Thank you to Ian for leading this activity.

We are definitely hoping to be together again soon. We also know we need to be responsible and follow guidelines. We are thankful that we have stayed healthy and pray for those who have not. Thank you to the Youth and their families for supporting our efforts.

Happy New Year,  
The Youth Committee



# FRONT PORCH

Winter quarter began virtually as Front Porch staff quarantined at home awaiting results of Covid testing. The exception was the distribution of dinner packets on Wednesday night, prepared by the Friendship Circle. Meal packets have been an important outreach to students who are feeling isolated and lonely. (Dinner packets are ingredients for a simple meal for four people that students can prepare for themselves and their roommates. WOW Circle also participates in this ministry.) Students and staff are extremely grateful. Students can prepare the meal at home and participate virtually with a Wednesday night gathering with other students. It is a perfect example of the theme for this year for Front Porch: Life together - Apart!

I would like to again thank all who helped Front Porch meet its budget for last year. Fundraising was successful and Front Porch has started 2021 with a nice reserve.

Susan Updegrove  
Chair, Front Porch Board

# BOOK BROWSERS

Book Browsers is starting our 20-21 year of book discussions. We will be meeting in Zoom meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. These are the books we will be reading this year.

Feb. *Say Nothing* by Patrick Radden Keefe  
Mar. *The Daughter's Tale* by Armando Correa  
Apr. *That Churchill Woman* by Stephanie Barron  
May *Water From My Heart* by Charles Martin

Questions: Please contact Diane Shervem at [dshervem@charter.net](mailto:dshervem@charter.net) or 805-459-9844.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Marty O'Keefe – February 1  
Carolyn Luenser - February 24

Happy Birthday to all others with February birthdays. Our church records may be incomplete. If we have overlooked someone, please contact the church office.

by Gloria DeKleine

# LITURGISTS: INVITATION AND TRAINING

Reading of the liturgy is a very meaningful part of our Sunday morning worship services. If you would like to join our group of FPC Liturgists by participating in these readings, please contact Nellie Beecher at [nelbeecher@charter.net](mailto:nelbeecher@charter.net) or 805-801-4148. A liturgist training session led by Pastor John via Zoom is planned for Tuesday, February 23, at 6 o'clock for all FPC Liturgists.

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

Please pray for our church family in this new year, especially

For Pastor **John D'Elia** as he leads our congregation,

For our **Elders** as they guide our congregation,

For the **Deacons** as they care for our church family,

For **Jen Rabenaldt** and others as they stay in touch with our children and youth,

For the Health Care workers and care givers in our community,

For those people worried about their jobs and businesses,

For FPC SLO members, friends and family who are undergoing treatments for various health issues, including COVID,

For our church's seniors, especially those who are confined to their homes or care centers during this time of isolation,

For Glenn Carlson, as well as family and friends of Bernice in her passing in January,

For members, family & support personnel serving in the military,

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

If you have a prayer concern, please call the Church Office at (805) 543-5451 or write me at [gdeklein@calpoly.edu](mailto:gdeklein@calpoly.edu).

God bless us all,  
Gloria DeKleine

# GREEN PASTURES

## GREEN PASTURES MINISTRY

### TEMPORARILY CLOSED

The Green Pastures ministry that provides needs assistance to 200-400 community members a year, is temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 virus and the difficulty in providing a safe environment to administer the program.

During the interim the Green Pastures staff is providing funding to other Community organizations such as the Salvation Army to provide assistance for those in need. Green Pastures will reopen when the Church campus is open again and it is safe for staff to offer this mission.

Your continued donations to Green Pastures are important to provide for current needs and to continue this important mission in the future.

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## ENDOWMENT

### CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

#### 2020 WAS A GOOD YEAR FOR FPC ENDOWMENT

One of the good parts of 2020 was mutual fund returns. First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo Endowment is invested in the Balanced Growth Fund, part of New Covenant Funds owned by the Presbyterian Church USA Foundation. After a loss in the 1st quarter the Balanced Growth Fund ended the year with a healthy gain.

The growth for the year was approximately 11.7% or in dollars, \$74,878. This growth bodes well for significant 2021 allotment to help pay for FOCSLO operations, programs and missions. The Endowment Committee voted for and recommended to Session an allotment, up to 5% of 2020 year end account value. The Session at its Jan meeting approved the 5% allocation, for a total of \$33,055.19,

In addition to the market gain, the Endowment received generous donations during 2020 to create the Marysue Wilson Chapman Bell Choir Endowment and the Dorie Larson Green Pastures Endowment. There were also additional gifts to the Carrie Vermeer Community Outreach Fund and Sharon L. Kaml Hand Bell Endowment. Thank you to those recent donors and all donors who have

created our Endowment.

Have you prepared your will? NOW! is the best time to do it.

If you are currently doing tax or estate planning and/or feel led to include a gift to the First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo in your financial or estate planning, please contact any member of Endowment Committee: Don Green, Jerry Kaml, Diane Shervem, Bert Townsend, Roger Verity, or Virginia Walter (Chair). If you haven't already done so, please consider inserting one simple statement in our wills: after all my bills are paid, 10% of my estate will go to First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo

Even a modest gift will make a difference.

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## NEWS FROM THE SANDERS

### LONG TIME MEMBERS OF FPC

The Lord has strengthened and enabled us to teach online and in-person. We daily praise him.

Arden gives praise for wrapping up the Fall 2020 classes and the approval of a new MA in Translation Advertising not Rolodex out next fall.

It has been unique to be able to see some of the virtual services and to get the KIRK even during this pandemic. We hoped to visit SLO in 2020 but couldn't so the Lord provided other ways to get in touch.

Blessings, Joy and Arden

NOTE: You can reach the Sanders at :

7500 W Camp Wisdom Rd. Dallas Tx. 75236-5629

Their work and donations to them, are through Wycliffe Bible Translators with a note, "Preference for ministry of Arden and Joy Sanders. Their address is:

Wycliffe Bible Translators

P.O Box 628200, Orlando, Fl

32862-8200

# FROM THE DEACONS

## ASH WEDNESDAY IS COMING...

Ash Wednesday is February 17th and we will be having a Zoom worship service that evening. However, due to the pandemic, our usual Deacon Soup Supper before the service is out. But, fear not, the Deacons have come up with a plan!

The Deacons will host a "drive by" in its place of the Soup Supper this year. We invite you to drive by and pick-up homemade rolls or bread, baked by the Deacons, and pair it with your own soup. You may want to prepare the LENTil soup recipe provided by the Deacons (see below) or fix your favorite recipe. If you don't feel like cooking, pick up a cup of soup from your local grocer or get takeout. We will also offer bread delivery for those who are unable to "drive by."

To sign up for the drive by, or delivery, call or send an email to Judi Davies at 805-704-5763 (judithadavies@yahoo.com) or Charlotte Roberts at 805-400-5818 (corvair@charter.net) with your names and headcount and whether you need it to be delivered.

**The drive by will be scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 16th the day before Ash Wednesday from 11 am – 1 pm. Watch the Weekly Peak for any updates. The deliveries will be made on Tuesday as well.**

### 15-Minute LENTil Soup Recipe (Serving for 1)

1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil

½ small onion, finely chopped

1 carrot, finely chopped

1 celery stalk, finely chopped

1 garlic clove, minced

Coarse salt and ground pepper

14.5 ounces low-sodium vegetable or chicken broth

¾ cup cooked lentils (from a 15-ounce can), rinsed and drained (available at California Fresh and Smart & Final)\*

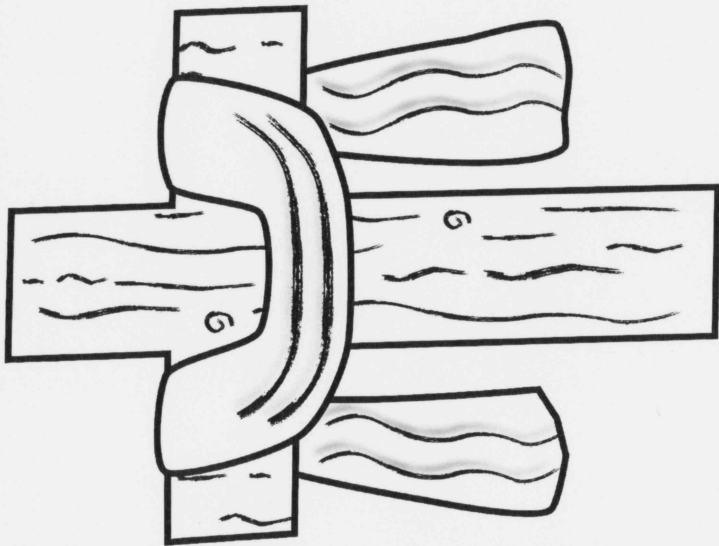
2 teaspoons red-wine vinegar

#### Directions:

In a medium saucepan, heat oil over medium heat. Add onion, carrot, celery and garlic; season with salt and pepper and cook, stirring occasionally 3-5 minutes, until onion softens. Add broth; bring to a boil and cook 5 minutes. Add lentils and cook 3 - 5 minutes, until soup thickens slightly. Stir in vinegar and season with salt and pepper to taste. Enjoy!

\*You may substitute dried lentils, but you will need to cook them first. They are very easy to cook and you can prep them in advance:

Rinse ¾ cup dried lentils. Add to 2 cups water. Bring to rapid simmer. Reduce to gentle simmer, cook uncovered 30 min. Drain. After draining, add ¼ tsp. salt.



Find all ten words:

- Jesus
- Lent
- Ash
- Wednesday
- Dust
- Prayer
- Alms
- Fasting
- Sacrifice
- Purple

W J E P S A C T A P  
E Q L U F A W L R  
D J G E O R V R M A  
N E A F N V P C Q Y  
E P R I T E L W E  
S A C R I F I C E R  
D U S T F W Y R Z N  
A R Y H V A L M S D  
Y Z B J E S U S H U  
Z J F A S T I N G F

Unscramble these Lenten Words

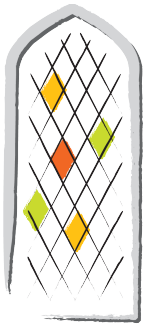
TRYFO YASD \_\_\_\_\_

HSESA \_\_\_\_\_

NLTE \_\_\_\_\_

TISFGNA \_\_\_\_\_

One thing I can do during Lent to  
bring me closer to God...



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*San Luis Obispo*

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San Luis Obispo, CA

93406

tel: 805.543.5451

email: [churchoffice@fpcslo.org](mailto:churchoffice@fpcslo.org)

web: [fpcslo.org](http://fpcslo.org)

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Zoom Service will be held February 17, at 5pm