

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
San Luis Obispo

The Kirk

February 2022



Winter on the Central Coast is lovely, and sort of underwhelming. Some of you have lived in places where snow and ice are a part of the season, and so you know what I mean. I'm a California native, but nine years in the UK taught me a lot about how cold winter can be. I still remember making my very first snow angel...in my 40s. I remember putting salty grit down on our front steps so we wouldn't slip on the ice.

It's on my mind today because it's hovering around 70 degrees as I write this. It doesn't exactly feel like February.

It used to be that we only had to be concerned with colds and maybe the occasional flu during this time of year. But COVID continues to limit our activities...the choir, our midweek programs for kids, even the office remains closed for now. In worship we're maintaining distance and wearing masks, we're still not singing, and it seems like forever since we had a congregational meal together here at the church.

I learned a new phrase to describe what we're doing to keep each other safe. I was listening to a virologist on the radio, and she mentioned the importance of "layered mitigation strategies". It's a perfect way to describe how we're approaching things here at First Pres—vaccines, masks, distance, limits on some of our practices—all of these fall into the category of layered mitigation strategies. They're the habits we're developing to keep each other safe and healthy.

In Deuteronomy 6:4-9, God gives these commands to his people:

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Do you see how many layered strategies God describes? Love God with everything you've got. Keep the commandments in your heart. Teach them to your kids. Talk about them as often as you can. Tie them on your hands and foreheads. And for good measure, attach them to your doors. Wow.

All of these are important. They're meant to give us a sense of God's presence and calling in our lives, which is exactly what we need right now. As we move into a critical season of reflection and discernment for where God wants this church to go, these reminders help us keep God in view as we make some important decisions.

As we suffer through yet another bitter winter (I'm kidding), take these days to pray for wisdom and direction, and give yourself some times of silence to listen for God's voice. Know that we are all in this together, even from a distance, and that our collective self-control is helping to keep us safe and healthy.

Blessings to you,

Pastor John

CHILDREN'S ED

Happy New Year!

The Children were able to sing and participate in the 5:00pm Christmas Eve service - masked of course. They did GREAT! If you missed it you can still watch the service through our website - fpcslo.org.

The kids collected money throughout our first Session of Wednesdays at the Rock to support Wednesdays at the Rock, Our churches and The Community. Each jar collected over \$50. Next we will decide how to use the funds - or - if we will keep collecting to distribute them later. We are embracing becoming a Matthew 25 Church. The kids are learning about being a good friend and neighbor and sharing our abundance with those who can use it. This Session we will be learning all about Worship and what all the parts of Worship mean and why we do them. We then hope to put on a special Worship Service in the Spring and hope we can invite you all to come.

The Nursery is starting to buzz again and we love it. We have new families coming to Worship and have enjoyed getting to know them and their kids. If you see them on Sunday - stop and say hi - you'll be glad you did.

Thank you for your continued support! We look forward to the day when we can invite you to come and see what we are up to - when, we get to be up to it. We are looking forward to a year full of hope, a year full of adventure and a year full of learning.

The Children's Ed Crew

Jen, Delaney, Jenny, Bella, Cole and Sarah Jane



YOUTH

The new year has introduced exciting possibilities, despite the increased infection rates throughout January. The Youth have been flexible and open to finding new ways to grow closer to God in a safe environment. The restrictions we are currently facing have not broken their spirit or commitment to the Youth program. During the month of January, we studied lessons based Pastor John's weekly themes: Fellowship, Worship, Discipleship, and Mission. If you happen to see our Youth on Sunday mornings, consider asking them what these things mean to them, and why. As always, their answers are diverse and insightful. First Pres is truly blessed by these extraordinary young individuals.

- Sarah Jane

FRONT PORCH

After a slow start to the school year--except for the Wednesday night meals when hundreds of students showed up--Front Porch closed the coffee house mid-month until the surge of Covid cases at Cal Poly decreases. Coffee is instead offered from the front porch and chairs are set up outside. Sunday morning worship was held in a park and other scheduled activities were postponed.

We ask that you keep all students and faculty in your prayers as they once again navigate teaching and learning in a challenging environment with changing protocols.

Susan Updegrove
Chair, Front Porch Board

ENDOWMENT FUND

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

ANOTHER YEAR OF HEALTHY GROWTH FOR THE FPCSLO ENDOWMENT

Our Church's Endowment Fund grew better than the economy during 2021, reaching a value of **\$838,381**. The growth rate was in the range of **10%** meaning **\$74,826** was added to the value.

One new fund, The Dorie Larson Green Pastures Endowment, was added in 2021. In future years it will render additional cash to one of our most important local missions.

Early in 2021 our endowment subcommittee recommended and Session approved an endowment allotment of \$33,055. That allotment provided over \$8,000 to pay for church operations with the balance adding additional revenue to Missions, Christian Education, Youth Ministry, Worship & Music, and Building & Property Maintenance.

The Endowment Subcommittee is expected to recommend a generous allotment for 2022.

Since the first allotment in 1999 our endowment has paid up to 5% per year, totaling over \$302,000 to help fund Church programs and operations. While the 2021 allotment amounted to a mere 6.2% of expenses it added welcomed income to revenue from all other sources to help pay for what our Church is able to provide to this congregation, community, nation and world.

The invested endowment capital was all donated by Church members like ourselves and we will be the sources of future capital to grow our endowment, a gift which keeps on giving. We all need to be thankful to the forward looking members and families, named and honored in past columns in this space, who have included FPCSLO in their wills and trusts. Similar to those who have come before us and made the gifts to pay for our beautiful building, we are the ones who will make gifts to grow our endowment, to keep pace with future Church budgetary needs. Who among us will make the next legacy donation?

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: Peggy Estes, Don Green, Jerry Kaml, Ray McKelvey, Diane Shervem, Bert Townsend, or Virginia Walter (Chair). If you have not already done so, please consider inserting one simple statement in our wills: *After all my bills are paid, 10 percent of my estate will go to First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo.*

Even a modest gift will make a difference

Treasurer's Report - DEC 2021			
	Actual		Budget
	MONTH	Year to Date	Year to Date
Income	\$59,292	\$521,836	\$530,000
Expenses	\$46,792	\$532,398	\$530,000
Difference	\$12,500	(\$10,562)	\$0
Your Budget & Finance Committee			

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to the following seniors (over 85) who will celebrate birthdays in February:

- February 1 – Marty O'Keefe
- February 16 – Brooks Smith - turns 85 in 2022
- February 24 – Carolyn Luenser

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

BOOK BROWSERS

Book Browsers will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 via ZOOM.

- Feb. 1 When We Were Young and Brave
by Hazel Gaynor
- Mar. 1 Brigid of Kildare by Heather Terrell
- Apr. 5 Last Boat out of Shanghai by Helen Zia
- May 3 The Nature of Fragile Things
by Susan Meisner

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Shervem at 805-459-9844 or dshervem@charter.net.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

Please pray for our church family, especially for the following:

For Pastor John D'Elia as he leads our congregation;

For our Elders as they guide our congregation in making decisions about the life of our church;

For the Deacons as they care for our church family;

For Jen Rabenaldt, Sarah Jane Scott, and others as they work with our children and youth;

For Scott Glysson, Sarah Jane Scott, and the wonderful musicians in our church;

For the Mission Study Committee members as they help us move forward;

For Bob Gordon, Jen Rabenaldt, and family and friends of Ruth Gordon, who passed away in December;

For all of us as we deal with the increase in COVID cases which creates problems all around us;

For our church members, friends & family who are undergoing treatments for various health issues;

For our church's seniors, especially those who are alone in their homes or care centers, and for their care givers;

For those who support our worship services with their technical help to make it possible for live streaming and recording of the services;

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.

God bless us all,
Gloria DeKleine

40 PRADO DINNER

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO SERVE – LITERALLY!

One of the outreach missions of the church is to prepare and serve dinner to the residents at 40 Prado Homeless Service Center in San Luis Obispo on the fourth Saturday of each month. We have been fortunate to have a dedicated group of host servers for a number of years; now we are in need of a few more hosts.

We would also like to establish a dedicated core of congregants who will commit to preparing a dish for the meal several times a year.

40 Prado host tasks: There are typically three to four coordinators that work together to cover hosting of the twelve meals we provide at the shelter. In pre-COVID times the typical tasks of a host coordinator are shown below:

- On the third Sunday of the month between services solicit sign-ups of volunteers to make or bring casserole, vegetable, salad, dessert and milk as well as a total of four servers.

- On the Friday before the fourth Saturday send a reminder (email or phone) to the volunteers to help them recall their contribution to the meal.

- On or before the afternoon of the fourth Saturday collect the four aprons, plates, cups, and napkins for the dinner from the church.

- On the fourth Saturday arrive at 40 Prado Homeless Services Center by 4:15 pm to receive meal contributions from church members who will deliver the components by 4:30 pm. Serve as a host along with your other servers. The meal will last until a little after 6pm.

- After the meal collect the aprons and remaining plates, cups and napkins. No clean up at 40 Prado is required.

- Work with Pamalee Brady and Steve Walker to select three to four months when you would like to host.

- Notify Pamalee Brady of the shortage of any serving supplies.

- Experience the sincere thankfulness of the clients receiving dinner at the shelter and know the joy of serving!

40 Prado dedicated food preparers: Would you commit to preparing a meal component 4 times a year in the months of your choosing? It would be a great help to the hosts if we could rely on committed individuals each month to make a component of the 40 Prado meal. These components typically include a pasta and meat based casserole, green beans, green salad, cookies/brownies and milk. Such a commitment would also help to engage more members in this local mission of our church.

Please contact Pamalee Brady (pleebrady@gmail.com or 7832520) if you have an interest in serving in this way!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

BIG VIRTUAL HUG FOR KEEPING THE CHRISTMAS PLANT TRADITION ALIVE!

The Deacons extend their sincerest appreciation to our congregation for their generous support of the Deacon flower fund this Christmas, by dedicating flowering plants in honor of special people they wanted to honor or memorialize.

Dacons and other helpers delivered 52 poinsettias and begonias this year to members of our congregation who were homebound, ill, bereaved, or new to our church family! We also had an amazing 97 dedications which supported this effort! The proceeds help support the Deacon flower fund throughout the year—a fund that helps pay for the flowers we deliver each week to designated members of our congregation.

Special thanks too, to Jen Rabenaldt, for ordering and caring for the plants while they were in our sanctuary!

Our heartfelt thanks to you all and also to the 20 people who helped deliver the plants to our recipients.

Blessings,

Kathy Wolff and Amy Gates

MISSION UPDATE

FPCSLO has supported God's Hidden Treasurers in Ukraine for years, started in 1997 by Nita Hansen from Thousand Oaks. It is a ministry that cares for "the least of these" - the disabled, orphaned and ignored - among the poor in Ukraine. They provide wheelchairs, medical assistance and food packets as needed. Every summer they have a week long children's camp, where the children are able to enjoy crafts and activities. Mothers are able to gather for Bible study and tea, and to relax as others watch over their children and a strong fellowship is developing among the women. A water fight was a high light of this year's camp for the children. For the first time, camp was fully planned and run by Ukrainian staff. Thank you for helping us support this important global mission.



Learn About The Bible

What is in the Bible?

The word Bible means “books”, and the Bible is made up of many books.

Connect the dots to find out how many books are in the Bible.



books in the
Old Testament



books in the
New Testament



books in the
whole Bible

Bible Writers Puzzle

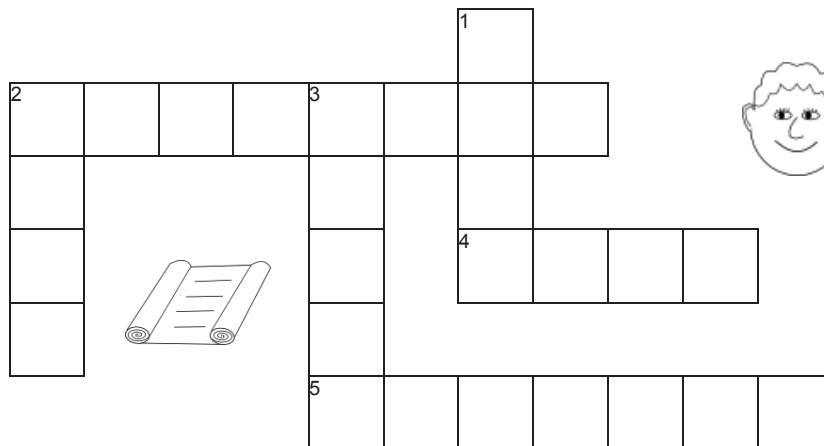
The books in the Bible were written by about 40 different people. Some wrote only one book. Each of the Bible writers in this puzzle wrote more than one book.

ACROSS

2. He wrote 2 books of prophecy
4. He wrote a gospel and a book of history
5. He wrote 3 books of poetry and wisdom

DOWN

1. He wrote 12 letters
2. He wrote 5 New Testament books
3. He wrote the first 5 books of the Bible



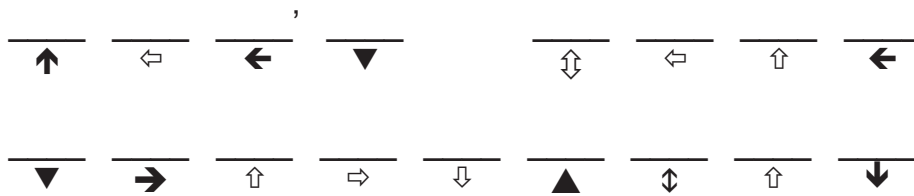
Name List: JEREMIAH, JOHN, LUKE, MOSES, PAUL, SOLOMON

The Bible is Inspired by God

“Inspired” means “God-breathed”. God told the Bible writers what to write. Then they wrote it in their own words.

Other Names for the Bible

Use the code to learn two other names for the Bible.



Code:



What Does the Bible Teach about Itself?

Look up and read each verse, and draw a line to what it says.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Psalm 119:11 | The Bible lasts forever. |
| Psalm 119:105 | The Bible is a light to show us where to go and what to do. |
| Isaiah 40:8 | If I remember what the Bible says, it keeps me from sinning again: God. |
| 2 Timothy 3:15 | The Bible helps us understand salvation through faith in Jesus. |
| 2 Timothy 3:16 (first part) | The Bible teaches us what to do and corrects us when we are wrong. |
| 2 Timothy 3:16 (second part) | The Bible is inspired by God. |

The Bible and You

Put a checkmark next to each thing you should do.

- ___ Read the Bible often.
- ___ Memorize Bible verses.
- ___ Look in the Bible only when you have a problem.
- ___ Study the Bible.
- ___ Believe the Bible.
- ___ Obey the Bible.





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