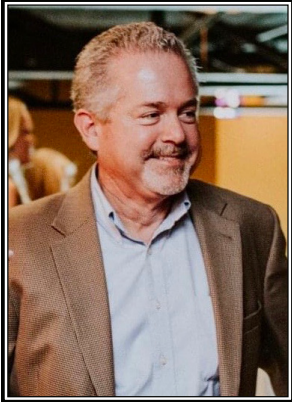


**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
San Luis Obispo

The Kirk
April 2021



He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Blessings to you this Easter season. I can't remember ever needing Easter as much as I do this year. How about you? What a year we've had.

Most years it's easy to lose the meaning of Easter in the avalanche of eggs and chocolate bunnies and even those pink and yellow Peeps (you either love those or don't). Most years we can allow the coming of spring and a few days off to obscure the outrageousness of God in human flesh suffering a painful death, only to be resurrected into a new form of life and promising that we will do the same. If we're honest, most years we can forget a lot of that.

Not this year.

Over the past year we lost so much. Time with families. Opportunities to travel. The simple pleasures of concerts and ballgames and meals in restaurants. People lost jobs and homes and financial security. We lost loved ones that we couldn't visit.

But we believe that Easter teaches us that in Christ, God makes all things new. We need that message—we need to believe that message—this year more than most.

In the Scottish Book of Common Order, the guide to worship in the Church of Scotland, the traditional Easter prayer begins like this:

O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to death on the cross, and by his glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the power of our enemy...

God works to deliver us from the power of our enemy.

Now don't get sidetracked into listing your enemies and praying for God to destroy them. Our real enemies aren't other people—our true enemies are the systems and areas of brokenness that try to destroy us individually and as communities and even nations.

The resurrection shows us that there isn't anything any one of us can do that will separate us from life with God through Christ. The resurrection also shows us that our churches and cities and nations can be redeemed and restored and renewed—transformed into the kinds of places God intended for them (us?) to be.

I write this in the shadow of several violent tragedies, a pandemic that continues to linger, and a nation that remains divided in far too many ways. But...Christ came, Christ died, and Christ lives again. It is in that Easter miracle that we find our hope for a future that is better, healthier, and more whole than the past we inherited.

Spring is here. Easter has come once again. And the opportunity presents itself once again to live into the promises we see in the resurrection. No matter how dead we feel, the promise of this season is that God, "by his glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the power of our enemy".

My invitation to all of us as we look ahead to the relaxing of restrictions and reopening of our church—my invitation is to use this time to reflect on that glorious resurrection. What does it mean for you? What can it mean for all of us together?

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

CHILDREN'S ED

As far as programming - this has probably been the longest year of our lives. But you know what? We did it and we did it well. Our kids and families feel cared for and connected with First Pres SLO. We are very much looking forward to the day when we don't have to do drive throughs our porch drops unless we just want to. We are busy trying to figure out how to be together when that time comes. Lots of ideas running around in our heads. We will follow all guidelines - not only the county guidelines but the church guidelines. We are looking forward to that glorious day when we can gather again - safely of course. Please keep our kids, their families and Children's Ed staff and volunteers in your prayers.

The kids were surprised with a Holy Week porch drop. Lots of lessons, activities and just for fun included.

"Thank you for dropping off the Easter activities. The kids enjoy doing the projects. We appreciate the time and effort made by you and your team."

The Suttons

"Thanks for keeping our practice and participation afloat! We'd be pretty siloed if not for you"

The Peterson's

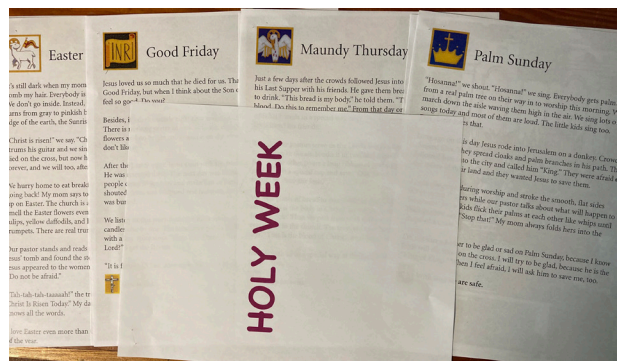
"Thanks for all the porch drops! Our kids have been missing The Rock big time"

The Templeton's

"We are loving the Holy Week Bags!

Thanks so much"

Penelope and Jackson



YOUTH

We have a small but mighty group of the most amazing Youth. We have been able to gather in person on Sunday evenings. Masks and lots of hand washing and social distancing. It is just so joyous to actually be in the same - large - room. We look forward to resuming games and activities in the gym when the time comes. The Youth are always looking for ways to help out. If you have any projects we can safely handle please let us know. We were able to bag cookies for Front Porch for the students finals week. Only a few were eaten in the process.

The Youth are following the Bible in Community study group lessons. We have taken on some challenging Psalms. We love to hear what the Youth think of and come up with. Please keep our Youth and Families in

your prayers as they head back to in person school and navigate all of that. We are looking forward to Summer and hopefully some fun outings - fingers crossed. Thank you for your continued support!



my continued education. I look forward to promoting Christian Education and the importance of it, not only for First Pres but the Presbytery and beyond. Keep this process in your prayers and I will keep you posted as we move forward.

Jen

BOOK BROWERS

Book Browsers is starting our 2021 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.

Apr. *That Churchill Woman* by Stephanie Barron
May *Water from My Heart* by Charles Martin

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Kathy Loper – April 3

Jack Daily – April 14 – celebrating 95 years

Bob Morgan – April 15 – celebrating 85 years

Ralph Watson – April 23 – celebrating 90 years

Harry Butler – April 25 – celebrating 90 years

Margaret McCallum – April 29

Happy Birthday to all others with April birthdays.

Our church records may be incomplete. If we have overlooked someone, please contact the church office.

by Gloria DeKleine

FROM THE DCE

I'm excited about an opportunity I've been given to be part of enhancing the importance and value of education in the life of the church. Union Presbyterian Seminary has put together 5 cohorts throughout the country to collaborate and enhance Christian Education. I applied and recently found out I was selected to participate in one of the cohorts. We will meet monthly - via Zoom - for a year to discuss, collaborate and share resources for the educational ministry of the church. My continuing education to become a Certified Christian Educator has been through Union and I am looking forward to being a part of this endeavor.

I wanted to thank Sandy - Stated Clerk of the Santa Barbara Presbytery - for sharing the application with me. And for First Pres SLO's continued support for

CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

Please pray for our church family, especially the following:

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 vaccine providers in our community,

For teachers and students as they return to in-school learning or a mixture of home and in-school,

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

For our church's seniors, especially those who are confined to their homes or care centers during this time of isolation and as things open up a bit,

For the family and friends of **Ruth Bostrom** and **Barbara Rehborg** who passed away in March,

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

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

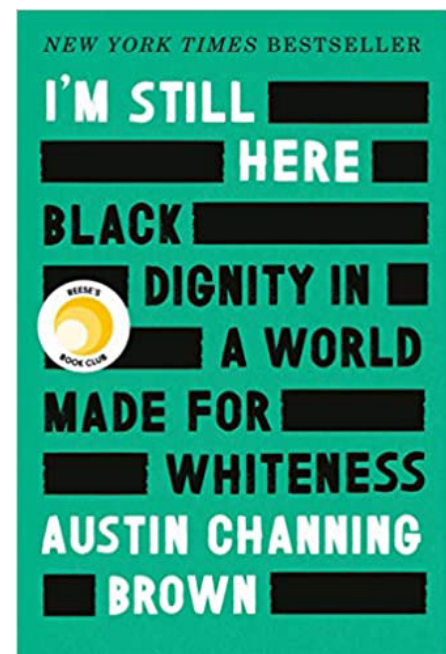
If you have a prayer concern, please call the Church Office at (805) 543-5451 or write Gloria DeKleine at gdeklein@calpoly.edu.

God bless us all, Gloria DeKleine

LIBRARY REVIEW

I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown is a book that has been added to the library and is available for borrowing.

This incisive memoir takes a penetrating look at race and the Christian faith while providing tools on how to cope with microaggressions and blatant racism. Brown perfectly and succinctly describes the corrosive weight of white supremacy embedded within American institutions, which African Americans and other people of color endure on a daily basis in schools, professional spaces, and places of worship. Brown's experiences and lifelong exploration of racial understanding and reconciliation offer a modern take on the double consciousness first written about by W.E.B. DuBois. From her days in elementary school, often as the only person of color in the room, to speaking on the national stage, Brown's lessons not only give allies the tools to do better but also provide advice for peers and up-and-comings on navigating hostile workplaces, lecture halls, and hearts and minds. This book is laced with gems that make it necessary reading for everyone, regardless of belief or identity. (Review From School Library Journal/Amazon)



ENDOWMENT

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

GIVING TO OUR ENDOWMENT IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE CHURCH'S FUTURE

Estate planning done right brings peace of mind. Planning can include minimizing taxes, benefitting the next generation and honoring those things important to us by creating a lasting legacy.

A gift to the First Presbyterian Church San Luis Obispo Endowment can take several forms. A few examples include:

A BEQUEST from your will or trust,
the most common type.

A gift from a spouse or child as a
MEMORIAL to a loved one.

A gift of a life insurance policy or part of a policy.

A gift of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA,) or
another retirement plan or part of a plan.

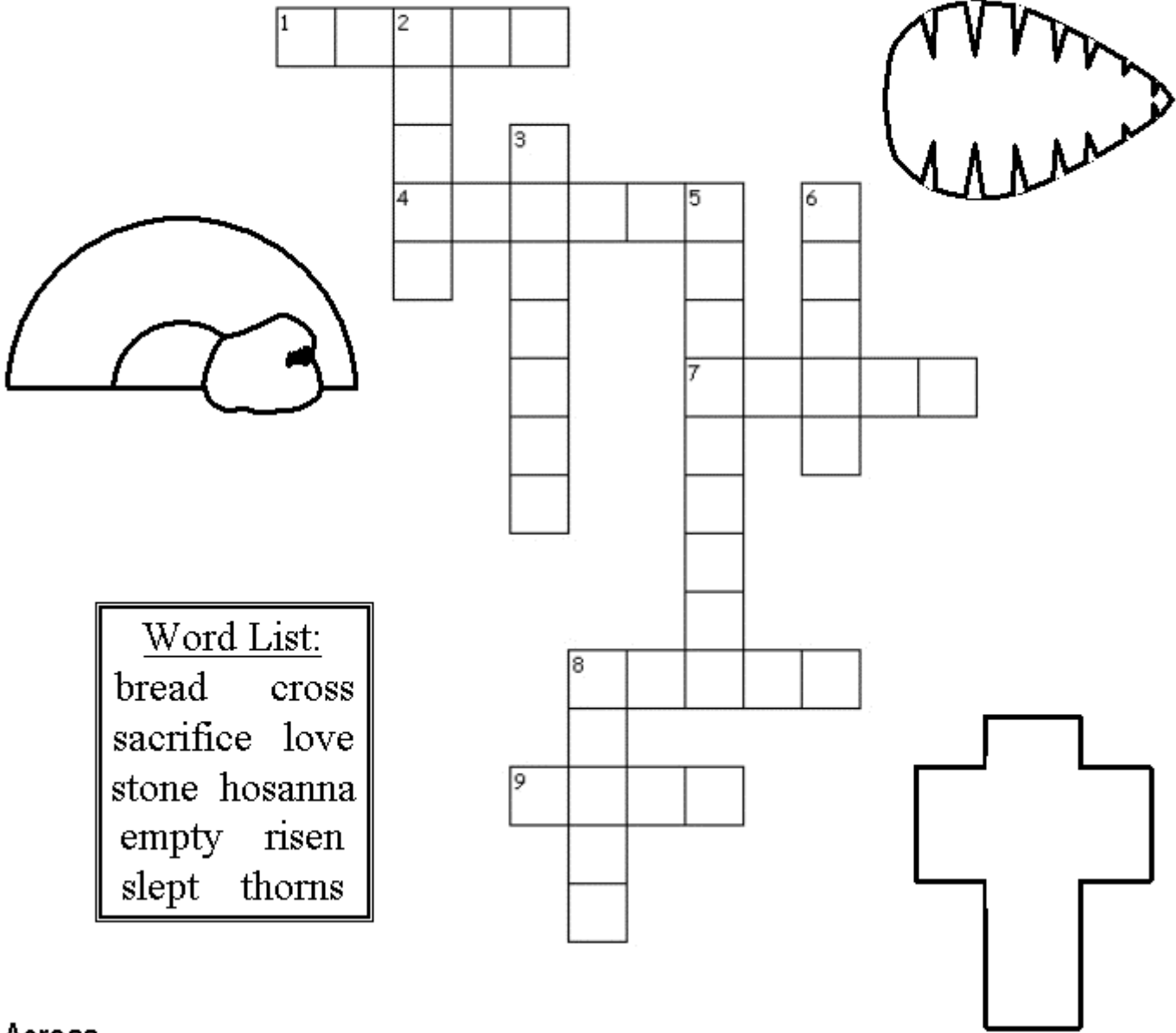
To those who have donated to our endowment, we give thanks. They invested in our church's future; investments from which the church is benefiting every year as the endowment partially funds programs including missions, worship & music, Christian education, building maintenance, and general operations. The same thanks is given to those among us who have included FPCSLO in their estate plans. All gifts are used as the donors specified.

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 the Endowment Committee: Don Green, Jerry Kaml, Diane Shervem, Bert Townsend, 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.

Easter Crossword



Across

1. Taking this during the last supper symbolized Jesus' body.
4. Jesus was forced to wear a crown made of these instead of a crown meant for a real king.
7. The angel told the women, "Don't be afraid, Jesus isn't here; He has ____!"
8. Instead of praying the disciples did this when Jesus went off to pray by himself.
9. The main reason that God gave His only son, Jesus to die for each of us.

Down

2. On Sunday the two Mary's didn't find Jesus but a tomb that was ____.
3. The word people shouted to Jesus that means blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
5. Jesus became the ____ for us, so we could be forgiven for our sins.
6. Jesus was meant to die on this.
8. This was put in front of the tomb so nobody could steal Jesus' body.





**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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