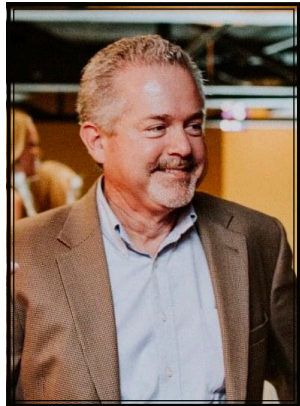


**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**  
*San Luis Obispo*

# *The Kirk*

## April 2022



What does it mean to you to be a Christian?

Lent and Holy Week seem like good times to ask that question. As we spend these weeks reflecting and repenting, then jump into the joy of Easter with both feet...these are the events that shaped the early days of the church, and so it's good for us to ask:

What does it mean to be a Christian?

We asked the members of our youth group that question, and I'm so pleased and encouraged by their responses. One thing you will see clearly: The message of "Love God and love people" is getting through to our kids—isn't that wonderful?

Here are just a few of the responses.

"Being a Christian is living in the light of God and loving everyone the way God loves us."

"Glorify God and love everyone by reflecting God."

"I think being a Christian means believing in God and following in God's steps to strive to be the best person you can, and to just be kind to everyone."

"I think that only half of being a Christian is believing in God and the other half is just being a friendly, kind, and loving person to other people. Making your community a better place by being the bigger person."

I don't know about you, but I find these responses so true and hopeful and challenging. In Matthew 22, a group of religious scholars tried to trip Jesus up by asking him what he thought the most important commandment was. He could have said just about anything, but he gave them two commands, both from the Hebrew Bible, linked together into one. He said:

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

Love God, and love other people. I know you've heard that somewhere before.

But notice what Jesus says at the end. He does not say that the Law and the prophetic writings of our Old Testament don't matter anymore, he says that all of them—every single bit of them—hangs on the yoked commands to love God and love our neighbors. It's literally right from Jesus' own mouth, the most important thing for us to know and live and wrestle with.

Look back at the responses from our kids. Do you see it? They're getting exactly the message that Jesus wants them to learn—to love God and to show love to the people around us. We've made this a priority teaching here at First Pres, and Jen uses it in every message for the kids. I'll say it again: Isn't that wonderful?

Some of these kids will be coming for church membership on Palm Sunday. They'll stand in front of all of you with some of the grownups who are joining the church and answer the same questions from our Book of Order.

Behind their words, know that they understand what Jesus said about the Greatest Commandment. As you watch them, know that they are maturing and growing into the Christians they will be for the rest of their lives.

What does it mean to you to be a Christian?

Maybe we all ought to reflect on that question during this Lent season.

Maybe we all could use a reminder about who we are and whose we are.

We couldn't do much better than copying the responses of our youngest and newest members.

Peace to you and yours as we move through Lent and into Holy Week. May this season be a challenge and a blessing for you.

Pastor John

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## CHILDREN'S ED

We are so excited to be able to start planning programs again. After a "soft opening," it feels like we can take one more step towards more activities. We would like to take this time to thank all of our families for staying flexible and faithful. You have truly been a blessing through it all!

Save The Date ...

Wednesday, April 13, Children's Ed will be hosting a Parents/Guardians Night out. All children and youth are welcome. There will be games, food, crafts, and a movie. RSVPs are requested so we can plan accordingly. We know it's Spring Break; so, if you need a break, you know where to find us.

When: April 13

Time: 4:30 to 8 p.m.

Where: First Pres SLO

RSVP - PLEASE

Jen - 805-543-5451, ext. 105

jen@fpcslo.org

Looking forward to it!

If you know of a family or friends with kids, invite them to join us. Wednesdays at the Rock will continue through May.

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We meet Wednesday afternoons from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Currently, kids 3 years through 5th grade are invited. This program will expand in the fall.

Watch for details for VBS and other summer activities.

Blessings as we travel towards and through Holy Week.

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

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## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE DATE FOR EIGHT IS COMING BACK!

Congregational Life is ready to reorganize a social activity called "Date for Eight" that began during the fall of 2019 and ended with the shut down because of Covid 19 in March of 2020.

Whether you are a couple or single, you can sign up to participate. The committee will create groups of eight and assign you to one with the purpose of providing an opportunity for you to better know others in the church. Your group of eight will decide what activities you want to do together. You could dine together, take walks, attend plays, BBQ, etc.

If you are interested in becoming part of a group, please call or email Pam Rodewald, 805-215-2396, psrmony@mac.com, before April 30. We hope to hold an event in May where you will meet your group and begin making decisions about your activities. We will keep you posted about the event!

Questions? Contact either Pam or Virginia Walter at 805-543-8260 or vwalter@calpoly.edu.

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## BOOK BROWSERS

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

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.

# ENDOWMENT FUND

## CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

### INCLUDE A BEQUEST NOW

Maybe you have pledged and tithed to the First Presbyterian Church, San Luis Obispo, your entire life but always wished that you could give more. You can do more by leaving a bequest to this church in your will or estate plan. You can give to FPCSLO what you were not able to during your lifetime.

That will be a gift of love that scores of earlier church members have made to enable First Pres to benefit from the Endowment Fund we have today. Current members are called upon now to plan for Legacy Gifts for the benefit of future generations.

If you find First Presbyterian Church to be a source of hope, friendship, and a place that challenges you spiritually, we ask you to make a LEGACY GIFT now. You can be part of a growing number of Presbyterians who are leaving gifts to their church through life insurance proceeds, beneficiaries of retirement plans, wills, estates, and trusts. You, too, can leave a legacy to support in perpetuity the ministry of your church, helping to assure that the congregation that has nurtured your spiritual life and served your community will thrive for generations to come.

Please consider making a legacy gift to your church that tells the story of your hope in Christ.

Each will is unique and must be structured to fit the needs and estate plans of each individual in accordance with the laws of California. For this reason, you should consult a lawyer to assist you in drafting your will and estate plan. Our Church Treasurer ([churchtreasurer@fpcslo.org](mailto:churchtreasurer@fpcslo.org)) or Maggie Harmon, Presbyterian Foundation Ministry Relations Officer ([maggie-harmon@presbyterianfoundation.org](mailto:maggie-harmon@presbyterianfoundation.org)), can help guide you through this important giving process. Or contact any member of Endowment Committee: Peggy Estes, Don Green, Jerry Kaml, Ray McKelvey, Diane Shervem, Bert Townsend, or Virginia Walter (Chair).

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

# BUDGET & FINANCE

## INTRODUCING VANCO MOBILE

The Presbyterian Foundation has announced the release of the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app for E-Giving to First Presbyterian Church, San Luis Obispo.



If you have been using the GivePlus app, it is being replaced by the new app called Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. The last day of operation for the GivePlus app was January 31, 2022.

The new Vanco Mobile app is available for your use now! Download it from the Play Store or the App Store and sign up.

The Budget and Finance Committee encourages all members and friends of our church to install and have the app ready whenever the need arises.

If you have a recurring gift set up in the GivePlus app, it will continue to be sent to the church or ministry.

Please reach out to us with any questions. We know that changes like these can be confusing, and we are here to help you. Please contact the Church Treasurer, or email, or call the Presbyterian Foundation Online Services team at the following number: [onlineservices@presbyterianfoundation.org](mailto:onlineservices@presbyterianfoundation.org) or 844-299-4011.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Kathy Loper – April 3  
Jack Daily – April 14  
Bob Morgan – April 15  
John Russell – April 23 – turns 85 this year  
Harry Butler – April 25  
Margaret McCallum – April 29

To everyone else with a birthday in April.

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

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

Please pray for our church family, especially

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 our church members, friends, and family who are undergoing treatments for various health issues,

For our church’s seniors and for their families and for the care givers,

For Jan Rantanen along with family and friends in the passing of Gene in March,

For the family and friends of Lorna Hudson who also passed away in March,

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 and 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 [gdeklin@calpoly.edu](mailto:gdeklin@calpoly.edu).

God bless us all,  
Gloria DeKleine

# FRONT PORCH

One of the ways that Front Porch supports students during finals week, in addition to the fresh baked cookies that Valerie delivers, is by providing a pancake breakfast on the Tuesday morning of finals week. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, and sausage are available from 9 – 11 a.m. for consumption—still outdoors on the porch of Front Porch. It has become a tradition for the board and staff to cook this meal, and former board members often return to help. Garrett Parker showed up after this photo was taken. For many years, he was the person who went early to start baking the sausage. Valerie Evans is usually the syrup and peanut butter set up and re-supply person when she is available, and I cook the scramble the eggs. In addition to providing a meal, the relationship connections between all in the kitchen are strengthened through sharing, teasing, and laughter. We trust that food created in love creates love in the students who consume it.



While students will then be off for a spring break after finals, there is no break in the need for support for this vital ministry. Front Porch appreciates the continued support from this congregation. For more information and to answer any questions, please contact Joel Drenckpohl at [director@frontporchsl.org](mailto:director@frontporchsl.org).

Susan Updegrove  
Front Porch Board Chair



# DEACON EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS

## A WAY TO FILL OUR CHURCH WITH BLESSINGS OF BEAUTY, HONOR, AND SUPPORT

**DEADLINE FOR DEDICATIONS:**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022**

Each Easter for many years, members of our church family have generously supported the Deacons' flower ministry by dedicating lovely floral plants in honor or in memory of loved ones. These plants beautify our sanctuary on Easter, and then are delivered to the homebound, ill, bereaved, and new members to let them know we hold them in our hearts.

Each loving dedication can be made for a suggested \$10 donation to the Deacons' "Easter Flower Fund." Your personal dedication will be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin, April 17.

Like the flowers and dedications offered at Christmas, we also want to beautify our sanctuary on Easter morning. Then, it is so special to give the blessing of flowering plants to those in need of some extra tender loving care. We have more than 60 people in our church who will appreciate being remembered with a plant this Easter!

Please prayerfully consider supporting this ministry. You may send a check to the office or go to the church website and use the online giving link (details below) to make your donation. Whichever method you use, please make sure to note that your donation is for Easter Flowers and indicate whom you are honoring or memorializing. There will also be Deacons available to accept your donation and dedication in person on Sunday after church on April 3.

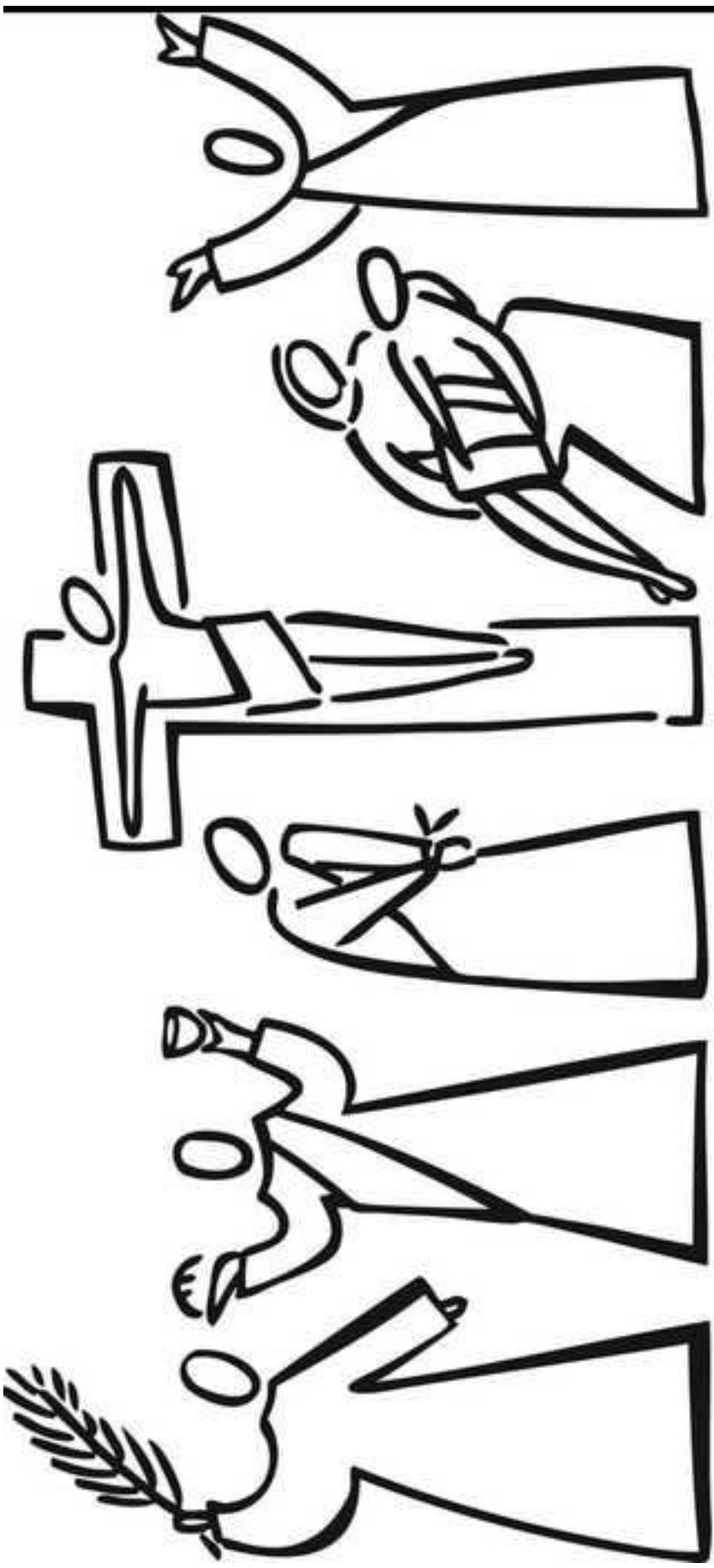
**Suggested donation: \$10—Your donation supports the Deacons' Easter and Christmas Flower Fund; it is NOT for a purchase of plant to take home. The plants are delivered to those in need in our church family.**

**To send by check:** First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 591, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Notation on check: Deacon EASTER flower fund. Please include a note about your dedication: "in honor of" (name or organization) or "in memory of" (name).

**To donate on-line:** Donation via church website: Go to [www.fpcslo.org](http://www.fpcslo.org) click on Donate, under Donations, select Easter and Christmas Flowers, and enter the amount. Don't forget to sign in. After you enter payment information, in the NOTES section, type Deacon Easter Flower fund: "in honor of" (name) or "in memory of" (name).

If you prefer, you can call or email Kathy Wolff with your questions and dedication information. Phone: 805 782-9790 or [dkwolff@charter.net](mailto:dkwolff@charter.net). All dedications are printed in the Easter Sunday Morning bulletin.





# HOLLY WEEK

# **COLORING/DRAWING/JOURNAL**

## **PAGE FOR HOLY WEEK ...**

What does Holy Week mean to you ... draw, color, paint or write your thoughts here ... we would love to see the finished product! Email Jen a photo of your creativity at [jen@fpcslo.org](mailto:jen@fpcslo.org) ... looking forward to it!



# 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

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### MAUNDY THURSDAY:

Service at 7 p.m.

### GOOD FRIDAY:

Stations of the Cross Processional  
(more details to come)

### EASTER SUNDAY:

Sunrise Service  
(more details to come)

Easter Worship  
at 10 a.m. at First Pres. SLO