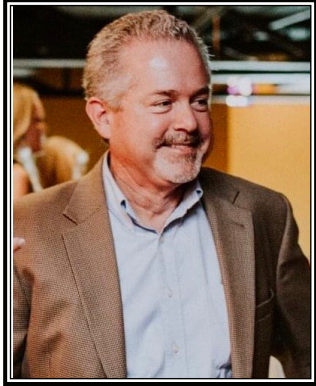


**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
San Luis Obispo

The Kirk
April 2023



Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen, indeed!

That's our song for the month of April. It's the best news ever. In the resurrection we see God make good on the promise that death is not the final word—that God has power over all places and people and things...even death.

We have a lot to celebrate this month. I'm thrilled to accept the call to serve as your installed pastor, shaking the "interim" title and looking ahead to what I hope will be many years of service here. I look forward to April 16th, when you as the congregation will (hopefully!) complete the process at our meeting.

I can't say enough about the committee that nominated me—they hit every step, followed every process, and considered all options before making their decision. I did the same. I prayed and thought and cast my own net to see if there was another more suitable place for me to serve. In the end, and in light of the other opportunities for you as a church, and me as a pastor, we have chosen each other.

And so now the work begins.

Interim periods are for healing and calming and reorganizing. Over the last few years we've moved past some of the earlier tensions, and we've streamlined a bit of the management of our staff and property. There is still a lot of that to do, of course, but we're also adding a new focus for our work together. For the remainder of 2023 we will be talking about what kind of church we want to be in this next phase of our history. The Mission Study Report is an essential guide for that work. The committees and the Session will be praying and talking about it, and so will the staff. God has a purpose for this church, and together we will continue to discern what that is.

Over these next months, Shelley and I will complete our move to the area—for the last few years we've had many of our things in paid storage units, just in case. We're looking forward to being active and connected in both SLO and Shell Beach, where we live. In the Terms of Call the church is graciously giving me two weeks to get the move finished, which I'll take later in the summer.

Through all of it we'll be looking ahead to ways that First Pres SLO can grow, in spiritual depth, in meaningful service, and even in numbers. We're entering a joy-filled and important phase in our history together, and I can't wait!

Join me in committing to praying for this church—for its people, for its witness in the community, and even for its leaders. Whatever we plan or do, pray that it will glorify God and extend the love of Jesus to everyone we meet.

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen, indeed!

That's our song, and we're sticking to it.

Pastor John

CHILDREN'S ED

Children's Ed is going strong and realizing the program year is almost over. We are excited to see what the Summer program has in store. One thing we do know and are hoping is that you will save the date for VBS.

Vacation Bible School ...

August 7 - 11, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For all kids 3 years through 5th grade are welcome!

“Love God, Love People, and Do Things”

Details to come.

The “Wednesdays at the Rock” crew have been learning about “Making a Joyful Noise” and what that means. We have discovered so many ways to “Make a Joyful Noise.” We gather each Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. What do we do in those fun filled two hours—Bible Lesson, Snack, Art, Gym, and Music. We look forward to sharing an end of the program year program with you on May 24. Mark your calendars. You won't want to miss this one.

It's been so great to have Sunday School as part of our Sunday morning schedule. Currently, we are holding Sunday School after the “Time with Children in Worship.” All kids 3 years through 6th grade are welcome.

Happy Spring and thanks for your continued support,

The Children's Ed Team,
Jen, Brooke, Bella, Ash, and Cole



YOUTH

I am just going to say it ... our Youth are AMAZING! There is some serious “senioritis” going on, but even that is a joy to watch.

Continue to keep these AMAZING humans in your prayers. They truly are the future and make us proud to know them and be part of their lives.

We are busy “trying” to make plans for the rest of the program year and summer. Lots of ideas floating around. We are looking forward to things coming together.

We are continuing to look for people to join us to either share a meal or a talent or just come to get

to know us. The doors to the Youth Lounge are always open, and we would welcome you with lots of enthusiasm—with a twist of snarky and orneriness. We would not have it any other way.

All our Young People Love God, Love People, and are working on the “Do Things” part of the equation.

Thanks for your continued support. We count on that!

The Youth Team,
Jen, Bella, and Ash



MEET BROOKE PALMERSTON

Brooke loves working with children, youth, and families that began while in high school at First Presbyterian Church of Burbank and never really stopped for very long. After graduating from Cal State Northridge, her family moved to Reno, Nevada. That's where she began working in early childhood education. In the many positions she has held, the common theme was making things better for children in their homes and learning environments through the care and education of their families and caregivers. This also includes her own education. As a member of High Sierra Study Group, she attended an advanced study tour in Reggio Emilia, Italy, and earned her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Colorado, in Denver in May of 2022.



Currently, she works with Jen Gordon-Rabenaldt serving young children and their families at First Pres SLO. She is teaching and playing with the kids at “Wednesdays at the Rock,” Sunday School, VBS, and other events.

When not working, she loves the outdoors, viewing and making art, listening to music, and watching adventure and superhero movies, in particular anything Marvel, Star Trek, or Disney.

BOOK BROWERS

Book Browsers will be meeting the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. via zoom. Please join us for discussions of the following books.

- Apr. 4 The Madness of Crowds
 by L. Penny
- May 2 Tied to the Tracks
 by S. Donati

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 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** and those who work with our children and youth;

For **Scott Glysson** and the many wonderful musicians in our church;

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

For all our church's seniors, for their families and 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 and support personnel serving in the military;

And, or 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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy birthday to the following seniors (85 and over) who have birthdays in April:

Marilyn James – April 2

Jack Daily – April 14

Bob Morgan – April 15

John Russell – April 23

Harry Butler – April 25

Margaret McCallum – April 29

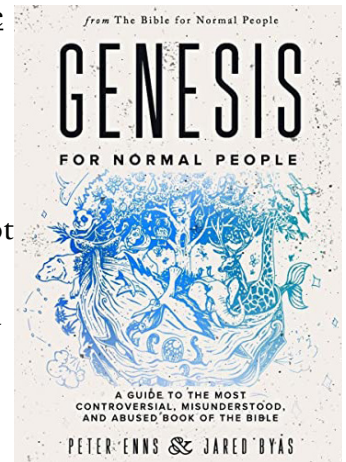
To everyone else with a birthday in April.

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

LIBRARY REVIEW

Genesis For Normal People

by Peter Enns and Jared Byas has been added to the library and is available for borrowing. It is located on the book cart. If you are not a Bible scholar but want to be able to read Genesis and understand its big picture, this brief book is the guide you have been waiting for. Clear summaries and



thought-provoking questions provide direction for personal reflection and group discussion. Peter Enns (a Biblical Studies professor) and Jared Byas (an Old Testament professor) summarize the book's key themes and help us see Genesis as an ancient story, one with continued relevance for human experience today. Genesis for Normal People illuminates the characters that fill the book of Genesis, causing us to resonate with their choices and struggles even as we marvel at their distant world. (This book provides) a distant world made available, and a story that is often strange, sometimes dangerous, and always filled with rich possibilities. (Review Adapted from Amazon)

ENDOWMENT FUND CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

YOUR LEGACY: BE PART OF THE FUTURE OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN, SAN LUIS OBISPO

Thank you for being a faithful steward of First Presbyterian Church, San Luis Obispo. The next step may be to include First Pres SLO in your charitable estate plans. You can be sure your memory lives on in the missions and programs of our church. You would be joining the scores of past donors who have provided the assets we and our church are benefitting from today. We are the generation who will provide the next bequests.

By doing so, you will become a member of our unofficial Legacy circle that recognizes individuals with the faithful vision and generosity to name First Presbyterian Church, San Luis Obispo, in their philanthropic planning. And as a member you will enjoy:

- The knowledge that you have taken a meaningful step to fund the future of First Pres.
- Recognition (optional) of your Legacy Circle membership.
- Participation in Legacy Circle Events.
- A foundation from which to help develop the next Legacy Circle member.

Our Church's endowment is a **future asset**. We are enjoying the benevolence of past donors, and it is up to us to likewise provide for the Church's future. The Church's future is in our hands.

We extend a special thank you to all the present and past members and friends of First Presbyterian Church who have included the church in their wills or trusts and those to have contributed to the creation of our endowment.

You can name First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo in your will or trust by including language such as: "I give and bequeath the sum of \$ _____ (or ____ percent of my residuary estate) to First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo (tax ID) to be used as _____."

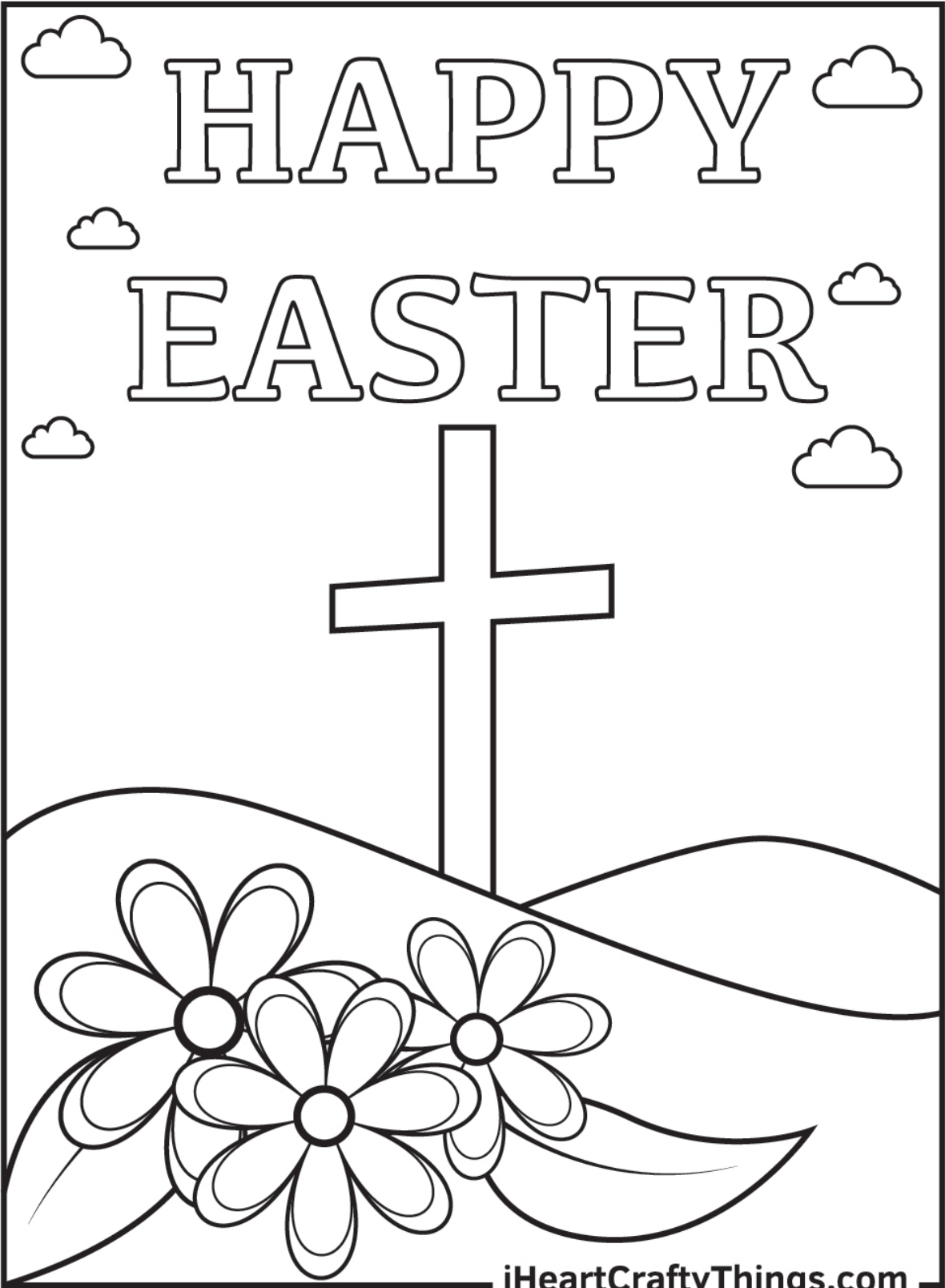
If you feel led to include a gift to the First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo in your financial or estate planning, please contact any member of the Endowment Committee: Peggy Estes, Don Green, Jerry Kaml, Ray McKelvey, Diane Shervem, Bert Townsend, or Virginia Walter (Chair). We can help guide you through this important process or steer you to the right people and resources.

Even a modest gift will make a difference.

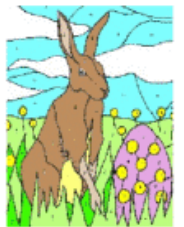
FRONT PORCH

As winter quarter comes to a close, it is time to look back and reflect. What a quarter it has been! The camping trip each quarter is always a favorite for community development and powerful ministry, but it had to be cancelled as Yosemite was closed for snow! But there has been a steady increase in the numbers coming into Front Porch. The Covid effect is still felt, as a whole group of students spent their freshman year at home and/or online. That group is now sophomores, and it has been a "gap year" of fewer involved students. The number of students that volunteer each week in the coffee house has also steadily increased, which allows interns to spend more intentional time with them and build deeper relationships. Volunteers then pass that love on to students who come into the coffee house each day. Jesus blesses each interaction. With interns selected for next year (two are returning for a second year), the Front Porch staff and Board are ready for spring break and a dynamic spring quarter.

Susan Updegrave, Front Porch Board



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| BUNNY | HUNT | HOLIDAY | APRIL | DUCKLING |
| CHICK | BASKET | CELEBRATION | LENT | DAFFODIL |
| EASTER EGG | PARADE | BONNET | FLOWERS | CHOCOLATE |
| JESUS | SUNDAY | SPRING | CROSS | JELLYBEAN |



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HOLY WEEK 2023

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

10 am in the Sanctuary

COMMUNITY EGG HUNT, APRIL 2

1 pm in the Courtyard.
All are welcome!

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7

7 pm • Tenebrae Service

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

6:30 am (Off-site)

10 am in the Sanctuary