

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

*The Kirk*  
May 2022



This month feels like it represents a season of transitions. We're relaxing some of the restrictions from the COVID pandemic, our Mission Study is complete and will be available for everyone to read, and the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee will soon begin its work.

I've even got a few milestones of my own coming up this month. My son is finishing college in Pennsylvania—I'm so proud of him and everything he's accomplished. I'll be gone for a week in the middle of the month to attend his graduation. The reopening of more church activity gives me new options for expanding my own ministry at First Pres and with the community. There's a lot going on!

We remain in the Easter season—older churches still call this Eastertide, or the seven weeks of Easter celebration. On the 50th day, we celebrate Pentecost; but I don't want to get ahead of myself.

What does it mean to celebrate Easter during this season?

There's a looking back part to it. We rejoice and reflect on God's mighty work in raising Jesus from the dead. That event changes everything. Think of the disciples, bickering, fearful, and jockeying for position in Jesus' inner circle (as if that weren't enough!)—they scatter after Good Friday, and even after seeing Jesus alive again they cower in a locked room. Soon, though, they move out with Spirit-filled courage and spread the gospel of Jesus throughout their part of the world. The ones who ran away in the early days now faced death, willingly it seems, in order to proclaim the Good News.

Easter also calls us to look ahead. What does this renewed sense of resurrection power mean for us, both individually and as a church? A few Sundays ago, I quoted a few lines from the Presbyterian Book of Order. This is found on the very first page:

“Almighty God, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead and set him above all rule and authority, has given to him all power in heaven and on earth, not only in this age but also in the age to come. God has put all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and has made Christ Head of the Church, which is his body. The Church's life and mission are a joyful participation in Christ's ongoing life and work.”

It's time for us to place this “joyful participation in Christ's ongoing life and work” front and center in our lives together. As we choose which ministries to strengthen and which new areas of service to begin, we'll do it in community, as the church, as people who celebrate our joyful participation in God's mission.

And so welcome to Eastertide. Welcome to these days of celebration and setting of vision. I invite you to anticipate with excitement and creativity whatever God has in store for us in this new chapter in our ministry together.

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Pastor John

# CHILDREN'S ED

The kids are continuing to learn about Worship, the parts of Worship, and what all that means. Calvin the mouse has been helping us with this and continues to be a source of entertainment for us all. Watch for an opportunity to see what the kids have been up to at the end of May.

We had a lot of fun at “Kids Night Out.” We were able to spend time with some new friends, which we always enjoy. We played games, did crafts, ate pizza, and watched a movie. Gym time was their favorite part.

Wednesday’s at the Rock will continue each Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. until June 8.

Save the date

VBS - August 8 - 12, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. More details to follow.

We hope to add some more opportunities for the kids between now and then. Keep your eyes and ears open for pop-up events.

Thank you for your continued support!

The Children’s Ed Team

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



# YOUTH

This past month the youth began a new project: we are currently working together to paint a mural on the third floor of the Hart building. We hope to have it finished by the end of May. We are looking forward to inviting friends back to our meetings each Sunday as restrictions continue to relax. Recently, the youth have especially enjoyed playing board and card games in addition to our physical activities. We have so much fun!

If you are interested in donating a meal for the Youth Group, please contact Sarah Jane ([sj@fpcslo.org](mailto:sj@fpcslo.org)) or Jen ([jen@fpcslo.org](mailto:jen@fpcslo.org)). When you donate a meal, you are welcome to stay and join us for dinner. We request a gluten-free option along with each meal. We have enjoyed learning about what it means to become a member of First Pres SLO. The Youth asked the best questions and even stumped Jen during one conversation. We look forward to hearing and discussing Pastor John’s messages during our meetings in the coming weeks.







# 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 you;

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**, for their **families**, 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, 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 [gdeklein@calpoly.edu](mailto:gdeklein@calpoly.edu).

God bless us all,  
Gloria DeKleine

## BOOK BROWSERS

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

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](mailto:dshervem@charter.net).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Jean Honeyman – May 1  
Gene Gillson – May 4  
Luella Warkentin – May 13  
Heulan Brown - May 25  
Dorie Larson – May 28  
Ray McKelvey – May 29  
Carolyn Dickey – May 30

To everyone else who celebrates a birthday in May.

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

# ENDOWMENT FUND

## CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

### How is Your Estate Plan?

It is never too soon to write a will; but it can be too late. Writing your will is the most important step you can take in planning your estate. Without it, the probate court will make decisions about the distribution of your assets and appoint guardianship of any survivor left in your care. No assets will be given to any charitable organization, no matter how important that organization was to you during your lifetime. If you do have a will, this may be a good time to review it. Wills should be kept up-to-date and reviewed from time to time to mirror the changes that may take place in your life. A properly prepared will is a very effective means to accomplish many goals, including charitable intentions.

### Getting Started

Taking an inventory of all assets and liabilities is groundwork for a good estate plan. An Estate Planning Workbook is available from the PCUSA Foundation to assist you in this process. It is important to share this information with children or the executor you may have named. After you have compiled a comprehensive list, decide how you want your assets distributed. List your heirs and what you would like each to receive, including charitable beneficiaries you would like to support. Consider your personal goals for the management and protection of your resources.

For the future of FPCSLO, if you haven't already done so, please consider inserting one simple statement in your wills: After all my bills are paid, 10 percent of my estate will go to First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo.

A huge THANK YOU to the past and present extra generous members who have donated the gifts that built the FPCSLO endowment. Have you included this church in you Estate plans?

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).

Even a modest gift will make a difference.

# FRONT PORCH

Spring quarter is in full swing at Front Porch with Open Mic Night already passed and a camping trip coming up (the first in several years!). Wednesday night meals continue as well as Sunday morning worship gatherings, which has a theme of Spirituality. The coffee shop is open, offering a place for students to study, gather and just be together in a safe place. This has been especially important after the tragic suicide of a freshman several weeks ago. The value of having a place that accepts you as you are and is willing to be present with you on all days—good and bad—is often critical to a student's ability to cope with the challenges of being at college.

Let me share the story of Alex who, during his freshman year, only participated in the weekly hikes with the intern, Theresa. Eventually, he ventured into the coffee house and slowly became a part of the community. So much so that he ended up living at the Front Porch house, next door to the ministry center, for the past two years. This space is for students who volunteer at a high level with the running of Front Porch. Alex graduates this spring, and to help him finish off his time at Front Porch as he began, weekly hikes have resumed. He can share the joy of community with new students, accepting them in whatever way is possible, and helping them become part of the Front Porch family.

Thanks for your support of Front Porch. For more information, go to [Frontporchslo.org](http://Frontporchslo.org) or contact Joel Drenckpohl, director at [director@forntporchslo.org](mailto:director@forntporchslo.org)

Susan Updegrove  
Chair of Front Porch Board

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## PEACEMAKING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

### JUNE THURSDAY NIGHT STUDY

#### *JUST MERCY* By Bryan Stevenson

Bryan Stevenson is a Harvard educated lawyer who is founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama. He has dedicated his career to helping the poor, the incarcerated, and the condemned. The case of Walter McMillian, a law-abiding Black family man who was on death row sentenced to die for a murder he did not commit, and how Bryan Stevenson worked

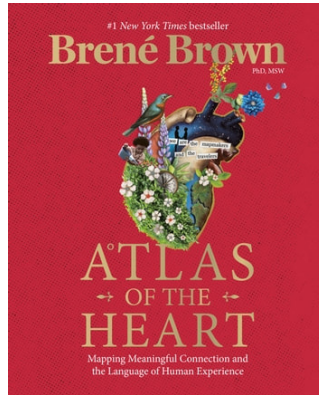
to have his conviction overturned, is the subject of the book ***Just Mercy***. This story of injustice, abusive power, poverty, and conspiracy is also a dramatic example of courage, redemption, and hope.

As part of our mission to be a Matthew 25 church, Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee will be leading a book study of ***Just Mercy*** during the five Thursday Night Studies in June. These will be at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The book is readily available for sale, but the committee will order a few books from B&N if you would rather purchase one from us. If you want a book available for you, please contact the church or Karen Wiles, [kjwiles324@gmail.com](mailto:kjwiles324@gmail.com).

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## LIBRARY REVIEW

Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience, by Brene Brown, has been added to the library and is available for borrowing. It is located on the book cart. In this book the author maps individual emotions and the necessary skills and an actionable framework for



meaningful connection. She gives us the language and tools to access new choices and second chances—where we can share and steward the stories of our human moments with one another in a way that builds connection. Atlas of the Heart draws on Brown's extensive research and her skills as a storyteller to show us how accurately naming experiences can give us the power of understanding, meaning, and choice in our relationships with ourselves and with others and across cultural and racial differences. (Adapted from Amazon Review)

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

# Lord's Prayer Anagram



• **Word List:**

anytime, anywhere, communicate, daily bread, example, forgiveness, heaven, power, simple, temptations.

aeelmpx \_\_\_\_\_

eilmps \_\_\_\_\_

aeehn v \_\_\_\_\_

adily abder \_\_\_\_\_

eefginorssv \_\_\_\_\_

aeimnopsttt \_\_\_\_\_

eoprw \_\_\_\_\_

aeimnty \_\_\_\_\_

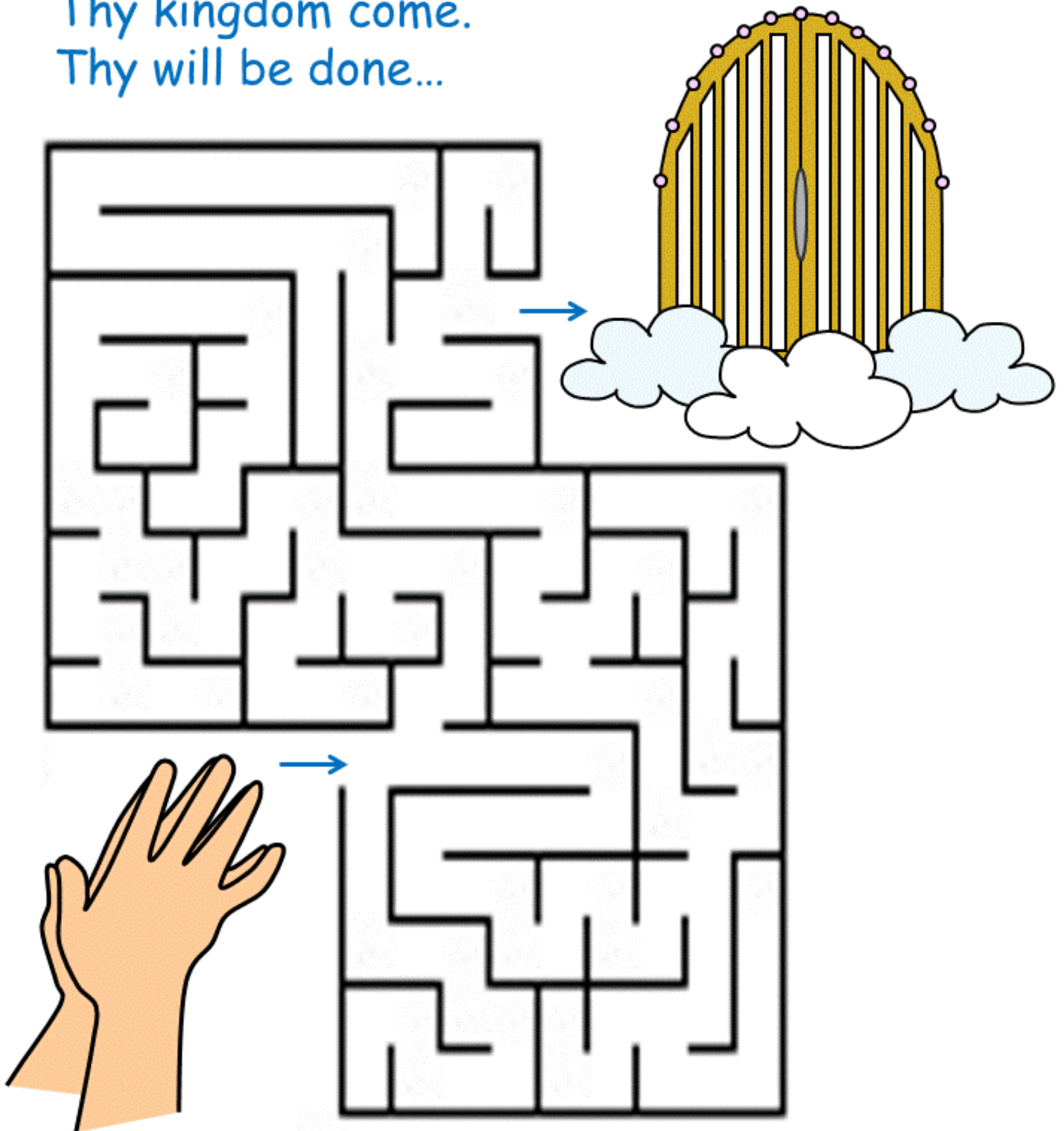
acceimmnotu \_\_\_\_\_

aeehnrwy \_\_\_\_\_



# Lord's Prayer Maze

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done...





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*San Luis Obispo*

PO Box 591

981 Marsh Street

San Luis Obispo, CA

93406

*tel:* 805.543.5451

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

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