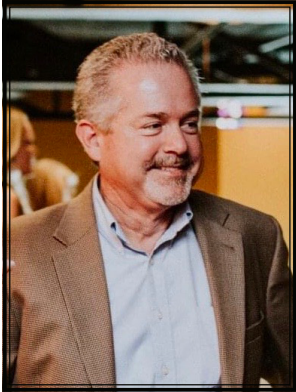


**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
San Luis Obispo

The Kirk

June 2022



June marks the transition to summer for most of us. School's out, many of us have our eyes on upcoming vacations, and it's also the season for projects or little improvements around the house. Here at the church, we switch gears, too. Services are less formal, the choir goes on hiatus, and if all goes to plan, we'll elect a Designated Pastor Nominating Committee (DPNC).

The change of pace isn't any less busy for the church staff.

Summer buys us time to make plans for the upcoming church year. New programs and classes, reflection on what it will look like to start our first year together free of most COVID limitations, and new opportunities for me to connect with more people in the community.

June also gives us a chance to look back on where we've been together. This month will mark the end of my second year here—it's been quite a ride of restrictions and limits, which we met with flexibility and creativity. We've learned so much together. And it's not just online services and other technological changes. At a deeper level, we've grown and expanded our vision for what the church really is—what the church can be. I remember conversations early on where people said that meeting online "isn't really church," only to embrace our new tools to create fellowship and discipleship with skill and joy and even a little grace.

We don't want to forget what we've learned.

As we move into this important season of reflection and planning, we want to remember the ways we've demonstrated creativity and flexibility and adaptability. None of those come to mind when we talk about church life, let alone all three, but I'm inviting all of us to claim them as our shared inheritance from two years of business unusual. If we can do it in the midst of crisis, we can certainly do it when we're out from under such tremendous pressure.

Besides, it could be fun.

Our goal, as always, is to be a community of gracious people, built on a foundation of Jesus Christ, and expressing ourselves together through fellowship, worship, discipleship, and mission. I'm looking forward to seeing how we can do that more, and better, and even with a little style.

Join me in praying for this church as we care for each other, as we plan for the season ahead, and as we share the love of Jesus with our neighbors.

Pastor John

CHILDREN'S ED

It's that time of year when we start to wind down our programs and move into summer mode. We are blessed to have been able to gather—even if in small groups—this past season. We look forward to some fun opportunities this Summer. Most will be “Pop-Up” events as time and resources allow. We look forward to finding and implementing ways we can support families through the summer months.

Wednesdays at the Rock

Our last meeting will be June 8. We will take a break for the Summer. Wednesdays at the Rock will resume in September. We will meet each Wednesday through June 8 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. All kids—3 years through fifth grade—are welcome to join us.

Save the Date

Vacation Bible School will be August 8 - August 12 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

All kids—3 years through fifth grade—are welcome.

If you are interested in volunteering for this amazing opportunity, let Jen know. More details to come.

Keep your eyes and ears open for things to come—looking forward to it!

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



YOUTH

The Youth stayed active throughout the month of May; they had a blast planning and leading worship on Youth Sunday! They always love the opportunity to share their unique personalities with the congregation. We've had fun discussing our faith and enjoying a time of fellowship as we continue to work on our mural. If you are interested in donating a meal for Youth Group, please contact Sarah Jane (sj@fpcslo.org) or Jen (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 are looking forward to the summer season and all that God has in store for us.

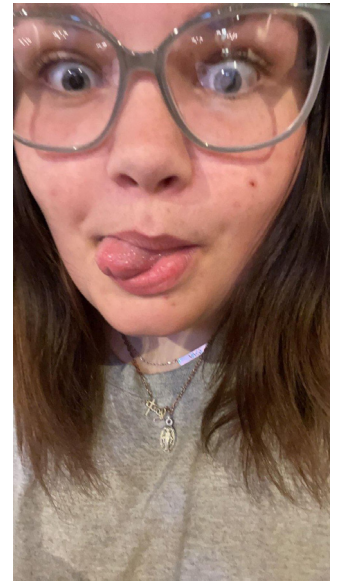


FIRST PRES SLO YOUTH, KIDS AND ADULTS ...

We are so proud and blessed by the Youth and Kids! They have been troopers through it all. We are thankful for their participation and thankful for those who get them there and encourage them to get there. As we move into Summer mode our programming slows down a bit. Watch for pop-up events and activities. We will continue to Love God, Love People and Do Things!

We wanted to share a bit of what we've been up to - through pictures - and then we encourage you to ask the Youth and Kids about what they've been up to ... And we can't forget the Adults - they have remained active and connected - in all kinds of new ways. Enjoy!





STEPHEN MINISTRY

WHAT IS STEPHEN MINISTRY?

Our church has long been a sponsor of Stephen Ministry. It has ebbed and flowed in terms of its presence. Today, we have three Stephen Ministers, and we work closely with an ecumenical Stephen Minister in our area. There are about 20 persons in the county who have completed training as Stephen Ministers. They come from Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist, Congregational, and Catholic congregations and meet regularly for further training. A Stephen Minister is a trained companion on our journey in life, especially when we have encountered some “rough patches” and need a “friend.”

One person tells of a time in her journey when she had moved to a new community. However, her family was in the process of moving to a different place, and she found herself terribly alone. The pastor in her new church recognized her loneliness and helped her to be assigned a Stephen Minister. They met weekly. It seemed to go slowly at first. She was hesitant to talk about her deeper feelings and loneliness. However, she adds, “My Stephen Minister did a wonderful job of creating a caring space for me to process my emotions and work through my issues.” She found that it was not advice she needed but help setting aside her hurts and uncertainties and encouragement to work through her issues. In that weekly time together, she felt the unconditional love, a love God has for each of us as we journey through life.

A caring Stephen Minister can help us whenever we have a difficult time in life. They are not trained professional counselors but dedicated to sharing Christ’s love with those they serve. Any issue can seem unsolvable but with a trusted supporter as our friend, we can reflect on the situation and find the best direction to go. In our church, please let Pastor John (805-543-5451) or Stephen Minister Leader Jim Seeber (805-535-5613) know if you or someone around you might benefit from some temporary encouragement in the dealing with life.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

- June 7 – Jan Breidenbach – turns 85 this year
- June 11 - Barbara (Lexie) Daily
- June 15 – Jack Springer
- June 20 - Vic Buccola
- June 26 - Lark Carter
- June 29 - Joe Barnett

To everyone else who celebrates a birthday in June. 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 & family who are undergoing treatments for various health issues,

For our church’s seniors and 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 & 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.

God bless us all,
Gloria DeKleine

ENDOWMENT FUND

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

Legacy Sunday

Adapted from the message delivered by Peggy Estes.

At First Pres, I wear a number of different hats. One of mine at this church is as a member of the Endowment Committee. May 1 was Legacy Sunday. So, I've prepared a few words.

Most, if not all, of you have heard of planned giving. The basic premise is simple. It is your plan for charitable giving, both during your lifetime and afterwards. "Legacy giving" refers to the "afterwards," and having your giving last beyond your lifetime. Legacy Sunday addressed this part of your stewardship.

Have you given this any thought?

Ask yourself:

- Do I care how I will to be remembered?
- What things in life do I really care about?
- What of any meaning to my life do I wish to leave behind?
- What message or example do I wish to leave with my survivors?
- Where am I hoping or trying to make difference in this world? Maybe it's the church. I know I love my church and care about its sustainability.
- I care about my family members who survive me. But hey, how about my church family that I have faithfully supported for so many years?

I hear you can do some pretty simple things to include them in the "afterwards."

- I can make the church a beneficiary on my IRA, for example.
- Or just add a single line in my will saying, "after all my bills have been paid, I wish to give ten percent of my remaining assets to my church."

So, think about it. What will be your legacy? And finally, ask yourself, for what am I waiting for? Because yes, you can wait too long. Thank you. 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: 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 the school year comes to an end, it is useful to look back and review. In September, students were allowed back into the coffee house for the first time in over a year. Modifications continued for most of the year, slowly disappearing as the Covid situation improved. For instance, ceramic coffee cups are now back in use instead of disposables. Wednesday night meals are still served outside instead of inside, but students go down the line to receive a plate of food instead of receiving a boxed meal as was done in September. It was like starting over with returning students to engage them enough to volunteer to help in the coffee house. So, interns stepped up to fill that need. As volunteers began to fill the needs of the coffee house, interns began offering special activities, such as weekly hikes and open mic nights (always a favorite!). Freshmen students began to trickle in as they realized there really was a place close to campus that offered free coffee and a home-cooked meal each week. Even better, Front Porch was, and is a special place to be welcomed, seen, and heard! Slowly the activity increased, and the vibe was back. More students were experiencing a way of life where every person and every moment matters. Front Porch is stronger for having demonstrated its ability to adapt and change as needed and still be true to its mission.

Thank you for supporting this vital ministry for college students at Cal Poly.

Susan Updegrove

Chair of Front Porch Board

HAITI EDUCATIONAL PROJECT UPDATE

Through HEF, this church and its congregational members support a primary school in St Esprit, Marigot, Haiti, just outside of Jacmel. There are 108 students enrolled in the school, and St Esprit employs a principal, six teachers, and two teachers' aides. It is one of 34 primary schools, a small number of middle schools, and several high schools in the southern part of Haiti. Twelve months per year, regardless of what is going on in Haiti, HEF pays the salaries of 580 teachers and staff. During the school year, the Episcopal Church of Haiti feeds nearly 7,000 rural students each day. Top performing students are sent to universities in Haiti. (College in Haiti is about

\$8,000/year). Earthquakes, hurricanes, political unrest and covid have not stopped the dedicated teachers from educating the children. As this school year comes to an end, HEF is looking forward with the goal of adding seven ninth grades to three to five more schools, adding new teachers to reduce the teacher/student ratio in crowded schools, and supporting college scholarships. A donor has agreed to match dollar for dollar up to \$100,000 collected by June 30, 2022. You can support this by going to haitifoundation.org.

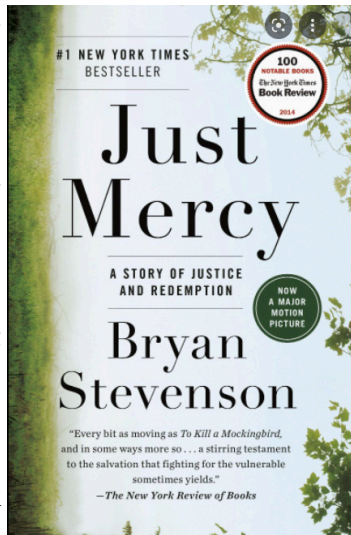


PEACEMAKING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

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-oriented person 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

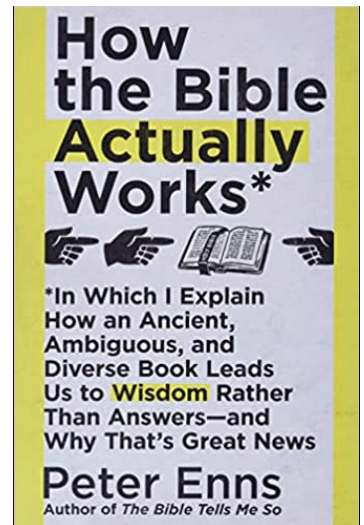


Just Mercy. This story of injustice, abusive power, poverty, and conspiracy is also a dramatic example of courage, redemption, and hope.

As part of our mission to be a Matthew 25 church, the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee will be leading a book study of **Just Mercy** starting June 9. These meetings will be at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The book is readily available for sale, but the committee will order a few books from Barnes and Noble 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.

LIBRARY REVIEW

How the Bible Actually Works: In Which I Explain How an Ancient, Ambiguous, and Diverse Book Leads Us to Wisdom Rather Than Answers—and Why That's Great News, by Pete Enns, has been added to the library and is available for borrowing. It is located on the book cart. How the Bible Actually Works makes clear that there is no one right way to read the Bible. The Bible is a dynamic instrument for study that not only offers an abundance of insights, but also provokes us to find our own answers to spiritual questions, cultivating God's wisdom within us. Moving us beyond the damaging idea that "being right" is the most important measure of faith, Enns's freeing approach to Bible study helps us to instead focus on pursuing enlightenment and building our relationship with God, which is exactly what the Bible was designed to do. (Review Adapted from Amazon)



KIRK ARTICLES

The months of July and August will be one KIRK. Please be sure to submit your KIRK articles for the July/August issue by the June 15 deadline. Thank you!

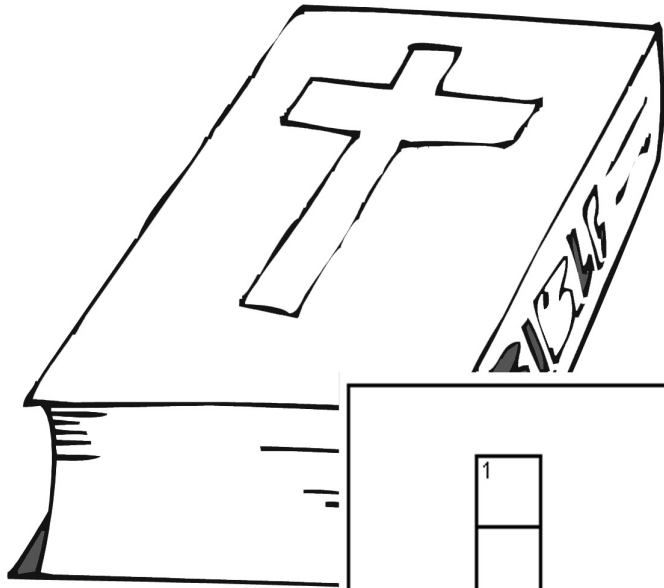
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Immediately following the service on June 12 there will be a Special Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing a Designated Pastor Nominating Committee and to Elect Teri Cueto to the Nominating Committee, to fill an open place.

The following people have been approved and voted in by our committee to be on the DPNC. Dale Wolff, Peggy Estes, Amy Stapp, Judi Davies, Steve Lumm, Kathy Danes, and Danielle Elzik.

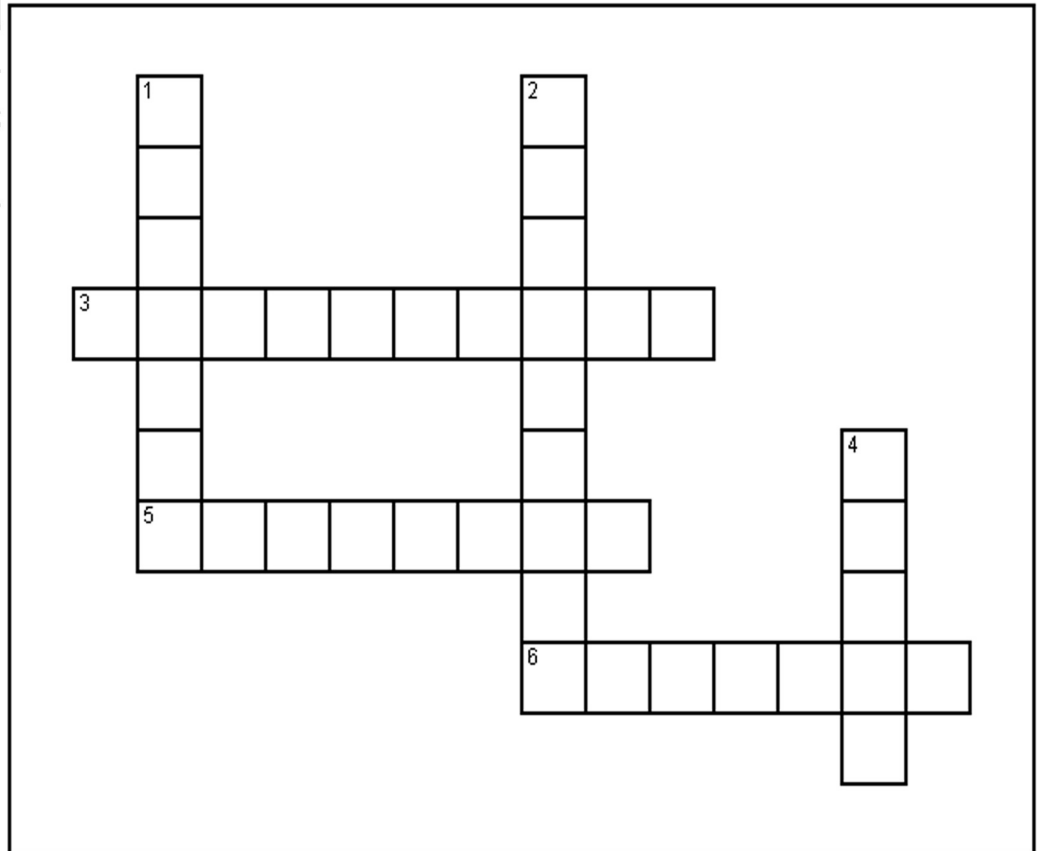
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THE BIBLE

*Bible Story
Printables.com*



Across

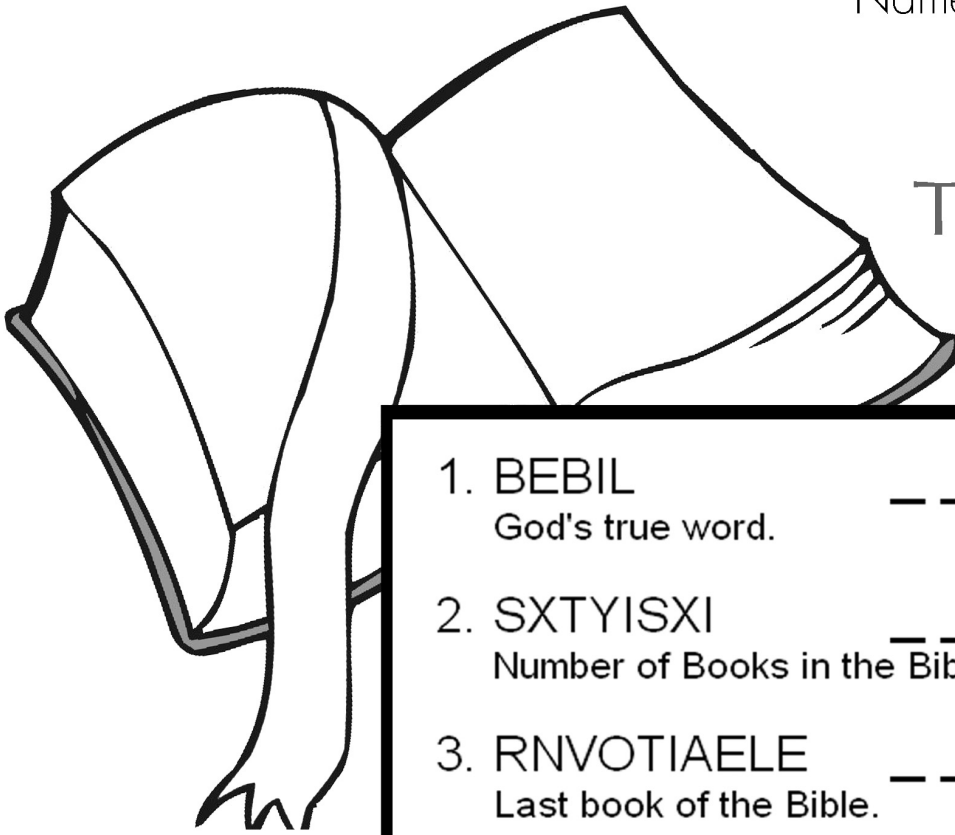
3. Last book of the Bible.
5. Number of Books in the Bible
6. First four books of the New Testament

Down

1. First book of the bible.
2. "In the _____ God created...."
4. God's true word.

Name: _____

Images (c) Jupiter Co.



THE BIBLE

*Bible Story
Printables.com*

1. BEBIL _____
God's true word.
2. SXTYISXI _____
Number of Books in the Bible
3. RNVOTIAELE _____
Last book of the Bible.
4. BIEIGNNGN _____
"In the _____ God created...."
5. GLEOSSP _____
First four books of the New Testament
6. GINESES _____
First book of the bible.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PLEASE NOTE

On June 12, there will be a Special Congregational Meeting after the service.

The deadline for July/August KIRK is June 15.