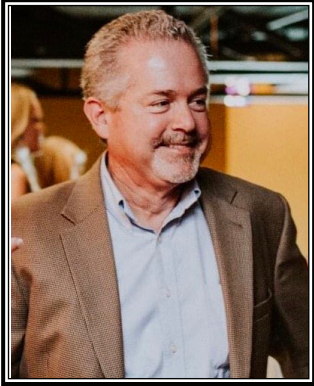


**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
San Luis Obispo

The Kirk

June 2023



Every once in a while a line from a song catches my ear...or knocks me sideways. It can be something small, like a nice turn of phrase or a clever connection. Sometimes it's the way a part of a song describes something I'm feeling, but in a way that I didn't expect or see coming. Does that ever happen to you?

Jackson Browne was my favorite singer when I was young. He wrote so many great songs, and often he captured a sadness or melancholy that resonated with my teenaged brain. In one song he said:

*Maybe people only ask you how you're doing
because that's easier than letting on how little they could care.
But when you know that you've got a real friend somewhere,
suddenly all the others are so much easier to bear.
(The Late Show, 1974)*

There's a beauty to songs that get the heart of something that needs to be put into words. Here are some other examples—you'll probably recognize these:

Hello darkness, my old friend, I've come to talk with you again.

I can hear her heartbeat for a thousand miles, and the heavens open every time she smiles.

Sometimes a lyric can describe a moment in a way that's just unforgettable.

*The screen door slams, Mary's dress waves.
Like a vision, she dances across the porch as the radio plays.*

I say all that because words are important. Language is one of the important ways that we relate to each other—that we connect with each other. It's in words—the words of the Bible—that God shows us what God is like. Words are so important.

Over this summer we'll hear a series of messages that link to lines from songs. Some are from hymns, others might be from more contemporary worship songs, and others will be from popular songs you might hear on the radio. These lines from songs will point us in a direction for hearing what the Bible has to say to us on any given Sunday.

Here's an example. In the hymn *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, we hear this line:

*Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love.*

It's such a sad and beautiful description of our tendency to put distance between us and God. It puts words on a feeling that we all have at times, and allows us to confess, even as we sing God's praise. It helps that it resolves with a statement of humility and hope!

*Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for Thy courts above.*

I hope this journey through some lines from songs will be a meaningful one for you. I'm calling the series (and I'm proud of this one), A Fine Line.

Come and worship with us this summer, as we see what God is doing—and how God is working—in each of our hearts and lives.

Pastor John

CHILDREN'S ED

It has been an excellent program year for our Children. Even though we are still figuring it out - after COVID - we are excited about what we've been able to do and even more excited about what's to come.

Wednesdays at the Rock finished up on May 24th. The Wednesdays at the Rock program will start up again in the Fall. We have enjoyed having Sunday school again and look forward to building that ministry. Our kids are just the best. Also, the Nursery has been bursting at the seams and it is such a joyful place to be.

Vacation Bible School

We will have one week of VBS, August 7 - 11, 9:00 to 12:00. Our theme this year is, "Love God, Love People, Do Things." Plans are just being set and we look forward to sharing those with you. If you would like to volunteer before and/or during the week, please let Jen know. Registration is now open at fpcsl.org. Let your friends, neighbors or family members know. It'll be a great week.



YOUTH

The Youth are as busy as ever. We ended our program year with Youth Sunday and the Grad Honor Banquet. We are so blessed by the Youth and their energy. It was very meaningful for us to honor John Estes with a Memorial tree that John grafted, and a prayer space in his honor. Lloyd Esola took this project on as his Eagle Scout project which added to how meaningful this space is and will continue to be. This was a great day full of joy and memories and a lot of congratulations.

May was Mental Health Awareness Month. We have been working on Mental Health Awareness all year with the Youth. We want them and anyone to know this is a safe place to get support and references, as needed. We want all to know they are enough, they are needed and they can do hard things. We understand just saying that isn't usually enough. We mean it and act on being kind and caring for one another. All students are welcome all the time.

Schedules are challenging to organize, but despite these challenges we are planning some special events throughout the summer. Disneyland, camping, the Mid State fair and concert are a few things we hope to accomplish. Youth Group will continue to meet throughout the Summer as students are available.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to the following seniors (over 85) who have a June birthday:

- June 7 – Jan Breidenbach
- June 7 – Jan Rantanen – turning 85 this year
- June 11 – Barbara (Lexie) Daily
- June 15 – Jack Springer
- June 20 – Vic Buccola – turning 90 this year
- 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** and those who work with our children and youth;

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

For those who support our worship services with their technical help to make it possible for live streaming and recording of the services;

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

For all of our church's senior citizens, for their families and care givers;

For members, family and support personnel serving in the military;

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

Because we care about you, if you are hospitalized or if you are ill, please call the church office (805) 543-5451 to leave a message for Pastor John or the Deacons.

If you have a prayer concern, please call the Church Office at (805) 543-5451 or send me an email at gdeklein@calpoly.edu.

God bless us all,
Gloria DeKleine

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Join us for Music Appreciation and a New Member reception in the courtyard on June 4th

Let's go to the ball game!

Join us on **Saturday, June 25**, at the Blues Stadium at Sinsheimer Park. The game begins at **2 p.m.** We will meet at the picnic area near the stadium and share lunch. Watch for more details in the bulletin and Weekly Peak! Get your tickets ahead through San Luis Obispo Blues Baseball. bluesbaseball.com/tickets

Please call or email Pam if you will be coming. We will try to sit together during the game. We hope to see you there!

Pam Rodewald, Chair of Congregational Life
psrmony@mac.com or (805) 215-2396

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We are gearing up for Fall and changing things up a bit in hopes more women can join us, so here are some **SAVE THE DATES** for your calendar.

Our **Fall Kick-Off** is scheduled for **Sunday, September 10, at 11:30 a.m.** with lunch and an introduction to the new bible study for the year entitled Sacred Encounters. Learn about existing groups and the possible formation of new groups.

A very special gathering of **Women in our Presbytery** (*our county plus two south of us*) will take place on **Saturday, September 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the **Nipomo Presbyterian Church**. Pastor Garrett Andrew of the Nipomo Church and his wife, Linda Trapp, will present their recently published book, *Peace Be with You*. Luanne Griguoli will lead the worship service. Lunch may include a speaker who is going to

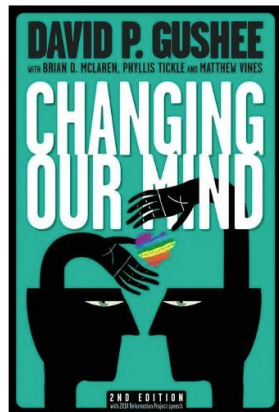
Turkey with IMPACT this summer. Presbyterian Women Board is purchasing a couple of the books to place in the Church Library. So, borrow one and read ahead. We will let you know when they arrive.

Back after many years, an **FPC Women's Retreat**, scheduled for **October 27-29 at Granite Ridge Camp** for a weekend in October – not too far away in Creston. We will be seeking women interested in helping plan the content of this event. *Google it – it's a nice place to go.*



LIBRARY REVIEW

Changing Our Mind (2nd Edition) by David Gushee has been added to the library and is available for borrowing. It is located on the book cart. "Every generation has its hot-button issue," writes David P. Gushee, "For us, it's the LGBT issue." In Changing Our Mind, Gushee takes the reader along his personal and theological journey as he changes his mind about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender inclusion in the Church. "For decades now, David Gushee has earned the reputation as America's leading evangelical ethicist. In this book, he admits that he has



been wrong on the LGBT issue," writes Brian D. McLaren, author and theologian. (Review Adapted From Amazon)

FRONT PORCH

As the school year comes to a close, it is always time to pause and reflect. There has been lots of behind the scenes activity at the Board level as efforts are made to clarify the relationship between Front Porch and the University Ministry Board of the Santa Barbara Presbytery, which oversees Front Porch.

On the ministry side, Front Porch has continued to expand and flourish with increased numbers of students stopping by on a regular basis. The number of volunteers who staff the coffee house has grown. Alumni support has increased, both in terms of hands-on activities, such as providing a Wednesday night meal or offering an occasional class for students to take, as well as contributions. Currently there is a student led campaign to raise \$6,000 towards a new stove. The original residential stove installed over 10 years ago has far out lived its usefulness. A new commercial stove, which is necessary, costs around \$12,000. As students directly benefit from the use of the stove (some Wednesday night meals are prepared at Front Porch), they wanted to help. I'm sure any additional help would be appreciated if someone wanted to donate to the new stove fund.

With increased student participation in Front Porch, it is evident that having three interns is essential. Front Porch has always provided housing as part of the intern stipend. Currently there are only two bedrooms available to house interns, and thus two interns need to share a small room. As recent college graduates, I'm sure they would prefer to have a room to themselves, but they have accepted this situation. There

is room available in the manse next door that could be remodeled to provide a third bedroom and second bathroom for the interns. This summer will begin a capital campaign to raise the necessary funds to improve the living situation for interns. Again, any support for this campaign would be greatly appreciated. Alternately, if you have a spare bedroom and bath that you would like to donate for use during the school year, that would be welcomed. I can say from personal experience that it was a positive experience for Craig and myself the year that we housed Jenna.

Susan Updegrove
Front Porch Board member

PEACEMAKING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE WELCOME HOME KITS

We are all aware of the problem of homelessness in our community. Whether we see the homeless on the streets or in tents along the roads, we are very conscious of this painful situation. You may have read or heard in the news recently that many groups in the county are working together on various solutions to create permanent housing for those who live on the streets. One of those groups is Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO), which oversees the 40 Prado Homeless Shelter.

This summer, we have an opportunity to participate with CAPSLO by filling and donating Welcome Home Kits that will be given to people as they transition from homelessness to permanent housing. Those who have been living at a shelter or in a car or motel often don't have basic kitchen and household items to bring with them when they move into an apartment. Presenting them with a Welcome Home Kit is a way to spread joy and hope while we live

our mission, "to glorify Jesus Christ and to be instruments of God's healing, reconciling, life-giving presence in the world."

Everyone at First Pres can participate with the Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee on this project as an individual, a family, a group of friends, a PW Bible Study group, the youth, a walking group, the choir, a Date for Eight group, or a church committee. These are just some of the many ways we can work together donating single articles or filling boxes with kitchen and household items for Welcome Home Kits.

Karen Wiles, Peacemaking and Social Justice
Committee

ENDOWMENT CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

LEGACY SUNDAY 2023

Peggy Estes, a member of the Endowment Committee, delivered the Legacy Sunday message on May 7th. Her goal was to plant a seed or maybe to give a good *nudge* to those considering a legacy gift to FPCSLO. The following column is a condensed version of Peggy's message.

What does it mean to leave your legacy? Well, typically it's you when you share your gifts with others to benefit future generations once you've passed on. These gifts can have intrinsic value, for example, an heirloom quilt you've created or one of the crosses at the front of the sanctuary, like those made by Warren Hansen and Barbara Wines' husband. The gift could also have monetary value like a bequest or an endowment, which are essentially donations.

Creating an endowment doesn't require a large donation. While we do have endowments that have grown to six figures, most of our endowments are much smaller. Most legacy gifts

to our church are modest amounts.

During the first couple years of the pandemic, it was our church's endowments that made the difference and really helped to keep our church afloat. Do you want our church to continue sustainably into perpetuity? Might there be another crisis that needs our help? Have you given this any thought? Ask yourself,

- Do I care about my church's future?
- Do I want it to live on after I'm gone?
- Do I want to continue my support to the church to help fund its future after I'm gone?

I care about my own family members who survive me and I plan to help provide for them, but how about my church family that I have faithfully supported for so many years?

- Honestly, ask yourself will my survivors, my son or daughter, leave part of my estate to the church all on their own without any guidance or nudging from me?
- What message or example do I wish to leave for them? What guidance did my own parents offer me? What did I do when they passed? Will my daughter do any differently? Will your survivors do any differently.

Here are a couple of pretty simple things we can all do now to help our surviving family share our gifts with our church after we're gone:

- If you have an IRA, you can make the church a beneficiary. If living, your spouse or partner, could be your primary beneficiary, but then the church could be an additional primary or a contingent beneficiary at even 25% or 50% of the residual balance. This is easy to do.

- How about just adding a single line to your will that states, "after all my bills have been paid, I wish to give 10% of my remaining assets to my church." This is also easy to do and would only require a little assistance. Those of us on the committee would be happy to help if you have any questions.

So, think about it, what will be your legacy?

If you have a desire 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.) We can help guide you through this important process or get you in touch with the right people and resources.

Even a modest gift will make a difference.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Church Family,

Your prayers of support and good wishes have meant so much to me during recovery from my injuries. I truly appreciate your many acts of kindness and words of encouragement.

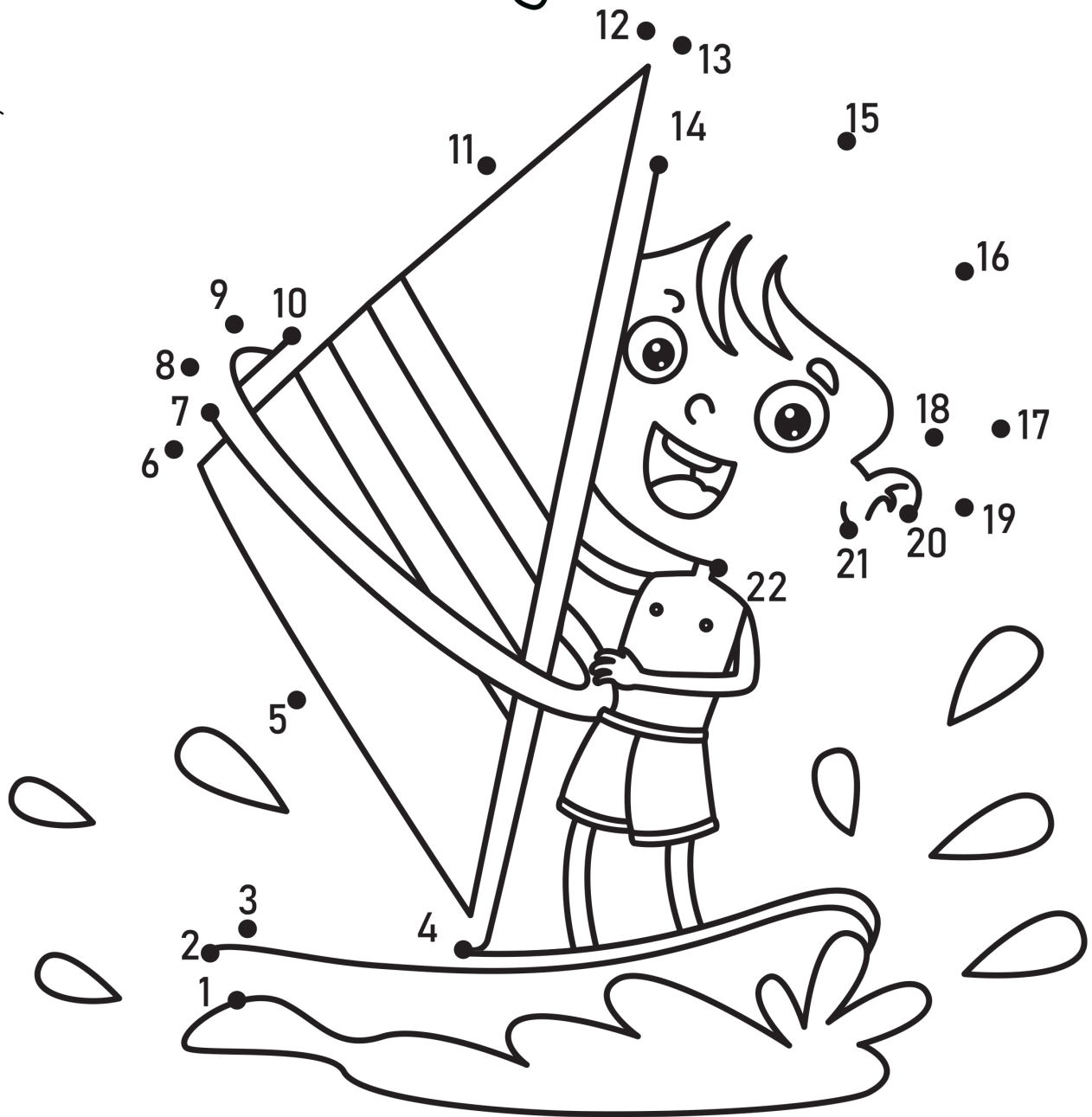
Thank you!

Love and blessings,

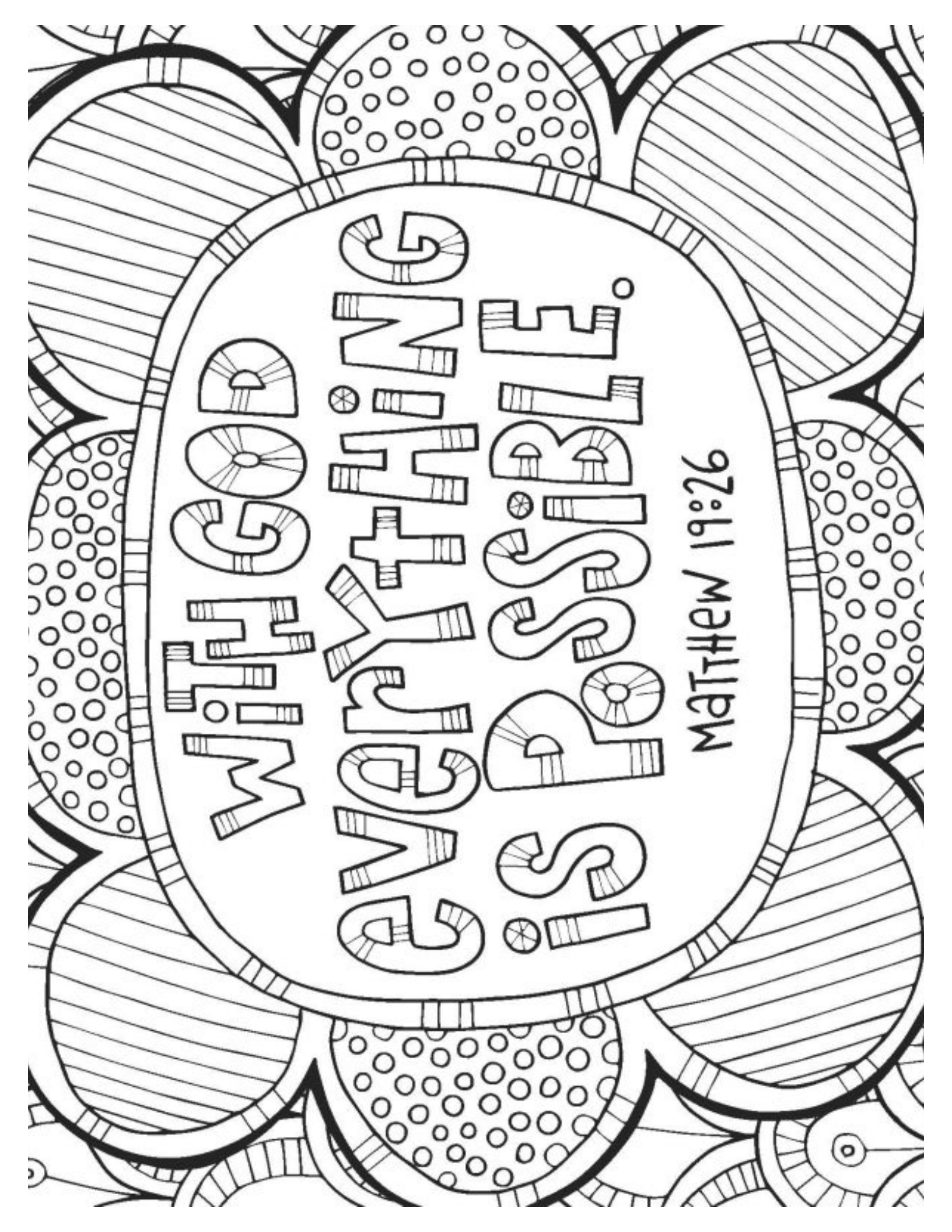
Nellie Beecher

Thank you God

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for summer!

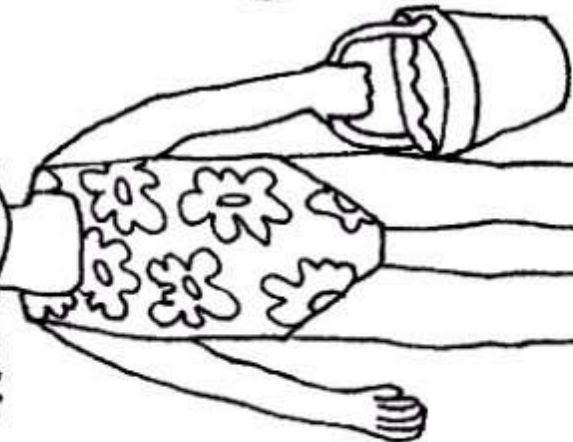


WITH GOD
EVERYTHING
IS POSSIBLE.

MATTHEW 19:26

Summers

spring...
winter...
fall...



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Goods

to thank-

He made them all!



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