

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

*The Kirk*  
July 2021

**PLANNING AND PONDERING ...**



We have often been called to re-think what it means to be the Church. To re-think what being a follower of Christ means for us. As we plan and ponder what First Pres SLO will look like post pandemic, I think we have been given a beautiful opportunity. As God's people, we have come to a place where we can create new and adapt old approaches to our ministries and programs. Since March of 2020, we have learned how to participate in all new ways. We had to abandon some things, adapt other things, and create new things. Most of us had to learn how to use technology in all new ways. I, for one, thank God for those who already knew how to use technology and remained patient and offered those of us who "don't get it" most days a lot of grace. We have grieved losses and celebrated successes - under protocols that were hard but necessary to follow. We have redefined so many things. And, it feels like we are about to redefine so many things again. We have adapted and have been creative with the way we managed - everything - since March 2020.

As we emerge from the pandemic, we are called to explore and rethink our ministries and programs for the months and years to come. Our calling might be the same, but our community is not. I believe we cannot go back to doing things just like we did. Through all of this, we have been given the space to rethink and re-envision who we are and who we want our community to know we are. How will we go about being the church in the future? We have the opportunity to take the time and space to figure that out. Not only figure it out but test it out. I think the biggest task we have in front of us is to let those who worship with us know that no matter how they choose to worship—in person, live stream, or later from the recording—that it is all ok. Whatever works for individuals is ok. And, that we will do whatever we can to make sure they are reached and taken care of. None of that changes. We need to remember to ask God into all of our conversations. That feels particularly important as we discuss reopening and redefining our future.

This feels like a perfect time to discuss what was working and what was not. Acknowledge that we have all been touched and changed by the pandemic in a variety of ways. All those feelings and experiences are valid. We need to acknowledge there is no "normal," new or otherwise—what does "normal" even mean? As we think about our programs and ministries, what values are guiding them? Are we inviting God in? Are we listening and observing? Are we figuring it out together—with Gods help? We cannot and should not do any of this on our own.

It has been a year plus! Perhaps we should take the time to ask ourselves;

\*Where have you seen God at work?

\*What has given you strength?

\*What are you grieving?

\*What do you need to leave behind in order to move forward?

\*What are two or three next steps you can take not only for yourself but for the church?

\*Think about who stayed, who was found, who is missing? Consider each name and their story and pray for them.

I know I am excited about the future and all God has to show us as we move forward. My hope is that we continue to invite God in—in all that we do. And that we continue to love God and then love people. May we see God's hand at work in new and creative ways each day as we plan and ponder and honor our traditions and those who came before us.

– Jen Rabenaldt,  
Director of Christian Education/ Office Manager

## CHILDREN'S ED

We are gearing up for VBS and couldn't be more excited! It feels amazing to have a couple of childcare workers back on board and we cannot wait to have VBS campers back at First Pres.

VBS Summer Camp will focus on compassion and how we care for others as well as ourselves. It is about coming back together and what it looks like to be a good friend.

Keep us in your prayers as we finish plans and take care of details.



Sundays in the Fall—We will open the nursery and offer Sunday school starting September 5. Nursery care will be available during the Education Hour and during Worship. Children's Sunday School will be offered during the Education Hour.

Wednesday's at the Rock will resume on September 1 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Watch for details.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers,  
The Children's Ed Committee

## YOUTH

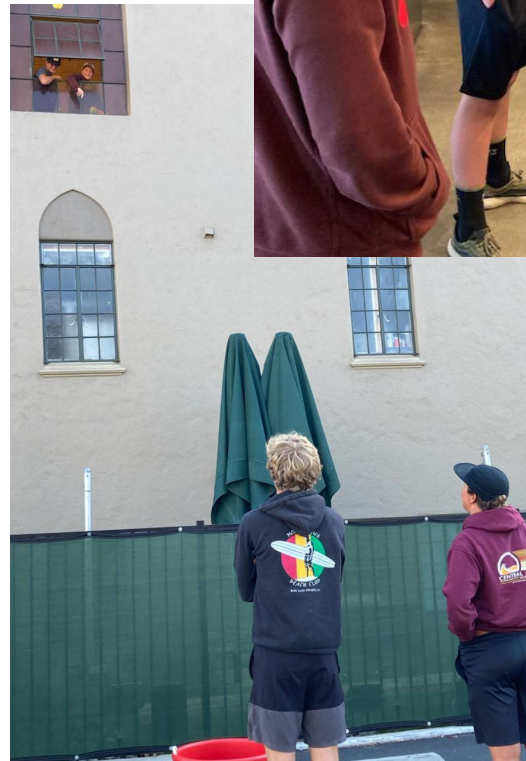
The Youth have a fun summer planned. We have been enjoying being together and can't wait to invite friends.

We continue to look for a couple of people who would love to work with the Youth. If you know of someone, please let us know. We are starting to think about and figure out what First Pres SLO Youth will look like in the fall. We have an amazing group of kids who have been flexible and cooperative during this whole pandemic.

If you or know anyone who might be interested in sharing a meal with the Youth, let us know. We would love for you to not only bring food but stick around and share a meal with us.

Thank you for caring for us, supporting us, and praying for us!

The Youth Committee



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY! LIBRARY REVIEW

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

George Ohgi – July 2 – 85 in 2021

George Mach – July 23

Eva Brown – July 26

Lorna Hudson – July 31

Jean Starkey – July 31

And to everyone else with a July birthday!

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 safely gathering in person for worship and other events;

For the Deacons as they care for our church family;

For Jen Rabenaldt and others as they stay in touch with our children and youth;

For FPC SLO members, friends and family who are undergoing treatments for various health issues;

For our church's seniors, especially those who are confined to their homes or care centers;

For Pat Crawford and family and friends of Shirley, who passed away in June;

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

And, 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.

God bless us all,  
Gloria DeKleine

Successful Aging: A

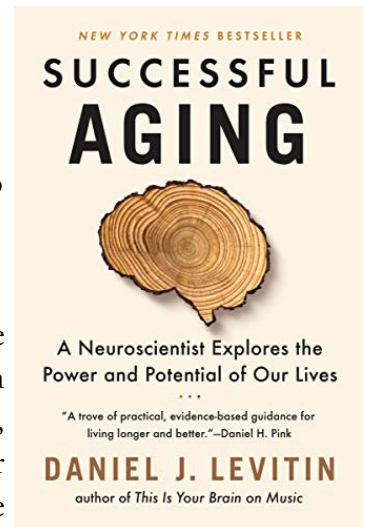
Neuroscientist Explores the Power and Potential of Our

Lives, by Daniel J. Levitin, is a book that has been added to the library and is on the book cart ready for borrowing.

This author looks at the science behind what we all can learn from those who age joyously, as well as how to adapt our culture to take full advantage of older people's wisdom and experience. Throughout his exploration of what aging really means, using research from developmental neuroscience and the psychology of individual differences, Levitin reveals resilience strategies and practical, cognitive enhancing tricks everyone should do as they age.

Successful Aging inspires a powerful new approach to how readers think about our final decades, and it will revolutionize the way we plan for old age as individuals, family members, and citizens within a society where the average life expectancy continues to rise.

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## ENDOWMENT

With two weeks to go in the second quarter of 2021, the endowment value is looking good and the allotted amount is being used to enhance First Pres SLO missions and operations. The 2021 allotment of over \$33,000 added to unspent allotments from previous years provides total funds available greater than \$45,000. As of midyear, about \$19,300 has been used by Missions, Youth Ministry/Christian Education, and General Operations Support (resources that would not otherwise have been available). Let us be thankful for these bountiful assets.

Committee Chairs, please note there remains about \$26,000 allocated for various needs.

This column in August 2021 will report the performance results at the halfway point; but—spoiler alert—it is going to be good. In spite of the yoyo character of the securities market lately, New Covenant Funds Balanced Growth Fund has continued to grow.

Thank you to those who have invested in our church's future by donating to our endowment or have included First Presbyterian SLO in their will or trust. All gifts are used as the donors specified.

Have you prepared your will? NOW! is the best time to do it.

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). If you haven't already done so, please consider inserting one simple statement into your will: After all my bills are paid, 10 percent of my estate will go to First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo.

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## BUDGET & FINANCE

This is the first of monthly financial status reports in the Kirk. In summary, our financial situation looks good as of May 31.

Our total giving as of May 31 is \$221,017. This is nearly 45 percent of the budgeted giving when we are 42 percent through the year. Review of our giving status as of May for the past 10 years shows this year being in line with past years. Thank you for your faithful giving, even during the pandemic.

Total income is \$241,251, which is \$20,421 higher than the straight-line projection. One reason for this is the one-time endowment income allotment of \$7,952 for the year that was added to general income by the Treasurer.

Our spending is \$225,480, which is \$4,650 higher than the straight-line projection. We have incurred some unexpected expenses, particularly in the administration and unplanned property maintenance line items. We recently had to eliminate a termite problem at a cost of several thousand dollars. Another unexpected expense to be incurred soon is the repair of fire doors, expected to cost thousands of dollars.

Since total income was higher than total expenses, we added \$15,771 to our total reserves (i.e., savings account) for total reserves of \$95,812. Reserves may be tapped if necessary to meet unexpected expense levels.

Expenses in the worship, education, and congregational life committees have been significantly below plan because of curtailed activities during the pandemic. We anticipate increases in these committees, and perhaps in staffing, once we resume in-person worship and education programs. Your continued giving will enable FPCSLO to continue and to enhance our service to the community.

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## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

The Congregational Committee will continue to bring Friday Night Bingo games about once a month. We keep adding to our prize box with contributions from the congregation. Keep an eye out for information in the Weekly Peak. We are also working on a Musical Evening coming up in late July or early August. This will include various musicians from the church on a Zoom platform.

We are planning a **Sunday BBQ on September 12 at 5 p.m.** in the parking lot! We are excited to be working with other committees to bring you this event for a gathering and sharing of a meal! More details will be coming soon.

Please send any suggestions or ideas for future fellowship events to Pam Rodewald, Chair of Congregational Life, at [psrmony@mac.com](mailto:psrmony@mac.com).



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE BIBLE

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BEGINNING

BIBLE

GENESIS

GOSPELS

REVELATION

SIXTY SIX







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