

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
San Luis Obispo

The Kirk

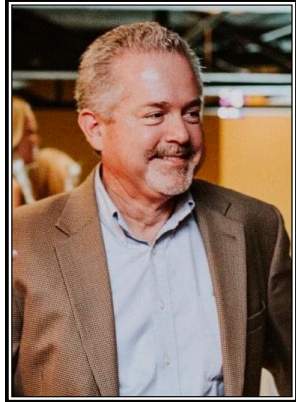
October 2020

And so we come to October...

It's been more than six months since we were able to gather together. In that time we've seen our worship go online, had a pastoral transition, learned all kinds of new skills, and settled into our homes to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe.

It's been a strange half-year.

For much of that time we have been waiting—waiting for the all clear, waiting for it to be safe to gather again, waiting for a vaccine, waiting...



I want to say that we are turning a corner as we move into this final quarter of 2020. We're embracing changes to our working rhythms and learning to serve you in different ways. We're working to improve our production and delivery of our worship service, holding to our best traditions as we learn new things about the way we experience worship on our screens. We're about to enter into an important conversation about stewardship for 2021—about our sharing of resources to make an impact for Christ on our community and the world.

For us the waiting is over, sort of. The here and now is far too important.

You will have a part to play in this! We'll have a Town Hall meeting on October 18th to talk about what's happening in our church—make plans to be there (on Zoom, of course), to listen and to share your own vision with us about how we can serve you and this community better.

At the end of this month we'll start a new series of messages on the Lord's Prayer. My focus will be the ways this prayer gives us strength to endure the present, and also how it gives us hope to serve each other for a better future. But you don't have to wait! Take some time for yourself to say this prayer more regularly—not because it's magic (it's not), but because these simple lines give us an outline for our own personal conversations with God. There's no time like now to dive into this prayer! And yes, I'll be giving the lines out ahead of time so your groups can continue to help shape my Sunday messages. Stay tuned.

For now, know that your church staff and leadership are not just sitting around waiting for things to get better. We're working hard to learn new ways to love and care for you, new ways to worship and deepen our shared faith, and creative ways to grow our church into the healthy place God wants it to be.

We are well and truly into the autumn season at First Pres SLO. Blessings to you and yours. Stay safe and healthy, and keep wearing your mask.

Love in Christ, Pastor John

CHILDREN'S ED

Well, here it is Fall and everything continues to be up in the air. But, we have a lot of hope, energy and motivation to continue program and do what we can - safely. We are thankful for the opportunity to be creative and come up with new ways to reach our kids and families.

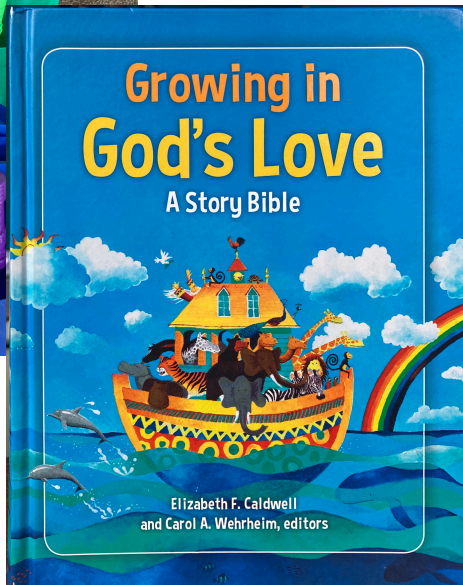
We were able to hand out "goody bags" at the ice cream social. The best part was that the children that received them were given a new "Growing In God's Love" bible. This bible is the newest PCUSA Children's Bible and the Children's Ed staff really like it.

Please watch for up coming events. We are coming up with new ways to be able to do and maintain some of our beloved traditions.

Your continued support is a blessing! Thank you for that and for keeping our kids, families and staff in your prayers.

Jen and Steph

Here are a few pictures of us getting ready for ice cream ...



YOUTH

After a fantastic summer, we are excited to see what the school year brings! As the season changes, Youth Group will keep the same schedule, but Minecraft Nights will be switched from twice a week to once a week.

We had a wonderful Youth Challenge this past week! We challenged the Youth to mail out cards to members of the congregation. This has been a great way to keep the Youth connected with the congregation while Covid-19 has been keeping us in our homes.

The Youth have also volunteered for the Drive Through Ice Cream Social September 13th. It was wonderful to safely see members of our congregation in person. Thank you to all those who participated!

Youth Schedule


Minecraft Night: Saturday at 4 p.m.

Youth Group: Sunday at 7 p.m.

Youth Group and Minecraft Night are open to all Youth, so please let us know if you would like to join!

We look forward to continuing to adapt during this pandemic to make the Youth Program the best it can be.

Stephanie Vigil
Youth Intern



 Hi, my name is Wyatt Stapp and I'm part of the FPC SLO youth group. I'm writing to say hello and see how you are doing in this weird time of a global pandemic. How are you passing the time?

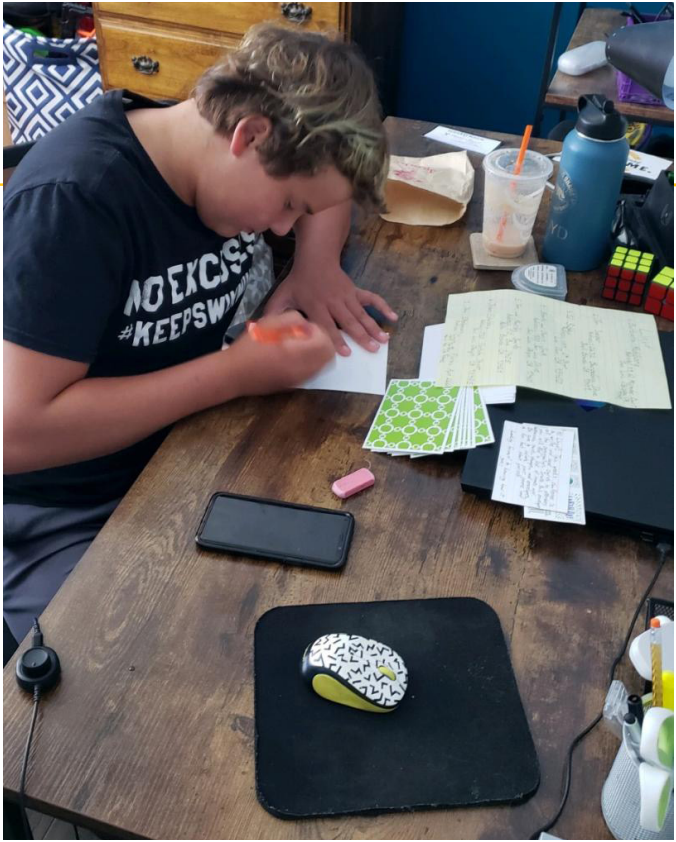
My family grew a big garden this year and I started a neighborhood farm stand to sell the extra produce. It's been a fun way to meet neighbors and make a little extra money. I'm saving up for a new camera.

Our youth group still meets (Zoom!) on Sunday nights and we also play Minecraft together on Saturdays.

From, Wyatt



for



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S UPDATE ON KAYENTA

We have had an overwhelming response of donations for the Navajo Mission Church in Kayenta. Over 25 women have generously donated items that were needed on Pastor Norma's list plus more. The 14, some large some smaller, boxes were shipped out via Catherine Petty's daughter, an airline pilot. The boxes were packed as goods arrive here at my home and listed on an inventory sheet. The list was sent to Norma prior to the shipment and she was overwhelmed with emotion and gratitude. Thank you all you wonderful PW members and those who donated cash for assistance in the project. You have blessed a Nation.

BIBLE STUDY

The time is getting away from us as we continue to be away from one another. Many join in on Zoom gatherings, I prefer not to, even though it does keep us connected. I'm sure that those who do our Bible study on Zoom are getting some understanding of the value of Lamenting. A Lament can be simple but it usually is a cause for mourning, despair, lack of trust, regret, unfaithfulness to God, and conditions out of our control. It is also for a release of stress, pain, or suffering. A Lament can help you release some of the issues you might be dealing with. The 2020-2021 Bible study is helping us structure a Lament within a positive and satisfying way.

We will not be together in a gathering in December for the joint Christmas time, lesson 3 and program, unless someone would like to arrange to do that. There are instruction and help at the presbyterianwomen.org website to help us with zoom meetings.

UPCOMING LESSONS

Lesson 2 is 'Lamenting Together,' both individual and community. Laments are a result of a major need, death, disaster, a and personal burden, or for a Community in need of direction. The Book of Lamentations is the only book that contains individual or community laments. It is a short book and well worth your time to read it in conjunction with this lesson. The concerns sound like some of the issues we face today. As the author of our study points out, it is not easy to lament in a community due to differences in religion, politics, economy, and people's personalities. However, it is needed now more than ever.

We don't always have to lament over all the negative things of life, we can lament over our blessings and seek help in understanding how we can share our blessings to help the negative things turn around to become a strong and powerful positive!

Lesson Three is a focus of scripture and tradition, where women have carried much of the burden of lament for society. Is that a burden, a challenge, a privilege, or a general expectation of women? These lessons do present interesting concepts. Join in on the discussion, call Barbara Gillson or Nellie Beecher or Peggy Estes, for a Zoom Meeting day and time.

TIME TO RETIRE

As you have gathered from my emails, I'm searching for a new PW Moderator. I have served in this capacity for 15 years, and it's time to have a break and a time for someone who has the energy to take over. It has been and is a blessing to have had this position and to serve with so many wonderful women. If you have a nominee for the job, with their permission, please send me a name, I will propose it to the PW Board members. We can also have Co-Moderators, if interested in the duties I can send you a response. I plan to continue until the end of 2020.

PW Moderator,
805- 541-5779

LIBRARY REVIEW

The book [Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents](#) by [Isabel Wilkerson](#) has been donated to the church library by Art DeKleine and is available for borrowing.

This book examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. ...The hierarchy of caste is not about feelings or morality. It is about power—which groups have it and which do not.” Isabel Wilkerson gives us aportrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores...how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings. ...She discusses why the cruel logic of caste requires that there be a bottom rung for those in the middle to measure themselves against; She writes about the surprising health costs of caste, in depression and life expectancy, and the effects of this hierarchy on our culture and politics. Finally, she points forward to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity. (Review from Amazon)

(If you would like to borrow books about race relations or the parables from the library during the pandemic you can contact Jen Rabenaldt to arrange pickup. These books have been referenced in the two previous Kirks.).

PEACE MAKING & SOCIAL JUSTICE

May the God of peace give you peace
at all times in all ways.
-2 Thessalonians 3:16

On World Communion Sunday, October 4, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. We celebrate that we are offered what we need to address injustice across the world. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith—a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together.

What is the Peace & Global Witness Offering? This offering draws Presbyterians together, and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do peacemaking well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and provide nurturing reconciliation, and stand in support of our global sisters and brothers, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.

Where does your offering go?

50% goes to peacemaking efforts around the globe such as supporting the Fight Against Hunger in Cameroon (RELUFU);

25% goes to Santa Barbara Presbytery for missions such as Front Porch;

25% stays at FPC to support Green Pastures.

Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we extend Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. Won't you please prayerfully consider giving generously to this once a year, very worthwhile offering for PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS?

Thank you, Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee

FRONT PORCH

Students are back in town and school has started mostly in the virtual format. You might wonder where that leaves Front Porch. Let me tell you what is continuing from spring quarter and what is new. First, let me introduce a new intern--Hailey Firstman. She graduated from Cal Poly in 2019 with a focus on graphic design and is excited to join the staff and explore creatively how to serve the student community.

Some tables and chairs have been set up outside on the Front Porch property so students can hang out safely outside. On the first day of class, first year students were invited to coffee that was served from the front porch. A CLEAN/DIRTY card sits on each table, so interns know

where to clean and students can sit safely. Wednesday night meals will continue, alternating weekly between virtual and in person at a park. New this year is the staff request for dinner providers, who last year served 200 - 250 students each Wednesday night, to instead prepare 10-15 bag meals to serve four students each. Friendship Circle is giving it a try on 9/30 and hopefully other groups will join in as well. A Saturday night worship service will continue as will daily office hours for connecting with staff.

Please continue your prayers for Front Porch as Joel and the staff continue to offer coffee and a "safe" place for the students. I will keep you posted as I learn of other ways Front Porch strives to "Live Life Together" in masks and from a six-foot distance!

Susan Updegrove.
Front Porch Board Chair

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Your Congregational Life Committee will be presenting Coffee Fellowship Zooms for the foreseeable future. Please join them in order to greet and share with one another! Those who have attended in the past have enjoyed seeing each other face to face!

Coffee Fellowships in October will be offered for the Week of **Oct. 12-18** and **Oct. 25-Nov. 1**. Please watch your email and the Weekly Peak for details.

Get ready for another **BINGO** on **Sat., Oct. 3 at 4 p.m.**

RSVP to Pam (805) 215-2396 or psrmony@mac.com
And the host will send you the link. There will be prizes!
And the winners will be listed in the Weekly Peak!

BOOK BROWSERS

Book Browsers is starting our 20-21 year of book discussions on Sept., 1. We will be meeting in Zoom meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. These are the books we will be reading this year.

Sept. The Giver of Stars by Mojo Moyes
Oct. The Story of More by Hope Jahren
Nov. Midnight in Chernobyl by A. Higginbotham
Dec. The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict
Jan. Dreaming in French by Alice Kaplan
Feb. Say Nothing by Patrick Radden Keefe
Mar. The Daughter's Tale by Armando Correa
Apr. That Churchill Woman by Stephanie Barron
May Water From My Heart by Charles Martin

Questions: Please contact Diane Shervem at dshervem@charter.net or 805-459-9844.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Marjorie Friesen – October 4
Ralph Nunley – October 8 – 90 this year
Lillian Bareither – October 12
Bob Gordon – October 19
Carol Dover - October 28
Ruth Gordon – October 31

To everyone else celebrating an October birthday!

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

by Gloria DeKleine

CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

Please pray for our church family during this difficult pandemic, especially

For Pastor **John D'Elia** as he guides our congregation,

For our **Elders** as they lead us during this challenging time,

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 the Health Care workers and care givers in our community,

For those people worried about their jobs and businesses,

For those people effected by the fires burning in California,

For FPCSLO 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 during this time of isolation,

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 gdeklein@calpoly.edu.

God bless us all,
Gloria DeKleine

GREEN PASTURES

GREEN PASTURES MINISTRY

TEMPORARILY CLOSED

The Green Pastures ministry that provides needs assistance to 200-400 community members a year, is temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 virus and the difficulty in providing a safe environment to administer the program.

During the interim the Green Pastures staff is providing funding to other Community organizations such as the Salvation Army to provide assistance for those in need. Green Pastures will reopen when the Church campus is open again and it is safe for staff to offer this mission.

Your continued donations to Green Pastures are important to provide for current needs and to continue this important mission in the future.

ENDOWMENT

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU!

What will happen to our property with which God entrusted us when we depart terra firma? The way we state our wishes for the deposition of our estates is embodied in the second word of the above sentence: our wills.

We all have a will whether we prepare it ourselves or leave it unwritten. If it is unwritten, we are asking a probate judge to take responsibility for us. Most of us would rather make our own decisions. Have you prepared your will?

It is our responsibility to make those decisions about what will happen to all that God has provided us. It is especially critical as Christians that we consider the Church in our estate planning. This is the time to arrange for the final gift to your Church—an estate tithe. If it is a contribution to this Church's endowment, it will be a gift which keeps on giving in perpetuity.

During 2019 this column featured eight members we know have included our Church in her or his estate plan. Indeed, most of our endowment funds

have come as bequests, others as memorials. Please consider joining that list.

Too many Christians choose to make no plans--no plans for final stewardship. Readers of this column know there is a monthly estate planning reminder. We ask again, think about the lives this Church could improve with, for example, a larger mission or youth & young families endowment! God wants you to declare what is to be done with our estates. It is the responsible thing to do. Insert one simple statement in our wills: after all my bills are paid, 10% of my estate will go to First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo.

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: Don Green, Jerry Kaml, Bert Townsend, Dorothy Truesdale, Roger Verity, or Virginia Walter (Chair).

Even a modest gift will make a difference.



Even a modest gift will make a difference.

ONLINE GIVING

ANOTHER WAY TO USE ONLINE GIVING



You can get this free app from the APP Store or Play Store. It is easy to set up just by selecting First Presbyterian Church after entering 93401. As with the other online giving methods, you can give once or set up recurring donations.

For full details, go to the Frequently Asked Questions on the Church Website. Or, for more information, contact Asst. Treasurer, Bert Townsend at 805-748-4380 or churchtreasurer@fpcslo.org.

TOWN HALL MEETING

OCT 18. AT 2 P.M. VIA ZOOM

The topics will be the quarterly financial reports and reports from other committees. Congregation questions will be welcome.

Does God Always Answer Our Prayers?

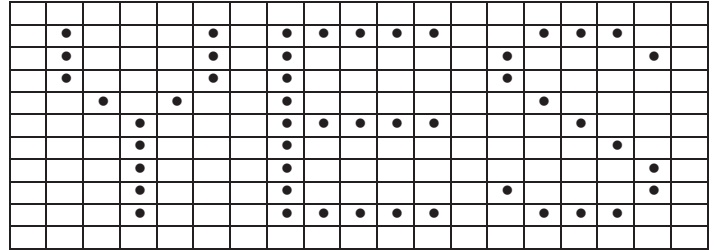
God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we want or expect.

Read each verse and the sentence below it. Then work the puzzle to find out how God might answer the prayer. (Color each square with a dot in it.)

Read John 16:23.

When we pray in Jesus' name (ask for what Jesus wants), God gives us what we ask for.

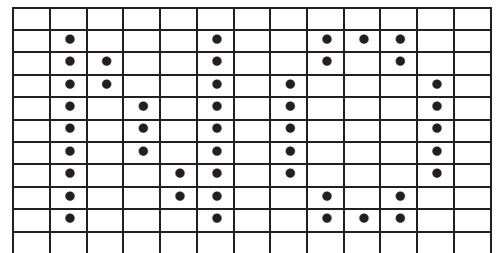
God's answer is ...



Read James 4:3.

When we ask for the wrong thing or for the wrong reason, God may not give us what we ask for.

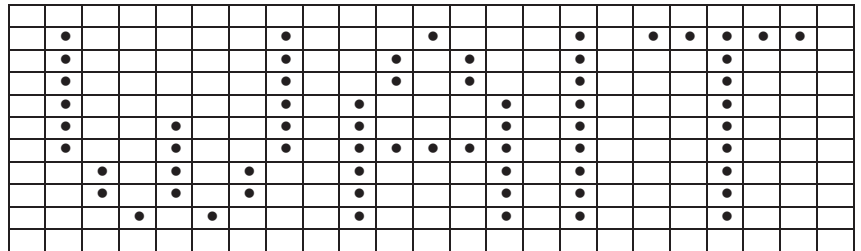
God's answer is ...



Read Luke 18:1.

When we pray for something and God doesn't answer right away, we need to keep praying.

God's answer is ...



How Will God Answer?

Read each story, and write "yes", "no", or "wait" below it.

You pray for your friend who is sick, but your friend is still sick, so you keep on praying.

You ask God to give you a new bicycle because your friend has a new bicycle.



Your friend doesn't know much about Jesus, so you ask God to help you tell your friend about Jesus.



Learn About Prayer

Questions and Answers about Prayer

Unscramble the words to answer the questions about prayer.

What is prayer?

Prayer is _____
L I N G A K T
with God.

When should we pray?

Pray _____ time
N A Y
(Psalm 55:17)

Pray _____ the time
L L A
(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Why do people pray different ways?

They _____ their _____ or _____
S L E C O Y E E S D O L F
their _____ so they won't be thinking about other things.
S N A D H

They pray _____ _____ so others can hear their
U T O O U L D
prayers.

They _____ down on their _____ to show honor to
T E G S N E E K
God.

But you can pray in any way – silently, with your eyes open, and walking down the street! Just pray any time you think about it.

What should we pray about?

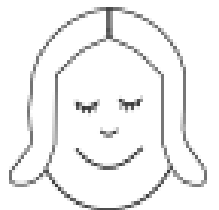
The Lord's Prayer is found in Matthew 6:9-13. Sometimes people repeat it together in a worship service. It can also be used as an example prayer, to show what we should pray about.

To give _____ to God (Matthew 6:9)
N O R O H

For the _____ we _____ (Matthew 6:11)
H N G I S T D E N E

For God to _____ our _____ (Matthew 6:12)
G R O F E I V N I S S

To _____ us from _____ (Matthew 6:13)
P E K E N I G N I S N



FPCSLO COVID-19 GUIDELINES

First Presbyterian Church San Luis Obispo Entry Guidelines Related to COVID-19

Anyone with the following symptoms should not enter any part of the church campus.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Unusual headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

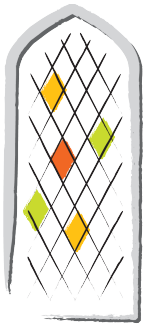
Anyone answering “Yes” to the following should not enter any part of the church campus.

1. If you have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus within the past ten (10) days.
2. If you have had unprotected contact (*by distance AND/OR mask*) with anyone who has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus within the past ten (10) days.

Persons without symptoms must follow these guidelines.

1. All visitors will enter through the Marsh Street door to the Hart Building.
2. All visitors must sign in at the church office, and sign out when they leave.
3. Anyone entering after hours must sign in and note all areas visited.
4. All visitors will wear a sticker with the day’s date.
5. Staff will take temperature daily and confirm personal health.
6. Masks will be worn in all common areas (people alone in offices are exempt).
7. Minimum of six (6) feet of distance will be maintained between people.
8. Use of hand sanitizer and the wiping of all surfaces touched is required.

NOTE: Deliveries and pickups can be made by prior arrangement only.



**FIRST
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San Luis Obispo

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