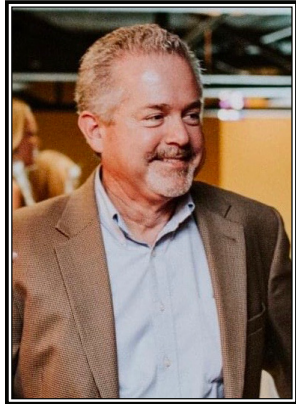


FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
San Luis Obispo

The Kirk
November 2020



And so we come to the home stretch of 2020. Whew.

This year has been filled with so many challenges—some are global, shared by everyone in our nation and in our world, and some have been unique to our church family here. Just the number “2020” has become shorthand for disaster and suffering, for things going horribly wrong. Just today someone wrote me to say that they missed an appointment they’d driven an hour to make, because a brushfire had shut down the freeway. She simply added “2020” at the end of her report.

The New Testament has two words for “time”: Chronos and Kairos. Without complicating it too much, *chronos* represents time as a clock or a watch might represent it, as actual seconds and minutes and hours. But *kairos* is different. It describes a season—a period of time that is linked together by certain qualities that put all those hours and weeks and months in one set of memories.

It’s pretty clear that 2020 falls into the *kairos* category, right?

This has been a season of disruption and conflict and loneliness. When we think back on this year—on this season—we’ll remember the feelings of all the ways our lives were thrown a bit sideways.

In Mark’s gospel, the ministry of Jesus is seen as a *kairos*, as a season of God’s decisive action through his son, our Messiah. In Mark, the very first words that Jesus says during his ministry were: “The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” The word for time there is “*kairos*”—the season of Jesus has come.

I wonder if there’s room for us to see Jesus working during this season of 2020. Maybe being forced to live differently and interact differently—even to be the church differently—maybe all of this is leading us into a new *kairos* moment with Jesus.

We know we’re supposed to love our neighbors, but this year we’ve had to think about that more.

We know that Jesus himself calls us to love our enemies—those with whom we have disagreements—and in this election year we know that’s been an area of struggle.

We know, maybe in ways that we had ignored before, how interconnected we all are, even if it’s just by a virus.

In our journey through the Lord’s Prayer this month, we’re seeing how Jesus invites us to pray. We recognize the holiness of God’s name, we remind ourselves that this world matters as much as any world to come, we are aware of our need for provision and also for forgiveness, and we humbly ask God to protect us from evil. This prayer is meant to guide us and sustain through all seasons—through thick and thin, good and bad, happy and not.

The encouragement to all of us in the Lord’s Prayer is that we are the Lord’s people. Our lives are connected to the God who made and loves this world and all that is in it, even us. In this *kairos*, this season when everything feels disrupted and out of control, the Lord’s Prayer reminds us both of God’s presence in the world, and our calling to participate in sharing God’s blessings.

As we turn to the holiday season (that sounds different now, right?), we get a chance to take stock and to be thankful. It begins with Thanksgiving, where we express our gratitude for God's provision, and reaches its height with our celebration of God's Messiah, who came to show us the ways of God and the way to God. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

For now, we continue this journey together even as we are separated.

The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn His face toward you
and give you peace.

CHILDREN'S ED

Gosh we are missing the kids and their families. This whole COVID thing is getting old. Having said that, we understand the importance of making decisions based on safety and protocols. We are keeping in touch with our families in a variety of ways. Our favorite is to leave surprises at their homes. We have some fun "surprises" on the way. Stephanie and Andrew recently delivered goody bags in the night for the kids to find the next morning. Our efforts have been appreciated and we are motivated to keep it up.

"We wanted to thank you for the care package that was left on our porch. What a thoughtful surprise! We appreciate you thinking of us. Made our day!"
Hugs,
Jill, Rob, Nolan and Oliver

"Maddie really enjoyed discovering her surprise bag on the porch. Thank you for all of your efforts to keep in touch."
Patricia

"Thank you for the surprise care package a few weeks back. The kids were so excited and we felt so loved. Thank you for all the work you do for Jesus! <3"
Janice



What's next - Worship space at home kits with 30 Days of Thankful ideas, Advent Kits, Virtual Children's Musical and Bake Sale. Stay tuned!

Thanks for all the love and continued support!
The Children's Ed Committee

P.S. If anyone is interested in becoming part of the Children's Ed Committee let Jen know.
jen@fpcslo.org - or - 805-543-5451 ext. 105

SAVE THE DATE

We have some exciting news the Children and Youth will be hosting a [See's Candy Fundraiser\(click here\)](#). We have our own on-line store front and See's Candy will share the profits with us. Please consider ordering all your Holiday candy supplies this way to support our programs.

Because we will not be able to bless you with our annual Children's Musical and Bake Sale we have opened our own little See's Candy Store for a month. Traditionally, all donations to the annual bake sale have supported Children and Youth Programs - especially VBS. You have all generously supported this effort and we hope you can now support our Children and Youth programs in a new way.

Our Sees candy online store will open November 1. You can order through December 4. Please watch for details and shop, shop shop. You will order what you would like and then it will be shipped directly to you. We are very excited and can't wait for this opportunity!

Also, we will be presenting a virtual "Children's Musical" in December. We could not let the year go by without it. You won't want to miss it. Just think, you could watch the Children's Musical while eating See's Candy - we can't think of a better way to spend some quality time.

Looking forward to it!

REVERSE TRICK -OR- TREAT

Steph and Jen had so much fun taking “treats” to our families. Safely of course!



YOUTH

We are excited for another fantastic month with the Youth! The Youth Schedule has remained the same, with Youth Group at 7 p.m. every Sunday and Minecraft Night at 4 p.m. every Saturday. We had a fantastic Mission opportunity with the Youth October 6th! The Youth Volunteered to pack meal bags for Front Porch. This was a great way to get us involved in our community and to safely practice fellowship.

Keep an eye out for future Youth Challenges and Mission Activities!

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.

Stephanie Vigil
Youth Intern



WE'LL MISS YOU

Although it has been a joy to work for FPCSLO for over seven years, it is time for me to pursue other career opportunities. It truly has been a blessing to work with the children and youth. Thank you for all of the love and support you have given me and my family.

Love,
Stephanie Vigil.



Dear Church Family,

We are sad to see Stephanie go. She has been such a blessing to our Children, Youth and Jen. We will miss her terribly. Good news is that we will still be able to see her around Church when we get to open again. We are thankful that Steph and her family will still be part of the First Pres family and that Andrew will still be on Staff. Love you Steph!

The Youth had a chance to celebrate Steph - Thank you to the Stapp's for having us at your beautiful home!

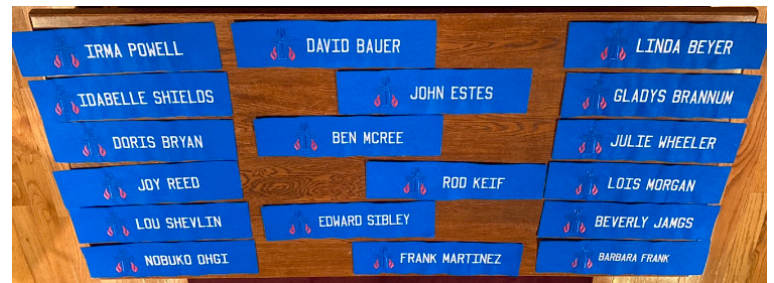
We will celebrate Steph - as a congregation - at a later date. Watch for details.



KIRKIN O' THE TARTANS

Each October our church celebrates Reformation Sunday with a celebration called "Kirkin O' the Tartans". We celebrate the lives of those of our church family who have died during the past year. With the pandemic, our celebration on October 25 was a little different in that we didn't have in person worship. The individual name banners were carried in and displayed as the names were read. After the names were read, a bagpiper played "Flowers of the Forest".

Here is a picture of the name banners that were displayed during the worship service. These banners are now being sent to each family.



Those who died during the past year (September 2019-October 2020) are Irma Powell, Linda Beyer, Idabelle Shields, Gladys Brannum, Doris Bryan, Julie Wheeler, Joy Reed, Lois Morgan, Lou Shevlin, Beverly Jams, Nobuko Ohgi, Barbara Frank, David Bauer, John Estes, Ben McRee, Rod Keif, Edward Sibley, Frank Martinez.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The normal schedule for The Horizon Bible study has been to do the Introduction at a joint gathering in September followed with Lesson One in October and lesson Two in November. Then, to gather again in December to do a joint lesson on Three over a lunch meeting, Christmas program and presentation of the Honorary Life Membership Award. Since we cannot meet together at this time the December event will not be possible so we will postpone presenting the Honorary Life Membership Award until after the first of the year.

A chance to understand the November lesson Two...we can follow Romans 12:4-5 "we who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one

another.” So, the subject of “Lamenting Together” is a part of lamenting traditions. On page 27 of this lesson the authors writes that one comfort of our faith is that “we are invited to be who God made us to be but we do not walk through this world alone.”

‘Community Laments’ call for change. The ways we demonstrate lamenting in today’s society is through marches and protest. A Biblical lament and hoped for change, we call on God to listen and act. This provides the results of expression, trust and faith. Hopefully the rewards of this study will bless you in unexpected ways. Notice the vessel in the art work. Read the story on page 8.

Here is an exercise... read Psalm 137 as

By the Marsh of SLO...

We remember FPC

Sing us a hymn of FPC.... etc. can we relate?

Here is an idea...Lament for FPCSLO! consider the subject of division, leadership, our members, our pastor and staff, the virus; Lament for protection from the Covid virus for our families, our Community of friends and their families; the political division in the USA;and the list goes on!

THE 2020 THANK OFFERING

This Offering will bless the lives of women, children, hundreds of families especially the elderly and the handicapped.

Fifteen grants were selected to support Synod projects and 2 projects in Africa - Congo and Ethiopia. These projects include working on social change, educational opportunities for women to care for their family, upgrading facilities to assist health needs, closing the ethnic gaps, and serving people suffering domestic violence.

Philippians 4:6-7 is the hope of people that their needs have been heard and God has responded. Will you be the help God plans for these people by giving a offering. Mark your donation for the Thank Offering because you too have been blessed.

We look forward to the upcoming of Advent season to glorify the coming of our Savior.

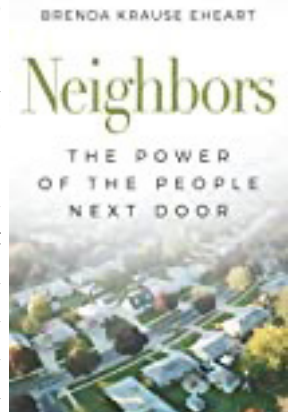
Moderator

Dorothy Truesdale

LIBRARY REVIEW

Neighbors: The Power of the People Next Door. by Brenda Eheart is a book that is recommended by Pamalee Brady and is available in the library.

This book tells the story of Hope Meadows, the first intergenerational planned community in which seniors commit to intentional neighboring as a way to provide support to families seeking to adopt children out of foster care. *Neighbors* is a deeply personal story etched with Eheart’s compassion for all people in need. Her frustration with broken social service programs and policies that fail to address these needs began in the 1980’s, and her determination to offer solutions that strengthen—and humanize—our social safety net is the mission of this book



Neighbors is a practical book, allowing us to imagine living in a diverse community where caring neighbors tackle some of our nation’s most complex social challenges facing children, families, and those near the end of their lives; where those who are vulnerable are also valued community members who participate and contribute; and where daily the lives of older adults are filled with meaning and purpose. In today’s world this vision seems impossible, a fantasy. But *Neighbors* is no fantasy: it provides a credible vision of the lost and perhaps squandered power of everyday people to unite us and make us whole.

FRONT PORCH

Front Porch continues to open its outdoor space for students to grab a cup of coffee and meet a friend to chat, socially distanced of course. This has added the human touch as the staff gets to meet new and returning students. Wednesday night meals are at Throop Park and is sent out virtually for alumni and for those students unable to be at the park. Students bring their own food and chairs and play trivia. Saturday worship gatherings are now being held outside at the front of the Front Porch Building and is also live streamed. The Friendship Circle from our church offered the first “Meal for 4” in a bag for distribution to students. Members of the youth group assembled the bags and Jen delivered them to Porch. Apparently, it was a hit with students! Fall has also offered an

“Unplugged Open Mic Night” at Laguna Lake Park, and a virtual movie night.

As a way to support students, the staff has assembled a list of resources available to students in the areas of food insecurity, counseling, Covid testing sites, and pod mapping. In addition, Front Porch is making available a quiet room with good internet access for students to reserve for important phone calls, class presentations, job interviews, or counseling sessions. When you live with a group of students, quiet and privacy may not be easily accessible! The staff continues to search for unique ways to reach out to students to support them during this unusual time.

SAVE THE DATE

FOR A VIRTUAL VERSION OF OUR ANNUAL FALL FUNDRAISER

TOGETHER WE THRIVE

FRONT PORCH

NOV 7 7:00 PM

MORE DETAILS TO COME

ONLINE PROGRAM FILLED WITH STORIES OF THE IMPACT OF FRONT PORCH IN THE LIVES OF STUDENTS.

Please consider joining the staff at Front Porch for a virtual fundraiser on November 7, at 7 p.m. The link to RSVP (although it is not necessary) is the following: **RSVP link:** <https://pp.events/a8PqnDDa>. We would love to see you there!

Susan Updegrave,
Front Porch Board Chair

DEACONS

HELP KEEP THE TRADITION ALIVE

Dedicate a Poinsettia, “Flower of the Holy Night”

Each Christmas season, for many years, members of our church family have generously supported the Deacons’ flower ministry by dedicating poinsettias in honor or in memory of loved ones. These plants beautify our sanctuary during the Christmas season and then are delivered to homebound, ill, bereaved or new members to let them know we hold them in our hearts. Each loving dedication can be made for only a \$10 donation to the Deacons’ poinsettia fund.

6 The Kirk | November 2020

This tradition seems even more meaningful this year as we all struggle to find ways to make this season as normal as possible. Even though we are not meeting in the sanctuary due to COVID-19 restrictions, we still want to beautify our sanctuary for our taped services, and be able to give flowers to those in need.

This year we are unable to ask you in-person to donate since we are not meeting together in our church. Instead, we are making a special written request that you take a moment to send a check or go the church website and use the online giving link (details below) to make your donation. Whichever method you use, please make sure to note that your donation is for a poinsettia plant and indicate whom you are honoring or memorializing. You might even want to consider honoring an organization or group of first responders or others you feel deserve a special thank-you. We have so many to honor and remember this year. This is your opportunity to express your love and appreciation for blessings received and witnessed.

On behalf of the Deacons, thank you for your support of this important church ministry. Contact Kathy Wolff with questions @ 805 782-9790

Details:

Donation amount: \$10

Send by check: First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 591, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
Notation on check: Poinsettia fund. Please include a note about your dedication: “in honor of” (name or organization) or “in memory of” (name)



Donation via church website: FPCSLO.ORG, click on **Donate, Give Now, e-giving other**. After you enter payment information in **NOTES** section writes: Poinsettia fund; “in honor of” (name of person or group) or “in memory of” (name)

Poinsettias -- Flores de Noche Buena or the Flowers of the Holy Night

The shape and leaves of the poinsettia flower are sometimes thought of as symbolizing the Star of Bethlehem, which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent His purity.

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.

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 November:

Barbara Gillson – November 5 – 85 this year
Jim Nielsen – November 7 – 85 this year
Lionel Beyer – November 10 – 85 this year
Lou Pippin – November 10
Jo McRee – November 29 – 90 this year

And to everyone else who celebrates a November 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 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 during this time of isolation,

For the family and friends of **Frank Martinez, Edward (Ted) Sibley and Stephanie Miller** who passed away recently.

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!

This church's capital, held in our endowment, is keeping up with changing times enabling us to expand our horizon of mission opportunities to improve lives. That is to say in these challenging economic times, our endowment continues to expand which could lead to a more generous allotment in January 2021.

We are thankful for those who have donated the funds, through bequests and gifts, which allowed the Session to create and expand our endowment. The annual endowment allotments, though a modest part of church revenue, provide funds that would not otherwise be available for worship, Christian education, music, missions, and more.

During the 3rd quarter of 2020, the endowment grew by 5.7%. The year to date change was plus 1.6%.

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: Don Green, Jerry Kaml, Bert Townsend, Dorothy Truesdale, Roger Verity, or Virginia Walter (Chair). If you haven't already done so, please consider inserting 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*



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.



The LORD'S PRAYER

OUR [] WHICH ART IN HEAVEN,

[] BE THY []

THY [] COME, THY WILL BE
DONE IN [] AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY

[]

AND [] US OUR DEBTS, AS WE
FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS. AND []

US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT

[] US FROM EVIL: FOR THINE IS
THE KINGDOM, AND THE []

AND THE [] FOR EVER. AMEN.

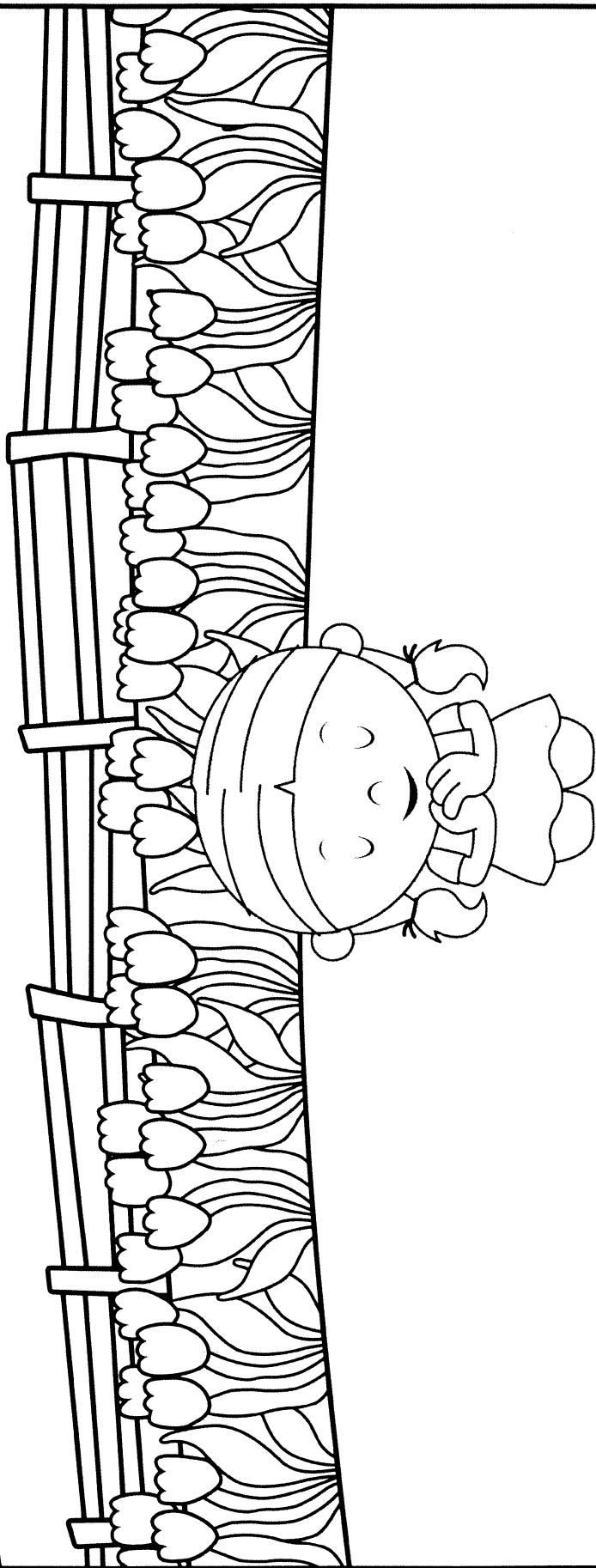
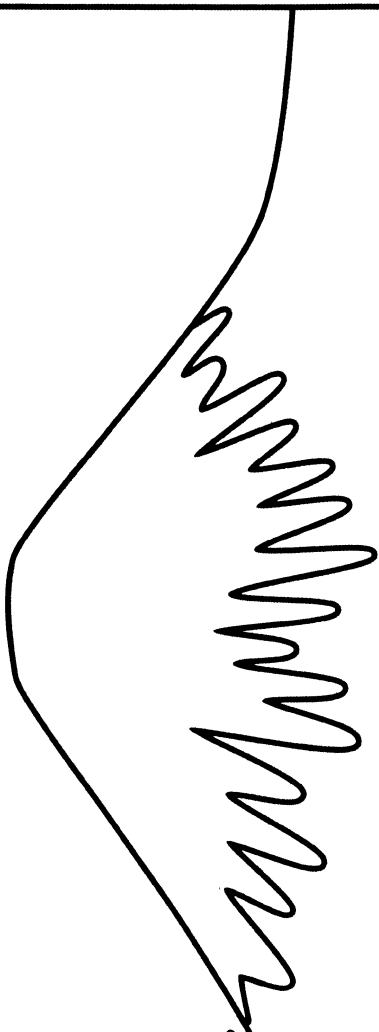
MATTHEW 6:9-13

[GLORY] [KINGDOM] [HALLOWED]

[NAME] [EARTH] [DELIVER] [FORGIVE]

[LEAD] [FATHER] [POWER] [BREAD]

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our
debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever. Amen.



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

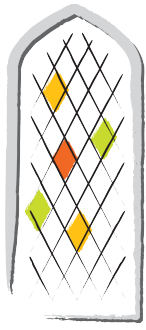
Anyone answering “Yes” to the following should not enter any part of the church campus.

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
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

San Luis Obispo

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93406

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