



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

*The Kirk*  
April 2024



He is Risen!  
He is Risen, Indeed!

April is a month of celebration—it's the first full month of Spring, when flowers bloom and the weather warms up a little. It's also the month when we celebrate Easter—it's a time of enjoying new life, and rejoicing that nothing could get in the way of God's plan of redemption, not even death.

He is Risen!  
He is Risen, Indeed!

The name "April" comes from a Latin word, *Aprilis*, which means "opening," as in flowers and vegetables and animals and the sea—after the cold of winter, life opens up again.

Our church continues to open itself to new ideas and new ways of doing things. As you've probably heard me say, churches that close themselves to change and growth can count the days before closing up shop. But that's the opposite of who we're called to be, and what we're called to do. First Pres SLO is learning to be open—learning to open itself—to ways that share our love of Jesus with the community and the world.

That deserves another...

He is Risen!  
He is Risen, Indeed!

Over this Spring and Summer we'll be talking about ways we can engage the world in ways that reflect the love of Christ. We'll do that in the ways we serve the world, and also in the ways we reach out to the community right here in San Luis Obispo. Maybe most importantly, we'll keep our focus on reflecting Christ's love in the ways we interact with each other—the ways we love and serve each other.

That's what Christian people are meant to do. As Pope John II was fond of saying, "We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!" That's how we're going to spend April, and May, and so on. In this afterglow of Easter, my invitation to you is to keep that resurrection feeling alive—to keep that stone rolled open, so that Jesus can spill out into the world.

April is for opening. It's for opening our homes, our church, and our hearts.  
Let's get into it.

Pastor John

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CHILDREN'S ED

We had so much fun at the Egg Hunt. It was great to see old friends and to make new friends. Thank you for all the eggs and support.

Wednesdays at the Rock continue each Wednesday. We have been focusing on how God loves us, Lent, and Holy Week. You should invite kids to join us to see what “Spring” brings. We meet each Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. All kids 3 years through 6th grade are welcome.

Save the date for VBS 2024—August 5 - 9, 9 a.m. until to 12 p.m. It's never too early to let Jen know if you would like to volunteer. We will be learning all about the Lord's Prayer this year and how important our stories are. August will be here before we know it! Why don't you join in on the adventure?

We appreciate your prayers and support--always!

Jen Rabenaldt, Brooke Palmerston, Bella Boulais, Ash Homuth, Scarlet Emsheimer, Annabella Priest



## YOUTH

Our amazing small but mighty Youth Group continue to be busy and active. We encourage all Youth, 7th through 12th, to join us on Sundays, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. All are welcome! The Youth love to hang out on campus and are always up for an adventure—wherever that may lead.

If you are interested in bringing a meal or donating money for a meal, please let Jen know. We would love to have you join us—any Sunday. It would be great to hear from you and perhaps you could share a talent or amazing story with us. You could come to the Church, or we could come to you. We really enjoy getting to know people.

The “Blessing Bags” have been assembled and are available for pick up. Grab one or two and when you come across someone in need, stop to share and have a conversation. The Youth did an excellent job putting the bags together. And you, the congregation were very generous with the items for the bags and your dollars. Thank you so much for supporting the local mission project!

Bella Boulais, Ash Homuth, Jen Rabenaldt



## LIBRARY REVIEW

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: What Everyone Needs to Know, by Dov Waxman, has been added to the library and is available for borrowing. This book is located on the book cart.

This book supplements the reading list of books for the class “How Did We Get Here? Understanding the Israel-Palestine Conflict” that was taught for four weeks on Thursday evenings via Zoom. Writing in an engaging, jargon-free Q&A format, Dov Waxman provides clear and concise answers to common questions—from the most basic to the most contentious. Covering the conflict from its nineteenth-century origins to the latest developments of the twenty-first century, this book explains the key events, examines the core issues, and presents the competing claims and narratives of both sides. Readers will learn what the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is all about, how it has evolved over time, and why it continues to defy diplomatic efforts at a resolution. (Review Adapted from Amazon)

Four books from the reading list for the class have also been added to the church library. These include the following: Blood Brothers, by Elias Chacour; Whose Land, Whose Promise, by Gary Burge; Through My Enemy’s Eyes, by Lisa Loden and Salim Munayer; and The Other Side of the Wall, by Munther Isaac.

## ADULT EDUCATION

### IM DEAD - NOW WHAT?

Taught by Bob Gordon

April 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th. 11:27 AM.

A perfect opportunity to review your final arrangements or create them if you haven’t yet. We will have experts in the field for speakers. A perfect gift for the ones you leave behind, they will love you for it. Please sign up for the class on either March 17th or 24th.

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

Please pray for our church family, especially,

For **Pastor John D’Elia** as he leads our church family;

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** in her role as C.R.E.;

For **Bella Boulais** and **Ash Homuth** as they 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 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 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 write me at [gdeklein@calpoly.edu](mailto:gdeklein@calpoly.edu).

God bless us all,

Gloria DeKleine





## BOOK BROWSERS

Book Browsers will again meet the first Tuesday of each month via zoom. Our discussions will begin at 7 p.m.

The following is our schedule for the year:

Apr. 2 Secrets of Charmed Life,  
by Susan Meisner

May 7 The Undocumented Americans,  
by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Shervem at 805-459-9844 or [dshervem@charter.net](mailto:dshervem@charter.net).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to the following seniors (over 85) who have birthdays in April:

Marilyn James – April 2

Bob Morgan – April 15

John Russell – April 23

Harry Butler – April 25

And to everyone else who celebrates a April birthday.

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

## MISSIONS GET ON THE BUS

“Get on the Bus” brings children and their care givers from throughout California to visit their parents who are in prison. For several years we have been sponsoring a bus that brings girls and boys to San Luis Obispo to spend time with their fathers at CMC. We are now planning for this year’s special day, which is Saturday, April 13. For many of these children this is the only time during the year they can see their fathers, all at no cost to the children’s families.

As a bus sponsor, we provide volunteers as well as financial assistance, contributing \$2,500 towards the nearly \$6,000 cost of bringing children on one of the buses. We no longer take a special Sunday offering to add to our contribution for “Get on the Bus.” However, you have the opportunity

to contribute at any time for this worthwhile outreach program by making a donation through the church, noting on the check to FPC that it is for “Get on the Bus.”

Thank you for your support ensuring that we can continue helping families to mend and stay connected. For more information about the “Get on the Bus” program, please go to the following link: [crjw.org](http://crjw.org).

## WORSHIP JAZZ VESPERS CONCERT SERIES

Jazz Vespers returns on Sunday, April 14, at 4 p.m. with the Pat Kelley Trio. Guitarist Pat Kelley has enjoyed a successful career in Los Angeles as a studio and touring musician, recording artist, and educator. He has recorded and toured with numerous symphony orchestras, Chick Corea, Natalie Cole, and Dave Brubeck among many others while being on the USC Thornton School of Music faculty for decades. Kelley will be joined by Ron McCarley on saxophone and Dylan Johnson on bass. The concert is free/donations appreciated and will be followed by a reception. Tad Miller will present a brief meditation.



## PERSONNEL

Gregory Riley joins the staff of First Pres. SLO as our Accompanist/Assistant Director of Music. Gregory earned his Bachelor of Arts in Music from Principia College, where he studied organ with Dr. John Near and piano/harpsichord with Dr. Marie



Juriet. He then pursued a Masters in Music Performance (concentration: organ) from Eastern Michigan University, studying under the tutelage of Scott Elsholz and Timothy Tikker; D.M.A. Postgraduate studies were with Dr. Gregory Hand at the University of Iowa. He has served for congregations of various denominations in places such as Dearborn and Ypsilanti, Michigan; West Branch and Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Northridge and San Luis Obispo, California. Gregory is a native of Plymouth, Michigan.

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## BUDGET AND FINANCE ENDOWMENT

### *Create A Lasting Legacy: How To Include FPCSLO In My Estate Plan*

What is an Estate Planning?

Estate Planning is a process of managing accumulated assets for the present and future—a written expression of your intentions for the protection and preservation of your assets during your lifetime and management and distribution upon your death.

Your will is the cornerstone of a sound plan but is an incomplete estate plan. A person who dies without a valid will is said to die intestate and such a person's estate settlement will be left for a probate judge to decide. The worst part of that scenario is that probate can tie up an estate for years.

AN ESTATE PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE KEY FACTORS, SUCH AS:

- Will
- Durable power of Attorney
- Healthcare proxy
- Tax reduction plans
- Guardian for dependents
- Ownership of assets
- Living will directive
- Trust

### A CHRISTIAN APPROACH OF CHARITABLE ESTATE PLANNING

Your estate plan offers you the opportunity to make an enduring statement of faith. This act of stewardship will leave an indelible mark on our church; a gift that keeps on giving in perpetuity. Please consider joining Ida Holdsworth, Peter McMillan, Ernie Triebel, and dozens of other past members whose bequests are helping to fund our church and its missions today and ongoing.

**You will be acting to help ensure our church's future.**

While today it is possible to use a computer application to write your will and trust or use a California Statutory Will to get started, you may need to use the services of an estate attorney and a financial advisor. Maybe a member of our Endowment Committee can help direct you to the resources you'll need. Will you be the next Lasting Legacy donor by adding a simple statement to your estate plan:

*“After my final bills are paid, I give 10% of my estate to First Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo, CA.”*

If you 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 Endowment Committee: Peggy Estes, Don Green, Jerry Kaml, 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.*

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NATIONAL PW MEETING

Our PW Board at FPCSLO would like to encourage women in the church to attend the **Presbyterian Women's 2024 Churchwide Gathering that will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, August 8–11, 2024.** Save these dates, share these dates and plan to join Presbyterian Women from around the country on these dates! Attendance can be in person or via Zoom.

The 2024 PW Gathering will be an exciting, faith-filled time to renew connections within and across PW groups from across the country. Join in to be invigorated, equipped for your PW life, welcomed into community by hundreds of other PWs, and empowered to “**Do everything in love,**” the theme for this year. For more information and to watch a video go to <https://www.2024pwcwg.org/> and check it out.

## SAVE THE DATES

**Sunday, September 15** for a luncheon following worship for our Fall Gathering and **Saturday, December 7**, for a morning brunch and Christmas Celebration. More details to come. All women of the church are welcome.

## BIBLE STUDY GROUPS:

We currently have three groups and a few independents taking part in this year's Bible study. If you would like to join a group, please contact one of these women:

**Friendship Circle**—1st and 3rd Thursday mornings; contact Catherine Petty at [mc1petty@gmail.com](mailto:mc1petty@gmail.com) or 805-458-1490

**Virginia Terry Circle**—2nd Wednesday evening by Zoom; contact Pamalee Brady at [pleebrady@gmail.com](mailto:pleebrady@gmail.com) or 805-783-2520

**Women of the Word**—1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons; contact Nellie Beecher at [nelbeecher@charter.net](mailto:nelbeecher@charter.net) or 805-801-4148

*He is risen*







MondayMandala.com



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