



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

# *The Kirk*

## Summer 2023



So much to do, why take a vacation now?

I'm so excited about the future of First Pres SLO. We're welcoming new members into the family, who will bring new life and creativity to our ministry. It's not so much that they're joining us, as it is that they're changing us—each time we add new members to this church, we grow into the congregation that God has called us to be.

We're also growing and reviving some of our service to the community. Green Pastures is coming back, and we have a group that is committed to the work of 40 Prado and Front Porch. We are always on the lookout for new ways to serve people around us in the name of Jesus.

There are kids coming up through our work with children and youth, and our hope is to step out in faith to grow that ministry effectively and faithfully.

In the coming year, I plan to preach and teach in Paul's Letter to the Romans. I'm also hoping to add a series of community conversations built around Christian responses to the important issues of our time.

So much to do, right?

That's exactly why I'm taking some time away.

Vacation is meant to be a time of renewal and refreshment. For me, taking a break to go on an adventure gets me out of my regular patterns and reminds me that there is more to life than work—even work that I love. This summer we're celebrating my mom's 80th birthday by taking a trip together to Italy. There will be 12 of us (!), exploring, touring, and let's be honest, eating our way through Rome and the Amalfi Coast.

I'll also be using some of my Study Leave while I'm away. Time for learning and growing helps me develop messages and interesting things to teach. While we're in Rome, I'll be exploring some of the oldest Christian sites there—learning some of the background for my messages and Bible studies in Paul's letter to the ancient church there.

As much as I love my adventures, I know that while I'm away I'll be eager to get back to work on some

of our exciting plans. That's as it should be. I love my work and I love serving First Pres SLO. But...I'll do all of that better if I allow myself an extended break every now and again.

So pray for Shelley and for me as we travel and spend time with our extended family. Pray that we come back safe and refreshed and ready for the good work ahead. Pray for our church that we would continue to grow together in unity and service. Pray for the good things that will happen as we join our gifts and hard work together.

Have a great summer, everyone. See you soon.

Pastor John

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CHILDREN'S ED

Wednesdays at the Rock is on a break for the summer. Watch for new and improved programs, and for the starting date in September.

We will continue to offer Childcare and Sunday school (after the Time with the Children in Worship) throughout the summer as needed.

We can't wait for VBS!

August 7 - August 11, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Registration is now open at [fpcslo.org](http://fpcslo.org) for VBS.

## YOUTH

The Youth had a great year and will continue to meet throughout the summer as students are available. If you would like to host us for a special event, we would love that. Let Jen know.

A few of us were able to go to Disneyland and to a baseball game. We had so much fun and enjoyed our time together.

Watch for special offerings throughout the summer.



## FROM THE CRE

We just love our friends at The Villages. It was such a beautiful experience to be able to share the Sacraments with them. We share Communion with them each month. In June we had the honor of Baptizing one of our friends from Garden Creek. She was so touched and felt the love of not only her neighbors, but also God on this day. Our ministry at The Villages has touched a lot of hearts. They feel loved and cared for by many at First Presbyterian, San Luis Obispo—one of the many ways we are Loving God, Loving People, and Doing Things.



## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

Please pray for our church family, especially the following:

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 for their care givers;

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

And, 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

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to the following seniors (over 85) who have birthdays in July and August:

Shirley Erickson – July 12

Erma Prinslow – July 16

George Ohgi – July 21

George Mach – July 23

Eva Brown – July 26

Jean Starkey – July 31

John Stechman – August 1

Harry Sharp – August 1

Sally Buccola – August 26 – 85 this year

And to everyone else with a July or August birthday! Our church records may be incomplete. If we have overlooked someone, please contact the church office.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**July 15 at 2 p.m.**

### **The Great American Melodrama Event**

Enjoy the fun and fellowship! Please bring a small piece of paper with your name, table number, and letter of your seat. You will be seated by an usher.

**July 23**

### **All Church BBQ**

Please join us after the service! Hot Dogs and Hamburgers will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share (salad, fruit or dessert.)  
Enjoy the fellowship!

**August 27**

### **Fall Kick Off**

Please join us after the service! We will have a brunch casserole provided. Please bring something to share (coffee cake, rolls, and fruit.)

We look forward to your participation in these events!

## JAZZ VESPERS

Jazz Vespers returns on August 20 at 4 p.m. with Ron McCarley and the Sam Hirsh Trio.

A popular performer at Jazz Vespers, local saxophonist McCarley, will be joined by the Los Angeles based Sam Hirsh Trio. A graduate of the USC Thornton

School of Music, Hirsh has been a pianist, composer, and educator in Los Angeles for decades, playing with some of the top names in jazz. The concert is free/donations appreciated with a reception to follow.



## ENDOWMENT

### CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

#### *CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY*

Discover what the benefits of a CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY offers to you and also to a ministry that is close to your heart. A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY provides you, or someone you love, with a lifetime income at a fixed rate. A portion of the gift annuity will also provide future support for First Presbyterian Church, San Luis Obispo, or a selected ministry. It is a practical solution for those who would like to make a gift but also may need income during retirement.

- A gift annuity may pay one person or two persons jointly with continuing payments to the survivor or to one person for life, then a second person.
- Annuity rates are based on your nearest age on the gift date. The minimum age for immediate payment is 65. For a deferred payment gift annuity,

55 is the minimum age for payments deferred until 65 or later.

- The Presbyterian Foundation welcomes gift annuities of \$10,000 or more.
- Payments will begin after the gift has been made or may be deferred until a future year, such as during retirement.
- Payments may be monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. For a sample illustration of the benefits of a gift annuity customized for you, use the Gift Calculator at [www.prebyterianfoundation.org](http://www.prebyterianfoundation.org) or talk to a member of the Endowment Committee.
- A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY is an excellent way to provide income for yourself or another, and LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY to the church.

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, Ray McKelvey, 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.

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE CONGRATULATIONS TO JEN RABENALDT, CRE

On June 18, we held a special ceremony to celebrate the commissioning of Jen Rabenaldt as a Commissioned Ruling Elder, or CRE, as described in our Book of Order.

The CRE designation allows churches to create positions of leadership and responsibility for particular ministries and programs. Jen will continue as Director of Christian Education and

Office Manager, but we are reallocating her time to include her important ministry to our senior members. In addition, she will be able to preside at Communion and moderate the session as needed in Pastor John's absence.

Jen received preparation and instruction from the Santa Barbara Presbytery. On May 13, Jen was formally examined by the Presbytery; and she was approved for commissioning to pastoral service here at First Presbyterian Church and within the Santa Barbara Presbytery.

Jen has been a distinguished member of our Presbytery attending and participating in many conferences and General Assemblies. Besides being Office Manager and Director of Christian Education, she has earned additional functions to her professional quiver

Major Kudos to Jen, our new Commissioned Ruling Elder!

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## MISSIONS PEACEMAKING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### *WELCOME HOME KITS*

The response from the congregation to the CAPSLO Welcome Home Kits project has been very enthusiastic. Thank you for your generosity helping members of our community who are transitioning from homelessness to a home of their own. Our donated purchased items of kitchen utensils, pots and pans, blenders, coffee pots, bathroom towels, laundry supplies, and other household items will be given to them as house warming gifts in "Welcome Home Kits."

Sunday, July 2, is the day to bring your donations to Wilson Hall before or after the service. Independence Day weekend was selected as a time to celebrate with these individuals as they transition from homelessness to permanent housing.

# fpcslcvbs summer camp



Love God, Love People, Do Things

August 7-11 ☀️ 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

register at [www.fpcsl.org](http://www.fpcsl.org)

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WISH LIST

\*IF YOU ARE ABLE PLEASE TURN IN ITEMS BY JULY 23rd  
THANK YOU!

WOOD HEARTS - SOLID	125 - 3"	WITH HOLE TO HANG
1 WOOD HEART - SOLID	24" OR LARGER	
CLEAR CONTACT PAPER SHEETS	50 - 12" X 12"	
SMALL TISSUE PAPER SQUARES 1" X 1" LOTS		VARIETY OF COLORS
STURDY PAPER PLATES	50	PLAIN WHITE OR TAN
DIECUT PAPER PEOPLE SHAPES	50 - 2"	PLAIN - WHITE, TAN, BROWN
BLUE CARD STOCK 8 1/2 X 11	50 SHEETS	
DIECUT PAPER LEAVES	150 - 1"	SHADES OF GREEN
CLEAN AND EMPTY PRINGLES CANS	25	LARGE WITH LIDS
KID FRIENDLY INK PADS	FOR STAMPING	VARIETY OF COLORS
STRETCHED MINI CANVASES WITH EASLES		25 - 4" X 4"
VOLUNTEERS - BEFORE AND DURING		

\*WE WILL ALSO ACCEPT CASH DONATIONS -  
WE CAN SHOP FOR ITEMS.

\*AMAZON IS A GREAT SOURCE FOR PURCHASING ITEMS.



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