

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
San Luis Obispo

The Kirk

October 2023



Can it really be October already?

Since the calendar isn't lying to me (I checked), I'm embracing this transition into autumn—cooler weather, shorter days, and my favorite time of the sports year.

The rhythms of the church year are important for all of us. October brings with it the beginnings of our conversation about giving for next year. Later this month we'll begin our Stewardship Season by highlighting the ministries we're accomplishing here, and also a few that we'd like to start or grow in 2024.

You've heard me say this before: I love this time of year.

I love it because talking about money and pledges and giving isn't really the point. When we talk about our shared financial partnership, what we're really talking about are the ways we're going to answer God's call to be disciples of Jesus in this place. That sounds much more exciting, right? Between now and Thanksgiving we're all going to participate in this important time of reflection to see what God wants from us at First Pres SLO.

Your session has been talking about this. Earlier in the year I asked them what our shared priorities ought to be, and you would have been proud to hear that discussion. We talked about growing the church in numbers (with a quip or two about lowering the average age). We talked about starting up in-person adult education opportunities. We agreed that we wanted to be a refuge for the vulnerable in our communities—unhoused people, families who struggled to provide adequate food, and LGBTQ youth.

Some of this is already happening. Kate Murray is kicking off our Sunday morning adult class. Green Pastures is ramping up again and will begin serving the community again on November 1st. Our commitment to 40 Prado continues with some renewed energy.

We are already living into our commitment to be God's church in SLO.

And there's plenty more to do.

This month as you hear these stories and learn about the ministries of this church, let me invite you to renew and grow your giving. It isn't just about budgeting and number crunching (though we're pretty good at those!), it's about a tangible commitment to be active and sacrificial in living out our calling as this community of faith.

I look forward to this month of conversations. I hope you will, too.

Blessings to you,
Pastor John

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHILDREN'S ED

We have had so much fun with our programs starting up again!

Wednesdays at the Rock started September 6 from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. All kids from 3 years through the 6th grade are welcome. We enjoy Bible Lessons, Music, Crafts, Games, and Snacks.

Last year, the kids earned an Ice Cream Party—which we enjoyed on September 20.

Brooke has been doing a fantastic job planning and running Wednesdays at the Rock as well as Children's Sunday School. Speaking of Sunday School, the following information is the Sunday morning schedule.

Nursery Care--9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. for ages birth through 4 years old. Skilled childcare is provided.

Children 5 years through 6th grade are welcome to attend worship at 10 a.m. and go to Sunday School after the "Time with Children." Childcare workers are available to sit with kids in Wines Chapel if that works better for the kids and/or their family.

We welcomed Mellissa Scarpelli as our new Children's Music Leader. You will recognize Melissa as one of our singers on Sunday mornings. Believe it or not, we are already thinking Christmas and hoping to present a Christmas program at the beginning of December.

We are looking forward to an amazing program year.

Jen, Brooke, Bella, Ash, Annabella, and Scarlet



YOUTH

While we continue to search for a Youth Leader, we have changed things up a bit to get us through the rest of this year. We have asked folks to sign up to sponsor a Youth Group. What does that mean? It means these folks will provide a meal and hang out with the Youth for a couple of hours. It can be at the Church or your home or pretty much wherever you choose. You have the option to present a lesson or talk with the Youth about something important to you. Ideas are

available and if you aren't comfortable with that part, we'll do it for you. We believe this is a great way to get to know the Youth and for them to get to know you.

We have two dates left--October 29 and December 17. Let Jen know if you are interested in this amazing opportunity. There is nothing like sharing a meal together— especially with teenagers.

We are looking to start Youth Sunday School during the Education hour, from 8:45 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. If you are interested in teaching a lesson once or twice—or the entire program year—talk to Jen. Materials will be provided as well as snacks. Youth Sunday School will take place in the Beck Lounge.

Scott Machado has graciously volunteered to coordinate the Youth Program for the rest of the year.

Please be praying for the search process for our next Youth Leader.

Jen, Scott, Bella, and Ash



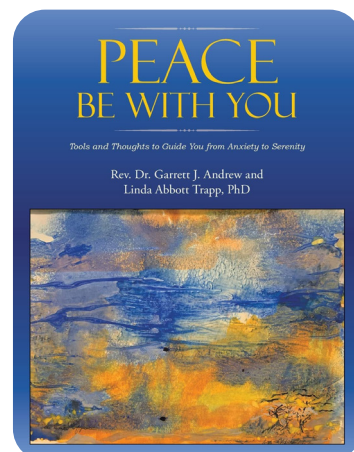
ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday morning, in-person, Adult Education is back! – Kate Murray's 6-week series, Families in the Gospel of Mark, resumes the first three Sundays in October, with breaks for Kirkin' of the Tartans (Oct 22) and the Women's Retreat (Oct 29). If you missed the introduction on September 24 or haven't yet signed up, no problem! Attend whenever you can. Class time is from 8:45 a.m.– 9:45 a.m., before the worship service. Coffee will be ready. Childcare is available upon request.



LIBRARY REVIEW

Two copies of Peace Be with You, by Rev. Dr. Garrett Andrew and Linda Abbott Trapp, have been added to the library and are available for borrowing. They are located on the book cart. They have been donated by Presbyterian Women. The statistics



for the mental and physical health of Americans are terrifying. The news of our days is filled with war, economic turmoil, political dysfunction, and environmental catastrophe. This is a book that honestly confronts these issues with hope that comes from the combined experience of two different authors with experiences in counseling, coaching, preaching, writing, and leading people on journeys to peace. This timely

and short book can be used as a workbook in small groups, or read individually, and offers practical tools combined with deep wisdom to help guide you from anxiety to inner peace and serenity. One of the authors is Rev. Dr. Andrew, who is the pastor of Nipomo Community Presbyterian Church, with experience in diverse church and religious settings. A seasoned and award-winning preacher, Dr. Andrew has an ability to make scriptures come alive and speak to the lives and situations of those who hear him and read his writings. The other author is Linda Abbott Trapp who lives, writes, and paints on the Central Coast of California. (Review Adapted From Amazon)

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE UPCOMING EVENTS:

Join us for a reception in Wilson Hall after the Kirkin' of the Tartan service on Oct. 22. Please bring a "Scottish" type of food to share—such as scones, shortbread cookies, deviled eggs, fruit or veggies, etc. We hope to see you there!

We will have a New Member's class on Sunday, November 12, after the service. It will begin at approximately 11:30 a.m. with lunch being provided. Pastor John D'Elia will give you information about our Presbyterian faith. Please call the office at (805) 543-5451 or email Pam Rodewald at psrmony@mac.com if you plan to attend.

Congregational Life is looking for volunteers to make and serve the coffee for fellowship time after the Sunday services. We will train you and help you in getting started by partnering with you. Please contact Evelyn Ruehr at eruehr@calpoly.edu or Pam Rodewald at psrmony@mac.com to sign up.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Birthday to the following seniors (over 85) with October birthdays:

Marjorie Friesen—October 4

Bob Gordon—October 19—95 this year

Carol Dover—October 28—90 this year

Happy Birthday to everyone else who is celebrating an October birthday.

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

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:

Oct. 3 Klara and the Sun,

by Kazuo Ishiguro

Nov. 7 The Paper Daughters of Chinatown

by Heather B. Moore

Dec. 5 The Book of Lost Names,

by Kristin Harmel

Jan. 2 You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lucy,

by Amber Ruffin

Feb. 6 West with Giraffes,

by Lynda Rutledge

Mar. 5 Bloomsbury Girls,

by Natalie Jenner

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.

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 to make 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 our church's senior citizens, for their families, and for 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 at (805) 543-5451 to leave a message for Pastor John or for the Deacons.

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

BUDGET AND FINANCE ENDOWMENT

Create A Lasting Legacy: Charitable Remainder Trust

This month's column is a testimonial regarding another form of life income plan.

At age 64, Susan M. decides it's time to sit down with her accountant to examine her estate plans. As the daughter of a missionary, Susan has always had a desire to make a gift to benefit those less fortunate and wanted to find a way to make it possible. Making a lifetime outright gift was not feasible. After a careful review, she discovers the securities she bought for \$20,000 have appreciated in value and now are worth over \$100,000. Susan opts to use those appreciated securities to fund a CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST that provides her with an annual 6% payment—more than 2 times what she was receiving from dividends on the securities. She is also able to claim a charitable contribution on her tax return as well as avoid realizing a long-term capital gain. The trust she created will ultimately benefit a Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund in war-torn countries.

In your estate, you may have assets that will provide income for your future security. As in Susan's experience above, you can make a generous gift now to benefit the Endowment Fund for this church and receive the income you need. A gift given to establish a life income plan allows you to do both. Through a CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST, you can make a gift of cash, securities, or property, and receive lifetime income if that is your wish. Or such a plan can be part of your will to provide income for a loved one. After the lifetime of the beneficiary, the gift is given to this church's Endowment Fund.

As a postscript to the September column discussing the possibility of converting an existing annuity into a Charitable Gift Annuity, the outcome is that it can't be done. That is

not accomplished without creating a taxable transaction. But, the annuity proceeds can be used to fund a Charitable Remainder Trust.

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 the 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.

WORSHIP

JAZZ VESPERS

Join us for Jazz Vespers on Sunday, October 22, at 4 p.m. with a return visit by the Grammy award-winning pianist Bill Cunliffe in an afternoon of solo piano artistry. Mr. Cunliffe has played with Frank Sinatra, Freddie Hubbard, Benny Golson, and James Moody among many others. He has also won the prestigious “Thelonious Monk International Jazz Piano Competition.” He is an acclaimed arranger and educator and is currently a "Distinguished Faculty Member" at Cal State Fullerton. Allen Estes, Ph.D., will provide the meditation “Does God Have A Sense Of Humor?” The event is free with donations appreciated and a reception to follow in Wilson Hall.

MISSIONS

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERING

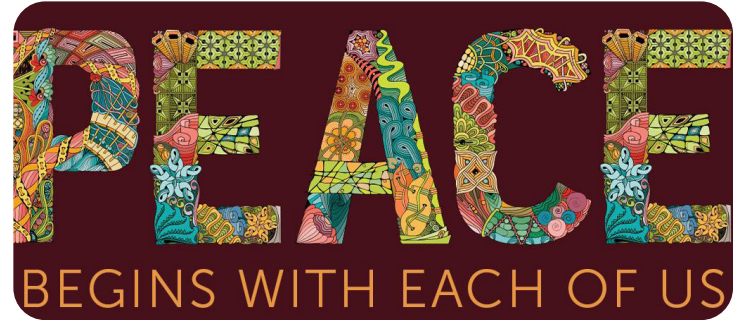
On October 1, World Communion Sunday, we have the opportunity to be “instruments of God’s healing, reconciling, life-giving presence in the world” by giving generously to the Peace and Global Witness Offering.

This special offering will be used throughout the world and here in San Luis Obispo for peacemaking and reconciliation. We will be

joining Presbyterians world-wide transforming cultures of violence into communities of peace. In past years a portion was put toward Green Pastures and the Welcome Home Kits.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Donations will be received October 1 through October 15. Please write your check to FPCSLO with “Peace Offering” on the memo line.

Thank you, Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee.



FRONT PORCH

Have we got an opportunity for you!! Over the past few years, FPCSLO has provided a Thanksgiving meal for Cal Poly students at Front Porch the week before, as not all students can go home for Thanksgiving. Under the competent direction of Evelyn Ruehr, turkey and all the trimmings have previously been delivered to Front Porch to serve close to 500 students. We would like to try something different this year—to have interested individuals cook a turkey at home and deliver it to the church on Tuesday or Wednesday, November 14 or 15. The number of turkeys needed will depend on the size of turkeys available at that time, but in the 8 lb. to 12 lb. range. So try out that new oven or a new way of roasting a turkey and donate the results to hungry and appreciative college students. Then you will be all ready to roast your own turkey the next week with confidence!

Please contact Evelyn Ruehr or Susan Updegrave know if you would like to participate in this new mission opportunity. Thanks.

WELCOME HOME KITS

September 6, 2023

First Presbyterian Church, Peacemaking and Social Justice Committee
Karen Wiles
P.O. Box 591
San Luis Obispo CA 93406

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the clients, Board and staff of the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc. (CAPSLO), I would like to extend our appreciation for the generous donation of over \$6,000, in Home Kit supplies as well as \$1,200. in Visa and Target gift cards to help support the move in of housed participants at CAPSLO's 40 Prado Homeless Services Center. Because of your generosity, we can continue providing our services and housing so many who want to improve their lives.

The participants that have received the donations as they enter their new homes are so grateful for these items that are essential to their fresh start. One client shared "thank you everyone for all your help and on behalf of everyone on the street thank you for the work you do! Everyone deserves a place to stay and hopefully homelessness can be solved."

CAPSLO is a nonprofit agency that focuses on helping people and changing lives through serving over 26,000 persons across Central and Southern California, the majority of whom live in San Luis Obispo County. We are committed to eliminating poverty by empowering individuals and families to achieve economic self-sufficiency through a comprehensive array of community-based programs throughout all stages of their lives. To learn more about our programs, I encourage you to visit our website at www.capslo.org.

Thank you again!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth "Biz" Steinberg
Chief Executive Officer

*Thank you!!
All!!*





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