



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

*San Luis Obispo*

# *The Kirk*

January 2019

## HOW SHALL WE WALK THROUGH THE NEW YEAR?



I'm looking forward to walking into this New Year. All the opportunities that we aren't aware of are about to unfold throughout this year. I'm holding a 2019 calendar and am wondering just what it is that God will have us do. And it strikes me.....do you know how many months are in this New Year? That's right....the same as last year – twelve. Do you know how many days there are in 2019? Right! The same as in 2018 – 365. Now what causes me concern is that I had some wonderful resolutions at the beginning of 2018, probably just like you did. And you know what a resolution is – a promise you make to yourself. Here were some of mine for 2018..... to eat healthy food, exercise more, and read more books.....now wouldn't you agree that these are good resolutions?

And if I were to make them for 2019 they could be very beneficial to my well being if I just followed through on them. Here are some resolutions I think we should make to God this New Year. Let's think about how we can serve God in 2019.

- Read my Bible daily
- Pray for my family'
- Attend church each Sunday
- Make new friends
- Help others

Just like the days of the year....the months of the year....the minutes in an hour....the days in a week.....all the same year after year.....and if we applied these resolutions to each day we would make some significant strides in our relationships with others and God and 2019 would be quite an extraordinary year. Every time the New Year rolls around, we find ourselves taking a little inventory of life and asking ourselves how close we have come to accomplishing our resolutions. But the truth is the Bible doesn't really care so much about our resolutions. It does ask us how close we are walking with God. So as we walk into this New Year with all of our resolutions set before us I want us to think about what it means to “walk” through this next year.

All we need is to be consistent in walking with our Lord. So let me suggest as we start this new year....with 365 days in it.....that we start by memorizing this one verse.....and then applying it to your day.....each day.....  
Psalm 128:1.

May our Lord richly bless you this New Year as you seek to be a blessing for Him.

# BOOK BROWSERS

Book Browsers will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 8 in the library at 7:00 pm to discuss *Same Kind of Different As Me* by Ron Hall and Denver Moore. For Feb. we will be discussing *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng.

If you have any questions, please contact Diane Shervem at 805-543-1473 or [dshervem@charter.net](mailto:dshervem@charter.net).

## COMING UP

### BROWN BAG CONCERT

Friday, January 4th at noon. Brown Bag Concert is pleased to presents *Cross Traffic*. They are a small vocal ensemble made up of a diverse group of singers representing a variety of local churches.

They enjoy singing music that is meaningful, spiritual and enjoyable with people throughout the community. *Cross Traffic* has been fortunate to be able to share their music in senior centers, the People's Kitchen, prison ministry at CMC, various churches throughout the central coast and community events.

The group believes that music can be an amazing way to share the love of Christ, and is their sincere hope that they can help guide others towards a journey that leads them to the cross.



### SLO BOAT EVENTS

We will have our Epiphany Dinner and plan activities for 2019 on Fri., Jan. 11th. We will meet in Wilson Hall at 6:00 for an evening of dinner, fellowship and planning. Dave and Evelyn will be making a delicious dinner. The cost will be \$5.00 each, payable at the door. Please R.S.V.P. to Pam Rodewald at [psrmony@mac.com](mailto:psrmony@mac.com) or (805) 215-2396 by Tues., Jan. 8th.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Mary Butler – January 5

Dodie Williams – January 12

And to everyone else with a January birthday! If we have overlooked anyone, please contact the Church Office at 543-5451.

## FRONT PORCH

Happy 2019! With a new year is the start of Winter Quarter at Cal Poly and Spring Semester at Cuesta. Students, as well as all of us, are hopefully renewed by time with family and the hope brought by remembering the birth of Christ. A new year is often a time of fresh starts, after careful self reflection and a desire to be better. This can come in the form of: "do more of ...." or "do less of ...." What will be on you list this year?

Front Porch is always looking new partners at all levels. These new partners include people who will regularly pray for the staff of Front Porch and for the students they minister to on a daily basis; people to provide cookies during finals week (Valerie will let you know when that time is each quarter); people to help provide Wednesday night meals throughout the quarter, providing either physical help or resources to Evelyn and the WOW group, Susan and the Friendship Group or the Parkers, Ben and Jackie or Garrett; and people to provide monetary support, either on a monthly basis or annually.

How would you like to partner with Front Porch and support this ministry to college students--the next generation of the church? Please contact Susan Updegrove, Tad Miller, or Mary Blythe if you have any suggestions or questions.

Susan Updegrove, Front Porch Council

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## BIBLE STUDY

It is here 2019.... time to study "God's Promise I Am With You." We will take a look at lesson 5 for February. We took a quick look at Lesson 4 in the December Kirk which will be studied in January. 'God with us When We Seek God' is the theme lesson for February. Scriptures are found in 1 Chronicles 28:1-21 and 1 Kings 11:1-13 and 29-39. Discouragement comes with the loss of heart. God summons God's people, and especially God's leaders, to walk in God's ways, and to seek God. Come and pursue the stories that will enlighten us. You are welcomed to join any one of the Bible study groups.

## AWARD

We were happy to honor the Outstanding Women of the year at our December potluck luncheon. That wonderful lady is Mary Blythe. Mary was the 70th recipient of this award over the many years of presentations. As most of you might know Mary is a CPA and her expertise in this field has led to service for others in a variety of ways. She has served as a bookkeeper, on personnel committee, finance committee, the Endowment Committee Chairman, and as PW Treasurer.

Mary has been an invaluable resource to our Finance Office staff in the transition of our bookkeeper and for the updated computer program. She has also served as worship committee chairman, as treasurer of the Organ Concerts and the treasurer of several community organizations. She was born in a Presbyterian Hospital, her Father was a Presbyterian Minister and she is and has been a very capable leader. In her private life she and Gary have 3 sons and enjoy spending their summers at their Silver Lake cabin. We are very proud to honor this wonderful woman with the P W Honorary Lifetime Membership Award.

## CELEBRATING TRADITIONS

There is an article mentioned in the November-December Presbyterian Women's Magazine "Horizons" titled "Honoring Tradition." A group of Native American women met prior to the National PW Gathering last summer. These women had an opportunity to connect and discuss some of their "pain, sorrows and even joys about coming together as Christian Native Americans. The article points out the difficulties they have had in not only celebrating and honoring their ancestors but also sharing and expressing the love Jesus has for them and their people. Many times, as I speak to our beloved Navajo Pastor Norma McCabe in Kayenta Arizona, she expresses how difficult it is to minister to some of the women about Jesus's love for them, because of spiritual traditions and they don't speak English. This article addresses many of the issues they face. It is very important to show love to our Native Americans in all ways possible. The women of our church here in FPC, do that every year at Christmas time. We collect products they need which are distributed to the families throughout Northern Arizona Presbyterian churches in the Grand Canyon Presbyter for the holidays and at other times as needed.

As we study our Bible lessons we see how the traditions and practices of our Biblical ancestors influence us in modern times and we learn how it applies to us today. We have the support of other women in our studies to help us in our understanding and support us in God's promise to each of us.

*-Dorothy Truesdale, Moderator*

# MISSIONS

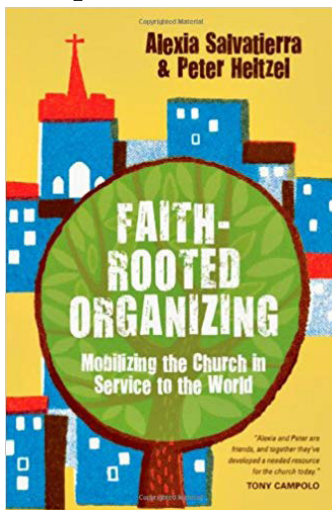
## PEACEMAKING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Adult Education Class beginning February 24  
For six Sundays we will look through the lens of our Mission Statement at various local social justice problems. Then we will search the Gospels for direction as we discuss ways to glorify Jesus Christ and put our faith into action as we practice Christ's radical hospitality.

# LIBRARY REVIEW

The book *Faith-Rooted Organizing* by Alexia Salvatierra and Peter Heltzel is a new book that has been added to the library and can be found on the book cart. With so many injustices, small and great, across the world and right at our doorstep, what are people of faith to do?

Since the 1930s, organizing movements for social justice in the U.S. have largely been built on assumptions that are of secular origin—such as



reliance on self-interest and having a common enemy as a motivator for change. But what if Christians were to shape their organizing around the implications of the truth that God is real and Jesus is risen? Alexia Salvatierra has developed a model of social action that is rooted in the values and convictions born of faith.

Together with theologian Peter Heltzel, this model of "faith-rooted organizing" offers a path to meaningful social change that takes seriously the command to love God and to love our neighbor as ourself.  
(Review by Amazon)

# YOUTH

A new year has begun! The staff and kids thank you all so much for the continued support and love. We are more than blessed to be a part of the First Presbyterian SLO Family. For January, we will be starting back up on the 6th with the usual Power Hour 10-11am and High School Youth Group 6-8pm. We will now be doing Jr. High Youth Group on Fridays 5-7pm.

Here are our January events...

-Power Hour

Every Sunday 10-11am

-High School Youth Group

Beginning on Sunday, January 6 from 6-8pm

-Jr. High Youth Group

Beginning on Friday, January 11 from 5-7pm

-Board Game Night

January 12. This will be a great time for the kids to come, relax, and enjoy playing some board games after their first week back from school!

-Outdoor Hike

January 26. Nature and Jesus.

Again, thank you all for everything. This youth group could not exist without your support and provisions. If anyone has any questions regarding the youth program or wants to become more involved, please contact Jen Rabenaldt and she can get you in contact with the youth staff!

*Youth Staff,*

*Brecken DeOilers, Jake Wolfe, Kelsie Krueger,*

*Hailey Firstman*

# CHILDREN'S ED

Happy New Year! 2018 was amazing and we can't wait to see what 2019 brings us. Children's Ed. wanted to take this time to thank you for all of your support! We have had a year full of growth. Not only in numbers, but in community. Children are bonding and their families are bonding and it is a beautiful thing to watch. We are looking forward to more of the same in the new year.

With the end of the year there was a whirlwind of activities. We enjoyed a fun Advent Night - now you know what all those corks were for. We will continue to accept corks for future projects.

The annual Children's Musical and Bake Sale was a hit. Thank you so much to all who worked so hard to make that happen! Especially Becky who can really rally the troops. If you missed it there is a video we would love to share with you. Let Jen know and we'll make sure you get a copy.

Wednesday's at the Rock will have a little break over the holidays. We will resume regular programming on Wednesday January 9 at 4:30.

If you are interested in volunteering for either children ministry or youth, please contact Jen and she'll help find a place for you to help. We can never have too many people willing to help.

Wednesday's at the Rock will have a little break over the holidays. We will resume regular programming on Wednesday January 9 at 4:30.

To everyone who has donated to the Blessing Box, thank you! The Blessing box, as well as the Library box, continue to help both individuals and families. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful congregation that is always willing to help support these endeavors. We continue to ask for your help as word of this blessing box spreads throughout the community. We currently are in need of toiletries, and of course, nonperishable food is always welcome.

Thank you and may you all have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful Happy New Year from Children's Ed.

Teri Cueto, Bonnie Kraemer, MaryEl Hansen, Diane Shervem, Anne Walling and Jen Rabenaldt

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## ADULT EDUCATION

### ADULT EDUCATION CLASS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 24

For six Sundays we will look through the lens of our Mission Statement at various local social justice problems. Then we will search the Gospels for direction as we discuss ways to glorify Jesus Christ and put our faith into action as we practice Christ's radical hospitality.

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## BUDGET & FINANCE PLEDGES

Thank you for your 2019 pledges. As of early December, we had received 121 pledges totaling \$517,183. We were hoping for \$580,000 in pledges. It is not too late to turn in a pledge for supporting our mission and ministry for 2019. Pledge cards are in the pew racks, or you can contact the church office and have them send you one.

*-Don Green Budget and Finance Committee*

### HALF PRICE SALE!:

#### 2 Los Osos Valley Memorial Park Lots

Lot #445C in Reflection Garden area \$1,250

Lot #228D in Garden of Memories area \$1,750

**Call First Presbyterian Church of SLO office or 805-543-6244**

*-Diane Brocato of Budget and Finance Committee*

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORNER

*Please pray for our church family, especially:*

Please pray for our church family as we celebrate Christ's birth, and

For the Rev. Dennis Falasco as he shepherds our congregation,

For our elders and deacons as they lead us,

For the many musicians in our congregation who share their musical talents with us,

For Jen Rabenaldt and those who help with our Children's Ministry - Karlyn Tremaine, Stephanie Vigil, Grace Power Smith, Delaney Romo, Anne Walling and Ian Rabenaldt,

For all those involved in our Youth Ministry, especially leaders - Jake Wolfe, Becken DeOilers, Hailey Firstman and Kelsie Krueger,

For Joel Drenckpohl and the Front Porch Ministry,

For those who are undergoing treatments for various health issues,

For our church's elderly, especially those confined to their homes or care centers, like Cathy Anderson, Linda Beyer, Gladys Brannum, George Daniel, Jean Honeyman, Lorna Hudson, Starr Jenkins, Marie Kammenzind, Ralph Nunley, Joy Reed, Idabelle Shields, Dottie Jean & John Stechman, Carol West, Richard Wiens,

For the women and men who do so much to support the countless ministries, missions & activities of our church,

For members, friends & family serving in the military

Drew Descary – stationed in San Diego

Laura Kraemer – Navy Medical School in Maryland

Michael Poe - stationed in Meridian, MS

Joseph Sall (son of Anne Ramirez)– stationed in Carlisle, PA.

Travis Hatakeyama (grandson of Luensers) – stationed in N. Carolina

Brandan Humphrey (grandson of Leila) –on the Carl Vinson - Navy Aircraft Carrier

Sean Gillson (grandson of Barbara & Gene) – stationed on Whidbey Island

R. Brooks Anderson (grandson of Dorothy Truesdale) – stationed in Groton, CT

Chris King (grandson of Lois Morgan) – stationed in CO

For safe travel for all those traveling over the Christmas holiday,

For all of us as we serve God wherever He calls us.

If you have a prayer concern, please call the Church Office at 543-5451.

## FROM TIM SMITH

Many thanks! For all the prayers, notes, cards, calls and meals, I am so grateful to my church family. I am healing quickly. I hear that John Brower will have me working on the Hart roof quite soon.

You are all a blessing!

Gratefully, Tim Smith

## ENDOWMENT CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

**LOU AND RICHARD WIENS HAVE INCLUDED FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THEIR TRUST.**

Richard Wiens is one of the longest time members of our church, with membership dating to the mid 1950s, when A. J. Knolls was pastor. Music was one of the magnets which drew Richard and Lou to First Pres. They were regulars in the Chancel and Praise Choirs, having joined when Lillian Warneke was director. They also sang as part of the civic group Bel Canto Singers, also directed by Warneke.

In his career Richard was a printer at the Telegram Tribune and maintenance technician at the Masonic Lodge. He was especially known for his Bonsai creativity. These days he can be found attending meetings of our church's Wholeness Group.

Lou, who died about a year ago, served as church organist, succeeding Dorothy Wilson. In addition, she succeeded Lillian Warneke as Chancel Choir Director, serving in that role for years. In her career, she taught 2nd and 3rd grades at C. L. Smith School as well as private music lessons.

Lou and Richard have provided for a bequest to our church in their family trust. They are giving back to help preserve the church and church music.

If you'd like to consider a gift to the music programs of our church or of any type, please talk with a member of our church's Endowment Committee: John Eichler, Jerry Kaml, Jane Maxwell, Bert Townsend, Dorothy Truesdale, Roger Verity, & Virginia Walter.

Even a modest gift will make a difference.



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*San Luis Obispo*

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## **TWO SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**8:45 AM SERVICE**

**EDUCATION HOUR at 10 am**

**11:00 AM SERVICE**