



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
San Luis Obispo

The Kirk

February 2020



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

It's hard to believe that a month has gone by. Serving as your interim pastor has been a gift to me, and I'm so grateful for the ways you have welcomed and encouraged me.

This is a wonderful congregation.

It has been my pleasure to meet people who have been a part of First Pres for decades, who have raised families here, and who are still committed to Christ and this church. I've also had some great conversations with young parents who are new to SLO and to the church—they're grateful for a place to grow in faith and to see their kids meet Jesus in a meaningful way.

As I've walked around town, I've listened as our neighbors share what they know about us: the concerts, the service to the needy, the partnership with the preschool, and the beautiful building. All of these are part of the First Pres presence in the SLO community.

And we know that we are so much more. Over this first month of 2020, I've been talking about what it means to be the church. I even gave you all a sentence to memorize:

A healthy church is built on a foundation of Jesus Christ, and expressed through fellowship, worship, discipleship, and mission.

Within each one of those points, we had another sentence for reflection:

Fellowship is the first point of contact between our broken places and the healing power of God.

Worship is where we learn to see as God sees, grieve as God grieves, and love as God loves.

Discipleship is the process by which we become the presence of God in the world.

The **Mission** of the church is to show the world what God has done in Jesus Christ, and also what God promises to do in Jesus Christ for his creation.

As we move through this time of deciding what kind of church we want to be, keep these phrases close. Whatever else happens, this church is a place where Christ is proclaimed and where people care about each other and the community. That's who we are, and that's what we'll continue to do.

Thank you for the ways you have welcomed me to First Pres. I look forward to serving you as we make our way through the Lenten season and into Easter.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor John

COMING UP BOOK BROWSERS

Book Browsers will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in the library. We will discuss *The Girl with Seven Names* by Hyeonseo Lee. Our book for March will be *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. If you have any questions, please contact Diane Shervem at dshervem@charter.net or 805-543-1473.

BROWN BAG

Join us at noon, February 7, as we welcome THE ROYAL GARDEN SWING ORCHESTRA LITTLE BIG BAND! Bring your dancing shoes! At noon, Wilson Hall, FPC, Marsh and Morro!
<https://www.facebook.com/brownbagslo/> or 805-543-5451.

JAZZ VESPERS

The Arthur White Quintet will perform at Jazz Vespers on February 16 at 4 p.m., presenting the world premier of Dr. White's composition based on *The Prayer of Saint Francis*. Arthur White is a critically acclaimed composer and performer and is the Director of Jazz Studies at Cal Poly. His all-star quintet includes Arthur White on saxophone, George Stone on piano, Jeff Miley on guitar, Dylan Johnson on bass, and Darrell Voss on drums. The Reverend John D'Elia will provide the meditation. Refreshments to follow.

LENT NIGHT

Join us as we start the Lenten Season with Lent Night. We will be creating the Stations of the Cross among other activities. The Stations of the Cross will then be on display in the Sanctuary throughout Lent. We are looking forward to this new opportunity and hope you will ALL join us.

February 23 - 3 to 5 p.m., Wilson Hall

WINTER GRACE

We will be having our annual Winter Grace on Saturday, February 29, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The morning will include an opening speaker, a choice of four workshops and lunch with special music.

Workshops include:

Women of the Bible — Mary Magdalene;
Smart Share Housing; Finding your passion with SLO History;
Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood — update.

Watch for opportunities to sign-up on Sundays in the courtyard or contact Gloria DeKleine at gdeklein@calpoly.edu or (805)801-9627.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SUP AND SING

All are invited to an evening of fellowship and informal singing. If you love sitting down to a simple supper with friends old and new and singing from the Yellow Book and other songs of fellowship, please come!

When: Sunday February 23 at 6 p.m.

Where: Wilson Hall

Who: Linda Brady, piano. Ralph Battles, guitar; Jackie and Ben Parker, cooks.

RSVP will be on the white offering slips in each service beginning in February, or email Pam Rodewald at psrmony@mac.com.

ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP DINNER

You are invited to the annual soup and bread supper February 26 at 5:30 p.m. in Wilson Hall before the 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday service in our Sanctuary. For many of us, Lent is a very special time in our Christian year. Observing Lent prepares us to celebrate Easter more fully. The Board of Deacons would like to offer a simple meal of soup with bread and beverage. It is a time of community fellowship that incorporates the Lenten theme of fasting (the simple meal).

*Please bring your own place setting.

Questions? Please call Judith Davies (805)704-5753 or Alethea Justus (805)546-8769.

INQUIRER'S CLASS

A new inquirer's class taught by Pastor John D'Elia will be held on Sunday, March 1, at noon, after the second service. We will have a light lunch and a two hour class. All are welcome. Please call or email Pam Rodewald if you will be attending. Watch for more information in the bulletin and in "The Weekly Peak."

Pam_psrmony@mac.com
(805) 215-2396

SAVE THE DATE

Come to an All-Church Fellowship Potluck Dinner and program by Ron Mullison about his journey in the air and on the sea.

Friday, March 27, 5:30 p.m.

Look for details in the March Kirk!

LIBRARY REVIEW

Leadership in Christian Perspective, by Justin Irving and Mark Strauss, is a book that has been donated to the church library by Kate Murray and is located on the book cart.

This book brings the best of leadership theory and research together with biblical reflection and examples of leadership in action to offer a practical guide to Christian leaders.

Combining expertise in leadership studies and biblical studies, Justin Irving and Mark Strauss explore how leadership models have moved from autocratic and paternalistic leader-centered models toward an increased focus on followers. The authors show how contemporary theories, such as transformational leadership, authentic leadership, and servant leadership take an important step toward prioritizing and empowering followers who work with leaders to accomplish organizational goals. Irving and Strauss organize their book around "nine empowering practices," making it accessible to students, church leaders, and business leaders. Integrating solid research in leadership studies with biblical and theological reflection on the leadership ideas that are most compatible with Christian faith, this book is an important resource for all Christian students of leadership. (Review by Amazon)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To the following seniors (over 85) who have birthdays in February.

Marty O'Keefe – February 1

Carolyn Luenser - February 24

And to everyone else who has an February birthday.

Our church records may be incomplete.

If we have overlooked someone, please contact the church office.

CONGREGATION CARE CORNER

Please pray for our church family, especially

For the Rev. Dennis Falasco while he is on his Spiritual Leave,

For our elders and Interim Pastor, John D'elia, as they guide us through this period,

For the Deacons as they care for our church family,

For Jen Rabenaldt and those who help with our Youth and Children's Ministries,

For Joel Drenckpohl and the Front Porch Ministry,

For those of our church family who are undergoing treatments for various health issues,

For our church's senior citizens, especially those who are confined to their homes or care centers, like John Evans, Barbara Frank, Jean Honeyman, Lorna Hudson, Starr Jenkins, Lois Morgan, Ralph Nunley, Joy Reed, John Stechman, Richard Wiens, Barbara Wines,

For the family and friends of Doris Bryan and Gladys Brannum who passed away in January,

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

For members, friends and family serving in the military

Nic Beem – stationed at Vandenberg

Drew Descary – stationed in Gulfport, MS

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

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

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

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

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

Juan Martin Chavez (grandson of Susan and Craig Updegrove) – stationed in Minot, ND

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

CHILDREN'S ED

What a great start to 2020! We hope everyone is having a fantastic start to the new year.

Wednesdays at the Rock has resumed and we are having a great time. The kids are engaged and excited about learning the books of the Bible, through song, art, games and the Bible. We could use some help with meals - if you are interested please let Jen know.

Please keep the kids, their leaders and their families in your prayers as we continue to learn what it means to live as Christ has taught us.

Children's Schedule

Sunday Worship

8:45a.m. and 11 a.m.

Sunday School

Children are excused from Worship either at the Passing of the Peace or after the Anthem.

9 a.m.(ish) and 11:15 a.m.(ish)

Children's Church 10 a.m

Skilled Nursery Care

8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Wednesdays at the Rock

Each Wednesday - 4:30pm - 7 p.m.

YOUTH

The Youth have a lot of exciting projects and activities coming up. If you know any Youth (6th through 12th) why don't you invite them to join us!

A couple of things we are working on and are excited about ...

Painting a mural on the 3rd floor landing

Reclaiming the stage area and creating a Youth Band

Youth Pop-Ups

Power Hour (Sunday School) We are learning about Jesus and his life and how Jesus has taught us to act and respond to what life throws our way.

Youth Group - Mixed in with a lot of fun and great meals provided by the parents, each week we focus on a specific topic and **how that topic challenges us or encourages us as we live as Christians. We have had the best conversations! Our Youth are amazing - if you** get the chance take a minute to get to know them. The Youth will be learning how to become involved in Worship by helping with liturgy once per month. Continue to encourage them as they learn what it means to be a part of the "bigger" church.

Youth Schedule

Power Hour - Each Sunday at 10 a.m. - Beck Lounge

Youth Group - Each Sunday 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. - Beck Lounge

WANTED

Your old, damaged, and worn Bible(s), or those on your shelves you are no longer using, or the Bibles your children left when they moved out or even those in another language than English are needed. We are partnering with friends at the Morro Bay Presbyterian Church to collect these Bibles to send to Bible Foundation (www.bf.org) They gather, pack and ship bibles in shipping containers to missionaries all over the world. These bibles also distribute to prisons here in the USA. Read more about their work by going to the website.

We will have a box at the welcome kiosk Sundays during the month of February to collect. Really, an extra bible gathering dust on your bookshelves.... what good is it there? It has a whole new life and carries a message of hope if we send it out! It may be shared by any number of people.

Submitted by Evelyn Ruehr

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Bible Study Lesson

A new word in the commandments for the February study is from Exodus 20:13, "You Shall not Murder." The purpose of Lesson Five is to understand the many faces of murder and how the beloved community is to honor life by refusing any and all death-dealing behavior. Remember the last lesson was on 'to honor life and our life givers, so now let's reason why. Jesus reinforces this in Matthew 5: 21-26. Remember our life is a gift from God, created by God's spirit and God's breath.

The Annual Birthday Offering

Coming up in March is the Presbyterian Women's annual Birthday Offering. Since 1922, this Offering has helped more than 200 mission projects that improves and saves lives. There are four groups that the PW USA have chosen to focus on for 2020: a center for the disabled families and children in Russia; a service to expand access and special space and material needs for a program titled "GAP", in Georgia; a children's learning center in Arizona; and a healing space expansion in Minnesota. A Birthday Offering was designed to thank God for our life's blessings and to share that gift. It is so appropriate this year, in particular, as we study the 10 Commandments and see how God desires us to honor life givers and to protect the lives of others. The Birthday Offering envelopes will be in the pew pockets. Please remember in Psalm 71:14 - "But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more." Give generously as you have been blessed, and as led by the Holy Spirit.

Least Coin

The details of how the Least Coin was used was listed in this report last month. Some copies of the Kirk did not include it so I'm going to add it to this report again.

Fellowship of the Least Coin

"Around the world the Fellowship of the Least Coin brings connection and comfort." In an article in the [PW Horizon Magazine](#) information on Project Grants for 2019 from all the offerings taken worldwide of our Least Coin, what an impact pennies can make. Various projects in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, The Middle East, and North America will share the benefit of amounts over \$90,000 of services for children, defense of deportation for individual immigrants, women's education, justice and peace projects, sewing projects providing income for families of village women, various human rights programs, and assistance health care for seniors are just a few of the ways these coins will make a difference. Thank you one and all who participated in giving.

Dorothy Truesdale, Moderator

FRONT PORCH

Have you ever just called a long-time friend on the phone and chatted for awhile? Remember the good feelings that come as you hear a familiar voice, connect with long past memories of times spent together, and how years apart just fall away? Especially in the current digital age — where so much communication is by written word, either text or e-mail — it is nice to have a voice-to-voice interaction, even if not face to face.

Front Porch provides the space for life-long relationships to begin and to develop. Space is provided for you where you are accepted as you are and encouraged to be in and to live every moment. What does that mean? Often it means turning off a computer, silencing a cell phone, and removing ear buds so that you can see and hear what is happening around you. It might mean looking for a friend or stranger across the room, or hearing an interesting conversation right next to you, and then grabbing a cup of coffee or tea to reach out or join in. Perhaps the beginning of a life-long friend is made with those simple acts.

As you think of those friends you made long ago, perhaps you are inspired to call them or drop them a note. Connections with friends--old and new--are the web of life, and Front Porch provides a space for life-long friends to begin and to develop.

Front Porch thanks this church for its consistent support of this college ministry. If you would like more information or if you would to stop by, please contact either Susan Updegrove, FPCSLO member, or Joel Drenckpohl, Director of Front Porch, joel@frontporchslo.org.

ENDOWMENT

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

2019, AN OUTSTANDING YEAR FOR OUR ENDOWMENT

During 2019, two new funds were added to the First Presbyterian Church Endowment; the David Williams Homeless Programs Endowment and the Carrie Vermeer Community Outreach Fund. Together those new Funds added \$25,000 to the Endowment and will provide allotments in 2020. Both of these funds, along with their creators, were described in KIRK articles last year.

In the first quarter of last year, the Session approved an allotment of 4 percent or over \$20,000, based on the allotment rules.

Reflecting the continuing bull market, our Endowment grew by 15.8 percent or \$35,910 during 2019, which includes \$650 of new gifts added to the Williams and Vermeer Funds. The total value of the Endowment now stands at \$670,377, making it possible for Session to approve a 4 percent or 5 percent allotment.

Endowment allotments help fund various needs of our church. Those programs include missions, worship and music, Christian education, building maintenance, and general operations. All gifts are used as the donors specified.

Now you can contribute to any part of the Endowment by credit/debit card or electronic fund transfer from your bank. Use the DONATE button on the church website, fpcslo.org, or use the following quick response code.



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 Endowment Committee: John Eichler, Jerry Kaml, Jane Maxwell, Bert Townsend, Dorothy Truesdale, Roger Verity, or Virginia Walter (Chair).

Even a modest gift will make a difference.

**ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE
AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



**FORGOT YOUR CHECKBOOK OR
WANT TO USE PLASTIC?**

GO TO FPCSLO.ORG-Find *GIVE NOW*
in the top menu!

OR, use this Quick Response Code.



For more information, see the
questions and answers at the church
website or ask the
Assistant Treasurer, Bert Townsend.

Treasurer's Report - DEC, 2019

	Actual		Budget
	MONTH	Year to Date	Year to Date
Income	\$47,127	\$657,590	\$620,800
Expenses	\$93,427	\$637,248	\$620,800
Difference	(\$46,300)	\$20,342	\$0

As part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the church is asked to pay a Per Capita apportionment. This year the level of support is **\$83 per member**. Per Capita income received to date is \$10,301.

Your Finance and Stewardship Committee



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

San Luis Obispo

PO Box 591
981 Marsh Street
San Luis Obispo, CA
93406
tel: 805.543.5451
email: churchoffice@fpcslo.org
web: fpcslo.org

SERVICE SCHEDULE

- 8:45 a.m. Service
- 10 a.m. Education Hour
- 11 a.m. Service

FEBRUARY EVENTS

- February 4
7 p.m. Book Browsers
- February 7
12 p.m. Brown Bag
- February 16
4 p.m. Jazz Vespers
- February 23
3 p.m. Lent Night
- February 23
6 p.m. Sup and Sing
- February 26
5:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Dinner and Service
- February 29
8:30 a.m. Winter Grace