



FPC Press

SINCE 1909

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Turlock, California

March 2022

Published Monthly



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR'S HEART REV. DR. CRAIG J. WRIGHT

March Greetings Church Family,

We have had what seems like a flurry of new members join recently as well as a bunch of deacons and elders join their respective boards. This always reminds me that we are stronger as a church when we are knit together with the wonderful diversity of our members. The body of Christ functions best when we all offer our gifts and skills to Christ for the work of His Kingdom. Thinking about that, my mind readily went to plywood. No, I have not lost my mind – well, not entirely. Why would plywood jump to mind when I think of strength? Why not an oak tree, or a steel beam, or any other symbol of strength? Why plywood? Let me redeem my sanity and explain how I think it works.

Plywood is made by gluing thin sheets of wood together so that the grain of the wood on each successive layer is perpendicular to the last. This adds great strength to the board and greatly broadens the potential uses. Because of its flexibility and strength, plywood has been used since WW2 in boats and even some aircraft, notably the British Mosquito Bomber. (Why they felt the need to bomb mosquitoes I'll never know.) Plywood achieves its strength through its diverse make-up. A beautiful piece of grained pine or oak can easily be broken if force is applied to the grain of the wood. It is simple genius that layers of wood running different directions and glued together result in a substantial increase of strength.

Now how does this apply to the strength of a church? Try this: We as the body of Christ are a collection of many different types of people. We are as diverse politically as we are physically. We are a collection of introverts, extroverts, and everything in between. We are young and old, wise and learning, strong and weak. And here is the

best part: we are all connected together by Jesus Christ, and His love is the glue that binds us. Consider this passage from Paul's epistle to the Colossians:

*"Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."*

It is amazing how the diversity of people within Christ's church brings strength. If we were identical in all areas, we would be weaker as a body. The first thing that came along and pushed against our grain would snap us in half. But as a diverse group, often with perpendicular ideas, bound together in the love of Christ, we have great strength. Like plywood, it is at the point of weakness that the next layer of strength kicks in. Each layer supports the other and wonderful things are built. May God's word convince each of you that you are a vital and necessary layer of strength at First Presbyterian Church Turlock. Now I must go and call the mosquito abatement people and see if they know anything about plywood airplanes.

Blessings,

Pastor Craig

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seeking support for humanitarian response to Ukraine

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and World Mission working with partners to aid those impacted by war.



LEXINGTON, Kentucky — The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) launched an appeal Tuesday for funds to help support the Church's humanitarian response to the war started last week when Russia

attacked Ukraine. Please give to bring support and aid to the families in need during this very catastrophic time. Please go to the link below and follow the simple instruction:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/presbyterian-church-u-s-a-seeking-support-for-humanitarian-response-to-ukraine/>

JOIN US SATURDAY, APRIL 9th 9 AM – 12 PM

WORK *all church* DAY

MEET AT THE FPC BREEZEWAY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jesus is both man and God. Come to Sunday morning worship to learn the many ways He showed that to those around Him - feeding thousands with a small boy's lunch, calming a stormy sea, even walking on water!



Eggstravaganza

YOUR HELP IS MUCH NEEDED!

For our Big Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 16th.

- Work a Craft/Game Station
- Donate Plastic Eggs
- Bring Small Individually Wrapped Candies
- Children's Filled Easter Baskets
- Child Friendly Gift Cards are also needed.

Please bring your donations to the church office by Palm Sunday, April 10th

Contact Marcy Wright to Help!

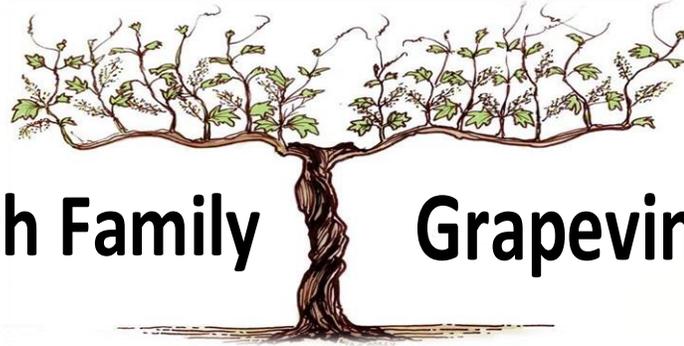
Please see the announcement on page 5 and pass on the good word.

NOW IS  THE TIME!

Keep up the GREAT work!

We are halfway there! Keep hiding God's Word in your heart. All twelve passages need to be memorized before September.





Church Family Grapevine

Ongoing Prayer Needs Key Code:

P-Personal, F-Family, G-Grief, H-Health, S-Surgery, PG- Pregnancy, E-Employment, ST-Safe Travel, A-Adoption, SA-Salvation, M-Military

Avilla, Robby (S,H)

Blixt, Elizabeth (H)

Brugger, Betty (H)

Brunton, Bob (H)

Higdon, Niki (H)

Josh, Sheila (H)

McClellan, Barbara (H)

Peterson, Mark (H)

Reeves, Jean (H)

Runsten, Tricia (Darlene's Daughter) (H)

Sargis, Mabel (H)

Sims, John (S,H)

Smith, Betty (H)

Taylor, Paul (H)

Vesperman, Dick (H)

Wiegman, Joyce (H)

Please praise God continuously for who He is and what He has done in your life... as well as for your Church Family and Leadership Servants, Civic and National Leaders, Rescue, Recovery, and Relief workers.



Birthdays

Mar 1 Elizabeth Arakelian

Mar 1 Meghan Sims

Mar 3 Don Ulrich

Mar 3 Pat Rubalcava

Mar 8 Mabel Sargis

Mar 13 Del Lansing

Mar 20 Julie Neely

Mar 24 Aislyn Castillo

Mar 27 Rick Gaffney

Mar 27 Pastor Craig Wright

Mar 29 Betty Smith

Mar 29 Kendra Reyes

Anniversaries

Mar 11 Robert & Susan England

Mar 22 Del & Donna Lansing

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

NEED PRAYER?

We are here to pray for you.

First Presbyterian Church is a praying family. Please let the church office know of your prayer needs and we will gladly add your name to our prayer chain.

Outreach Ministry

FPC Mission Committee continues to partner with Turlock Gospel Mission each month even during the pandemic. The pandemic has not slowed the need to help the homeless and those less fortunate in our committee. Although we have not been able to serve meals directly to the guests at TGM, we still take meals for up to 70 guests every second Sunday of the month. If you would like to help with organizing, shopping, or delivery of the meals, please contact Martin or Jana Purdy.



201,176 Meals
in 2021

Turlock Gospel Mission provides more than a meal and a place for women and children to sleep every night:

A Warm Bed & Safe Place - In December 2017, Turlock Gospel Mission Moved from the Winter Relief rotating shelter it has operated for the last 5 years to its year-round permanent shelter location at 437 S. Broadway Ave in Turlock. This facility serves as both emergency shelter and Restorative Programming space.

Emergency Overnight Shelter - The Emergency Overnight Shelter is open 365 days per year and is open to women, men and their children on a first come, first served basis. Sign-in begins at 4:15 pm daily. Guests join us for a dinner meal at the Restoration Shelter dining room and are assigned to a bed in our dorm, where they are able to stay until 7:00am. Showers are available and bins with personal belongings are secured.

Men and Women's Restoration Program -The Restoration Program is a year-long, life-changing Bible-based program designed to help individuals with recovery, vocational training, and spiritual development. This includes recovery from addiction, domestic violence, childhood abuse, co-dependency, overeating, and more. Lives are transformed through housing, case-management, counseling, discipleship, education, job training, and support groups.

A Great Place to go During the Day - Turlock Gospel Mission operates the only Day Center in Stanislaus County, this center provides a safe place for those in need to connect with critical services.



70,281 Beds
in 2021



67 men &
women
with 3
Graduates



3,700 Volunteer Hours



OFFERING DATE:

APRIL 17, 2022

For over 70 years, **One Great Hour of Sharing** has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance assist in areas of disaster around the world, the Presbyterian Hunger Program supports efforts to relieve hunger, and Self-Development of People - promote development through the Presbyterian Committee. All three work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. **On April 17th, Easter Sunday**, we will be taking our annual One Great Hour of Sharing special offering.

\$4.1 million - granted by PDA in the United States and 57 countries in the first half of 2020

94 - grants impacting 20 countries given by PHP in 2019

50 - years of ministry for SDOP

17,000 + - people trained nationally and internationally by OGHS ministries

5,676 - PDA work team volunteers served in 2019

234 - certified PC(USA) Earth Care congregations helped care for creation

51,000 - trees planted around the world

5,000 + - projects in economically poor communities in the United States and around the world have had an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges since SDOP's inception

1,097 - Presbyterian congregations purchased eco-palms for sustainable forestry and livelihoods

Eggstravaganza

SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH

9:30 – 11:30 AM



First Presbyterian Church

2619 N. Berkeley Avenue

**Fun Outdoor Party Games Kids Love
to Play!**

**ALL TO TELL THE GOOD NEWS OF
JESUS' RESURRECTION!**



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

PW Women's Bible Study meets on the third Wednesday morning of the month. Our next gathering will take place on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 10:30 am in Voight Hall. There will be a Zoom link available for those that need that option. This month's lesson focuses on Bathsheba. Bathsheba is not named in Matthew's genealogy. Instead, as the "wife of Uriah," she is defined by her relationship to a man. At first it appears that she is silent and powerless, but when she steps onto the stage, she finds her voice and exhibits an ability to influence kings. Bathsheba's story illustrates the corrupting influence of power as well as the support she, as a queen, can provide for her son's reign.

Our study comes from the 2021-22 PW/Horizons Bible Study: What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus authored by Merryl Blair. This Bible study provides a unique glimpse into the lives of the women intimately connected with Jesus and his life and ministry. We will study Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. *For any questions or more information, please contact Candace Peterson.*

♪♪ Notes from the Music Room ♪♪

MARCH !!!

March 2 was Ash Wednesday, the beginning of LENT! And this is the season when we prepare our hearts for the great celebration of Easter.

But why a church choir? I was recently referred to an article which helps us remember why!

- 1) **The church choir leads and enlivens the congregation's song.** We become what we sing, and so the choir's encouragement of the songs of the congregation aids in the faith development of the whole church.
- 2) **The church choir sings music that the congregation cannot.** The choir then lifts not only the hearts and souls of the congregants, but also serve as an educational tool of a variety of types of music.
- 3) **The church choir serves as a small-group within the church for faith formation.** Do you know that when the choir learns a piece of music, they not only study the notes and rhythms, but also the text of that anthem? And what that piece means to our lives today.
- 4) **The church choir sings beautiful and challenging music to praise God and edify the congregation.**

So - come, and worship God, with us!

Dates to remember:

Palm Sunday	Sunday, April 10, 2022
Holy Week	Monday, April 11 - Friday, April 15
EASTER SUNDAY	April 17, 2022

Rev. Wendy Warner,
Director of Music

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session last met on January 17, 2022, in Voight Hall.

Of interest:

- There are nineteen youth that have committed to attend summer camp at the Zephyr Point Presbyterian Retreat Center. This is a “Hallelujah!” moment. With that in mind, Session approved fundraising for the cost to send these youth to camp.
- The 10 am Sunday School hour will go on temporary hiatus. Children’s Worship with Marcy Wright held during worship will continue as scheduled.
- Session continued to work diligently and prayerfully on the 2022 General Fund budget.
- Session will next meet on Monday, February 28, 2022.

By the time you read this, we will have held our annual Congregational Meeting, received new members to our church family, and elected new elders, deacons, and corporate officers.

On behalf of Session, thank you for your continuing support to the life and mission of FPC. God is good!

In His service,
Pat Wallace
Clerk of Session

DEACONS TEAM MINISTRY

The Deacons cancelled the February meeting due to a couple of reasons: some members had Covid and, also, there were 11 new Deacons who needed to go through an orientation meeting before our joint meeting, and we needed more time to get it done. We also made a change in our meeting date. Beginning in March, we will be meeting on the second Monday of every month instead of the third Monday.

At our March 14th meeting we will be saying goodbye to the Deacon class of 2021 but welcoming a new class of 11 Deacons. We are very, very excited to have a total Deacon group of 20. Some of you will be getting a new Deacon, and we are anxious for them to introduce themselves to you. We look forward to this 2022 year.

In Christ,

Darlene Runsten & Lynn Posluch, Co-Moderators

PER CAPITA

As a connectional church, our work is maintained and funded by a financial system called “Per Capita.” In this system, each governing body above the local congregation’s session determines how much it will cost to do what the Book of Order and the next higher governing council require. Each body also calculates what it will cost to do the ministries we believe God is calling us to do. And the General Assembly determines the cost of maintaining the structures and systems at the national level that support the internal work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its relationships with other faith communities around the world.

As members, we pay per capita, in addition to one’s annual gift, recognizing that the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) is a connectional church and we are part of a larger family throughout the country. This connection includes our Presbyteries, Synods, and General Assembly. Our financial support keeps us connected and able to support the work and mission of our Presbytery and our sister churches. Our 2022 per capita apportionment of **\$26.74** per member supports our Presbytery office, Synod, and General Assembly. We ask that you respond by returning your contribution by April 3, 2022.

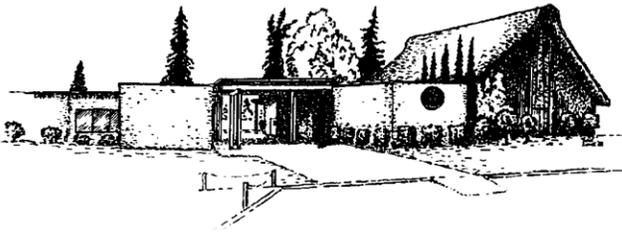
FINANCE UPDATE

Income & Expense Year to Date
Ending January 31, 2022

January Income:	<u>2022</u>
Contributions	\$21,191
Other Income	\$ 6,525
Total Income	\$27,716
Expenses	\$27,095
Income/Expense Difference	(\$621)

Thank YOU all for your very generous giving thus far! We want to encourage you to continue to give for it is only through your giving that we can thrive. Please keep in mind that any designated contribution is in *addition* to the general giving.

Thank you again for all your financial support.



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 Website: www.fpturlock.com

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch



Big enough to meet your needs...Small enough to know your name.

Church Staff
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Craig Wright
Parish Associate: Rev. Wendy Warner
Children Ministry Director: Marcy Wright
Youth Ministry Director: Stephanie Anderson
Director of Music: Rev. Wendy Warner
Administrative Assistant: Polet Yonan
Interim Bookkeeper: Rev. Jim Stochl
Accompanist: Dr. Wayne Kidwell
Organist: Barbara Bort
Nursery Attendant: Rebecca Staley

ELECTED DEACONS AND SESSION OFFICERS		
<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2021</u> Marilyn Hoobyar Priscilla Peters Pat Wallace Michael Yonan	<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2022</u> Robby Avilla Dan Hardesty Joey Reyes Adria Sanders	<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2023</u> Michael Betts Donna Harrison Candace Peterson John Sims
<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2021</u> Susan England Valerie Keesey Lynn Posluch Darlene Runsten Cyndi Sims	<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2022</u> Diane Arakelian Lynette Betts Sheila Josh Mary Peterson	<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2023</u> Alison Aldax Niki Higdon Marlena Mizicko Jana Purdy