

## The April Adventure

All members of First Pres are invited on an adventure!!! It should not be a difficult adventure, just an opportunity to focus on some basics of our Christian walk, a revitalization of our congregation. We embark on the **APRIL ADVENTURE**. The adventure follows the simple Acronym **APRIL**

### Week of April 1 - **A**dore

- Prayer Focus: Thank God for the amazing gift of Easter and its promise for each one of us; pray for wisdom for the PNC as they search for a new pastor
- Sunday: Easter Worship at 10:00am, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the courtyard
- Monday: Prayer time for everyone from 5:00 to 6:00pm
- Monday: Church kitchen clean-up at 9:00am
- Share in your small groups special ways to Adore God!

### Week of April 8 - **P**ray

- Prayer Focus: Ask that God will give us all energy and determination to serve Him in our community, that folks who come to Todos Santos also come to know God
- Sunday: Worship at 10:00am, Bob Blincoe preaches and shares his story in Sunday School
- Monday: Prayer time for everyone from 5:00 to 6:00pm, especially praying for the PNC meeting at 7:00pm that evening
- Visit one of our Friends-At-Home who is unable to join us in church on Sunday mornings

### Week of April 15 - **R**each Out

- Prayer Focus: For our nation, Congress, our state, our county, our city, all of our leaders
- Sunday: Worship at 10:00am, Reach-out Sunday Shuffle = sit in a different place this morning and reach out to someone who is not familiar to you
- Monday: Prayer time for everyone from 5:00 to 6:00pm, especially for the PNC meeting at 7:00pm that evening; pray for decision-makers, that their choices be wise
- Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup>—Community Service Day, starting with a Prayer Walk at 9:30am

### Week of April 22 - **I**nvest

- Prayer Focus: for Beginnings and Beyond Montessori Christian Preschool and Kindergarten for the children and teachers; for all children, teens and young adults
- Sunday: Worship at 10:00am, Elders away to visit another church
- Monday: Prayer time for everyone from 5:00 to 6:00pm
- Invest a little extra time or talent this week; bring food items for the SHARE pantry, help with a little extra to pay for the sound system; special envelopes to add something to the offering plate this Sunday

### Week of April 29 - **L**ove

- Prayer Focus: For the sick and lonely in our congregation and our community
- Sunday: Worship at 10:00am, followed by the Deacons' Parish Luncheon—let the Deacons help us to show our love for one another
- Monday: Prayer time for everyone from 5:00 to 6:00pm, especially for the PNC meeting at 7:00pm that evening; pray for the sick and the lonely



**adore:** Adore God with all your heart, soul, and mind.



**pray:** Everyone will pray together wherever you are at the same time.



**reach out:** talking to new people, making new friends



**invest:** Time, talent and treasure are gifts from God to share with our congregation and others



**love:** Love for God, for ourselves, for our neighbors, for our world

## From the Desk of Rebecca Chase

Director of Community Care

### Small Groups

What an incredible couple of months! Small Groups got together to either study and reflect on Lent, or have discussion around the Adult Sunday classes. We were led in Sunday's classes by Kristin Harvey (You Lost Me) and Ann Keirns (Churchless).

All groups had powerful experiences together, and prayers were answered.

One of the issues that groups dug in about was how do we as Christians show the world how we are different from the unchurched people out living their lives? And now we as a community of faith are faced with the question: "Now what?"

Leaders are in discernment right now, deciding on the topic direction their Small Group will go. Now is a good time to jump in.

If you're not in a group yet, there is plenty of room on Tuesdays (Carlton) at 3:00pm, and Thursdays (Fireside) at 1:30pm. If you don't care to drive at night, these are good ones for you. The Tuesday (Fireside) and Wednesday (Clayton) night groups are vibrant and exciting. Contact me if you need more information.

If you would like to start a group with a couple of friends, let me know! I have all sorts of helpful tools and trainings available to get a group going.

Don't be shy – YOU can HOST a small group!

### Children's Worship & Education

Hosanna in the highest! Singing was heard throughout the

### Small Groups Meeting Schedule

Tuesday	3:00 pm	The Carlton	Pastor Toby
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Clayton	Jim & Marilyn
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Fireside Rm	Nanci & Darryl
Thursday	1:30 pm	Fireside Rm	Judith & Rebecca

Sanctuary on March 25<sup>th</sup> as the Beginnings and Beyond Preschool joined us in song during the Palm Sunday service! They processed and recessed waving palm branches. Beth Byrne led them in a beautiful song about Jesus coming to Jerusalem. We had 13 children join us in Children's Worship downstairs for stories, crafts and singing.

The Children's Worship Team geared up for a huge celebration on Easter morning, including a Children's Message, special Children's Worship downstairs, and then a grand Easter Egg Hunt in the courtyard. We hid as many as 150 eggs! Before the children went hunting, they met at the stage area in Fellowship Hall for instruction. Parents and grandparents, got their cameras ready! *(We held this Easter Egg Hunt in lieu of a Saturday event on March 31<sup>st</sup> as previously written.)*

The Children's Worship Team had five weeks of lessons during the month of March about Jesus' final days. During April, we will be leading the preschool and young elementary children in lessons about the first Easter, and Jesus' return to his disciples. The theme is "Jesus gives us new life." From April 15<sup>th</sup> through April 29<sup>th</sup>, the children will learn about Paul and Silas in jail, with the theme "We worship God". During May, we will learn how we can help others, by listening to stories from 2 Kings.

The Nursery is always ready for new little guests, but we could use your help. **Lynn Justice** is seeking warm arms and sharp eyes to help with the tiniest ones in our congregation. Talk to her or to me about dedicating an hour a month to the ministry of babies and toddlers!

Continue to be the wonderful welcoming family that you are by greeting new families and helping them find their way. If they need help you can't provide, please guide them to an usher, or to me!

### Prayer and Healing

May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the National Day of Prayer. The Continental Congress first called the colonies to prayer in 1775 as a new nation was being born. A national day was set aside first in 1952, and then permanently set as the first Thursday in May in 1988 by President Reagan. Watch for an upcoming prayer event on Thursday May 3<sup>rd</sup> to join with the nation as we pray together.

Continue to pray for your Pastor Nominating Committee! They are dedicating hours and hours of time seeking the right match for us. Ask for God's guidance and blessing on them, and for the pastor who is coming to us.

We are looking for Prayer Team members who can donate time in the Prayer Room on a Sunday morning to pray with those in need. Contact **Robin** or myself.

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## Rebecca Chase (cont.)

Don't forget about our MONTHLY Prayer Walk on the THIRD Saturday of the month. Non-walkers also welcome - in the chapel. Come at 9:30am for refreshment and prayer! April 21<sup>st</sup> & May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Please get in touch with your Deacon if you are heading to the hospital, need prayer, need communion, or want to keep your church family updated on anything. Your Deacon is such a wonderful resource! If you don't know who your Deacon is, please call Ann Keirns in the office, or Wayne Matzen, Deacon Moderator.

### Equipping God's Church *The HUB: The Hands United for the Body*

I am working with the many ministry teams and elders to create a central resource of ministry opportunities which we are calling The HUB. The team and I will also be working with YOU to discover your gifts, dreams,

burdens and joys. For all ministers of God, there is a place where you feel your heart is full when you serve there.

- Worship Team (Musician, Sound Assistant, Visuals Assistant, Choir Member, Greeter, Prayer Team, Emergency Response Team Member, Usher, Lay Leader)
- Deacons' Assistance Team (Sunday Transportation, Memorial Service Assistant, Prayer Chain Member, Home Communion, Chancel Assistant)
- Connections Team (Kitchen Angel, Congregational Events, Hospitality, Newcomer's Lunch, Greeter, Visitor Connector, HUB Ministry)
- Administration Team (Offering Counter, Landscaping Assistant, Office Assistant, Project Assistant, Attendance Recorder)
- Spiritual Growth Team (Small Group Host or Facilitator, 11:00am Adult Ed Teacher, Children's Worship Assistant,

Nursery Aide, Youth Leader)

- Great Commission Team (5<sup>th</sup> Saturday Meals, TS Park Tent, Trips, Monday Night El Puente)
- Come to the HUB (in Fellowship Hall) and see what fills your heart while your hands work for God. Let's unite the body of Christ in assisting God in His Kingdom!

### *What you may not know...*

Rebecca goes to Beginnings & Beyond Preschool each Thursday to tell Bible stories using Godly Play, an imaginative method for presenting Scripture stories to children. Each story has its own tray on the shelf, with pieces that represent people, places, and concepts. The presentation ends with a time of wondering. The children can take the story out any time during their work time to retell it. It is the perfect Christian curriculum for the Montessori Method taught in the school.



## The Great Commission Team

### Two Opportunities to Serve!

Service Worship Day is changing. Its new name is Community Service Day and will be on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The congregation will have the opportunity to participate in a service project. We will have these opportunities to serve:

- Prayer Walk at 9:30am
- Monument Crisis Center
- Friends-at-Home visitations (pre-arranged time, preferably in morning)
- Singing at Heritage/Towers and/or assisted care place
- Gift-A-Gallon - can help in two

ways: bringing needed supplies; putting together the Gallon Bags

- Church Buildings Beautification
- Sign-ups will begin April 8<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact **Susan Koester**, 675-1156.

### Winter Nights

First Presbyterian Concord is scheduled to co-host again this year at St. Andrews Presbyterian in Pleasant Hill. This year we are covering 2 weekday overnights on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be providing afternoon snacks and dinner, supervision of the children, help

with tutoring and someone to stay overnight (as backup to the overnight staff person) and overseeing breakfast. We would also like to provide a short evening activity both nights. Sign-ups will begin April 18<sup>th</sup>. If you are part of a small group, perhaps your group can consider doing an activity or one of the dinners, which will need to be prepared on site following the temporary County rules for food preparation for members and guests. For more information, contact **Maren Stanczak**, 408-5930.



## Uganda 2018

### Uganda Intergenerational Mission Trip and Rummage Sale

This summer between June 28<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup> is the annual intergenerational mission trip to Uganda for **Raise the Roof Academy**. **Robin Stearns** will be joined by former FPCC youth **Esther Chin** and **Sophia Hansen** to spread the love of Christ through a fun week of Vacation Bible School in rural Uganda at Raise the Roof Academy. To help raise funds we will be having a rummage sale on Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for donations such as clothing, kitchen supplies, toys, and home decor all in usable sellable condition. Please contact Robin Stearns at [RobinLStearns@msn.com](mailto:RobinLStearns@msn.com) or 925-685-7916 for donations or questions.

#### Gift-A-Gallon and Teacher Gifts

Gift a Gallon is a way to provide practical items for hygiene care, send love, and uplift Raise the Roof Academy students and other community children in Uganda during the RTRA Rhino Kid's Summer Camp. You and your family can make a big difference in the life of a child with a small, gallon-sized gift. There are three ways you can participate. First, build your own bag and bring it down to FPCC on Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Second, come to FPCC on April 21<sup>st</sup>, and during the Community Service Day help pack bags. Finally, help with donations of supplies for the April 21<sup>st</sup> service day. Drop off items listed below to FPCC by Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup>.

For teachers we are looking for donations of mens' ties and womens' jewelry. It is a blessing when they receive such simple gifts.



#### SOUNDS AWESOME WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

- Choose to provide a Gallon Gift for your sponsored child or an unsponsored boy or girl.
- Go shopping! We encourage starting with the basics on the list, and then you can add in a fun gift if space allows.
- Fit everything into one gallon-sized storage bag per child. It must be able to zip close.
- Personalize with a letter and photo. Let your child know who you are!
- Include a \$7 check to RTRA for shipping and handling.
- Place check, card, and photo in an unsealed envelope in your bag.
- Fill out the info card. Detach and insert into your bag.
- Turn in your Gallon Gift to FPCC by the June 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline, or mail it directly to RTRA, PO Box 92216, Nashville TN 37209 by June 8<sup>th</sup>

#### Shopping List Basics:

- 1 Toothbrush with case
- 2 Travel-size toothpastes
- 1 Washcloth
- 1 Bar of soap
- 1 Nail clipper
- 1 Pack of crayons
- 1 Small coloring book or notebook
- 2 Pencils & sharpener
- 1 T-shirt or dress
- Underwear
- Dark colored socks

#### Ideas for fun extra items:

- Jump rope
- Doll
- Toy car/truck
- Yo-yo
- Sports bra
- Solar calculator
- Stickers
- Flashlight with batteries
- Shoelaces
- Bracelet or necklace
- Hard plastic bottle
- Hard candies in separate small bag

#### Please do not include:

Used or damaged items, cash, war-related items (toy guns, knives or army men), chocolate, food, liquids, lotions, medications, vitamins, breakable items such as snow-globes or glass containers, aerosol cans, balloons, hair accessories or hair brushes.

#### Tips & Tricks:

- Remove extra packaging to save space.
- Children's clothing sizes correspond closely to age.
- The kids love practical items, so please keep the toy and novelty items to a minimum





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
C O N C O R D

1965 Colfax St., Concord, CA 94520

**Change Service Requested**

## ***First Press***

**Deadline for April/May Issue:  
Monday, May 28, 2018**

*Thank you for your contribution.  
Submit all news in writing. Digital  
photos are also welcome as long as  
we may use them on our website.  
Please contact the church office  
with address changes!*

### ***Office Hours!***

Monday, Wed. & Thursday  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Tuesday  
11:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Closed Friday

### ***Mission Vision & Values***

#### **Our Mission:**

*Love God, Love People ... Serve*

#### **Vision:**

*As a community hub, connect  
with the needs of people, joyfully  
sharing Jesus and serving where  
God calls.*

#### **Values:**

*Guided by Scripture and prayer,  
we are a welcoming place  
where people, service,  
and God's love meet.*

*Focused on hospitality,  
inclusiveness, and spiritual gifts,  
we worship God with delight.*

*Unified in Jesus Christ,  
we are led by the Holy Spirit  
to invite, engage, and share  
God's Truth with each other,  
our community and the world.*

## ***All Parish Luncheon – April 29***

The planning has begun for the annual All Parish luncheon which is scheduled this year for 12 noon on Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup> at the church. You will be receiving a notification directly from your deacon soon. For those of you who have not attended in the past, this is a great opportunity not only to get to know your deacon better but to meet other members of your parish who probably live in your neighborhood since the parishes are organized geographically. The deacon board has been reorganized to 9 parishes so you may have a different deacon and even be in a new parish versus last year. Please notify your deacon no later than Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup> of your intent to come so we can plan properly for the food.

### ***First Press Distribution***

The primary distribution of First Press is electronic via e-mail. If you did not receive this and would like to be added to the electronic distribution please email [FirstPress@fpccconcord.org](mailto:FirstPress@fpccconcord.org). A pdf copy is also available on the FPCCConcord.org website, and a limited number of paper copies will be available in the Narthex and office. We can also mail copies to those who do not have access electronically and who cannot make it to church. Please call the office to request this service.