

Pastor Notes

by Darryl McCollum, CLP

I am so excited to be sharing the teaching and preaching with Ann and some wonderful guests during this season between Pastor Toby and Pastor ??? – The PNC is diligently screening candidates to find the pastor God is calling to lead us in to the future.

In the meantime, just know that this church is in remarkably capable hands. The session and staff are not only amazing, but they are excited about moving forward on many items which they discern as God's calling for our little corner of God's Kingdom. We covet your prayers, your affirmations, but above all your voice, as we build the future together. We aren't standing still waiting for a new pastor to make things happen. We are perfectly suited to take action now for the Kingdom. We have amazing leadership in our session, our church family is solid, we show potential for growth each week, we are preaching and teaching the gospel, and most importantly we are building the Kingdom by loving God, loving people, and serving where called. I just got goose bumps

as I wrote that, but it's because I believe it with all my heart.

One very tangible way for each of us to participate in the life of our family is to come alongside the pastors and CLP's that will be teaching each week. As an experiment, Ann and I thought it would be interesting to list the Lectionary readings for the following week in the order of worship each Sunday. The lectionary is a pre-selected group of scriptures that follow a three-year cycle. It is used by many churches to develop the Sunday service. The spiritual statement made when many thousands of churches teach on the same topic on the same day is powerful.

There are four categories of readings:

1. Reading One is a passage from the Old Testament and a Psalm.
2. Alt Reading One is sometimes blank or sometimes is an Old Testament passage and a Psalm.
3. Reading Two is a New Testament reading or Epistle.

4. Reading Three is a Gospel account.

My hope is that many of you will take time from your week to immerse yourself in the Word. I used the word "immerse" in my sermon on Aug 26th intentionally because I really believe that immersion in Christ, whether that be in prayer, Scripture, and/or fellowship with each other, is the best way to learn what it means to be a follower of Christ. If you can read them all – GREAT. If not, please read the New Testament and Gospel readings, since those will primarily be where the sermon content comes from.

I could not be more joy-filled at the prospect of helping to bridge the gap between senior pastors. There are exciting things happening and glorious days ahead, but we can't get to where God is calling us without every one of our FPCC family. I leave you with the commandment that Christ gave to us – "Love one another as I have loved you" - Jesus

In Christ's Love – Darryl †

PC(USA) Co-Moderator Visits FPCC

Our guest preacher on Sunday, September 9th will be the Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Pastor Cindy was elected Co-Moderator last June at the beginning of the 223rd General Assembly, and will serve in this position through 2020. She is visiting San Francisco Presbytery to attend a series of events, including the September 11th Presbytery meeting. We are first on her schedule. After attending our 10:00am worship service, Pastor Cindy will attend worship at the 12:30pm Casa de Dios Roca de Jacob service in our sanctuary, in support of CDRJ being one of the PC(USA)'s 1001 New Worshiping Community churches.

PC(USA) Moderators have nation-wide responsibility for the denomination during their two years of service, so it is an honor for the Co-Moderator to worship with us while she is visiting San Francisco Presbytery.

Cindy is a graduate of Whitworth College and Austin Presbyterian Seminary, ordained as a teaching elder in 1999; a four year reservist in the Navy with the Chaplain Candidate Program; and has been pastor of congregations in Ohio and Massachusetts. She currently serves as the Resource Presbyter for the Presbyteries of Boston and Northern New England. Cindy is married to the Rev. Eric Markman, with two stepdaughters, Lizzy & Cahaley. †

From the Desk of Rebecca Chase

Director of Community Care

Small Groups

“Living into our calling to follow Jesus by gathering into small groups to love, pray, and care for each other, disciple each other on our spiritual journeys, and serve our community together.”

The leadership of different FPCC community groups met for dinner and recognition on Friday August 10th – this Director is immensely grateful for the efforts that these leaders make to ensure that their group meets regularly, keeps connected, and has food and beverages handy!

Current Small Groups are shown at the right.

- *The Wired Word* is a curriculum which takes the latest news stories and uses supporting Bible passages to work through the issues that come up.
- *Follow* is an eight-week DVD curriculum examining where Jesus says to follow Him. We'll talk about what this means for us.
- *Simply the Story* is a method of telling stories from the Bible in a way that can be useful for all cultures and those new to hearing the Bible.

Other Bible Study Groups which regularly meet are also shown in the table at the right.

If you want to be in a group, but you need a different day, let me know! I also have all sorts of helpful tools and trainings available to get a group going - you just need a space to host! Partnering with someone works really well.

Make sure to get in touch with me or check at the ASK ME booth about current and new offerings!

Small Groups Meeting Schedule

Tuesdays <i>The Wired Word</i>	6:30 pm	Fireside Rm	Darryl McCollum
Wednesdays <i>Follow</i>	6:30 pm	Fellowship Hall	Rebecca Chase
Wednesday bi-wk <i>The Wired Word</i>	7:00 pm	Clayton	Jim & Marilyn W
Thursdays <i>Simply the Story</i>	TBA	Baypoint	Ruth Stevenson
Other Bible Study Groups			
Tuesdays (men)	6:45 am	Digger's Diner	David Dowell
Wednesdays	1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Fireside Rm	LaVerne Herren
1 st Thursdays (women Circle IV)	11:00 am - 2:00 pm	Varies	Anna Belle Horgan & Joanne Myers
2 nd Mondays	10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Fireside Rm	Catherine Longoria

Children's Worship & Education

Happy Autumn! Special Event planned for Saturday, September 29th: Parents' Night Out from 5:30pm to 8:30pm!! The theme is Harvest. This event will be open for 3 to 11 year-olds. We are looking for assistants! RSVP for your child/grandchild to Rebecca by Tuesday September 25th.

The Children's Ministry Team is proud to welcome several new leaders and assistants to the Children's Worship Team: Diana Stearns (September leader) and Hilda Rodriguez (October leader), and Marie Asistin, Abby Ford, and Sheila Frey (assistants). Also leading will be Marilyn (December). Additional support will come from Ann Johnson and Diane Nickerson.

Again, thanks to Carrie Smith and Marilyn Wollenweber for leading through the summer They have been taking turns, month by month, leading the Children's Worship downstairs. We felt there was a need for some consistency for these little ones.

The Nursery is really getting ready for new little guests now! 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

Continue to pray for your Pastor Nominating Committee! They are dedicating hours and hours of time seeking the right match for us. They are getting SO CLOSE, but keep praying! 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 Stearns** or myself.

Continued Next Page

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! September 15th is the third Saturday and also PRAISE IN THE PARK! Also

walk with us on October 20th.

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.

Rebecca Chase †

The Great Commission Team – Making a Difference

Gifts Around the World Coming October 21 and 28

Come to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, October 21st or 28th, and purchase a gift card that will buy a sweater for a little Dalit boy in India that he will need to wear to his unheated school, or books for a child at the Raise the Roof Academy in Uganda, or a lunch pack for a child living in poverty in Contra Costa County. The gift cards you buy come with a Christmas card you can give to a friend or family member. Many of us have reached the stage where we have too much stuff. Receiving this as a gift will be greatly appreciated by both the recipients of the card and of the actual gift. There will be several tables so you can checkout all the possible gifts that can be given.

Love People and Serve

Matthew 25:37 - "*Lord, when did we see you hungry and thirsty?...*" "*As you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it to me*". Members and friends of FPCC have a number of different opportunities to help the less fortunate, listed below. If you cannot help physically, you can always pray!

Whenever a month has a fifth Saturday, we serve at least 90 people at the homeless shelter for singles on Arnold Industrial Way. Once a year we prepare and serve up to 35 family members at the Diablo View Family Shelter in Martinez for one week (week-nights). We have committed to provide one meal a year for El Puente, Pat Noonan's organization that works with

Christian teens. 25 teens (at least half of them football players) meet on Monday nights.

We also support SHARE, a local food pantry, with donations several times a year, and this year have been collecting nonperishable food each week during the summer to supplement during the portion of the year when families with children in school do not have the meals available at schools to supplement their family food budget.

Contra Costa County has established a regulation that church kitchens where food is prepared for shelters must pass inspection. FPCC has started the inspection process, but not yet completed it. So for the September dinner at the singles shelter, we can accept donations of drinks and purchased desserts, but need cash donations to supplement the budgeted amount to purchase the main meal. We especially need servers. Watch for the table in the Fellowship Hall to sign up.

Winter Nights is a program that gives homeless families a safe place to live from October to the first week in June. Every two weeks, families go to a welcoming faith community where they are given breakfast and dinner and sleep in tents provided with sleeping bags and mattresses. In the evening the adults prepare a sack lunch for themselves and their children for the next day, as needed. In the morning they leave by seven o'clock for work, school, or the Oasis Center at St Vincent de Paul in Pittsburg, which has showers, laundry facilities and computers.

The adults who are looking for work get help to guide them through the application process, resumes and GED prep. In the evening, tutors and volunteers help the children with homework. The churches also provide some activities for the families.

Last year all the adults were able to find jobs, with the exception of one woman who has a young child with Asbergers for whom a babysitter could not be found. A number of the families were able to get into housing. Those who couldn't were referred to more permanent shelters, went to friends or family or back to their cars. Last year's numbers: 24 families (32 adults and 50 children) were helped.

What can you do? Pray that housing can be found for the homeless. Pray for the children who are living on the streets or in cars. Our church serves as co-hosts at St. Andrews Presbyterian. We are responsible for 2 days – dinner and breakfast, volunteers for homework and supervision and overnight. Food may be prepared there, but preparers and servers are needed. The exact dates we will serve during the first two weeks of May in 2019 will be determined later. Watch for sign-ups in April.

Great Commission Team contacts for more information are as follows: **Susan Lawson** (285-4430) for Gifts around the World, El Puente and Winter Nights, **Ann Johnson** (676-4330) for homeless dinners, Judith Snider for SHARE (695-5736) or **Maren Stanczak** (408-5930) for Winter Nights. †

Worship & Music

by Andrew Cardiasmenos – Director of Worship & Music

After a well-deserved break for the summer, the choir is enthusiastic to start another new season in the Fall! Our first Sunday in worship will be September 9th. I encourage anyone who loves to sing to come join us at rehearsals Thursday nights, 7:15 – 8:45pm. We always sing for the glory of God and have a lot of fun doing it too! Musical styles range from Classical to Gospel, to keep it fresh and interesting, but also to give all choir members the opportunity to sing their favorites.

As worship leaders we inspire everyone to connect with God through our singing – if you're interested in being a part of our choir family, please don't hesitate to contact me.

The choir is also excited about our annual retreat in Bodega Bay, now just around the corner from October 19th through 21st. We enjoy working on music for the Christmas season, brushing up on our technique and having wonderful fellowship together in such a beautiful setting!

Worship goals for the coming months include continuing to teach new contemporary hymns to the congregation, composing music, bringing in more instrumentalists, and strengthening the size of the choir. I also plan to reflect creatively on our worship services so they can be as inspirational as possible.

I am excited to continue working with everyone here at First Pres!

Andrew †

Consecration Sunday is Coming – October 28th

by the Finance Ministry Team

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a portion of their incomes.

Our congregation's Finance Team has chosen again this year to continue the Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the Biblical and Spiritual principles of generous giving in our Stewardship Awareness emphasis.

Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who

should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What portion of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday we are asking our members and regular attendees to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We understand that some may be strongly opposed to completing a card, but the Service will be done in such a way that no one will feel

embarrassment if they choose not to fill out an estimate of giving card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We encourage your prayers and participation in Stewardship Awareness events leading up to Consecration Sunday on October 28th. We will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, but we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to participate in the Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

†

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." - 1 Peter 4:10

Family News

Grieving:

David Dowell and his family on the death of granddaughter, Mariah, on Saturday, June 2nd. Mariah was a college student at Oregon State and the daughter of David's son, Loren, who lives in Canby, Oregon.

Ann Keirns and her family on the passing of Ann's uncle Owen Thomas.

Family and friends of **Betty Jean Myers**, a long-time member who passed away on June 16th. A memorial service was held at the Care Center of Rossmoor on June 25th.

Chantal Lund, **Harold Lund's** daughter, is grieving the loss of her great-grandmother Vivienne, who passed away July 6th.

Prayers and Praises:

Congratulations and praises to Toby and Judy Nelson as they celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 5th, and warm wishes as they embark on a new phase of their journey together. A huge Thank You to Pastor Toby for his leadership and service here at FPCC for the past 18 months.

We bid adieu to Gary and Ann Rowe as they move to Riverbank, California to be close to family.

Their final Sunday with us was July 1st but they did return for Toby and Judy's farewell on August 5th, which gave us a chance to recognize them and bid them a fond farewell.

Thank You:

From Eric, Debbie and Sophia Hansen: We wish to tell everyone how extremely grateful we are for all the prayers, encouragement and love we have been blessed with these recent few months.

The faithful and fervent prayers for Eric (and our family) throughout his heart attack experience, we are certain, continue to make a profound difference in his miraculous recovery.

The selfless and generous giving of time, funds, and donated goods, supporting the *Raise the Roof* summer mission trip to Uganda, was precious and life-changing.

The outpouring of compassion and love gifts for Sophia on her graduation confirmed her efforts in the warmest and most beautiful way.

Thank You First Presbyterian Church - *Love, The Hansens*



Praise In The Park

September 15th Noon-9pm

Don't miss this fantastic free event! Listen to performances by several local Christian praise groups, highlighted by Micah Tyler, the fan's nominee for Breakout Single on K-LOVE radio for his song "Different". †

Deacons

By Moderator Wayne Matzen

What is a Deacon? The ministry of a deacon is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Each person is assigned to a parish with a deacon, and it is our mission to be there for each one of you. With no pastor currently, we will do our best to be there as you face life's challenges. Give us a call if you need help. Also, if you feel you would like to explore the opportunity to serve as a deacon, please contact any of our deacons to discuss this further. Blessings to each of you as we start our fall season.



September Birthdays

- 3 Darryl McCollum
- 4 Carol Young
- 9 Julie Siddall
- 11 Sue Hooy
- 12 Susan Koester
- 14 Linda Fribley
- 19 Gary Beck
Jim King
- 21 Laurie Erickson-Gomez
- 22 Karl Stanczak
- 23 Wayne Matzen
Rebecca Chase
- 24 Casey Fribley
Diane Innocent
- 25 Ruth Mejia
- 28 Emma Miller

October Birthdays

- 1 Frank Fribley
Bill Selb
- 3 Hilda Rodriguez
- 4 Maren Stanczak
- 6 Carrie Smith
- 8 Kime Smith, III
- 9 Lisa Gonzalez
- 15 David Dowell
Ayako Rose
- 21 Kimi Dowell
Laurel Fribley
- 26 Luella Beck
- 27 Alice Irving
- 29 Jim Wagner

FPCC Staff

Darryl McCollum	Certified Lay Pastor
Ann Keirns	Certified Lay Pastor and Administrator
Andrew Cardiasmenos	Director of Music & Worship
Rebecca Chase	Director of Community Care
Lisa Gonzalez	Administrative Coordinator
Susan Soehner	Organist
Harold Lund	Custodian & Night Watchman



1965 Colfax St., Concord, CA 94520

Change Service Requested

First Press

**Deadline for Nov/Dec/Jan Issue:
Monday, October 22, 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.*



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@fpconcord.org. A pdf copy is also available on the FPConcord.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.