



FIRST PRESS EXPRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Concord, California

October 2022

OKTOBERFEST – You are invited



Join with us on October 29th for a fun and exciting Oktoberfest celebration. With decorations depicting the Oktoberfest theme, it will feature a selection of delicious German foods and special Oktoberfest music. There will be fun for everyone, including activities for children.

The festivities will begin at 4:30 PM. Be sure to sign up in advance at the sign-up table during the Sunday coffee time.

Donations are suggested: \$5.00 for singles and \$8.00 for families.

Don't Forget - Giving Sunday October 9th (This coming Sunday)

“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

It's that time of year again, when Session starts setting budgets and planning for the following year. And as part of this planning Session estimates how much the congregation will be able to contribute with their tithes and offerings.

This coming Sunday we will ask the congregation to complete an “Estimate of Giving” card and submit it to God. This is not a “pledge.” We know that circumstances change, and it isn't always possible to give what we want to give. But it does provide us an estimate that we can use during budget time.

Our giving is not just something we do so the church can meet its budgets. Giving to God is an act of faith and devotion, and an acknowledgement that we owe God for our very lives and for everything we have. We give “with a grateful heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion.” Our giving is an opportunity to show God our love.

That said, First Presbyterian depends on your giving to continue carrying out God's mission here in Concord. The reality is that in 2022 our giving has fallen behind last year, in part due to Covid, and is starting to affect our ability to serve you and our community. In addition, we have had some large and unexpected expenditures this year to maintain our property, including replacement of the heating and cooling system in the Sanctuary and our planned replacement of the T-Coil system in the Sanctuary.

As Paul notes in Corinthians, we would like to have ***“all sufficiency in everything so that we may have “an abundance for every good deed.”***

So, please, be sure to attend church on Giving Sunday October 9th, and be ready to complete your Estimate of Giving card and celebrate God's good grace in our lives.

By David Stearns

Highlights of September Session Meeting



Opening Prayer – Darryl McCollum, Moderator

Confirmation of E-Votes

The following are e-votes during the month since the last Session meeting that were confirmed:

Mission Team's Motion to authorize CLP DeVonn Powers to fundraise for her September 22 Mission Trip to the Holy Land. Motion passed.

Approval of the terms of the consulting agreement with the Rev. Dr. Carol Miles to serve as a Ministry Coach and to provide pastoral support to our Transition Partners from August 9, 2022 through January 31, 2023, with a provision for extension, if necessary. Motion passed.

Additional Motion:

To change the November Session meeting date from November 15 to November 8 to avoid conflict with the meeting of the San Francisco Presbytery's November 15 meeting.

Moderator's Report – CLP Darryl McCollum

- **Attendance at Deacon's Luncheon** by CLP's Darryl McCollum and Rebecca Chase. Darryl shared the details of this worthwhile meeting.
- **Mission Study Team update.** Assignments have been given to Team members, and progress is being made. The goal for completion is November 30.
- **Church Marketing arrangements** – Current contract of our current media marketing company expires in October. A new firm named ChurchCandy comes highly recommended and is being considered. This firm uses the latest technology to not only manage and significantly enhance the church's social media platforms, but to track, evaluate and maintain continuous connections with prospects. No contract would be required. No action was taken at this time.

- **FPCC's Safe Church Policy** – There was extensive discussion of the proposed updating of the Safe Church Policy. Work will continue, and approval is expected at the next meeting.

Ministry Team/Committee Reports

Finance – David Stearns

- The budget process is underway. Departmental submissions are due at least a week before the October Session meeting, which meeting is October 18.
- A preliminary budget summary to be presented at next Session meeting
- Shortfall of giving through August. Departments asked to revise current year budgets.
- Giving Sunday – October 9. This is where members and donors are asked to estimate giving for 2023. Notices will be sent out by regular mail.

Property Management – David Stearns for Josh Maitland

- The lights above choir in Sanctuary are not working. The problem is being studied.
- Two heating/air conditioning units are still not repaired. A 3rd unit now has a frozen condenser but can produce heat.
- The refrigerator in kitchen repaired. Additional work is contemplated.

Personnel – Jon Myers

A revision of Employees' Handbook is underway.

Special Projects – Jim Whitfield

A letter is being sent to LCA Architects requesting the postponing of a study contemplated which would identify options for the best use of our facilities.

Connections – Next big event is the Oktoberfest Celebration (see separate article)

Next Session Meeting: 7 pm on October 18, 2022.

By David Dowell



Calendar

- Oct 9 Giving Sunday – bring your estimate cards
- Oct 19 6:30 PM Come and See Class (Soup Dinner)
- Oct 29 Oktoberfest celebration and dinner at the Church
- Oct 29 Choir retreat (on campus)
- Dec 11 Christmas Concert (Time TBD)

FPCC Staff

Darryl McCollum, CLP
 Rebecca Chase, CLP
 DeVonn Powers, CLP
 Lisa Justice, Student Pastor
 Andrew Cardiasmenos
 Robin Stearns
 Linde Weber
 Harold Lund

Ministry Partner
 Ministry Partner
 Ministry Partner
 Ministry Partner
 Director, Music & Worship
 Preschool Director
 Financial and Human Resources Specialist
 Custodian & Night Watchman

David Dowell

Acting Editor, First Press and *Express*



Editor's Note: First Press *Express* is a publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Concord, California, printed several times each year.