

FIRST PRESS EXPRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Concord, California

December 2022



Hark the Herald! A Christmas Choir Concert



Please join us for a very exciting concert on Sunday, December 11th at 7PM. It will feature our church choir, guest vocal soloists, a brass quintet, and percussion! You definitely don't want to miss all of this amazing talent.

The concert program is broken up into three subsections: Supplication, Triumph, and Impact. The first section focuses on the anticipation of Jesus coming into the world, as well as the longing for a Savior to bring peace to the world. During this time, the choir and instrumentalists will sing a bold rendition of *O Come O Come Emmanuel* arranged by Craig Curry, and

Andrew's wife Jessie will sing the beautiful Menken solo from the Hunchback of Notre Dame, *God Help the Outcasts*. In the triumph section, Jesus is Born at Christmas and there is celebration and jubilation! Allen Pote's exuberant *Glory to God in the Highest* and the soulful *Holy is the Newborn Child* capture the glory of Jesus' birth. Jessica McKenzie, soprano, will sing Schubert's angelic *Ave Maria*. Finally, in the Impact section, the music shifts to focus on what Christ means in our lives and how he has transformed our worldview. The centerpiece of this section is the energetic *Lord You are Our Life*, by Stuart Dauermann, featuring the choir with full brass and percussion for a theatrical finish.

Admission is free, with an optional free-will offering to support the music program at FPCC. A reception with cookies and drinks will follow the concert. We hope to see you there. It is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit and celebrate the season! Bring your entire family!

Christmas Eve Service



Our family-friendly Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24 at 4 PM will offer a "Godly Play" version of "Lessons & Carols". You won't want to miss this interactive exploration of the classic nativity story. All these festivities will culminate with a Christmas Day worship service with a very special carol Sing during coffee hour, thanks to our devoted accompanist, Lee Borden. Pick out your favorite carol because Lee will be taking requests!

Christmas Calendar at FPCC



Dec 11 7:00 PM	Christmas Concert
Dec 24 4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
Dec 25 10:00 AM	Christmas Day Service
Dec 26	Last day to make your Christmas offering



Christmas Offering for Monument Crisis Center

Every year the Mission Team selects one of our supported mission agencies to receive a special Christmas offering. This year we are doing this together with the Clayton Valley / Concord Sunrise Rotary Club in order to have a greater impact on the Monument Crisis Center's Holiday Food Box program. Our job is to help finance this massive project. Please consider contributing to this worthwhile community effort between now and December 26 or sooner. Special Christmas offering envelopes are available in the pew rack or in the Narthex. You can also donate by check or by Zelle and writing "Christmas Offering" on the memo line.

Hurry to Get a Great 2022 Tax Break

The income tax law passed in 2017 retained a tax break that has been around for several years, but it's more attractive now, since the new tax law roughly doubled the Standard Deduction effective in 2018, and many people don't itemize their deductions, therefore don't have their regular contribution deduction. To get a deduction the only qualifications are: 1.) You must contribute from a Traditional IRA directly to the charity, and 2.) You must be over 72 years old.

As you probably know, the money contributed to a Traditional IRA was originally untaxed, but it is taxed as ordinary income when withdrawn. At 72 years of age you are even required start to make mandatory withdrawals. The yearly Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) starts small, at 3.65% of your IRA balance at age 72, but goes to 8.77% at age 90.

The good news is that you can distribute up to a maximum of \$100,000 per year to a qualified charitable 501(c)(3) organization, such as FPCC and it will not be counted as taxable income. The transfer, called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), must be made directly from your IRA to the charity. Most people request the IRA Custodian to make a check payable to the charity and mail it to your home. That way you can detach and retain the check stub to document that it was a direct transfer. Then all you have to do is put it in the offering plate.

Custodians differ on the number of withdrawals they allow. Some allow monthly, some quarterly and some annually. Check with your IRA Custodian to find out. FPCC has no requirement on the frequency of distributions.

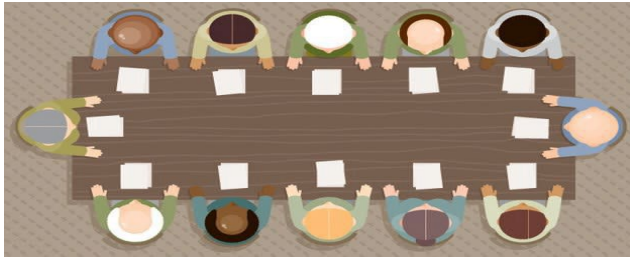
BUT HURRY IF YOU WANT THAT TAX BREAK IN 2022 – Check now with your IRA Custodian to complete a distribution, to a charity, such as FPCC, before the end of 2022.

NOTE: Distributions to donor-advised funds do not qualify for this tax break. Also, funds paid directly to you, rather than the charity, and which you then give to a charity do not qualify as a tax free Qualified Charitable Distribution but can be deducted if you itemize deductions.

Complicated? A little! If you are interested or have any questions, please free to contact me.

By Vern Hance

Highlights of November Session Meeting



Approval of Minutes and clerks report – Elder Jon Myers

Consent Motion – Mission Team requests Session to approve designating the Christmas Offering this year to help fund the Rotary Foundation project to provide Christmas food baskets for the Monument Crisis Center distribution to the needy at Christmastime.

Moderator's Report - CLP DeVonn Powers

New Members - Elders Jim Whitfield, David Stearns, Jon Myers, and Ministry Partner CLP Darryl McCollum reported on their interviews with four potential new members who participated in FPCC's Come & See (new members') Class. Session voted to accept Glen and Tanya Arnold, Charles Dalton, and Dean James into membership.

Mission Study Team update - CLP Darryl McCollum reported that the Mission Study Team continues to meet weekly to update FPCC's 2017 80-page Mission Study. When completed, this updated report will be shared with the congregation and submitted to Presbytery for their approval – a requirement before FPCC can create a new Pastor Nominating Committee.

Social Media and Advertising - CLP Darryl McCollum is preparing for a meeting with FPCC's new social media consultant, "Church Candy", a firm that is being considered to replace our current marketing firm.

Finance – Finance Chair, Elder David Stearns, reported on additional items added to the draft 2023 FPCC Budget discussed last month: funding for the first year of a Pastor Nominating Committee, funding of repairs to the sanctuary lighting, and adjustments to the 2023 Personnel Budget, which includes a 3% cost of living increase. Session voted to approve the revised budget.

Property Management – In the absence of Elder Josh Maitland, CLP Darryl McCollum reported on the planned December 3rd church-wide cleanup. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Connections Team – Elder Jim Whitfield reported on Oktoberfest, and the Pancake Breakfast, as well as the upcoming Christmas Concert and reception afterwards.

Worship & Music – (From the minutes in absence of Elder Ron Potts) The choir retreat was held on October 19, and the choir subsequently attended and sang at the Oktoberfest celebration. The Christmas Eve service will be held at 4 PM on December 24 and will feature the Grateful Heart Band.

Missions – (From the minutes in absence of Elder Carlos Flores) The Christmas activities this year will feature the Giving Tree, and a Christmas Offering dedicated to the Monument "Crisis Center Holiday Food Distribution" and will be in conjunction with the Clayton / Concord Rotary Club.

Communications – Elder David Dowell reported that the First Press will be out in early December.

By David Dowell

Our New Receptionist

Welcome to Jasmyn Barkley, our new church receptionist. This may be a surprise, since the hiring happened quickly, but now Jasmyn is officially on board. Be sure to stop by and say "hello." Jasmyn will be handling phones, walk-in traffic, mail and other jobs in the office.

Featured Biography – Dennis and Anna Belle Horgan

When this tribute was originally written, Dennis was fighting for his life with an aggressive blood cancer. He and Anna Belle put their faith and trust in God's hands, and Dennis went home to be with his Lord the morning of November 28. These two amazing people have individually had a tremendous impact on our church. Here are some facts that will fill you with gratitude and inspire you. Dennis' life stands as a memorial to a faithful servant of God!

Anna Belle Colvin Horgan was born in Lodi, CA. (Don Colvin is Anna Belle's first cousin.) She attended San Jose State University, majoring in Homemaking Education. Fortunately, she minored in science and math as you will see. It was "love in first sight" for Dennis when as a student he sighted her working at a campus switchboard while he was guarding the campus. Dennis majored in law enforcement at San Jose, but eventually got his BA in Public Administration at San Francisco State University. He, although born in San Francisco, grew up in San Jose. They were married on July 21, 1963. They lived in Sunnyvale and San Jose before settling in Concord in 1970. Dennis was a sergeant and eventually a lieutenant in the Pleasant Hill Police Department for 31 ½ years, retiring in 2002. Anna Belle taught high school home economics for 2 ½ years in early marriage and then did substitute teaching in 24 schools in 3 years in Concord and then settled into Pine Hollow Middle School, teaching math for 17 years.

Their son, Donald, was born in 1966 and is the father of Austin and Lindsay. He married Celeste two years ago here at First Presbyterian. Barbie was born in 1969, married Ken, and is the stepmother to Tiffany and Trevor, who then added three more young children to the Horgan family.

The Horgan family joined our church in 1971 and have been pillars ever since. Dennis was an Elder for several terms and has served on the Personnel Committee for many years. He has also served as president of the Concord Homes Board (Heritage and Plaza Towers) since 2002. In addition, he served on a pastor search committee. Anna Belle was a Deacon and served as Moderator. During a term as Elder she served as Clerk of the Session, while Bill Azbell and Toby Nelson were pastors. In addition, she served on a previous FPCC preschool board and was president during a time when the preschool had up to 96 children in attendance. She and Dennis have both been finance campaign chairs. She played in the bell choir and both she and Dennis have been active members of the choir for years.

Yes, they still had time for fun! Dennis loved to fish and camp, and they travelled overseas and throughout the United States. They especially looked forward to annual vacations to Oregon and Lake Tahoe. As a photographer, Dennis photographed weddings, took preschool pictures, and took candid shots all around the church. Anna Belle's passion is quilting, and she produces many beautiful and artistic quilts every year. She has taught quilting in her home for 19 years. Several churchwomen are avid pupils of hers, including our former pastor, Mary Naegeli. Anna Belle also has a blue ribbon to show for her prowess as an adult swimmer.

God truly blessed us with over 50 years of unselfish Horgan family service. We thank Him for Dennis' service, and we embrace Anna Belle as she continues her journey of faith with us.

By Beth Byrne

*** Note that a Memorial Service for Dennis is scheduled for December 8 at 1 PM in the Sanctuary.**

Pancake Breakfast Served Nearly 100 People

The Pancake Breakfast held on November 19 was a smashing success. 87 people signed in, but the crowd at the door was so big at times that some folks did not sign in but headed for the food. Many of the residents attended and enjoyed the fine cooking by a crew headed up by Jim Whitfield. Besides Jim the kitchen crew featured Kime Smith and Kime Smith III, Margaret Bachman, Jeremy Martin, and Chris Chapman (Matt's brother). Other key players contributing to the success of the event were Trudy Meigs, Judith Snider, and Matt Chapman. Here are some photos.




FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Free CONCORD PANCAKE BREAKFAST

 Pancakes
Scrambled Eggs
Sausage Links
Bacon
Fresh Fruit
Coffee & Juice



Saturday, November 19
10:00 - 11:30

Come & Join Us
1965 Colfax Street
Concord

RSVP
Matt Chapman
925.877.0745
by: Nov. 12

One Way to Contribute to FPCC



Clunkers4Charity.org & Cars2ndChance.org

Ask About Our
Charity Partner Program

Almost anywhere in the USA!

925-326-5868 cell

2689 Monument Blvd • Concord, CA 94520

Clunkers4Charity@gmail.com

or

Cars2ndChance@gmail.com

Donate a Vehicle Running or Not

Visit Online or Call Today!

Clayton Valley Concord Sunrise Rotary Charitable Fund 501-C3

A number of people at FPCC have taken advantage of the tax break afforded by this program, and the church gets half of the proceeds of the car sale.

This donation process is made available to us through Cars2ndChance.org and Clunkers4Charity.org. This is one other way for our congregation to raise funds. If you need additional information, please contact Clayton Worsdell.

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.

