

# FIRST PRESS EXPRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Concord, California

June 2023

## Lasagna Dinner – Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 PM

**LASAGNA**  
Dinner

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
1965 Colfax Street, Concord, Ca 94520  
SATURDAY JUNE 24 5:00 PM

**Free** Includes Lasagna, Salad, Bread, Drink & Dessert **Buon Appetito**

Seats are limited. Make Reservation by JUNE 21  
Sign up during the coffee time after the Sunday service  
**Volunteers are needed**  
CHOICE OF MEAT AND VEGETABLE LASAGNA

Come join us and enjoy delicious lasagna, salad, and garlic bread together with friends from the Heritage and Towers. We'll get together in the Fellowship Hall for fun, food, and conversation. There will also be cookies and ice cream for dessert.

Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact the office at [fpcc@fpccconcord.org](mailto:fpcc@fpccconcord.org), or call 925-676-7177.

## Highlight on Missions – Tara Chase of Frontier Fellowship



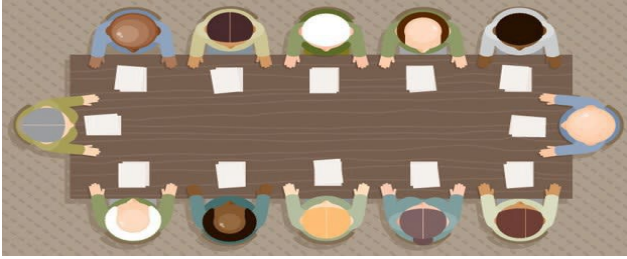
Frontier Fellowship connects with the world's least-reached peoples and places with the Good News of His Kingdom. Through intercultural partnerships, this ministry creates avenues of access to the Gospel. Major areas served include Africa; the Middle East; Central, Southern, and Eastern Asia.

Tara is currently the Director of Communications. In the past, she has partnered in ministry initiatives in Ethiopia, China, and Israel, and has served as a worship leader for over 35 years

Unreached people groups are ethno-linguistic communities with little or no access to the Gospel. Researchers estimate there are over two billion people from more than 6,500 unique groups in the world today who've never heard about Jesus.

“Just as Jesus drew near to us, we move toward those who haven't heard the Good News. We believe there's no greater purpose to which we can commit our time, energy, and resources, and we want to help you explore how God calls you to participate”.

# Summary of Session Meeting on May 16, 2023



## Consent Motion approved:

Session reaffirmed the Session's May 1, 2023 e-Vote approving the Part-Time Interim Pastor Job Description prepared by the Interim Pastor Search Team CLP Rebecca Chase, Deacon Wayne Matzen, and Personnel Chair Elder Jon Myers.

The Session approved the Mission Team's motion as follows:  
Replace the Mission Team's Raise the Roof Academy Gift-A-Gallon Fundraiser (previously approved by Session for May and June 2023) with supplies and cash fundraiser to help Preschool Director Robin Stearns collect teachers' supplies for her RTRA Teachers' training in Uganda. Specific supplies will be identified by Robin no later than May 23. The substitute fundraiser's timing will be between May 28 and June 11.

## Clerk's Report:

### Approvals

The Session approved the Minutes of the April 18, 2023 Session meeting.

The Session approved the April 30, 2023, Clerk's Report.

Communications – the church received a letter from Tim Patterson stating he has been attending a church in Benicia with his daughter's family and plans to join that church later this year.

## Moderator's Report - CLP DeVonn Powers

1. Ordained Commissioned Lay Pastor Renewals. The time for Rebecca's, DeVonn's, and Darryl's three-year CLP renewals is approaching. DeVonn is working with the Presbytery's CLP contact to help get the renewal paperwork in order.
2. Installation of new wiring for the Internet connection in the Fireside Room/Fellowship Hall building has not been performed yet because of a lack of follow-through by Comcast. Alternatives will be considered.
3. CLP Darryl McCollum reported that FPCC's new Mission Study Report was not quite ready for approval at this meeting. It will be presented for Session review and approval at the June or July Session meeting.
4. CLP Darryl McCollum reported that a motion for renewal of FPCC's social media consultant contract with Church Candy will be presented at the June meeting. He handed out a detailed report on the number and types of contacts, as well as the number of new visitors that resulted. Of the 15 new visitors, 11 have become regular attendees. The session agreed that the results to date are very impressive. Consultant costs through May are \$4,250.

5. Rebecca reported on the need to update the Church's sponsorship policy. The current policy still lists groups that are no longer sponsored. The only group currently being sponsored is the Adult Activity Center. Attendance at the Activity Center has declined since it restarted on April 18, which may be due to a lack of access to the kitchen and the resulting inability to prepare food for members during their meetings. Rebecca will talk to the leaders and report back the Session.
6. Presbytery Meeting Report. Elders Jon Myers and David Stearns attended and reported on the May 9 Presbytery meeting.

## Reports

**Deacons** – Sign-ups for the upcoming May 21 Parish Luncheon look very good.

**Finance** – Elder David Stearns presented and reviewed with Session the revised FPCC Finance Policy. Updates include: 1) check requests and authorizations can now be made by email and 2) checks can now be signed by one approved person; 3) summary finance reports will continue to be sent to Session monthly, and the 4) detailed line-item reports will be issued quarterly. The Session approved the revision to the policy as amended during this meeting.

**Property Management** – Elder David Stearns reported on the increasing cost of natural gas that may cause us to be over budget in our utility budget this year.

**Communications** – Elder David Dowell. Referred to the minutes reporting that work continues towards publishing a new membership directory. Darryl and Anna Belle Horgan are working together on this project.

**Connections Team** – (Elder Jim Whitfield was absent).

**Personnel** – Elder Jon Myers reported that the Interim Pastor Search team is currently interviewing candidates.

**Program Committee** (includes Worship & Music, Spiritual Growth Adults, Spiritual Growth Children) – Elder Ron Potts referred to the written Minutes.

**Outreach** – Elder David Dowell. Deferred to CLP Darryl McCollum, who reported on the success of the “Church Candy” project on Facebook in getting people in the community to visit the Church.

**Mission** – Elder Maren Stanczak reported that Missionary Tara Chase, of Frontier Fellowship, will be leading the June 11 Adult Sunday School class.

**New Business:** Discussed the need to review other church and ministry team policies at a future Session meeting.

**By David Dowell and Jon Myers**

## Featured Biography – Lee Borden



Almost every Sunday Lee Borden takes his place at the piano or the organ and leads us in worship with skill and grace. When Susan Soehner left early in 2019 Lee volunteered to fill the musical gap. It's high time we get better acquainted with this talented man.

Lee Borden grew up in Junction, Texas, as an only child. He graduated from North Texas State College with a music major in 1955. He volunteered for military service and spent 21 months doing office work at the Naval Air Station in Oahu, Hawaii. Later, he continued his piano studies, earning his M.A. degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas in 1959.

Lee's first teaching job was at the Mehus Conservatory of Music in Bismarck, North Dakota. In 1965 he moved to Fairfield, California where he taught music and English at Armijo High School for three years. In 1968 he established a private piano studio in Walnut Creek and has lived in Contra Costa County ever since, giving piano lessons to hundreds of students before retiring in 2019.

Lee began worshipping with us about 2007, singing bass in the choir. He took a hiatus but reconnected with our church in 2017. Thank goodness!!!

When Lee isn't playing the piano, he enjoys playing card games. He also loves camping along the California Coast. He has traveled extensively in the United States, including Alaska. In 1963 he attended the Salzburg Music Festival in Austria. He also served as pianist for Singing Messengers, a choral organization that provides programs in nursing homes, for forty years. Everyone who knows Lee has to be aware of his keen sense of humor!

Lee is a passionate dog lover! He grew up with mongrels and strays during his childhood but losing a treasured pet/companion/playmate was so traumatic for him that he resolved as an adult to never have any more pets. So, instead, he fell in love with his neighbor's rescue dog, Mollie, who was so beautiful physically and temperamentally that Lee felt God put her in his life to show him examples of devotion, eagerness to please, and unquestioning trust and obedience.

Your lessons were well learned, Lee, for it is these traits that you exhibit in your faithfulness to our church, our community, and to God. Thank you for sharing your musical gifts so selflessly!! "Bravo!!!!" and "Encore, Encore!!!!".

**By Beth Byrne**

## Summer Activities

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CONCORD

#### Summer 2023 Activities

24 JUNE	<b>LASAGNA DINNER</b> Saturday 5 PM: Dinner for Church family and Heritage/Towers residents
27-29 JUNE	<b>CAMP AGAPE</b> Annual Summer youth camp at the Church
30 JUNE	<b>BOOK CLUB</b> Friday 5 PM: "One Coin Found" by Emmy Kogle. How God's love stretches to the margins
15 JULY	<b>MOVIE NIGHT</b> Saturday 4:30 PM: "Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey" . . . with snacks
29 JULY	<b>BOOK CLUB</b> Saturday 5 PM: "My Body is Not a Prayer Request" by Amy Kenny
5 AUG	<b>GAME NIGHT</b> Saturday 4:30-7 PM: Bring the grandkids
19 AUG	<b>BOOK CLUB</b> Saturday 5:00 PM: "The Displaced" by Viet Thanh Nguyen. About refugees and their lives
27 AUG	<b>ALL-CHURCH SOCIAL</b> Sunday 2:30 PM: Dinner with churches on campus

#### FPCC Staff

Rebecca Chase, CLP	Ministry Partner
Lisa Justice, Student Pastor	Ministry Partner
Darryl McCollum, CLP	Ministry Partner
DeVonn Powers, CLP	Ministry Partner
Andrew Cardiasmenos	Director, Music & Worship
Robin Stearns	Preschool Director
Linde Weber	Financial and Human Resources Specialist
Harold Lund	Custodian & Watchman
David Dowell	Editor, First Press Express

#### Editor's Note:

First Press Express is a publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Concord, California, printed several times each year.

