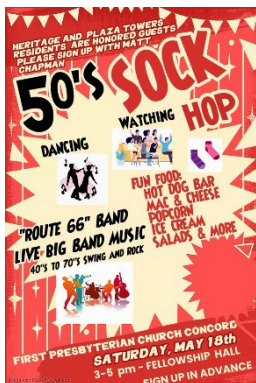


FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Concord, California

May 2024



Sock Hop – Saturday, May 18, 3-5 PM

It is not too late to sign up for the forthcoming Sock Hop. Please call the Church office if you have not signed up with Judith during Sunday coffee time and plan on attending. We also need volunteers to help out in many ways, and we are also taking sign-ups to bring salads or cookies. All the other food will be provided.

We will have a live band playing “Big Band” and other music from the 50s through the 70s. It will be like stepping back in time.



March Meeting

Moderator's Report

Grief Support Group. Rev. Dr. Carol Miles informed Session that Adam McDonald and Bob Morris have agreed to partner with Rev. Carol to start a new grief support group.

Learning from Success. Rev. Carol, our four Ministry Partners, and the Personnel Chair plan to meet with Rev. Fred Harrell on April 10 to learn how he founded and grew City Church San Francisco from a house church into a 500-member Christ-centered, community-focused church, ministering to the poor and marginalized.

Social Media Policy. The Session watched a short video on the importance of churches having a social media policy. CLP Darryl agreed to prepare an initial draft of a social media Policy for FPCC.

Routine business: CLP Rebecca reported on the training still needed for Elders and others who need to complete the live scan process and the Child Abuse & Neglect Recognition Training.

Nominating Committee Addition

The Deacons have selected Marilyn Wollenweber to serve on the 2024 Nominating Committee. Other members are Josh Maitland, Margaret Bachman, and DeVonn Powers, each of whom was elected by the congregation. The Session appointed Elders Jim Whitfield and Jon Myers.

CLP DeVonn reported that the launch of “The Gathering” has been delayed to June, and the meeting day has been changed to Wednesday evenings. The session approved a motion for the Gathering to celebrate communion at their services.

April Meeting

Moderator’s Report

Church Calendar. Rev. Dr. Carol reported that the 2024 church’s online master calendar has been updated. It can be accessed using the link provided in the Friday email. Members will have access, although only the leaders will be able to make changes.

New Grief Ministry. The new Grief Ministry team has had its first meeting. The purpose of this group is to assess the physical and emotional needs of the membership and ensure that they receive the help and support they need. The group meets weekly on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Learning from Success As reported at the April meeting, Rev. Carol, our four Ministry Partners, as well as the Personnel Chair, met with Rev. Fred Harrell on April 10 to learn how he founded and grew City Church San Francisco from a house church into a 500-member Christ-centered, community-focused church. Rev. Harrell credits much of the success of his church to the fact that the church began by identifying its “North Star.” Although we have our Mission Statement, our “North Star” would be the statement that expresses what we want our church to be in support of our Mission Statement. Session members were asked to think about what our church’s “North Star” should be in preparation for further discussion in the June Session meeting.

by David Dowell and Jon Myers

Mission Quilters



The Mission Quilters, consisting of Carrie Smith, Linda Fribley, Judith Snider, Diana Stearns, Beverly Mc Hale, and Margaret Bachman, have been busily working on quilts for the Monument Crisis Center and the County Hospital. On April 1, 12 quilts were delivered to the Crisis Center. The County Hospital will be getting baby blankets soon. This has been accomplished since January 1. They hope to make forty quilts this year. The Crisis Center is so happy every time we show up with more quilts, as you can see from the faces of one of the employees. It is also a wonderful feeling

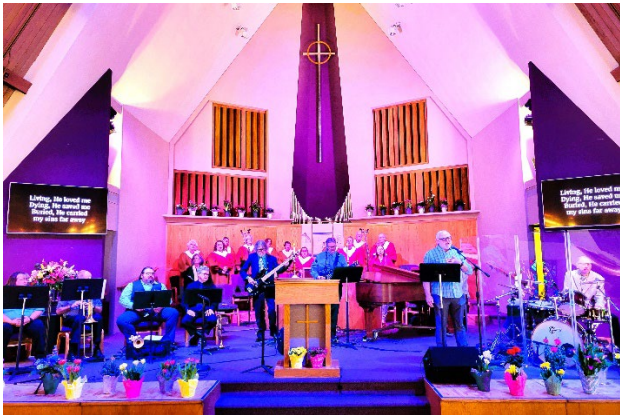
for the members of this team to be able to supply much-needed warmth to families in need. This is all possible by people who have donated fabric. Come join us on Thursdays at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. We have a lot of fun seeing what we can create as well as socializing at the same time.

Our Palm Sunday and Easter Celebrations

Palm Sunday



Easter



Grief Support Group

A new grief support group has been formed at FPCC. The group is designed for anyone who has experienced the loss of someone they love and might find it helpful to have a safe space to process their loss with others who have had a similar experience. The group will meet on Wednesday afternoons in the chapel from 3 to 4:30 during May and June. If you are interested, please feel free to talk directly with Rev. Carol.

Thank you letter from Christy Reiners

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and financial support that help us deliver food to families in Palestine who are really struggling. During the recent deliveries, our director found three serious medical cases where we are trying to help: a young girl with a hole in her heart that needs surgery, a man who was receiving kidney dialysis 3 times a week that is no longer available and now needs a renal transplant and another man with major heart issues who is not able to get treatment. Providing food gives them such hope that we see them and care about them. It also shows us extreme needs in so many areas. Please keep the Palestinian people in your prayers as they struggle for survival. Bless the hands that give and the hands that receive.

Christy Reiners, In His Steps: Pathways of Peace



* Note: This pertains to FPCC's gift of \$1,740, which the Great Commission Committee (Missions) recommended and which the Session approved in April.

FPCC Staff

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

Interim Pastor
Commissioned Pastor for Community Care
Seminarian in Residence & Church Administrator
Commissioned Pastor for Outreach
Commissioned Pastor for Urban Ministries
Director, Music & Worship
Preschool Director
Financial and Human Resources Specialist
Custodian & Night Watchman

David Dowell

Editor, First Press



Editor's Note:

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