

FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Concord, California

April 2025



... for a very special **Worship service on Easter Sunday**. We look forward to seeing you. Invite your friends and neighbors. We trust and pray that this day will be very special to you, your family, and your friends as you celebrate with all of us the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! The celebration will include special music featuring our choir and an orchestra.



Palm Sunday Service	April 13	Sunday	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
Maundy Thursday				
Soup Supper	April 17	Thursday	5:30 PM	Fellowship Hall
Worship with Communion		Thursday	7:00 PM	Sanctuary
Good Friday Prayer Circle	April 18	Friday	12:00 Noon	Zoom
Easter Sunday Worship	April 20	Sunday	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
Children's Easter Egg Hunt	April 20	Sunday	11:15 AM	Courtyard



The Easter offering will go to She is Safe. Our mission partner, Michele Rickett, the CEO, works with young women and girls who have been or are vulnerable to being sex trafficked. These women and girls are often abandoned by their families, who feel that this has brought shame to them.

Since 2002, She Is Safe's mission has been to prevent, rescue, and restore women and girls from suffering abuse and exploitation in high-risk places, equipping them to build lives of freedom and faith for a strong future. She Is Safe operates in regions with high rates of trafficking of women and girls: India, Indonesia, the Middle East, Myanmar, Nepal, and South Sudan. The ministry partners with indigenous denominations and parachurch organizations, confronting the pervasive issues of sex trafficking and abuse of young girls and women. This results in a ripple effect of change for families and communities toward valuing girls as God's image-bearers. These changes span generations rather than offering temporary fixes. Last year, She Is Safe programs directly benefited 25,871 lives.

Special envelopes are available in the pew racks. In making your offering, please give above and beyond your regular pledge. You may contribute by cash, check, or through Zelle. You may use the special Easter offering envelope in the pews. Indicate “Easter Offering” on your check or in the comment space on your Zelle submission. The deadline for giving is Sunday, April 27.



For several months, the FPCC staff, Session, and Chef Chandra have been determining ways to reach out more effectively into our neighborhood to provide care and support. Using our skillsets and gifts, we have begun putting together a collection of classes to provide health and wellness to the whole person: Body, Mind, and Spirit.

You may have attended Chef Chandra’s Healthy Cooking classes in January and February. We ate well and learned a lot – the kind of olive oil you use matters! You can make dessert out of avocados! Lion’s Mane mushrooms taste like crab! We wanted to see what it would take to run a class, and there is so much involved. We called it “beta testing” as we were looking for our strengths and weaknesses. Thanks to those of you who could come and walk (taste!) through it with us!

An organizational team has been working weekly on creating a foundational statement that will help guide our path to developing more of these classes and the whole movement behind them. We are attempting to create a wellness initiative, giving whole-person care and striving for health and connection through community.

Thank you to the organizational team of Chandra Collins, Rev Carol Miles, Michelle Badejo, Darryl McCollum, Judith Snider, Angela Salinas, Jon Myers, Matt Chapman, Rose Burton (from Heritage/Plaza Towers), and Rebecca Chase. Thanks to the brainchild of Chef Chandra, this has been set in motion. We had start-up help from Rebecca’s son, Sam, who has experience organizing events. The gifted Michelle Badejo is keeping us on track. We’ve set some ambitious goals, and we will keep you informed as we figure this out. Keep Get Well Concord lifted in prayer, as it is all for the glory of God.

By CLP Rebecca Chase

FPCC Staff

Rev. Dr. Carol Miles	Interim Pastor
Rebecca Chase, CLP	Commissioned Pastor for Community Care
Lisa Justice, Student Pastor	Seminarian in Residence & Church Administrator
Darryl McCollum, CLP	Commissioned Pastor for Outreach
DeVonn Powers, CLP	Commissioned Pastor for Urban Ministries
Andrew Cardiasmenos	Director, Music & Worship
Robin Stearns	Preschool Director
Linde Weber	Financial and Human Resources Specialist
Harold Lund	Custodian & Night Watchman
David Dowell	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.



RECENT HAPPENINGS

Valentine's Day Luncheon



Church Officers

Deacons

Elders



First Presbyterian Church -Concord
Coming Activities
March to October, 2025

17
APR

MAUNDY THURSDAY

5:30 PM Soup Supper .
7:00 PM Special Maunday Thursday Service

20
APR

EASTER SUNDAY - 10:00 AM

11:00 AM Coffee and special refreshments

17
MAY

BIG BAND PARTY - 3 - 5 PM

The "Route 66" Big Band joins us again this year with music from 50's through 80's. Food provided.

JULY
AUG

MOVIES/GAMES

Movie Nights and Game Nights as scheduled throughout the Summer.

21
SEPT

PANCAKE BRUNCH

11:30 AM following the church service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS

BIG BAND DANCE PARTY

ROUTE 66 BAND
40'S TO 60'S SWING AND ROCK

DANCING

WATCHING

HOT DOG BAR
MAC 'N CHEESE
POPCORN
SALAD & MORE

EVERYONE, INCLUDING HERITAGE-PLAZA TOWERS RESIDENTS, ARE INVITED.

SATURDAY, MAY 17
3-5 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL