

FIRST PRESS



Pastor's Ponderings

Red Roses in February

February means Valentine's Day which means red roses. Right? Never mind that I have been living alone for many, many months now. (Even if I buy them myself.) I still like to have red roses in February! Sometimes we need something a little special to keep our spirits up.

Still, there is one person and only one who can change the mood from dreary to sunshine. That one person? Our Lord Jesus Christ – and his connection to us through the Holy Spirit! Just don't ignore Him! Don't forget Him! He is available to you!

This morning's headlines continue to spread the sad news of the first airplane crash on our soil in a number of years. Many talented members of our USA ice skaters were on that plane out of the 67 (or is it 68) who died in that crash into the icy cold Potomac River on Thursday night.

It is also very easy to forget the valiant work of First Responders until they re-appear reminding us of their bravery! Many, many were called upon in our recent California wind-and-fire storms. In times like these, we must count our blessings as we pray for those who are grieving.

Another topic that is getting short shrift this month is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Black History Month. Indeed, I did not mention it in my last sermon. Yet, every year I do remember the wonderful examples given us by the Civil Rights Movement of MLK and another man who has my utmost respect: Frederick Douglass! Two of his most famous quotations: "One and God make a majority." and "Without a struggle, there can be no progress." Year: 1852.

Unfortunately, I have to report in this year 2025: "In response to **President Donald Trump's Executive Order**" on Friday, January 31st, "banning diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, the *Pentagon's intelligence agency has paused special event programs and related events, including Juneteenth, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Black History Month, Holocaust Days of Remembrance and Pride Month, according to a memo obtained by ABC News.*" Nevertheless, *Martin Luther King, Jr Day AND Juneteenth will remain as Federal Holidays.*

Will we see litigation filed about this? I hope and pray so. As Douglass said, we go forth with God, even as there is a new struggle for equality in our land. Even after all these years!

On a happier note, we can reflect upon a year just past full of fellowship and love in our congregation. Joining worship time in our sanctuary prior to our own service, is Breakthrough Church, filling the empty spot left by the Pentecostal Church. We participated in the "Carport Yard Sale" produced by Breakthrough, adding some change to our thin pocketbook. The Transformed Women's Bible Study provided us with new, large outdoor entry rugs replacing our tattered worn ones. The Session has met monthly making the necessary decisions about our service and the building's needs. At Thanksgiving we brought food filling the box on wheels, for delivery to Salvation Army. The plan is to continue the service with a local charity. But the highlight of the year? The Confirmation Ceremony of "our twins" Awu and Ako Ncha, led by Rev. Shullanberger. Speaking about the girls, also happiest of news was the legal ruling that Awu, Sr. (aka Sarah) was given full adoption of the girls. Smiles all around!

Christmas 2023 was on Sunday. This year – Wednesday. The Breakthrough fellowship held a Party on Christmas Eve, inviting any of us who wanted to attend. So it was a little different. We held a traditional Christmas Service on the following Sunday, December 29th, complete with communion.

As your "Guest" Pastor, I have thoroughly enjoyed being with you this full year of 2024. (My time with you started in November 2023.) Technically, my title is Pulpit Supply, from Sunday to Sunday. And Supply it, I have. I am pleased to say, there is much love in the Corona fellowship!

May the Lord be with you. Pastor Nancy

POEM

A private poem gift from friends Fred and Mabel Ring
to Gertrude and Herbert Beatty, Seattle, 1953.

Written by Eleanor Whipple Fowler

“O God,
Let peace lie upon us,
As Thy canopy of snow in winter.
May it cover our crudeness and peevish desires,
May its quietness lie softly upon us,
And its grace tremble in the delicacy of understanding,

Cover us God, with Thy canopy of love.”

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From your session

From our January meeting:



- ◇ Voted to approve a new course of study for the Women's Bible Study.
- ◇ Voted to approve Hanofi and Natalia as Christian Education adult leaders for 2025.
- ◇ Voted to add a line item in the Pass Through bank account for contributions towards the 2028 Youth Triennium.

*Sunday worship service is available via livestreaming at:
www.facebook.com/coronafirstpresbyterian*

If you missed a Sunday Service, you are able to watch past services on the Facebook site.



February Holidays

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring a martyr named Valentine, and through later folk traditions it has also become a significant cultural, religious and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.



Presidents' Day, officially Washington's Birthday at the federal governmental level, is a holiday in the United States celebrated on the third Monday of February. It is often celebrated to honor all those who served as presidents of the United States and, since 2879, had been the federal holiday honoring Founding Father George Washington, who led the Continental Army to victory in the American Revolutionary War, presided at the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and served as the first U.S. president from 1789 to 1797. The day remained an unofficial observance for much of the 1800s until Senator Stephen Wallace Dorsey of Arkansas proposed that it become a federal holiday. In 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes signed it into law.



Offering Envelopes

Just a reminder that we have boxes of numbered offering envelopes available in the church office. We encourage the use of these envelopes as it makes it easier to give you credit for your contributions. You may pick up a box on Sunday mornings or on Tuesdays between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. In lieu of the numbered offering envelopes, pew envelopes are also available each Sunday.

If you give by check and are in the habit of giving to more than one fund, i.e. general fund, deacons, special offerings, etc., please make out separate checks. These funds go into separate accounts at our bank and individual checks for each fund make it so much easier to make out the deposits.

Thanks for your help.

Marilyn Mittelstadt

January Fellowship



Movies with a Message
By Susan Bain



Do you love movies? Join us on the second Saturday of every month for “Movies with a Message”. We usually have a small group of 5-10 people for our movie that we project to a large screen. Bring a lunch or snack and enjoy the movie, then stay after for a discussion of the film. We have seen many types of films including some heavy hitters like “The Hate You Give” to fun flicks like “My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3” and “Clifford the Big Red Dog”. Our February film is “The Triple Six Eight” from Tyler Perry. It was inspired by the first and only Women’s Army Corp unit of color to serve overseas in WWII. The folks who come to the movies really enjoy the experience. All are welcome!



Congregational Meeting



The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 2, immediately following worship. At that time we will receive the annual reports of all committees and groups of the church, and any other items of importance to the congregation which might be brought up from the floor. One of your privileges as a member of the church is to exercise your right to vote at meetings of the congregation. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the annual congregational meeting.



The financials for January and February will be presented in the
March 2025 Newsletter



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

7..... *Rudy Burbank*
 *Enu Ndipagbor*
 24..... *Haley Hanson*
 26..... *Naomi Tanojo*

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

..... 15 *Hanafi & Natalia Tanojo (1997)*

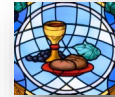


PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES

John & Qi Liu Nyeango
Alison Osborne
Anne Purcell
Lynda Rodisch
Kathy Shepardson
Hanafi, Natalia, & Naomi Tanojo
Silvia Thorne
Virginia Watson

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	



Feb. 2



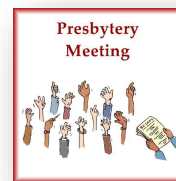
Feb. 14



Feb. 17



Breakthrough Church of Corona every Sunday at 9:00am



*Sat. Feb. 1
10am
Calvary Presbyterian Church, Riverside*



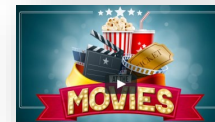
Worship Sunday at 11:00am at church & via live streaming Facebook



Sun. Feb. 2, 12pm



Vietnamese Church every Sunday at 1:30pm



*Movie with a message
Feb. 8, 12 noon*



Last Sunday of each month is Food Donation Sunday.



*Session
Feb. 15, 10am*



*Women's Bible Study
Feb. 22, 10am*



Our mission is to live out the good news of Jesus Christ

Our Church Staff

Guest Pastor _____	Nancy Richmond
Administrative Assistant _____	Judy Hanson/Marilyn Mittelstadt
Accompanist _____	Delia E. Martinez-Samojluk
Church Treasurer _____	Terrie Burbank
Bookkeeper _____	Teri White
Director of Social Media _____	Sue Bain

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE
11:00AM Worship Service
First Press deadline – 4th
 Wednesday of every
 month
*Editor reserves the right
 to edit for content &
 space*



We're on the WEB
<http://www.fpc-corona.org>
[www.facebook.com/
 coronafirstpresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/coronafirstpresbyterian)

