



Pastor's Ponderings



When Joyce and I look back on 2017. Joyce (now called "fuzzy" because of her "tres chic" hairdo growing in after her maximum level chemo-therapy) is feeling blessed to be alive and looking forward to a new year of enjoying that blessing. I am too. Although it was just 45 radiation treatments for me.

The church has a new nesting congregation and, with the added income, we will be able to present a budget that is balanced and offers possibilities for expanded ministry.

Most all of us have seen a year of loss – loved ones, friends, health issues, mobility, and this time of year, the media inundates us with suggestions for changes we can make to greatly improve our lives in the New Year. Talk shows tout weight loss strategies sure to trim waistlines, magazines promote products and plans to perfectly organize our spaces, fitness gurus guide us to exercise nirvana, and the list goes on.

New Year's resolutions to improve our health and surroundings may be useful and even beneficial. However, for many of us, having experienced loss during this past year, the typical media messages may ring hollow for you as the calendar turns. (How can it possibly be so important to eat more broccoli or walk 10,000 steps a day when there is an empty chair at the dinner table and a pair of sneakers by the back door waiting for an occupant who isn't returning?)

Perhaps it would be fitting to consider a different sort of New Year's resolution—a set of suggestions suited especially for those who are entering a season of their lives grieving someone whom they loved.

Such a set of resolutions might look like this:

- I resolve to not place time limits on my grief; it will take as long as it takes.
- I resolve to acknowledge my grief as my own—that it is as individual as I am—and will take shape in its own unique way.
- I resolve to be mindful of the need for flexibility when it comes to the expectations of others (and myself).
- I resolve to not be pressured by "shoulds."

- I resolve to cut myself some slack when I am not as productive as I might like, behave in ways uncharacteristic of my usual self or simply "don't care."

- I resolve to accept that others may not understand my pain, and it is probably not realistic to expect that of them. (Until one has walked the path, how can one know the terrain?)

- I resolve to express my feelings without guilt, and not apologize for tears.

- I resolve to be grateful for concerned others who willingly just listen.

- I resolve to recognize that my acceptance of assistance and support of others allows them the blessing of giving.

- I resolve to forgive those who say or do that which feels hurtful, recognizing that unkindness is not intended.

- I resolve to extend to myself the same grace and patience I would to others, were they in my situation.

- I resolve to find some little way each day to begin to reinvest in life, in an effort to move toward hope and a sense of purpose.

- I resolve to continue to speak my loved one's name, tell our stories and embrace my memories.

Whether or not you are one to make resolutions, it is our hope that one or more of these thoughts will resonate with you. Turning the page to begin a new year, you can be resolute as you move forward in your season of grief. New Year's Resolutions for Grieving (From Hospice of Red River Valley)

Peace

Henry





Angel Tree



7th Day Adventist Children's Choir

Congregational Meeting



The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, immediately after worship. At that time we will receive the annual reports of all committees and groups of the church, elect three members of the congregation to serve with a member of session and one from the deacons on the Nominating Committee for 2018, 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.

Per Capita Apportionment for 2018



Once again, it is time for us to pay our Per Capita Apportionment (PCA). Per Capita giving is a method of funding some of the essential functions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). PCA provides for the financial participation of all local churches (on a per member basis) as a part of a connectional and representative church, thus providing for unity and mutual responsibility within the Church.

PCA funding pays for the administrative personnel of the Presbytery, administrative expenses (office supplies, rent, insurance, etc.), and other operational expenses (Presbytery meetings, committee meetings, ministerial candidate testing, etc.). Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system.

Our PCA for 2018 will remain the same as last year \$35.00 for each member on our rolls. It is payable any time during the year, but it is helpful if it is paid early in the year. If you are using numbered envelopes, you will find a special Per Capita envelope in the front of the box. If not, please mark your check Per Capita or PCA. Thank you.

Mission Giving

We received a very nice letter from Rene' Myers, Mission Engagement Advisor for the PCUSA Presbyterian Mission, thanking us for our support of Presbyterian Mission. In part she said:

The generosity of your congregation has provided the following support:

- \$108.66 for Disaster Relief—US Hurricane Response-Harvey
- \$108.67 for Disaster Relief—Atlantic Regional Hurricanes-Irma
- \$108.67 for Disaster Relief—Atlantic Regional Hurricanes-Maria
- \$15.00 for Shared Mission Support



We are deeply grateful for your congregation's engagement with the ministries carried out by the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The beauty of our connectional church is reflected in your faithful generosity. May this season bring to you and all your members the wonders of Christ's love and peace.

Flowers for the Church

Do you have a special occasion you wish to commemorate or perhaps you simply have a mass of flowers blooming in your yard? We invite you to bring flowers to decorate our sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Sign up on flower chart that is posted on the bulletin board near the church office to reserve your special date. If you are giving flowers for a special occasion and have a dedication you wish to have printed in the bulletin, please let Marilyn or Judy know.

From your session

At our stated meeting in December:

- Voted to record the death of Don Purcell in the church record book.
- Voted to remove 4 people from the membership roll.
- Will have a joint meeting with the session of Bethany Presbyterian Church sometime in January.
- Voted to accept an anonymous gift to set up and organize storage in the church and to have Terrie Burbank be the liaison to implement such.
- Adult Sunday School class will resume on Sunday morning, January 7.
- The next 6-week series of Food for Thought programs will begin on February 15.
- Voted to approve the following communion dates for 2018:
 - * *First Sunday of every month*
 - * *Maundy Thursday, March 29*
 - * *Christmas Eve, December 24*
- Voted to elect Terrie Burbank as church treasurer for 2018.
- Voted to elect Marilyn Mittelstadt as clerk of session for 2018.
- Voted to elect the following corporate officers for 2018:
 - * *President – Pete Mittelstadt*
 - * *Vice President – Jean Marsh*
 - * *Secretary – Marilyn Mittelstadt*
 - * *Treasurer – Terrie Burbank*



At a special called meeting on December 31:

- Voted to approve a budget for 2018

A Special Worship Service

On Sunday, December 17, we had the privilege of witnessing a special presentation during worship in place of the sermon. Becky Bane gave us a beautiful painting which she did on white fabric that was stretched on a 7-foot by 8-foot frame. She painted with liquid dyes from behind the screen and the colors bled through instantly. While she painted there were people reading selected Bible passages and poetry readings and soloists & musicians singing and playing music. There is always a theme to the painting, based on the Bible passages. This time the theme was the Annunciation to Mary. What Becky paints is always an unfolding visual composition. She said she thinks of it as both a visual proclamation of the Word and a multi-sensory proclamation of the Word.



New Officers

We are very happy to welcome Becky Bane to the session and Margie Wilkerson to the deacons. Margie was ordained and both she and Becky were installed during worship on Sunday, December 17



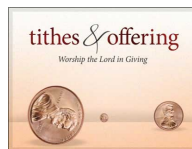
GENERAL FUND	Nov 30, 2017	Year to Date Totals
Income	10,919.24	73,425.26
Expenses	6,524.82	79,735.00
Net Income	4,394.42	-6,309.74

DEACONS FUND	Nov 30, 2017	Year to Date Totals
Income	1045.00	4,128.16
Expenses	102.06	3,757.93
Net Income	942.94	370.23



GENERAL FUND	Dec 31, 2017	Year to Date Totals
Income	11,058.88	84,484.14
Expenses	7,104.44	86,839.44
Net Income	3,954.44	-2,355.30

DEACONS FUND	Dec 31, 2017	Year to Date Totals
Income	265.00	4,393.60
Expenses	555.09	4,313.02
Net Income	-290.09	80.58



Offering envelopes for 2018 are now available. You are encouraged to use these numbered envelopes. By doing so, it is simpler to track your contributions in order to give you an accurate accounting at the end of the year. When you take your envelopes, please write your name next to the corresponding number on the nearby list.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

12.....	Spencer Williams
14.....	Caroline Wyser
15.....	Kimberly Bennett
16.....	Danielle White
18.....	Christopher Thorne
20.....	Alyssa White
25.....	Lew White
26.....	Nicole Grozav
31.....	Nana Aesi Hagan

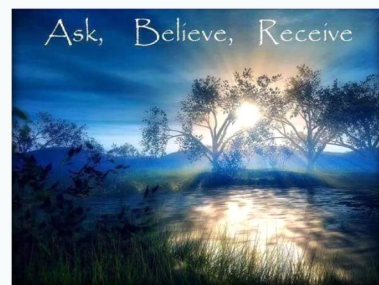
JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries this month



JANUARY PRAYER FAMILIES

- * Judy Hanson & family
- * Criss & Rochelle Heller & family
- * Janice Homer & family
- * Mike & Brittany Jager & family
- * Margaret Jameson & family
- * Gerrie Lister & family
- * Stan & Elaine Lively & family
- * Jean Marsh & family



January 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Adult SS resumes 9:30am, Worship 10:30am	8	9 CBS 9:30	10	11	12	13
14 Worship 10:30am	15	16 CBS 9:30, Loving needles 6:30pm	17	18 Session 10am	19 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	20
21 Worship 10:30am	22	23 CBS 9:30	24	25	26	27 Women's breakfast, Loving Needles
28 Worship 10:30am, Cong. Mtg. 11:45am	29	30 CBS 9:30	31			

*Vietnamese Church
every Sunday at
1:30pm*

*Adult Bible Study
meets Sunday morning
at 9:30 am*



Food Drive



*Last Sunday of each
month is Food
Donation Sunday.*



*4th Saturday of each month,
Women's breakfast,
Original Pancake House,
Norco, 8am
Loving Needles, 9:30am*





950 Ontario Avenue, Corona CA 92882



*MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS
CHRIST THROUGH WORSHIP,
DISCIPLESHIP, FELLOWSHIP,
MINISTRY AND MISSION*

Our Church Staff

Pastor (Transitional)..... Henry DeGraaff
Administrative Assistant Judy Hanson/Marilyn Mittelstadt
Accompanist..... Delia E. Martinez-Samojluk
Church Treasurer Terrie Burbank
Bookkeeper Teri White

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SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30AM Adult Sunday School
10:30AM Worship Service
Sunday School (nursery care available)
First Press deadline – 22nd 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

