

FIRST PRESS



Pastor's Ponderings

"After the Ball"

After the festivities are over, my home is definitely a mess. Happy times and pleasures have left it in need – with cleaning and straightening the first order of business on the “day after.” But it was worth it. Now for a few days the outdoors part of the season will remain a little longer. Happily, I last-minute found a miniature 42” white plastic church to light up the yard, adding a poinsettia nearby – instead of the usual secular decor. I also have a year-round small leafless tree in a large container, holding tiny lights, near my front tiny porch. It remains greeting me each time I return home. (Yes, it did have leaves once-upon-a-time. (We all get older!)

I do hope your Christmas was pleasant and safe – greeting others and seeing (or remembering) relatives far away – or who have ‘gone before.’

We had a tremendously joyous and melodic Christmas Service on Dec. 22nd with the music brought to us by Delia and Julio’s Spanish chorus and Brass Christmas numbers – followed by a large, attractive table of goodies to eat, from Awu, and Elizabeth (huge fresh strawberries), and others whose names I did not get. A big thank you to all who contributed to the day; and to the lighters of the Advent Candles throughout the Season.

I must add, we were disappointed that the musical guests outnumbered those in our congregation. My ongoing appeal? Bring a friend to church; and those who have held back – please join us again.

The last Sunday of 2024 meant lighting the Christmas Candle in the midst of the previous Advent candles. As always, we are glad when Kathy Shepardson has a solo treat for us. This time, *’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime. The sermon - The Twelve Days of Christmas – highlights the historic joys and traditions of the Christmastide in celebrating our Lord’s Incarnation. The 12th Night is the Eve of Epiphany, which happens on Saturday night this year.*

In the December 12th sermon I spoke of the *Blue Christmas worship services. It is also called The Longest Night Service, since it is usually held on that longest night of the year. This year it was the 21st of December. This special worship was new*

to me, though it started in the 1990’s. I have had requests for a copy of that sermon. If you would like a copy, just let me know.

Meanwhile, back to concerns, we are grateful for the income from the cell towers’ lease – but *invite prayers that the Presbytery will move at a faster rate in resolving the delay on the Amendment bringing increased monthly payments. The Church purse-strings are becoming frayed.*

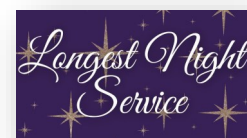
The upcoming New Year brings administrative changes nationwide. Churches, too, need to make fresh starts in the year 2025.

What suggestions can YOU make to bring vitality to Corona First Presbyterian Church? Your Session Members would like to hear from you: Anne Purcell, Sue Bain, Terrie Burbank, Awa Ncha, and always the faithful Marilyn Mittelstadt, the Session Clerk. (Do you realize the many years Marilyn has been deeply involved in the Lord’s work here in Corona? Marilyn and Pete signed the original Cell Towers’ lease in 2000. Just one example. Others, too, including Anne Purcell, have been long-time members.)

Many thanks to Breakthrough Church for the invitation to join them in their Christmas Eve special service. By the way, has anyone ever considered donating rose bushes to place along the front of the building facing the street? The City of Corona will not allow grass that requires watering, but perhaps bushes would be an inviting change? Also, Breakthrough places two large banners curb-side during its services. Sue Bain has been working on obtaining eye-catching banners curb-side for us.)

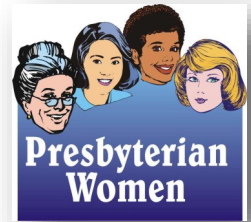
I am aware of those in the congregation who are giving of their time and effort to remember “those on the margins,” people in need. We have saints among us every day, living the example the Lord has given us. **What is YOUR personal goal for 2025? Talk to the Lord about it! You could be surprised what the Holy Spirit might have waiting for you!**

May the Lord be with you. Pastor Nancy



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

JUSTICE AND PEACE JANUARY 2025



06 Epiphany of the Lord;

<https://presbyterianwomeninthepecusainc.cmail20.com/t/t-l-sjlkdyd-sthoditd-d/>

11 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Presbyterianmission.org/humantrafficking

12 Matthew 25: Dismantle Structural Racism

Presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/racism

16 National Religious Freedom Day;

religiousfreedomday.com

18–25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity;

oikoumene.org/week-of-prayer

20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day;

thekingcenter.org

27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day;

Unesco.org/en/days/holocaust-remembrance

Presbyterian Women's Annual Mission Fund (the Mission Pledge) makes possible every mission, program and resource of PW. Give now to support Presbyterian Women's witness in the world.

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org>



Each church in the PC(USA) must pay a yearly per capita to its Presbytery. The majority of these funds stay with the Presbytery to help cover its expenses, and the rest is divided between the Synod and the General Assembly for the same purpose.

The amount of per capita assessed to each church is based upon a previous year's membership. For example, the amount of per capita we must pay in 2025 will be based on the how many members we reported at the end of 2024. The amount for 2025 will be \$44 per member. Each member of FPC is encouraged to contribute their portion of the per capita to help reduce the amount we must take from our budget.

If you are using numbered offering envelopes, you will find a per capita envelope at the beginning of the box. Or you may use a pew envelope. Please be sure to mark your envelope or check "per capita" so it gets credited to the correct account.

Being connected is part of being Presbyterian. Thank you for all you do to keep us connected to each other.



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





From your session

From our December meeting:

- ⇒ Voted to approve serving communion on the first Sunday of every month and possibly on December 28.
- ⇒ Voted to elect Terrie Burbank as church treasurer for 2025.
- ⇒ Voted to elect Marilyn Mittelstadt as clerk of session for 2025.
- ⇒ Voted to elect the following corporate officers for 2025:
 - ◆ Sue Bain, President
 - ◆ Awu Ncha, Vice President
 - ◆ Marilyn Mittelstadt, Secretary
 - ◆ Terrie Burbank, Treasurer
- ⇒ Voted to appoint Sue Bain and Awu Ncha as commissioners to Presbytery and Terrie Burbank as alternate commissioner.
- ⇒ Voted to approve Terrie Burbank, Marilyn Mittelstadt, and Anne Purcell to count offerings in 2025.
- ⇒ Voted to approve holding the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 2, 2025.

*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.*



Fellowship & Spanish Seventh Day Adventist choir visit
December 22nd



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.

GENERAL FUND	December 31, 2024	Year to Date Totals
Income	6,690.91	86,319.29
Expenses	10,723.87	90,272.56
Net Income	-4,032.96	-3,953.27



DEACONS FUND	December 31, 2024	Year to Date Totals
Income	-0-	1,042.00
Expenses	1,500.00	4,500.00
Net Income	-1,500.00	-3,458.00



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

15..... *Kimberly Bennett*

31..... *Nana Aesi Hagan*

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

None



PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES

Jaime Heller

Elaine Lively

Pete & Marilyn Mittelstadt

Awu Ncha

John & Qi Liu Nyeango

Alison Osborne

Anne Purcell

Rita Riola

January 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	29	30	31	



Jan. 5



Breakthrough Church of Corona every Sunday at 9:00am



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



Movie with a message Jan. 11 12pm



Vietnamese Church every Sunday at 1:30pm



Session Jan. 18 10am



Last Sunday of each month is Food Donation Sunday.



Women's Bible Study Jan. 25 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

