



Pastor's Ponderings

On July 20, 1969 astronaut Neil Armstrong descended the ladder of the Apollo 11 lunar lander and set foot on the surface of the moon. On August 16, 1969 Joyce Sudmeyer and Henry DeGraaff were married at the Presbyterian Church of Roseland in Chicago and left a week later to serve as Volunteers in Mission for the Presbyterian Church schools in Las Minas de Baruta, Venezuela.

Those events provided an amazing change of perspective for my developing world view. The year before, on Christmas Eve 1968, the sight of the first Earthrise ever witnessed by a human being came to astronauts Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders, the crew of Apollo 8, were orbiting the moon. They had already gone around the moon three times. On the fourth pass, they looked up and saw something they hadn't expected to see because they were preoccupied with examining the cratered lunar surface below. What they saw surprised them. It took their breath away.

What they saw was the Earth rising. Days before, they'd sat on the launch pad atop that Saturn V rocket, risking their lives so they could take a good look at the moon. What turned out to be really significant about the lunar voyage was that they saw the earth from a new perspective."

As a young man with a degree in Aerospace engineering and Fluid Mechanics class time with Irving Michelson who worked with the team that did the equations for the fuel systems for Saturn V and described the incredibly narrow margins for error – particularly in the first few seconds – I was amazed.

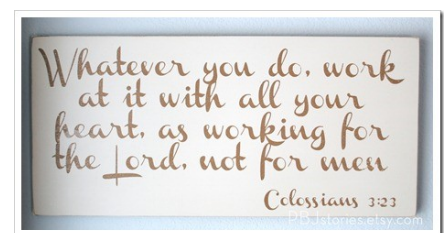
Some years later, after being ordained to ministry, I applied to NASA to be part of the space shuttle program. I thought that there should be a chaplain on the shuttles. They disagreed but invited me to apply on the basis of my technical background. Joyce also disagreed on the basis that we had two young children.

A couple months ago, Joyce and I went to see the movie *First Man*. A line spoken by Ryan Gosling as Neil Armstrong before going to the moon was "I don't know what space exploration will uncover, but I don't think it'll be exploration just for the sake of exploration. I think it'll be more the fact that it allows us to see things. That maybe we should have seen a long time ago. But just haven't been able to until now."

When Joyce and I arrived in Venezuela as volunteers in mission, we began a year of seeing the world in a whole new way – a way similar to the way Paul turns a mirror on his own life and ministry in his letter to the Colossians. He emphasizes that his role in relationship to Christ is "servant." As this "servant," Paul gladly took up his special commission — that is, as a missionary. We were truly blessed to be able to experience as Paul did, the joy of sharing the greatest "mystery" ever known. This "mystery" is not some secret system of aeons and emanations. This mystery is the miraculous gift of "Christ in you, the hope of glory," seeing the earth from the astronaut's perspective of a great distance and from our new perspective of working closely with the people of Las Minas.

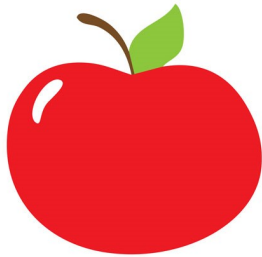
Fifty years later we still celebrate the joy that those new perspectives gave to our life together.

Henry





*You are invited to join us
on July 7th for an apple Bake-off!
Bring a pie, apple crisp or your favorite
award-winning baked apple treat!
everyone who comes to taste will be a winner!*



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From your session

At our June meeting:



- ◆ Pulpit supply for August will be:
 - ◇ August 4 Rev. Steve Schullanberger
 - ◇ August 11 Rev. Diana Wright
 - ◇ August 18 Rev. Diana Wright
 - ◇ August 25 Elder Becky Bane
- ◆ Adult Sunday School will resume on September 15 with a new member class.
- ◆ Movies With a Message will resume on September 19.
- ◆ Voted to allow the Hanson family to have a baby shower for Haley at the church on Saturday, October 19.

GENERAL FUND	June 30, 2019	Year to Date Totals
Income	13,241.05	55,755.07
Expenses	14,493.54	53,769.13
Net Income	-1,252.49	1,985.94



DEACONS FUND	June 30, 2019	Year to Date Totals
Income	202.00	1,336.14
Expenses	126.07	1,422.70
Net Income	75.93	-86.56



Happy Birthday !

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1..... *Savanna Williams*
- *Sierra Williams*
- 11..... *Loren Nelson*
- 23..... *Qi Liu Nyeango*
- 25..... *Mavis Hagan*

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 17..... *Mike & Brittany Jager (2009)*
- *John & Qi Liu Nyeango (1987)*



PRAY DURING JULY FOR THESE FAMILIES

- ◇ *Mike Say*
- ◇ *Bonnie Smith*
- ◇ *Ty & Elizabeth Talbert*
- ◇ *Marcia Twitchel*
- ◇ *Cathy Aronson*
- ◇ *Susan Bain*
- ◇ *Becky Bane*
- ◇ *Richard Bane*



July 2019



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2	3	4 Happy July 4th	5	6
7 Worship 10:30am	8	9 Deacons 6:00pm	10 Sacred Space 9:30am	11	12	13
14 Worship 10:30am	15	16 Loving Needles 6:30pm	17	18	19	20
21 Worship 10:30am	22	23	24 Sacred Space 9:30am	25	26	27 Women's breakfast, Loving Needles
28 Worship 10:30am, Session 12:00pm	29	30	31			



*Vietnamese Church
every Sunday at
1:30pm*



*4th Saturday of each
month, Women's
breakfast, Original
Pancake House, Norco,
8am*



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

*Adult Bible Study
will resume on
September 15th*



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

*July 2019
 Volume 25, Issue 7*

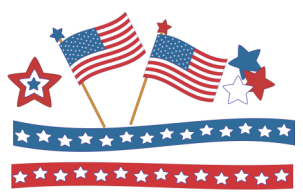
Our Church Staff

Pastor (Transitional)	Henry DeGraaff
Administrative Assistant	Judy Hanson/Marilyn Mittelstadt
Accompanist	Delia E. Martinez-Samojluk
Church Treasurer	Terrie Burbank
Bookkeeper	Teri White
Parish Associate for	
the Arts & Spirituality	Becky Bane
Director of Social Media	Sue Bain



Phone: 951-734-1920
 E-mail: judy@fpc-corona.org
 Pastor: 626-808-7472

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



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

