

FIRST PRESS



Pastor's Ponderings

Beginning 40 Days

We are beginning Lent's 40-day season of reflection and meditation on Jesus' passion, culminating in Holy Week. This year Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 13th; and the Easter Sunday commemoration of Jesus' Resurrection is April 20th.

Wednesday March 5th marks the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. There will be no Ash Wednesday service for our congregation, but there may be local churches observing the marking of ashes on foreheads if you are so inclined.

In the serious mood, some faiths adhere to fasting as a penance during the 40 days in remembering Jesus' suffering for us and for our salvation. In the past few years, an option is selecting a book to read during the 40 days – hopefully one giving spiritual help along the way.

Many Meditation Books are in the book stores; and available for free (at the church, or ordered - with donations happily received) is ***Our Daily Bread***, published monthly. *Being biblically-minded, I even suggest selecting a book (or two) in the Bible to read during the 40 days. My favorite is the Book of John. (Do you have a favorite?) Perhaps, you may have other thoughts on how you can dedicate this special time?*

In February, two sermons had trees as the subject of the Sunday Message. The first one centered on The Wisdom Tree and The Talking Tree.

The Wisdom Tree is referenced in two places in the Bible: Psalm 1 and Jeremiah (Chapter 17:1-11). The tree planted (or transplanted) by the water. With water the tree flourishes.

The parallel, per writer Ed Horsstman, "Where do WE need to go, or what do we need to do, to soak in the goodness of God? What would it feel like to be as nourished by God as a wisdom tree is nourished by good old H2O?"

The Talking Tree was a brief article in *Our Daily Bread* written by Dennis Fisher telling of an 8th Century poem. "One of the earliest Christian 'dream poems' in English literature is 'The Dream of the Rood.' The word rood comes from the Old English word rod or pole, or crucifix, and refers to the cross on which Christ was crucified. The crucifixion story is retold from the perspective of the cross,

"One analyst wrote: 'When the tree learns that it is to be used to kill the Son of God, it rejects the idea of being used in this way. But Christ enlists the help of the tree to provide redemption for all who will believe.'

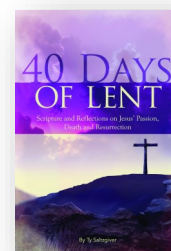
"However, in translation, as the dream unfolds the rood used for Jesus' cross, afterward becomes encrusted with beautiful stones telling the precious story of Christ." Fisher continues: "Find a copy of this poem, and experience the wisdom of the Holy Spirit."

I once find that wonderful literary poem. I started typing it out to read portions for the sermon – only to find it was too long to use. I decided to save it for Easter. It truly is a moving, spiritual creative writing. So I will be read it then as part of our service.

Dennis Fisher wrote: "The cross has become a remarkable symbol that represents the sacrificial death of the Son of God for our deliverance from sin and death. The cross is the inexpressibly wonderful evidence of God's love for us."

I look forward to this High Holy Time, and invite you all to participate fully in the Church services.

May the Lord be with you. Pastor Nancy



Fat Tuesday before Ash Wednesday

Lent is beginning March 5th with Ash Wednesday. A tradition that precedes it on Tuesday, March 4th, is the celebration known as Fat Tuesday.

"The day before Lent begins is typically known as "Fat Tuesday," or "Shrove Tuesday," and is observed as [a last hurrah](#) before the six weeks of sacrifice begins. It's no coincidence that Fat Tuesday also happens to coincide with Mardi Gras, that special Holiday in New Orleans." The colorful parade, with loud, happy parties I am sure, is a really BIG day in that Louisiana State."

"In other countries, Fat Tuesday is also known as "Pancake Tuesday" due to the centuries-old tradition of using up "luxury" foods not needed during Lent fasting, including sugar, milk and eggs. Those unnecessary items were often used to make pancakes, which is how the day got its name. The tradition of [making pancakes](#) the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday continues around the world, as well as in the U.S."



Women's History Month

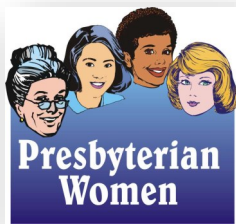
March is Women's History Month. A few facts about our PC(USA) Presbyterian Women (PW).

Presbyterian Women's predecessor organizations began more than 200 years ago when women had no role outside the home. In spite of numerous societal restrictions, the women's organizations gained respect, especially that of missionaries in the field who requested women's donations and prayers.

In the late 1800s the mission work of Presbyterian women broadened to include areas in Alaska and San Francisco, with a particular focus on Asian women. By answering God's call, women's work in the church and in society was validated, and the role of women in both foreign and home missions expanded throughout the 19th century.

The early 1900s were a time of upheaval and discontent; women gained power, women lost power, but through it all, women remained dedicated to the church. Then, in 1930, the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (PCUSA) opened the office of elder to women, thereby expanding the power of women to serve on any board of the General Assembly.

The offices of elder and minister were opened to women in the UPCUSA in 1958, when the PCUSA and the UPCNA merged to become the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., and to women in the PCUS in 1964 when presbyteries approved the ordination of women. After many years of talk about reunification, it became a reality in 1983 when the UPCUSA and the PCUS joined, becoming the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). There were many difficulties in blending two organizations of strong women. Finally in 1988, Presbyterian Women was born, incorporating the best in United Presbyterian Women (UPW) and Women of the Church (WOC).

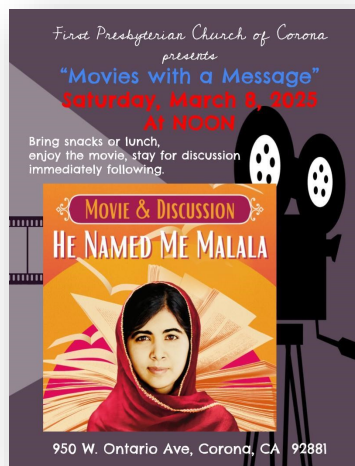


Movies with a Message By Susan Bain

February's movie was "The Six Triple Eight" in honor of Black History Month. The Six Triple Eight is a Tyler Perry drama that tells the story of the 6888th's mission to sort through a backlog of mail for US soldiers in Europe. The movie depicts the real-life experiences of the women of the 6888th. We had about 8 people join for snacks/lunch and a lively discussion following that included not only the service of blacks in the military but women's roles in our military and the country. It was a good movie and can be found on Netflix.

On Saturday, March 8th, we are showing "He Named Me Malala". This is a documentary film from 2015 about Malala Yousafzai, who was targeted at age 15 by the Taliban for speaking out about the rights of girls to get an education. Please join us for this inspirational story as we celebrate Women's History Month.

Movies with a Message are generally on the second Saturday of every month and begin at noon. We hope to see you there!





From your session

From our February meeting:

- ◆ Voted to ratify an online vote for approval of the annual G.A. statistical report.
- ◆ Voted to approve the annual review of church financial accounts for 2024.
- ◆ Voted to approve new guidelines for approval of all check requests.
- ◆ The Women's Bible Study group will begin a new study.



Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 9. Be sure to move your clocks ahead 1 hour.

*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.





*Worship and
Fellowship
February 22, 2025*

GENERAL FUND	January 31, 2025	Year to Date Totals
Income	5,609.91	5,609.91
Expenses	6,745.02	6,745.02
Net Income	-1,135.11	-1,135.11

DEACONS FUND	January 31, 2025	Year to Date Totals
Income	30.00	30.00
Expenses	1,018.80	1,018.80
Net Income	-988.80	-988.80



GENERAL FUND	February 28, 2025	Year to Date Totals
Income	5,277.91	10,837.82
Expenses	5,917.01	12,662.03
Net Income	-689.10	-1,824.21

DEACONS FUND	February 28, 2025	Year to Date Totals
Income	7.00	37.00
Expenses	-0-	1,018.80
Net Income	7.00	-981.80



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

- 4..... *John Nyeango*
5..... *Matty Ng*
6..... *Egbe Ndipagbor*
17..... *Elizabeth Bostian*

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

None



PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES

Marjory Welch
Squeak & Teri White
Cathy Aronson
Lillian Atia
Susan Bain
Elizabeth Bostian
Rudy & Terrie Burbank
Julio Garcia & Delia Martinez-Samojluk
Mavis & Philip Hagan

March 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					



Mar. 2



Mar. 9



Breakthrough Church of Corona every Sunday at 9:00am



Women's Bible Study Mar. 1, 10:30am



Movie with a message Mar 8, 12 noon



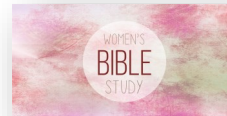
Worship Sunday at 11:00am at church & via live streaming Facebook



Session Mar. 15, 10am



Vietnamese Church every Sunday at 1:30pm



Women's Bible Study Mar. 22, 10:30am



Last Sunday of each month is Food Donation Sunday.



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
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coronafirstpresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/coronafirstpresbyterian)

