

# FIRST PRESS



## Pastor's Ponderings

### Maypole Dancing! Anyone?

The merry, merry month of May brings color and flowers and springtime and Maypole Dancing?

Well, today we might have difficulty finding a Maypole. Many, many years ago it was a tradition, I have read. For instance, "This evening we will have fireworks in the square, roast a whole ox, invite the neighbors, and dance about a *maypole*." *That does sound like fun – except for the challenge of cooking! Personally, I have difficulty remembering when I may have seen a Maypole...other than in pictures or car dealer ads.*

May will have lots of flowers, however. And perhaps some traveling – since May is the month to honor Mothers! We all have had a mother. But not all women are mothers. (We do have stepmothers, and the stepmother to my granddaughter Cassie has been wonderful! Cassie was a baby when her mother died.) And there are fathers as well, who sometimes find themselves doing the mothering.

I hasten to mention that aunts and cousins can still honor the event in the larger family. And, hopefully, have good memories of the times spent with their own mothers in tears past (or years past, if you like). If it will help, I came across a quote by Barbara Walters: "Motherhood is tough. If you just want a wonderful little creature to love, you can get a puppy." (Sorry – just a thought.)

Some Pastors, including this one, have given sermon messages on Jesus' mother, Mary. There have been times when she was ignored or hardly mentioned – as a sensitive subject because of the emphasis given Mary in the Catholic faith. I find that regrettable. I admit, when I was given an assignment in a Seminary class to look into the prayers of the mother Mary, I was very surprised finding the depth of sanctification given to her.

But this year I will be talking about Salome Zebedee – the mother of James and John. In fact, soon I will be starting a Message Series on the individual Apostles and some of the other persons in Early Christianity. (Interested?)

Yet, do spend a few moments in remembering Mary, the

mother of Jesus, and the part she gave for us in so many ways. Not to mention, she spent many years *alone raising Jesus, his sisters (unnamed, there were at least two) and his four brothers: James, Joses (or Joseph), Simon, and Judas (or Jude).*

Do glance at the Newsletter's PW column on Justice and Peace for the month of May, to see how others may be celebrating Mother's Day.

In your prayers, remember the mothers throughout the world who are not as fortunate as we are. Such as, families affected by the recent Myanmar earthquake, where the number dead is reported, as I write, reaching 3,798. Also remember mothers and families in Ukraine, Gaza, Russia and elsewhere.

Here at home, Easter Sunday's attendance felt so warm and good in the larger numbers able to attend. Pastors have bad habits of watching the numbers of congregants attending services. There is always the fear that we may not be giving the type of sermon message or scripture, that someone is needing. (If this happens, do let me know.)

My mother died 25 years ago. She set a high standard for me to follow – in more ways than one. She was a preacher's wife, and sometimes a mother to members of the congregation (s). She never learned that I became a Pastor, to my regret.

For all of us, here is a little prayer to say to your mother, wherever she may be,

"For all the times I forgot to say thank you—for life, for so many little things-

thank you."

May the Lord be with you. Pastor Nancy





## PW Justice and Peace May Calendar

### Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

05-11 Children's Book Week; "Every child a reader."

06 National Teacher Day; nea.org. National Education Association has over 3 million members: "A voice for every student; advancing justice."

10 World Fair Trade Day; wfto.com

10 Stamp Out Hunger Day: U.S. Post Office Food Drive

11 Mother's Day

15 Palestinian Nakba Remembrance Day \*

22 International Day for Biological Diversity

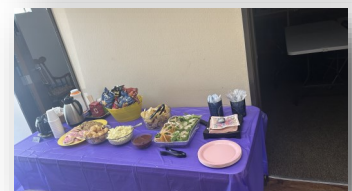
26 Memorial Day Holiday

\*The Nakba, which means "catastrophe" in Arabic, refers to the mass displacement and dispossession of Palestinians during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. Before the Nakba, Palestine was a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society. However, the conflict between Arabs and Jews intensified in the 1930s with the increase of Jewish immigration, driven by persecution in Europe, and with the Zionist movement aiming to establish a Jewish state in Palestine.

On 15 May 2023, for the first time in the history of the UN, this anniversary was commemorated pursuant to the mandate by the General Assembly (A/RES/77/23) 30 November 2022.

#

### *Fellowship and Easter Sunday*



## From your session .....

From our April meeting:

- ◇ A thank you letter was sent to the Transformed Bible Study for recent contributions to FPC.
- ◇ We have received a refund from the City of Corona on recent water bills.
- ◇ Movies With a Message continues on May 10 with The Long Game.
- ◇ The Women's Bible Study continues on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month at 10:30.
- ◇ Voted to replace the copier in the church office with a printer and return the current copier to Konica-Minolta.
- ◇ Voted to research repair and cleaning options for the church piano.
- ◇ •Voted to move the May session meeting to May 31.



GENERAL FUND	April 30, 2025	Year to Date Totals
Income	8,889.91	33,015.82
Expenses	6,272.24	28,453.85
Net Income	2,617.67	4,561.97

DEACONS FUND	April 30, 2025	Year to Date Totals
Income	100.00	152.00
Expenses	18.00	1,036.80
Net Income	82.00	-884.80



*Sunday worship service is available via livestreaming at:  
**[www.facebook.com/coronafirstpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/coronafirstpresbyterian)***

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



## PC(USA) Update on Wildfires

Representatives of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance met in Altadena with a group whose homes were destroyed in January by the Eaton Fire. A total of 19 members lost their homes in the fire, and many others are awaiting word when they may return to their remediated homes. Also attending, The Rev. Jihyun, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of PC(USA) and Executive of the Interim Unified Agency, *"We are here to be witnesses to the experiences you continue to undergo, and also hold hope for the future that will come to you as well."* The Altadena Community Church, The Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center, and the home of The Rev. Wendy Tajiman, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of San Gabriel, all burned down. Listening sessions are also being held. [Information from Mike Ferguson, March 7<sup>th</sup> Report, Presbyterian News Service.]

Presently the Palisades Presbyterian Church meets on Sunday afternoons at the Culver City Presbyterian Church. A charred cross pulled from the Palisades site is displayed in their services at Culver City. In March, The Rev. Matt Hardin and The Rev. Grace Park, who serve the **Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church**, led a Sunday special afternoon Service with their members and representatives of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). A total of 55 Palisades Church families lost their homes in the wildfire destruction.

To add to the irony, just before the wildfires hit, Palisades had added a new roof, new carpeting and new custom sliding doors. Sadly, with the church building, the pipe organ and decades of music were destroyed by the fire.

The two Palisades pastors talked with the PDA delegation for a time at the church site itself, closing in a circle with a prayer by Rev. Edwin Gonzalez Castillo, stating in part: *"Dear God, we're standing on sacred ground – not only because of events but because we believe you're still in this place. In the midst of pain, sorrow and anger, we pray for Your Spirit to move around the community, those near and far. We ask for Your Spirit to embrace them with hope, with the expectation You're still in control. ..."* [Information from Mike Ferguson, March 10<sup>th</sup> Report, Presbyterian News Service.]



## Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost offering is one of the four special offerings of the PCUSA and it is used to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, we are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come .... children, youth, and young adults. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Pentecost Sunday this year is June 8. There will be inserts and special offering envelopes in the worship bulletins each Sunday prior to and including that day.



## God's Masterpiece

God took the fragrance of a flower,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The gentleness of morning dew,  
The calm of a quiet sea.

The beauty of the twilight hour,  
The soul of a starry night,  
The laughter of a rippling brook,  
The grace of a bird in flight.

Then God fashioned from these things,  
A creation like no other,  
And when His masterpiece was through,  
He called it simply – Mother.

~ Herbert Farnham





## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

4 ..... *Cathy Aronson*  
6 ..... *Virginia Watson*  
23 ..... *Ian Bain*  
29 ..... *Jaime Heller*  
31 ..... *Kathy Shepardson*

## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

..... 19    *Squeak & Teri White (1984)*



## PRAY FOR THESE FAMILIES

*Lynda Rodisch*  
*Kathy Shepardson*  
*Hanafi, Natalia, & Naomi Tanojo*  
*Silvia Thorne*  
*Virginia Watson*  
*Marjory Welch*  
*Squeak & Teri White*  
*Cathy Aronson*

## May 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



May 4



May 11



May 26



*Breakthrough Church of Corona every Sunday at 9:00am*



*Movie with a message May 10, 12 noon*



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



*Women's Bible Study May 24, 10:30am*



*Vietnamese Church every Sunday at 1:30pm*



*Session May 31, 10am*



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



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

## *Our Church Staff*

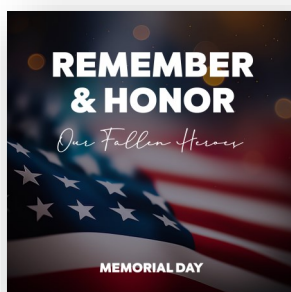
Guest Pastor	Nancy Richmond
Administrative Assistant	Judy Hanson/Marilyn Mittelstadt
Accompanist	Delia E. Martinez-Samojluk
Church Treasurer	Terrie Burbank
Bookkeeper	Teri White
Director of Social Media	Sue Bain

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**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**  
11:00AM Worship Service  
*First Press* deadline – 4<sup>th</sup>  
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)

