



## Pastor's Ponderings

Get ready!

For what?

My last few trips to Costco impressed upon me that the retail world continues to make extensive plans to help us be prepared and ready for the coming "Holy Days." One had plenty of lead time to purchase supplies for Halloween while seeing what is available for Thanksgiving and observing the growing displays of Christmas trees and gift opportunities.

Meanwhile, at the church, we are feeling the pressure of trying to get ready for the season of Advent so that we can celebrate getting ready for Christmas. The beginning of Advent is the beginning of the church year. It has been observed for centuries as a time of preparing for Christmas, preparing our hearts to receive Jesus more deeply in our daily lives, and anticipating the glory of his return.

I have always been one who thought we should delay the singing of Christmas carols until Christmas. We need to sing our way through the Advent hymns in order to be properly ready for celebrating the birth of Jesus. That creates a bit of tension since the Christmas music is already playing in stores and malls across the country.

This year I will continue my journey toward accepting the reality that my preparation timeline does not fit well in the calendar of events and activities that are already happening. As part of that journey I have stopped at Dr. Marcia McFee's worship planning website where we are invited to get ready for advent. She makes a great suggestion. How about

celebrating the 300<sup>th</sup> year of Joy to the World as a focus for our planning. That works for me. I can have my thoughts about the meaning of advent preparation, sing O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and use a popular Christmas Carol mixed in.

Isaac Watts agreed with John Calvin and other reformers that we should sing the Psalms as part of worship. Thus, he wrote Joy to the World as a hymn based on Psalm 98. He also wrote exhortations such as "Against idleness and Mischief." I haven't read the latter, but I have sung the famous carol..... and we will sing it all four Sundays of Advent as well as having a special Advent preparation time beginning Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30.

OK. I have been converted. Advent will be a time for more joy as well as daily devotions and contemplation. In order to make advent a time of more joy in preparing the way of the Lord, we will be allowed more time preparing the preparations during November. See the article by Becky Bane on *page 2* for details on the intergenerational collaborative art times and celebration of 300 years of Joy to the World.

I hope that you will all be able to set aside time and *enJOY* the creative Advent/Christmas preparation beginning Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30.

Henry



From your Parish Associate for Art & Spirituality (Becky Bane) - For this Advent season we at FPCC are going to engage in what is known as “collaborative art.” Don’t worry. That’s just a fancy way of saying we are going to make Christmas decorations together. The idea behind it is important – **that we as a congregation adults and children** work together to prepare our worship space for Advent. We will do that by using our adult education time to create easy (I promise!), but meaningful decorations. The theme will be the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Joy to the World. We will make decorations for our Christmas tree and for the sanctuary around that theme. It will involve using the sheet music for the hymn and turning the paper into three-dimensional ornaments for the tree, as well as creating free-standing word sculptures saying “JOY”. If you can’t imagine what I’m describing, don’t fret. I’m going to be there every step of the way to guide you and even the most fumbly-fingered of you will be able to do this. All the supplies will be provided so all you have to do is bring yourselves. We will start at 9:30 on the dot, though arriving a little early wouldn’t hurt! The first session will be November 10<sup>th</sup>, followed by the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for this hands-on Advent preparation and let the Spirit prepare you for a very special Advent through art-making and fellowship.



## Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, November 17, for the purpose of electing elders and deacons. Your vote is important. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend.



*Beauty of  
fall*

**From your session .....**

At our October meeting:

- Voted to ask Riverside Presbytery to prosecute the procedure for Becky Bane to be ordained as a Minister of Arts and Spirituality.
- The deacons are planning a church-wide Christmas party .... date to be announced.
- Terrie Burbank and Teri White will work on a budget for 2020, to be approved at the December session meeting.
- Advent booklets will be ordered for the congregation.
- Becky Bane is working on Advent presentations for worship.
- We passed our re-inspection by Corona Fire Department. Hooray!!!



<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>October 31, 2019</b>	<b>Year to Date Totals</b>
Income	4,406.31	83,664.00
Expenses	8,356.37	85,048.70
Net Income	-3,950.06	-1,384.70

<b>DEACONS FUND</b>	<b>October 31, 2019</b>	<b>Year to Date Totals</b>
Income	180.00	2,154.14
Expenses	87.09	2,173.41
Net Income	92.91	-19.27





### Chili Cook-off & Potato Bake



*Happy  
Birthday !*

**NOVEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS**

- 4.....*Susan Bain*
- 6.....*Jerry Neumann*
- 7.....*Jimmy Nyeango*
- 16.....*Margaret Jameson*
- 17.....*Jean Neumann*
- .....*Jill Nelson*
- 23.....*Lynda Rodisch*
- 28.....*Glen Nelson*

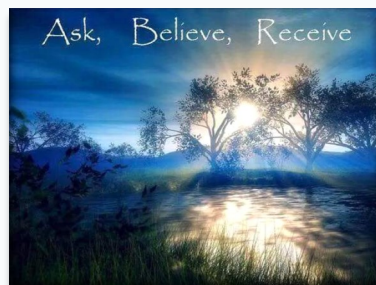
**NOVEMBER  
ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2.....*Pete & Marilyn Mittelstadt (1974)*
- 26.....*Mel & Susan Bain (1993)*



**PRAY DURING NOVEMBER  
FOR THESE FAMILIES**

- Bonnie Smith*
- Ty & Elizabeth Talbert*
- Marcia Twitchel*
- Cathy Aronson*
- Susan Bain*
- Becky Bane*
- Richard Bane*
- Rudy & Terrie Burbank*



# November 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		 COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY			1	2
3 Worship 10:30am	4	5 CBS 9:30am	6	7 Movies with a Message 10:00am	8	9
10 Worship 10:30am	11	12 CBS 9:30am, Deacons 6pm	13 Sacred Space 9:30am	14 Movies with a Message 10:00am	15	16 Presbytery meeting, Yucca Valley 10:00am
17 Worship 10:30am, congregational meeting after worship	18	19 CBS 9:30am, Loving Needles 6:30pm	20	21 Movies with a Message 10:00am	22	23 Women's breakfast, Loving Needles
24 Worship 10:30am	25	26	27 Sacred Space 9:30am	28 	29	30

## MOVIES WITH A MESSAGE

- November 7 THE SQUID AND THE WHALE
- November 14 THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN (If Available)
- November 21 LION KING (2019)



Vietnamese Church  
every Sunday at  
1:30pm



4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each  
month, Women's  
breakfast, Original  
Pancake House, Norco,  
8am



Last Sunday of  
each month is  
Food Donation  
Sunday.

Adult Bible Study  
Sunday at  
9:30am



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**  
 CHURCH OF CORONA  
*Celebrating a journey without end...*  
 950 Ontario Avenue, Corona CA 92882



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



*November 2019  
 Volume 25, Issue 11*

*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



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 Pastor: 626-808-7472

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

*thanksgiving  
 gather  
 thankful family  
 blessed grateful  
 together blessings  
 november*

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

