

CLARION

Bridging the Centuries through Faith
1913 – 2020



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA

Altadena, California 91001
Wednesday, December 15, 2021
Volume LXXIII, Number XLX

OUR CALENDAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

*Fourth Sunday of Advent
In Person Worship Service*

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Service

SATURDAY DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day

For unto us a child is born...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

We are grateful to those persons who led us in worship on Sunday, December 12, 2021, with social distancing. Call to Worship, Mae Uchida; Advent Candle Lighting, The Morris Family; Scripture, Bob Uchida (Zephaniah 3: 14-20); music, Kenny Elliott, Ann Kiriyaama,, Greg Middleton, Pete Morris, Ron Ota, and Gus Zdanovich; Sound and Visuals, Sam Gin, Bob and Kevin Hayashi, and Ron Ota; and the Rev. Ann Oglesby Edwards for her sermon "The Fork in the Road".

We are live streaming our 10:30 worship service via YouTube. The link is sent out by email the day before service, or search "First Presbyterian Church Altadena" on YouTube. Service is simultaneously recorded, and can be viewed at a later time.



Advent and Christmas Devotional

Come to Bethlehem and be Nourished



By Donna Frischknecht Jackson,
Editor of Presbyterians Today

Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 12

The Pie Maker

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid, for the Lord is my strength and might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells

of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. — Isaiah 12:2-4

Over the course of our time together, I and my open-hearth cooking companions found a rhythm to our days. The awkwardness of being strangers eased as we shared stories while chopping, measuring and mixing at the well-worn wooden table that had many stories to tell if its aged slabs could talk. We fell into roles we were good at: wood collector, fire maker, dough kneader, dishwasher, etc. The instructor, though, noticed we were getting too comfortable and decided to challenge us.

You can guess where this is going. Challenging those who are comfortable rarely goes well, especially if you have the job title of "premier piecrust maker." Yes, one of our cooking companions — who boasted how she had spent an entire summer at a historic site showcasing 18th-century kitchen skills — had to relinquish making the crusts for our savory meat pies that day. Instead, she would tend to the smoky fires. The piecrusts would be made by an older man who had failed several times already in making a buttery, light crust.

So, there he was at the old table clumsily working the butter and flour, with the piecrust queen looking over his shoulder remarking: "Don't work it too much." "Don't add more flour." "Is the water cold? It has to be cold."

The man's already drooping shoulders sunk a bit more with each critique. When his finished pastry wasn't enough to fill the pan — and before any comment could be made — I swooped in with a smaller pan in hand and exclaimed, "Awesome! I've wanted to use this pan, and now you made the perfect crust to fit it!" His shoulders straightened with a newfound sense of worth, and he smiled back at me. That meat pie with a crust like lead was the worst I had ever tasted. But that night, gathered around a lone candle burning on the old table, no one admitted it. We washed down big mouthfuls with cider and applauded the effort of this man who was eager to get back to the job he was good at: tending the fires.

Living in community is not easy. We fall into roles that we think only we can do, never daring to branch out and try something new. Not only do we have our own special roles, but we get territorial if anyone dares to encroach on our area of expertise. We protect what is ours rather than inviting another into our space. When we live like this, we miss the opportunities to learn from others and grow. Worst yet, we miss those magical moments of God's grace that can only happen in community.

What would happen this Advent if we learned to smile at others more, praise others more and share with others more? What would happen if we spoke words that didn't make another person's shoulders droop? What would happen if we gladly accepted that substandard pie and ate it with joy? (Continued on page 2)

OUR THANKS

Our church expresses our sincere appreciation to the following members and friends for their gifts from December 8, 2021 thru December 14, 2021

Christmas

Jane Ishii
Larry and Wandy Jung
Nadine McManus
John and Susan Nishio
Don and Kathy Matsumoto
David and Ivy Yee Sakamoto
Mark and Midori Tajima
Bob and Mae Uchida
Janet Watanabe
Norm and Betty Yutani

Christmas in Memory

Ron Fujitaki & Margaret Seki,
In memory of Roy and Akiko Fujitaki & William and Florence Nishimura

Christmas Joy Offering

Pete and Sue Morris

Deacons

Massie Fujii, in appreciation

Special

Anonymous (Santa Maria)
Stephanie Kang
Pam Tajima Praeger (Spokane)

Special Wherever Needed

Shig Nishio
Ron and Jean Toshima
Norm and Betty Yutani

The Pie Maker (continued from page 1)

Howard Thurman once said, "When I've lost harmony with another, my whole life is thrown out of tune. I cannot be truly aware of God if I am not at peace with my fellows."

This Advent, may we begin living more in harmony with one another, and by doing so, find ourselves ever more aware of Emmanuel, God with us.

It is time to light the third candle of Advent. As you do, get your bread out to eat. Thank God for all you have. Now, take time to do a self-inventory, listing all the things you are good at. As you make the list, lift your praises to God. After you are done, think about how you might be able to share your gifts with others. Are you good at making piecrusts? Teach someone. Are you good at woodworking? Mentor someone. How can you enrich your community this Advent?

MISCELLANY



Merry Christmas! Thank you to everyone who was able to contribute to our Deacon sponsored toy and holiday food drive. The box was overflowing, and took up a good portion of the entry way of the sanctuary. Food and toys will be delivered in time for Christmas. But we will continue to collect non-perishable food items through the end of the month. We will start a new flavor in January.

WHO'S MAILING

December 20	Volunteers
December 27	Volunteers
January 3, 2022	Volunteers
January 10	Volunteers

STAFF DECEMBER 8

Editor	Donna Kiriyama
Printer and Mailing Crew:	
Gini Ishida, Dorothy Kirkland, Bob and Mae Uchida, and Wade Utsunomiya	
Mailer	Bob Uchida
Email	Bob Hayashi

Christmas Tree Lane



Santa Rosa Ave, between Woodbury Rd. and Altadena Dr.

Lights are lit from 5:30pm to 12:00 midnight

Through Sunday, January 9, 2022

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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