

CLARION

Bridging the Centuries through Faith
1913 – 2020



Happy New Year!
2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA

Altadena, California 91001
Wednesday, December 29, 2021
Volume LXXIII, Number XLXII

OUR CALENDAR

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SATURDAY JANUARY 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

In Person Worship Service

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

MONDAY, JANUARY 3

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

Communion Sunday

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

We are grateful to those persons who led us in worship on Christmas Eve December 24. Call to Worship, Nancy Castillo; Advent Candle lighting, The Hashimoto Family; Scripture, Ron Ota (Isiah 9: 2-7), Katherine Hashimoto (Luke 1: 26-33), and Nancy Castillo (Luke 2: 1-7); Solo, Veronica Ota; and Rev. Ann Oglesby Edwards who led us through the Christmas Devotional and Holy Communion. Sunday, December 26, 2021, with social distancing. Call to Worship and Opening Prayer, Danielle Williams; Candle Lighting, Natalie Tomoyasu, Scripture, (Psalm 148: 1-5, 9-14); music, Kenny Elliott, Greg Middleton, Ron Ota, and Gus Zdanovich; Sound and Visuals, Sam Gin, Ron Ota, Nick Tomoyasu, and Kathy Uchida; and the Rev. Ann Oglesby Edwards for her sermon **“Let Heaven and Nature Sing: Songs of Christmas”**.

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.

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Eva Ramirez and I have recently been hired to be the new Office Administrator for the Altadena Presbyterian Church. Currently, I am working in the office along with Pastor Ann and Dorothy Kirkland while I get familiarized with office procedures. My current schedule is listed below.

My email address is eva.presbyterian@gmail.com. I am here to serve you and in turn I may have questions for you in the future. Looking forward to meeting you soon.

Current Hours:
Monday - 8am - 12pm
Wednesday - 9am - 1pm
Friday - 9am - 1pm

Merry Christmas

Minute for Missions

My Christmas ritual is viewing “Black Nativity: A Gospel Christmas Musical Experience.” Adapted from Langston Hughes’ Christmas classic “Black Nativity,” the production is a powerful rendition of the Christmas story. It is filled with thrilling voices, exciting dance, spectacular costumes and glorious gospel music. Hughes originally wrote “Black Nativity” in 1961, at the height of the civil rights movement; it is more moving with every production.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of my ritual of attending this play. Three decades. In 2020, COVID-19 restrictions kept me from attending in person. Hearing there would be no live performances felt like Christmas was not coming. Yet, I realized my disappointment paled in comparison to the many lost loved ones, jobs, homes and the ability to attend regular Sunday worship services.

Alas, the quarantine produced an unexpected gift. Atlanta-based Dominion Entertainment Group recorded an amazing production of the play, complete with all of my favorite Atlanta artists, at the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church. The recording was made available for everyone to “attend” from the safety of their own homes.

Christmas came. I secured a copy of the production (and its soundtrack!) to enjoy from home. Not only did I enjoy the recording last year, but it was mine to enjoy for years to come.

While seeing it in person is its own joy, knowing that I have options that keep me and others safe is something that I truly celebrate. I also celebrate knowing that many of us now have these same options for Sunday worship. I’ve learned to enjoy crisp bacon and warm muffins while viewing a powerful message! Sipping a freshly brewed cup of coffee while viewing a spirit-inspired worship in my recliner is a beautiful alternative on cold rainy mornings.

I’ve also enjoyed sharing our church’s broadcast with friends and family who could not (or would not) have attended before. What a gift! Are you encouraging others to tune in to your church’s worship? Have you had a chance to visit other churches that you never had an opportunity to visit before? What about sharing your church with those who would never come inside?

Now the good news is available for everyone to enjoy in the privacy of their own homes with their family and friends. This is a wonderful time of year! What a wonderful time to be the church! Christ still comes to us. Christ comes to all! Behold, there are good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people (Luke 2:10).

Merry Christmas, everyone!

*Rev. Carlton David Johnson, Coordinator, Vital
Congregations, Presbyterian Mission Agency*

**We Welcome Eva Ramirez
Office Administrator**

OUR THANKS

Our church expresses our sincere appreciation to the following members and friends for their gifts from December 22, 2021 thru December 28, 2021

Christmas

Joel and Nancy Castillo
 Robert Fukumoto
 Lewis and Katherine Hashimoto family
 Alan and Lori Hatakeyama
 Bob and Yoshiko Hayashi
 Craig and Carol Higa
 Judy Kam
 Tom and Tsuru Miyasaki
 Walter Naydo
 Carolyn Ota
 Veronica Ota
 Bob and Deena Yanari Ota
 Miyeko Toshima
 Nancy Toyota
 Dr. Robert Yamasaki

Christmas Joy Offering

Gini Ishida, in memory of Fumi Shigetomi
 Tom and Tsuru Miyasaki
 Bob and Mae Uchida

Deacons, In appreciation

Alice Hamane
 Elsie Hayashi
 Irene Hirashiki
 Thomas Ueunten
 Teruko Yamaoka

In Memory, of Dwight Middleton, brother of our church musician,

Greg Middleton

Joel and Nancy Castillo

In memory of her family members

Gini Ishida, for parents Sam and Mary Ishida, brother Roy Ishida, and sister Lori Nomura

Special

Anonymous
 Raymond and Janice Waldorf, Waldorf Giving Fund
 David Yamada, Minimum Retirement Distribution



CHRISTMAS JOY

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

A Little Extra Help

Seems like in one way or another, Jack and Kate Eisel have always been busy putting out fires — unless they were building them. The couple met fireside in 2009 at [Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center](#), where Kate was the conference manager, and Jack, a recently retired pastor, was volunteering in the maintenance department. "Since our courtship developed through long talks in front of the fire during snowy winter nights," recalled Kate, "sitting by a fire is very special to us."

As for Jack, following a long, second career spent almost entirely in interim ministry, he was no stranger to fighting the frequent fires inherent in transitional situations. Throughout his career, Jack served 15 interim pastorates over 25 years, in 12 different presbyteries throughout the western U.S. There God used his gifts to help congregations navigate through challenging and often difficult times.

These days both Jack and Kate candidly admit that moving forward in their own post-employment lives has required some careful planning — and maybe a little firefighting. Kate lost her job unexpectedly when she was not yet of retirement age, and the couple found themselves relying heavily on Jack's modest assets.

"When we first retired, life was extremely restrictive," Kate said. "I often had to ask myself, 'Can I really go get that carton of milk right now?' Jack's Social Security and pension were very modest, so we still wondered how we were going to pay the bills and put food on the table."

As a minister himself, as well as the son of a Presbyterian minister, Jack had always known that help was available through the [Assistance Program](#) of the [Board of Pensions](#), a resource he occasionally commended to his colleagues. He just didn't know that one day he might need that help.

Through the Assistance Program, supported by your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, the Eisels were able to receive an Income Supplement to help alleviate their financial burden.

"Knowing the impact of the programs that the Christmas Joy Offering supports, it has always been important for me to promote the offering in the many churches I've served," said Jack. "I've gotten to highlight the wonderful things the offering provides and to encourage people to participate in this extraordinary generosity. And now, years later, I have firsthand knowledge of what a life-changing difference it can make." For Jack and Kate, it helps to keep those cherished home fires burning.

Our congregation will continue to collect for the Christmas Joy Offering until January 16. You may make checks payable to: FPCA with Christmas Joy in the memo line. Please give generously.

WHO'S MAILING

January 3, 2022	Volunteers
January 10	Volunteers
January 17	Volunteers
January 24	Volunteers

STAFF DECEMBER 20

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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