

CLARION

God's People Serving the World with Love and Faith in Action
1913 – 2022

Communion Sunday

February 6



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA

Altadena, California 91001
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
Volume LXXIV, Number V

OUR CALENDAR

Communion is normally celebrated during worship service on the first Sunday of the month.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

*Communion Sunday
In Person Worship Service*

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

We are grateful to those persons who led us in worship on Sunday, January 30, 2022, with social distancing. Call to Worship and Opening Prayer, Gini Ishida; Scripture, Bob Hayashi, (Luke 13: 10-17); music, Kenny Elliott, Virginia Gin, Ann Kiriyaama, Alison Itano Lee, Greg Middleton, and Gus Zdanovich; Sound and Visuals, Sam Gin, Larry Jung, and Ron Ota; and the Rev. Ann Oglesby Edwards for her sermon "The Gift of Sundays".

WHO'S MAILING

February 7	Volunteers
February 14	Volunteers
February 21	Volunteers
February 28	Volunteers

STAFF JANUARY 25

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

Minute for Missions

Toys Bring Comfort and Joy

As a therapist, Ellen Jacobs knows something about the healing power that can be found in a hug. She also knows all too well the great need among young and old alike to feel loved. That is why Jacobs, a member of East Side Presbyterian Church in Ashtabula, Ohio, can often be found playing with stuffed animals. Well, maybe not playing, but rather inspecting and cleaning cuddly bears, giraffes, bunnies and more, before tying a tag on them and placing them in the church's pews.

The animals are part of East Side's stuffed animal ministry, which Jacobs freely admits was not her idea, but one that she was introduced to while visiting a church in Florida some years ago.

Jacobs remembers entering the sanctuary with her then young children and noticing a teddy bear in each pew. When she asked about them, a woman told her they were part of the church's outreach ministry and were there for anyone to take who might need comfort. Jacobs didn't take a bear that day. "But I did take the tag describing the ministry so that I could bring the idea to my church," she said.

Session blessed the stuffed animal ministry. A call for new or slightly used animals was well received, says Jacobs, adding that it was decided to welcome all stuffed animals and not limit the ministry to just teddy bears. Word spread about the animals, with a local hospital reaching out to East Side, inquiring if some could be shared with patients. "The stuffed animals do provide comfort," said Jacobs, recalling one story of a young boy placed in foster care who was given a stuffed frog by a member of East Side.

"He loved frogs, so we searched for one just for him," said Jacobs. The boy was read the tag attached to the frog, which told him that it has "spent time in the midst of our congregation. It has heard Scriptures read, sermons preached, prayers prayed and songs of praise sung. ... It comes to offer you comfort and peace with the blessings of worship and love."

There is, though, another aspect to the stuffed animal ministry that no one saw coming. With the focus on giving the toys away, there was also the opportunity to invite children to help others by donating their beloved toys to the ministry.

Jacobs' friend, also a therapist, in fact, suggested to a little girl she was trying to wean from her own "stuffy," as she called the stuffed toy, to give the animal to another child. "The girl decided that it would be a wonderful thing to do, and she gave her 'stuffy' to the church," said Jacobs. The girl was later told that it soon got adopted.

East Side Presbyterian has been gradually taking steps to move back to in-person worship. As they do, Jacobs has been getting ready, too, cleaning and inspecting the stuffed animals. After all these months of digital worship, it is safe to say the stuffed animals will be the first worshipers back in the pews, ready to soak in the prayers and the songs, and then go out to share the love of God — one bear, giraffe, frog, or bunny hug at a time.

Donna Frischknecht Jackson, Editor, Presbyterians Today

Seeking nominees for:

Amy Utsunomiya Memorial Youth Community Service Award

Do you know a young person that has helped one of the Japanese American organizations or the JA community in the Pasadena area during 2021? Here is a great way of recognizing them.

The annual award was created in memory of Amy Ota Utsunomiya. A strong community activist and past PJCI President, Amy grew up in Pasadena, attended local schools, and was a member of our church. The nominating committee wants to recognize all deserving young people who have helped the community in 2021. Please submit nominations as soon as possible before January 31. Please contact Wade Utsunomiya for nomination forms, referrals, or questions at (626) 799-7719 or utsunomiya@earthlink.net

OUR THANKS

Our church expresses our sincere appreciation to the following members and friends for their gifts from January 19, 2022 thru January 18, 2022

Clarion

Joan Nakano Fiske

In Memory of Roy McManus

Sam and Virginia Gin

Presbyterian Women

Wandy and Larry Jung

Special for use of Church Facility

Tom Behrens, John Donaldson, Paul Kikuchi, and Ron Ota

Thank you to Nadine McManus

Sam and Virginia Gin

** The 2021 donation statements are ready and will be mailed soon. Questions and concerns may be forwarded to the church office at: 626/791-4271*

MISCELLANY

REMEMBER! All church entities.... Your **annual reports** and end of the year financial statements are due! Drop dead date is **February 14.**

Many of you readers of the Clarion might be wondering about the very late delivery of the Clarion to your homes. Reason: the regular postal worker at the bulk mailing section of the Pasadena postal office has been on vacation during the entire month of January. Unfortunately, there was no one trained to take her place, except for a worker from a sub station, who was not trained to process bulk mail. We anxiously await the return of the regular worker, so that you will receive the Clarion in a more timely manner. Thank you for your patience.

New Changes in the Church Office

Even with the pandemic requiring our church to partially close for the past two years, the church staff and officers and volunteers have not been idle. Over the past couple months, we have been preparing to open up more fully when it is safe to do so. Also, we wanted to provide the new pastor when he/she arrives with accommodations and support which will be needed for the pastoral work that is to be done.

As such, you may know that we have made some changes in the office, as follows:

* We have recently hired Eva Ramirez as the Office Administrator. Eva has both experience and personal qualities that suit her well to this position and with the church family. Eva works in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the morning. She can be reached by telephone at the church office (626) 791-4271. Her email address is: eva.presbyterian@gmail.com Please come to the office to meet and greet Eva, and give her the opportunity to meet you.

* We have a new email address. It is altadenapresbyterian@gmail.com This is the general office email address and replaces the former email address which is now out of service. Of course, you can still reach Pastor Ann on her cell phone (626) 827-0265 or her email: pastorannaltadena@gmail.com And Eva has her own email address (see above).

* We have a new website. We are quite proud of it, and thank Gini Ishida for building the website on her own initiative. To access to the church website simply to go to your Google search bar and enter the following:

<http://www.firstpresbyterianchurchaltadena.org>

Enjoy. And don't just look once. Gini updates the website weekly.

* We will have an updated church directory in the next week. The last was published in 2019, and there have been many changes since then. Copies may be picked up on Sunday in the sanctuary in February, or in the church office.

* We have cleared the office of much clutter that has accumulated over the years, and replaced some of the old office furniture and equipment with that which is more current, functional and user-friendly. We are not finished yet, but the office does look brighter and more inviting to visitors and friends.

All of us hope and pray that one day very soon, we will be able to reopen safely and be together fully again. We will continue to prepare for that day

We Have a Newly Constructed Website Check It Out !!!

One of the more prominent ways to invite people to join our church family is to advertise who we are through a website. Thanks to Gini Ishida, who single-handedly researched and taught herself how to build a website, our church now proudly displays our church activities and events and our family through the World Wide Web. It is simple, yet comprehensive, and fun too.

To explore our website, simply type into your Google search bar:
<http://www.firstpresbyterianchurchaltadena.org>

You will be able to view who we are and what we do, including many of our traditional events and activities. The newly adopted Mission Study Report is there for all to read. The latest Clarion newsletter is updated weekly, and our worship service is as well.

There is much more to view, and Gini says that there is more to come. It is a work in progress.

Please take some time to explore and enjoy the website. It is all about us. If you have any suggestions for other displays, feel free to contact Gini Ishida.

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