

CLARION



Sunday, February 27

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA
firstpresbyterianchurchaltadena.org

Altadena, California 91001
Wednesday, February 23, 2022
Volume LXXIV, Number VIII

OUR CALENDAR

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

In Person Worship Service

Sunday Family Worship 10:30
Congregational Meeting to follow Worship

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

Communion Sunday

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

We are grateful to those persons who led us in worship on Sunday, February 20, 2022, with social distancing. Welcome, Ron Ota; Call to Worship and Opening Prayer, Bob Uchida; Scripture, Nancy Castillo, (Genesis 16: 1-16); music, Kenny Elliott, Ann Kiriyaama, Greg Middleton, Ron Ota, and Gus Zdanovich; Sound and Visuals, Bob Hayashi, Kevin Hayashi, Larry Jung, and Ron Ota and the Rev. Harlan Redmond for his sermon, "A God Who Sees Me.

WHO'S MAILING

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

STAFF FEBRUARY 14

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

Letter from Session to the Congregation Pledge Your Support

Dear FPCA Family,

Struggle has always been a part of our lives but in today's times our struggles have magnified and increased. Struggles with finances, differing convictions, physical and mental health, and loss of life, just to name a few. People are on edge and emotions are high. However, one thing remains: HOPE and FAITH - for healing, unity, and prosperity, that no matter the given situation, we know that God walks with us.

I cannot recall who told me this story but I remember it well. Imagine two sets of footprints walking in the sand, one yours and the other God the Father. When struggles occur in our life only one set of footprints is seen in the sand. What happened? Did the Father up and abandon you? No. There is only one set of footprints now because the Father is now carrying you.

We at FPCA give thanks to all who support financially to the life of this church and we are thankful to those who give their time and talents when financially unable. FPCA's finances and works are dedicated to ministering not only to its members, but to local and global organizations and missionaries. These efforts, along with an expanded vision of outreach and purpose, cost money. Many people today, the youth included, hear the church preach the Gospel but perceive that they are slow or inactive in their follow-through. I encourage you though to help support FPCA in a way that we may live out our new Mission Statement of "God's People Serving the World with Love and Faith in Action." Help us to be the church that puts our Love and Faith into Action. People are constantly looking for answers in life, and many are unknowingly aware that many of these answers are rooted in the loving God of the Bible. Please give us this opportunity.

To all who are reading this, you have a direct or indirect connection to this church: member, friend, or relative of a member who loves or loved this church. Search your heart if you can help carry the life of this church. In today's times the doors of FPCA need to remain open evermore.

So this is a different type of pledge letter than you have received in past years. This is because this time is unlike no other time in recent past. Yes, your financial contribution continues to be very important. Your time and dedication and prayers have been incredible during the past two years. And now we ask for something new in this pledge letter. We ask for your ideas, your input, and what your wishes are for the future vitality of this church. Tell us how to make your dreams come true, just like you did during the Mission Study this past year. Pastor Ann, in her recent sermon, said that each of us is called by God in our own special way and for a special purpose. She encourages each of us to seek and respond to God's call and be a witness to the Gospel. Let us each do that.

As we enter 2022, we hope that you will pray about how you might be able to pledge your support to the ministries of this church...through financial donations, through your time, efforts, by sharing new ideas, and by seeking and responding to God's calling, whatever that might be for you.

May God Continue to Bless Our Church,

Your Session: Kevin Hayashi
Janie Inouye
Virginia Ishida
Larry Jung
Dorothy Kirkland
Sue Morris
Pastor Ann Oglesby-Edwards

OUR THANKS

Our church expresses our sincere appreciation to the following members and friends for their gifts from February 16, 2022 thru February 22, 2022

Clarion
Anonymous

In Memory of George

Iwamiya
Karen Iwamiya, In honor of her beloved father, George Iwamiya, "Who would be 84 years old in angel years on February 22"

One Great Hour of Sharing

Mark and Donna Gonzales
Bob and Mae Uchida
Norman and Betty Yutani

Special, Wherever Needed

Anonymous
Young Lee (Santa Maria)
Norman and Betty Yutani

MISCELLANY

WANTED: Singers for our Sunday Worship Team. No experience needed, just a love for song. Please contact Gus Zdanovich at: gusariel@hotmail.com

Don't forget, the February Flavor of the Month is **canned hearty soups, stews and chili, canned pasta, and canned meats!** Drop your donations off in the marked box in the sanctuary foyer. Our Deacons will be taking them to the Friends In Deed Food Pantry for distribution.

UNSTABLE CONNECTION

Those two words have taken on a deeper meaning in the past couple of years, haven't they? For many, the words "unstable connection," "weak connection" or worse, "lost connection," are synonymous for an online meeting that has become frozen or dropped off. These dreaded words, popping up on a phone or computer, mean whatever is being offered isn't getting through. It isn't able to be shared. The connection is in jeopardy. But simply stated, we fundamentally need to connect. People need to connect.

Through our Church, we connect, in whatever way we are able, with one another, and celebrate the many ways God connects with us. During Lent, we celebrate that God connects *with us* through Jesus' resurrection and connects *us with* "those who have least" — that's how Matthew 25 puts it — and that's what One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is all about. Connecting. People who experience oppression, need, loss or lack, *those* are the people Jesus connected with, the Bible says, and they are the people we are invited to connect with today.

OGHS is the largest way Presbyterians connect with one another, and with our neighbors in need. We join with people whose connections are, too often, unstable; people experiencing poverty, oppression, hunger and disaster. The Church offers gifts of prayer, understanding and support, by participating in ministries of poverty alleviation and natural and human-caused disaster relief, as well as self-development to ensure dignity for all.

Because of our gifts to OGHS, we connect with the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Together we unite to halt environmental degradation and its impact on the people of the Navajo Nation by assisting in a collaborative effort to secure access to clean water — and thus address the large numbers of birth defects, miscarriages and types of cancer impacting our neighbors there.

We connect with the Resource Center in Matamoros at the southern border of the United States who accompanies our neighbors who are seeking asylum due to economic problems, violence and corruption. Together, we share food, tents and blankets as well as a place for refugees to have access to legal teams, medical teams and social support services.

OGHS connects us with the Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication in Northern Nigeria, where cycles of conflict and food insecurity have been a tragic reality.

For over 70 years, the offerings of thousands of congregations like ours have come together to participate in God's healing, tending and growing to create a world where all needs are met. Through One Great Hour of Sharing ... we stabilize, we strengthen those who are weak, we connect.

Our congregations will be collection the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during March and April. We will be dedicating the Offering on May 6. Please make checks payable to: First Presbyterian Church with OGHS on the memo line.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 27, 2022

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

The Annual congregational meeting is scheduled on February 27, following worship. At this meeting, you will receive a copy of the 2021 Annual Report of business and ministries which take place in the church. Also, at this meeting, the congregation will vote on the nominees recommended by the current Session and former elders who comprised the Nomination Committee.

The nominees to the PNC are: Virginia Gin, Bob Hayashi, Kathy Matsumoto, Jon Maeda, Sue Morris and Clyde Payne. During the week, please pray for each of the nominees, and for the committee as a whole, for the PNC will soon begin the work of discernment for a new senior pastor for our church.

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