

# CLARION



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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA  
firstpresbyterianchurchaltadena.org

Altadena, California 91001  
Tuesday, July 12, 2022  
Volume LXXIV, Number XXIX

## **OUR CALENDAR**

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

### MONDAY, JULY 12

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

### SUNDAY, JULY 18

#### ***In Person Worship Service***

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

### MONDAY, JULY 19

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

### SUNDAY, JULY 25

#### ***In person Worship Service***

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

## **LEADERS IN WORSHIP**

We are grateful to those persons who led us in worship on Sunday, July 10, 2022, with social distancing. Call to Worship and Opening Prayer, Donna Gonzales; Scripture, Ann Kiriyaama (Hosea 2: 18-23); music, Kenny Elliott, Virginia Gin, Ann Kiriyaama, Greg Middleton, Ron Ota, and Gus Zdanovich; Sound and Visuals, Sam Gin, Jon Maeda, and Nick Tomoyasu; and the Rev. Vikki Randall for her sermon, "**Called to See, Name, and Welcome**".

## **WHO'S MAILING**

July 18	Volunteers
July 25	Volunteers
August 1	Volunteers
August 8	Volunteers

## **STAFF JULY 5**

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

## **Minute for Missions**

### **What the Tree Said** **An Invitation to Pray**

Spanish moss hanging from branches like gnome beards. Palm fronds dancing with the passing breeze. Lizards darting from flower bed to sunny stucco. I'm looking out at my sister-in-law's Florida backyard.

One of her trees has grown a lot since our last visit. She says she received it as a gift from one of her children. She transplanted it from an indoor pot to an outside spot, and the tree is now nearing 30 feet tall. It's not a kind I see in Iowa.

To find out more about it, I turned my inner researcher loose on the internet. Tree ID? Norfolk Island Pine.

When I hear "Norfolk," I think of Virginia, but this "Norfolk" refers to an island in the South Pacific, east of Australia and north of New Zealand, where Captain Cook and his crew found these trees growing in 1774.

The Norfolk Island Pine can trace its ancestry in the fossil record back to the time of the dinosaurs. Evergreen and cone-bearing, though not a true pine, NIP doesn't like hurricanes and temps below 35°F. I guess we have that in common.

The structure of the tree is striking. The branches issue from the trunk in layers, like spokes on a wheel hub, with open space between the hubs. Five branches to a layer is usual, but in places I count as many as seven. Each branch looks like a green feather with the quill stuck into the trunk.

Viewed in silhouette, the branches look like rungs on a ladder. Are there angels going up and coming down like the ones Jacob saw when he slept on a stone pillow? Is this the gate of heaven, the very house of God (Genesis 28)? If the tree knows, it's keeping its own counsel.

The lower branches reach straight out with a bit of lift at the ends, but the higher branches angle up, like arms with hands raised.

Is this Jurassic survivor calling the backyard to prayer? Standing as priest to the gray squirrels and color-shifting lizards? Acting as intercessor for the hibiscus and the camellia and the frost-shocked orange trees? Lifting up even the winter escapee at the keyboard?

Perhaps that narrow, tapered form is standing as a witness to everyone with eyes to see. Perhaps it is offering a gentle reminder to us all, to look up and raise our hands to the one in whom "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

In the midst of war and uproar, in a time of reckoning and division and still-deadly plague, it's a reminder I'm taking to heart.

*Pray. Pray now. Pray without ceasing* (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

*Even with things to do, with fears to face, with callings to pursue, pray.*

At the top of the Norfolk Island Pine, the five newest branches reach out like points of a star, and a single central branch points upward. Can you hear it whisper?

*Pray.*

*The Rev. Ken Rummer, Honorably Retired, writing about life and faith from the middle of Iowa by the High Trestle Trail*

July 12, 2022

## OUR THANKS

Our church expresses our sincere appreciation to the following members and friends for their gifts from July 5, 2022 thru July 11, 2022

### Clarion

Sam and Virginia Gin  
Bob and Mae Uchida

### Deacons

Steve and Ann Kiriyaama  
Tom and Tsuru Miyasaki

### Special 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

Dorothy Kirkland,  
For Alice Okuno's Centennial Year

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## Alice Okuno Celebrates Her Centennial Year

By Dorothy Kirkland

God is Good. We give God thanks for 100 years of blessed living for our sister Alice, as she observes a century of living under the grace of our Lord. Her birthdate is July 10, 1922 so she is now 100 years old.

Alice has been an active member of our church family since she was a young teen at our church on Kensington. She remembers singing in the choir and being active in the many activities for young people. Then after her marriage to Ed Okuno, both were received into membership on December 25, 1949 (that's 73 years of official membership at FPCA).

Alice says that she has so many fond memories of growing up in church life, especially being part of the church choir. Although she is not able to attend the Sunday service, she does enjoy the on-line recording of the worship service. She says that her faith has always been a blessing, and still remains an important part of her life today. Her 100th birthday wish is for all of us: she wishes that this world will soon become a better place for us to live.

Happy Birthday, Alice.

## School Supplies Needed

Our ever-busy Board of Deacons will be sponsoring a "Back to School" supply collection. I know, I know... school just got out, but we need to collect now, so Friends In Deed has time to get things sorted and distributed before school resumes on August 11, 2022. Please see the attached list of needed items. Your donations may be dropped into the Flavor of the Month food box located in the sanctuary foyer. Deadline is July 17 (one more week). There is a great need for supplies for Middle and High School students.

College ruled notebook paper	Spiral notebooks
Composition notebooks, hardcover	3-Ring binders: 1"- 3"
Tab dividers for binders	2 pocket poly folders
Copy paper (for printing)	Pens: red, blue, and black ink
Pencils: #2 pencils / mechanical pencils	Dry Erase Markers
Erasers and pencil-top erasers	3"x5" index cards
Zipper pouches for pens and pencils (3 hole-punched to fit in binders)	Colored pencils
Highlighters: all colors	Colored pencils
Colored markers (NO Sharpies or Permanent Markers)	
Sharpeners for colored pencils (must hold shavings)	
Student scissors or softgrip student scissors (such as Fiskars)	
Rulers (metric & standard)	24 color crayons (Crayola)
Glue Sticks (preferred to glue in bottles)	
Wide ruled notebook paper (for lower grades)	
Pocket pack tissues Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes	

## MISCELLANY



Just a reminder, the Pasadena Buddhist Church will be hosting their **Mini Obon** on July 16 and 17. July 16 will feature dancing and taiko performance, and July 17 will be food pick up. There will be a shortened schedule and attendance is limited due to Covid concerns. Please go to their website for more information and sign ups! [pasadenabuddhisttemple.org](http://pasadenabuddhisttemple.org) (Obon 2022, schedule and links)

July is here, and we start a new Flavor of the Month! We thank everyone for their contributions during the month of June, but the latest and greatest flavor will be.... breakfast foods! **Cereals hot or cold, dry milk, breakfast bars and drinks, canned fruit....** Use your imagination! Just drop your donations off in the marked box in the sanctuary foyer.

And we continue to pray for our Pastor Nominating Committee and church leadership. Join us as we gather via conference call every Thursday at 7:00pm. **Call (978) 990-5411, access code is 4113956#**

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