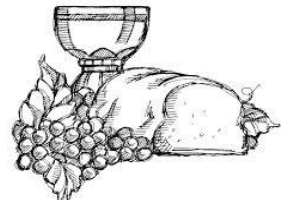


CLARION

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

Communion Sunday

August 7, 2022



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA
firstpresbyterianchurchaltadena.org

Altadena, California 91001
Tuesday, July 26, 2022
Volume LXXIV, Number XXXI

Minute for Missions

OUR CALENDAR

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

MONDAY, JULY 26

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, JULY 31

In Person Worship Service

Sunday Family Worship 10:30

MONDAY, AUGUST 1

Clarion Mailing 8:00a

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

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 24, 2022, with social distancing. Call to Worship and Opening Prayer, Virginia Gin; Scripture, Dorothy Kirkland (Genesis 2: 11); music, Kenny Elliott, Virginia Gin, Allison Itano Lee, Ann Kiriyama, Greg Middleton, and Gus Zdanovich; Sound and Visuals, Sam Gin, Sue Morris, and Nick Tomoyasu; and the Rev. Vikki Randall for her sermon, "Journey to the Promised Land, Ch. 2, Justice Long Delayed".

WHO'S MAILING

August 1	Volunteers
August 8	Volunteers
August 15	Volunteers
August 22	Volunteers

STAFF JULY 18

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

Discernment is Less About Doing, and More About Being

What is discernment? What is God calling us to do in a particular situation, either as an individual or a congregation or mid council? How do we move forward?

The Rev. Michael Vinson, a teaching elder in the Presbytery of Arkansas, asked almost as many questions as he answered during a recent Sunspots podcast hosted by the Rev. Elizabeth Brinegar, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, Arkansas, and the director of operations of Solar Under the Sun. Sunspots is a podcast produced by the Synod of the Sun.

"My experience is when we talk about discernment, people are thinking about 'What does God want us to do in a situation?'" Vinson told Brinegar during their engaging 31-minute conversation. "Discernment becomes a very time-specific thing, such as 'we need to call a pastor' or 'we need to do some work on the church building.' We talk about discernment as something we do to know God's will to accomplish a certain thing."

"That is part of discernment, but as people of faith ... discernment for me is really more about being, not so much about doing," Vinson said. "It's a discipline, like worship or prayer or Bible study. ... When we discern, it is a discipline of listening, of listening every day, or a practice if you want to use that word. When it comes time to make these big decisions, we're ready — or as my grandfather used to say, we're all prayed up."

"One thing I've learned," Brinegar said, "is that if we know who we belong to, we know better who we are. And if we know who we are, we know better what to do. In any process of discernment, none of it is valuable unless it is rooted in a valuable object. Our value is in our state of being as people of God."

"Our value in discerning is in our relationship with God," Vinson replied. "It's ... between me, as someone who's called to incarnate the kingdom of God in this place on the Earth, and my relationship with God and what God says to me about how to do that — every day, all day."

"Incarnating the kingdom of God," Brinegar repeated. "Talk about what that looks like."

"What's the kingdom of God? Peace, love and joy," Vinson said. "It's what Jesus brought to Earth. ... Therein lies our hope. When we decide on this new thing we are trying to implement in the church, it comes from the space of joy, love and peace. ... We have to know what the kingdom of God is, feels like and looks like individually so we can know collectively."

Brinegar asked Vinson how people can embody qualities like peace, love and joy. Vinson had a ready answer. "It's a discipline, a practice, and it has to do with listening," he said. "Some traditions have this better than we do in Christianity. We call it prayer, and others call it meditation. ... My spiritual director taught me these are essential for our spiritual health."

Here's one way to think of and take in these qualities: **Peace** is like air. The only way to take it in is to breathe it. Vinson imagines himself outfitted with gills along his back.

Joy is the water of our spirit. Water has many uses, including drinking, bathing and washing dishes. "Joy is cleansing and it slakes our thirst," Vinson said. "It flows up our body like an artesian well." Joy also "helps cleanse us of the dust bunnies of our soul, the little demons that feed on the wounds of our soul, most commonly fear and anger."

Love is the food for our soul. Whatever cuisine we choose — Chinese, French, soul food, even an all-we-can-eat buffet — feeds our soul. Whatever makes us feel love — making art, creating music, exercising, walking in nature — can serve as "a love buffet we feed from," Vinson said. On occasion, he said, it's good to try something new.

Stored up with all three qualities, "when it comes time for knowing the will of God, we're strengthened, we're more whole." Best of all, "we come from a heart place and not so much a head place."

Mike Ferguson, Editor, Presbyterian News Service

OUR THANKS

Our church expresses our sincere appreciation to the following members and friends for their gifts from July 19, 2022 thru July 25, 2022

Celebration of 95th Birthday

of Marie Tajima

Mark Tajima (Fidelity Charitable Donor Based Fund)

Clarion

Keiko Abe

Steve and Ann Kiriyama Allin

Peter and Sylvia Domoto (Camano Island, WA)

Wilbur and Patti Gin

Geri Hamane

Irene Hirashiki

David and Kelly Hokyo

Larry and Wandy Jung

Bill and LuAnn Lane

Wing and Evelyn Lew

Mark Matsui, in memory of Irene Chuman

Kikuko Matsumoto

Mary Matsumoto

Glenn and Jeannette Nakayama

Hiroko Nishiyama

Doreen Ono

Ken and Donna Ota

Bob and Doreen Yanari Ota

Pasadena Nikkei Seniors

Josh and Dorothy Potter

JoAnn Soo Hoo

Nathan and Christine Sugimoto

June Takeda

Clarion (continued)

Bryan and Jeri Takeda

Miyeko Toshima

Faye Tomoyasu

Carol and Larry Tomoyasu

Mitsie Yanari

Alan Yuki (Incline Village)

Deacons

Larry and Wandy Jung, In memory of cousins

Raymond Li and Mel Wong

Bob and Deena Yanari Ota

Jake Matsumoto's Eagle Scout Project of the Youth Room

Don and Kathy Matsumoto

Bob and Mae Uchida

In Memory of Kurt Matsumoto

David Yamada

Special

Paul Kikuchi, Ron Ota, and Mike Franceschini

Special 90th Birthday of Bob Uchida

David Yamada

We Remember

Kurt Matsumoto

Belatedly, we remember Kurt Jack Matsumoto, who passed away unexpectedly on May 14, 2022.

Preceded in death by his father Jake Matsumoto, Kurt is survived by his mother, Mary Michi Matsumoto, step-son Devin Larscheid, brother Don (Kathy) Matsumoto, sister Kelly (David) Hokyo, niece and nephew Jacey Hokyo and Jake Matsumoto, and many other relatives and friends.



A semi-private Celebration of Life service was held on July 7, 2022.

Keiro No Hi Festival 2022 Celebrating Our Older Adults

Saturday, September 17, is the in-person Keiro-no-Hi event this year. Keiro no Hi, or Respect for the Aged Day, is a Japanese holiday that honors and celebrates older adults. Keiro has 4 locations in So. California and Pasadena Buddhist Temple will be one of them.

Registration is required and each location will feature a complimentary bento, gift bag, crafts and more. Attendees must provide proof of full vaccination, including at least one booster shot to attend the in-person gathering. Masks will also be required at all times, except when actively eating or drinking.

Register today. The event is free. Pasadena is still open to attendees. The website address to register is:

<https://www.keiro.org/what-we-do/events/keiro-no-hi-festival>.

If you need help registering, or would like more information, please contact Dorothy Kirkland or Gini Ishida.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

EMAIL: altadenapresbyterian@gmail.com
WEBSITE: firstpresbyterianchurchaltadena.org
FAX (626) 791-4271
2775 N. Lincoln Avenue, Altadena, CA 91001
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA

CLARION is Published by

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PASADENA, CA
PERMIT NO. 1078