

# Grapevine

Worship God. Equip Disciples. Love and Serve the World.



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***“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.”***

***Romans 12:9-12***

“What are the plans for opening up?” That’s been the question on everyone’s mind. Our church leaders have been talking about it for weeks now. First, let me affirm what you’ve heard me say many times: We’re still church! We’re worshipping, praying, studying scripture, doing mission, and taking care of business. And yet we desperately miss gathering together in person. Please know I don’t take that lightly.

We’ve assembled a “Safe Gathering Task Force” to map out procedures for what it will look like as we phase back to in person gatherings. Just this last Monday, the California Department of Public Health issued [Guidelines for Places of Worship](#). Our crackerjack team of problem-solvers have integrated these recommendations into the practices we have already brainstormed. This is no small task! Think about this list of questions before us: Shall we worship inside or outside? What’s the capacity of our Sanctuary and other meeting rooms once proper social distancing is considered? Are our volunteers willing to sanitize all surfaces before and after each gathering? What’s the best way to continue to provide online worship when we begin to also worship on campus? When will we train our ushers and greeters to guide people through our new procedures? How can we communicate these new procedures to our congregation, so they now what to expect when they come to worship?

Each question invites several others, but we’ve never been afraid of a little hard work. We just ask that you continue the gracious spirit you’ve demonstrated so abundantly over these last several weeks. We promise to be in touch with you well before we gather so you won’t miss a thing.

This pandemic has given us opportunities to learn so many lessons. One that is most precious to me is the ways the Spirit has enabled us to continue the many essential ministries of this congregation, even under such strange circumstances. Thanks be to God!

With you in ministry,  
Lynn.

# Together at Home

One of the special things about sharing communion at YLPC, is that Karen Green makes homemade bread for us to share at the table. While we're having communion at home we thought some of you may want to try her recipe!

## James Beard Pullman Loaf

2 packages of active dry yeast	1 stick ( 1/2 cup) sweet butter
1 1/2 cups warm water (100° -115°)	6 1/2 cups all purpose flour
2 teaspoons granulated sugar	1 tablespoon + 2 teaspoons coarse salt (I use 1!)

Dissolve yeast in 1/2 cup of the warm water with the sugar and let it proof. Combine 6 cups of the flour with the salt in a large bowl. Using 2 knives, cut the butter into the flour. Finally add flour to the yeast mixture and incorporate adding 1/2 cup of water at a time. Create a sticky dough.

Turn the dough onto a floured surface and work it hard for a good 10 minutes; be sure to give it a thorough kneading. When finally smooth, let it rest a few minutes and shape into a ball. Place in a well buttered bowl and turn to coat the surface, cover and let rise in a warm, draft-free spot for 1 1/2 hours.

Punch the dough down and let it rise for 3-4 minutes, then knead again vigorously for 3 to 4 minutes. Shape into a ball and put back into the buttered bowl to rise again, from 45 minutes to an hour. Punch the dough down and let rest another 3-4 minutes. Knead a third time and then shape carefully in a loaf to fit a well buttered 13 1/2 X 4 X 3 3/4 inch pan. Let it rise until almost doubled in bulk, approximately 1 hour. Butter the inside of the lid, if you are using a pullman pan. (I make 2 loaves from this and do not use a pullman pan) Place in a preheated 400° oven and turn down to 375° immediately.

After 30 minutes turn the tin on one side for 5 minutes then the other side for 5 minutes. Set it upright again and remove the lid; the bread should have risen to the top of the pan. Continue to bake until it is golden brown, which will take 12 to 15 minutes more.



## Still Church

Our Safe Gathering Task Force is working hard on plans to reopen campus. We'll keep you posted after Session meets in June.



### Upcoming Meetings:

Sundays @ 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, June 6, & 20 @ 8:00 a.m.  
Thursdays in June @ 9:30 a.m.  
Monday, June 1 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 2 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 3 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 3 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 10 @ 9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, June 10 @ 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 10 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 16 @ 7:00 p.m.

Youth group by Zoom  
Men's group by Zoom  
TLC Bible study by Zoom  
Safe Gathering Task Force by Zoom  
Renovation team meeting by Zoom  
Deacons' meeting by Zoom  
Worship Committee meeting by Zoom  
Mission Committee meeting by Zoom  
Caregiver's meeting by Zoom  
Stewardship meeting by Zoom  
Session meeting by Zoom

# What is Worship to Me?

by Roxanne Ford

I've been reflecting on the last three years I've been on Session. I had the privilege of serving on both the Mission and Worship committees. I'm happy Lynn suggested I write on "What is worship to me?" because it made me stop and really think about that very fundamental question.

On an airplane several years ago, I sat next to a pastor of a Calvary Church. I bet you can hear that conversation, and indeed, he eventually asked me "When do you feel closest to Jesus?" My answer was immediate and simple. "When I'm playing music." We talked some more, and he allowed that perhaps I was "on the right path", but clearly implying I wasn't "there" yet. But I stand by my answer. We can worship God anywhere. I just happen to find God in music.

It is good that God is not just in a church, because the last few weeks have forced us to figure out new ways to feel close to God, and to express our love, thanks and praise. Indeed, we can find God whenever and wherever: in our backyard, washing dishes, helping others, and watching a sunset. For me, God is the joy that comes from playing with an orchestra when all the members "catch fire" and truly play as one. God is in that single chord in the Brahms Requiem that makes me cry, and in one simple, breathtaking musical interlude in the Messiah. God is in our bell and vocal choirs. These last weeks, I've never been more grateful to God for creating music.

I am just as grateful God made us vessels for altruism and philanthropy. Finding ways to help people while also stuck mostly at home has been challenging for me. I'm grateful for those opportunities our Mission committee helped create: making dinners for HIS House, participating in the Walk for Water, supporting FLAG, and providing a (masked) smile to those I did encounter. I've been reminded that mission is possible whenever and wherever, just like worship.

So how lucky am I that I have been involved in both committees! The experience has given me opportunity to grow and stretch my faith, be completely humbled by the faith of others, and to thank and praise God for all good things.

As I reflect that Pentecost would also have marked our joyous annual Music Ministry Sunday, consider what Martin Luther said about music:

*Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music.*

I stand by my answer.

## Stewardship

by John Hollon

The Stewardship Committee has been working hard to manage the church finances through these difficult times. Here are a few things we have done recently:

- We applied for and received a \$52,911 loan/grant in the second round of funding through the federal Paycheck Protection Program. The U.S. Treasury Department and the Presbytery of Los Ranchos have been encouraging churches to apply for this help, and Elder Steve Rice led our efforts to get it done.
- We have been working to tighten spending. Here's one example: we took advantage of an opportunity to pay interest only on our church mortgage until July. This is saving \$2100 per month.
- We are seeing a positive response from the self-addressed, stamped envelopes and letter from Pastor Lynn that was recently mailed to the congregation. Currently, 24 envelopes have been returned by church members to help keep up with their regular giving.

Here's the "big picture" good news -- despite all that has happened the last few months, our cash position has remained stable and stands at \$564,796 through April. That's only down \$3,000 since February.

We pray that the pandemic will ease soon, but until that happens, know that the Session and the Stewardship Committee are working to keep the church financially stable so we come out healthy on the other side, both in the short term and the long term.

# May Session Notes

\*\*Session met on May 19 by Zoom video conference call.

- Ila offered her last report as Deacon Moderator. She thanked the Elders for their part in maintaining contact with our congregation.
- Lynn thanked the four outgoing Elders: Roxanne Ford, Dick Vouga, Dave Wassenaar, and Johnnie Hitt. Their service for the last three years, and especially during the last three months is deeply appreciated. Lynn reported that our new email platform provides helpful metrics about email. Information as to how many are delivered, when the email is delivered and how many click through to the worship service are all reported. Discussions about continuing some form of recorded service once we return to worship have begun.
- Personnel reported that the connection of finance to personnel is shown by our receipt of \$52,911.00 from the Payment Protection Plan.
- Stewardship reported that the PPP was deposited into the church account on May 15. The committee reported there is a procedure in place for validating the use of those funds. Overall, finances are in very good shape. April financials were approved.
- Worship Committee reported positive feedback about the YouTube worship services. Future online presence is continuing to be an important discussion for the committee. Thanks was shared to all involved in the production.
- Christian Ed reported that Karla Peterson is continuing to meet with 5-13 youth each Sunday. Kim is working hard on Summer Arts Camp even with the unknown status this year. Adult Bible studies and PW concluded their seasons. The youth room remodel is almost complete.
- Facilities shared that they have not had a chance to double check the leak repair but will do so when weather provides the opportunity.
- Mission Committee shared that the HIS House fundraiser goal of \$20,000 was exceeded with more than \$31,000 received. A third of these gifts came from YLPC. The Walk for Water event had approximately 10 members and raised over \$1200. Project Love Meals is being spearheaded by Karen Tsai and her daughter Amy. They are providing meals for residents at HIS House.
- Nominating Committee has filled the leadership roles for our church. These terms begin in June with ratification by a congregational meeting when it is safe to gather.
- Session was asked for input on what we feel the congregation needs to hear from us. Ideas were shared and Lynn will implement.

Chris Hills - Clerk of Session

## June Birthdays

Dick Keating	6/01
Karen Tsai	6/02
Betty Buzby	6/04
Lisa Hitt	6/05
Alison Lauderdale	6/05
Cathy Hess	6/06
Dustin Hitt	6/08
Marcus Apitz	6/10
Scott Lauderdale	6/10
Marcia Willett	6/10
Sawyer Micheli	6/10
Mike Jacobs	6/13
Anthony Almeida	6/14
Kevin Hollon	6/17
Karen Green	6/19
Kimberly Hollon	6/20
Austin Wisnia	6/21
Rob Schriever	6/23
Elle Sproal	6/24
Sandy Wooldridge	6/24
June Criswell	6/25
Stuart Goran	6/25
Jonathan Stone	6/25
Kimberly Henderson	6/27
Teddy Hollon	6/27

# April 2020 Financial Report

**OPERATING FUND Summary Results** Through April, we expected to receive \$165,536 and actually received \$183,985. Also through April, we expected to spend \$172,755 and actually spent \$188,580. And reserved \$11,521 for funds budgeted but not spent.

	Operating	Mtg. Reduction	Total
Cash Position	\$ 554,706	\$ 10,091	\$ 564,796
Less: Restricted Funds*	\$ 281,313	\$ -	\$ 281,313
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>\$ 273,393</b>	<b>\$ 10,091</b>	<b>\$ 283,483</b>

\* Restricted funds are restricted to use for a specific purpose. These include designated gifts, program reserves, payables, reserves for building maintenance, and reserves for unspent program budget.

**MORTGAGE REDUCTION FUND** Through April, we have received contributions of \$8,700 and paid \$13,189 in principal. The current mortgage balance is \$184,437.