

# Grapevine

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



***"When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream."***

***Psalm 126:1***

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This short verse says so much. It was the Lord who brought Israel out of exile and returned them to their true home in Jerusalem. They must have walked through the streets of their city in a daze, eyes gazing at the familiar landscape, hearts filled with the comfort of home. And yet, home had changed while they had been away. Walls needed to be rebuilt. The community needed to come together. Still, they were "like those who dream." They were filled with hope for the blessing of their return and filled with ambition to make Jerusalem what God had always intended it to be.

Over the weeks of Advent, we will join with those who dream in scripture. We'll follow the prophets, psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, the shepherds, and the Magi – all of them were dreamers. Each one caught a glimpse of God's dream of salvation and redemption for the world and each one played a part in making the dream of Emmanuel – God with us – come true. In Advent, we step into the mystery and awe of God's dreams and pray they shape our reality.

There's a difference between a dream and a wish. Wishes are often fleeting. If they are realized, it's because they've been granted by someone else, usually a fairy godmother. Dreams are something else entirely. Dreams are deeper, more expansive. Dreams are realized when we pursue them. As Christians, you and I work in partnership with God to accomplish God's dreams for the world.

This theme is for the dreamers in all of us – those who dream of a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a better world. It's for those who dream of comfort and for those who have given up on their dreams. It's for those whose dreams have been crushed and for those who show us that dreams take time. Join us this Advent as we seek God's dreams for our world. Over these next six weeks, we are those who dream!

With you in ministry,  
Lynn.

# Community Advent Calendar



We are joining with members of First Presbyterian Church of Anaheim and Community Presbyterian Church of San Juan Capistrano to enjoy a Community Advent Calendar. We'll be sending out the link a week at a time every Monday in Advent. It will include art, music, poetry, sabbath practices and reflections to help you pray and prepare for Christ's birth. We're excited to celebrate this Advent Season together in new ways!

## Still Church

### Upcoming Meetings:

Wednesdays @ 3:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 1 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, December 2 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, December 2 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, December 5 @ 9:00 to noon  
Sunday, December 6 @ 9:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, December 8 @ 9:30 a.m.  
Tuesday, December 8 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, December 9 @ 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, December 9 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Friday, December 11 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, December 16 @ 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday, December 3 & 17 @ 9:30 a.m.  
Thursday, December 3, 10 & 17 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Saturday, December 5 & 19 @ 8:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, December 15 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, December 24

Outdoor Teen Yoga  
Personnel meeting by Zoom  
Deacons' meeting by Zoom  
Worship Committee by Zoom  
Giving Tree Parking Lot Drop Off  
Outdoor Worship & Communion  
Priscilla Circle by Zoom  
Esther Circle by Zoom  
Mission Committee meeting by Zoom  
Stewardship meeting by Zoom  
WISEplace Gift Wrapping  
Caregiver's meeting  
TLC Bible study by Zoom  
Gloria Ringers Rehearsal  
Men's group  
Session meeting by Zoom  
Christmas Eve Service



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# Renovation Team

By Julie Micheli

## Youth Ministry Renovation Team Update



In early November, the Renovation Team gathered with a group of parents, session members and interested parties over several days to go through a process called the Vision Summit. The purpose of the Summit was to gather thoughts on the purpose, values and goals of youth ministry that are important to our congregation.

Once these insights were gathered, the Renovation Team met over the next two days to craft the input into a document that will guide our work going forward. The document contains a mission statement, some guiding values, and a set of three-year goals with one-year benchmarks. If you would be interested in receiving a copy of this document, please contact Sarah in the church office.

It was wonderful to hear so many perspectives and to work together to discern God's direction for our youth ministry. Our next major event, the Christian Formation Summit, will be held in the spring. At this event we will be discerning together the direction of the Christian formation and education in the youth program. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining us for that Summit.

## Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask

*Creator, as I prepare to go into the world,  
help me to see the sacrament in the wearing of this cloth.  
Let it be "an outward sign of an inward grace" a tangible and visible way  
of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.*

*Christ, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile  
in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly,  
not only with my words, but with my actions.*

*Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully  
and full of care to all those I meet.*

*May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and each breath that it holds, be filled with your love.  
In your Name and in that love, I pray.*

*May it be so.*

The Rev. Dr. Richard Bott  
Moderator of The United Church of Canada



## Staff Appreciation

By Marcia Willet



It has been an unprecedented year, for each one of us and for our church. Fortunately, we have been blessed with an unbelievably hard-working staff who have gone above and beyond in a hundred different ways, often unseen and unsung.

We would like every congregant to know of the diligent work each staff member has done to help continue the work of our church. The time and effort given by each one of them has not gone unnoticed. We encourage you to personally thank them for their outstanding and continued service to our church. *Janet Keulen Thorson, Kim Wisnia, Sarah Adams, Jessica Nicholson, JoD Apitz, Chris Hills, Barb Irvin, Roxanne Ford & Ruth Lemond.*

## Mission

### You're invited to a joint YLPC Women & Yorba Linda Women's Club Christmas Gift Wrapping Party for WISEPlace Women Friday, December 11 from 10:00 a.m. – noon.

We will be wrapping gifts that have been purchased and delivered to WISEPlace in Santa Ana for the 55 women residents for Christmas. Because of COVID-19, the gifts will be picked up, wrapped at YLPC and returned back to the home in the afternoon. Tables will be set up outside so we can socially distance and wrap packages. Please bring wrapping paper, ribbons, tape and scissors. A mask will be provided if you do not have one. Snacks and drinks will also be provided. Please contact Anne Sivley at [annesivley@aol.com](mailto:annesivley@aol.com) or 714.501.4399 if you plan to join us.



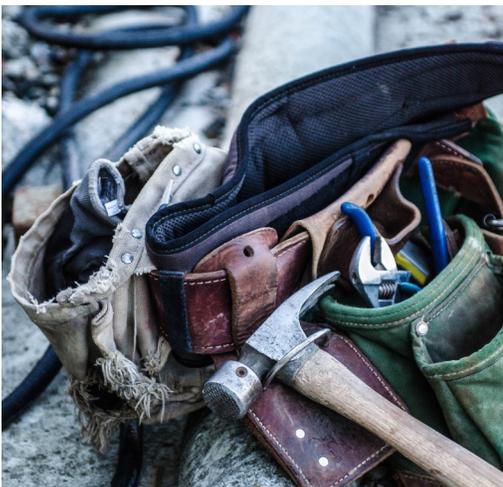
### Special Thanks to All!

We had so many who helped and participated in the Super Drive-by Drop-Off Mission Event. Because of your generosity we were able to: deliver food and items to Yorba Linda Food for Families, hygiene items and lunch kits to City Net, sell tamales as a fundraiser for supplies, and to distribute the names of 24 children for Christmas gifts for HIS House.

In lieu of our usual Alternative Christmas Faire this year we would like to encourage you to partake in end of year giving to [Habitat for Humanity](#) and/or to [HIS House](#).

## Facilities

*By Mike Jacobs*



Several improvements have been going on around campus since October as we move toward re-opening for Worship.

The components necessary to restore full power to our church are currently being manufactured, and the paperwork required by both the City and Edison is being finalized. Though an actual completion date is difficult to predict due to the administration paperwork, it's safe to say "it won't be too long now." Thank you for your patience with both the electrical outage and the pandemic as we move toward better times.

The broken patio tables have been replaced with new, fresh tables, and will be on our patio as soon as we gather again outdoors. New EZ-Ups have been purchased that proudly display our logo, and have already been pressed into action during recent outdoor worship services.

We have contracted with UPS to make parking areas available for their use through year's end, and will be compensated accordingly. These activities will happen during the week, and won't encroach on our parking areas during worship times or church events.

A banner hanging rack has been installed in the communion prep room to better store the indoor banners we use seasonally, and selected palm trees have been removed that have been hampering entrance into certain rooms around campus.

S & R Electric will be on campus soon to replace capacitors in our HVAC units, and do other repairs to insure our air circulating and temperature needs are where they need to be.

# November Session Notes

\*\*Session met on November 18 by Zoom video conference call.

- A thank you along with a donation from a former parishioner of Lynn's was shared. She thanked all involved in the Sunday YouTube services.
- Correspondence from the Hollon family requesting to be removed from the church rolls was accepted, with regret. Membership is 191.
- Lynn shared results of the very successful Mission Drop off on Saturday.
- Deacons reported that the campout was a success. Calls to members during the fire were well-received.
- Personnel committee is working on updating the Personnel handbook and will submit it for approval by the end of the first quarter, 2021.
- Stewardship distributed the 2021 Operating budget. After lengthy discussion, Session approved the budget as presented with a \$197,518 deficit. It was noted that although pledging units were down, the pledged amounts were up significantly. Session is hopeful that outstanding pledges will continue to come in before year's end. The budget will be presented to the congregation at the next annual meeting. October Financials were approved.
- Worship Committee reported the Safe Gathering protocols remain in place for when the state of California allows churches to safely gather. Recently, the county was moved back to a more restrictive tier and in person gathering is not allowed. Questions about how quickly we can gather once restrictions are lifted were discussed. Outdoor worship services may happen and the weekly YouTube worship service will continue through at least Easter.
- Christian Ed reported Ministry Architects and the Renovation Team had a very successful meeting and all are excited about the progress. A Child Protection and Abuse Prevention policy is being reviewed by the committee and will be sent to Session for approval. The book study facilitated by Michelle Almeida currently has 11 people attending.
- Facilities reported that the four EZ Up canopies look great and one of the four tables for the patio have been set up. Pre-ordered poinsettia pick up on 11/29.
- Mission Committee reported Mission Month will conclude at the end of November. There will be no Christmas Joy offering this year. Instead, the congregation will be encouraged to contribute year end giving to HIS House and/or Habitat for Humanity.

Chris Hills - Clerk of Session

## December Birthdays

Gail Brewer	12/4
Debbie McCracken	12/5
Jennifer Kordiolis	12/6
Emily Scott	12/6
Anna-Katherine Barrett	12/9
Peggy Lawson	12/9
Waine Richey	12/10
Karen Arnold	12/11
Gwen Hillskemper	12/12
Blake Schriever	12/12
Katherine Kittredge	12/13
Linda Sung	12/13
Jack Jones	12/16
Amy Barrett	12/19
Shane Hendrickson	12/19
Michael Rosenthal	12/19
Carol Frazier	12/20
Jason Stokes	12/23
Kim Wisnia	12/23
Christine Collins	12/25
Lora Ragole	12/25
Jackson El-Farra	12/27
Kevin Criswell	12/28
Rose Schriever	12/31

# October 2020 Financial Report

**OPERATING FUND** Summary Results: Through October, we expected to receive \$413,839 and actually received \$416,331. Also through October, we expected to spend \$403,696 and actually spent \$393,528. And reserved \$21,812 for funds budgeted but not spent.

	Operating	Mtg. Reduction	Total
Cash Position	\$ 614,301	\$ 5,444	\$ 619,744
Less: Restricted Funds*	\$ 269,652	\$ -	\$ 269,652
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>\$ 344,649</b>	<b>\$ 5,444</b>	<b>\$ 350,092</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 October, we have received contributions of \$12,500 and paid \$21,637 in principal. Through The current mortgage balance is \$175,990