



**First Presbyterian Church of Upland**  
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# FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF UPLAND



Fact 1: As each goose flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the birds that follow. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

*Lesson: We can get where we are going quicker and easier as we travel on the thrust of one another.*

Fact 2: When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the "lifting power" of the bird immediately in front.

*Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stay in formation with those who are headed where we want to go.*

Fact 3: When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies in the point position.

*Lesson: It pays to take turns during hard tasks and sharing leadership with others. We are interdependent upon each other's skills, capabilities, and unique arrangements of gifts, talents, and resources.*

Fact 4: The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep their speed.

*Lesson: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging—not something less helpful.*

*(continued on page 2)*

# PASTOR NOEL ANDERSON



## HAVING THE SENSE THAT GOD GAVE GEESE

(continued from page 2)

Fact 5: When a goose gets sick or wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow him down to protect him. They stay with him either until he is able to fly again or he dies. They then launch out on their own with another formation or catch up with their flock.

*Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.*

### A LESSON FROM GOOSE FEATHERS

You may have heard the story about the man from a small, Eastern European town who went through the community slandering the rabbi. One day, feeling suddenly remorseful, he begged the rabbi for forgiveness and offered to undergo any penance to make amends. The rabbi told him to take a feather pillow from his home, cut it open, scatter the feathers to the wind, then return to see him. The man did as he was told, then came to the rabbi and asked, "Am I forgiven?"

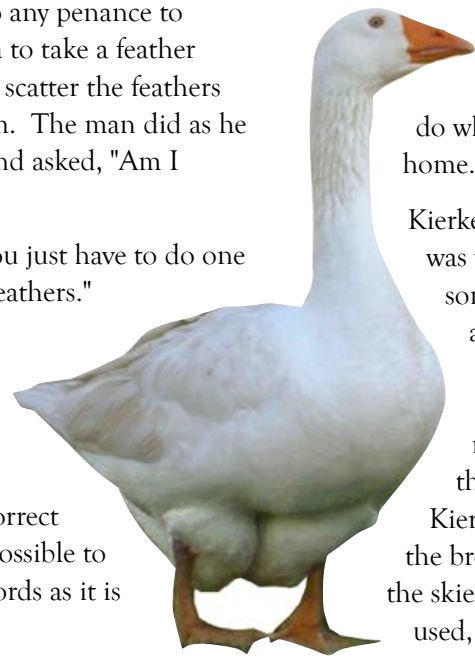
"Almost," came the response. "You just have to do one more thing-go and gather all the feathers."

"But that's impossible," the man protested, "the wind has already scattered them."

"Precisely," the rabbi answered. "And although you truly wish to correct the evil you have done, it is as impossible to repair the damage done by your words as it is to recover the feathers."

### THE GEESE OF KIERKEGAARD

Søren Kierkegaard the Danish religious philosopher and minister, wrote a multitude of works in the middle of the 19th-century. Among his papers, is a story he wrote entitled *The Tame Geese*. In this story he asks us to imagine that these geese could, like us, talk and think and do the kinds of things that we do. The geese went to church every week. Each week they were inspired by a



powerful, motivating sermon by the high goose. The sermon always went the same. The high goose would tell the assembled geese of their high destiny and about what a high goal the Creator had appointed geese for he had given them wings. As he said all this, the geese would honk and squawk their approval. The geese curtsied and the ganders bowed their heads in honor of the great words. With their wings, the high goose told them, they could fly anywhere they wanted around the world. They were most pleased to hear this. And each week after church, as they dispersed, the geese would ... waddle ... home.

*Why didn't the geese fly?*

After hearing and understanding such a powerful message about the opportunities available to them, they seemed to ignore it. They didn't fly home. The message made no impact on their lives. They continued to do what they had always done. They waddled home.

Kierkegaard also tells a story about a goose who was wounded and landed in a barnyard with some chickens. He played with the chickens and ate with the chickens. After a while, that goose thought he was a chicken. One day a gaggle of geese flew overhead, migrating home. They gave a honk up in the sky, and the barnyard goose heard it. Kierkegaard says, "Something stirred within the breast of this goose. Something called him to the skies. He began to flap the wings he hadn't used, and he rose a few feet into the air. Then he stopped, and he settled back again into the mud of the barnyard. He heard the upward call, but he settled for less."

### GOOSE SENSE

It doesn't take much to be followers of Jesus. We are not expected to be geniuses, heroes, supermen, or wonder women. We just need to have—and use—the same good sense that God gave geese. †

## Prayer Calendar - Please include these families in your daily prayers.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1-Karros	2-Kaufman	3-Kemngang
4	5-Kiertzer,E.	6-Kiertzer,B	7-Kimes	8-King	9-Kler	10-Koning
11	12-Kunz	13-Landaker	14-Lutz	15-Mannion	16 -Martin	17-Mba
18	19-McClelland	20-McCluskie	21-McCrea-Foster	22-McLemore	23-McMillan	24-McMullen
25	26-Merryman	27-Mitchell	28-Morgan	29-Mowery	30-Muelchi	

June Birthdays		
Happy Birthday to:		
02 - BILL MITCHELL	14 - PEGGY FEHLMAN	28 - MELISSA MCCLUSKIE
03 - DAVID BERKOWITZ	15 - STEVE FRAZEE	28 - NANCY MULLIGAN
04 - CHARLENE FINLEY	18 - SHERRY DOTSON	28 - JOAN SCHELL
06 - HAILEY NELSON	19 - TED POWL	28 - NATHAN VOSBURG
09 - MEG BURKE	20 - SANDE CAMPBELL	
09 - MIKE VAN BEEK	20 - ERNEST TAKANG	
09 - CAROL WILDING	20 - JANET TINKHAM	
10 - GERRI MOWERY	20 - DICK ZAHNISER	
	21 - IAN RICHARDSON	
	23 - BOB HAAS	
	24 - DONNA STROWGER	
	22 - CHESTER OLSON	
	26 - BOB WHITMORE	
	27 - MARJORIE BROWN	

We would also like to extend birthday greetings to any other June babies not on our list. If you know of a member's birthday that needs to be added, please call Gael in the church office @ 982-8811. Thank you, and HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU!

**Please remember those who have been ill or are recovering from surgery.**

**Those who are homebound or in convalescent care:**  
Norma Clipperton, Sydney Dooley, Felicia and Drexel Foreman, Ruth Fudge, Richard and Carol Hutton, Muriel Innes, Fred Johnson, Seth Martin, Gerry Perkins, Irene Sepe, Clay Simpson, and Carol Zerillo.

Please call Gael in the office if we need to update any information. Thank you. 909-982-8811.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# TREASURER'S CORNER



JUNE 2017						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> 7pm Deacons	<b>2</b> 1pm Memorial for Addie Smilkstein 6pm UPDOC	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship with Communion  <b>Pentecost</b>	<b>5</b> 4:30pm BandG	<b>6</b> 6:30am Men's Breakfast 6:30pm <b>Reach</b> 7:30/8pm AA	<b>7</b> 5:45pm Midweek 7pm Choir	<b>8</b> 4:30pm Preschool Board 6:30pm <b>Worship</b> 6:30pm <b>Gather</b> 7pm <b>Serve</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>HALEY NELSON- HH 16TH B/DAY PARTY</b>
<b>11</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship  <b>Baby Shower After Service</b>	<b>12</b> 5pm Trustees 5:30pm <b>Grow</b>	<b>13</b> 6:30am Men's Breakfast 7:30/8pm AA	<b>14</b> 7pm Choir	<b>15</b> 10-12 Card Making 4pm Loaves and Fishes 6:30pm Personnel	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship Fathers Day BBQ After Service	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:30am Men's Breakfast 6:30pm <b>Session</b> 7pm Sierra Club 7:30/8pm AA	<b>21</b> 7pm Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>Set-up For VBS</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>Set-up For VBS</b>
<b>25</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship  Music Ministry Recognition Day	<b>26</b>  <b>VBS</b>	<b>27</b> 6:30am Men's Breakfast  <b>VBS</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>VBS</b>	<b>29</b> 1pm PW Circle  <b>VBS</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>VBS</b>	

We're off to a good start for the year. The **Church** checking account balance at the end of April closed at **positive \$13,460.25**. The **Preschool** checking account closed the month of April with a balance of **\$90,417.93**. These balances represent a normal checking account fluctuation during the year.

## REVENUE AND EXPENSES STATEMENTS

Year-to-date budgeted revenues total \$203,549.27.  
Year-to-date budgeted expenses total \$205,567.99.

### Revenue

The most substantial revenue/income source (58.1%) for the **Church** is 'Pledge Commitments' from the congregation. Note that yearly Pledge revenue was budgeted at \$345,466.00 representing actual pledge commitments (not projections) from of the congregation. There are currently 101 pledging households/units this year; that represents 8 fewer pledging units than last year. Pledge contributions for April totaled \$29,486.75, or 102.4% the required monthly average (\$28,788.33). Year-to-date pledge revenue closed \$1,642.00 less than Budget projections. Some church members and guests may be choosing the 'loose offering' method of giving to the church this year rather than pledging. 'Non-Pledge/Loose Offering' income for April totaled \$8,971.00, or 119.6 % the required monthly average (\$7,500). Yearly Sunday Loose Offering revenue was budgeted at \$90,000. Year-to-date loose offerings total \$44,413.49.

Pledge Revenue and Loose Offerings are up a combined year-to-date total of \$12,771.65.

The 2017 Budget starts the year as a balanced budget of revenues and expenditures and included no borrowing of funds from the approved policy that created a Prudent Operating Reserve Fund. This Reserve Fund should equal 6 months of cash available for mandatory operations (salaries, administrative, insurances, and utilities). At the end of April the Prudent Operating Reserve Fund totals \$195,424.09.

### Expenses

"Fixed" salary, office and administration, insurances, and utilities expenses for the year 2017 (\$490,851.00), represent 83.2% of the total annual budget. April "fixed expenses" total \$41,714.35. The various Teams, Operations Committees, and Boards had April expenses totaling \$9,067.26.

## DESIGNATED FUNDS, MEMORIALS, AND ENDOWMENTS

**Designated Funds and Memorials.** These represent funds that have been given to the Church by individuals and families and have been designated to be spent only for various purposes. These designated accounts hold a total available amount of \$99,671.11 (not an insignificant amount). \$20,000.00 of this amount is set aside for use by the Preschool. A gift, with a current balance of \$5,339.37, is set aside towards the renovation of Hart Hall. The Capital Improvement Program Fund totals \$17,683.42. Teams designated accounts currently total a 'net' available of \$56,648.32 that could be used to offset or enhance their programs and projects in 2017.

Various **Endowment Accounts**, invested and held in trust for various programs and projects, at the beginning of 2017, has \$14,772.30 available for use.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM LOAN

In late 2014, the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program of the PCUSA, loaned the church \$295,000.00 for needed capital improvement projects. To date, all campus buildings have been re-roofed. Hart Hall has been retrofitted with new heating and air conditioning. External night safety lighting has been installed. Debt service on the loan is \$1710/mo. We have been paying debt service at the rate of \$2000/mo. The current (April 13, 2017) outstanding loan balance is \$261,022.42.

# TRUSTEES



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

## All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Sunday School

Not only is it graduation time many for students, but it's also that time of year when the terms end for certain Elders and new terms begin. When I was in high school, I was the Senior Class Treasurer. This position landed me the opportunity to speak at graduation. For the past three years I have served as an Elder on Session and Board of Trustees. My position as President on Board of Trustees has too landed me with opportunity to write an article in the newsletter at the end of my term. In thinking about what to write for my final article my thoughts kept going back to my high school speech, which included the reading of:

All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten, by Robert Fulghum

"These are the things I learned (in Kindergarten):

1. Share everything.
2. Play fair.
3. Don't hit people.
4. Put things back where you found them.
5. Clean up your own mess.
6. Don't take things that aren't yours.
7. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.
8. Wash your hands before you eat.
9. Flush.

10. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.
11. Live a balanced life - learn some and drink some and draw some and paint some and sing and dance and play and work every day some.
12. Take a nap every afternoon.
13. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.
14. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.
15. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup - they all die. So do we.
16. And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first words you learned - the biggest word of all - LOOK."

I love this little poem. If I could, I would take the creative liberties and change Kindergarten to Sunday School or First Presbyterian Church Pre-School. None the less, it really does apply to all aspects of life, including serving as an Elder. As I finish my term, I leave with a deeper understanding and appreciation for our Pastor, the members of the Board of Trustee and the dedicated members of Session. I am thankful for everyone's hard work and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of Session for the last three years.

- Heather McGee Decauwer, Trustee

- Past President, Class of 2017

## WE NEED YOUR HELPING HANDS

JUNE 26-30, 5-8pm



Make a difference in the life of a child this summer by volunteering to teach or help with **Vacation Bible School (VBS)**. We need **20 more people to help** with registration, decorating, telling stories, leading children around campus, preparing crafts, and meeting any needs of your crew throughout the evening. We also need donations of Otter Pops and craft supplies.

VBS provides a magical and spiritual experience for children. God moves through his people, and during VBS week, he will work through our volunteers to lead the children, but he also will work through the children to bless the adults—both volunteers and parents.

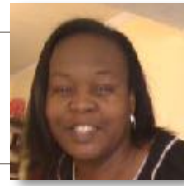
Please prayerfully consider how you might be a part of this outreach to the children and families of our community.

We will offer training on Wednesdays, June 21 @5:30pm and June 25 @11:15am, so feel free to stop by, ask questions and get additional information.

Help us bring the life-changing Word of God to all whom he draws.

**Contact Ms. Lonettia Sparks at [Lonettia@yahoo.com](mailto:Lonettia@yahoo.com) or the church office at 909.982.8811** to discover how you can serve and/or to sign up.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



## Summer, An Opportunity To Foster Your Child's Faith?

Every year, when a new school year begins in the fall, we get excited about the opportunities presented to our children and our church programs. We see new faces and are privileged to talk to new families about what will be happening in the life of the church. Let's take the opportunity *this summer* to get excited about what we can teach and experience with our little ones about faith, love and hope for their future.

Here are some practical ways to have the best opportunity to see your child's faith grow in the next couple of months and beyond.

### 1. Model Faith

Everything that you want your child to have in their connection with God, make sure you have that same thing. Read the Bible, spend time in prayer, be connected in some kind of group, serve, give, and show your family that faith is something that is the foundation for your life not just a corollary item on the list.

### 2. Attend Church Consistently

Consistent church attendance gives your child a chance to develop relationships that won't be developed if they only come for a week.

I think of my parents and how they modeled commitment. You wouldn't think of letting your kids miss football practice or soccer or gymnastics, because that's how they improve and get better. Why is it any different with church and faith?

If your kid said no to school, what would your response be?

### 3. Get Them Connected

Find friends who go to your child's school. Volunteer in the ministry they are involved in. Bring them to everything. Relationships are a key to understanding and growing in faith. We all need relationships with others that help us grow in our faith—your kids do as well. Show up at a service and watch your child interact with others.

### 4. Create Faith Traditions

For whatever reason, Christians in the West aren't very good at this. I highly recommend finding a rhythm that will help create faith conversations at your home.

Here's a few great ones:

- Prayer for dinner
- Serve the community together
- Read a devotional together
- Pick a family verse for the month
- Invite people who don't know Christ over for dinner and love on them

### 5. Be Vulnerable

How much of your "story" do your children know? Are there things about your life in which they don't have a clue? Share your failures and successes openly. That conversation that you dread the most, is probably the one that is the most important to have. (excerpts from JCIS, and parenting.com)

- Lonettia Sparks  
Director, Children's Ministries

# SERVE TEAM

*Every One Serve*

SOVA  
JUNE Food Donation  
Suggestions: Canned Veggies & Beans

*'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'* Matthew 25:40

**Pentecost Offering June 4th!**

To Support Obed Alvarez in Leading the 2017 Rome World Missionary Conference

**World Missionary Conference**

Consiglio Missionario Mondiale

Island Valley HOPE PARTNERS

May 14th

**SOVA Special Offering**

**RAISED \$1,\_\_\_**

**2 More Individuals**

Bridges to Home

Assisting families and individuals who have been without a home move into stable housing and a new beginning.

Marine Veteran

Senior Cancer Patient

You have blessed Two more families and Helped them feel welcomed into their New Homes!

# SERVE TEAM



## May 2017 Prayer Letter



*First Skype Session in February with Witnessing Ministries of Christ Board Member Rev. Ray Pope.*

As neatly dressed pastors, pastor-principals and ministry leaders of the exodus Presbyterian Church—India gathered for Bible education with me by Skype on May 6th. Many stood respectfully at the end of the session, sharing answers to the question, "How do I thank Jesus for setting us free?" Following is a sampling of their thoughts.

Some Dalits believe in evil spirits, concocting religions out of that, but we testify to what the Bible says. Our people are born in the condition of starvation, atrocities, and lack of education. We know Rev. Philip Prasad as our great teacher. He was born as one of us. His life led him way where he could have forgotten us, but he returned and helped us find faith in Jesus who took us out of darkness.

We go where no other church goes. There are some pastors who come to the higher communities, but they do not come to our people. In our outcaste villages you will not find a pastor in a big, white gown or one who cares about a child's education. Our church grows out of the lowest people in the villages. We can understand and feel like we are a part of the life of Jesus. We give full respect and new identity to our people and they are thankful that we came to them.

Bad habits ruin lives, causing illness and death. Some people call upon witchcraft when they are sick. They waste big money in that useless effort. Our teachings help them change and we take them to the doctor when they need it. We are unique. Our people accept us. We are ready for strong, personal relationships in order to help people come to Christ. Others run away in the face of any trouble, but we stay. Our family of faith is saved.

We present ourselves to the people as messengers about God and Jesus Christ who redeems us from all suffering. While visiting the villages we are respectful and compassionate. We tell them about the resources we have that will bring them out of their difficulties. First there is faith and then education.

In visiting families, we have long discussions and say, "I am one of you, like a relative. I have a new name - a blessing for my life." I tell how to come to faith through a new name and a new identity where they are respected and get a good job. The people who study with us can go around other people without shame.

Education removes poverty and gives us discipline. We find marriages among Christians so we may grow a stronger Christian community. In our holy place, we pray for salvation a forgiveness. We share in the pain the people are experiencing, their joy, and every part of life's situations. Our biggest feeling is of God being part of our lives.

The most important thing is that we believe in God and that we are created in His image as equal to others. Humans created divisions and we don't live by that. God calls all of us out of bondage and the Holy Spirit guides us. The door to faith is open because Jesus came for us. I know 100% that Jesus died to allow us to find salvation and I am grateful.



*The Skype session in March had better connections. This way of communicating enables ongoing education from Fresno to India. Our two-hour period every two weeks is only part of their all-day sessions.*

**Thanks be to God.  
Please pray for these young leaders  
and their faithful ministry.**

# GROW TEAM

## New Sunday School Class:



## Mark Your Calendars...

Please join us June 18th as Eric Wolf begins a new class on the book of Ephesians at 9am in the Garden Room.

We encourage you to commit to attending the entire series.