



# The MISSION BELL

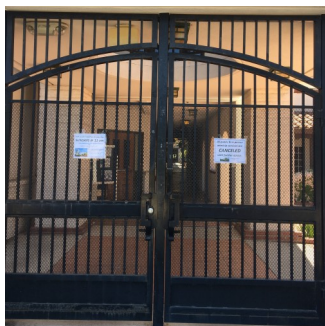
CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 2020

Volume LVV Number 4

## CPC Campus Remains Closed

As we continue to abide by shelter-in-place orders, the CPC campus remains closed for all worship services, meetings,

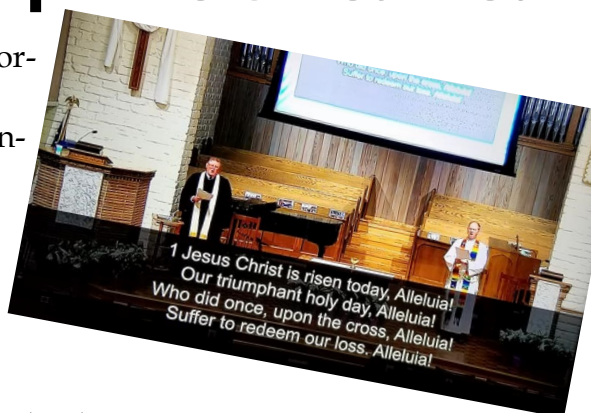


gatherings, and events with a couple of important exceptions.

The Carmichael Food Closet continues  
(Continued on page 3)

## Sunday Worship Live Streamed

We are continuing to livestream worship services each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. with elements of both traditional and contemporary services, plus pre-recorded content. Thanks to **Steve Parker and Jeremy Sparks** for all of their hard work behind the scenes to bring worship services to us!



There are three ways to join the Sunday livestreaming:

**Scroll down on the church website:**

<http://carmichaelpres.org/> and click on "Click here Watch Live from CPC YouTube Channel"

**Go to the URL:**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/carmichaelpres/>

**Use the YouTube App or Smart TV:**

search for carmichaelpres

(When you get there, please subscribe to our channel (the big red button on the top right). The link will also be posted on CPC's Facebook page.

Worship bulletins and *eParish Notes* are emailed each week. *If you're not receiving emails from CPC, give us a call or send us an email with your address so we can add you to the mailing list.* And, be sure to check your junk/spam folder. Sometimes emails to large groups (like our CPC family) can get stuck there.

You can also watch the recordings of past Sunday worship services any time.

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**Pastor Keith L. DeVries Writes:**

## **"Challenging and Changing Times"**

The fact that I am writing this newsletter article from home rather than from my office at church reflects our ever-changing world as we continue to "shelter in place." Our

understanding of community is changing in both positive and negative ways. In positive ways, many of those who were feeling isolated and alone before this COVID-19 crisis are now reconnecting to our faith community through live streaming, Zoom, and personal

phone calls from our deacons and elders; people whose work schedules kept them from volunteering are staffing the Food Closet and providing meals for the least of these; and many of us gather daily at noon to pray with and for each other with **Pastor Ivan** on Facebook Live. In negative ways, these changes have limited personal contact and restricted our ability to be together in person. We miss hugs, handshakes, and even meetings in

person.

Even more changes are on the horizon. As we move into week six of live streaming worship, we continue to fine tune how we worship together.

*"Our understanding of community is changing in both positive and negative ways."*

er. We have moved (for the time being) from two services and two styles of worship to a more blended style of worship with some pre-recorded content from others in the congregation. Also, I will not be taking my planned sabbatical this summer. With travel options diminishing and uncertainty about the future, it seems inappropriate to take extended sabbatical leave at this time.

As things change, we also

face many challenges. One of the challenges that confronts us individually and as a faith community is economic. Carmichael Presbyterian Church has, like many of us, seen a significant decline in revenue during this pandemic. Your session had voted to apply for a loan through the Payroll Protection Program, but upon delivery of that application to our bank, **Paul Shultz** was told that they had stopped accepting applications and it was announced that there were no longer funds available. While it might still be possible to apply for that loan in the future, our Personnel Committee will now begin to look at changes in staffing that might be necessary to offset that decline.

This crisis has disrupted our normal rhythms and routines and made it more challenging to financially support CPC's mission and ministry. You can help us in several ways; first, please keep your pledge as current as possible; second, if you are suffering a financial shortfall and will not be able to fulfill your pledge, please let **Paul Shultz** know so that the session can plan accordingly; third, give online as you can. Ways to give are published in the weekly *e-Parish Notes*, included at the beginning and end of each

*(Continued on page 3)*

## ... Campus Closed ...

(Continued from page 1)

to provide food to families in need five days a week, as it provides essential services. They have modified their distribution to maintain social distancing as they serve 100 people each day. Instead of walking up to the window, Food Closet clients drive up to the Food Closet building and volunteers put the bags of food directly in their car trunk.

Supper on Saturday, or S.O.S., continues to provide a meal on the third Saturday of each month for anyone in need. They have modified their plans to provide a pre-packaged meals "to go" which is distributed outside McMillen Hall.

Please keep these active ministries in your prayers as they continue to carry out Christ's ministry of love and care to all of God's children as best they can in these challenging and changing times.



*Clockwise from top: Lisa Levering prepares to load bags into the cars of Food Closet recipients.*

*Gordon and Carolyn McGregor and their grandson, Ryan Brown, use all proper precautions to distribute groceries from the Food Closet.*

*Bob and Tiffany Goeman finish picking up donations from local grocery stores.*

*Ambrosia, Kelly, and Adalyn Holland pack bags before Food Closet clients arrive.*

Photos by Mary MacDonald

## ... From Pastor Keith

(Continued from page 2)

livestreamed worship service, and included in this *Mission Bell* (see page 5) Finally, if you are in financial need, please contact Pastor Ivan or me. We have a designated Deacons Assistance Fund that may provide a small bit of financial relief.

Please know that even though our campus is closed, and we are experiencing many challenges and changes in our lives, the ministry of Jesus Christ is flourishing. We still feed and prepare meals for those in need, we still stay connected through various technologies, we still provide worship and Christian education, and we still, together, bear witness to the risen Lord as God's Easter people.

May you be blessed with God's peace and wholeness,

*Pastor Keith*

**THE MISSION BELL**  
(USP 593-640)

Published Monthly by  
CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
5645 Marconi Ave.,  
Carmichael, CA 95608

Periodicals Postage Paid at  
Carmichael, CA 95608

Postmaster send address changes  
to:

*Mission Bell*  
5645 Marconi Ave.  
Carmichael, CA 95608



**From Pastor Ivan N. Herman:**

## **"We're All Rite"**

*"Let all things be done decently and in order."*

1 Corinthians 14:40 (KJV)

Right after our daughter (our first child) was born in August, our world was completely disoriented. Our normal patterns were turned upside down. No longer did we have the freedom to go out to eat at 8:00 p.m. or work out at the gym at regular hours. Every grad school class attended, every hour worked, every meal prepared had to be talked about, planned, and negotiated. But we still tried to keep some familiar patterns, like visiting family and sharing in significant holidays. In October, when she was six weeks old, we drove six hours (it took ten hours) to my grandfather's funeral. We did the trip again for Thanksgiving. By the time December rolled around, we couldn't keep up the old patterns. Our responsibility for this new life meant we couldn't just keep repeating what had become familiar ways of doing things. We decided not to visit family that first Christmas. I told Tara, our pastor and friend

that we were sticking around for the holidays, and she asked what we were doing to celebrate it. "Nothing," I replied, "We are too tired!" She replied, "You need to mark this time. It's time to make your own rituals."



While I've come to know better, the spiritual environment I grew up in (Evangelical and anti-Catholic) taught believe that "ritual" was a bad word. Rituals were empty religious actions; they were things people did without understanding why, but they did them because they had been told they were supposed to.

That definition of "ritual" is stuck in 1517. I've grown to understand that rituals are not empty, but that they shape our beliefs even as our beliefs shape our practice of faith (a.k.a. praxis). Rituals can mark important moments in life and the passage of time. They are welcome and healthy part of life.

Part of the deep disorientation we are experiencing with this season of COVID-19 stay-at-home-orders is that we are missing the rites that mark the passage of time. We are missing big life rituals like prom, graduation, weddings, and funerals. But we are also missing the weekly patterns of established work schedules and Sunday worship. We miss the daily patterns of a commute to school, Dutch Bros, and the office. Many folks now find the normal boundaries of home, work, and social life are even more blurred than before.

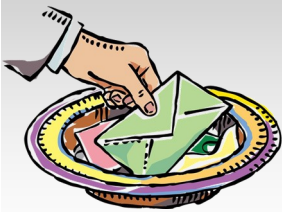
"You need to mark this time. It's time to make your own rituals." New rituals can reorient, reconnect, and create healthy boundaries. Prayer rituals may help: something as simple as pausing to pray before a meal or as rigid as set times for the offices of daily prayer (morning, midday, evening, close of day), or as a colleague does, set a daily watch alarm for 10:02 a.m. to remember his favorite verse, Luke 10:2 "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." Perhaps a walking prayer time can replace a commute and create a time of transition and a healthy boundary.

Our worship and Christian education patterns are also

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Please Pass the Virtual Offering Plate

by Patty Peterson



Even though the church campus is temporarily closed, we continue to worship through the livestreamed Sunday worship service and meet via Zoom. We also continue to pay expenses to support the congregation, staff and facility. Accordingly, we need your continued financial support to fund the ongoing life of the church during these unusual times.

Even though there isn't a physical offering plate to pass each Sunday, there are many ways to provide financial support:

- If you already have e-giving set up, that is greatly appreciated and probably the easiest way to continue to give to our church.
- If you would like to set up e-giving, call or contact Paul Shultz, Financial Administrator. He can set you up for e-giving or take a credit/debit card over the phone. Contact Paul at [paul@carmichaelpres.org](mailto:paul@carmichaelpres.org).
- Go to <https://carmichaelpres.org/giving/donate/> to contribute online via PayPal or using your credit/debit card.
- Mail it in. Put a check in an envelope with a stamp and mail to Carmichael Presbyterian Church, 5645 Marconi Ave., Carmichael, CA 95608. Mail is being pick up at the office regularly.

We are hopeful that we will soon return to worship together and support each other in person. Until then, please prayerfully consider choosing one of these options for passing the "virtual" offering plate to support our congregation.

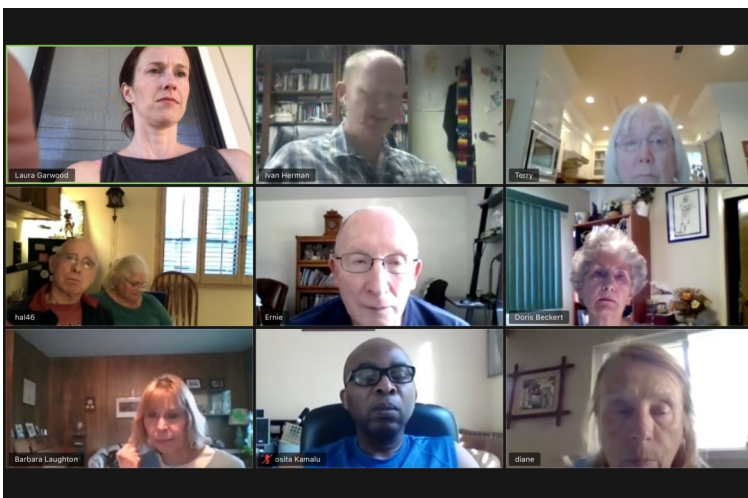
## ... From Pastor Ivan ...

(Continued from page 4)

adapting to this change. How can you create a (physical or mental) space for worship when you're not in the CPC sanctuary? You could wear your Sunday best on the couch, or stay your pajamas with your family Bible in your hands. You could take 10 minutes in the rocking chair after the livestream to journal your reflections on the service, or pick up the phone for a conversation with another church member to share how God spoke to you today.

Presbyterians' unofficial motto is "decently and in order." We strive for order in our life together; we can also do so in our lives while physically apart. I encourage you as I was encouraged: "It's time to make your own rituals."

## Deacons Minister Virtually



Even while they are not able to meet in person, CPC's Board of Deacons continues to carry out their ministry of "compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress." (*Book of Order* G-2.0201) They held their April meeting via Zoom with Moderator **Laura Garwood**, who shared this photo. Thanks to our deacons for their ministry of care and compassion!

# Celebrating Our Heritage

Sunday, May 17 is Heritage Sunday, when we celebrate our history by honoring those members who have contributed so much to CPC for so many years. We will honor members who have reached 40, 45, 50, and 60 years of membership, plus those who have been CPC members for over 50 and over 60 years. We also acknowledge those newest to our church family, having joined in the past year. This year, we honor:

## **Over 60 Years**

*(joined 1950 - 1959 )*

Helene Crowley

Leona Donald

Cathy Levering

William Baker

Don White

Hazel Smith

Phil & Jimmi Mishler

Carol Honnold

Trudy Carney

Nancy Marks

Gordon & Carolyn McGregor

## **60 Year Members**

*(joined in 1960)*

George & Carolyn Burbank

Joyce Kiser

## **Over 50 Years**

*(joined 1961- 1969)*

Margaret Herman

Nonie French Parker

Raymelle King

Bob Taylor

Joanne Lindsay

Dave & Marie Segur

Doreen Wilson

Karla Curran

Jerri Pefley

Betty Ekstedt

Mary Torgerson

Linda Williams

Sue Carey

Marcia Law

Ann Kelly



Mary Ann Norberg

Barbara Moore

Janette Stoker

Laurie White

Ramona Stubblefield

Don Drudik

Ruth Duncan

Wayne & Barbara Reimers

Bob and Doris Beckert

Ed and Jan Saunders

Patti Grimm

Linda Gracey

Kathy Shay

Jan Olsen

Joyce Purvis

Lynn Shultz

Barbara Krefting

Janet Olson

## **50 Year Member**

*(joined in 1970)*

Matthew Wiley

## **45 Year Members**

*(joined in 1975)*

Debbie Berke

Claudia Feathers

Deborah Sneed

Art Tookey

Barbara Hussey

Jeannie O'Brien

## **40 Year Members**

*(joined in 1980)*

Len & Viki Tozier

Bud Buettner

Glen & Allison Cagley

Wayne & Nina Henley

Janet Vasché

## **New Members**

*(joined May 1, 2019 - April 30, 2020)*

Abby Bracy

Nathan Bracy

Rowan Haight

Camilla Herman

Madison Lee

Ada Lorraine

Danielle Tomlinson

Travis Tomlinson

Leah Walker

Joshua Yang

David & Suzanne Mathews

Judy Antonson

Ashly Henderson

David Jones

Jami McCray

Mary Simpson

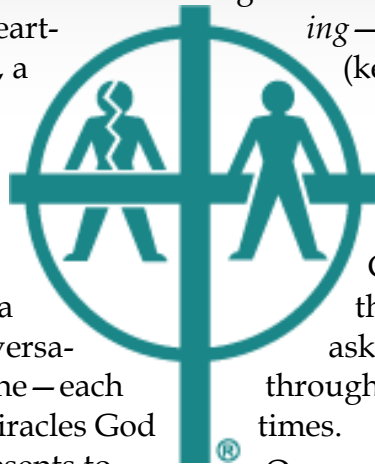


# Watch for the Little Miracles

by Misty Dunn, Stephen Minister/Leader

Watch for the little miracles all around. Doing so uplifts your spirits and reminds you that God is active and alive in the world. These little miracles may be: a beautiful flower, the wholehearted giggle of a child, a friend's smile (maybe via FaceTime, Zoom, or some other online source), a butterfly, a sunset, a heartwarming conversation with a loved one—each of these are little miracles God has created and presents to us—if we but look for them.

Sometimes miracles or God's goodness are harder to recognize. During this long time of sheltering-at-home, we are feeling uncertain, anxious at our isolation and loss of income, maybe panicked, and definitely inconvenienced at our inability to be with family and friends. During times like these, we may have to work hard to see God's goodness. We may need to slow down—breathe—and think of difficult times in the past that God has brought us through. We may need to *Dig Deep*—deliberately practice gratitude and self-compassion every day. *Get Inspired*—choose meditations, devotionals, prayer, and/or uplifting words. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross shares this insight, "People are



like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their beauty is revealed only if there is a light within." And, *Get Going*—just showing up (keep moving forward doing what you can) may be enough for now. Keep looking for God's goodness in the little things, and ask for help to get you through these difficult times.

One avenue of help is Stephen Ministry. As Max Lucado wrote in one of his devotionals, "It won't be painless or quick. But God will use this mess for good. With God's help you'll get through this." A Stephen Minister can help by walking alongside you (talking on the phone for now), helping you see what steps you might need to take and how God is working in your life for good despite the mess you see all around you.

So, whether you are experiencing challenges from the isolation, job transition, or anxiety this pandemic has brought, or additional difficulties like grief, loss of income, divorce, illness, etc., call the confidential phone line at CPC, 916-486-0604, for Stephen Ministry. See if having someone to listen and talk

with you confidentially will help you get through this stressful "mess."

For more information, contact one of the Stephen Leaders: **Kelly Holland, John Wallace, Mary Thomas, Len Tozier, or Misty Dunn.**

And take comfort from God's promise to us stated in Isaiah 41:10:

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.*

*I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

## Mission Bell Deadlines



**May 11**

for the June newsletter

**June 8**

for the July newsletter

Submit articles to: Amy Lerseth,  
*Mission Bell* Editor  
at [amylerseth@buzzoates.com](mailto:amylerseth@buzzoates.com)

# **Presbyterian Women: PW Bible Study: *Love Carved in Stone***

*by Kathy Daigle*

## **Words of Love: Don't Fixate On What You Don't Have**

How appropriate and profound is this message on page 100 of our PW Bible Study, "Don't Fixate On What You Don't Have." We are under orders to shelter in our homes during this scary COVID-19 global pandemic. All but essential businesses are closed. We pray for our families, friends, health care workers, first responders and other essential workers. These are historic times. Many have lost so much and we are worried about tomorrow.

We yearn for things to return to normal, to see our loved ones again, to feel safe, to leave home to run errands and gather with others – and our beloved church family. For now, our church campus is closed. So we are worshiping online, meeting on Zoom, and finding new ways to be the church to one another and our community.

Like Easter services and the annual Planting Seeds of Faith auction, PW's annual Spring Gathering will not happen as originally planned. And our monthly PW Circles cannot meet. So we grieve for what we are missing and what we don't have. The pandemic has suddenly changed our lives in so many ways.

This month's lesson focuses on the Tenth Word as we continue to enjoy our PW Bible Study by Eugenia Anne Gamble. This study helps us look at the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament with surprising new insights, as God's love letter to all generations.

May: The Tenth Word

*"You shall not covet your*

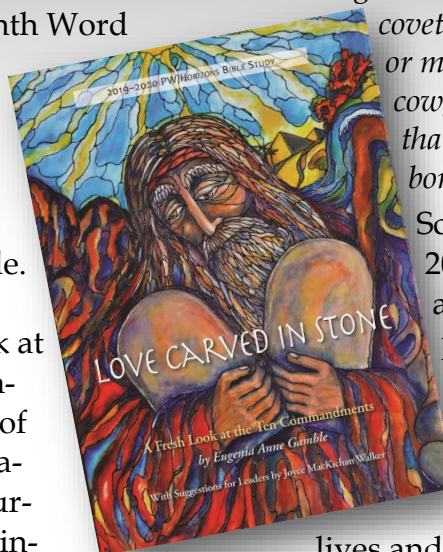
*neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or cow, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."* (Exodus 20:17)

Scripture: Exodus 20:17, 1 Kings 21:1-16 and Luke 12:13-15

Purpose: To examine the meaning of "to covet" and to identify the ways greed and desire affect our lives and communities.

Prayer: *Gracious God, you have given us everything – our lives, our provisions, our families,*

*(Continued on page 9)*



## **PW Circle Meetings**

*All Circle meetings are currently on hold due to COVID-19 prevention precautions.*

**Dorcas:** The World Service Sewing Circle is for those who enjoy sewing for mission projects. Typically meets in the Howard Crowley Room on first Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Leader: **Carolyn McGregor**

**Mary Martha:** Typically meets in the Gathering Place on third Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.  
Co-Leaders: **Kathy Daigle** (kathydaigle@comcast.net) and **Lisa Benadom** (lbenadom@comcast.net)

**Naomi:** Meets in the Church Parlor on third Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Leader: **Bonnie Hard**

**Rachel:** Generally meets at the home of Margo Scandella. Please contact Margo to confirm the location if you are interested in attending. Typically meets on third Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.  
Leader: **Margo Scandella** (margolis@aol.com)



# ... Presbyterian Women ...

*(Continued from page 8)*

*and our faith. We are grateful for every gift, and especially for the gift of time together to ponder your Word. Open us to see in the Word, O God, your invitation to embrace our lives with joy and gratitude. Help us; fill us with your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

The Ten Words of this PW Bible Study have invited us into loving relationship with God and into a profound and earth-changing way of being together in community. Our love letter ends with the most surprising of all the Words. The First Word declares God as our One and Only. Circling back, the Tenth Word calls us to see ourselves and our lives differently as a result of that call. This Word salves the wound—caused by the human tendency toward greed and comparing ourselves negatively to others—with a profound call to gratitude and acceptance.

Scripture warns against the lures of silver and gold. It recognizes the power that wealth has to ensnare a person or a community. Covetousness becomes dangerous when we see and focus on what others have and think we deserve but do not have. Thomas Mann, in his commentary on *Deuter-*

*onomy* quotes a popular proverb, “Enough is what most of us would be glad to have if we didn’t see others with more.”

When dissatisfaction and restless need to acquire occupy our thoughts, gratitude and worship take second place, if they have a place in our lives

at all. Worship and theology become little more

than magic formulas designed to produce more of whatever we think we need.

When we are jealous or discouraged, the grass always seems greener on the other side. The danger of failing to keep the Tenth Word is that we begin to wonder if God is really on our side.

Even though Jesus does not speak directly of coveting, he warns against the lures of wealth. In Matthew 6:24, Jesus warns that it is not possible to serve two masters—we will inevitably love the one and hate the other. God and money cannot be rivals for priority in the human heart. Throughout his ministry Jesus urges his followers to choose whom they will serve.

Our possessions can never save us, provide us with ulti-

mate security, or protect us from harm. Both the Tenth Word and Jesus’ story ask us to consider carefully what deserves our first and best energy. It also asks us to consider the role that accumulating wealth plays in our spiritual growth.

The Ten Words, this most powerful love letter, begins with God’s declaration of who God is and the invitation to love and embrace God in a way of life that is ruled by love of God and love of neighbor. This amazing letter ends with the call to embrace ourselves, to live our lives fully and without resentment, to bring all of who we are to God, and perhaps to love ourselves, too. God loves us. God desires that our lives be full and joyful. Take a moment to be thankful.

God ends our love letter with the call to abandon our covetous ways and tame our covetous hearts. God is, in a profound way, inviting us to embrace our lives as they are. The amazing grace of God has made us. We are enough. We are enough just as we are, beloved of the Lord, saved by grace, inheritors of eternal life.

## **PW Pastor’s Bible Study**

Pastor **Keith DeVries** will lead the next PW Pastor Bible Study on Thursday, May 14, at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom. All are welcome.



## Brag on Your Grad!



CPC traditionally recognizes all high school and college graduates during worship. Though we are not able to gather for this celebration, we still want to celebrate the graduates in your life!

If you know a graduate who should be included, please give their name, relationship to you, school, and degree (if applicable) to **Karen Gray** (916-486-9081 ext. 201 or [karen@carmichaelpres.org](mailto:karen@carmichaelpres.org)) by May 15. Graduates will be included in the June *Mission Bell* and acknowledged during worship in June.

## “Church Flix” Continues Weekly DVDs



Even as we livestream worship services, we still send weekly DVD recordings of CPC’s Sunday services. Folks who don’t have access to a computer or other streaming device can still participate in worship. A Sunday bulletin is included with each DVD.

If you or someone you know would like to receive a weekly DVD, please contact the church office at 916-486-9081 or [carmichaelpres@gmail.com](mailto:carmichaelpres@gmail.com). There is no cost for this service.

Don’t have a DVD player? Give us a call, the church may be able to help!

## Keep Those Photos Coming!



They say a picture is worth a thousand words—and that adage proves true now more than ever! Your photos of ways that you are participating in the life and work of CPC even while we can’t gather in person help us feel part of this community of faith.

When you have a photo to submit, please also include a few details about the photo—who, what, where, when, why as well as the photographer’s name.

Email digital photos to [amylerseth@buzzoates.com](mailto:amylerseth@buzzoates.com) or send prints to **Amy Lerseth**, *Mission Bell* editor at the church. *All prints will be treated carefully and returned promptly.*

## In Our Church Family



Please lift up in prayer these members of our church family who have recently lost loved ones:

- † **Sally Ann Hitchcock** and family on the loss of her husband, **Phil Hitchcock**, on April 2.
- † **Duane Johnson** and family on the loss of his wife, **Sherri Johnson**, on April 9.
- † **Joy Jones, Jay Hyde, Amity Hyde Wills**, and family on the loss of Joy’s grandson, Jay’s nephew and Amity’s son, **Austin Wills**, on April 8.
- † **Lisa Benadom** and family on the loss of her uncle.
- † **Jeff & Crystal Sevigny** and family on the loss of their nephew’s infant daughter, **Jane Hosanna Baker**, on April 21.

## Our Mission

*Responding to God's love through Jesus Christ, we:*

- *Welcome all*
- *Nurture relationships*
- *Grow in faith together*
- *Connect with and serve our community and the world*

## Contact Us



### by phone:

CPC Office	916-486-9081
Office after-hours line	916-486-1406
Health Ministry	916-486-0604
Stephen Ministry	916-486-0604
Food Closet	916-483-9232
Fax	916-486-3771

To leave a voice mail message for a staff person when the office is closed, dial 916-486-9081. When the machine answers your call, dial the person's extension.

Keith DeVries	203	Paul Shultz	205
Ivan Herman	202	Karen Gray	201
Julie Ueltzen	200	Lisa Torgerson	204
Randy Benfield	208	Ron Morris	206

### via e-mail:

Keith DeVries	keith@carmichaelpres.org
Ivan Herman	ivan@carmichaelpres.org
Randy Benfield	randy@carmichaelpres.org
Julie Ueltzen	carmichaelpres@gmail.com
Karen Gray	karen@carmichaelpres.org
Paul Shultz	paul@carmichaelpres.org
Ron Morris	ron@carmichaelpres.org
Lisa Torgerson	lisa@carmichaelpres.org

Or link to email through our website: [www.carmichaelpres.org](http://www.carmichaelpres.org)

## Our CPC Staff

Remembering that the members of Carmichael Presbyterian Church are the ministers and missionaries of our faith community, our Pastoral Staff and Support Team provide leadership and specialized ministries.

**The Rev. Keith L. DeVries**

**The Rev. Ivan N. Herman**

**Randy Benfield,**  
Director of Music

**Jenny DeVries,**  
Contemporary Worship  
Leader

**Lisa Torgerson,**  
Children's & Youth  
Ministry Director

**Karen Gray,**  
Pastors' Secretary

**Julie Ueltzen,**  
Church Secretary

**Paul Shultz,**  
Financial Administrator

**Ron Morris,**  
Maintenance Manager

**Christian Bolen,**  
Custodian

**Lisa Levering,**  
Wedding Coordinator



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## Sunday School for Children & Youth



Each of our amazing Sunday School teachers is leading a class for their age group on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Look for an email or text from your teacher with the Zoom link. If you or your child didn't get the link and want to attend Zoom Sunday school, contact Lisa Torgerson at [lisa@carmichaelpres.org](mailto:lisa@carmichaelpres.org)

**Godly Play, 4 years-Kindergarten**

**Whirl, 1st-3rd grade**

**Connect, 4th-5th grade**

**Middle School & High School, 6th-12th grade**