



THE MISSION BELL

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 2020

Volume LX Number 6

Being a Matthew 25 Congregation

by Barbara Farley

At its May 26 meeting, your Session passed a motion from the Mission Division to become a Matthew 25 congregation. The Matthew 25 vision grew out of the work of the 222nd General Assembly (2016) and the 223rd General Assembly (2018) of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It represents a

call to congregations, presbyteries, synods and other entities of the denomination to strengthen the collective work and witness of the PC (USA) to the gospel of Jesus. Matthew 25 has



MATTHEW 25

much to guide us. Our denomination has developed resources with a focus on:

- Building congregational vitality

(Continued on page 3)

Sunday Worship Live Stream Continues at 10 a.m.



Sunday worship services continue to livestreamed at 10:00 a.m. with elements of both traditional and contemporary services, plus pre-recorded content.

There are three ways to join the Sunday livestream:

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

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

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Pastor Keith L. DeVries Writes:

“The World Looks Different Somehow”

I am slowly coming to the conclusion that the world we live in is different and that wearing a face covering may just be our new normal in public settings. When CPC re-

opens for in-person worship (more about that in a moment), we will most likely all be required to wear a mask and practice social distancing in order to protect ourselves and others. I am pretty sure Je-

sus would approve of this new normal as a way to follow his teaching to “love your neighbor as yourself.” And even though we sometimes fall into the COVID-19 creep (you know, those times you forget to keep your distance and gradually get closer to another person while you’re engaged in a conversation), we must continue to be on our guard to

minimize the risk to one another. Beware of a false sense of security; this coronavirus is still out there, and we all need to be careful and disciplined even when it is hard.

“Members of this faith community are talking about how we can make a difference, how we can make our voices heard, how we can truly embody the words of the prophet Micah, “what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

of this writing, the task force is looking at a phased-in approach, first opening the church office for limited days and hours, allowing staff to both work in the office and work from home. In-person worship is still a way off, as we figure out how to prepare the sanctuary and conduct worship so that everyone who comes to CPC is protected. It

Your Reopening Task Force continues to meet as they map out a very cautious approach to reopening our campus. They are developing a survey of the congregation to help guide their recommendations, knowing that any decision could be retracted as things change. As

will be a learning experience for all of us as we practice social distancing, sanitizing, safety measures, and new ways of being together. It is certain to look and feel different than before COVID-19. Sunday morning livestreaming will continue even after we resume in-person worship.

The world also looks very different in terms of social justice and racial inequality. Just when we thought we had our hands full with the coronavirus, we witness the brutal killing of Ahmaud Aubrey and George Floyd, sparking civil unrest and calls for justice. People have, with some exceptions, been marching peacefully in the streets for more than 20 straight days, making their voices heard in calling for change. As a nation we still haven’t healed from the sin of slavery, and even as we make progress in bringing true equality for all, we take several steps back again when we grow complacent or silent. But this time feels different; this time feels like real change may emerge from voices across generational and racial divides crying out for justice, for transformation, and for equality. Members of this faith community are talking about how we can make a difference, how we can make our voices heard, how we can truly em-

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... Matthew 25 Congregation ...

(Continued from page 1)

- Dismantling structural racism
- Eradicating systemic poverty.

What this means for Carmichael Presbyterian Church is that we will build congregational vitality by continuing to reach out to the least of these in Carmichael through the Food Closet, Supper on Saturday, the shower ministry and the Deacons discretionary fund. We will also work with the Carmichael (HART) Homeless Assistance Resource Team to eradicate poverty. In addition, the Mission Division will challenge Session and Deacons to examine their various ministries and where appropriate look for ways that their ministries address one or more of the foci.

Ironically May 25 was the day the focus on dismantling structural racism became a national one. The death of George Floyd has sparked a response from people all over

America. Many here at Carmichael began asking **what can we do?**

The Mission Division feels this is a time for us to move beyond our comfort zone and

look at structural racism and justice for all. We know we are all created equal in the image of God and that God's

grace is given to each of us. We are also told in Micah 6:8 that in response to that knowledge of God's love we are required to **"act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God."**

The Mission Division encourages each of you to read Matthew 25 and find ways to challenge yourself and your

beliefs on racial justice. Most of us do not feel we are racist, but if we are white, we look at the world differently than our brothers and sisters of color.

This has been a systemic problem in America for 400 years.

There are many websites and reading lists that offer insights into what it is like to be a person of color in America. On the CPC website we have listed a variety

of resources for children and adults that talk about racism and justice. We are also exploring ways to begin dialogue in small groups where we can talk about how we are called to be Matthew 25 people in this place and time in our history. In addition, when we once again can be together in larger groups, we will invite people from our congregation and community to share their stories.



Serving through the Food Closet is just one way CPC strives to be a "Matthew 25 Congregation."

... From Pastor Keith ...

(Continued from page 2)

body the words of the prophet Micah, "what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." People are exploring ways to truly support our multi-racial families - how we can stand with them, how we

can, especially in this time, remind our communities that we are created in God's image, every single one of us, no exceptions! The world looks different this time as we strive for racial justice and I hope it stays that way!

Pastor Keith

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... Letter from Presbytery Joint Council ...

(Continued from page 4)

We, your Council, are People of the Way. We are at different places in the work of mourning, hearing, lamenting and acting. We also do not have all of the answers. Yet, we share good news! We see that over the past several months the Spirit has been clearing the path for some of the next steps.

These words point to action, to work that needs to be done. We are committed to that work and invite you to join in it with us.

Council Members and Council Staff

Rev. Paul Bagai	Sacramento Presbytery	Mission
Sue Bennett	Sacramento Presbytery	At Large
Rev. Nancy Clegg	Sacramento & Stockton	Stated Clerk
Edrine Ddungu	Sacramento Presbytery	Representation
Barbara Farley	Sacramento Presbytery	Personnel
Mary Harbison-Sindle	Sacramento Presbytery	Presbyterian Women
Rev. Ivan Herman	Sacramento Presbytery	Moderator
Rev. David Hill	Stockton Presbytery	Committee on Ministry
Ann Johnson	Sacramento Presbytery	Council Chair
Deborah Kanner	Sacramento Presbytery	Treasurer
Rev. Jim Kitchens	Sacramento Presbytery	Committee on Preparation
Rev. Chris Neufeld-Erdman	Sacramento Presbytery	Pastoral Support
Claire Pisor	Sacramento Presbytery	Recording Clerk
David Rue	Sacramento Presbytery	At Large
Rev. Lorie Sprinkle	Sacramento Presbytery	Congregational Support
Sharyl Stevens	Sacramento Presbytery	Committee on Ministry
Jim Stochl	Stockton Presbytery	Treasurer
Pat Stokes	Sacramento Presbytery	At Large
Pat Terry	Sacramento Presbytery	Moderator-Elect
Rev. Joshua Trautmann	Stockton Presbytery	Vice Moderator
Rev. Jeri Viera Dahlke	Sacramento Presbytery	Nominating
Rev. Wendy Warner	Stockton Presbytery	Council Chair
Rev. Dr. Mary Westfall	Sacramento Presbytery	Transitional Presbyter
Rev. Craig Wright	Stockton Presbytery	Committee on Preparation
Rev. Deborah Wright	Stockton Presbytery	Consultant

Resources:

Video Statement of Stated Clerk The Rev. J. Herbert Nelson <https://vimeo.com/424168164>

List of PCUSA resources... <https://www.pcusa.org/racial-justice-resources/>

From Presbyterian Peace and Justice...

<http://pcusa.activehosted.com/index.php?action=social&chash=acab0116c354964a558e65bdd07ff047.1827&s=60750a1881d36303b7da447a7e8e744e>

Seemingly Unanswered Prayers

by Misty Dunn, Stephen Minister/Leader

God promises to be with us when we face trials and tells us that we will benefit from them. James 1: 2-3 even says to, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers [and sisters], whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance." James isn't saying that we should *enjoy* suffering: suffering *is* suffering. Nor should we pretend to be happy when we're facing trials, however, we can have a positive outlook knowing that God is with us. We know God is using life's difficulties to build our character by strengthening us and giving us opportunities to learn from the challenges presented. Among other things, we can learn perseverance, compassion for others, and we can deepen our faith.

June 6th's *Upper Room* illustrated this for me. Tim, a teenager, prayed continuously for something that seemed in line with God's purpose. Yet, he didn't get what he prayed for. Tim didn't turn from God because his prayer seemed unanswered. Instead, he interpreted that as God saying, "Not yet." (In a similar situation, many of us might have interpreted God to be ignoring our

prayers.) In Tim's case, he learned to depend on God and to seek to help others in similar situations as his. Later, he was able to recognize the good that came out of his seemingly unanswered prayer.

When we're in the midst of stress, uncertainty, anxiety, grief, loss of income, and other losses because of the

Covid-19 pandemic, it may be difficult to trust or even see that God is with us. Our anxieties are intensified because of the need to continue physical distancing and sheltering-in-place. We can't get together with others in Christian fellowship like we used to be able to do. We grieve that loss.

Consider whether a weekly phone call from a compassionate Stephen Minister could be beneficial to you! Think about how talking with someone who listens empathetically to what you say is going on with you and cares about how you're feeling could help. A Stephen Minister has been trained to be a confidential sounding board, to help you sort out how you're feeling and what steps you might take to improve your situation. He or she can help you see how God has been there for you in

the past, and support you as you get through your challenging time now.

If you or someone you know is in a place of life where you need someone to listen and for the hand of Christian love to be extended to you, our Stephen Ministry can play an important role. For more information, contact any of the Stephen Leaders:

Kelly Holland, John Wallace, Mary Thomas, Len Tozier, or Misty Dunn.



In Our Church Family



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

- † **Barry Oates** and family on the loss of his wife, **Elvy Oates**, on June 3
- † **Ray Collison** and family on the loss of his daughter, **Diane Sanford**, on June 9.
- † the family of **Mary Ann Norberg**, who passed away on June 9.
- † the family of **Joyce Kiser**, who passed away on June 10.
- † **Bob & Doris Beckert** and family on the loss of their son, **Frank Beckert**, on June 18.

Little Free Library

by Doris Beckert, CPC Librarian



Take a book, Share a book at the Free Little Library now at the back of the CPC campus.

Are you looking for a good book to read? While our CPC Library and most county libraries are closed, consider the Little Library for your reading needs. Set along the walkway at the bottom of the stairs in the rear parking lot is a box set on a stake. This is the new Little Free Library, whose motto is "Take a book, Share a book." This book exchange is the senior project of Christian Brothers High School student **Kimberly Zirbel**, daughter of CPC supporter **Chris Zirbel**.

The idea of this book sharing box library is to promote reading, build community, and inspire readers. It is for all, the passers-by and our congregation, as well. It is not part of the CPC Library, so you won't find our books there. But it has the support of our church and library. There will be children's and adult books both. Kimberly will be the steward, re-filling and maintaining it.

MISSION BELL DEADLINES



July 13

for the August newsletter

August 10

for the September newsletter

Submit articles to:

Amy Lerseth,

Mission Bell Editor at

amylerseth@buzzoates.com

Please avoid sending submissions in ALL CAPS.

Your editor thanks you!!

Art Committee Updates

The art show that you didn't get to see before COVID-19 closed the campus was "Photos Past the Dark Room by **Craig Johnson**. Craig and his wife are good friends and neighbors of **Priscilla Maurer** who coordinated this show. Craig enjoys both the art of photography and the process of bringing the image to paper. He is a retired Chemical Engineer, now devoting more time to travel and photography.

Before the digital age, Craig started with film, built his own complete darkroom, enhanced and processed all his film and prints. His photos



Photographer **Craig Johnson** and some of his photographs that were displayed in the Gathering Place before the CPC campus closed.

include travel, wedding, sports, artisan, and performance art, mostly in black and

white with some color photos. Now digital, similar techniques are used, yet he enjoys more creative effects and color in this new age. Craig has also published books, does photographic jewelry, has been in over 100 exhibits and juried shows including KVIE Art Auction, Crocker Art Auction, and CA State Fair. We are proud to display his amazing work!

Photos of past art exhibits will be shown at the end of the worship livestream most Sundays. You can enjoy beautiful art from the comfort of your home!

Scuttlebutt

News from CPC's Mariner Ships

Clipper Ship

Skippers: Gary and Charleen Lee

On Wednesday, May 27 the Clippership sailed east in the COVID infested waters of Gold River. The officers and crew met at Skippers **Gary and Charleen Lee's** home for fellowship (no hugs allowed) and a discussion of CPC's reopening. In attendance were **Gary and Charlene Lee, Terry and Judy Sweeney, Jim and Jan Hill, Thelma Wever, Jeanne Durden, and Dick Strader.**

After Charleen welcomed everyone, Jim told how, the night before, session had formed a committee for reopening our church. He then elaborated on the State guidelines and suggestions. Some of these state guidelines:

- Wear face mask during church service.
- No sharing of any handouts.
- Measuring of congregants' temperature before entering church.
- No interaction of children within 6 feet of each other.
- No gathering of people (in the Gathering Place).
- Make reservations to attend church services.
- Using disposable seat cushions.

There were many many,

many more.

There were some suggestions from the group, two of which were: 1) use the field behind the church for open air services. 2) Use a transmitter with ear buds for the congregation.

Before the meeting disbanded it was suggested that at next month's meeting everyone should try to answer this question: "If Jesus Christ were physically present among us at our Clip-



Skipjacks members have been mastering Zoom and enjoying sharing fellowship for their May and June meetings.

per meeting, what would he do and say about the reopening of our church?"

Companionship

Skippers: Karen and Bud Banker

Friendship

Skipper: Monica Dahlberg

Holy Scow

Skippers: Paul & Lynn Shultz

Lifeboat

Skipper: Anne Parker

Nautilus

Skippers: Dick & Charlotte Frink and Wayne & Barbara Reimers

Skipjacks

Skippers: Tony & Glenda Perrou

Now here is a question for ya. Has your ship had a Zoom meeting during this dark period of time? If not, you should as it will lighten up your day.

We started our May meeting after much ado like, "Oh, hi there!" and "Hey, there's ___!", and many oohs and ahs. Some faces were just right while others you could only

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2020-2021 PW Bible Study

Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament

by Lisa Benadom, PW Spiritual Life Chairperson

Have you ever felt the need to pray but were unable to find the words? It happens to me all the time and when it does, I take comfort knowing that God hears my wordless prayers. Prayer is for me. The Lord's Prayer, and the study of this prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray, has enriched my prayer life. I want more.

On March 29, 2017, PW Bible study committee selected P. Lynn Miller's proposal to write and create the art for a study based on lament. Lynn is the first author to both write and illustrate a PW/*Horizons* Bible study. I would like to share a few excerpts from the study's introduction.

War, sickness, death, unfulfilled lives, and threats to creation and to society all cause us to look to God for relief of our pain. How do we as followers of

Christ acknowledge that, even as we work to change them, the existence of these things works against God's purpose for the world.

Current practice turns these and many of society's controversial issues into a fight between "us" and "them." In an argument like this, the first step is to choose a side. The second step is to

dehumanize those who have chosen the side that is not our own. Each side hurls accusations and insults at the other on social media, television news, and in printed media. The result is very little movement toward addressing the actual issue.

Our faith offers another option: lament.

But how do we lament? Have we forgotten – or never learned – how to lament? A study of Biblical lament that includes opportunities to reclaim the practice of lament can help us live faithfully in this in-between time,

engaging the real world with our faith and our faith with the real world.

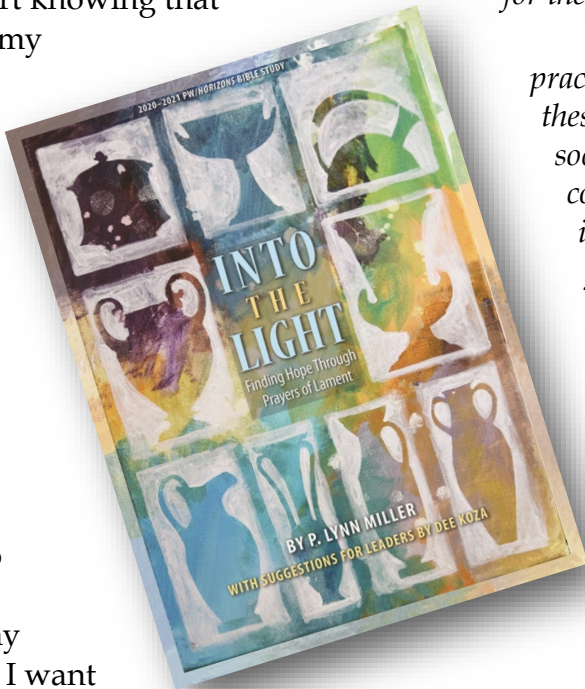
This study was selected in 2017 to be used in 2020. Timely? I definitely see God's Hands at work. Women in PW Circles will be receiving the study guide through their Circle Leaders. Frequently asked question: Can others participate in the study? Answer: **YES!** At this time what we do not know is how Circles will be gathering. What we do know is: 1. Circle members will continue to stay connected. 2. You are invited to contact any Circle Leader to learn more about PW, and, 3. A Pastor led study will take place on Zoom each month starting in September. These meetings usually take place the 2nd Thursday of the month at 9:30 am.

If you would like to purchase a study guide, please contact **Lisa Benadom** by July 17. The cost of the study guide is \$12.00 and large print is available. Payment will be collected when the guide is delivered to you. Delivery method to be determined.

The PW Purpose:

Forgiven and freed by God in

(Continued on page 10)



Dorcas Sewing Circle

... PW ...



The nine ladies of the PW Dorcas Sewing Circle made 72 lap robes during our 2019-2020 sewing cycle. Sixty of the lap robes were delivered to the Independent Living Project. They will be presented to foster children who have aged out of foster care and have completed the Independent Living class. Pictured is Dorcas member **Jimmi Mishler** delivering the lap robes to **Cindy Sherwood** of the Independent Living Project.

(Continued from page 9)

Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit we commit ourselves

To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study.

To support the mission of the church worldwide.

To work for justice and peace, and

To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

May it be so.

... Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 8)

see half of, and others were way across the room and you had to ask, "Who is that?" We spied **Jack & Danelle Brown** who moved back and are now in the Roseville area. There was time spent trying to get everyone online, and much talking over each other as we were all happy to see another person. When the meeting finally started not a word was spoken, just a bunch of faces staring at their screens waiting for the magic to happen. Well we finally took turns and be-

gan sharing what we had been doing the last two months, and it was great seeing and talking to everyone.

Our June meeting went better as Skipper **Tony Perrou** set up an agenda which was followed rather well for this bunch of talkers. Some of our upcoming events, if we can have them, will include a backyard potluck for the Fourth of July and a **Branden Rodgers** catered Christmas party followed by dessert at **Bep van der Mik's** home. We have yet to decide on the other four months in between.

We voted to give \$200 worth of grocery store gift cards to the emancipated youth graduating from foster care. They will also receive quilted lap robes from the PW sewing circle. We were encouraged to send cards to our Care & Share people, even though there are no holidays for a long stretch. So, despite sheltering in place and cancelling most of our planned activities, our cargo and mission can still continue.

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
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Karen Gray	karen@carmichaelpres.org
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Ron Morris	ron@carmichaelpres.org
Lisa Torgerson	lisa@carmichaelpres.org

Or link to email through our website: 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

Trina Spivack, Accompanist

Jenny DeVries,
Contemporary Worship Leader

Tammy Sigl,
Interim Bell Choir Director

Lisa Torgerson,
Children's & Youth
Ministry Director

Matthew Lillie,
Children's Ministry Intern

Paul & Mary Camozzi,
Childcare Providers

Karen Gray, Pastors' Secretary

Julie Ueltzen, Church Secretary

Paul Shultz,
Financial Administrator

Ron Morris,
Maintenance Manager

Christian Bolen, Custodian

Aidan Logan, Custodian

Lisa Levering,
Wedding Coordinator

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