



THE MISSION BELL

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 2020

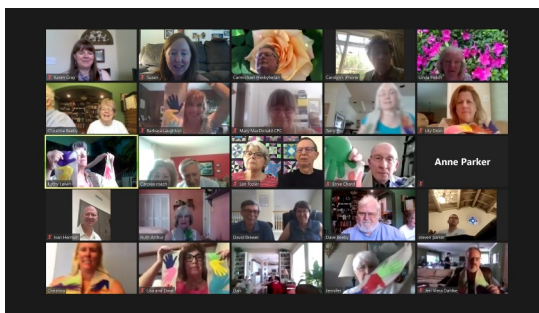
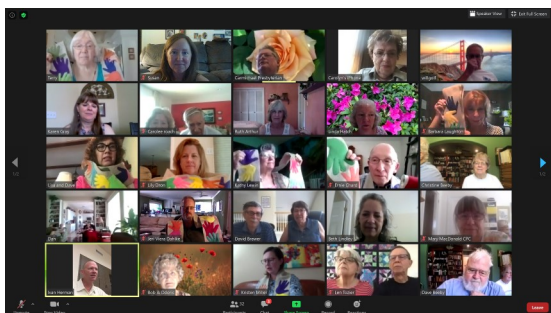
Volume LX Number 8

Creativity Abounds in Ordination & Installation of Officers

When we ordain and install elders, deacons, and pastors in our congregations, one of the questions they are asked is

intelligence, imagination, and love? " (Book of Order W-4.0404). All of these were needed to find a way to ordain and install

times, we ordain and install officers during Sunday morning worship services and invite all elders to come forward to lay hands



About 60 people participated in CPC's first service of ordination and installation via Zoom

"Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy,

CPC's newest class of elders and deacons. In more "normal"

on the new officers as a prayer of blessing (Continued on page 3)

Sunday Worship Live Stream



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:

"It Was a Very Unique Summer..."

This one is for the record books, the summer of 2020, characterized by a worldwide pandemic and social distancing, fire storms and destruction, limited vacation and travel opportunities, virtual political conventions, distance

learning from pre-school to college, and nothing going according to anyone's plans from six months ago.

There was a time when we hoped that by now we would have emerged from this COVID-19 crisis, but here we are still wearing masks,

social distancing, and sitting on a statewide watchlist. All of this means we still don't have in person worship opportunities and our offices remain closed (Please read the Reopening Update on page 6 for details on CPC's plans). Children have started a new school year much like they ended the last one, with distance learning. We have to

find new ways to try to be in community and conduct business. And as we acknowledge this strange new world, people are craving personal interaction as depression, isolation, anxiety and loneliness affect all of us.

"... in the midst of a summer unlike any other, new things have emerged and are emerging, providing signs of hope for our common life as a community of faith ..."

But, in the midst of a summer unlike any other, new things have emerged and are emerging, providing signs of hope for our common life as a community of faith known as Carmichael Presbyterian Church. In June, we officially became a Matthew 25

church (See Pastor's Ivan article on page 4). In July, **Lisa Torgerson** introduced VBS "To Go" for nearly 100 children. Live streaming of worship continues every Sunday morning with our Tech Team led by **Steve Parker** and **Jeremy Sparks** (with assistance from **Mike Gray** and **Bruce MacLean**) working behind the scenes to bring worship to our

computer and television screens. As we transition from summer to fall and programs resume, we have more and more marinerships, choirs, Bible study groups, and other groups meeting via Zoom on a regular basis (good Presbyterians always love to meet). And even though we have had to curtail some of our services for the "least of these," we continue to feed those who are hungry through Supper on Saturday (SOS) and the Food Closet. On August 16, we made history by ordaining and installing elders and deacons in a virtual service with over 60 participating online. The Education Division is transforming our children's and youth Christian education programs starting this month, and all of our divisions are examining ways CPC can be faithful and transformative in this new environment as disciples of Jesus Christ.

I consider myself blessed to be surrounded by an amazing staff who has dealt with adversity in miraculous ways, and all of you who continue to support our common ministry by thinking outside of the box, being open to new ideas, and being willing to take a leap of faith in trying new things. May blessings of health and wholeness be upon you,

Pastor Keith

... Ordination & Installation ...

(Continued from page 1)

for their service and ministry.

Since the pandemic made all of the “normal” processes impossible, your Session and pastors had to use their “energy, intelligence, imagination, and love” to come up with a safe, yet meaningful way to ordain and install these members who answered God’s call to leadership.

At first, the hope was that we could invite incoming officers to the Sanctuary during a Sunday morning live stream

service while observing safety and social distancing protocols. However, the spike in COVID-19 cases in California and the reinstatement of restrictions on indoor gatherings put an end to those plans.

So, on to Plan B (or is it Plan C at this point?). So many of us use Zoom for classes, meetings, and social gatherings, it seemed possible to have ordination and installation on Zoom as well. The date was set and the incoming of-

ficers notified. But what about the laying on of hands that is such a meaningful part of the service? **Mary MacDonald** had the perfect solution! She asked several of our current elders and deacons (and Pas-

God’s blessing on your ministry through the hands of those who serve alongside you.”

About 60 members and friends of CPC joined the Zoom meeting and raised hands of blessing while those being ordained and installed wore their stoles. **Pastor Keith, Pastor Ivan,** and Clerk of Session **Linda Hatch** led the brief service.

We thank God for these newly ordained and installed leaders and gratefully anticipate their creative and energetic ministry: Elders – **Clint Dahlke, Kristen Miller, Laura Janik,** and **Tracey**

Dron. Deacons – **Jennifer Auld, Christina Tomlinson, Barbara Laughton, Ernie Chard, Kathy Lewin, Lillian Janik, Lisa Benadom, Ruth Arthur,** and **Terry Sakuda.**



*New officers wear their handprint stoles. Top (L to R): Deacon **Christina Tomlinson**, Deacon **Kathy Lewin**, Deacon **Ruth Arthur**, Deacon **Barbara Laughton**. Bottom (L to R): Elder **Laura Janik**, Deacon **Lilly Janik**, Elder **Tracey Dron**, Deacon **Jennifer Auld**, Deacon **Lisa Benadom**.*

tor Keith) to send her a tracing of their hand. Mary transferred each handprint to felt and sewed it onto a stole – one for each incoming elder and deacon. They were delivered with a note that read in part, “During the Zoom ordination and installation service on Sunday, August 16, Pastor Keith will let you know when it is time to put the stole around your shoulders to represent the hands of your brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray that you will feel

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From Pastor Ivan N. Herman:

“Engaging a Public Theology as a Matthew 25 Congregation”

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Matthew 25 helps us pay attention to

three areas of our life together: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Christian theology is necessarily a public theology. What we as Christians believe is more than about personal salvation; we are about the transformation of life together with God and with one another. Public theology is a critical outlook *not* based on partisan rhetoric, but on sincere concern for the issues that confront all God’s people in God’s world.

Carmichael Presbyterian Church has a history of faithful public theology, from speaking out for justice during the civil rights movement in the 1960s to proclaiming that Black lives matter today. I had heard that **Dr. Pyron McMill-**

len who pastored CPC for 19 years until his retirement in 1972 participated in the march from Selma to Montgomery with Dr. King. It wasn’t until recently that I found he’d been

outspoken about racial justice locally as well. Leading up to the November 1964 election California was facing ballot Proposition 14 that amended the state constitution to allow for housing segregation,

blockbusting, and race-based real estate discrimination. While Prop 14 passed on the ballot, it was eventually overturned by the courts. Dr. McMillen not only preached against Prop 14, but published an article in *The Fresno Bee* making his theology public less than a month before the vote. I’ve included his article this month because even though the political issues we face are different today, the theology that undergirds our struggle for racial justice remains the same. (Regarding language: you may note Dr. McMillen’s heavy use of male nouns and pronouns in this

article. Such male-oriented language was commonly and uncritically accepted in 1964 and was intended to be inclusive of all peoples regardless of gender. Though we now strive for greater linguistic specificity and diversity, I have left it unchanged for matters of historic authenticity.)

*Liberty and Justice For All?
Liberty and Justice For None?*
The Fresno Bee 25 October, 1964

From a sermon written by Dr. Pyron McMillen, pastor, Carmichael Presbyterian Church, Carmichael, Calif.

Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, reminds them of something which, perhaps, they had not clearly seen before: That in the church of Jesus Christ, God had brought together people of Jewish ancestry and people of Gentile ancestry. As a result of that fact, their differences had utterly and completely disappeared.

Here Paul is expressing an idea that was entirely new, one that had been unheard of in any quarter of the world until this time. The idea there could possibly be a society which could include, as members in equal standing, all men of every nation, of every race of every social station in the

(Continued on page 5)

“Public theology is a critical outlook not based on partisan rhetoric, but on sincere concern for the issues that confront all God’s people in God’s world.”



MATTHEW 25

... From Pastor Ivan ...

(Continued from page 4)

life was one that had never before occurred to any man in all the history of the world. There had been, of course, the idea of compassion, kindness, charity, but the idea of the absolute equality of all men before God was an idea revealed to the world through the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

This idea which Paul expressed, and which was born of his encounter with Jesus Christ, is an idea which through the centuries has set off chain reactions in the social structure until at last the dream, which existed only in its embryonic stage in Paul's thinking, could in the course of time become reality.

As this dream marched across the centuries, it broke down the feudal system and set the serfs free. It brought into being the concepts of the Magna Carta and reached its highest verbal form in the Declaration Of Independence. The throngs surrounding Independence Hall in Philadelphia were waiting to hear the message that was about to be proclaimed.

And when at last the bell rang and the people from all corners of the city came to hear what the men who were their leaders had to say to them, they were thrilled, as all of us are thrilled, and they must have been excited, as all of us too can become excited

when we hear again their words, "that we hold these truths to be self evident; that ALL men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights."

It was an idea that broke in upon the consciousness of man, and this is what sets the American Revolution apart from all other revolutions in the world, because it was based upon this declaration which has its roots in the idea which was first expressed by Paul, and which he discovered in the person of Jesus Christ. A thrilling and exciting statement based upon what its founders believe to be the nature of the universe.

The fullness of meaning did not appear immediately. The framers of this declaration did not yet see that the inevitable outcome of such a statement would have to mean the end of slavery. However, it became clear quite soon that "liberty and justice for all" would be words of mockery unless they could be enjoyed by all men, regardless of race, color, national origin or condi-

tion of servitude. But now there was hope.

"With liberty and justice for all" --- strong, forceful words but only as they are translated into life do they exercise power. The world is yet waiting to see us match our deeds to our words. In Jefferson's immortal words, as in Lincoln's equally great refer-

ence to them: "It is not asserted that all men are equal. What is asserted is that all men are created equal." There is a difference. These rights are not granted but are inalienable. A government cannot take away what it cannot bestow; all that it can do is recognize, defend and protect.

All men are obviously not equal in their natural powers. Physically some men are three or four times as strong as others, intellectually the contrast is greater still. Equality exists that all men should be equally free to develop such powers and abilities as they may possess. A free way of life involves an equal chance to enter employment, an equal chance to rise within that em-



Rev. Dr. Pyron McMillen was the pastor of CPC from 1954-1973.

(Continued on page 7)

Reopening Update

Editor's Note: This article is an adaptation of an email sent on August 6.

Dear Members and Friends of CPC,

It has been almost six months since we closed our campus due to COVID-19. During that time your Session and staff have found creative ways to move CPC's mission and ministry forward, such as intro-

ducing live streaming worship and Zoom meetings which have allowed us to worship from home

and given children, youth and adults opportunities for learning, fellowship, and conducting the business of the church. We even ordained and installed elders and deacons virtually, which you can read about in this *Mission Bell*.

I am sure that none of us imagined back in mid-March that we would still be in the middle of a worldwide pandemic come September. Many of you share my weariness and frustration that this ordeal has not yet come to an end. I remember when this first began, some voices repeatedly said that this could become our new normal, to which I replied, "I certainly hope that is not the case." But it looks

like that is the case - at least for the next several months. With COVID-19 cases still above acceptable levels in California, State and County officials have once again prohibited indoor dining, and indoor and in-person worship services, among many other restrictions, and schools have started the new year with distance learning. Right now, things don't

look very different from when we started all of this, do they?

For the last few months, a session-appointed Reopening Task Force has been looking into

what will be required to open our campus once again. Even though current restrictions require that any plans to open the campus or hold in person worship services must be put on hold, the task force is prayerfully and carefully developing safety measures to be implemented when we are able to gather in person once again, with the health and well-being of the congregation as their top priority.

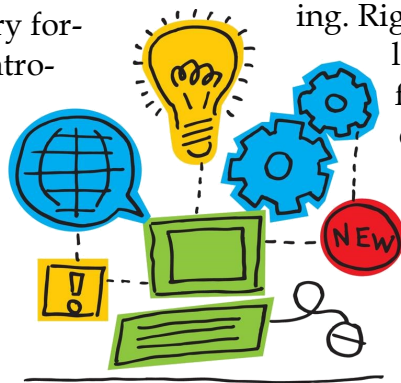
Because the course of COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions are so fluid, **there is currently no concrete timeline for reopening the church office, the Sanctuary, or other parts of our campus for meetings and other gatherings.** The Reopening Task Force has

studied guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), State of California, County of Sacramento, Presbyterian Church (USA), and CPC's insurance company for guidance in developing protocol for opening the CPC campus.

Some of the preparations already implemented include:

- CPC's custodial staff deep cleaning every room on campus
- Installing plastic shielding around the office reception area (thanks to our Maintenance Manager, **Ron Morris**)
- Stocking personal protective equipment, including hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, and face shields
- Investing in hardware and software that allows us to live stream worship services (which will continue uninterrupted even after we are allowed to worship in person again)
- Reconfiguring operations in our Food Closet to include frequent sanitizing, masks for all volunteers, and minimizing contact between volunteers and clients.

Another priority for the Reopening Task Force is to communicate with you regularly on their progress. I will send monthly emails and include regular updates in the *Mission Bell* (Continued on page 7)



... Reopening Update ...

(Continued from page 6)

Bell on behalf of the task force keeping you informed about their work.

The Reopening Task Force also invited you to participate in a survey to help them understand the congregation's feelings regarding a return to in person worship. They reviewed your responses and contacted those of you who requested a call. The results of the survey are on page 8 of this *Mission Bell*.

Even though the ways we are accustomed to being together in ministry have changed, the mission of Jesus Christ continues. Your office staff continues to work from home, the maintenance staff has adapted their schedules to our current environment, we continue to serve those in need through the Food Closet and SOS, and your pastors continue to prepare for worship, participate in a plethora of Zoom meetings, and provide pastoral care as best they can in this COVID-19 environment.

Thank you for your amazing generosity and patience throughout this season, as we continue to bear witness to the love and grace of Jesus Christ on a daily basis.

Should you have any questions or suggestions regarding reopening our campus, please contact me or one of the Reopening Task Force members.

Blessings,

Pastor Keith

on behalf of the Reopening Task Force: **Clint Dahlke, Karen Gray, Jim Hill, Kathy Lewin, Mary MacDonald, Sharleen Millering, Brenda Mock, and Karen Orlando**

... From Pastor Ivan ...

(Continued from page 5)

ployment and equal pay for equal work, and an equal chance to live wherever a man chooses if he can afford to pay for it.

It is impossible to exaggerate the contemporary importance of this question which is now being raised in every part of the world. The way in which it is handled may become a crucial factor in the whole course of history. The right handling of this problem is indeed a factor in our survival.

Helmut Thielicke in his book *Nihilism* says "the worst

sin is not the committing of evil but the failure to recognize evil." The courts of the church have denounced as a moral evil the current ballot issue on housing known as Proposition 14, which denies fair housing to all men.

They are convinced that the long dream which began with Paul's insights of the equality of all men in the sight of God, reiterated in the Declaration Of Independence, fought for in the war to eradicate slavery, must not now be allowing self interest to write into the constitution of our state an initiative which would make discrimination not only

legal but respectable. The courts of the church are compelled to speak to what they believe to be great moral evils.

Each person must search his heart before God, he must examine his own motives and pray for courage to do what he feels is right no matter what it may cost him. If he does that, no matter how he votes, he owes no apology to any man.

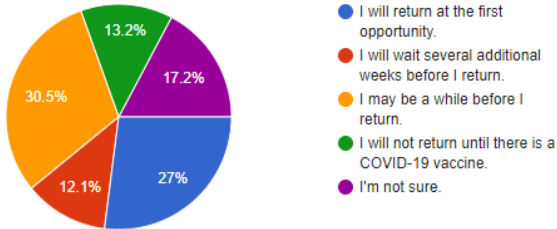
God has put a dream in our hearts: That dream is liberty and justice for all. And unless we mean it, unless there really is liberty and justice for all, the day will come where there will be liberty and justice for none.

Reopening Survey Results

In late June, CPC's Reopening Task Force sent a survey via email and mail asking for your thoughts on when and how CPC should reopen for in person worship. We were pleased to receive 176 responses. The results, which are summarized below, in addition to comments and suggestions included with many responses and follow up phone calls continue to help the task force in its work.

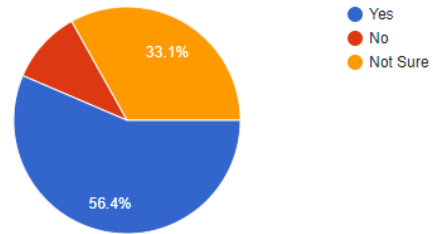
1. Which best describes your attitude towards returning to in-person worship at CPC, knowing that CPC is following all health and safety guidelines?

174 responses



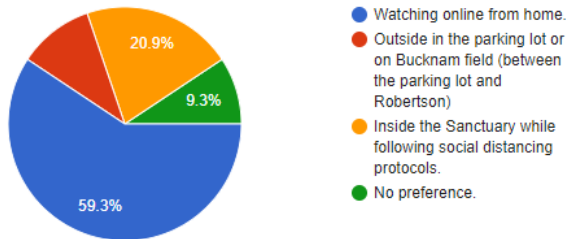
8. Would you be willing to attend an in-person worship service at an earlier or later time than you typically would?

163 responses



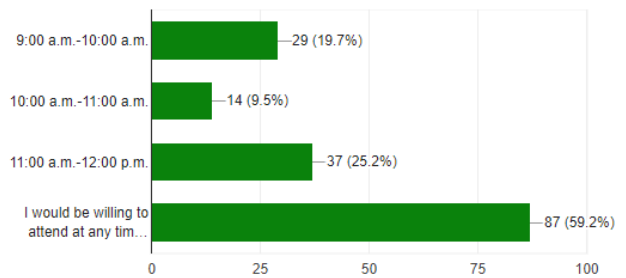
3. Where would you feel most comfortable worshipping at this time?

172 responses



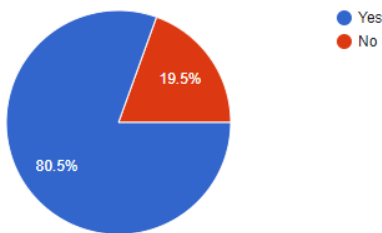
9. During what times would you NOT be willing to attend an in-person worship service?

147 responses



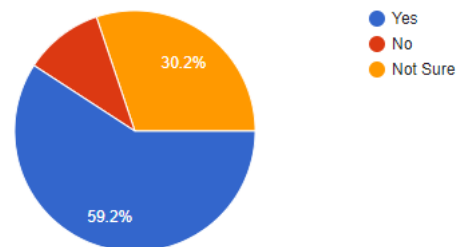
6. Would you be willing to make an advance "reservation" to attend a worship service so that we do not exceed the recommended 25% capacity of the Sanctuary?

159 responses



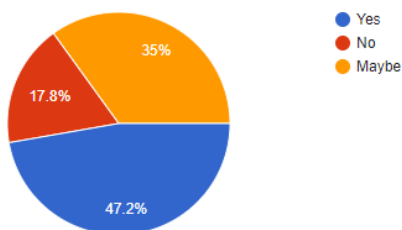
10. Would you be willing to attend an outdoor church service if social distancing guidelines were followed?

169 responses

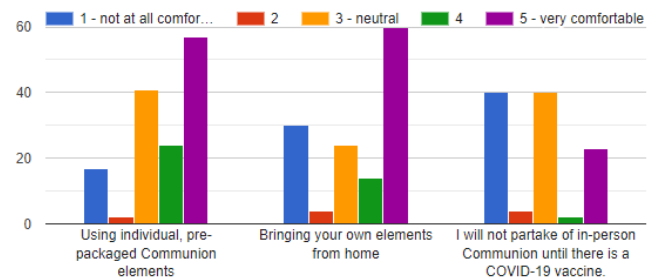


7. Would you be willing to watch the worship service live from an alternate location on the CPC campus if the Sanctuary has reached maximum capacity (such as McMillen Hall or the Gathering Place) with social distance maintained in all spaces?

163 responses



11. How comfortable would you be taking Communion in person in the following ways?



Hope and Faith

by Misty Dunn, Stephen Minister/Leader

I think it is safe to say that we are all struggling with the effects of COVID-19. Some of us are impacted more than others (those who are out of work, those who are struggling to work and not get sick, those who are struggling with caring for their children and teaching them while working, etc.), yet we are all hurting from the social distancing and/or lockdowns required. Scripture reminds us to have faith in these times when we are hard pressed:

2 Corinthians 4:7-8:
"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."

God has entrusted the supremely valuable message of salvation in Jesus Christ to us—frail and fallible human beings. God's power dwells in us! Though we are weak, God uses us to show others His love; God gives us power to do His work. Our responsibility is to let people see God through us. In these verses, Paul reminds us that though we may think we are at the end of our rope, we are never at the end of our hope. I think this acronym for HOPE fits in

every challenging situation:
Hang On Pain Ends.

These verses from 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 offer us hope and faith: *Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary*



troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

In her book, *The Gifts of Imperfection*, Brene' Brown defines Faith as "a place of mystery, where we find the courage to believe in what we cannot see and the strength to let go of our fear of uncertainty." (Sound familiar? Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.") I think both descriptions of faith fit perfectly in this time of Covid-19—lots of uncertainty and yet we have faith that God will see us through!

Even while we believe in God and in Jesus Christ as God's Son and Savior, still we may be struggling to get through each day. On top of our concerns and fears of COVID-19, we may also be facing divorce, grief, loss of a job, illness, or some other difficulty. With several challenges hitting us all at once, this may be just the time to consider asking a Stephen Minister to walk alongside you, offering a non-judgmental, confidential, listening ear, someone to bounce ideas off of, as well as someone who will offer you hope, prayer, and encouragement.

For more information, contact one 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:

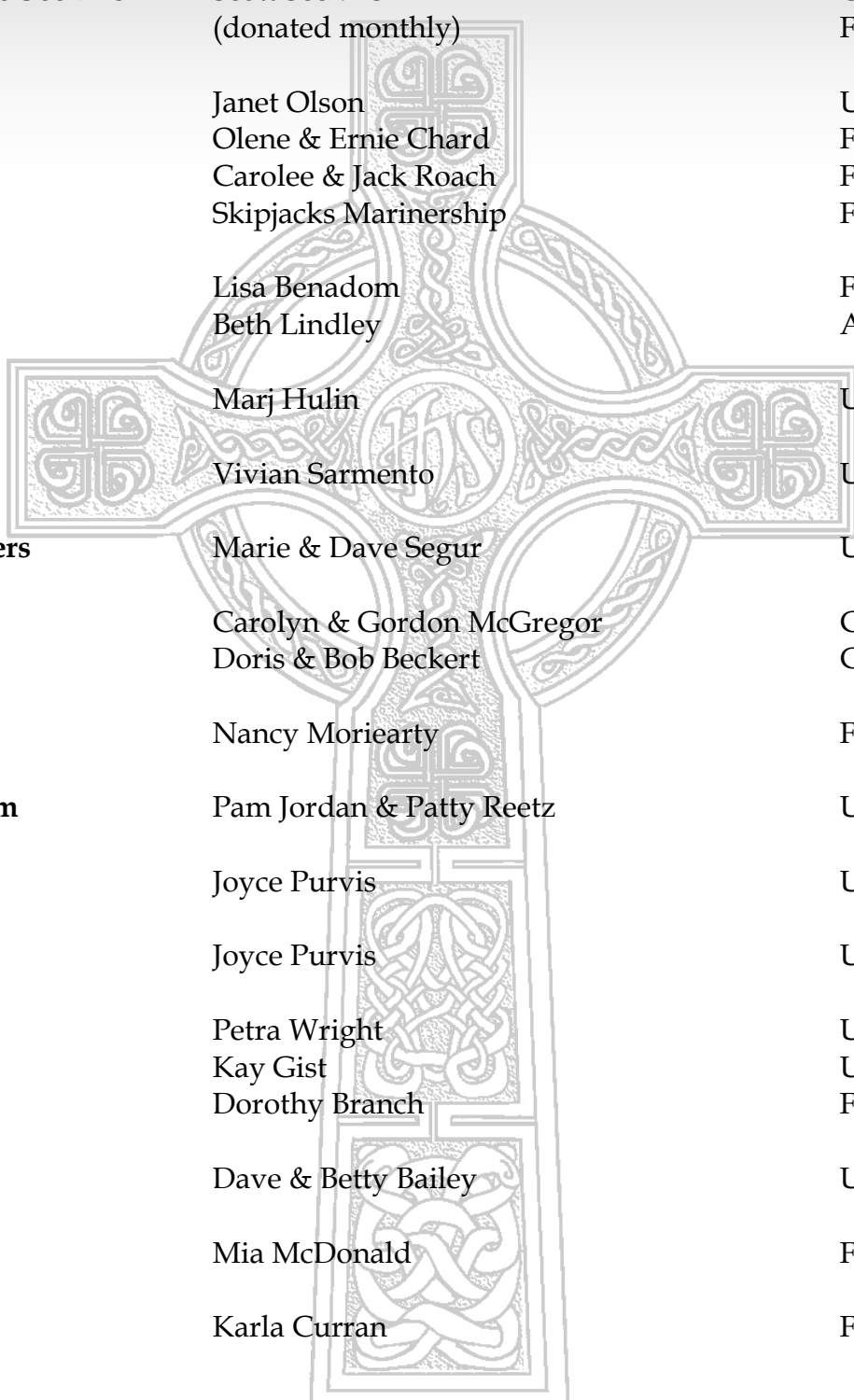
✠ the family of **Cathy**

Levering, who passed away on August 12.

Memorial Gifts

These are the persons in whose name memorial gifts were made during the first and second quarter of 2020, along with the donors and the designated use of those gifts.

<u>THOSE REMEMBERED</u>	<u>DONORS</u>	<u>DESIGNATIONS</u>
Skip, Bob & Mike Seekins	Scott Seekins (donated monthly)	Undesignated Finish Strong
Duncan Lyle	Janet Olson Olene & Ernie Chard Carolee & Jack Roach Skipjacks Marinersip	Undesignated Food Closet Food Closet Food Closet
Grace Menchaca	Lisa Benadom Beth Lindley	Finish Strong Afghan Ministry
Evelyn Hulin	Marj Hulin	Undesignated
Dorothy Ellis	Vivian Sarmento	Undesignated
Mary Ellen Ridders	Marie & Dave Segur	Undesignated
Sherri Johnson	Carolyn & Gordon McGregor Doris & Bob Beckert	Choir Fund Choir Fund
Mark Marousek	Nancy Moriearty	Food Closet
Mary Kay Exstrom	Pam Jordan & Patty Reetz	Undesignated
Jack Purvis	Joyce Purvis	Undesignated
Eleanor Brumm	Joyce Purvis	Undesignated
Jim Jackson	Petra Wright Kay Gist Dorothy Branch	Undesignated Undesignated Food Closet
Pat MacLeod	Dave & Betty Bailey	Undesignated
Peter Chatto	Mia McDonald	Food Closet
Peggy Anderson	Karla Curran	Food Closet



Food Closet Happenings

From the beginning of the pandemic, the Food Closet has continued to serve families in our community who are in need. Though many seniors who could not



Food Closet volunteers continue to provide groceries for families in need during the pandemic.

continue to volunteer, others who were suddenly not working stepped forward to help. Through a campaign on Nextdoor Carmichael 24 neighbors also called to volunteer. The current team now consists of every age group from teens to spry seniors over ninety. We still have a few vacant time slots, so if you have two spare hours during the week, please call **Brenda Mock** to join a wonderful cause.

We continue to wear masks and gloves, sanitize after every shift, and do not have physical contact with our guests. Through generous donations to the Food Closet we have been able to purchase some much needed supplies and instituted a new program for homeless folks. Every person who comes to the Food Closet in need of groceries who does not have cooking or refrigeration receives a full bag of nutritious food. The bag includes canned chicken or tuna, soup,

canned and fresh fruit and vegetables, some dairy products, hard boiled eggs, peanut butter and bread, protein bars, some goodies, water, toilet paper and a garbage bag

and the much favored SpaghettiO's or raviolis.

Since the Sacramento Food Bank does not always provide

the above canned items with *flip top lids*, we have to purchase them from the local grocery stores.

Here is where you can help. When you are grocery shopping the next time and see any of the above items with *flip tops*, buy some and bring it over to the Food Closet. There is someone at the Closet between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. most weekdays.

A big "Thank You" to all the volunteers, donors, and friends who support us.

Community Garden Update



At the beginning of the spring season we had 12 garden plots available. All were taken by different family members within the congregation except two garden plots, which were designated for the Carmichael Food Closet. As you notice when you drive by the garden it's looking great. We have all kinds of plants growing. Some have planted tomato, cucumbers, melons, onions, peppers, zucchini and sunflowers. One family even planted flowers along one side of their garden plot, which looks really nice. The two garden plots designated for the Food Closet started producing vegetables for picking about a month and half ago. We go twice a week to pick produce for the food closet. One day we might fill 4-5 bags of various produce and the next time we might fill 10-12 bags of produce. It nice when you can pick vegetables in the morning and then hand them out that afternoon, and great knowing our fresh produce goes to our local families. We hope our winter garden will be just as successful.

September Marks the Beginning of PW Bible Study: *Into the Light- Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*

by Lisa Benadom, PW Spiritual Life Chairperson

COVID-19 has changed our world. I'm reminded to always follow that statement with "for now." COVID-19 has changed our world for now. The PW purpose, however, has not changed. It starts with a commitment to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study. The way we embark on this journey may be different but the road is filled with opportunities to reach out to those who have not experienced a PW Bible Study. This is a change we would like to embrace in the future.

Our 2020-2021 Study is *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*. In this nine-lesson study, author and artist, Lynn Miller revives lament as a theological response to the difficult situations of our world. One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament leads to hope.

The title of Lesson One is *The Heart of Lament*. The main

idea of the lesson is that the perceived absence of God is at the heart of lament. The scripture focus is Psalm 22:1-19 and Matthew 27:45-56. Lynn Miller



challenges us to ponder this statement. "Only someone who is used to the nearness of God will cry out when

that feeling of nearness is gone. If God's presence hasn't meant much in a person's life, how will they notice its absence? However, someone who has allowed God to be a vital companion on their life's journey will surely note when that faithful companion seems absent. It is not an act of little faith, then, to cry out and question God when God seems absent. Crying out to God is an act of great faith." If the heart of lament is the per-

ceived absence of God, can we learn about God's presence through our lament? Through her study and through her art Lynn Miller's answer is a resounding yes. Her focus *Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* strikes at the very core of what is needed now. At the present time we long for His presence.

September through May on the second Thursday of the month there will be a Zoom Pastor led study at 9:30am. If you are interested in joining us, study guides are still available for purchase. The cost is \$12.00. To obtain a copy please contact me (lbenadom@comcast.net). As we near the date of the study, you will be provided with a Zoom link.

Be aware that our PW Circles still look for ways to stay connected. If you are interested in learning more about PW you are encouraged to contact one of the Circle Leaders. Mary Martha Circle (Co-Leaders **Lisa Benadom** (lbenadom@comcast.net) and **Kathy Daigle** (kathydaigle@comcast.net); Naomi Circle (Leader **Bonnie Hard** (b22751h@gmail.com);

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Online ESL for Kids Launched!

by Kathy Lewis

We are so excited – we now have a CPC ESL Kids

YouTube channel with our first lessons posted. And we have a CPC ESL Kids WhatsApp Group that we are using to share the lessons with our Afghan refugee moms and their kids.

World Relief has helped introduce what we're doing to the moms through a translated message and **Glenda Perrou's** cameo appearance at one of their moms' English lessons.

We've already gotten pictures back from two of the moms featuring their children showing off their completed craft for the first lesson. It's so rewarding!

As you read last month, we had the goal of teaching lessons via Zoom to the PreK children of our Afghan moms. But after some research we determined that putting the videos up on YouTube would make it easier to go back several times to view the videos and wouldn't take up too much space on our phones. We are offering a new lesson each week (thanks to Glenda

Perrou) and a reinforcing book reading from **Sydney Smith**, a kindergarten teacher who has joined our team. We are planning the lessons around the letters of the alphabet (one per week) to help our children grow their vocabularies and learn their letters. M



was our first letter as you can see from the pictures.

Dani Romais has been our "go-to" person for

setting up WhatsApp, and Sydney has been our leader for YouTube. We are so grateful for their expertise and "can

do" spirit! Glenda's granddaughter has been most helpful, too.

Each Wednesday we are taking the craft supplies for the week's lesson to each of the families (10 children, 9 families). And the first week in August we also took some basic school supplies for the "semester," including glue, glue sticks, crayons, blunt scissors, pencils, and pencil sharpeners. The families are happy to see us and unfailingly invite us in. Due to the pandemic, we can't accept, and they understand.

We appreciate your offers of help as a result of our August *Mission Bell* article and are welcoming **Marsha Benfield** to our ESL Kids Team!

If you have any questions or want to help, just let me know! **Kathy Lewis** (kathyblewis@att.net).

... Presbyterian Women ...

(Continued from page 12)

Rachel Circle (Leader **Margo Scandella** (margoils@aol.com)).

Those of you who know me can attest to the fact that I often randomly burst into song when something you said reminds me of a tune. At the end of Lesson One we are asked to listen to two different interpretations of the song *I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry*. When I first read the main idea of Lesson One that is exactly the tune that jumped into my head. I'm going to love this study! Please consider joining us.

New Community Partnership Project

Our Mission Statement says that we will “connect with and serve our community

and the world.” Thanks to **Brenda Mock**, our Membership and Outreach Division, together with our

Mission Division, joined forces with the Carmichael Parks and Recreation District, the Carmichael Parks Foundation, Carmichael Kiwanis and World Relief to host a give-away of Family Fun Kits to neighborhood families. What a great partnership! On Wednesday, July 29, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, volunteers from the Parks District, Kiwanis, and CPC handed out Family Fun Kits from the Parks District that had been funded by the Parks Foundation and Carmichael Kiwanis. (Each kit had a soccer ball, beach ball, Frisbee, jump rope, deck of cards and instructions, hackey sacks, and a coloring book/crayons.) Volunteers also stood in front of CPC with signs to encourage people to “come on by.”

World Relief reached out in advance to Afghan refugees via social media, and CPC posted signs at several nearby apartments that have high numbers of Afghan refugees.

We had a great turnout!!! We gave out 85 Family Fun Kits (one per family) and also signed up 6-7 families for the Food Closet. They saw the Food Closet sign and were escort-



ed over by **Brenda Mock** on the spot! We also were able to dispel some misconceptions

about the Food Closet – no, it doesn’t affect citizenship applications. No, it doesn’t conflict with your receipt of Food Stamps.

The remaining 20 Kits available from the Parks District were taken to the Food Closet and given out to families who wanted them. The Carmichael Parks Foundation, as well as Kiwanis, were thrilled that they could reach a population that they normally don’t serve. Lots of refugees of all nationalities came. And we asked if they had neighbors they’d like to share with. So, several families took a second bag to share with their neighbors. That was heartening to see! We got to be part of community building and strengthening!

MISSION BELL DEADLINES



September 8

for the October newsletter

October 12

for the November newsletter

Submit articles to:

Amy Lerseth,

Mission Bell Editor at amylerseth@buzzoates.com

Please avoid sending submissions in ALL CAPS.

Your editor thanks you!!

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
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

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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TIME VALUE MAIL

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

As you can imagine, Sunday school is going to look different for a while. Here's a bit of what you can expect starting in September.

Each month we will deliver to your children:

- Children's bulletins
- Coloring sheets
- Stepping Stones materials (if needed). We are leaning toward holding Stepping Stones classes via Zoom, but haven't made the final decision yet.
- Other supplies you may need
- Anything that I think you need and really don't. ☺



During the Worship Live Stream:

Pastor Keith and Pastor Ivan will try to connect the children's time with what you have at home. We hope that sharing "on the steps" during worship will spark some conversation in your home and help kids feel connected without adding more screen time to their week.

Faith 5 Bookmark

Your September bag contains a bookmark with five things you can do with your children at bedtime to help you all connect. Making this part of your bedtime routine can be especially helpful at the end of these often stressful days. The kids really like sharing highs and lows!

Coming Soon (We Hope!)

Once the church is allowed to open for small indoor activities, we want to create family "pods" of 6 families that could meet regularly. Pods would gather for an activity, with each family at their own table, with their own supplies, 12 feet apart with masks. If this is something your family would be interested in, please contact **Lisa Torgerson** at lisa@carmichaelpres.org or 916-486-9081.