



# THE MISSION BELL

CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2026

Volume LXVI Number 2



## HOLY WEEK at



CARMICHAEL  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29 Worship @ 10am

Procession of the Palms and  
Music from Sanctuary Choir, Praise Band, &  
Waterfall Singers

### MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2 Worship & Communion @ 7pm

Music from Sanctuary Choir

### GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3 Worship @ 7pm

### EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5 Sunrise Service @ 6:45am

Overlooking the American River - call for location

### Worship @ 9:00am & 11:00am

Music from Sanctuary Choir and Praise Band

In Person

at 5645 Marconi Avenue in Carmichael

AND Livestream

at

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

MORE INFORMATION: 916-486-9081 OR

[WWW.CARMICHAELPRES.ORG](http://WWW.CARMICHAELPRES.ORG)

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*Pastor Ivan Writes:*

# March 4 Immigration Response Q&A and Information Session

In recent months, communities across the country have witnessed increased immigration enforcement activity, with greatest visibility in Minneapolis. While the enforcement actions claim to be targeting criminals, the reality is that even those who have done everything legally and by-the-book are being targeted unjustly. Many faith communities grounded in love, justice, and radical hospitality have responded not with fear, but with faithful preparation and compassionate action. Many folks at CPC are eager to know how they can be involved and make a difference.

On Wednesday, March 4, at 6:45 p.m. in the Howard Crowley Room, the Mission Division has asked me to host a Q&A and informational meeting to share what we have been

doing and what more can be done to care for our broader community in the context of increased immigration

provide education and opportunity for folks to sign up with pods for either public actions (such as protests) or direct service (such as providing transportation, delivering food, etc.). I invite you to prepare spiritually. Pray for families living with uncertainty. Reflect on how your faith calls you to act. Talk with your household and people you trust about how we can respond calmly and courageously if and when enforcement actions turn the temperature up in our community. You don't have to do everything, but each one of us can do something.

Scripture reminds us to welcome the stranger and stand with those who are vulnerable. Now is the time to ensure that we are ready to embody that calling in practical ways. I hope you will join me on March 4.

*“On Wednesday, March 4, at 6:45 p.m. in the Howard Crowley Room, the Mission Division has asked me to host a Q&A and informational meeting to share what we have been doing and what more can be done to care for our broader community in the context of increased immigration enforcement.”*

enforcement. I will talk about the networks and organizations we are connected to, the actions we have already taken, and then

*Pastor Ivan*

# Parking Lot & Paving the Way News

by Tim Farley

## Parking Lot

By the time you read this update, we will have selected a contractor to handle the

parking lot project. We currently



anticipate the start date to be after Easter – on or near April 13.

The detailed schedule for the 3-month construction is being set. We should know

soon when and how parking and the operation of the Food Closet will be impacted. We do know that the early stages

– demolition, grading and paving will impact us the most. The later stages – like planting and striping – should not have major impacts on traffic and parking.

The Parking Lot Task Force plans to provide the

congregation subsequent news/details in upcoming *Parish Notes*.

## Paving the Way

We are grateful for the generous support of our Paving the Way to Welcome All campaign last year. Now we're pleased to report that we've already received nearly half of the \$841,000 pledged. With this income and past and continuing gifts and bequests, we feel confident that our welcoming vision will happen.

## Membership Class

**Want to find out what it means to be Presbyterian, how CPC operates, and how you can connect to the life and ministry of CPC in a way that is meaningful to you?**

Join Pastor Keith for new member classes on

**Sunday, March 15**

**1:00-3:00 p.m.**

and

**Saturday, March 21**

**9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

**(includes Welcome Lunch!)**

***Childcare will be provided upon request.***

Questions? Want to sign up? Contact Julie Ueltzen at 916-486-9081 or [carmichaelpres@gmail.com](mailto:carmichaelpres@gmail.com)

# Opportunity Knocks

by Sharon MacLean, Engagement Coordinator

Did you know that there are many ways to be involved in the life of the church, to volunteer, and to serve in big or small ways? Volunteer by yourself or get friends or family involved too. Here are just a few easy options:



- **Ushering & Coffee Service**

You do not need to be a Deacon to usher or help with coffee fellowship after worship. Friendly, interested people can be trained and are welcome to help.

- **Greeters** – Same. Anyone who is willing to greet and welcome people to church on Sunday morning is welcome to sign up and be trained.

- **Division Help** – Our Elders and Deacons are elected for three-year terms on various divisions and areas of ministry. If you might be interested, but can't commit to a three-year term, we'll help you find a way to help, with either a one-time event/need or by attending their monthly meetings and exploring how you can help in an ongoing way. Some examples: help the Worship division decorate the Sanctuary for Palm Sunday, Easter, Advent, or Christ-

mas; help Deacons deliver Sunday flowers to shut-ins after church; help Membership & Outreach plan and organize the Harvest Festival; and many more.

- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** – If you love to knit or crochet, you can make prayer shawls. The prayer shawl ministry presents shawls to members and friends of CPC who are going through an illness or difficult time.

- **Buildings and Grounds** – Help with gardening needs,

minor repairs, and/or help prioritize needs around the church campus.

- **Other Opportunities** – Food Closet helper; share a faith story; donate flowers for worship, and more.

If you'd like more information about these or any other areas, I'm happy to answer any questions and/or connect you with a leader of a ministry. Find me the Opportunity Knocks table monthly after worship in the DeVries Gathering Place or contact me at [sharmac617@gmail.com](mailto:sharmac617@gmail.com).

## NCYC Performs at CPC

by Keith Atwater, Music Director



The Northern California Youth Chorus (NCYC) presented a beautiful matinee concert at CPC on Sunday, January 25. Founding artistic director **Judy Britts** praised our sanctuary's beauty and excellent acoustics. Her women's ensemble, 17 Sacramento and Rocklin area high school students, a professional pianist, a cellist, (and guest djembe drummer Music Director **Keith Atwater**), sang glorious choral music by mostly contemporary composers, both accompanied by piano and a *Capella*. Maestro Britts remembers conducting the Sacramento Children's Choir at CPC many years ago.

But this concert almost didn't happen! A last-minute scheduling problem left the NCYC with nowhere to perform and barely two weeks to find a site. Fortunately, Judy Britts and Keith Atwa-  
*(Continued on page 5)*

# Mission Division Update

## Supporting World Relief and CEPAD

by Bob Curtis

The Mission Division continues to step up offering support to needy causes. Just recently we have tapped into dedicated fund accounts for two causes. Dedicated funds are separate and distinct from the annual operating budget we make pledges to. These funds are generated entirely from voluntary contributions.

From dedicated funds, the Mission Division is designating \$1,000 support for World Relief Sacramento and \$1,000 support for the Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua, (Consejo de Iglesias Evangelicas Pro-Alianza Denominacional known as CEPAD ).

You will remember in early 2025 we assisted World Relief Sacramento with a special offering and funds from a dedicated account amounting to almost \$16,000. The need to support World Relief Sacramento continues and is even now more critical. Carmichael Presbyterian has had an ongoing relationship with this organization since 2018 by providing literacy education and support for Afghan refugees and their families. This

partnership and support became more critical when the federal government ended support by terminating the refugee Reception & Placement Program in early 2025.

Our support is critical now because of the unrelenting wave of immigrant policy shifts and enforcement actions. Nationwide there are an estimated 17,600 refugees (4,400 families) under the care of the World Relief network who are subject to the being unjustly detained. Sacramento is home to one of the largest Afghan refugee populations in the country, many of whom are at risk. World Relief is responding by offering urgent immigration legal services, emergency rental assistance, food support, flexible cash as-

sistance, psychosocial and trauma-informed care, and additional church volunteers.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has a partnership with the Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua (CEPAD). CEPAD provides faith-based training to people in rural Nicaraguan villages through programs in leadership training, sustainable agriculture, economic development, and community organization so they can break the cycle of hunger and poverty to support themselves and their families. The villagers in a rural area that has internet have built a computer lab and need computers. A small group is making their annual trip to visit this village and school which they have helped sponsor and with our support will be able to deliver three computers to this lab.



### ... NCYC ...

*(Continued from page 4)*

ter knew each other from their early days in church music; both were active in Menlo Park Presbyterian Church music programs in the late 1970s. Her one email to CPC bore fruit—although it went to “Pastor Keith” not “Music Keith.” CPC has always been generous in sharing its space; the women’s chorus Chanteuses (which Judy conducted for a few years) sang here just two years ago. CPC will again open its doors to singers when our first Messiah Sing-Along takes place on Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m. The talented NCYC has already been invited! Stay tuned!

# Partnering with World Relief to Provide a Place to Call Home for Refugee Men

by Heidi Guttschuss, World Relief Education Supervisor

For more than 6 years, CPC has partnered with World Relief by generously opening up space to host classes for newly arrived refugees in making Sacramento home. Multiple classes of clients have come and gone, from Afghan women learning English or enhancing Wellness through crafting, to Afghan men learning to navigate complex US systems for health care, education, social services, and employment.

On Sunday, February 15, CPC provided space to host an end-of-

program ceremony for 40 Afghan men who had completed a course offered by World Relief. Complemented by the delicious smells wafting up from a shared meal, McMillen Hall was filled with the sounds of the Afghan *armonia* (a portable reed organ similar to an accordion) and *tabla* (drum) as these 40 men celebrated the completion of their

course. As the participants shared how the course impacted them, many of them mentioned the importance of having a safe and welcoming place in which they could figure out their new community.

Here is one man's story:

*When Mahmood and his family fled from Afghanistan to the United States, they car-*

*ried hopes for a safer and brighter future. But the reality of life in a new country quickly became overwhelming. Mahmood struggled to find stability. Without strong English skills, he was unable to obtain a driver's license or secure employment. Without a network of relatives or close friends, Mahmood felt increasingly isolated. The pressure and uncertainty began to*

*affect his mental health. The future seemed uncertain, and hope felt distant. Then one day, another Afghan spoke about how a World Relief program that had been hosted at CPC had helped him rebuild his life. He encouraged Mahmood to join.*

*This was a challenge for Mahmood. Without a car, it*

*took nearly two hours to travel to and from class.*

*But he soon decided this program was worth it. It was not only about learning practical infor-*

*mation; it was a supportive and welcoming community. Participants openly shared their challenges, and others responded with empathy, advice, and personal experiences. For the first time since arriving in the U.S., Mahmood felt heard and understood. He formed new friendships and began looking forward to class each week. Tuesdays with*  
*(Continued on page 7)*



*CPC hosted a celebration for 40 Afghan men who completed a World Relief course in February with music, cake, and certificates.*



# Session Spotlight

by Mary MacDonald, Clerk of Session

At their regular meeting on January 27, your Session:

- Received the December 2025 financial reports.

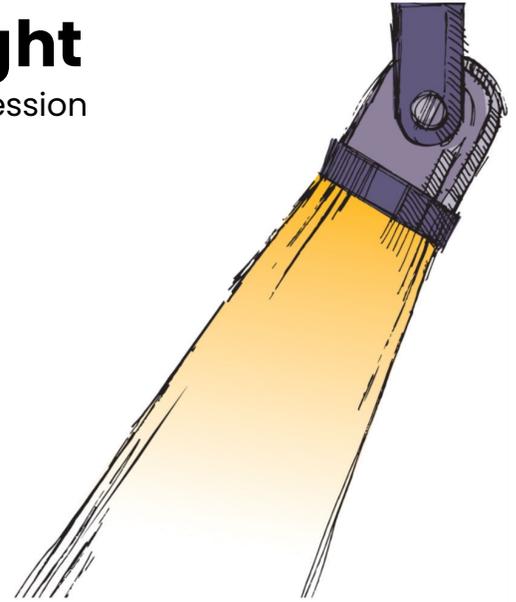
## General Fund

Income, December	\$90,404.50
Income, YTD	\$831,605.53
Expense, December	\$79,120.49
Expense, YTD	\$896,670.04

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund

Income, December	\$28,734.10
Income, YTD	\$401,487.35
Expense, December	\$713.02
Expense, YTD	\$241,256.54

- Approved the 2026 operating budget.
- Approved moving Dedicated Accounts 211-Annual Meeting and 241-Harvest Festival to a new subheading group of Membership and Outreach.
- Approved closing out the negative balances in Dedicated Accounts 211 and 241 by transferring any remaining negative balances to the related General Fund expense accounts.
- Approved weekend off for **Pastor Keith DeVries** January 17-18.
- Approved transferring \$25,000 from Undesignated Bequests as approved by the Gifts and Bequests Committee to the General Fund.
- Approved transferring \$29,621 from Dedicated Account 125-Preschool to the General Fund.
- Approved transferring \$71,000 from the Dedicated Account Operating Reserves to the General Fund.
- The motion was made and carried to delete **Bonnie Hard** from the membership rolls at her request.
- Called a Special Session Meeting for Saturday, March 21 at 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of receiving new members.



## ... A Place to Call Home ...

*(Continued from page 6)*

*World Relief at CPC became his favorite day—a day when he could leave home with excitement, knowing he was going somewhere he felt safe and supported. Step by step, his confidence returned, his isolation faded, and hope re-*

*placed fear.*

*Today, Mahmood continues his journey with renewed motivation, knowing this with his newfound knowledge and community support, he can build a stable future for his family. What once felt like a lonely struggle has turned into*

*a journey filled with friendship, learning, and hope.*

World Relief thanks the CPC community for their generous support and partnership that allows us to help our newest refugee neighbors find belonging and hope.

# All Church Campout & Day Trip

by Anne Parker

Start your summer off with your church friends and family, join us for the All Church Campout and Day Trip!

When: Friday, June 26, 3:00 p.m. - Sunday, June 28, 2026 1:00p.m.

Where: Scotts Flat Lake (Approx. 60 minutes from CPC)

Cost: \$30 per person. The cost includes s'mores and Sunday breakfast.

We have three campsites reserved for up to 24 people. The sites can accommodate tents, trailers, or RVs. The campground features flush toilets and showers. Pets are welcome with an \$8 fee per night. The campground features a playground and camp store.

With a short walk (less than 5 minutes) from the campsite to the water's edge, enjoy the day playing in the water, fishing, boating, swimming, or relaxing under the

trees. There are boat rentals at the marina or bring your

New to CPC? This is a great way to meet other people and families. Been at CPC a while? Come, relax in nature with your church



The 2025 All Church Campout was full of fun! Don't miss out on more fun to come at the 2026 All Church Campout and Day Trip June 26-28.

own. Spend the nights around a campfire singing songs, playing games, and building relationships with your church family.

Not interested in sleeping outdoors? Join us for a day trip on Saturday, June 27. The Day use fees are available at <https://www.nidwater.com/scotts-flat-lake-cascade-shores>.

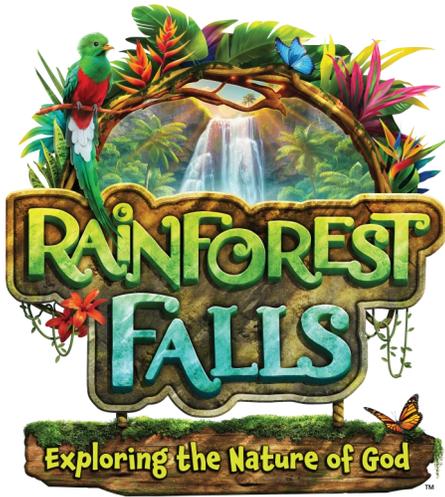
family!

Reserve your spots with \$10 per person payment and pay the remaining \$20 per person when you arrive at the campground. Contact **Anne Parker** at [anne@sparkinn.com](mailto:anne@sparkinn.com) to reserve your spot before space fills up.

# What's Up in Children's & Youth Ministry?

by Michael Lombrano, Children's & Youth Ministry Director

## Vacation Bible School:



**Vacation Bible School registration opens March 1!** Our theme is Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God. We will be meeting at the church July 13-17 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. each day! VBS is for students in Pre-school up to 6th grade. And we have leader spots available for 7th grade up to 12th grade! What can you expect at VBS this year? We will have times for our kids to sing and dance, worship God, hear stories from the Bible and bring them to life, crafts that tie into God's magnificent

creation, and of course, snack time! The cost is \$20 per child, and scholarships are available upon request.

## 30 Hour Famine:

Our CPC Youth from 7th - 12th grade are invited to participate in a 30-Hour Famine from March 20 to March 22. Participants will intentionally deprive themselves of food to understand what hunger feels like and to understand what it means to rely solely on God. We have partnered with World Vision and will raise money to address immediate food needs and equip poor

communities to grow food in the long term.

## 3rd Grade Bible Class:

Every year at CPC we offer a chance for our 3rd graders to jump a little deeper in their faith. This comes in the form of a 3rd Grade Bible Class, which goes over the purpose of the Bible and how to read it. And after the class, CPC gifts your student(s) an embossed Bible that we will replace at anytime for free! The class will be on Sunday, May 3 (a communion Sunday) and the presentations of the Bibles will be on May 17!

If your child(ren) is interested in this class and getting a personalized Bible please let Michael Lombrano know!

For registration information or any questions about youth and children's ministry, contact **Michael Lombrano** at [michael@carmichaelpres.org](mailto:michael@carmichaelpres.org) or 916-486-9081.



## MISSION BELL DEADLINE

10th of each month for the following month's issue

Submit articles to Karen Gray at [karen@carmichaelpres.org](mailto:karen@carmichaelpres.org) or mail/drop off a hard copy in the church office.

# Presbyterian Women Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

by Lisa Benadom

Having completed Parts 1 and 2 of our study, we move on to Part 3, which is “Finding Our Identity.” Part 3 begins with Lesson 7: “The Woman Who Was Bent Over.” The scripture focus is Luke 13:10-17. We learn of a woman who had been bent over in bondage to a foreign spirit for over 18 years. While teaching in the synagogue, Jesus notices her and says, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” She stood up straight and tall and began praising God. But the biblical story does not end there. This story is also about a religious leader who was upset that Jesus healed this woman on the Sabbath. In our study of Lesson 7 we will explore different components of this story. The woman is explicitly mentioned as being present in the synagogue, highlighting the fact that women also participated in synagogal practices. The author of our study suggests that the intent of the scripture was to say that the woman kept on praising God. Whether bent or straight, she

continually praised God. This daughter’s story is given as an



*Presbyterian Women will explore Lesson Seven: “The Woman Who Was Bent Over” in Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ during March.*

example for us, as compared to the leader of the synagogue, who was so worried that Jesus healed this woman on the Sabbath that he could not see the miracle that had happened right before his eyes. We will explore all of this and more as we endeavor to seek God’s will for us, God’s precious children.

We hope that this summary of Lesson 7 will encourage you to join us in our study. How?

**Pastor-led Bible Study:**  
On the second Thursday of

the month, March 12, **Pastor Keith DeVries** will lead a study discussion via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome! If you wish to join the Zoom meeting, please contact **Karen Gray** in the church office and she will happily provide you with the Zoom link.

**Mary Martha Circle Meeting:** On the third Thursday of the month, March 19, at 1:00 p.m., our PW Circle meets in the DeVries Gathering Place. This circle of women gathers for a time of Bible Study, prayer, fellowship, and mission. If you have questions about our circle, please contact **Lisa Benadom** at [lbenadom@comcast.net](mailto:lbenadom@comcast.net) or **Kathy Daigle** at [kathypdaigle@gmail.com](mailto:kathypdaigle@gmail.com)

**PW Bible Study Books:** A few study books are still available. If you are interested in obtaining one, contact **Terry Sakuda** at [terry.sakuda@yahoo.com](mailto:terry.sakuda@yahoo.com). A copy is also available for checkout in our church library.

**Dorcias Circle:** This PW sewing circle is an opportunity to serve. This circle is for

*(Continued on page 11)*

# In Our Church Family



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

✠ **Bobby and Maria Brow** and family on the loss of Bobby's father, **Bob Brow, Sr.**, on February 15.

## ...Presbyterian Women ...

(Continued from page 10)  
those who enjoy cutting, quilting, measuring, sewing, and yarn knotting. The circle meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Howard Crowley Room unless otherwise scheduled. Contact **Carolyn McGregor** at [sa-brina53@earthlink.net](mailto:sabrina53@earthlink.net) if you are interested in participating. Remember – your hands are the Lord's hands.

We would love to have you be a part of PW in whatever way the Spirit leads!

# Library Corner Catching Up

by Doris Beckert

We are catching up on acknowledging several donations to your church library over the past few months.

**Kate Erlich** gave us a poetry series about grieving and healing. She says they are basic self-study books and may be helpful to others experiencing a season of loss and illness. *You Are Not Alone, Dare to Let Go, Time To Heal*, and *Learning to Love Myself*, all by Alexandra Vasiliu (811 Va).

Another book Kate finds uplifting and helpful is *The Miracles Among Us* by Marc Siegel (239.12). She tries to identify one item every day to journal.

Kate also donated four books for Mister Rogers Day in March.

Though she was a college student when he came along,

her nieces loved him.

- For children: *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* and *It's You I Like* (Easy Rog)

- For adults: *Life's Journeys* and *Wisdom from the World According to Mr. Rogers* (170.44)

**Lisa Benadom** gave us some of the books she read to her daughter:

- *A Treasury of Christmas Stories* by Webb Garrison (394 Gar)

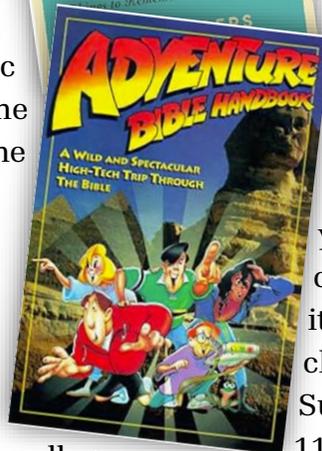
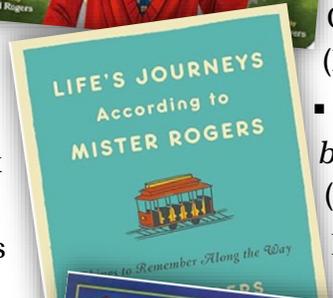
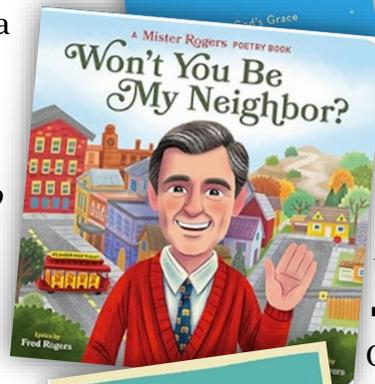
- *Santa and the Christ Child* by Nicolas Bakewell (Easy Bak)

- *Prayers and Graces* by Gail Harvey, compiler. (Easy Har)

- *Adventure Bible Handbook* by Ed van der Maas (Youth Fiction Vani)

Remember: Now you can access the library from home at <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/carmichaelpres>.

Once you find a book you're interested in, you can check it out and pick it up in person. The church library is open Sundays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and by request during church office hours.



# Scuttlebutt

## News from CPC's Marinerships

### Companionship

TRIVIA EXPERTS! Well, some of us were more expert than others at Companion-

ship's February meeting. Our host for the last 10+ years has been **Bill Silveira** and he kept us all on our toes with a mixture of challenging questions about sports, movies, theme songs, geography, history, and music. Example: Can you provide the three first names of the founding brothers of the Beach Boys? Who is the actress playing the love interest of Ted Danson in a new TV

show and who is also married to Danson? About halfway through the game, Bill passed out worksheets with five photos of popular entertainers.

scramble the answer to a quiz question. Whew! Following the second half of the game, Bill told us his wife is planning to retire at the end of this this year so he will also be retiring ... but he MIGHT be persuaded to come back to host a game for some of his longtime fans.

Our next meeting will be a tour of CapRadio on the CSUS campus. If you would like to visit our ship, please contact our Lookout **Sharlene St. Clair**.

### Mothership

In February, Mothership gathered on a Sunday afternoon for a fun and productive Meal Prep Party in McMillen Hall. The room buzzed with conversation and laughter as



Companionship members competed in a challenging trivia game in February.

ship's February meeting. Our host for the last 10+ years has been **Bill Silveira** and he kept us all on our toes with a mixture of challenging questions about sports, movies, theme songs, geography, history, and music. Example: Can you provide the three first names of the founding brothers of the Beach Boys? Who is the actress playing the love interest of Ted Danson in a new TV

We had to identify each personality and use circled letters in each name to un-



Mothership held a fun and productive Meal Prep Party in February.

(Continued on page 13)

## ... Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 12)

we rolled up our sleeves and worked side by side, turning simple ingredients into meals that would bless our families throughout the week. Together, we prepped three family-friendly dishes to take home: ready-to-bake enchiladas, hearty Cajun rice and beans, and comforting chicken noodle soup to freeze and save for a busy day. While the meals cooked, we gathered around the tables to talk through our plans for the first quarter of 2026 and to share both the “happy” and the “grumpy” moments from our families’ lives.

### Nautilus

Nineteen members of the Nautilus crew disembarked at the DeVries Gathering Place to celebrate Valentine’s Day. The meeting was organized by **Barbara and Wayne Reimers** who greeted members with blank cards, pens, and crayons for making original valentines.

The crew then settled in with coffee and cupcakes for a meeting during which Barbara distributed updated rosters. There was also a discussion of dues and upcoming mariner responsibilities.

Wayne then introduced

fellow Kiwanis member **Charlotte Saylor** who shared a presentation about the “Kiwanis Family House,” a non-profit situated on UC Da-



*The Nautilus crew celebrated Valentine’s Day and heard about Kiwanis Family House from speaker **Charlotte Saylor** (left).*



vis Medical Center property at 50th street near Broadway. She gave us a history of the house which opened in 1984, the brainchild of Vern and Leona Bright. The house is used by families whose children are being treated at the Med Center. It has 32 rooms with individual bathrooms, four shared kitchens, and parking for six RVs. The house is sponsored and maintained by local Kiwanis clubs.

Wayne concluded the meeting with a prayer and the crew sailed away to further Valentine Day adventures.

### Skipjacks

Red was very much in evidence when Heart Month was celebrated by Skipjacks on Saturday, February 7 at the home of **Tony & Glenda Perrou. Jan Olsen** sported a snappy pair of red socks, Glenda wore a grey sweater with outlines of pink hearts throughout, & Tony went flashy in a bright red shirt. The hosts served us a Valentine’s Day luncheon of baked spaghetti, Caesar salad with croutons, bread sticks, and brownies with vanilla ice cream. Heart shaped chocolates were scattered among the potted pink azaleas decorating the tables.

Carrying out the theme, Glenda provided paper & pencil for a guessing game of “getting to know you.” We each wrote down something about ourselves that was unusual, unknown by others, or funny. As the papers were read, we had to guess who was being described. We were stuck on who was a twin (**Carolyn Biggers’** brother & sister were), who had eight siblings (**Jan Olsen**), who had a cartoon about their birth printed in their local newspaper (**Pattie Shaw**). We discovered a lot about each other that way.

(Continued on page 14)

# Refugees Driving Toward Independence

Imagine trying to get your kids to the doctor or pick up groceries without a car. Life in Sacramento is challenging if you don't have a license. And for many newly arrived Afghan refugee women, the barriers to getting a license are even more challenging: unfamiliar road rules, bewildering licensing procedures, fears and doubts about their abilities, and no one to help them figure out the process and safely practice driving. Now consider trying to do all this in a foreign

language and with no literacy skills in English.

World Relief decided to do something about that. Their Driving Permit program for Afghan women is offered in clients' native language and helps them learn the rules of the road and prepare for and pass the driving permit test. The



women also learn about traffic safety, how to use a car seat effectively, and meet a police officer. Most importantly, they gain confidence in their own abilities to drive. Afterwards, World Relief sends the women to a local driving school to get practical experience behind the wheel.

If you feel called to walk alongside these women, go to [worldrelief.org/sacramento/](http://worldrelief.org/sacramento/) and click on the blue donate button. For more information, reach out to learn how you can partner with World Relief, email [SacCE@wr.org](mailto:SacCE@wr.org).

Meet a recent Driving Program graduate! Khalida is 61 years old. Her college-aged sons tell her, "Mom, you're old. Trying to get a license will be too stressful to you. Let us drive you where you need to go." But she felt bad about relying on them, so she joined the Driving Program, and now she has her permit! When asked what she most looks forward to when she gets her license, she laughed and said, "Being able to leisurely window shop without someone saying, 'Mom, time to go!'"

## ... Scuttlebutt ...

(Continued from page 13)

The highlight of the afternoon was the distribution of

our unsigned Secret Pal Valentines. Some were funny, some were heartfelt and sweet. We loved them all. But we have ten more months to guess who our pal is!

In addition to all this fun, we completed our calendar of activities with the last two hosts, and began planning for our April project—the Planting Seeds of Faith youth auction.

Prayers were sent up for our absentees, our senior pals, and others needing healing.



Skipjacks shared a Valentine's Day luncheon and played a guessing game in February.



# CPC Staff

**The Rev. Keith L. DeVries**

**The Rev. Ivan N. Herman**

**Keith Atwater**, Music Director

**Michael Lombrano**,

Children's & Youth Ministry  
Director

**Paul & Mary Camozzi**,

Childcare Providers

**Karen Gray**,

Executive Assistant

**Julie Ueltzen**,

Administrative Assistant

**Paul Shultz**,

Financial Administrator

**Ron Morris**,

Maintenance Manager

**Christian Bolen**, Custodian

**John Busath**,

Food Closet Warehouse  
Manager

**Heidi Van Regenmorter**,

Organist

**Gabe Bisho**, Pianist

**Will Condrey**, Drummer

**Merlyn Van Regenmorter**,

Bassist

**Noor Bitar, Michael Gray**,

**Bruce MacLean**,

**Steve Parker, Kiyo Romais**,

and **Avonlee Janik**,

Audio/Video Technicians

# 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:

916-486-9081

### Extensions:

Keith DeVries	203	Julie Ueltzen	200
Ivan Herman	202	Michael Lombrano	207
Paul Shultz	205	Ron Morris	206
Karen Gray	201	Keith Atwater	208

## via e-mail:

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Paul Shultz	paul@carmichaelpres.org
Ron Morris	ron@carmichaelpres.org
Keith Atwater	music@carmichaelpres.org

The church office is open Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



# SENIOR CARE WORKSHOP



**Saturday, March 28 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in McMillen Hall**

Come to this informative workshop presented by **IN YOUR HOME CARE**

*Learn more about: Estate Planning, Elder Fraud, Private Care Giving, Long Term Care, and Hospice. Also check out the Health and Wellness Area, Rest Area for Caregivers, and Raffle*

Contact Kathy Lewin at [kslewin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kslewin@sbcglobal.net) for more information

**TIME VALUE MAIL**

## Sundays @ CPC

### In-Person & Live Stream Worship

**10:00 a.m.**

A blend of traditional and contemporary music styles bring new life to the Word. Worship in the Sanctuary or join online. Go to [youtube.com/@carmichaelpres](https://youtube.com/@carmichaelpres) or search for “carmichaelpres” on the YouTube app or your Smart TV.



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### Children's Sunday School

**10:15 a.m.**

All children are welcome and encouraged to attend worship.

Following the Time for Young People, kids age 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade are dismissed to their classes.

Preschool through 2nd grade students experience Bible stories through Godly Play. Kids in 3rd-5th grade learn together using lectionary-based Whirl curriculum.

Nursery care for infants through age 3 is available throughout the morning.



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### Coffee Fellowship

### Waterfall Singers & Youth Bible Study

**11:00 a.m.**

Visit and enjoy a cup of coffee and a cookie while you browse the art exhibit in the DeVries Gathering Place or chat with friends old and new following worship.

Children in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade can join CPC's children's choir, Waterfall Singers.

Youth in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to come to Room 204 for Bible study.



22<sup>nd</sup>  
**Planting Seeds  
of Faith**   
Luncheon & Auction

**Sunday, April 26**

**11:30 a.m.**

McMillen Hall

Lunch donated by  
Jackson Catering & Events

**Plan to Attend, Invite Your  
Friends & Donate an Auction Item!**

**A Few Suggestions:**

- Tickets for sporting or theater events
- Use of a vacation home, cabin, or timeshare
- A gift card to your favorite restaurant, store, or hotel
- Put together a themed basket - gardening, baking, reading, game night, etc.
- The latest tech gadget— Apple Watch, Xbox, or VR headset
- A bottle of wine (\$25+ value) for the Wine Wall
- Handmade art, jewelry, or other decorative items
- A batch of homemade cookies or a favorite dessert to the high bidder each month for a year
- Host a dinner, party, or other event for the high bidders

**To make your donation, fill out the form on the  
back of this sheet and  
return it to the church office by *April 11***

*All proceeds benefit CPC's children's and youth programs*



# Planting Seeds of Faith



## 2026 Auction Donation

.....  
Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(as you would like it to appear in the program)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Item Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Item Value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return donation form by

**April 11, 2026**

to Carmichael Presbyterian Church , 5645 Marconi Ave., Carmichael, CA 95608

OR

email [carmichaelpres@gmail.com](mailto:carmichaelpres@gmail.com)

*Please let us know by April 11 what you are donating.*

*Donated items are due to CPC by April 23*

**Thank you for your support!**

.....  
**For Staff Use Only:**

Item #: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt/TY: \_\_\_\_\_ Sale Price: \_\_\_\_\_