



# ECSTM News

## Community Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh

### Sharing Ministry with

### First Congregational Church of Antioch



September 2017, Issue 8

#### From the CPC Pastor



Dear Friends,

Another hot summer is upon us, which has also brought much consternation for me as the heat of conflict in our culture has led to public violence over Civil War era monuments, the emboldened White Supremacist movement, and a culture that hasn't taken Climate Change seriously enough to protect Houston and other cities from the ravages of more powerful hurricanes.

I mentioned to someone the other day that the last six months have felt like two years have already gone by. That's a lot of change.

At least we are now, finally, having a real conversation about White Supremacy in our culture. The boldness of groups attempting to take over public places with the threat of violence, or wearing assault rifles, has long troubled me. The rhetoric of the last election surely emboldened many who I hope would otherwise not be bold enough to feel such actions were publicly sanctioned. It's further proof that the tenor of our public discourse really does matter, and has real life consequences for many of those in groups that are targeted.

You may not have heard, but within the first three months of this Administration there were approximately 2,000 hate crimes in the US. The clear majority of these heinous acts were targeted at Muslims, Mexicans, Hispanics and other people of color. An Indian man was shot inside a restaurant in the Midwest, and violence against Sikhs occurred as a function of Islamophobia since most Americans don't know the difference between a Punjabi wearing a turban and a Muslim.

What didn't make most news outlets, was that 10% of those hate crimes were targeting Jews. Our President has refrained from saying anything in support or against such Anti-Semitic acts until forced

Will's article continues on page 2...

#### From the FCCA Pastor



Dear Friends,

May Peace Prevail on Earth

These are the words inscribed on the Peace Pole that is planted in the court yard between the Social Hall and the Sanctuary. Now that we have been worshipping in the Social Hall, many of us walk by the Peace Pole all the time. If you have walked by it, have you noticed it? Have you stopped next to it, paused, offered a prayer? Have you placed flowers at the base of the pole in memory of those killed or harmed by violence? Have you stopped to marvel at the many different languages inscribed on the pole? Have you felt the presence of peace as you have stood silently in the presence of the pole?

If your answer is "yes" to these questions...wonderful. If your answer is "no," I would encourage you to pause next time you pass the pole and notice what you experience. What happens when you become aware of the pole and its meaning?

The Peace Pole is a powerful symbol in our midst and calls us to be aware of the need for peace in our lives and the world. In beautiful symbolic form it reminds us that peace making is always about building bridges across differences. The fact that so many different languages are included on the pole speaks to this truth.

Peace is actually an extraordinary concept...the idea that human beings in the midst of their incredible differences can learn to live in harmony. Often times, conflict seems inevitable as people strategize how best to create environments that support their self interests at the expense of others. How extraordinary it is to be called to a worldview that calls us to value other people's well being as much as we value our own. As Christian folks, our faith calls us to love our neighbor as much as we love ourselves.

Christy's article continues on page 4...

Pastor Will continues...

to recently. Perhaps it was the blatant Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish rhetoric used in Charlottesville, where marchers chanted "Jews will not replace us" as the torch bearing marchers encircled the Episcopal Church where some of my friends were in attendance for an Interfaith peace service. Some there feared for their lives and snuck out back doors to evade the crowd.

I've wondered how President Trump's own daughter and son-in-law, who are Orthodox Jewish, have felt over the last few weeks – especially at his largely silent response to the hate speech of the White Supremacists, White Nationalists and even KKK leader David Duke who publicly thanks President Trump for siding with his cause.

The other strange silence in our culture right now is from Fundamentalist Christians, many of whom haven't responded at all or don't think that such rhetoric has a genuine human cost. An extreme group this week signed a very patriarchal, misogynistic statement against the inclusion of LGBTQ people in the church. Their document, called the Nashville Statement, from a group of 150 evangelicals calling themselves the Council of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, attempts to enforce their narrow view of social mores on the rest of (the vast majority) of Christians. What is amazing, is that the statement contains precious few quotations from Jesus, the prophets or the epistles. They attempt to label as biblical their views on limiting gender to the dualistic binary of male and female, making no room for the diversity of gender identities and expressions that even the Jewish sages of the Mishna and Talmud recognized in the time of Jesus.

Such voices within Christianity seem to be louder than others since that wing of Christianity has created quite the radio, television and media systems. It is said that Jerry Falwell had a TV camera in his basement so he could go on TV at any time to provide a "Christian" answer to every issue being discussed in the national discourse. Of course, no moderate, progressive or liberal voices have been called upon in such a manner. The Family Research Council, an honest to goodness "hate group" according to the Southern Poverty Law Center (Dr. King's organization) and yet, their president and spokesperson is called upon often, not just by Fox News, but CNN, MSNBC and even the East Bay Times when a quote is needed.

We have been seeing the result of this phenomenon in the last few decades as more and more people reject faith in any form. Most people can't make the distinctions between a Progressive, love and justice and welcoming based Christianity from over-generalizations they may have experienced from Evangelical and Fundamentalist circles. It's also easier to lump us all together when they may have been hurt by a church, and more Progressive congregations also contribute to the "church-hurt."

If there was ever a time for us all to take our faith more and more public, even just on social media, or in the tenor of our conversations – now is the time. Reclaiming our place as the kind, justice seeking followers of Jesus of Nazareth may be a little more difficult than it was before, but it is also more important for us to do so – today and in the days to come.

Together we serve...

Pastor Will

## Peace Camp 2017 – SAVE THE DATE!

This year, instead of a traditional Vacation Bible School we will be hosting a Weekend Peace Camp for our youth ages 6-14. This camp will take place October 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>.

To join the team, please contact: Jessica Natal (925) 439-9361, [cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net) or Jane Fish (925) 813-4758 [pjfanassociates@yahoo.com](mailto:pjfanassociates@yahoo.com) .

We are in need of **Volunteer Teachers** and **kitchen attendants**.

**As of now supplies needed:** Magazines, yarn/string, paint brushes, glue, mod podge, and construction paper. Please bring them to the church office. Thank you for your support!

## Pastors Schedule

Pastor Christy will be away in SoCal from September 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Pastor Will at 925.597.9797.

## Thank You Corner

- Special thanks to the Broers and Diest family for purchasing the newly installed blinds in the Social Hall. Check it out!!!

# THE SHARED LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The Joint FCCA-CPC Women's Luncheon will next meet Wednesday, September 6th at 11:30 am at Tao San Jin Chinese Restaurant (5867-A Lone Tree Way, Antioch).

**Fellowship Ministry:** Our next meeting is scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM in the Camp Stoneman Room. Please join us! Share your ideas for this important part of who we are! With Joan and Phil gone I am short some committee members. Please talk to me if you have any question.  
Mary Burks, Chair

**Outreach Committee:** We will next meet Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm in the Stoneman Room.

**Welcome & Marketing Committee:** We will next meet Wed., September 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm in the Stoneman Room.

**Worship Committee:** will next meet Wednesday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm at Ann Custer's home.

**Theology Pub:** Will next meet Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, at EJ Phairs.

**Classic Film Night formally LGBTQ Film Night:** Will next meet Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the Stoneman Room to watch Woody Allen's "Whatever Works: A New Comedy"

**Shared Ministry update:** Next Joint CPC/FCCA Cabinet/ Session meeting is scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup>, following worship in the CSR.

September 17<sup>th</sup> will be our monthly

## Sparkle Sunday

Wear something that shines to share the light of Christ.  
Bring a can of food or a donation for the food banks.

**Bountiful Table - Free Lunch Event:** Our church is hosting free lunches every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month for the community in the Social Hall.

**The next lunch will be on September 16<sup>th</sup> 11:30 – 12:30 pm in the Social Hall.**

If you have summer clothes, we are in need of men's and women's (sm to xl) clothes for the Bountiful participants. Just bring them any Sunday and place them in the entrance hall to the chapel...

Happy Birthday!



## September

1	Joe Zamora
4	Elaine Grothmann
5	Madeline Hansen
6	Kristen Ferguson
7	Evelyn Arms
8	Debi Johnson
9	Janis Harris Bellinger
10	Lucille Brautigam
11	Jessica Natal
12	Julie Custer-Ortega
13	Roger Bishop
14	Laurie Pease
15	Janie Hodges
16	Jeff Shipe
17	Shawna Lieber
18	Matt Taum
19	Carol Czarnowski
20	Jan Schrock
21	Judy Shipe
22	Benjamin Pease
23	James Pickering
24	Joanne Chalmers
25	Cheryl Schram
26	Marian Becker
27	Will McGarvey
28	Sean Poynter
29	Robin McCarty
	Robert Buluran
	Dale Grothmann

\*Contact Jessica, the Church Secretary, to add your Birthday & Anniversary to our records today!

Happy Anniversary!

## September



2	Gus and Ingrid Broers
4	Rich and Sue Ferguson
9	Carol Czarnowski and Jan Schrock
13	Jason and Lisa Hansen
14	Ben and Debi Johnson
18	Dennis & Glenda Lamb
21	David and Letha Arms
26	Dale and Elaine Grothmann
	Doug and Dawn Conant

# First Congregational Church of Antioch



**FCCA Cabinet** will next meet Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> immediately following worship.

**FCC Monday Bible Study:** We meet at 10:00 am every Monday in the Stoneman Room for an informal time of conversation, prayer & study.  
**We will not meet Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of Labor Day**



## Community Presbyterian Church

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study:** We meet every Tuesday at 10 am in the Camp Stoneman Room. September 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Pastor Will will share Part A and Part B of the Defusing Hatred Program he has been sharing around the county. Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> we will meet at Father Tom's Interfaith Peace Project for a four week series on sacred spaces called The Spirituality of Place. The IPP is located at 4517 Buckeye Court, in Antioch.

**Session Meeting:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Jim Hodges, and the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at Mary Burks'.

**Equal Exchange:** The coffee cart is available during Fellowship Hour in the Social Hall on most Sundays. You will find Fair Trade Equal Exchange coffee or tea! And chocolate bars. There is regular and decaf coffee and each come in regular roast and French roast! If you're looking for a last minute gift these are the perfect things! People will love them. Thank you for supporting the small farmers via the Equal Exchange program. - Mary Burks

### ECSM News!



All newsletter articles  
are due on the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
of each month.  
Please email to  
Jessica at  
[cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net).

Pastor Christy continues...

As a result, we find ourselves committed to working to address suffering, oppression and injustice as it manifests not only in our lives, but in the lives of others. To be invested in the well being of others is foundational to our lives as people of faith. This is truly an amazing life calling. On some fundamental level this means working for peace...working to create a world where each person is valued and resources are shared to sustain diverse, harmonious communities. In the words of the prayer often used as we light the Peace Candle on Sunday morning at the beginning of worship.

"Holy God, help us to open our hearts to the grace that meets us here in this sacred time and place. May we embrace your call to witness to hope and offer peace to a broken world. Be with us as we work for a world where all are safe, none are targeted, and all are included in the circle of community. We invoke Christ's peace, a peace that transforms hatred into love, stops violence, heals alienation and blesses the lost. Help us to open our hearts to your peace so we may be peacemakers in your name. May there be peace on earth. Amen."

We will gather around the Peace Pole at the end of our worship service on September 10<sup>th</sup> as a way to stand in solidarity with others working to create peace in the world. The International Day of Peace is celebrated on September 21. The day "aims at strengthening the ideals of unity and equality, diversity and oneness, harmony and compassion and, above all, at advancing the culture of peace."

On that day people around the world join together to envision a world where peace prevails. I encourage each of us to find ways to participate in this global effort. The Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County is sponsoring a number of local event during the days before and after the International Day of Peace. Additionally, the United Nations is inviting the world to a moment of silence on September 21.

*Whatever you choose to do, please pause at 12 Noon local time and join people all across the globe in a Minute of Silence/Moment of Peace.*

Blessed are the peace makers,

*Christy*

## Ann Custer to be honored

Ann Custer, who has provided music for Community Presbyterian Church and East County Shared Ministry for over 50 years, will be inducted into the Pittsburg Entertainment & Arts Hall of Fame on Sunday, Oct. 8.

Custer has been a chancel choir member, organist, choir director, New Way choir member, hand bell choir member and Minister of Music. She also directed the Pittsburg Senior Choir at the Senior Center for over 20 years.

The Induction Ceremony will be held at the Creative Arts Building on the Pittsburg High School campus (250 School St.) beginning at 2 p.m. A special Reception for the 13-member class will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the Pittsburg Senior Center (300 Presidio Lane) following the Induction Ceremony.

Tickets for the Induction Ceremony are \$20 reserved and \$10 general admission. ECSM members and friends purchasing a reserved seat will be seated in a special bloc of seats reserved for Custer's supporters. PEAHOF will donate \$10 from every reserved ticket sold back to ECSM for its music programs.

Tickets for the Reception, which will be catered by the New Mecca Café, are \$20 but must be purchased before Oct. 2. Anyone wishing to purchase tickets can contact Chuck Dybdal (925) 642-7321 or ced30@com.

**Need for School Supplies...** We will be donating much needed school supplies to Marina Vista Elementary, Pittsburg and Belshaw Elementary, Antioch again this fall. Please consider picking up some extra supplies next time you see a sale and bring to ECSM **by September 10<sup>th</sup>**.

There is a need for everything; Pencils, Pens, Markers, Copy Paper, colored copy paper, Construction Paper, Kleenex, Scissors, Glue, Back Packs, Clorox wipes, Snacks. Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.

**Save the Date for CPC Fundraiser:** CPC is planning a Holiday Tea fundraiser for Saturday afternoon, December 2 in the Social Hall. So, save the date and plan to attend and details will come later in the fall. What will be unique about this tea is the theme: we plan to feature a variety of creches/nativity sets. We will have tables set up displaying creches, and are asking you to contribute to the success of this event by sharing yours for the day. We would like to have a wide variety of creches: primitive, elegant, ethnic, wood, ceramic, pottery, fabric, metal, etc. Maybe you have one you got on a trip, or as a gift, or made yourself, or had for your children to handle. We will not allow them to be touched by our guests, they are just for their viewing pleasure. If you have any you would like to share for the day please let Cherie Persing (925-439-7881 or [cheriepersing@comcast.net](mailto:cheriepersing@comcast.net)) or Myrdell Dybdal (925-858-7752 or [quiltingmd@aol.com](mailto:quiltingmd@aol.com)) know. Thanks for helping make this a wonderful holiday event.

- Cherie and Myrdell

**Fellowship (Coffee) Hour:** Anyone is welcome to provide coffee hour goodies! Get together with the group you are in and provide some goodies. Or add your goodies to someone else's bounty to round out our Sunday fare. There are several dates I open in the near future. Please help! If you have questions, just ask! Thank you in advance.

Mary Burks, Chair

## You Ought to Be in Pictures!

### Take Two!



Our photographer, the lovely Melissa Paniagua, has requested a re-take for our group picture. So we have scheduled Rally Sunday, September 17, for our new picture day. Please plan to attend worship that day, wear a bright color, and afterwards stick around for a group photo shoot. Shouldn't take long, and it will become part of our welcoming and marketing material for the upcoming year. The plan is to do this annually. Hope you can make it! Bring a friend or two!

## Care Team offering

The first Sunday of each month has traditionally been Deacons' Sunday at Community Presbyterian Church – it will now be Care Team Sunday at ECSM.

The Care team has a special fund for persons in need who come to our church looking for emergency support. The fund has been used to provide housing, food or gasoline to help families who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

Special envelopes are available in the pew racks for those who wish to help the Care Team provide support for those in need coming to our church seeking help.

The Care Team thanks everyone for their continued support.

## Beautiful Weddings in the Camp Stoneman Chapel:

*If you or someone you know is getting married, I would love to meet with them and help to plan their big day.*

*Lisa Hansen ~ CPC Wedding Coordinator.*

Please contact our Events Coordinator, Jessica Natal for information. Private Rental rates for your friends are based on the number in attendance. CPC & FCCA members get the Church Member rates. Contact Jessica at 925.276.0960 or [cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cpcpittsburg@sbcglobal.net)

## SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### September 3<sup>rd</sup> Communion Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex. 3:1-15 • Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b OR  
Jer 15:15-21 • Ps 26:1-8  
Rom 12:9-21; Matt 16:21-28

**Rev. Will McGarvey**

### September 10<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage

### September 17<sup>th</sup> Rally Sunday!

### 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex. 14:19-31 • Ps 114 or Ex 15:1b-11, 20-21 OR  
Gen 50:15-21 • Ps 103:(1-7), 8-13  
Rom 14:1-12; Matt 18:21-35

**Rev. Will McGarvey**

### September 24<sup>th</sup> New Way Sunday

### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Christy Parks-Ramage

## New Way Fall Music Schedule

Our summer hiatus is over, and the New Way Team is ready to resume its regular schedule, which is:



### Second Sundays:

Rehearsal after worship at 11:45 am

### Fourth Sundays:

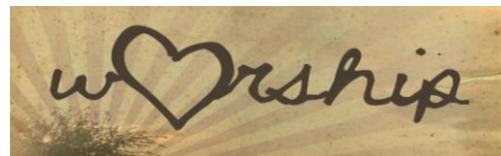
Warm-up at 9 a.m.

New Way Worship Celebration at 10 am

Rehearsal after worship at 11:45 am

Our next New Way Worship Celebration is Sunday, September 24. So, we'll rehearse on September 10 in preparation for that, and then meet at 9 am on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

We are happy to receive new voices into our midst. There are no auditions, and the ability to read music is not required; it's helpful, but it isn't required. We sing for the joy of it, and for the fellowship we share with one another. Come to a rehearsal and see what you think.



## WORSHIP LEADERS

### September 3<sup>rd</sup>

Liturgists  
Ushers  
Greeters  
Joann Chalmers  
Dave & Letha Arms  
Roberto & Nora Buluran

### September 10<sup>th</sup>

Liturgists  
Ushers  
Greeters  
Carol Krishnan  
Roberto & Nora Buluran  
Jim & Janie Hodges

### September 17<sup>th</sup>

Liturgists  
Ushers  
Greeters  
Jim Hodges  
Chuck & Myrdell Dybdal  
The Sullivan Family

### September 24<sup>th</sup>

Liturgists  
Ushers  
Greeters  
New Way  
George & Jude Stephens  
The Umozurike Family

### October 1<sup>st</sup>

Liturgists  
Ushers  
Greeters  
Betsy Sullivan  
Jim & Janie Hodges  
TBD

**Ushers:** Please let **Janie Hodges** (new head Usher) know by the Friday before your Sunday If you cannot make it on the date/date's above. You may contact her at 925-368-5797 or [njhodges@aol.com](mailto:njhodges@aol.com). If you have any questions or would like to become an Usher, please email or call her.

## SAVE the DATE: Antioch Commemoration of the 500 years of the Reformation

Sunday, October 29, 4 pm  
St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church  
3315 Contra Loma Blvd., Antioch

In preparation for the Ecumenical Celebration, all are invited to join Father Tom Bonacci on 3 Tuesday evenings before the celebration at 7:30 pm at St. Ignatius.

- **October 10<sup>th</sup>** – Revisiting the Ecumenical Teachings of the Second Vatican Council: That All May be One
- **October 17<sup>th</sup>** – The Feast of St. Ignatius of Antioch: The Core of Reformed Spirituality: Moving Beyond the Divide
- **October 24<sup>th</sup>** – Dialogue and the Ecumenical Church: A Vision for the Now and Future Church

# PRAYER PAGE

## Prayers of Healing

Renée Moore, Virginia Devens, Reggie Washington, Starr Lieber, Dorothy Shipe, Lucille Corzine, Elaine Grothmann, Anne Cakebread, Betty LaMar, Margaret Wilcox, Paul Telfer, Betty Rexroth, Mary Vargo, Patsy Nash, and Forrest Brown. Elwin, Bev Peterson's husband. Carol Krishnan's sisters. Grace, Donald Lang's grandmother. Hanby & Greenwood Families (Betsy Sullivan's Family). Deborah Scott (with many health issues right now). Catherine Hewitt, Mary Burks cousin who is battling cancer. Kahli Davis. Pastor Will. Jerry Castleberry and Richard James. Betty Brown, Carol Czarnowski. Lois Arseneau. Lucille Brautigam. Pastor Christy's mother, in rehab after a hip injury and surgery.

## Prayers of Concern

Those affected by the recent violence here and abroad. Those affected by the natural disasters in Nepal, Northern & Southern California, Hawaii, the Philippines, New York, New Jersey, Japan, Chile, Panama, Haiti, Cuba, Vanuatu and Washington State. Safety for all in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Egypt and Sudan. California Public Schools and teachers. The economy, and those laid off or in need of employment. Those living without shelter, experiencing any form of mental illness and those without healthcare. Betty Pankey. Family of Barbara Sellers. Family of Carolina Zamora. Silver Holiday. Prayers for the family of Lois Arseneau.

## Prayers For Our Mission Partners

Prayers for the ministry of Let's Feed the Kids, Friends Feeding Friends, Habitat for Humanity, the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, Loaves and Fishes, P.I.C.E.S., the Antioch Ministerial Food Bank, the Literacy Project in Pittsburg, the Presbytery of San Francisco, the Bay Association of the Northern California-Nevada Conference, UCC, Westminster Woods, Camp Cazadero, Rev. Charles Tinsley at the Juvenile Detention Center, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Winter Nights Rotating Shelter, Shelter Inc., Shepherd's Gate, Heifer International, and the Al-Basma School and Program in Beit Sahour, Palestine, Joining Hands – Bolivia, Hesperian International, the Keep Hope Alive Program, and Minar and Milad Vosqueritchean in East Jerusalem with their after school peace school and music program.

Prayer cards are located in the Narthex by the Guest Book



## Prayers for Sisters & Brothers Around the World

The Conflict in the Middle East; Darfur, Sudan; East Congo, Bolivia; Colombia; Venezuela; Lebanon, Israel-Palestine, North Korea, and Mumbai, India. Long term aid to Haiyan victims; children in Hurricane areas; those affected by earthquakes, and the unrest in Pakistan. For those who serve in the Armed Forces. For those who suffer from hunger and thirst; loneliness; illness; malnutrition; ageism. For those who are excluded; homeless; friendless; the underemployed and jobless. For those affected by Hurricane Harvey and the other natural disasters around the world.

## September Prayer Families & Churches

September 3

Nina Javier

**Noe Valley Ministry – San Francisco**

Vicki McGuire

**Filipino American Evangelical UCC – Fremont**

September 10

Ben & Debi Johnson

**Ocean Ave. Presbyterian Church – San Francisco**

Judie Moore

**Niles Discovery Church DOC UCC – Fremont**

September 17

The Kindorf Family

**Old First Presbyterian Church – San Francisco**

Charles Muhlenhaupt

**Vine Moni UCC – Fremont**

September 24

Kal & Carol Krishnan

**Seventh Ave Presbyterian Church – San Francisco**

Patsy Nash

**College Community Congregational UCC – Fresno**



# COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Minutes for Regular Stated Meeting of Session

August 20, 2017

Called to order at 3:05 p.m. at the home of Rev. Will McGarvey by checking in.

**Elders present:** Ruling Elders: Dave Arms, Mary Burks, Betsy Sullivan, Jim Hodges and Teaching Elder/Moderator: Rev. Will McGarvey. A quorum was present.

**Elders excused:** None.

**Visitors:** None.

**Mission statement** was read by all.

Docket was read and approved with addition of church sign.

**MSC** to approve minutes of June 20 Regular Stated Meeting of Session as corrected.

**Consent Calendar:** None.

### **SPECIAL REPORTS:**

**Clerk of Session:** 54 Members. Forrest Brown passed Saturday, August 12. Service will be early October potentially. Due to inactivity Tristan Mendoza and Matt Taum are moved to inactive roster.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Pastor's Report:** Regular meetings and studies. Women's Fellowships, worship and pastor meetings. Presbytery committee (nominating). Pastoral visits.

**Presbytery Meeting report:** The next presbytery meeting will be Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian in Newark, then Tuesday, November 14 at First Presbyterian in Concord. Will has signed up for the Minister's Retreat: Journeying Together, September 24, 25 & 26 at San Damiano in Danville as study leave.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report emailed by Cherie Persing 08-18-17. Session clarified timing of disbursement of Hunger Offerings. Presbytery portion to be paid first, then alternate with 50% of remaining portion each month, one month to Pittsburg charity, PICES; and the next month the other 50% to Antioch charities, (split half to Antioch Ministerial, and half to Salvation Army).

**Care Team:** Update emailed by Chuck Dybdal 08-13-17. Summer hiatus. Clarifying procedures for memorial service food preparation and donations. Ice cream social after August 27<sup>th</sup> service will be opportunity for nurture groups to sit together.

**Event Coordinator:** Updated Events Calendar emailed by Jessica 08-11-17.

**Nominating Committee:** No report.

**Personnel Committee:** No report.

### **COMMITTEE/MINISTRY REPORTS:**

**Building & Grounds:** Dave raised the concern that the Solidyne HVAC software we have been using to control our heating/air conditioning system is outdated, and needs to be replaced, with a possible cost of \$1000. If we were to utilize wireless network hardware, such as thermostats, the cost is about \$250 each, and we have 9 (\$2250 +/-). Dave will check with his sources on possibilities. Utilities breakdown showed a large increase in water usage in August, due to broken valve on Zollars' Garden watering system. Now fixed.

**Christian Education:** No report. Gayle will come back mid-September.

**Fellowship:** No summer meeting and no report. All is well.

**Outreach:** No summer meeting and no report. Mary raised the idea of encouraging giving change in regular offerings for special needs, suggest item for the next Outreach meeting-September 11, and will present to following Cabinet/Session meeting with recommendations.

**Stewardship & Finance:** 08-07-17 Email from George Stephens. See session items below under new business.

**Welcoming & Marketing:** No summer meeting and no report.

**Worship:** June 28, 2017 meeting minutes emailed by Ann Custer on 08-09-17.

*Continues on page 9*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- F&S Committee Session items:
  1. Office computer had to be replaced, discussion centered on what fund to use to pay for it. MSC to use available monies in fund #2116 to pay for it.
  2. Several new tables are needed for Social Hall. F&S recommended using Balance Sheet item 21122 funds, Social Hall furniture. MSC to approve use of those funds for the purchase of 3 or 4 new Mitey-Lite 36x72 dark brown folding tables for Social Hall, dependent upon table and shipping costs.
  3. Session will request Jessica to provide Facilities report by 10<sup>th</sup> each month.
- Fossil fuel divestment overture. MSC to endorse.
- Overture endorsing Open Letter from the National Coalition of Christian Organizations in Palestine (NCCOP). MSC to endorse.
- New copies of the Book of Confessions and the Book of Order are available for those who want them, available for \$10 hardcopy or free download. We recommend that those who wish to have one download it.
- Replacement of the damaged church sign. Suggest as agenda item for the September joint Cabinet/Session meeting, prior to further action.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

- Progress of FCCA request to move their three crosses and bell to CPC: Still waiting on word from City of Pittsburgh Planning.
- Ethan Sullivan's Eagle Scout project: Jim and Ethan talked briefly mid-July, but with Jim gone much of the time since then and now Ethan back in school, no progress. Chris Persing says this will be a really big project. Discussion centered on methods of installation. Decided this should be an item for the next joint Cabinet/Session meeting
- The Chapel Improvement Fund: Mary and Will are setting up a committee.
- Church website updated pictures and new theme: Jessica has new pictures for site. Continue to next meeting. Session members to look at possible WordPress templates.
- Music Library Filing: Still Pending.
- Appoint members at large to the Personnel Committee for 2017: Will to talk again with Lucas.
- Arrange for audit of 2016 financials. Cherie Persing will be contacting Nancye Blasingame.
- "Hearing loop" for the Chapel: No new update.
- Continuing the conversation with the pastor: Will on vacation August 23-29. Will has asked Presbytery to come up with a consistent conversation as per the UCC statement/questions.
- CPC (in-house) Fundraiser: Crèches and Crumpets. Myrdell is proceeding with this idea.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.**

Next Session Meeting: September 19, 2017 hosted by Jim Hodges.

Jim Hodges is scheduled to prepare September communion.

Next Joint CPC/FCCA Leadership meeting scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup> following worship. Agenda Items: FCCA church bell, damaged church sign, change cans in offerings.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hodges

Clerk of Session

## Hurricane Harvey from Our Piece of Texas

We want to thank our church family in California for all the texts and emails of concern we received. It is wonderful to have all the prayers and good wishes sent our way. The devastation here in Houston and the Gulf Coast is just unbelievable – we are sure you have been watching on TV as we have. Texans are something else – you don't have to ask for help - they are just there. We have commented that we didn't see the same kind of volunteer force appear from all around during the early days of Katrina.



Here in the Harmony community we have been a peninsula surrounded on all four sides by water. We are so blessed we have everything we need right here. Our HEB (grocery store) was closed Monday, but then open from 9am to 3pm (so their employees can come & go in daylight for safer driving). Shelves were empty yesterday by 2 when we got there - but said they will restock milk, bread, eggs, etc. today. The empty shelves made me think that this must be what it is like in a 3rd world country. We have emergency clinics and gas stations (with gas) open. All the fast food places, local restaurants & local small businesses are closed. The highways and roads were flooded and some are still closed. Rain water did build in the street in front of the house but never got higher than our calves. On our drive around we didn't see any homes that appeared flooded but we didn't go back in the sections where the in road was completely covered with water. Our doctor's office isn't too far from here and they are flooded. We did experience power outages and water pressure was very weak. During the heaviest downpours - we still saw a slight swirl from water going down the drains ever so slowly. Nights were the scariest with the heaviest rains, wind, some thunder and lightning and having to go down the hall and open the front door to see how far the water was up our driveway (never got as high as during the May 2016 flood). When we checked our rain gauge early Saturday we had 8"; checked again on Sunday at 7:15 am we had an additional 6.5", Tuesday at around noon we got an additional 7"-then the rain started to taper off; skies were still dark and the wind was blowing. As the afternoon progressed the sky got lighter and lighter and the clouds were white. We checked the gauge and it was only a 1/2" - for a grand total of 22". By early last night (Tuesday) the air changed - it was fresh with a little wind and humidity was low - you could hear the summer bugs & critters. Went out the front door looked to the right - the kids down the end of the street had gotten out their hoop and were playing basketball. Straight down the street from the house the kids were playing tag and neighbors were walking their dogs - for us the storm was over!!!

During this storm Jan has been working out of the house (when we had power)- they had mandatory check ins - some of her colleagues had problems some have water damage, one had to be evacuated in a boat, and another had lost water pressure to the house.

Sunday night the 27th our church music director, Valerie, passed away - she fought the good fight for 3 years but the cancer won - her husband Ralph was with her at MD Anderson. He was stuck there at MD Anderson since the roads going into the Medical Center were under water. He asked for prayers that he could get out and be with their 2 children - he finally got home Tuesday afternoon. We kept in contact with people from church - so far no one knows of anyone whose home was flooded, Pastor Mak is safe, the church building is OK although the parking lot and the prayer garden flooded. Our friend, Terry, who is wheelchair bound, had apartment complex flooding - so early Saturday morning she and the family left for Dallas. Water at that time made it hard for her to get into the van then to get the wheelchair on the lift but they made it - arrived safely at a hotel in Dallas and today, with water receded, returned home safely.

To avoid levy & dam breaches the Army Corp of Engineers & local water control personnel released water from 2 reservoirs and Lake Conroe. This caused & continues to cause many houses to flood but avoided an even bigger catastrophe had the dams or levees failed. Again, we are lucky to be above the reservoirs and not along the river where Lake Conroe flows so we were not impacted. These releases will continue as needed for the next couple of months to get the water down and be able to handle the normal Texas summer thunderstorms.

Finally got newspapers delivered about noon today, no mail delivery or garbage pickup yet. Definitely felt cut off from the world.

Please keep all the victims of Harvey in your prayers – it will be a long time before life will return to normal.



With gratitude for all our blessings,  
Carol & Jan

# JOINT CALENDAR OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER 2017

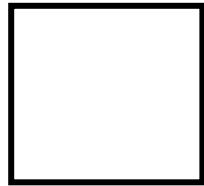
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>September 3</b>  <b>10:00 am Communion Worship Service in the Social hall</b>  <b>4-7 MC - Sanctuary &amp; classrooms</b>	<b>September 4</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  <b>No FCC Bible Study</b>  6:15 pm Cub Scouts - SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts - SH	<b>September 5</b>  <b>10:00 am Bible Study - CSR</b>	<b>September 6</b>  <b>11:30am Women's Fellowship</b>  7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	<b>September 7</b>	<b>September 8</b>  7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms  <b>Set up for Private Event</b>	<b>September 9</b>  <b>Private Event - SH 4 pm - 10 pm</b>
<b>10</b>  <b>8:30 am Care team meeting - CSR</b>  <b>10:00 am Joint Worship Service in the Social Hall</b> <b>11:45 am New Way Rehearsal - Sanctuary</b>  <b>4-7 MC - Sanctuary &amp; classrooms</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>10:00 am FCC Bible Study - CSR</b>  3:00 pm - Outreach Meeting - CSR  6:00 - 9:30pm - PCT - Chapel  6:15 pm Cub Scouts - SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts - SH	<b>12</b>  <b>10:00 am Bible Study - CSR</b>  12:00 pm - 2:00 pm RCC Support Group - CSR  6:00 - 9:30pm - PCT - Social Hall	<b>13</b>  6:00 - 9:30pm - PCT - Social Hall  7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	<b>14</b>  6:00 - 9:30pm - PCT - Social Hall	<b>15</b>  7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	<b>16</b>  <b>Bountiful Table - 11:30 am - 1:30 pm - SH</b>  <b>Private Event - SH 4 pm - 10 pm</b>
<b>17</b>  <b>10:00 am Sparkle/Rally Sunday Worship Service in the Chapel</b>  <b>GROUP PICTURE DAY!</b>  <b>11:30 am Joint Cabinet/Session Mtg - CSR</b>  <b>4-7 MC - Sanctuary &amp; classrooms</b>	<b>18</b>  <b>10:00 am FCC Bible Study - CSR</b>  6:00 - 9:30pm - PCT - Chapel  6:15 pm Cub Scouts - SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts - SH	<b>19</b>  <b>10:00 am Bible Study - CSR</b>  6:30 pm Session Meeting  6:00 - 9:30pm - PCT - Social Hall	<b>20</b>  <b>11 am - Peace Camp Mtg. - CSR</b>  12:30 pm - Welcome & Marketing - CSR  2:30 pm - Fellowship Meeting - CSR  3:30 pm - Worship Meeting - Ann's home.  6:00 - 9:30pm - PCT - Social Hall  7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	<b>21</b>  6:00 - 9:30pm - PCT - Social Hall	<b>22</b>  7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms  <b>*October newsletter articles Due to the Church Office today!</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>Rock Club Meeting - SH 8 am - 5 pm</b>  <b>Ministerio Cristiano - Chapel 9 am -1 pm</b>
<b>24</b>  <b>9:00 am New Way warm up - Sanctuary</b>  <b>10:00 am New Way Worship Service - Chapel</b> <b>11:45 am New Way Rehearsal - Sanctuary</b>  <b>4-7 MC - Sanctuary &amp; classrooms</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>10:00 am FCC Bible Study - CSR</b>  6:00 - 9:30pm - PCT - Chapel  6:15 pm Cub Scouts - SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts - SH	<b>26</b>  <b>10:00 am Bible Study - CSR</b>  5:30 pm - Classic Movie Night - CSR  6:00 - 9:30pm - PCT - Social Hall	<b>27</b>  6:00 - 9:30pm - PCT - Social Hall  7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	<b>28</b>  6:00 - 9:30pm - PCT - Social Hall	<b>29</b>  7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	<b>30</b>
<b>October 1</b>  <b>10:00 am Communion Worship Service in the Chapel</b>  <b>11:30 am FCC Cabinet Mtg - CSR</b>  <b>4-7 MC - Sanctuary &amp; classrooms</b>	<b>October 2</b>  <b>10:00 am FCC Bible Study - CSR</b>  6:15 pm Cub Scouts - SH 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts - SH	<b>October 3</b>  <b>10:00 am Bible Study - CSR</b>	<b>October 4</b>  <b>11:30am Women's Fellowship</b>  7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	<b>October 5</b>	<b>October 6</b>  7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	<b>October 7</b>  <b>Private Event - SH 4 pm - 10 pm</b>



# ECSTM News

*A monthly newsletter of the Community Presbyterian Church and First Congregational Church of Antioch*  
200 East Leland Rd, Pittsburg, CA 94565  
Phone: (925) 439-9361 or (925) 757-4094

September 2017  
Issue 8



Return Service Requested

TIME DATED MATERIAL

## September Events at ECSTM

### Women's Fellowship

*Wednesday, Sept. 6th at 11:30 am at Tao Sin Jin, at  
5867 Lone Tree Way, Antioch*

### Bountiful Table - Free Lunch Event

*Our church is hosting free lunches every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month  
for the community. The next lunch will be on September 16<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 – 12:30 pm in the Social Hall.*

### Potluck Salad Lunch on Rally Sunday!

*Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> is Rally Sunday!! Hopefully, we will be able  
to go back into the Chapel for Sunday Services! Please bring a salad,  
pasta salad, or Jell-O salad to share.*

### Classic Movie Night

*Will meet Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the Stoneman  
Room. Bring a Snack, Bring a friend! Everyone welcome!*