



First Presbyterian Church

at the heart of Anaheim

November 7, 2022

Ahoy Sailors and Welcome Aboard!

This fall, as we read and considered the themes from Joan Gray's *Sailboat Church*, we have heard the call to raise our sails as a congregation and cast off on an adventure with God in the world. We don't yet know exactly where and how God's wind will blow us, but we are excited to discover the new vistas of mission God is opening up for us and are hoping that you will get on board and join us on this voyage of discovery. Jesus is the captain of our ship, First Presbyterian Church of Anaheim, but every ship needs a crew to set sail. That crew is you and me. The enclosed estimate of giving card invites you to consider three ways that God may be calling you to serve as a sailor in the coming year.

- **Join us in 40 Days of Prayer.** Every Advent and Christmas season, we traditionally offer a daily devotional to prepare our hearts for the promise of God with Us. This year, that devotion will be provided by the 40 days of guided prayer offered in the back of *Sailboat Church*. You may use your copy of the book or a printed booklet containing daily prayer guide that will be available. Whichever format works best for you, we ask you to make a daily commitment to join us since prayer is the mainsail of our ship and is at the heart of our adventure with God in the world.
- **Set aside January 21-22.** That weekend, our consultant, Maggie Harmon from the Presbyterian Foundation, will lead us in a weekend of discernment. Having prayed for 40 days, we will gather to plot the course God is setting for our future. The exact times for our meetings are still to be determined, so we ask that you reserve the weekend so you will be available for this critical time of sharing, prayer, worship, and planning for our future.
- **Support us through the Transition.** 2022 saw God provide for our congregation in providential ways. Without any income from the Calvin school building, we were not sure how we would manage financially. However, you were faithful and generous in your financial support. The Session and staff were prudent in their spending. In addition, having made the commitment to retain all staff in 2020, this year we were rewarded by a government program that returned the taxes we paid for those employees. That, along with some cash reserves carried us through the year. However, that was 2022. We are now looking at 2023.

We have a buyer for the school building and when escrow closes (which we hope will be in 2023 but could stretch out until 2024) that will provide us funds to invest and create an ongoing income stream for the congregation. However, that supplement cannot and should not replace the faithful giving of the congregation. Our tithes and offerings are a discipline that is critical to our spiritual vitality. We give back to God a portion of all that we receive and thereby give God thanks for those blessings and demonstrate our trust in God's ability to continue to provide for us.

How is God calling you to help provision our congregation for the voyage ahead? Will you pray in December? Will you show up in January? Will you give in 2023? Please set aside some time to pray over these questions. Then, as you sense God's call and direction, fill out the enclosed card. We invite you to offer your commitments to God as part of our Thanksgiving Service on **Sunday, November 20**. If you worship with us online or will not be able to worship in person that Sunday you may use the enclosed envelop to mail your card back to the church.

As we prepare to raise anchor and set sail together in 2023, let me echo the closing affirmation and invitation from *Sailboat Church*...

God is yearning to ignite us with all the passion and power we need for the work of our mission fields.

We have hardly scratched the surface of the divine resources that are available to us.

Why not put up the sails and see what God can do!

Blessed sailing to you!

Thank you for all the ways you have engaged in the call to become a sailboat church in recent months and for all the ways you will enable our faithful voyage into God's future.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Pastor Kim