



ECSM News

Community Presbyterian Church, Pittsburg
Sharing Ministry with
First Congregational Church of Antioch



January, Issue 1

From the CPC Pastor

From the FCCA Pastor



Dear Friends,

I think every congregation of every faith tradition should house the homeless at least a few weeks a year. I think it's good for the soul of a faith community to share space with people who are struggling financially, or emotionally, or spiritually. It reminds us of how easy it is to become a club or meeting center that gathers primarily to meet their own needs, rather than also being organized to serve the community in which they exist.

One of our sister congregations, Denison Avenue United Church of Christ in Cleveland, OH has made the news recently. My friend Libby Sholes at the California Council of Churches wrote about it this way.

The City of Cleveland, OH sent a notice Christmas Eve to Denison Avenue United Church of Christ. Denison has long partnered with a nonprofit to offer their church as shelter for homeless people, especially in the cold of winter. That's what thousands of congregations do nationwide including many in California.

The notice from the Department of Public Safety told Denison UCC that they had to upgrade their fire extinguishers, a perfectly reasonable thing to do.

*Then they told Denison the church would have to give up its status as a **religious institution** if they continued the winter shelter program! Suddenly a public agency has turned into Scrooge.*

*First - this threat is well beyond the bounds of a city agency's authority. Second - helping those in need is part of what a religious non-profit is **supposed to do**.*

The reason we at California Council of Churches bring this to your attention is that these things are like black mold - once something like this gets hold, it spreads its contamination everywhere. Thousands of you are in congregations or communities where helping the homeless is a core program, and essential act of faith.

Dear Friends,

It is January. The New Year is beginning. Christmas is over. Trees and lights are coming down, decorations are tucked away, the last of the Christmas cookies are eaten. And yet we carry the gift and work of Christmas into the new year.

In his poem, Howard Thurman, the African-American theologian, educator and civil rights leader invites us to do The Work of Christmas.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

The work of Christmas is taking the love birthed in Bethlehem out into the hurting, troubled world. We did this work during worship on the Sunday after Christmas. We prayed for the victims of an attack in the home of a rabbi who was celebrating Hanukkah. The reality of the rise of anti-Semitism is captured in the following segment:

"When a suspect walked into the home of a rabbi celebrating Hanukkah and stabbed five celebrants it was the latest in a week of anti-Semitic attacks in the nation's most demographically diverse area — and an incident that reverberated across the country.

Both articles continue on page 2...



Pastor Will continues...

So we urge you to send messages of support to Denison UCC and, if possible, donations. They will need funds to upgrade the fire extinguishers and then, possibly, to hire an attorney to fight the city's massive over-reach.

If you would like to contact Denison, please go to their web site: denisonucc.org There are both contact and donation links.

And because the Grinch is alive and well today even in California, my easy link system isn't working. I am up to the challenge of helping Denison and the principle of religious freedom, never mind my technology. I hope you are, too.

Sadly, it seems as if the city supervisor for that part of the city doesn't want homeless people to be able to exist there. We also live in an increasingly secular country, and that is fine as we live with the freedom of religion and speech. But just as there are religious forces attempting to enshrine their religious beliefs into the public square, so to are there secular and dehumanizing forces attempting to make the homeless invisible, or to go beyond their municipal authority to make a congregation choose between their religious identity and their identity as a community that provides service, love, hospitality and presence to very real people in very real need.

The work we are partnering with 10 other congregations to do to host Winter Nights for eight weeks will not only be important experience giving eight other congregations the chance to learn how to co-host for themselves someday, it also gives us the opportunity to serve and share space with the clients who are getting back on their feet after a health or financial crisis in their lives.

As we pray each week for our own needs, and those we love, we can also pray for the Winter Nights client named Deanne who is going through a relapse of cervical cancer. If you want to read an article the East Bay Times just did on WN, please go to <https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2019/12/27/winter-nights-keeps-homeless-warm-steers-them-to-services/>

Together we serve,

Pastor Will

Pastor Christy continues...

'Again, here we are: mourning another act of senseless anti-Semitic violence committed against our community and praying for those who were the victims of this hate,' Anti-Defamation League CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said in a statement Sunday following the attack a day earlier in Monsey, New York.

'This is at least the 10th anti-Semitic incident to hit the New York/New Jersey area in just the last week. When will enough be enough? These heinous attacks make something abundantly clear: The Jewish community needs greater protection,' Greenblatt said."

It is possible to feel overwhelmed and shut down by the rising violence in our communities. And yet, as people of faith we are called to be resilient and resist the forces of hatred and violence. Christmas called us to prepare our hearts and lives to receive and be transformed by the forces of love, hope, peace and yes even joy. Willie Jennings, Professor of Theology at Duke Divinity School defines joy as "an act of resistance against despair and its forces."

We stand in solidarity with our Jewish friends and neighbors. Standing against hatred and violence, we bear witness to the power of God's love. This becomes the work of Christmas.

Blessings,

Christy

MESSAGE FROM CHRISTY



Dear Friends,

Many thanks for the financial Christmas gift. It is so appreciated. It is wonderful to be sharing ministry with you.

Blessings for the New Year,

Will & Christy

THE SHARED LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The Monthly Fellowship Lunch: Will be on January 8th at 11:30am at MJ's Downtown Cafe and Bakery, 655 First Street, Brentwood.

Fellowship Committee: We will meet January 8th after the fellowship luncheon.

Care Team: Will meet on January 19th at 8:30am in the Stoneman Room.

Worship & Marketing Meeting: Will meet on Tuesday, January 21st at 11:45am in the Stoneman Room.

Outreach Committee: Will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 29th at 11:30am in the Stoneman Room.

Theology Pub: Will meet on Tuesday, January 28th at 6:00pm at El Buen Gusto, 136 E. Leland Road, Pittsburg.

Fellowship Hour: The Fellowship Committee would like to clarify the request for signing up to bring food for the Fellowship Hour. Some people like to bring a "meal" to celebrate a birthday or anniversary and that is their choice. But you do not have to bring a meal or enough food to feed the entire congregation. We ask that you bring a little something like cookies, cake, cheese and crackers. You can team up with someone and share a treat. Also, there will always be a Fellowship Committee member there to help you with coffee, service and clean-up. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the social hall. Just add your name to the preferred date.

Bountiful Table - Free Lunch Event:

We will be serving a Bountiful Table lunch on Saturday, January 18th at 11:30 am. Please consider asking friends and neighbors for donations. Donations can be dropped off in the sanctuary or Stoneman Room. We especially need women's clothes. If you feel called to serve, please come and participate.

OFFICE HOURS: Morning Office hours will begin January 6th, 8:00 – 11:30 am. Also, there is a new office e-mail address: ecsmoffice@gmail.com

Happy Birthday!
January

2	Bev Preston
3	Pat Vines
4	Sarah Shipe
5	Teresa Chavez-Sauceda
6	Sue Ferguson
	Doris Cosetti
10	Karen Hastings Flegel
	Christy Ramage
11	Tatiana Bellinger
14	David Henry
17	Jenny Sears
19	Nora Lynn Buluran (Dwinell)
20	Nate Sears
	Bob Flegel
	Joan Taylor
24	Jeremy Flegel
	Beverly Preston
26	Chidi Umozurike
27	Sophia Hansen
28	Barry Winkler
29	Joel Lambel

Annual Congregational Meetings

FCCA Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, January 26, 2020 immediately following worship in the Stoneman Room.

CPC Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, January 26, 2020 immediately following worship in the Sanctuary.

All reports due to Tushambi by Sunday, January 12th via email ecsmoffice@gmail.com

First Congregational Church of Antioch



FCCA Cabinet: Will be Sunday, January 19th at 11:45am, after worship in the Stoneman Room.

FCC Monday Bible Study: We meet at 10:00am every Monday in the Stoneman Room for an informal time of conversation, prayer & study.



Community Presbyterian Church

Tuesday Bible Study: Join us Tuesdays beginning January 7th at 10:00am in the Stoneman Room for another phase of the JustFaith series called Living Justly – Caring for Each Other. One of the books is the same – Prayer Seeds by Joyce Rupp – but there are two new books if you want to start reading them, which are:

- **Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City** by Matthew Desmond, and
 - **Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption** by Bryan Stevenson.
- Both are available on Amazon or online. We won't be meeting the rest of December.



Epiphany Party will be Sunday, January 5th during fellowship hour. Come have a piece of Kings' Cake!

CPC Treasurer Corner:

As of 11/30/19:

Income	\$10,465.39
Expenses	\$18,477.00

ECSM News!

All newsletter articles are due on the 22nd of each month. Please email to the office at our new office email address! Same phone numbers.

ecsmoffice@gmail.com



BOUNTIFUL TABLE BENEFITS FROM SPECIAL FUNDING

Our Bountiful Table program extends thanks to Supervisor Federal Glover and the Keller Canyon Mitigation Fund and the San Francisco Presbytery Hunger Fund for supporting our monthly program to feed the hungry.

We received a \$913 grant from Keller Canyon, including \$400 for the purchase of blankets and socks for our guests to provide warmth during the winter months, \$213 to pay for a county inspection of our kitchen and \$25 a month for a year to supplement purchase of food items.

The San Francisco Presbytery's Hunger Fund donated \$500 to be used to augment purchase of food during the year.

Bountiful Table volunteers also thank members of the congregation for their continued support through the Two Cents-a-Meal offering and special donations and also through the donation of clothes.

EPIPHANY

The church year celebrates Epiphany on January 6 (12days after Christmas). This is the day that the Magi arrived in Bethlehem to find the baby Jesus. The Magi- tradition tells us that their names were Gaspar, Melchoir, and Balthasar - were probably wealthy, well-educated philosophers of noble birth from the East. The Bible tells us they brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby.

Many modern traditions have built up around this day. In some areas Epiphany parties are held with a special Kings' cake which contains a plastic baby Jesus. The person who finds the baby is designated to hold the next year's party. Our church has had held our version of such a party for several years. This year we are changing the party just a little. We will be in the Stoneman Room for Coffee Hour and we will have a Kings' cake rather than cupcakes. Come join us after worship to celebrate the day and see who will find the baby Jesus!

Care Team Offering:

First Sunday offers you a chance to support the East County Shared Ministry's Care Team with special donations that can be inserted in the envelopes located in the pew racks. The Care Team is made up of members of both CPC and FCCA. It provides assistance both to church members in need as well as the community as a whole, including providing bus passes, McDonalds gift cards and gift cards at local grocery stores. The Care Team also provides support for families providing food at funerals and helps sponsor the Bountiful Table outreach to the hungry on the Third Saturday of the month. It also provides for the special birthday cakes served at Social Hour on the Second Sunday of the month.

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

January 5th
2nd Sunday of Christmas
Epiphany Sunday

Jer. 31:7-14; Ps. 147:12-20; Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18
Rev. Will McGarvey Preaching

January 12th
Baptism of the Lord
New Member Sunday

Rev. Christy Ramage Preaching

January 19th
2nd Sunday After Epiphany
MLK Service / New Way

Isa. 49: 1-7; Ps. 40:1-11; 1 Cor. 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
Rev. Will McGarvey Preaching

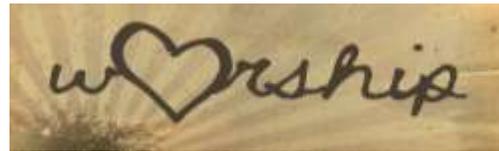
January 26th
3rd Sunday After Epiphany
Annual Meetings

Rev. Christy Ramage Preaching

First Congregational Church of Sonoma is asking that you send gift cards (grocery stores and gas stations etc.) in increments of \$25 or \$50 dollars to First Congregational Church of Sonoma at 252 West Spain St. Sonoma, CA. The gift cards will be given to the families that were most affected by the power outages and loss of work.

New Way

Attention New Way Singers! We will be sharing our voices in January on the 19th in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We will rehearse on Sunday, January 12, at 11:45 am, and again on Sunday, January 19, at 9 am in preparation for worship at 10 am. All God's children have a voice in the choir. Come and share yours!



WORSHIP LEADERS

January 5th

Liturgists Ken Schmitt
Ushers Roberto & Nora Buluran
Greeters Chris & Cherie Persing

January 12th

Liturgists George Stephens
Ushers Chuck & Myrdell Dybdal
Greeters Umoz Umozuike & Gayle Namanny

January 19th

Liturgists New Way (Choir)
Ushers Jim & Janie Hodges
Greeters Dave & Letha Arms

January 26th

Liturgists Steve Hosmer
Ushers Bill & Barbara Dexheimer
Greeters George & Jude Stephens

February 2nd

Liturgists Elaine Palmer
Ushers Chris & Cherie Persing
Greeters Roberto & Nora Buluran

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. If you have any questions or would like to become an Usher, please email or call her.



Souper Bowl Of Caring: Sunday, February 2nd, Super Bowl Sunday, our youth will be collecting donations to tackle hunger in our communities.

PRAYER PAGE

Prayers of Healing

Renée Moore, Virginia Devens, Reggie Washington, Starr Lieber, Dorothy Shipe, Elaine Grothmann, Anne Cakebread, Betty Rexroth, Mary Vargo, Patsy Nash. Deborah Scott. Richard James. Lucille Brautigam. Janie Hodges. Jim and Janice Campbell. Jude Stephens. Donna Henry. Peter Tedeschi. Julie Custer. Judie Moore. Pat Vines. Elaine Palmer.

Prayers of Concern

Those affected by the natural disasters. Those affected by the natural disasters in Syria, Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Egypt, Burma, Gaza 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. All those affected by the fires in Northern and Southern California. Betty Pankey. Clarice Chandler. Ingrid Broers and the family after Gus's death. Richard James as he grieves Jerry Castleberry's passing. Wild fire victims....people, plants and animals.

Prayers For Our Mission Partners

Prayers for the ministry of Let's Feed the Kids, Friends Feeding Friends, Habitat for Humanity. All Churches, Mosques, and Temples in Contra Costa County; the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, Interfaith Chaplain Rev. Julius Van Hook at the Juvenile Detention Center, Chaplains & caregivers at regional hospitals; the Rainbow Community Center, Loaves and Fishes, the Antioch Ministerial Food Bank, the Food Bank at Los Medanos College, the RCC 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, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Global Ministries of the UCC & DOC; Winter Nights Rotating Shelter and the Parking Lot Program, All our Winter Nights partners this winter. Shelter Inc. and the Mt. View Family Shelter; Monument Crisis Center; White Pony Express; 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, YWCA of Palestine, and Minar and Milad Vosqueritchean in East Jerusalem with their after-school peace school and music program. Young people leading the way on addressing the Climate Crisis.



Prayer cards are located in the Narthex by the Guest Book.

January Prayer Families & Churches

January 5th

Carrie Worchel
Donita Young

Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church – SF
Pleasant Hill Hillcrest Congregational UCC

January 12th

Joe Zamora
Greg & Rosemary Almand

Mission Bay Community Church – SF
Porterville First Congregational UCC

January 19th

Pamela Amison
Dave & Letha Arms

New Liberation Presbyterian Church – SF
Portola Valley Ladera Community UCC

January 26th

Jim & Leah Becker
Janis Bellinger Harris

Ocean Avenue Presbyterian Church – SF
Redding Pilgrim Congregational UCC



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 cpcpittsburgrentals@gmail.com



WITNESS OUR
WELCOME

WOW!

17TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH WORSHIP
CELEBRATION

Come Celebrate God's Inclusive Love Welcoming All of God's Children;
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Gender Expansive + and Straight
Allies

Sunday, January 12th, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church

55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, CA

“Just How Welcome?”

by Mr. Barb Greve

Co-Moderator of the national Unitarian Universalist Association

- *Parents of gender expansive children and teens will be receiving the Spirit Award this year. We will also honor the gender expansive youth and children in attendance.*
- *A blessing will be given to Trans immigrants in attendance.*
- *Special Music provided by the Musicians of MDUUC*

The WOW celebration is sponsored by more than 30 congregations and organizations, including PFLAG & the Pacific Center & the Rainbow Community Center. Offering will benefit the local agencies serving families with members who are gender expansive.

Bring snacks and desserts to share after the service!

Reception to follow hosted by MDUUC & PFLAG.

Questions: Rev. Leslie Takahashi at 925.914.7373 or Rev. Will McGarvey at 925.597.9797.

(Temporary) changes are a comin'

As you likely know by now, the Winter Nights program will be occupying our Social Hall during January and February. Session deliberated for several months about whether or not we should do this, and how to make it work. Although sometimes it is a headache, we have a gift in our Social Hall that many congregations just don't have – space. And we can share this gift with the participants in the Winter Nights program. Instead of them having to move from congregation to congregation every two weeks, they will have a "home" for eight weeks. Although Winter Nights will compensate CPC we aren't looking at this to generate revenue. We expect that the payment will cover expenses for utilities and supplies, routine maintenance and projected loss of revenue from rentals.

This does mean we will be making some adjustments, as we won't be able to use the Social Hall for our weekly fellowship hour after worship. Some of you remember what this church was like before the Social Hall was finished in 1987. All social and fellowship activities took place in the Stoneman Room and that tiny kitchen. Even Advent Parties, when tables were set up in classrooms and down the hallway. Well, we did it then, and we can do it now. Starting January 5, Epiphany Sunday, we will have our fellowship time in the Stoneman Room. The plan is to set a table in the hallway just as you enter the Stoneman Room where we will have SIMPLE finger food refreshments. We'll then proceed to the Stoneman Room for beverages and we will have tables and chairs set up there. We plan to have the signup sheet posted and encourage you to sign up to host fellowship hour, but please keep it simple with finger foods only. Washing dishes is not something any of us will want to do. Since this will be new there undoubtedly will be some kinks to work out, but we can do this graciously and cheerfully, knowing that our small inconveniences will make things so much better for our Winter Night guests.

Myrdell, for the Fellowship Committee

Free Advertising for ECSM

All you Facebook members, please take note of a free and easy way to spread the news about what's happening here at East County Shared Ministry.

When you are visiting any of our pages (we have three), you'll note that we post quite a bit of news, info and announcements. Each time you "like" one of those posts, you increase the circulation of that particular notice. If you "share" it, you increase its visibility dramatically. And if you add a comment, well, that just takes it over the top. This is something we can all do with no charge. So next time you stroll through Facebook, add some "oomph" to our postings with a little interaction. Start spreading the news.



Save the Date Saturday, April 25th, 2020

Plans are well underway for our next ECSM Has Talent. Saturday, April 25th, 2020, 6:00pm is the date and time. We raised over \$1,700 for our

Outreach and Care Team programs this year. Let's blow on by that number for 2020! Our theme is BROADWAY, so pick a show tune or monologue and plan an act! Another opening! Another show!



Martin Luther King Celebration hosted by Social Justice Alliance and the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center

January 20, 2020 at noon
Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church
1801 Lacassie Ave, Walnut Creek

Celebrate Dr. King's Life & Message
"The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle
the Master's House!": New Ways for Now!

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Toinette Eugene Ret. Provost of
Crozer Theological Seminary & Our Lady of Lourdes
Catholic Church – Oakland

With St. Benedict's Gospel Choir (Oakland) & Dwight
Stone's piano music. Refreshments & Conversation
following in the Fellowship Hall.



Equal Exchange: Coffee and tea are available. The cart is out on Sundays during the Fellowship Hour. Give the money to Mary or Ann. Checks made payable to CPC.

Called to order at 2:15 p.m. at the Custer home by checking in.

Elders present: Ruling Elders: Ann Custer, Jim Hodges, Carol Hosmer, Myrdell Dybdal, Cherie Persing and Joan Schmitt; and Minister of the Word and Sacrament/Moderator Rev. Will McGarvey. A quorum was present.

Elders excused: None. **Visitors:** None

Mission statement was read by all and meeting opened in prayer by Moderator Will McGarvey.

Docket was read and approved as revised.

Approve minutes of November 19, 2019 Regular Stated Meeting of Session as revised.

Consent Calendar: MSC to approve the following items:

- **Approve as pack officers for Cub Scout Pack 48, Steve Hoagland, Sean Gendreau and Carol Isbell, on their Mechanics Bank account.**
- **Joint CPC-FCCA annual congregational meeting to be held January 26, 2020 with both congregations together, and to separate only for discussion of the separate congregational budgets and pastoral terms of call.**
- **Joint Leadership Meeting (Cabinet, Session and Care Team) to be held February 22, 2019**

SPECIAL REPORTS:

Clerk of Session: No change since last report, still 51 members.

Correspondence: Email correspondence sent to Carol Krishnan.

Annual Statistics report requested from SF Presbytery.

Pastor's Report: Theology Pub, 5 days of vacation to attend my grandmother's funeral. Bible study and committee meetings. Orientation for Tushambi. CPM meeting at Presbytery office. Visitation. Inquirers class. Advent Party. Ministers & Musicians planning lunch meeting. Poor People's march in SF.

Presbytery Meeting report. No meeting since last month.

Treasurer's Report: Report emailed by Cherie Persing 12-12-19. Cherie asked about clarification for some items from the August 18, 2019 minutes regarding disbursement of funds. In addition, Will asked Carol Hosmer to have Outreach give suggestions about disbursement of funds from the "2c a meal" or "Centsibility" offerings for distribution next year.

Care Team: Report emailed by Jude Stephens 12-17-19. Concern was expressed by Session about needing more Care Team members to provide adequate support to members and followers of the church. Decided to bring it up at the Joint Leadership meeting. Tushambi will be asked to prepare a new directory for the Joint Leadership Retreat on February 22nd. It was suggested to be sure to get cell phone numbers of those in the directory. **Event Coordinator:** No report received.

Nominating Committee: No report received to date. Cherie will set a date for a meeting. Committee members are Cherie Persing, Jude Stephens, Betsy Sullivan and Donald Lang.

Personnel Committee: Report emailed by Joan Schmitt 12-13-19. Session agreed that Tushambi should be trained to deal with Ministerios and their lease.

Attendance Report. Report emailed by the church office 12-10-19. Will is to get with Tushambi to clarify some questions about the program and input.

COMMITTEE/MINISTRY REPORTS:

Building & Grounds: Report emailed by Carol Hosmer 11-10-19. See comments below.

Christian Education: No report. **Fellowship:** Minutes emailed by Myrdell Dybdal 11-08-19. Discussion of future setup for coffee hour in Stoneman Room for the 2-month Winter Nights program.

Outreach: Report emailed by Carol Hosmer 11-10-19. For Winter Nights, Carol asked if we could buy comfortable folding chairs to use in Stoneman room to utilize space better. **Carol is to check on the price of padded folding chairs and report back at the December meeting.** It was discussed that we could move the blond piano out of Stoneman room to make room for fellowship. Scouts will move their meetings into children's Sunday School room. **We will be responsible to feed the Winter Nights folks the first 3 days they are here, and will be working with Saint Anna's to provide food 40+ people that will provide meals for Winter Nights clients (in social Hall) and Parking Lot Program participants (packaged meals for them to take).** During the first week the clients will be in the social hall all day because of the holidays break. There will be other holidays on MLK and President's Days and possibly Lincoln's birthday where the clients will be in the Social Hall all day. Pastor Will is to give Bill a call to clarify status for the clients those days.

Stewardship & Finance: Committee will meet on Thursday, after pledges are received and prepare a proposed budget for the December Session meeting. Budget will be subject to the response. All committees have been urged to submit budget requests to Cherie Persing.

Worship Welcoming & Marketing: Report emailed by Elaine Palmer 10-27-19. The 300th anniversary of Joy to the World is the theme for Advent this year. The 420th eblast being prepared. The Veteran's Day service very meaningful.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Met with Katrina Perez & Robert Sevey about baptizing their baby, **Liliana Faith Perez Sevey. MSC to approve baptism, set for Sunday, January 12, 2020.**
- Met with Joanne Scott about membership in CPC. Joanne discussed her struggle about which congregation to join and shared some of her background. **MSC to accept into membership, with public acceptance into membership on January 12.**
- There will be another Inquirers' class on Sunday, December 8, with the anticipation of more possible members for the January 12 induction ceremony.
- Possible meal distribution in Parking Lot by Let's Feed the Kids on the last Wednesday of each month, from 3-4 pm, with 12 families come by to pick up food packages to help them get through end of month. **MSC to approve monthly program starting January 2020.**

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- The broken link on the CPC website between Google calendar and website has not been repaired.
- Outreach: The Winter Nights/Parking Lot Program MOU, which was approved at the Joint Cabinet/Session meeting has been signed.
- Buildings and Grounds update items:
 - Termite Inspection report-prioritized items to be dealt with. Carol gave an update on update on the following items: window repair, total cost was \$2600 (caulking around the stained-glass windows is yet to be done at additional cost); chapel bathroom plumbing repair was \$171.50, and the total cost for rekeying locks and new keys was \$1155.00. An appointment is scheduled for December 2 to get a second price on termite treatment to get a second price. Joan suggested an idea for paying for window repair by asking for members to adopt a window as a Christmas contribution. **No decision was made as Carol needs to talk with Cherie about available sources of funds.**
 - **Carol will get the custodian contract information from Cherie and update the contract with Martha.**
 - Update on Chapel Improvement Fund "Hearing loop" meeting Wednesday, October 23. The company called OTOjOY submitted a bid for \$6924.38, which would include entire sanctuary. Concern was expressed about the cost of this installation, due to our tight financial situation. The price Will had previously obtained was \$500, but it would only cover a small portion of the chapel and is a lighter weight installation. Will checked online and found a somewhat better product for about \$1000. Questions were raised about the quality of reception of the less expensive systems and the need to seat all hearing-impaired individuals in a small area in the chapel to make a smaller system work. It was decided to check with Kaiser or Costco about quality of \$1000+/- hearing loop installations. Justin Shipe was mentioned as a possible contact for this information.
- Continuing the conversation with the pastor: Death of relatives and pets has had its impact on their family. Will has an annual physical coming up.
- The final versions of the revised Policies and Procedures Manual sections to coordinate with Care Team duties description and to combine the Worship and Welcome & Marketing committees into one were discussed. **MSC to approve as revised with the understanding that the section on the ECSM Joint Personnel Committee policy may need some work. Joan will work with Cherie and Chris Persing to clarify any changes that may need to be made to comply with current California employment laws.**

The following revised sections will be incorporated into the current Policies and Procedures Manual and electronic copies transmitted to the church office:

- ECSM Care Team
- Session
- Mission Statement
- ECSM Personnel Committee
- CPC Personnel Committee
- CPC Nominating Committee
- Worship/Welcome and Marketing Policies merger of 2 committees.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m. with Will McGarvey closing in prayer. **Next scheduled Joint Cabinet/Session meeting** in the Stoneman Room after church is the joint leadership meeting February 22, 2020. The December Joint meeting was canceled. **Next Session Meeting** will be Tuesday afternoon, 2:00 pm, December 17, 2019 in the Stoneman Room, Ann Custer hosting. Carol Hosmer has agreed to take Jim's place **December communion.**

Upcoming Presbytery meeting dates: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 – Irvington Presbyterian Church in Fremont, normally 3-9 pm. **Annual combined Congregational Business Meeting, January 26, 2020 after church.**

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Hodges, Clerk of Session

JOINT CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December 29 10:00 am Communion Sunday Service in the Chapel 4-8 MC - Sanctuary & classrooms	December 30 No FCC Bible Study 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts - SH	December 31 New Year's Eve OFFICE CLOSED	1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	2	3 7:30 - 9:30 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	4
5 10:00 am Worship Service in the Chapel 4-8 MC - Sanctuary & classrooms	6 10:00 am FCC Bible Study - CSR 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts - SH	7 10:00 am Bible Study - CSR	8 11:30 Joint Fellowship Lunch in Brentwood 7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	9	10 7:30 - 9 PM MC - Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	11
12 10:00 am Worship Service in the Chapel 11:45 New Way Rehearsal *ANNUAL REPORTS DUE 4-8 MC - Sanctuary & classrooms	13 10:00 am FCC Bible Study - CSR 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts - SH	14 10:00 am Bible Study - CSR	15 7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano - CSR	16	17 7:30 - 9 PM MC - Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	18 Bountiful Table - 11:30 am - 1:30 pm - CSR
19 8:30am Care team mtg. - CSR 9:00 New Way Warm Up 10:00 am Sunday Service - Chapel 4-7 MC - Social Hall	20 No Bible study OFFICE CLOSED MLK DAY 6:30 pm Venture Crew - CSR 7:30 pm Boy Scouts - SH	21 10:00 am Bible Study - CSR 11:45 am Worship - CSR	22 *February newsletter articles Due to the Church Office today!	23	24 7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	25
26 10:00 am New Way Worship Service in the Chapel Annual Congregational Meetings 4-8 MC - Sanctuary & classrooms	27	28 10:00 am Bible Study - CSR 9 PM - midnight Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary	29 12:00 PM Outreach Committee @CSR	30	31 7:30 - 9 PM Ministerio Cristiano Sanctuary & 2 class rooms	February 1



ECSM News

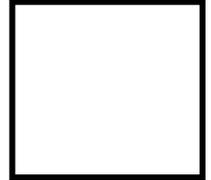
January 2019
Issue 1

*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

Return Service Requested

TIME DATED MATERIAL



January Events at ECSM

Fellowship Lunch

*January 8th at 11:30am at MJ's Downtown Cafe and Bakery,
655 First Street, Brentwood.*

Bountiful Table

*Saturday, January 18th 11:30 am in the Stoneman Room.
Come enjoy lunch and we will be giving away blankets, socks,
and clothing for all ages!*

Theology Pub

*January 28th at 6:00pm at El Buen Gusto,
136 E. Leland Road, Pittsburg.*

Annual Congregational Meetings

Sunday, January 26th at 6:00 pm in the Camp Stoneman Chapel.