

THE MESSENGER



THE PASTOR'S CORNER "God's Handiwork"



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

I don't know about you, but I have really enjoyed shaping and reshaping my little glob of Play-Doh! It is a great reminder that we are to remain as flexible as Play-Doh in the hands of God. Flexible enough to let the Spirit move us in directions we may not have anticipated or even imagined. Yet, if truth be told, I'm probably not as flexible as I need to be. What about you? On a scale of one to ten, how flexible are you in God's hands these days?

I know that when my husband's sister unexpectedly moved into our home due to her car accident, I had to make some adjustments. Her health challenges made it imperative that we remain flexible in order to navigate her needs. For six weeks my schedule had to flex again and again. Yet, her stay also exposed some areas of inflexibility. Her stay made it clear that I had some dryness that could use a little more living water so that I could remain malleable.

What helps you stay malleable in the hands of God? What keeps you from getting dried out and brittle, like Play-doh that is not resealed in its container? In my life there are three main areas that help my spirit stay malleable: solitude, the natural world, and family.

Solitude gives me the ability to let go of all that is pressing in on me. I know that for my spirit to stay malleable I need to step away and take a break from the incessant input of our 24/7 wired world. Emails and texts need to be ignored. Talking, writing, and even reading, needs to be set aside. I simply have to practice just being, for are we not human beings, rather than human doings? When I make room for solitude and its twin, silence, I am able to hear the stirrings of God's Spirit reshaping my life.

Spending time noticing and being in the natural world also helps make me more malleable. It does so, by helping me gain perspective on my place in this cosmos that God created. Whether I am in my backyard, on a walk in

(Continued on page 7)

Birthdays.....	2
Worship Schedule	3
Contemplative Corner... 	5
Session Highlights.....	6
Staff Whereabouts.....	7
Property & Finance.....	8
Young Disciples	9

SESSION MEMBERS

- **Jim Appleton**
- **Gayle Timilione**
- **Luann Bangsund**
- **James Rager**
- **Kasim Barus**
- **Al Polchow**
- **Tom Stewart**
- **Jack Brennan**
- **Marcia Fagan—Clerk
of Session**
- **Paul Lambert**

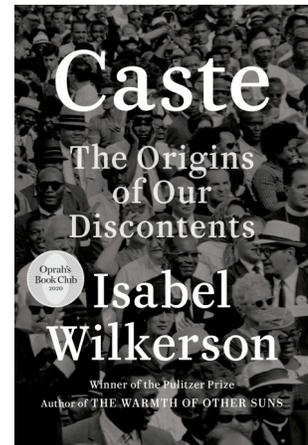
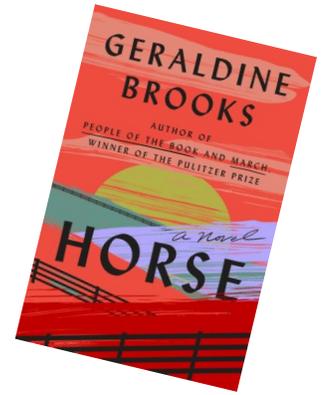


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

On February 9th, the group will talk about *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks. Marcia and Gary will host the meeting and Grace, who recommended the book, will lead the discussion. All meetings begin at 7:00 P.M.

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents, by Isabel Wilkerson, winner for Goodreads' Best History & Biography (2020) "examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions."*

The group will meet to discuss this book on March 16, in classroom 1, after the Lenten Soup Supper



*Goodreads.com



February 2	Sharoon Justine
February 2	Edgar Banta Ram
February 2	Ranita Tarigan
February 3	Joula Kussoy
February 7	Shazeb Suhail
February 7	Chris Kane
February 8	Karen Dwight

February 9	Sharoon Lal
February 9	DeAnne Morrison
February 10	Enu Ndipagbor
February 10	Pervaiz Akhter
February 13	Linda Cotton
February 14	Todd Hunter
February 28	Sabina Justine
February 28	Elise Evans

First Presbyterian Church of Redlands

**FEBRUARY
WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sunday Services Will Be in-person and on
Facebook Live:**

**10:00 A.M. English and
5:00 P.M. Indonesian**

**Online only—3rd Sunday of the month at
11:30 A.M. in Urdu**

February 5, 2023 Communion Sunday

First Reading “Rebirth” by poet Alex Elle
Second Reading John 12:20-26
The Message “Everything Changes”

February 12, 2023

First Reading “Start Close On” by David Whyte
Second Reading Matthew 14:22-31a
The Message “En-couraged”

**February 19, 2023 All Church Worship and
Congregational Meeting**

First Reading Exodus 24:12-18
Second Reading Matthew 17:1-9
The Message Listen!

February 26, 2023 First Sunday in Lent

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-5
Second Reading Acts 9:1-6
The Message Who Are You?

**Join us in-person or on your phone, tablet or
computer. Need help connecting? Call the church
office! (909) 793-2839**



**LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS
BEGIN FEBRUARY 23,
2023**

On **Thursday** evenings during Lent, we will come together at 6:00 P.M. for a simple soup supper and a time of reflection on the topics explored in *Freeing Jesus*. Luann Bangsund and Ann Platz will be organizing these soup suppers, so if you would like to provide soup one evening, please contact them! Here are the dates of our gatherings:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 23 | Introduction to
<i>Freeing Jesus</i> |
| March 2 | Jesus as Friend |
| March 9 | Jesus as Teacher |
| March 16 | Jesus as Savior |
| March 23 | Jesus as Lord |

Exception

**Wednesday, March 29 at 5:30
PM – No soup supper this week**

**Zoom Opportunity with Diana
Butler Bass, author of the book.**

**We will be meeting in the
sanctuary!**

April 6 Maundy Thursday
 Communion

It will be a joy to be together again in table fellowship during this Lenten season. Invite someone new to experience our time together this Lent!

THE GIFT OF THE CONNECTIONAL CHURCH WHY PER CAPITA?

Per Capita is the mechanism that connects members of local Presbyterian churches with the larger church, for per capita helps supports ministry at the Presbytery, Synod, and General level. It is considered an additional gift each member is asked to make each in year support the Connectional Church. We have been blessed incredibly by the Connectional Church in the past year for we received a \$130,000 in grants to help us with our sanctuary renovation!

As of January 30 we have received **\$1,370** towards our commitment of **\$6,720**, which represents \$40.00 per member. Here is how this gift will be distributed:

Presbytery	\$27.30
Synod	\$ 2.85
General Assembly	\$ 9.85

Our gift is paid in six increments, which starts in February.

Per capita is a funding stream that came from the belief that God is calling us to work together. Rev. Dr. Timothy Hart-Anderson writes, “There are good theological and biblical arguments in support of per capita. It is the connective tissue in the body imagery of the Apostle Paul — “But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be” (1 Corinthians 12:18, NIV). Per capita provides the wherewithal for the ecclesiastical democracy of the priesthood of all believers to run smoothly. It fuels the machinery of doing church the Presbyterian way, which is quite different from independent congregational and bishop-based systems. Per capita is much more than a tax or funding model. It’s a statement of what our values are. What a gift it is to know that we are in ministry with others.

And in times of crisis, per capita payments provide the funding for presbytery, synod, and General Assembly to support churches. Our connectional structure stepped into action this past October when Pastor Cheryl was unexpectedly away for a month, as pastors from around the Presbytery offered to assist in her absence. As said before, per capita is a statement of what are values are – we are stronger together in Christ.

If you are a member, please consider giving this extra gift above and beyond your financial pledge.

Biblical Reading Challenge Have you Started Reading Matthew Yet?

You may have noticed we have spent quite a bit of time in the Gospel of Matthew since the beginning of Advent. In the Revised Common Lectionary, we are in Year A, which is the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew states at the beginning of his gospel, “An accountant of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Jesus is given an identity, “the Messiah,” which means the anointed one. Jesus is also connected to the Hebrew people, “The son of David, the son of Abraham.” What comes next in this, “Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.” Notice that Joseph is central in Matthew, not Mary as in Luke’s Gospel. Notice also that the birth narratives are only found in Matthew and Luke, from which we build the story we retell every Christmas. What else do you notice in the first three chapters so far? Share what you have found or the questions you still have with others!

Dive into the word of God as it comes to us through the Gospel of Matthew this year. Invite the Holy Spirit to bring you a fresh word as you read through this gospel remembering that word of God is living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword!



Photo by [Sage Friedman](#) on [Unsplash](#)

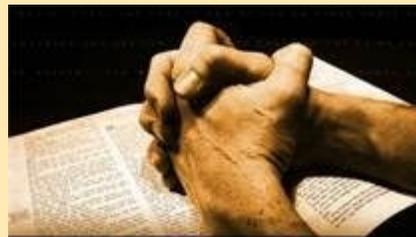
Contemplative Corner

Praying the Gospel of Matthew

Hopefully you have had the chance to begin reading the Gospel of Matthew this year. Last month I asked you to pray with the genealogy found in the Gospel. This month I move us beyond Joseph's dreams to John the Baptist. Here is the text for this month:

"In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said: 'The voice of the one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

This isn't this first time Matthew has quoted from the Hebrew texts. It is the fourth time since the beginning of his Gospel. Why do you think Matthew found this important to include? What does this say about his audience? As you continue to pray with the Gospel of Matthew, what other verses from the Hebrew Scriptures come to mind for you in the first three chapters? Have fun and explore the Hebrew scripture passages that are referenced!



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2023



The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands held its regularly scheduled Stated Session Meeting on Monday evening, January 16, 2023, via a Zoom Meeting, and took the following actions:

- Received the Unaudited Financial Report for the month ending December 31, 2022.

Total Unrestricted Income:	\$24,342.30
Total Unrestricted Expense:	\$29,618.40
Unrestricted Income (Loss):	(\$5,276.10)
Less Principal Payment on Loan:	(\$648.36)
Adjusted Unrestricted Income:	(\$5,924.46)
Balance in General Account:	\$105,928.56

- Elected Marcia Fagan as FPCR Clerk of Session for 2023.
- Elected James Rager as FPCR Treasurer for 2023.
- Approved the following members as Counters and Recorders for Sunday offerings for 2023: James Rager, Luann Bangsund, Kasim Barus, Marcia Fagan, Norm Hamada, Chris Kane, Frankie Kembuan, Paul Lambert, Izar Martinez, Harry Muaya, Evie Sitompul. Two Counters must be involved in the counting and recording of monies at all times.
- Approved the following members as Check Signatories for the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands' accounts for 2023: James Rager, Luann Bangsund, Izar Martinez, Marcia Fagan. Two Check Signatories are required for all checks at all times.
- Approved the following members as Check Signatories for the FPCR Scrip account for 2023: Susan Hunter, James, Rager, Al Polchow, Gayle Timilione. As with other FPCR accounts, two Check Signatories are required for all checks at all times.
- Approved the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the Worship Services being held the first Sunday of each month, as well as on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- Approved the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. as the regular date and time for monthly Stated Session Meetings for 2023.
- Elected Jack Brennan and Gayle Timilione as FPCR Commissioners, and Wilson Kayange as an Alternate Commissioner, to the Presbytery of Riverside for 2023.
- Elected Gayle Timilione as the Session representative (and Moderator) of the 2023 FPCR Nominating Committee.
- Approved the Elder Committee and Leadership Structure for 2023.
- Approved \$3,500 as the General Mission Pledge to the Presbytery of Riverside for 2023.
- Approved \$250 as the 2023 Salary Sharing Pledge to the Presbytery of Riverside.
- Approved the FPCR 2022 Statistical Report to PC(USA).
- Approved the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, February 19, 2023, after the 10:00 a.m. All-Church Worship Service.
- Approved the FPCR Presbyterian Women's proposal for the "Super Bowl Snack-Off for the Sanctuary Remodel" fundraiser for Sunday, February 12, 2023, after the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service. Various "treats" will be donated and then available after worship, for a donation to the Sanctuary remodel fund, for that afternoon's Super Bowl Game.
- And, for the FPCR Corporation, Session approved the following Corporation Officers for 2023:
 President: Luann Bangsund Secretary: Marcia Fagan Treasurer: James Rager

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**FEBRUARY 19, 2023
IN THE SANCTUARY**

We will gather as a whole church immediately after our worship service in the sanctuary for Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 19, 2023. We will have to end the Worship Facebook Live feed before we can start the Zoom meeting, so we will start the meeting about 5 minutes after the conclusion of the postlude.

The Annual Reports will be emailed and for those without email addresses, the report will be mailed in advance of the meeting. Judy Tanner is working to have it available and, in your hands, at least a week before the meeting.

A quorum of the congregation is required for the meeting, which is 10% of the current membership or 165, which is 17 members. Of course, the hope is for participation that far exceeds this minimum! What will we do at the annual meeting? The following business will be conducted:

1. Receive the Annual Report for the Congregation and answer any questions you may have about it, including a presentation of the 2023 budget.
2. Elect at Large Members of the Nominating Committee and Elders and Deacons for available positions.
3. Remember those who joined the Church Triumphant in 2022.

Other business could be conducted, according to the limitations noted in the Book of Order.

Let's gather to give thanks for our staff and countless volunteers that make ministry possible among us, giving thanks to God for this church and the sharing of the gospel through us.

(Continued from page 1) The Pastor's Corner

my neighborhood, or on a hiking trail, I notice the gratuitous life all around me that I had no part in creating. Nature reminds me that I am only part of a much greater whole and often a much smaller part than I had imagined. I am also reminded about the fragility of human life, especially mine, and how susceptible I am to the forces of nature all around us.



Although, I have saved family for last, it is the container of love that makes the gift of solitude and the natural world possible for me. My family recognizes the life-giving nature of these two for my soul. It's why they get up early to find the solo paddle boarder 11 miles downstream. It's why they bless my solo hiking trips to Joshua Tree. But they also know I need community and so they spontaneously invite me to participate even when I don't think I have enough time to get done what needs to be done. Of course, I join in the fun and I am always refreshed and energized with more creativity! Solitude, the natural world, and family help me stay malleable in the hands of God.

What helps you stay malleable? Grab your glob of Play-Doh and remember that you are God's handiwork. How is God at work reshaping you even now? And just in case you missed in-person worship on January 22nd, don't worry as there is still some Play-Doh for you or let me know you want some!

Willing to be reshaped,
Pastor Cheryl



STAFF WHEREABOUTS

Judy is in the office Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, from 11:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. Pastor Cheryl is available by appointment Wednesday & Thursday.

PROPERTY AND FINANCE UPDATE



John Knox Hall

Have you been in John Knox Hall lately? If not, come take a look! There is new carpeting in the entry vestibule between the glass doors as well as small section of carpet in the actual hall. All the molding has also been replaced. A small improvement that might go unnoticed, so take a look!

Sanctuary Renovation

Have you had the opportunity to make a gift yet to the sanctuary renovation project? As the project gets underway, our continued generosity will be needed to meet all the goals of the project. We have received \$269,492, which includes the \$130,000 from the Presbytery and Synod grants as of 12-31-2022. The architect is working to complete construction drawings by March, so the construction part of the project can go out to bid. The contract with Tech Arts has been signed and the first payment of \$93,004 has been issued. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Financial Update as of December 31, 2022

Here are some broad highlights from our financial reporting Year to Date December 31, 2022:

	<u>Actual</u>	-	<u>Anticipated</u>	=	<u>Difference</u>
Pledges and Donations	\$198,199.18		\$225,000.00		(\$26,800.82)
Rental Income	\$106,073.72		\$ 96,723.68		\$ 9,350.04
Total Income	\$319,679.51		\$337,023.68		(\$17,344.17)
Total Expense	<u>\$322,282.71</u>		\$328,543.86		(\$ 6,251.15)
Net Unrestricted Income*	(\$ 2,603.20)				
Adjusted *NUI	(\$ 10,286.29)				

So, what do these numbers mean? We ended the year spending \$10,286 more than we received for our operating expenditures. The Adjusted NUI happens below the Net Unrestricted Income (NUI) line because the principal on the loan payments are not an expense, but a reduction in liability. We reduced our loan liability by \$7,683.10 in 2022.

Our pledges and donations were lower than anticipated in 2022, by \$26,801. Our rental income was higher than anticipated by \$9,351. The negative balance at the end of the year, reduced our financial cushion in our general checking account. What is clear is our ministries are made possible by our collective generosity as well as wise stewardship of our buildings.

Please direct any questions you might have about Property and Finance issues to James Rager, Moderator of P&F or Pastor Cheryl.

YOUNG DISCIPLES CORNER FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS



Sunday School, Worship Leadership, and more!

In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus says to Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” What is amazing is these brothers immediately drop their nets and follow Jesus

as his first disciples. Well, our young disciples are learning how to follow Jesus thanks to the dedication of our teachers and teaching assistants! Here is the teaching schedule for February:

Sunday, February 5 th	Everyone stays in worship
Sunday, February 12 th	Class is in Session
Sunday, February 19 th	Class is in Session
Sunday, February 26 th	Class is in Session

Young disciples come to worship, participate in the Young Disciple time and then listen to one of their own lead the Prayer for Illumination before they are dismissed to class. Exuberance usually abounds as they are dismissed and then they rejoin us for Fellowship. If you have any questions about what your young disciples or youth disciples can expect please ask!

Young Disciples help with worship by the leading the Prayer for Illumination. In January Zachery Emmanuel, Lorence Kayange, Penelope Cunningham, Anaya Bhatti, and Hunter Polchow helped lead worship. Parents, please remember that all children and youth elementary age and older are invited to participate in worship by leading the Prayer of Illumination, or more, if they would like. Just let Mr. Wilson know. If your children and youth would like other opportunities, talk to Pastor Cheryl.

May we instill in our children and youth a lifelong passion for nurturing their relationship with God!



Presbyterian Women in the Congregation, The Session, and The Deacons invite you to **Sanctuary Snack-Off** on **Sunday, February 12, 2023!**

Join us on the Sanctuary Patio immediately following worship for sweet and savory snacks where all donations will go directly towards

The Sanctuary Renovation Project.

Patience visited me
And it reminded me
That good things take time to come to fruition And grow slowly with stability

Peace visited me
And it reminded me
That I may remain calm through the storms of life Regardless of the chaos surrounding me

Hope visited me
And it reminded me
That better times lay ahead
And it would always be there to guide and uplift me

Humility visited me
And it reminded me
That I may achieve it
Not by trying to shrink myself and make myself less But by focusing on serving the world and uplifting those around me

Kindness visited me
And it reminded me
To be more gentle, forgiving and compassionate toward myself And those surrounding me

Confidence visited me
And it reminded me
To not conceal or suppress my gifts and talents In order to make others feel more comfortable But to embrace what makes me me

Focus visited me
And it reminded me
That other people's insecurities and judgements about me Are not my problem And I should redirect my attention From others back to me

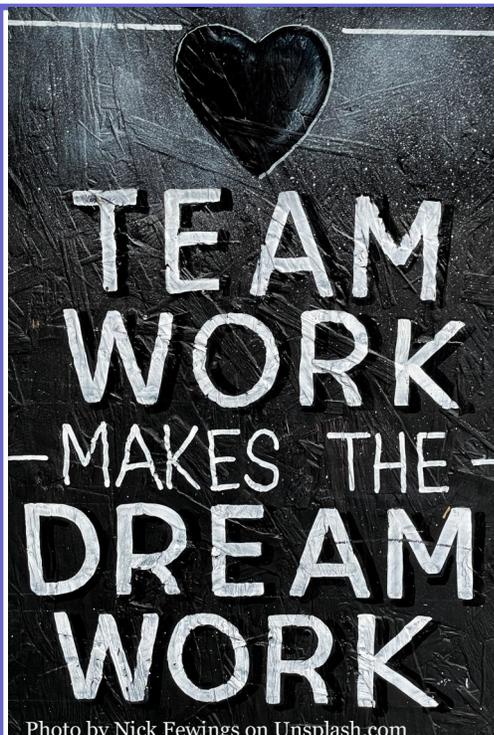
Freedom visited me
And it reminded me
That no one has control over my mindset, thoughts and wellbeing But me

And **love** visited me
And it reminded me
That I need not search for it in others
As it lies within me.

Words by Tahlia Hunter

Book Club friends --





LEADERSHIP GATHERING RECAP

JANUARY 7, 2023

On January 7, 2023, the elders and deacons came together for a time of reflection and planning. We began by reflecting on scripture and our past year together, noting how God had blessed us as we continued to emerge from the pandemic:

- Holy Communion sharing is deeper now;
- The pandemic is not the first thing in our minds any longer;
- Hybrid is opening opportunities we didn't have before;
- Prayer and compassion for each other;
- Celebration for Pastor Cheryl's 20th ordination anniversary brought the whole church together;
- Came through a difficult congregational meeting for the Sanctuary remodel and the Synod grant in a healthy way;
- Combined worship services brought us together, respecting our cultural differences;
- Notion of the body of Christ that we all bring a variety of gifts and celebrating those different gifts;
- Christmas Eve singing with more voices in the Choir, joining evening and morning worship;
- Willingness to be adaptable during the past year - feel this is continuing;
- Zoom offerings;
- Grateful for the support as we re-establish fellowship, flowers, greeters, etc.;
- Excited about Scouts being back on campus;
- Making connections between congregational members of different ethnic backgrounds.

We also voiced the challenges before us:

- During Pastor Cheryl's unexpected absence, there were some struggles that were not shared with the pastor (so as not to trouble her);
- When the Lead Pastor is gone there is a difference, so how do we plan for that?
- Conversations that are unplanned are sometimes the best, the informal ability to just happen – fellowship is important;
- We need to learn to reach out to ask for help from other congregants;
- Contingencies – define what things are vital and then develop back-up plans so that things don't "drop through the cracks";

(Continued on page 15)

**LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 22, 2023
OUR THEME IS “FREEING JESUS”**

Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence is a book by Diana Butler Bass published in 2021. The church has purchased five copies that can be circulated during this Lenten season. They will be in the office soon!

I give thanks to my Princeton Preaching Cohort as we have worked together on this series, with each of us doing a deep dive into one chapter of the book to provide resources for all of us. Many hands have made planning this series lighter. I chose to explore more deeply the chapter on *Jesus as the Way* from the passage in John’s Gospel that is often used as a bludgeon rather than an invitation, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” [John 14:6a]. I find this verse life giving, if we understand what Jesus was trying to say to his disciples when he said, “No one comes to the Father except through me.” So come and be a part of this series as we explore *Freeing Jesus*.

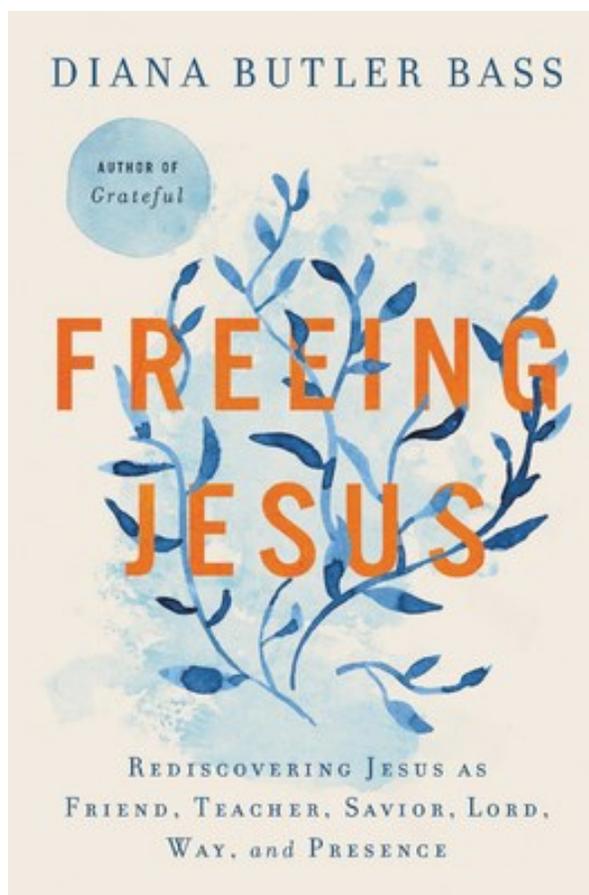
Here is an outline of what you can expect for the entire Lenten Season:

Sunday, February 26	An Introduction to <i>Freeing Jesus</i>
Sunday, March 5	Jesus as Friend
Sunday, March 12	Jesus as Teacher
Sunday, March 19	Jesus as Savior
Sunday, March 26	Jesus as Lord

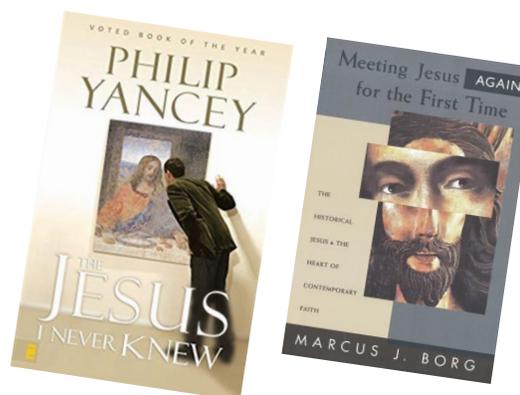
Wednesday, March 29 A Zoom Conversation with the Book’s Author,

Diana Butler-Bass

Sunday, April 2 (Palm Sunday)	Jesus as the Way
Sunday, April 9 (Easter Sunday)	Jesus as Presence



I thoroughly enjoyed this read and invite you to consider reading the book as well. Another book that I will be reading for this series is by Marcus Borg, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. Philip Yancey also has a book entitled: *The Jesus I Never Knew*. All three of these books help us to take a fresh or even a first time look at Jesus, the Word made flesh and blood who moved into our neighborhoods! I look forward to a Lenten Season filled with epiphanies about who Jesus is for you at this juncture in your life. That is, what metaphor best describes your relationship with Jesus these days.



SABBATICAL LISTENING SESSIONS

BY PASTOR CHERYL

I want to thank everyone who participated in these listening Sessions, as they were very helpful. I also appreciated those who offered to help perfect the grant by being readers and editors! I hope to have a first draft completed by February 13th, so stay tuned! The draft grant will go to the Session on February 20th for review as well. It would be wonderful to submit it before the deadline of March 15th, but that is yet to be accomplished!

A pastor renewal grant is designed to renew the soul of a pastor. As you probably all know, the pastoral position is not just a Sunday morning responsibility. There is much that goes on behind the scenes to make Sundays happen such as sermon planning and writing, planning, designing, and writing worship services as well as pastoral visitations, committee work, presbytery involvement, community involvement, and much administrative work. The work is never done and there is always more that could be done. And so, every seven years this Presbytery asks the congregation to support their pastors with a three-month paid sabbatical to renew their souls.

You might ask how is a sabbatical different from an extended vacation. The big difference is pastors must still plan everything that is going to happen in their absence. For vacations, they secure the preacher and write each weekly service. They also arrange for pastoral care in case of emergencies. To be gone takes work in advance, because everything must be organized and in the office before the pastor leaves and the work that is not done on Sunday's is still there when the pastor returns from vacation. A sabbatical gives pastors the opportunity to lay down all responsibilities and place them in another person's hands for three months. This will make a way for deep renewal and restoration of a pastor's soul for another season of ministry together.

We have much work to do to be prepared for my sabbatical which is currently planned for June 2024 through September 3, 2024, with the final weekend being my annual Labor Day weekend with family and friends. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me, as I would love to tell you about my plans.

WAYS TO GIVE GENEROUSLY!

As you consider your planned tithes and offerings for this year to the church, here are the multiple ways you can give to the ministries of this church:

You can place tithes and offerings in the plates during worship.

You can mail tithes and offerings to the church:
First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 2009
Redlands, CA 92373

You can use the bill pay function through your bank.

You can also give through Vanco Payment Solutions, which partners with the Presbyterian Foundation as our online giving platform through our website or through its mobile app. Here is the symbol you are looking for when you download the mobile app:



To find our church you can use our name, city, or this unique invitation code: 55F928.

You have choices in this online app:

Give to: General Operating Fund, Vine Street Community Park, or Deacons.

Frequency: once, now; once, on a future date; every week; every two weeks; or monthly.

As with all online services there is a fee, but through the Presbyterian Foundation we have the lowest fee on the market, which is a flat 2% of the gift. You do have the option to contribute the 2% fee if you would like or the church will receive your donation minus the 2% service fee. Ease has a price as they say!

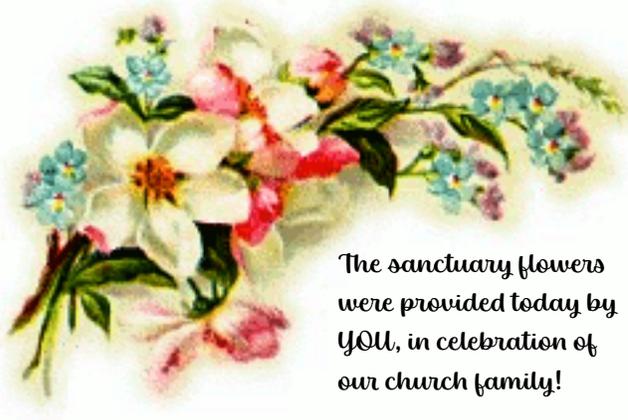
Thank you for generously giving to the ministries of this church, no matter how you give!

MOMENT FOR DEACONS

Happy New Year All! It's hard to believe it's already 2023! The deacons have a new board and it consists of Patti Robertson, Susan Hunter, Ann Platz, Lynn Phelps, Chris Kane, Deborah Smith, Izar Martinez and Lina Tan.

We have been tasked with Coffee Fellowship once again and we need your help. If you can contribute, there is a sign-up sheet as you enter the narthex. We will get the coffee water ready to go, but we need members of the congregation who enjoy that social time after church, to sign up to help with goodies. It is simple, just pick up a couple packages of prewrapped cookies, crackers, planning on about 45 people. It may be less it may be more depending on whether it is an all church Sunday or not. If everyone who stays for fellowship would sign up once or twice a year, we would have the calendar full!

Along with Fellowship, we are looking for Greeters. It only takes about 45 minutes out of your Sunday and just think of all the smiles you will get after you welcome your fellow church members, and hopefully some prospective new members, to church on your Sunday. The sign-up sheet for that is also in the narthex.



The sanctuary flowers were provided today by YOU, in celebration of our church family!

Not done yet! If you would like to remember someone or celebrate something, we have a sign-up for flowers as well. Deborah Smith and I alternate weeks of doing the arrangements. You can provide your own flowers on the date you sign up for; or we will do them for you. It is \$50 for a bouquet, far less than a florist would charge. You can take your flowers after service or if you would like them taken to someone or a shut in, we deliver as well. Yes, the sign-up sheet is in the narthex next to the fellowship

and greeter sign-ups! There is a form to fill out with the sign-up and once filled out it goes to the office to let Judy, our wonderful church secretary, know what and when to put the flower dedication in the Sunday bulletin.

We really love our congregation! You all have been so generous by donating to the deacons, helping us with our commitments to organizations in the community like Family Services, Youth Hope, Home Again, Citrus Christian Counseling, the VA - helping veterans with bus passes to get to doctor appointments etc., just to name a few. We also help members of the congregation when they need a little help. We do receptions for celebrations of life for our church family. We also set up and serve communion on the first Sunday of the month. The duty of the deacons is that of caring for those amongst us as well as the community, and we could not do it without the generous support from our congregation. We thank you all so much for your continued support. Here's to another year of caring!

God Bless,
Patti Robertson, Moderator of Deacons



(Continued from page 11)

- Muddled lines, especially about fellowship... as elders or deacons we need to encourage those who will be active in their commitment;
- Space and care for toddlers (younger than Kindergarten) on Sunday mornings (redo the Nursery Room and find staff/volunteers);
- Technology - have a “back-up sermon” available in case of emergency.



We also did some brainstorming together about the planning that needs to be done in preparation of Pastor Cheryl’s sabbatical in 2024. The sabbatical is to be rich with renewal for Pastor Cheryl’s soul and our soul as a congregation. What became clear in our discussion is that the Session will need to plan for consistent pastoral presence during the sabbatical. The information gathered from our discussion will help Pastor Cheryl with the grant proposal being drafted for presentation to the Session in February.

The final discussion centered around how to do the work of the church through our various boards and committees. Here is the structure for 2023:

- **Property and Finance Committee** (property management, property maintenance and improvement, and finances)

Session members: Moderator James Rager, Jim Appleton, and Paul Lambert

- **Personnel Committee** (staff relations for all employees of the church)

Session members: Moderator Tom Stewart and Marcia Fagan

- **Outreach Committee** (focus on hands-on community involvement such as the Share ministry, Believe Walk, Redlands Family Services Hunger Walk, Interfaith, along with supporting a world mission)

Session members: Moderator Al Polchow and Jack Brennan

- **Spiritual Formation Committee (formerly Congregational Life Committee)** (spiritually forming congregational members of all ages through educational offerings and the shape of worship)

Session members: Moderator – Gayle Timilione, Kasim Barus, and Luann Bangsund



Board of Deacons

- Moderator Patti Robertson
- Congregational care and care of our local community through support of non-profits based on generosity of the congregation over and above the operational support of the church.
- Assist with the logistics in support of worship: communion, flowers, greeters, and coffee. The Deacons take the lead and invite the whole congregation to participate in these ways.

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Redlands is to grow
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community by sharing
the love of Jesus Christ
with all who seek to
know God through
worship, relationships,
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