

University Presbyterian Church

University Press

"Where love of God and love of neighbor live at the heart of our life together."

September 2009

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Face to Face Service

by Pastor Tedd Lyons

For many years now our worship and preaching has been guided by the Lectionary, an ancient collection of texts that the Church has used to guide it into the fullness of the Word of God. Each Lectionary reading includes a passage from the Psalms, Old Testament, New Testament Gospels and Epistles. This past Summer our preaching focused on the life of David in the Old Testament texts of Samuel and 1 Kings. The Psalm was used in our worship litany, and the Gospel was used for the Children's Message.

In the Fall for the fourth year now we are diverting from the pattern slightly. We continue to use the Lectionary texts to guide our worship (using the Psalm for the litany and one of the text for the Children's Message), but we take a book of the Bible for our sermon text. You will remember that we have used Ecclesiastes, Genesis 1-12, and last year we continued in our longer series on the Sermon on the Mount. These have been extremely helpful in forming us as a congregation and as individuals seeking to be faithful to God.

Beginning September 6 and continuing through November 15, our sermons will come from a consecutive reading of Paul's letter to the Philippians. This is a short but beloved letter that has comforted and nurtured many of us over the years. Its theme of Joy in Christ is a great encouragement, especially in times like the ones we face today. That theme is supported by one of the greatest passages in all of scripture, Philippians 2:5-11, which calls us to have the "mind of Christ", who found joy in becoming a servant of all. And in chapter 3 we find a reminder that nothing can compare to the joy of knowing Christ, and pressing on to complete the call that he has set before us. Our joy is fortified by confidence in

the work of Christ in our lives and by an encouragement to be prayerful people, focusing on the good that God intends.

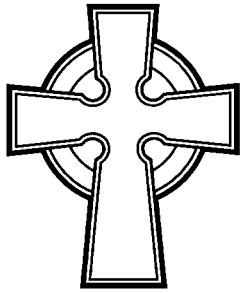
The letter has a surprising concreteness to it. It is not an abstract philosophy of life. It is occasioned by Paul finding himself in jail (for preaching the Gospel), and in need of the most basic things of life, things that the church at Philippi has supplied by sending a generous gift of money. Their generosity brings Paul more joy than the gift itself. But just as their concern for him has been revived by their knowledge of his need, so his concern for them is stirred by the knowledge that two dear women in the church are fighting with one another. They have lost the joy of serving one another, as Christ served, because other lesser things have become more important. It happens!!

Our Christian Practice for 2009 has been "Face to Face Service". But we have not focused on this practice clearly as we have with other Practices. We have to some extent been diverted by "more important" things. Philippians will call us to this Practice in the last four months of 2009. It is a very concrete and practical Practice. Christian theology, life, prayer, work, assurance and joy are all encompassed in this Practice of "Face to Face Service". Finding concrete ways of serving each other and those beyond our fellowship in face to face acts of service will nurture us in the mind of Christ, while at the same time making Christ concrete to those we serve. Jesus was very clear, and Paul knew it well. As Our Lord said, "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)



Fall Worship Schedule

Beginning
September 13
**Sunday Morning
Worship**
8:30 Traditional
9:45 Teaching Hour
11:00 Contemporary
11:00 Lao Language
Prayer & Healing
3rd Tuesday
7 pm



Contemplative Prayer

by Cathy Wingert

Do you feel called to a deeper life of prayer? Would you like to learn a method of Christian Contemplative Prayer to cultivate a relationship of deeper intimacy with God? You are invited to an Introduction to Centering Prayer course starting on Saturday September 19 from 9 am to 3 pm here at University Presbyterian Church in the Great Room, and for the six following Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Cry Room off the Narthex. Both presenters have been commissioned by

Contemplative Outreach founded by Fr. Thomas Keating. Suggested donation for 7 sessions: \$30. (No one turned away for lack of funds). Saturday's lunch will be provided. For more information or to register, visit the sign-up table on either September 6 or September 13. You may also call Cathy Wingert.



Prayer And Healing Service

Our monthly *Prayer & Healing Service* joins sisters and brothers in Christ, listening for the whisper of our Lord's voice. You are invited to join us on September 15 at 7 pm for a time of praise, prayer, healing, and meditation. Come let the breath of God wash over you and listen for his loving voice in your life.

This service is held on the third Tuesday of every month, and you are encouraged to put it on your calendar.



**Pray
Without
Ceasing**

UPC Prayer Corner

Many of our church family face challenges. Continue to pray for one another.

If you would like the UPC prayer chain to pray for you, or someone else, call Sue Vinicor, 255-7015.

Heartprints

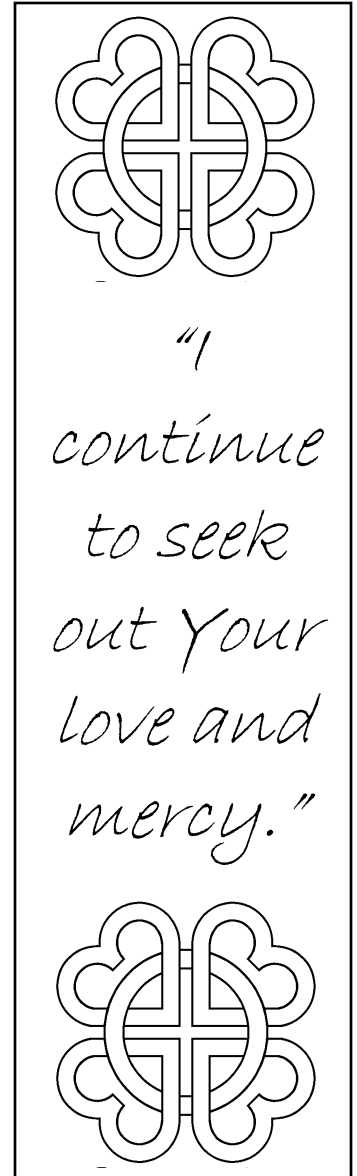
by Susie Joy Mast

I often think of the little seven year old who sang, "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth!" My revised medley is, "All I want for Christmas is my two hands back!" It's been over a year since I broke my wrist, which never healed properly. Then ongoing problems revealed Carpal Tunnel Syndrome in both hands. Because the symptoms were much worse in my right hand, I had surgery on it four months ago. I thank God for the gradual returning of functioning ability, but the progress has been slow. Thank God I can slowly type on my word processor again! My doctor informed me that it can take six months to a year to fully recover. Hopefully when I see him in early November, my right hand will have healed adequately so I can have the surgery on my left hand to relieve the pain and restore it to normal functioning.

While living with eyelid, mouth and voice spasms, and then with cancer, has been a challenge; losing the normal use of my hands this past year has in many ways been the most depressing. While I am deeply grateful to God that I'm able to do the

absolutely necessary utilitarian tasks of daily living, I have really missed being able to do things I really enjoy like writing, journaling, and needle pointing. I have been greatly challenged and tested spiritually, emotionally and physically this past year!

This year has also accelerated my awareness that my body is getting older, even though my spirit feels young. I've had the rude awakening that at my age, I can no longer safely walk as fast as has been my lifetime habit. I'm learning to accept my new limitations and slow down, which is not easy for me. These words from Psalm 71 from *Psalms Now* by Leslie Brandt, express the prayerful desire of my heart, "Now as I near the late afternoon and evening of my life, I continue to seek out Your love and mercy. I will dedicate my remaining days to praising You, espousing Your faithfulness and proclaiming Your love and concern to all who will turn to You. May every fiber of my being and every activity of my life resound with my praises to God"... even if I don't get my hands back for Christmas!



Thank You

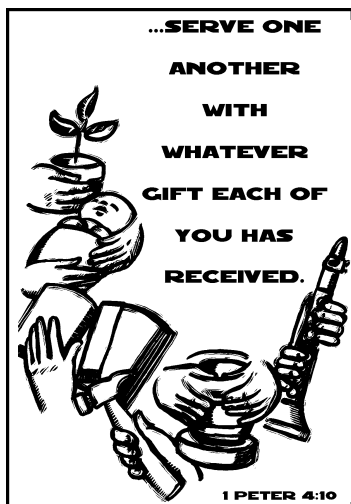
Leslie Stephenson

I was so touched and a little overwhelmed by the "retirement" party you all threw for me. What fun! I was so flustered that I didn't take the time to say a couple of things. This has been the most joyful and fulfilling 'job' I have ever had. Most days it wasn't even a job. I worked with a staff that prayed together, studied together, worked together, and ate together. I worked for a group of people (the congregation)

who were my family and my spiritual support. I thank each and every one of you for every minute we have spent in God's service together, and look forward to the coming years with excitement.



A Special Note



From Becky Bartsch

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:9-10. One of those forms of grace is tutoring our UPC neighborhood children, K-7, Sept. to June. It is to God's glory that many tutors from our congregation have served as tutor, role model and friend, year after year, weekly, bimonthly, one semester, or a partial semester, and **I thank each one of you!**

God doesn't call credentialed teachers only. He calls anyone who has a heart for His tender young, to listen to them read, to read to them, to help them with

their homework and/or computer skills, to listen as they tell about their day, their family, their friends, to encourage them, to laugh and give them a hug. Our format is simple and we nudge the tutor next to us if we have a question. Remember, God doesn't always call the pro or the one who is a computer whiz. He calls the willing! If He calls you, won't you answer, "Here I am, Lord!"

Homework Tutoring begins Wed., Sept. 9, 2009, 3:30-4:30. Computer Lab for reading, language, & math skills begins Tues., Sept. 15, 2009, 3:30-4:30. If you would like more information, call Becky Bartsch.



Laos Partners

Congregational Care and Laos Partners invite all UPC members and friends to gather in the Great Room on Sunday, September 20th at 5:00 PM for a pot luck dinner. In addition to the good food and fine fellowship, we will be blessed to hear a brief message from Rev. Paul Friesen, PC(USA) Regional Liaison for Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

Sign up at the table outside the sanctuary on September 6th and 13th so we know how many places to set. Bring

your favorite sharing dish to serve about 8-10 people.

Last names beginning with:

A-G	Dessert
H-L	Main Dish
M-R	Salad
S-Z	Side Dish

Laos Partners will supply the sticky rice and jell marklen (dipping sauce). Questions? Ask Sandra Eaton. See you there!



Reel Theology to View Gran Torino

We will view Clint Eastwood's latest movie, "Gran Torino" on Sept 26 at 6:30 pm in the Majesty Theater. The story is set in Detroit and concerns Walt Kowalski, a Korean war vet who worked for 50 years at Ford. His neighborhood has changed. Everything irks him, especially his neighbors who are immigrant Hmongs. Things get worse when the neighbor's son is caught trying to steal his Gran Torino. Walt discovers

the act was done because a local gang had forced the young man to do it, and an unlikely alliance is then formed between them. Walt's priest gets into the act as well. For a time, they tread the unfair and frequently painful path of life together. Walt reflects on his life and takes stock of his values and priorities as the sun begins to set on his life.

Womens Bible Study Resumes September 9

Last year's study of the book of Acts left this Wednesday morning group eager for more! They will continue to follow Paul's missionary journeys with the book of ROMANS. You are invited to

join these women each Wednesday at 9:15 am in the Great Room for prayer and study. Call Laura Lindegren to reserve your study booklet.

The PW Boutique is Fast Approaching

Presbyterian Women will hold their boutique on Saturday and Sunday, November 7-8, in the Great Room. If you have "good" items to donate for sale, please contact Ruth Kallenberg in

the weeks preceding the event. Our proceeds benefit our missions causes, we invite your support!



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

Presbyterian Woman Start New Year

Presbyterian Women begin our new year on Tuesday, September 8 at 9:30 am. All women of the church are invited to join us in the Great Room for refreshments, devotions, a business meeting and program. Florence Ulrich

will lead the meeting and Betty Higdon will report on the PW Gathering held in July in Louisville, Kentucky. All UPC women and their friends are welcome. For more information contact Ruth Kallenberg.

Don't Forget the Women's Retreat!

Ladies-please be sure to register soon for the women's retreat. Oct. 9th is coming fast! Hopefully you received a registration form in the mail. You can mail it to the church office marked women's retreat. Or fill out a form after church. You can get an early bird discount if paid by Aug. 31. And there is

financial help available. Come join us for a fun-filled time of study and fellowship at Calvin Crest.

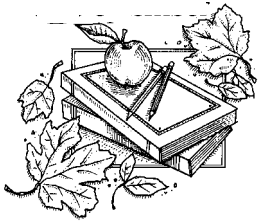


GALS' NIGHT

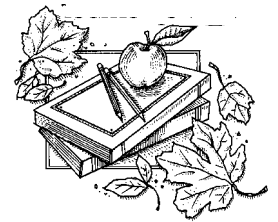
Come And Have Some Fun

Gals' night is, simply, a chance for women of all ages and interests to get together for some fun and fellowship. Sometimes we play games, sometimes we do crafts, sometimes we work on service projects, sometimes we eat—but it's all just a reason to come

together with no stress or obligation attached. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 pm (with a few exceptions) and are done at 8:30. We aren't sure what we are doing on September 24, but we know we'll be at UPC having fun. Join us.



September



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Deacons Mtg 7 pm	2 Choir Begins 6:30 pm	3 Bell Choir 5:30 pm	4	5 Fresno State Football Game 7:00 pm
6 Communion	7  LABOR DAY Office Closed	8 Presbyterian Women 9:30 am Session Mtg 6 pm	9 Tutoring Begins	10 	11	12
13 BP Screening Start Fall Worship Schedule	14	15 Computer Lab Prayer & Healing Service 7 pm	16  STARS 1:30 pm	17 Presbytery	18 Fresno State Football Game 6:00 pm	19 Contemplative Outreach 9:00 am -3:00 pm
20 Blood Drive 8:30-11:30 am Serve at Poverello House Lao Potluck	21 Contemplative Outreach 6:30-8:30 pm	22 UPC Ministries Mtgs 7:00 pm	23	24 Gals' Night 7:00 pm	25	26 Reel Theology 6:30 pm
27	28 Contemplative Outreach 6:30-8:30 pm	29	30			

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday

8:30 Worship
9:45 Teaching Hour
11:00 Contemporary
Worship
11:00 Lao Worship

Monday

12:15 Staff Meeting

Tuesday

9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship
3:30 Computer Lab
6:00 Scouts

Wednesday

9:15 Women's Bible Study
3:30 Tutoring
7:00 GAYG (off site)
6:30 Women's Ensemble
7:00 Chancel Choir
8:30 Men's Ensemble

Thursday

6:00 AM For Men Only
5:30 PM Bell Choir

Friday

6:00 PM Lao Music Team

The University Press



University Presbyterian Church
1776 E. Roberts Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

Non-Profit Organization
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Return Service Requested

Hours of Worship:

Sunday Morning Worship

8:30 AM (Traditional w/ASL)

11:00 AM (Contemporary)

Sunday Lao Service 11:00 AM

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Pastors:

Rev. Chris Erdman

Rev. Tedd Lyons

Rev. Sharon Stanley

Mr. John Bosavanh

Mailing Label

Reading Together

UPC continues our tradition of reading a Christian Classic together each year. This year's book is Thomas Merton's *The Seven Storey Mountain*. This is Merton's spiritual autobiography, and it reads like a biography. So make a plan, take it slow, leave plenty of time for reflection, and for six weeks beginning

in January 2010 Adult Sunday School can again anticipate a remarkable conversation about an important Christian Classic. The book can be purchased on Amazon.com. If you need help purchasing it, contact Pastor Tedd.

Save These Dates

UPC Men: Please save the dates of March 5-7 for the Men's Retreat. Pre-registration will begin at the end of October.

Our New Member Class will be meeting during October. Please save the date of October 25 at 5:00 pm for our potluck welcoming our New Members.

High School Labor Day Trip September 4-7

Reservations are set! If you know anyone with camping gear who is willing to let us borrow it for the weekend let me know, i.e. space heaters, cookware,

firewood, etc. Tents are not needed, we will be staying in mini-cabins.

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DEADLINE

for the
October
Newsletter is
September 15.

