



*Joyfully Sharing God's Boundless Love with All in Our Community
without Limitation, Exception, or Condition*

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Ambassadors of Reconciliation

by The Reverend Dustin Maddox, Associate Pastor



From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his

appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. - 2 Corinthians 5:16
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I was never good at fractions. Anytime fractions got complex and complicated, I got lost, confused, and frustrated. Part of this frustration was my sincere desire to get fractions to make a nice, neat whole number. Unfortunately, this happened far less frequently than I would have liked. So, I stopped trying.

More than working with fractions, though, I think all of us in a very deep and real way want to be whole, *long* to be made whole. In our personal lives, we long for the fractured pieces to be put back together and made whole in a way that results in our flourishing. Looking out beyond ourselves and into the world, we see a world that is a long way from being whole. Isolation, tribalism, and political division are everywhere.

The greatest need in our world today is for racial reconciliation; for wholeness among ethnic people groups. Due in large part to the ubiquity and power of social media, our need for racial reconciliation in the U.S.--which has long been thought by many to have been an issue settled during the 1960's--has moved to the center of our national discourse as a dire need in search of a solution.

I'm convinced the way of Jesus offers us precisely this wholeness we are longing for regarding racial reconciliation. At the heart of the Biblical narrative and the core of the Gospel is reconciliation. In the beginning, wholeness and unity are what God desired. Humanity, as image-bearers of God, are created to reflect the unity-in-diversity of the Trinity. This harmony, of course, is disrupted as sin and alienation grip the human heart and begin to erode the foundation of communities intended to flourish in diversity. God's dream will not be thwarted, and thus God calls Abraham and Sarah, through whom all nations will be blessed. When the Israelites are

enslaved in Pharaoh's Egypt and seen as subhuman working machines, God sends Moses to lead God's people out of slavery, bondage, and subjugation and into a flourishing community with God, each other, and the land as established via the Torah. When Israel disobeys Torah and fails to be equitable in relating to all people, especially toward social and ethnic minorities, God sends prophets to set them straight. God longs for reconciliation and wholeness in God's kingdom.

Ultimately, as God's people continue to miss the mark, God "puts on flesh and blood and moves into the neighborhood" to show God's people the way to reconciliation. Jesus, in his life demonstrated God's dream of racial reconciliation by befriending Samaritan women and Roman military officers. In Jesus' teaching, he called for reconciliation to precede piety (Matt. 5:23-24). His prophetic and symbolic actions enact and demonstrate the removal of the religious barriers that prevent people from pursuing relationships with others. Jesus' disciples represented diversity in political and religious backgrounds, and yet were reconciled with Jesus and the vision of his kingdom at the center of their lives. Jesus' death and resurrection are the climax of reconciliation as the dividing wall of sin, death, and alienation are torn down and a new creation order is established for people to pursue wholeness, forgiveness, and reconciliation with the power of the Holy Spirit.

All of this hints at the trajectory of the New Jerusalem where, as we read in Revelation 22:2, a tree will be at the center of this heavenly city (i.e., great multi-ethnic diversity) and its leaves will be for the healing of the nations. This is the ultimate vision of racial reconciliation at the center of God's dream of piecing together our fractured and *fractioned* humanity into a unified whole.

Because of Jesus' embodiment of God's plan for humanity to be unified amidst its diversity as a reflection of God, and since the way to racial reconciliation has been paved on our behalf through Jesus' tearing down of the dividing wall of hostility, the Body of Christ is invited to follow in the way of Jesus and can freely pursue racial reconciliation in our divided world today.

In his pursuit of including those people who were alienated from community and sentenced to life on the margins of society, Jesus invites us to become the kinds of people who, as a result of our own transformative reconciliation with God, are able to join Jesus in his reconciling work along racial dividing lines in our world today as ambassadors of the message of reconciliation with God and one another.

As a result of the security of being reconciled with God and belonging to God's people, we can be empowered to have difficult conversations about racial tensions, divided neighborhoods, and systemic racism without fear because we are pursuing the reconciliation God longs for us to have with each other and has made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

We can pursue what Father Gregory Boyle calls radical kinship: "The strategy of Jesus is not taking the right stand on issues, but rather in standing in the right place--with the outcast and those relegated to the margins." (*Tattoos on the Heart*, p. 72).

This, of course, is a huge, complex issue, but we can begin to tackle it by learning to become ambassadors for reconciliation.

So, I wonder this month:

- What one, small step could you take in the direction of racial reconciliation?
- What, or who, might the Spirit place in your path?
- What would happen if we began to pray for healing and wholeness along racial lines in our lives and in our community?

If you're wondering how you can understand some of the issues behind racial tensions in greater detail, I recommend reading *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby

Irving. I also recommend watching the Netflix documentary *13* about the continuing and systemic impact of the 13th Amendment on our justice system.

Beloved of God, let us begin the work of having earth reflect more and more of heaven here and now by seeking to be reconciled with our brothers and sisters as we have been reconciled with God. Let us be one as God is one. Since we have been made whole by God, let us strive toward having the whole communities and whole cities and whole nations by being ambassadors of the message of reconciliation so that the whole world would be full of the glory of God!

Grace + Peace, *Dustin*

Resurrection in Worship and Music

by Cactus Harris, Director of Music & Arts and Resident Organist

A big thank you to everyone involved in making our Holy Week services meaningful, with moments of remembrance, reflection, and renewal! Maundy Thursday combined the fellowship of a shared meal with the sacredness of shared communion. Thank you to the choir and musicians who made Good Friday truly a worshipful journey to the cross. With Easter Sunday came a morning of inspiration and beauty thanks to the beautiful Easter flower garden, butterflies, and rainbow of ribbons. Triumphant brass, bells, and choir led the victory over the grave in the 9 a.m. service, while the worship band and Lao dancers did the same in the 11 a.m. service. Let's continue to live out the resurrection at UPC through the beauty of worship and music!



Taizé Worship Comes to UPC

Taizé is a contemplative, musical prayer service we are holding every third Sunday of the month at 6 p.m. We hope you will join us in the candlelight as we gather to pray through song and meditation. The service this month is Sunday, May 20 at 6 p.m.

May Musical Happenings

Musica Viva | Monday May 14 at 7 p.m. | Musica Viva (Susan Doering, violin/viola; Dieter Wulfhorst, violoncello; Heidi Franklin, doublebass) bring a program featuring the elegance of a Jean-Baptiste Bréval trio, the earthiness of a trio by Leopold Mozart, the wittiness of William Bolcom's "Fairytale", and works by wonderful but lesser known composers such as Josef Myslivecek and Domenico Dragonetti. Admission is free. A free-will offering is available.

OrphiQ Percussion Quartet | Friday May 11 at 7:30 p.m. | This is the final concert of their season, featuring a variety of works and styles for percussion instruments. There is something for everyone! Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children, available at the door.

Piano Trio Recital | Sunday May 27 at 3 p.m. | Enjoy an afternoon of joyful music by Joy Gaje, piano; Susan Doering, violin; and Dieter Wulfhorst, violoncello. How fitting to have a Trio recital on Trinity Sunday! This popular musical Trio features a variety of works and composers. The concert is free and part of local pianist Joy Gaje's doctoral degree requirement.

In harmony, *Cactus*

Per Capita: The Tie that Binds

by the Reverend Renn Serna, Senior Pastor



Per capita is "the tie that binds" - annual support that unites the entire church in the ongoing ministry that we have been called to as Presbyterians. Per capita is each member's "fair share" of the overall ministry expenses that we experience together as a Church and supports the work of our denomination at every level - from the national offices to the local congregation. Per capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly; and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. Per capita helps fund things like global missions, social witness and new worshipping communities at the national level and leadership training and Presbytery staff at the local level.

This year's per capita is \$45 per member, totaling just over \$16,000 for UPC. While this amount is accounted for in our annual budget and individual members are not billed for this expense, we invite you to contribute toward this shared mission. You may use the "per capita" offering envelope included in your offering box, or simply write "per capita" in the memo line of a check made out to the church.

Called to Service at UPC

by Melissa Manion, Elder, Nominating Committee

In some church traditions, congregations rely on their pastors to "run the business" of the church. In our Presbyterian tradition, dictated by our Book of Order and By-Laws, the members of the church take on this responsibility with the pastors providing support. As a result, every year the congregation elects individuals to serve in the offices of Ruling Elder, Deacon, Trustee on the Board of Property and Finance, and as a member serving on the Ministry of Human Resources.



The Nominating Committee, which is elected by the congregation, is responsible for recommending the individuals to serve in each of these important roles.

Those called to serve in each of these roles are not perfect people, they don't have to be longtime members, and they don't need to be Bible scholars. They are simply individuals willing to serve and answer the invitation God offers to them.

One of the first questions people have upon being contacted by a member of the Nominating team is "what is my responsibility?" Here is a quick answer for each of the positions:

- **Ruling Elders** are responsible for the mission and the government of the church and meet monthly on the second Tuesday as a group called the Session. Additionally, each Elder leads a particular committee with three Trustees who together lead the Board of Property and Finance.
- **Deacons** assist our Pastors by providing additional support to the members of the congregation, preparing the monthly communion elements, and assisting with memorial services. The Board of Deacons meets monthly, usually on the first Tuesday of the month.
- **Trustees of the Board of Property and Finance**, led by three Board of Property and Finance Elders, meet monthly, usually on the fourth Tuesday of the month, to assist the Session in dealing with issues related to our facilities and the budget.

Members of the Ministry of Human Resources, led by the Human Resources Elder, meet once a month (date varies) to provide recommendations to the Session in matters related to staffing.

For 2019, we need five individuals to serve as Elder: one each leading the Missions Ministry, Congregational Care Ministry, Children & Youth Ministry, and Board of Property and Finance, plus one to serve a two-year term in an area which Session is working to define. We also need six Deacons, two Trustees, and one member of the Ministry of Human Resources.

This year's Nominating Committee is comprised of myself, serving as Elder and Chair, and members Nancy Youngs (Non-Active Elder), Deacon Lynn Driscoll, and At-Large elected members Donna Brady, Amy Evans, Richard Gist, and Denise Grisez.

The committee seeks to listen to God to discern who is being called to serve in all of the many roles necessary for the church to fulfill its mission. Part of this includes the committee being open to suggestions and/or expressions from individuals willing to serve in the roles to which they believe God is calling them.

If you feel a calling toward service or a particular ministry, contact one of the members of the Nominating team. If you have seen gifts of ministry in someone else who you believe might be called to serve, let the committee know as well.

As the Nominating Committee heads into this season of discernment, we ask for your prayers for the members of the committee and their work. We also ask you to pray for those who have yet to be contacted that they may open to God's calling. And remember, maybe it is you that is being called.

Fireside Chats - Listening and Sharing Together



The Session is grateful to everybody who participated in the Fireside Chat in March. Over 20 people attended and shared their thoughts. We were happy to hear such passionate and heartfelt sharing. During our time together, we talked about a desire to have more unity between our three services, some ideas for worship, and how we have seen God at work this past year.

Stay tuned for more information about our next Fireside Chat coming in June. Our hope is to create space for these kinds of conversations every few months. In the meantime, feel free to talk to your Elders or Pastors if you have any questions or concerns you would like to share.

Blessings from your Elders and Pastors!

Elders Leonard Babcock, Rita Dei, Dave Eaton, Winston Fuller, Carolyn Gerheuser, Jesse Madsen, Melissa Manion, Wayne McMillen, Micah Qualle, and Linda Stolling; Pastors Renn Serna and Dustin Maddox.

50th Anniversary Planning Committee

Whether you have been at UPC 50 years or just a few, what are the highlights for you of being part of the UPC community? What do you envision for our future? How shall we celebrate our past and our future together?

This next year marks UPC's 50th Anniversary and it is time to celebrate!



We are looking for a few people to help plan activities to both honor our past and help us look forward to the future. Do you have a gift for hospitality to help plan social activities? Do you have talents at writing and organizing to help assemble a written history of our congregation to celebrate what makes UPC so unique? These and other skills are needed to plan for this milestone anniversary. If you are interested in lending a hand, email Pastor Renn at renn@upcfresno.org.

Update from the Boards

by The Reverend Renn Serna, Senior Pastor



Spring is such a fun time of year in the life of the church, and our Ministry Teams have been hard at work providing for the life of our congregation. Here are a few highlights from the last couple of months:

Session: With our 50th Anniversary coming up, the Elders who make up our Session have been having fun looking back on what makes UPC so special; and thinking about how we can carry that legacy the next 50 years. We've talked about what some of our strengths are, and what kind of impact we have had in our community. Already ideas are floating around about musical concerts, church reunions and special worship services lifting up our rich heritage. We are excited to keep dreaming together about what the future might hold, and we are putting together a 50th Anniversary Planning Committee to help give shape to our celebrations. If you would like to get involved, please talk to Pastor Renn or any one of our elders.

This past month the Session, at the recommendation of the Board of Property and Finance, voted to invest the UPC Special Reserves with the Presbyterian Foundation's New Covenant Funds to help generate income to replenish the fund. Currently the fund, which is reserved for special ministry projects, has been invested in a CD, and has been earning around 1% interest annually. Session has voted to move the majority of this fund to the denomination's investment management company, which is moderately conservative in its investment strategy and focuses on socially responsible investing. Ninety percent of the fund will be invested in the "New Covenant Balanced Growth Fund" which maintains a 60/40 split between stocks and bonds; and has a five-year return of 6.97%. The remaining 10% will be held in a demand account which is less susceptible to the ups and downs of the market; and will be available for immediate use as the need arises. For more information about the New Covenant Funds, speak with our Treasurer Mike Watkins, or log onto the New Covenant website at www.newcovenantfunds.org.

Board of Property and Finance: The Elders and Trustees on "BPF" have been working hard to assess the needs of our church and grounds. They are putting together a five- year maintenance plan. The hope is that we will be able to identify upcoming needs before they occur and start saving now for various planned maintenance projects in the future. There are a number of routine maintenance projects, like equipment upgrades and grounds upkeep, that make sense for us to build into our annual budget. Larger projects like resurfacing the parking lot and replacing the HVAC systems may be better suited to a capital campaign in the next couple of years. Our hope is to develop a comprehensive plan so we are not "surprised" by future facility issues and have a long term financial strategy for maintaining our buildings and grounds for continued ministry and mission.

Deacons: The Deacons hosted a wonderful Deacon's Sunday in the middle of April and enjoyed the chance to connect in person with those in their Shepherding Groups and the congregation as a whole. The Deacons have had the opportunity to bless a number of church members and friends through the Deacon's Fund in the past few months. Last month, Deacons disbursed approximately

\$400 in emergency relief. Thanks to your generosity in donating to the Deacon's Fund, they were able to help pay for a hotel for a family who has been regularly involved in our food distribution and found themselves between housing. They were also able to help a number of our members with some emergency financial needs. Our Deacons take to heart their role in loving our church family. If you did not get a chance to meet your Deacon on Deacon's Sunday and don't know who your Deacon is, email Moderator Barbara Schlueter at barbs910@att.net and she can help connect you with the person who prays for you each month.

Ministries Working Together: The Ministries of Worship and Music, Congregational Care, and Children & Youth did an amazing job this past month helping coordinate our Holy Week and Easter services. Special thanks to Susan Quinn for her time and vision in decorating the Sanctuary, and to Rachel and Jesse Madsen for sharing their creative gifts in decorating the Great Room. Congregational Care did a wonderful job of hosting a meal for our Maundy Thursday service and helping bring us together as a congregation. The hard work of the Children's and Youth Ministry paid off on Easter morning with 15 children participating in Godly Play and 25 kids (and over 400 eggs!) taking part in our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services were absolutely beautiful and meaningful. We are thankful for everybody who shared their gifts of singing, decorating, cooking, planning, and participating.

Kairos: "God's Special Time" in Prison Ministry

by Patrice Sanders

I volunteer with a prison ministry called Kairos. Kairos means "God's special time". The mission of the Kairos Prison Ministry is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women, and youth (as well as their families) and help them to become loving and productive citizens of their communities.



I have been helping with this ministry for nine years. In Chowchilla, there is a men's prison and a women's prison and Kairos is active in each facility. I help at the women's prison. Twice a year, a group of about 30 women from the "outside" go into the prison for a long weekend and share Christ with women on the "inside" through talks, meditations and special services. (The ladies from the outside stay at a church in Chowchilla that has made it their mission to host us, including making us meals.) Up to 42 women can attend a weekend. Over 250 women apply for those 42 positions. Some want to come because they heard they will get cookies, some because they have seen a change in someone they know who has attended and they seek a change for themselves. Others come because they are curious.

We are upfront from the beginning with the ladies attending the weekend, telling them we are there because we love Christ and want to share Him with them. A Kairos motto that helps guide us is "*listen-listen-love-love*." We are there to listen to them and love on them, giving them importance and worth. A lot of women in prison have never really been listened to. We also go into the prison every month for a "reunion". At a reunion, the ladies on the inside who have attended a Kairos weekend have a service for us including singing, testimonies, and sharing. The goal of Kairos is to encourage the women on the inside to be in small groups and to be a community supporting each other inside the prison.

They are not dependent on those of us from the outside. We are just a tool.

Every time I go to the prison, one or more women tell me how grateful they are that I took time out of my life to be there with them. I always leave feeling blessed, encouraged, and appreciated. I have been encouraged by witnessing changes in many women's lives who are eager to embrace Christ and ready to make positive life changes. If you are interested in Kairos, let me know and I will be happy to talk to you about it.

Biblical Unicorns - a Bibli-oddity

by Rus Stolling

What!? Unicorns? In the Bible? Yes-unicorns in the Bible. Bear with me...

Today we think of unicorns as mythological creatures, usually horse-like, with a single horn extending from the crowns of their heads. The horn may be envisioned as long or short, but almost always straight, with a spiraling twist to a delicate point. The animal is imagined as docile, gentle, graceful, usually white with a flowing mane and tail. We see pictorial interpretations of them in fairy tale books, movies, cartoons, and other fantasy art.



Of course, today we do not believe in unicorns. But could they have really existed at one time? Why limit God's creative imagination? Consider the Narwhal with its singular spike. How many species have vanished from the Earth since Creation? Dinosaurs! And more recently, the Dodo and the Carrier Pigeon. Why could there have not been unicorns?

Could they have existed in a time as recent as first years of 17th Century, when the Bible was being *"Newly tranflated out of the Original Tongues, and with the former tranflations diligently compared and revifed by His Majesties fpecial Command"* - the command of the King of England, James the First? (Note: I have preserved the archaic "s" printed as "f".)

Here's the Biblical link -- the King James Old Testament mentions unicorns 8 times. Blow the dust off your old KJV and look 'em up: Deuteronomy 33:17, Isaiah 34:7, Numbers 23:22 and 24:8, Job 39:9-10, and Psalms 22:21, 29:6 and 92:10. No King James at home? Access Bible Gateway (www.biblegateway.com), specify the KJV, and enter search term "unicorn."

Did the translators of the King James OT, working from texts in Hebrew and Latin, diligently comparing past translations, believe in unicorns so strongly that they acknowledged them in their translation? Well - Yes, and no.

In the texts of the books mentioned above, the Hebrew word translated as "unicorn" by the KJV scholars is *re'em*. The Septuagint (Greek Old Testament) renders this as *monokeros*. The Latin Vulgate employs *unicornus*. That the translators of 1604-1611 would thus use *unicorn* is easily understood.

The term *re'em* meant, in ancient times, generically a "beast with a horn." Note the singularity of the term. The verses cited use the unicorn in the context of a comparison, or as an example of strength, power, steadfastness, or even obstinacy and ferocity. In Numbers 23:22, "God brought them out of Egypt; He hath as it were the strength of a unicorn." In Job 39:10, "Will the unicorn be willing to serve thee, and abide by thy crib?" In Isaiah 34:7, "And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood..."

Psalm 22:21 pleads "Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns." In the Psalms verse, "horns" could be plural, but also could be referring to the single horns of multiple beasts, but in the Hebrew texts of Deuteronomy 33:17 the word *tow'apah*, specifically meaning two horns, is used. There we read "His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns..." So, what do we have here? Confusion? Mistranslation? Poetic license? Remember, the KJV was put together by a committee.

Next question - Does the unicorn of these verses look like the meek creature of modern juvenile imagination, a gentle horned pony frolicking in blissful play with fairies, elves, gnomes, dwarves, fireflies and hobbits in shaded old-growth forests, or bounding about misty verdant meadows of dreamlike fantasy? Answer - no!

The creatures in the KJV verses are strong, fearsome, cannot be yoked, and can become angry when provoked. Does this remind you of anything you may have seen in wildlife picture books, TV documentaries, or zoos? Are you thinking "rhinoceros?"

Of the five species of rhinoceros two have a single horn. The others have two. The beast is normally docile, browsing contentedly on the sparse vegetation of African plains -- but watch out when they are roused. Rhinos stand almost six feet at the shoulder, can grow to 13 feet in length, and may weigh as much as 8,000 pounds. Aside from the hairless armor-like skin of the rhinos we know, medieval and renaissance imagery of the unicorn look pretty much like today's rhinoceros, rather than a cute pony.

Considering Israel's proximity to Africa, and that the Jews spent a lot of time in the northern African country of Egypt, it is not inconceivable that Jewish writers of patriarchal times were acquainted with the African rhino. Thus their inclusion in their writings.

Images in European books preceding and contemporary with the King James project depict the unicorn as a large, muscular, hairy, scary looking beast with a short thick horn. Imagine a cross between a buffalo and a rhinoceros, with nothing equine about it. Many Biblical scholars agree that this is likely to be the unicorn of the King James Bible.

Mothers and children of the 21st Century may have no fear--No buffaloceros will come charging from the pages of the pew Bibles next Sunday. Modern translations of the Christian Old Testament use the more easily imagined and less illusory translation of *re'em* as "wild ox" instead of the rhinuffalo type of unicorn.

A couple of extra notes to consider:

- A verse of an old Irish folk song surmises that we have no unicorns today because the silly unicorns were so busy playing that they missed Noah's call to board the boat.
- The KJV also includes "satyr" twice in Isaiah, and "dragon" 34 times in Revelation.
- The NIV has dragons, too.

You're on your own with those. Happy hunting!

Introduction to the Enneagram: A Contemplative Retreat

by Todd Minturn, Director of Hole in the Rock Ministries



If you are looking for a safe space to explore deeper questions about life and faith, receive teaching related to the Enneagram, and have an opportunity for quiet prayer, reflection, journaling, and rest, you are encouraged to register for a contemplative retreat on **Saturday, May 19 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**, sponsored by Hole in the Rock Ministries. The cost is \$20 and includes lunch.

Have you found your understanding of God and faith has changed over time? Have you ever wondered what might be next in your spiritual journey? Are you seeking greater intimacy with God and a deeper inner journey of faith? We will explore the Enneagram as a tool of spiritual transformation and development. We will also explore how God uses suffering and contemplative spiritual practices to assist us on the journey toward Christ-likeness.

As a Spiritual Director and the Director of Hole in the Rock Ministries, I will facilitate the retreat Room. For more information or to register, email me at tminturn@HoleintheRockMinistries.org.

UPC GROUPS

WEEKLY

Contemplative Prayer: Come **Mondays at 6:30 p.m.** to the Godly Play Room (Rooms 3-4) for Christ-centered meditation. No previous experience is necessary, just a desire to spend quiet, still time with the Divine. For more information, email Cathy Wingert at wingy104@aol.com.

Women's Bible Study: The group meets for study and prayer **Wednesdays from 9:30-11 a.m.** This lively group is currently studying the Book of Hebrews, which has touched their faith deeply. They share prayer concerns as they begin each class and then comes a lively discussion of their current study. Come deepen your walk with Jesus! For more information, email Laura Lindegren at punkin2826@yahoo.com; or call her at 299-1838.

Thursday Evening Bible Study: The group meets for study **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fireside Room. They are finishing up their study of Matthew this month. Then, after together reading aloud the Gospel of Mark, they will be studying Luke and Acts. They invite you to join them. For more information, email Ceci Johnson at cjartistquilts@gmail.com.

MONTHLY

Intercessory Prayer Service: This is a monthly service where all are invited to come pray for loved ones, members of our congregation, community, and world. Join them on **May 7 at 7 p.m.** For more information, email Pastor Tedd at teddlyons@gmail.com; or call/text him at 906-1438.

Presbyterian Women (PW): Presbyterian Women meet **Tuesday, May 8 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Great Room for refreshments and guest speaker Licia Clark, of "Inspire One." Licia is Laura Lindegren's daughter and Inspire One is her music program for children in Biola. A business meeting with election of new officers will follow. Bring a friend and join us! For more information, email Ruth Kallenberg at rbkallenberg@gmail.com.

Pub Theology: Join the discussion on **Tuesday, May 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** at Sequoia Brewing Company, on the corner of Champlain and Perrin in the Piazza Del Fiore Center. Add your voice to the discussion of a variety of topics concerning faith, religion, and God. Seating is limited so come early to ensure a spot. We meet monthly on the third Tuesday. Listening and discussion are encouraged; drinking is optional. For more information, email Dustin at dustin@upcfresn.org, or text him at 288-0083.

UPC Food Pantry: The food distribution this month is **Saturday, May 19 at 8 a.m.** It is held the third Saturday of each month. Come and help by texting Dustin at 288-0083 to volunteer. If you would like to donate to the food of the month item for the distribution, **the food item for May is canned or dried beans.** Bring your donations to the Narthex on Sunday mornings or drop them at the office during the week.

Taizé Contemplative Worship: A Taizé contemplative, musical prayer service is held every third Sunday of the month at 6 p.m. The service this month is **Sunday, May 20 at 6 p.m.** For more information, email Cactus Harris at cactus@upcfresno.org.

Clippers: Clippers are going to dinner and stargazing on **Friday, May 25**. Meet at Sweet Tomatoes, 7114 N. Fresno St at 5 p.m., with stargazing at Downing Planetarium, 5320 N. Maple at 6:30. The show starts at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each for a group of 30 and \$7.50 each for a group of 20. For further information, contact Donna Brady at 905-9931 or Carolyn Gerheuser at 573-4427.

and hope you will come to refresh and deepen your spiritual journey. For more information or to register, email me at tminturn@HoleintheRockMinistries.org.

May Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Calendar

May Birthdays

- 3 Hannah Evans
- 4 Tommy Bounthapanya
- 7 Jim Glass
- 10 Souk Phothivongsay
- Judy Scarbery
- 13 Brandi Hoffman-Sherman
- Sandie Woods
- 14 Ron Souza
- 16 Doug Lowe
- 18 Mark Grisez
- 19 Keegan Biedermann
- Lance Laurendine
- Wayne McMillen
- Dana Rossi
- 20 Betty Gist
- 27 Cathy Varvis-Griffin
- 28 Cathy Douglas
- Eleanor Lockhart
- 30 Carolyn Gerheuser

May Anniversaries

- 2 David & Melissa Manion
- 3 Chris & Rita Dei
- Chuck & Linda Wilson
- 6 Rob & Sherry Walling
- 7 Dave & Jennifer Keran
- 22 Mel & Karen Enns
- 25 Tony & Tout Tou
- Bounthapanya
- 26 John & Ta Gabel

May Calendar

- 1 Deacons 6:30 p.m.
- 2 Women's Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m.
- Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.
- Community Group Study
- 6:30 p.m.
- 3 Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Book Study 6 p.m.
- 7 Contemplative Prayer
- 6:30 p.m.
- Intercessory Prayer 7 p.m.
- 8 Presbyterian Women
- 9:30 a.m.
- Session 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Women's Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m.
- Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.
- Community Group Study
- 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m.
- 11 OrphiQ Percussion Concert 7:30 p.m.
- 12 PneuMatrix Group
- 1 p.m.
- 13 MOTHER'S DAY
- Book Study 6 p.m.
- 14 Contemplative Prayer
- 6:30 p.m.
- Musica Viva 7 p.m.

May Calendar cont.

- 15 Pub Theology 6:30 p.m.
- 16 Women's Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m.
- Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.
- Community Group Study
- 6:30 p.m.
- 17 Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Food Distribution 8 a.m.
- 20 PENTECOST SUNDAY
- Taize Worship 6 p.m.
- 21 Contemplative Prayer 6:30 p.m.
- 22 Ministry Meetings
- (times vary)
- 23 Women's Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m.
- Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.
- 24 Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Clippers 5 p.m.
- 28 MEMORIAL DAY
- (office closed)
- 30 Women's Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m.
- Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.
- 31 Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1776 E. Roberts Avenue | Fresno, CA | 93710 | 559.439.8807 | www.upcfresno.org

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Fresno, CA 93710
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Sunday Worship Schedule for March

9 a.m. Classic Worship | 11 a.m. Contemporary Service

11 a.m. Lao Language Service | except the 1st Sunday

Pastors

The Reverend Renn Serna, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Dustin Maddox, Associate Pastor

Return Service Requested

Mailing Label Here

Joyfully Sharing God's Boundless Love with All in Our Community without Limitation, Exception, or Condition