



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

UNIVERSITY PRESS

June/July 2018

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

by The Reverend Renn Serna, Senior Pastor

Being neighborly matters to Jesus. In fact, it matters to much that when asked what the Greatest Commandment was, Jesus said *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.... (and) Love your neighbor as yourself."* (Matthew 22:37-39). There is no doubt about it, loving others is important to Jesus.



Being a good neighbor to our community has always been important to us at UPC as well. It is so important in fact, that we have even included it in our church vision where we covenanted together to *"joyfully share God's boundless love with all in our community without limitation, exception, or condition."* It has been amazing to see how this vision has blossomed the last few years and watch our commitment to loving others grow.

Everywhere you look, there is something new going on at UPC. Recently, we were blessed with the donation of a Little Library which allows us to provide free children's books to the community and continue our commitment to literacy and childhood development. We are still in the process of getting everything up and running and I am so excited to see new ways this gift blesses our community. (And if this is something that you would be interested in, we are still looking for a couple more "Little Librarians" to help care for this new ministry - see the article below).

This past week we were able to grow our community garden by planting eight new citrus trees, which expands our ability provide fresh fruits and vegetables to those in need in our community. And, our new partnership with the USDA allows our Food Distribution to double the number of families we serve on a monthly basis and stretch the love of God even further.

There is a desire among Session to utilize our space so it is a blessing to our community. I am so excited Session has voted to install a number of signs on the campus inviting the community to make themselves feel at home on our grounds; and offer a wide welcome to anybody who steps onto our property (more on that later in this newsletter). The Sanctuary has been buzzing with concerts and community events throughout the week and we are looking for new ways to build bridges with the community through the use of our beautiful facilities.

I have heard dreams of building a playground on the lawn in front of the church, both for use by our church families on Sundays, as well as by the community throughout the week. Suggestions have been made to install picnic tables and to fix up our basketball court so that we can provide a safe, green space for families and children to connect with one another throughout the week. We are working to deepen our ties with community organizations such as the Boy Scouts so our partnership together can bless others. We are always open to new opportunities to serve those around us.

It has been amazing to see UPC take big strides in living into the calling to joyfully share God's boundless love with all in our community. It is an exciting time to be a part of our church family.

We are blessed with such a spacious campus and I am excited we are finding new ways to share this gift with others. And yes, opening ourselves up to others inevitably will lead to a little "wear and tear" on our facilities, but it is a risk I am willing to take. None of what we own truly belongs to us, but to God. Our job is simply to be the best stewards of God's resources we can be.

Because of your willingness to be good neighbors, we are able to meet the tangible needs of our community in creative ways, build new relationships with those around us, and provide a sacred space for people to encounter the love of God. Thank you for being obedient to the call. It is truly an exciting time to be a part of the life and ministry of UPC.

Love, *Pastor Renn*

Being Neighborly: A Little Library Comes to UPC

In conjunction with our relationship with Every Neighborhood Partnership (ENP), UPC has been blessed with the donation of a "Little Free Library" on our campus, allowing us to play an essential role in providing an under-served community with access to books, and encourage a love of reading.

Over 60% of low-income families have no books at all for children and adults in their homes. Research shows the only measure correlating significantly with reading scores is the number of books in the home. This is not just a home issue, but a neighborhood issue. One study found in middle-income neighborhoods the ratio is 13 books per child; in low-income neighborhoods, the ratio is one book for every 300 children. An analysis of a national dataset of nearly 100,000 United States school children found access to printed materials--not poverty--is the "critical variable affecting reading acquisition."

Volunteers are needed to help maintain the library, including restocking books and keeping the congregation informed of ways they can help with this ministry. If you would be willing to lend a hand, contact Pastor Renn at renn@upcfresno.org.

Summer Singing!

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

Thank You - Singers and Bell Ringers!

Traditionally our Chancel Choir and Bell Choir take the summer off from June through mid-August. As we do so again this year, I extend a big thank you for all of the hard work and dedication of our singers and bell ringers who help make our worship services special. Aside from the major contributions they make to our big holiday services, they also help lead to bring God's word to us in song and melody on Sundays.

Join the Summer Choir

This summer, we will be trying something new by having a flexible summer choir to help lead our 9 a.m. service. **The summer choir is open to everyone and will rehearse briefly on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m.** Rehearsals start June 24 and run through July. No experience, no long term, or every Sunday obligation necessary! Try something new this summer - come and sing!



In harmony, *Cactus*

Exodus: Stories of Change

On Trinity Sunday, May 27, we began a new series of sermons: *Exodus: Stories of Change*. The themes of this series challenge and encourage each of us to find ourselves in the story of God's people. As we journey with the Israelites out of Egypt and into the Promised Land, discover what it means to remain faithful to God's call, even in the midst of a changing world.



Sunday Morning Fireside Chat | June 10



With a desire to promote healthy communication, we invite you to join us in the **Fireside Room on June 10 from 10:15-10:45 a.m.** for casual conversation with your Elders. Bring your thoughts, questions, and concerns as we seek to faithfully live into God's call for us together. Our hope is to offer these "Fireside Chats" quarterly to provide an easy way to connect with your leadership and to work together as we seek to joyfully share God's boundless love with all in our community without limitation, exception or condition.

We invite you to come and share, *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.*

A Working Covenant for Leadership

By Ceci Johnson, Clerk of Session

Mid-year seems like a good time to share with you the Covenant of Presence the Elders wrote at their retreat in January. All the Elders signed it and have been using it as a guide to their work together. May this covenant inspire each of us as we work together at UPC to *joyfully share God's boundless love with all in our community without limitation, exception, or condition.*



University Presbyterian Church Elder Covenant 2018

*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life
worthy of the calling you have received.
Be completely humble and gentle; be patient,
bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep
the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called to one hope when you were called.
Ephesians 4:1-4*

We, the leadership at University Presbyterian Church, desiring to be faithful to Christ in our relationship with each other and to model the love and unity as demonstrated by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, do covenant to do the following:

- View leadership as a sacred calling and treat our time together as an act of worship.
- Commit to being diligent in faithful discernment in all that we do.
- Seek to appreciate our congregation's God given gifts with a sense of awe.
- Promote healthy conversation, making space for all voices and viewpoints.
- Respect, honor and trust each other. Listen with the intent of understanding and not talk over one another.
- Work through problems rather than bury issues.
- Communicate openly and honestly with the congregation. Seek to constructively resolve conflict as it arises.
- Pray when we disagree and, like the potter and the clay, be willing to be molded.
- Forgive ourselves and one another.

- Intentionally encourage and bless one another.
- Embrace one another's gifts and differences.
- Support one another in grieving losses and celebrating successes.
- Act in one accord and support the decisions of Session.

New Signs for A Neighborly Campus

by Wayne McMillen, Ministry of Human Resources Elder



Soon, as you arrive at the entrances to the UPC campus, you'll noticed a subtle change in our landscape. That change will be the placement of several signs throughout the campus designed to enhance the safety of staff and visitors; and reflect a warm welcome.

The UPC campus is a very busy venue. We come to church activities and many in the greater community come for programs and other functions. UPC's park-like grounds invite our neighborhood friends to come for rest and recreation. With these factors in mind, earlier this year Session began thinking about guidelines to provide a welcoming, safe environment for all who use the campus for wholesome activities and also to reflect the mission of the church.

Prayerfully, Session pondered how to word signs to be welcoming to our neighbors and friends who come to UPC and also set safe guidelines for the use and enjoyment of our facility. This was balanced with the need to establish signs meeting legal requirements

that allow enforcing the guidelines.

If you have further questions about our new signs, please bring them to the attention of Session members or the Pastoral Staff.

50th Anniversary Planning Committee

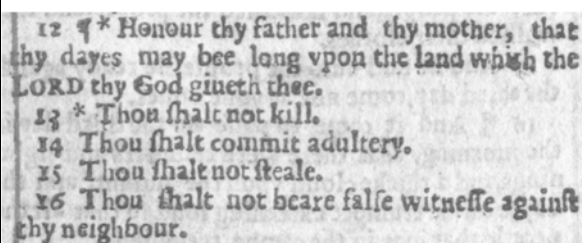
Whether you have been at UPC 50 years or just a few, what are the highlights for you of being part of the UPC community? What do you envision for our future? How shall we celebrate our past and our future together?



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.

More Bibli-oddities . . .

by Rus Stolling



Before mechanized printing came into being in the 15th Century, anything written (everything!) was done so by hand. Letters, documents, books - all written one at a time by the human hand. The mathematical treatises, histories, philosophies, and plays of the ancient Greeks, the entire Old Testament and New Testament, the *Travels of Marco Polo*, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* -- all were written, copied, and transmitted in hand-written script.

Imagine a scribe - a monk more often than not - bent over a table, reading a text, dipping his quill into self-made inks, copying that text on to parchment or paper. Imagine the potential for errors in the new text arising from tired eyes working for hours in dim light, or a hand pained with fatigue at the end of a long day in the scriptorium. Imagine the misspellings, the omitted words,

perhaps an entire sentence or verse overlooked. Imagine another scribe a few years later working from the error-laden script, perpetuating the errors, and perhaps committing a few of his own.

With the development of the printing press and invention of moveable type in the mid-15th century came the hope that such errors would be put to an end. Rather than having to write every single book individually, a process that could take months for a single book, books could be then reproduced ten, a hundred, a thousand at a time, all exactly the same, quickly - and more accurately, one might well hope.

But still the eye and the hand of man would be involved, and errors were bound to be committed. So it was, and has continued to be, even with our own Holy Bible.

Although the Bible is said and believed to be the inspired Word of God, still the hand of man works inadvertent mischief. As a typesetter manually selects each character from a box of type and sets it into place, opportunity looms for a letter to be placed in the wrong order, to be inserted upside down, or to be left out. A word can be ruined; an entire verse can be corrupted by a simple error. Some highlights in the progress of biblical publishing follow, some of them quite amusing:

- Our parade of publishing blunders begins with the Geneva Bible of 1562 in which Matthew 5:9 was composed for the press as "*Blessed are the place makers*", rather than "*peace makers*". Humorous but not severe. But consider in the same edition Luke 2:1, rendered as "*Christ condemneth the poore widow*" rather than the correct "*commendeth*", thus reversing the entire meaning of the verse.
- In a subsequent imprint of the Geneva by London printer Robert Barker in 1608, the name of Judas was inserted in John 6:67 instead of that Jesus. The verse should have read "*Then said Jesus to the twelve ...*"
- Barker's press committed an even greater sin when their 1631 King James Version omitted the word "*not*" from Exodus 20:14, the commandment against adultery. "*Thou shalt commit ...*"

The printers were called before Archbishop of Canterbury George Abbot, a man who had served as one of the translators of the King James Version (KJV). The book was condemned, Barker was fined £300 (about \$50,000 today), and his license as printer was revoked. A thousand copies had been printed. Unsold copies were confiscated and burned, but only after several had been circulated.

There was speculation that the error had been a deliberate sabotage. Still, Barker's reputation was ruined and his fortunes declined. Four years later he found himself confined to King's Bench Prison for debtors where, after a decade of imprisonment, he died in 1645. Known as "The Wicked Bible", "Adulterous Bible", or "Sinner's Bible", one of the ten surviving copies was auctioned in 2015 for £31,250 (\$42,325)

- Londoner John Fields followed up in 1653 with a KJV with numerous trivial flaws. Not so trivial was his omission again of that same tiny but critical word "*not*". Corinthians 6:9 asks "*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall inherit the kingdom of God?*" No! Not!
- Thomas Bentley, also of London, in 1795 printed Mark 7:27 as "*Let the children first be killed*" instead of "*filled*." (Our NIV says "fed".) The "Murderers Bible", an 1801 imprint, earned its name in the substitution of "*murderers*" for "*murmurers*" in verse 16 of the single chapter of Jude. Readers of an 1806 KJV may have been amused to find in Ezekiel 47:10 that "fishers" had been printed as "fishes" -- "*It shall come to pass that the fishes shall stand upon it.*"

More recent amusements are found not so much in simple misspellings or inadvertent omissions, but perhaps in a typesetter's deliberate indiscretion, or in efforts to translate archaic language into contemporary speech.

- Ferrar Fenton's 1903 *Holy Bible in Modern English* interprets the fish (or whale) of Jonah 2:1 as a nickname for a ship rather than as a literal sea-creature. "But the ever-living God had appointed 'The Great Fish' to pick up Jonah . . . and Jonah prayed to his ever-living God *from the hold of 'The Fish* . . . ". Paul and Aquila are described in Acts 18:3 not as tent makers, but - - "And as he (Paul) was of the same profession, he stayed . . . employing himself; for by profession they were *landscape painters*."

- The Episcopal Committee of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine published an Old Testament in 1950. In Leviticus 11:30, a verse dealing with unclean animals, a typesetter deliberately "corrected" the spelling of "skink", a type of striped lizard, to "skunk", a creature of entirely different stripe.
- The Jerusalem Bible of 1966 would have followers "*Pay for peace*" rather than pray for it.
- The 1970 New English Bible encourages the faithful of Corinth to "*have nothing to do with loose livers.*" (1 Cor. 5:9) The intent of the verse is not to avoid people with ailments of internal organs, but to stay away from those with loose morals.
- It might be that a misprint in the earliest days of biblical publishing, having an unintended relevance then, has so even today. In a 1612 KJV the author of Psalms 119:161, bemoans that, instead of princes - "Printers have persecuted me without a cause."

And they continue to do so. Modern printing and publishing, even with computers and software *width there fancy smell checkers, are not immune to arrows.* Amen!

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. The Group is starting their annual summer book study on Monday, June 4 reading *Into the Silent Land: A Guide to the Christian Practice of Contemplation* by Martin Laird (found on Amazon). 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. They end their study of Hebrews on **June 12**, then take a summer break before tackling Isaiah starting **September 11**. 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 just may finish their study of Matthew this month. Then, they read the Gospel of Mark together before studying Luke and Acts. 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 **June 4 and July 2 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, June 12**, at a special time of **11 a.m.** Bring a small salad to share and your contribution to the annual Birthday Offering. New officers are installed during the business meeting as the group looks forward to next fall. They will not have their regular Tuesday meetings in July and August, but Boutique Workshops are held during the summer starting **Monday, July 9 at 9:30 a.m.** For more information, email Ruth Kallenberg at rbkallenberg@gmail.com.

Pub Theology: Join the discussion on **Tuesday, June 19 and July 17 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@upcfresno.org, or text him at 288-0083.

UPC Food Pantry: The food distributions will take place on **Saturday, June 16 and July 21 at 8 a.m.** 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 June is canned veggies or fruit, and for July is peanut butter. Bring your donations to the Narthex on Sunday mornings or drop them at the office during the week. Would you like to help stock shelves on Thursday mornings? Text Dustin at 288-0083.

Taizé Contemplative Worship: A Taizé contemplative, musical prayer service is held every third Sunday of the month. The summer services will be on June 17 and July 15 at 6 p.m. For more information, email Cactus Harris at cactus@upcfresno.org.

Clippers: Clippers will not meet in June. Watch this space and the Sunday bulletin for their next get-together.

SAVE THE DATE

2018 UPC Women's Retreat: September 21-23, Calvin Crest.

Are You Reading the Monthly Financial Updates?



Every month, a Financial Update is prepared to let everyone see a snapshot of the finances of the church. It not only gives you "the numbers," but also has notes to explain what the numbers represent as well as commentary on expenditures and other information about current income and expenses.

Copies are available every week in the Narthex, and there is a link to it in the Mid-week email reminder.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

June Birthdays

- 3 Phethieng Thirakull
- 5 Thomas Klein
- 6 Laura Lindegren
- Denice Leslie
- 7 Oscar Donahue
- 9 Kom Thammavongsa
- 12 Richard Gist
- 13 Florence Ulrich
- 14 John Gabel
- 16 Paul Braswell
- 20 Adeline Wagner
- 22 Mary Rose
- 23 Scott Thwaites
- 28 David Stolling
- 30 Kurt Rossi

June Anniversaries

- 2 Tim & Amy Evans
- 4 Micah & Christy Qualle
- 6 Kristian & Rachel Fern
- 9 Bill & Andrea Smith
- 14 Cordie & Deborah Qualle
- 15 John & Lorna Bosavanh
- 18 Stephen & Denise Grisez
- 20 Pat & Liz Dodds
- Doug Lowe & Kristen Gearhart
- Wayne & Carol McMillen
- 22 Dave & Chris Gromis
- 23 Dustin & Robin Maddox

June Birthdays cont.

- 24 David & Sandra Knudson
- 26 Adam & Moira Harada
- Tom & Ruth Klein
- Kim & Denice Leslie
- Philip & Katrina Melcher
- Chuck & Julie Warnes

July Birthdays

- 1 Rita Bodine-Dei
- 2 Gloria Pearson
- Kenneth W. Scott
- 5 Emma Glover
- 6 Judy Adams
- Karen Aughinbaugh
- Allison Howells
- Janis Khamvongsa
- 7 Carol Corson
- Thong Douangmala
- David J. Foster
- 8 Robert Berend
- Daniel Cunningham
- 9 Isaac Clayton
- Hollie Volpp
- 10 Leslie Knutsen
- Peggy Scott
- 13 Jennifer Keran
- 14 Beth Buchanan
- Matt Stolling
- Joe Tapia
- Nancy Youngs

July Birthdays cont.

- 15 Roberta Mason
- 16 Devynn Braswell
- Julie Buchanan
- Josh Squire
- 19 Ruth Kallenberg
- 20 Chet Hansen
- Calvin Fern
- 21 Patrick Chu
- 22 Gary Knutsen
- Carrie Minturn
- 25 Douglas Haas
- Kathleen Jones
- 27 Lynnette Spaulding
- Julie Townsend
- 30 Michael Watkins
- Charlie Wilson
- 31 Ursula Masquelier

July Anniversaries

- 8 Terry & Dawn Lawrence
- 14 Richard & Susan Hauert
- 19 Jesse & Rachel Madsen
- 20 Scott & Kristi Thwaites
- 25 Amy & Shanonn Hemmingson
- 26 James & Deborah Lyons

Calendar

June Calendar

- 4 Contemplative Prayer
6:30 p.m.
- Intercessory Prayer 7 p.m.
- 5 Election Day**
Deacons 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Women's Bible Study 9:30
a.m.
- Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Thursday Bible Study
6:30 p.m.
- 9 Michael Delfin Piano Concert
4 p.m.
- 11 Contemplative Prayer
6:30 p.m.
- 12 Presbyterian Women
9:30 a.m.
- 13 Women's Bible Study
9:30 a.m.
- 14 Thursday Bible Study
6:30 p.m.
- 16 Food Distribution 8 a.m.
- 17 Taize Service 6 p.m.

June Calendar cont.

- 18 Contemplative Prayer
6:30 p.m.
- 19 Pub Theology 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Thursday Bible Study
6:30 p.m.
- 23 Lao Women's Luncheon
9 a.m.
- 24 Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:15 a.m.
- 25 Contemplative Prayer
6:30 p.m.
- 26 Ministry Meetings
Times Vary

July Calendar

- 1 Summer Choir Rehearsal
10 a.m.
- 2 Intercessory Prayer
7 p.m.
- 4 Independence Day - Office
Closed
- 5 Thursday Bible Study
6:30 p.m.
- 8 Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:15 a.m.

July Calendar cont.

- 9 Contemplative Prayer
6:30 p.m.
- 12 Thursday Bible Study
6:30 p.m.
- 14 Session Retreat
- 15 Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:15 a.m.
- Taize Service 6 p.m.
- 16 Contemplative Prayer
6:30 p.m.
- 17 Pub Theology 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Thursday Bible Study
6:30 p.m.
- 21 Food Distribution 8 a.m.
- 22 Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:15 a.m.
- 23 Contemplative Prayer
6:30 p.m.
- 26 Thursday Bible Study
6:30 p.m.
- 29 Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:15 a.m.
- 30 Contemplative Prayer
6:30 p.m.

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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