



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

UNIVERSITY PRESS

November 2017

Extravagant Generosity

by The Reverend Renn Serna, Senior Pastor

This newsletter article finds us right in the middle of our Extravagant Generosity series, and I hope you have had a chance to join us these past few weeks. I have absolutely loved talking about all the ways God has blessed our church, and telling the story of how God is moving in and through our congregation. Thank you so much for sharing what you love about our church, and offering your hopes and dreams for our future together.



Stewardship is often an uncomfortable topic, but I must confess, it is one of my favorite things to talk about within the context of Christian faith. For me, stewardship is so much more than just giving money to the church. It is about responding to God's blessings in our lives and sharing those blessings with others. Stewardship is about discovering where God is at work in the world, and then joining in that work. Stewardship is about giving our time to serve those in need, it is about creatively using our talents to share God's love in new and exciting ways, and yes, it is about sharing our financial resources to help further this work.

That is why I like to talk about stewardship in terms of intentionally giving our Time, Talent, and Treasure to build God's Kingdom. Whether you are rich or poor, we all have something to offer back to God; singing in the choir, teaching an Adult Education class, welcoming visitors at church, becoming a Literacy Mentor at Wolters Elementary School, sharing words of encouragement with those who are broken-hearted, praying for the ministries of our church - we all have something to offer.

All of this is a part of stewardship. Each and every one of us have been gifted with various skills and resources, and we each have been invited to share those resources with others. God is moving in incredible ways in the world around us, and the amazing thing is God invites us to be a part of that work. We are invited to be on the front line of building God's Kingdom, and seeing the life changing power of grace in action, if only we choose to respond to the call. Responding to God's call to be good stewards with the resources entrusted to us is the most humbling, awe inspiring, and life transforming thing we will ever do.

I hope you will join us for the remaining weeks of our Extravagant Generosity series as we continue to count God's blessings and discover how God is inviting each one of us to join the adventure.

If you have missed any of this series, click [here](#) to visit us online for more information about the series, past sermons, and church testimonies.

With much love, Pastor Renn

The PW Holiday Boutique is Here

by Jean Ann Fulton, for the Presbyterian Women



Start your Christmas shopping at this year's Holiday Boutique Saturday, November 11 and Sunday, November 12 at 8 a.m. in the Great Room. Purchase homemade items, household goods, jams and jellies, cookies and breads, as well as "White Elephant" items.

There are two drawings: one for a Marian Amend handmade queen-size, jewel-toned quilt, and the other for a 19" doll complete with five themed outfits and books made by Judy Taylor. Tickets for the drawing, held at the close of the Boutique, are \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5, and are on sale now and at the Boutique. All proceeds from the Boutique and drawing go toward missions designated by the University Presbyterian Women.

It's not too late to donate new or used items that will delight a purchaser or gift recipient. No clothing or furniture please. Come to the Boutique, bring friends, and shop generously! For more information, contact Jean Ann Fulton at 432-5092, or Ruth Kallenberg at 431-7681.

Count Your Blessings on Sunday, November 19

The Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 19, we join together for worship in the morning and fellowship in the evening to celebrate our blessings together as the UPC family.

Thanksgiving Sunday Worship | 9 and 11 a.m.

We "Count Our Blessings" during the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services on November 19 with inspirational music, testimonies of God's faithfulness, and the opportunity to give thanks for all blessings you have received this past year.



Friendsgiving Potluck | 6 p.m.

Join us for the 2017 FRIENDSGIVING Potluck November 19 at 6 p.m. in the UPC Great Room. Bring a favorite traditional or inventive Thanksgiving dish to share. Seasonal desserts are provided by the Congregational Care team.

To help Congregational Care plan for the evening, sign up after worship or email Rita Dei at rmbodine@gmail.com to let her know you'll be coming. Let's share our blessings together as a church family before the turkeys, casseroles, and pies go into the oven for Thanksgiving Day!

A Hymn of Thanksgiving: We Gather Together

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



A favorite Thanksgiving hymn is We Gather Together. While this text is typically sung as a song of thanksgiving, its origins are significantly different from any Thanksgiving Day associations.

The original context of this late sixteenth-century hymn was actually a celebration of freedom by the Netherlands from Spanish oppression. If we look closely at the verses we can hear the patriotism and political overtones with phrases like, *"from the beginning the fight we were winning, thou, Lord wast at our side!"* and "The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing." These were all allusions to the persecution of the Catholic Church under the policies of Spain.

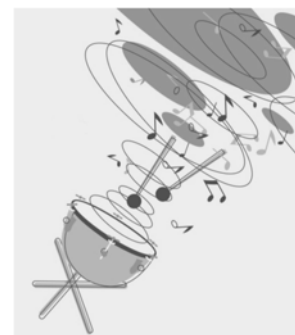
Later the hymn gained recognition in the United States when it made its way into the Methodist-Episcopal Church Hymnal in 1935. Its popularity increased during World War II when singers connected "the wicked oppressing" to Nazi Germany.

Musically, Cactus

A Debut Concert at UPC: Percussion Quartet OrphiQ

On Monday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m. UPC hosts OrphiQ's debut concert in Fresno. This percussion quartet with members Michael Downing, Robert Strong, Sean Clark, and Peyton Esraelian have performed internationally and seek to share their love of percussion chamber music with audiences from every walk of life.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$5 for students and children. Tickets can be purchased at <https://orehpiq.yapsody.com>, or at the door.



UPC Joins Giving Tuesday | November 28

by Sol Eufracio, Elder for the Missions Ministry

#GIVING
TUESDAY

As we enjoy cooler weather, we begin to think forward to the holidays and traditions that shape our families, our community and our church. At UPC, we have a deep value for groups and organizations that not only help those in need, but demonstrate the deep love of Jesus to those who need it the most. Consequently, it reminds us of the power of Jesus and how we partner with the mission of loving each other each and every day.

This holiday season, the UPC Missions Ministry is launching an online campaign called Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday is held on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, to encourage people and organizations to give to non-profits who support causes they value. We will launch this campaign on November 28 and announce what organizations the proceeds are going to. Keep your eyes open for this information!

Click [here](#) to check our Facebook page and get the latest on the campaign as it develops. Click [here](#) to email Sol if you have questions or are super excited about Giving Tuesday!

Dancing for Our Heavenly Father

by Chanthay Phothivongsay, for the Lao Dancers

Lao dance in worship is for our Heavenly Father. It is an incredible joy through music, worship, and song. We praise Him. Lao dance moves my heart, and allows me to praise the Lord for His power and glory. Through dance, we gather as one body to worship the One we love. We are blessed to dance around each other like the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost dance - around, not up and down.

Thanks to our brothers and sisters in Christ who enjoy the Lao dance.



Editor's Note: In September when we celebrated the arrival of new Senior Pastor Renn Serna in worship, the Lao dancers, with an accompanist on a traditional Lao instrument, danced during the 9 a.m. Offertory.

The Women's Retreat Thanks YOU!

by Anne Klapste for the Retreat Coordinators



The Women's Retreat Committee thanks all the kind supporters who bought cookies, jams, soaps, and cinnamon rolls, and gave donations. Thanks to you, everyone who needed a scholarship was able to attend.

The Committee had fun creating the retreat. What we experienced: Kristen Gearhart's scriptural leadership & poetry selections, Rachel Madsen's music, Christina Arakelian's teaching on Mark 5:25-34, Rachel Fern's announcements, and Anne Klapste's mosaic project. This and more were the result of several get-togethers over coffee and tea with laughing sisters working toward a common purpose.

You can be a part of the camaraderie for next year's retreat. [Click here](#) to email Carrie Minturn, next year's retreat leader, for meetings starting soon.

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, [click here](#) to email Cathy Wingert.

Women's Bible Study: The group meets weekly on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Room. They are studying Women of the Old Testament. Join them and learn about the women of our Faith. For more information, [click here](#) to email Laura Lindegren, or call her at 299-1838.

Thursday Evening Bible Study: The group, led by Denice Leslie and Ceci Johnson, meets for study Thursdays at 7 p.m. They are currently "wrestling" with the Gospel of Matthew. They invite you to join them. For more information, [click here](#) to email Denice Leslie, or [click here](#) to email Ceci Johnson.

MONTHLY

Young Families Gathering: This event is open to all who want to fellowship with young families. For November, this monthly event is on Monday, November 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Room. To RSVP for the event, [click here](#) to email Dustin.

Intercessory Prayer Service: This monthly service, where all are invited to come pray for loved ones, members of our congregation, community, and world, meets Monday, November 6 at 7 p.m. For more information, [click here](#) to email Pastor Tedd, or call/text him at 906-1438.

Presbyterian Women (PW): Presbyterian Women are having their monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 14 at 9:30 a.m in the Great Room. Guest speaker is David Goldstein, representing Residential HomeCare Services. PW is reviewing their Boutique and collecting their Thank Offering also. Presbyterian Women is open to all ladies of UPC. Bring a friend and get to know new ones. If you have questions, [click here](#) to email Ruth Kallenberg, or call her at 431-7681.

Clippers: Clippers meet on Friday, November 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Room and then adjourn to UPC's Majesty Theatre to see a documentary especially selected by Doris and Chet Hansen, but always a secret until viewing time! Dessert and their annual planning meeting follow the movie. Hosts are Chet and Doris Hansen, Dave Eaton, Betty Upton, and the Gists, but no RSVP is needed. Bring a small dessert to share and your ideas for 2018. New officers will be elected as well. Bring a friend and enjoy an evening out.

Pub Theology: Join the discussion on Tuesday, November 21 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Sequoia Brewing Company (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. They meet monthly on the third Tuesday. Listening and discussion are encouraged; drinking is optional. For more information, [click here](#) to email Dustin, or text him at 288-0083.

UPC Food Pantry: The food distribution is Saturday, November 18 at 8 a.m. It is held the third Saturday of each month. If you would like help with this ministry to our neighbors, text Dustin at 288-0083. If you would like to donate to the food of the month item for the distribution, the food item this month is peanut butter. Bring your donations to the Narthex on Sunday mornings or drop them at the office during the week. There is also always a need for paper bags.

Meeting at UPC

MEETING AT UPC

Sheeper Than Therapy: Enjoy a group of knitters and crocheters whose skills range from beginner to expert. They meet at UPC the first Saturday of the month. Join them Saturday, November 4 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. For information, [click here](#) to visit the Sheeper Than Therapy website.

Pastor Renn's Office Hours & Contact Info



Monday: Sabbath

Tuesday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Office)

Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Office)

Thursday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Office)

Friday: Sermon preparation (Home)

Office Phone: (559) 439-8812

Pastoral Emergency Line: (559) 87-4250

Email: renn@upcfresno.org

November Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Calendar

<p>November Birthdays 3 Edith Barnette Melissa Berend Kristina Cavagnaro Dave Gromis Maurine Ricky Dave Youngs 6 Norman Christiansen 7 Flo Burgess Mel Enns Laura Jones Sharon King 8 Vanhta Pathommaseng Cordie Qualle Robert Vert 10 Cindy Correia 11 Florence Alexander Phimala Chouanmasay Sandy Pelisari 13 Bridget Rossi 16 Joy Manion Louis Volpp 17 Justin Klapste 19 Natalie Nax 20 Cindy Carter Wayne Curtis Jacob Warnes 23 Roxanne Braswell Dean Hodgson 24 James Brannan Harell Gabel Pam Higgins 26 Melissa Manion Paul Masquelier November Anniversaries 5 Al & Cherlyn Pulcifer 8 Jim & Jeanne Ayars</p>	<p>November Anniversaries cont. 9 Roland & Becky Bergthold David & Barbara Foster 15 Kom & Mone Thammavongsa 20 Colin & Wendy Warnes 24 Chet & Doris Hansen 25 Ken & Julie Scott</p> <p>November Calendar 1 Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. 2 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Thursday Night Bible Study 7 p.m. 4 Knitters Group 8:30 a.m. Fresno St. vs. BYU TBA 5 DAY LIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS 6 Contemplative Prayer 6:30 p.m. Young Families Gathering 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer 7 p.m. 7 Deacons 7 p.m. 8 Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. 9 Bell Choir Rehearsal Thursday Night Bible Study 7 p.m. 11-12 Holiday Boutique 8 a.m. 13 OFFICE CLOSED FOR VETERANS DAY Contemplative Prayer 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>November Calendar cont. 14 Presbyterian Women 9:30 a.m. Session 6 p.m. 15 Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. 17 Clippers 6 p.m. 18 Food Distribution 8 a.m. 19 Friendsgiving Potluck 6 p.m. 20 Contemplative Prayer 6:30 p.m. Percussion Concert 7:30 p.m. 21 Pub Theology 6:30 p.m. 22 Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. 23 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING 25 Fresno St. vs. Boise St. 12:30 p.m. 26 Congregational Meeting 10:15 a.m. 27 Contemplative Prayer 6:30 p.m. 28 Ministry Meetings Times Vary 29 Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. 26 Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Thursday Night Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>
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Non-profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 34
Clovis, California

Sunday Worship Schedule

9 a.m. Classic Worship | 11 a.m. Contemporary Service
11 a.m. Lao Language Service | except the 1st Sunday

Return Service Requested

Mailing Label Here

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