



“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.” - *John 11:25-26*

Lenten Activities and Holy Week

- **Sundays, March 3-April 7** (no studies on Easter Sunday) **Lenten Bible Study** with **Don Choi** leading a study on the **Prophets**, and **Bible Basics** with **Pastor Sharon**
- **Wednesday, March 6, 6:30 p.m.** - **SOUP SUPPER** with last “**Hero**” presentation honoring **Sister Marilyn Lacey**, author of the stirring book *This Flowing Towards Me* and Director of **Mercy Beyond Borders...** don't miss this!
- **Sunday, March 10** after worship, **Shower of Blessings for Irene and John Capuchino's baby girl-to-be!** (See page 7 for more details.)
- **Sunday, March 24 - PALM SUNDAY - Biblical Feast after worship** (snacks dating back to the time of Jesus) **AND One Great Hour of Sharing** Offering
- **Thursday, March 28, 6:30 p.m.** - **MAUNDY THURSDAY– Seder Dinner** (\$10 ea., sign up with **Judy Lococo**)
- **Sunday, March 31 - EASTER.... Hallelujah! He is ALIVE!**
 - **Annual Easter Congregation Photo** in front of church (The theme is **GROW!** So bring growing flowers or vegetables to hold in the photo.)
 - We will have a **modified 5th Sunday** event after the photo and make lunches for the homeless youth served by the Bill Wilson Center (www.billwilsoncenter.org)

They'll Know we are Christians by Our Love

(Hymn, verse 4,) “All praise to the Father from whom all things come, and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son, and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one; And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.”

Sharings from Sharon



Pastor Sharon and
"Hero" Maria Evans

Dear Friends:

I found this little story in a book by a priest by the name of Father Gerard Fuller.

A minister who had recently lost his wife took his 7 year old daughter on a cruise with him to Europe. One day, after lunch, he and his daughter were standing on the deck, leaning on the railing. The little girl said, "Daddy, you said that God loves us. How much does God love us?" "More than anybody," answered her father.

"Daddy, does God love us as much as Mommy loved us?" The father answered yes, then looked out over the ocean. He said, "Look. Look in that direction. God's love extends farther than that."

Pointing in the opposite direction over the endless miles of ocean, he said, "look the other way. God's love is greater than that." Pointing at the sky, he said, "God's love is taller than that," and down at the ocean, "God's love is deeper than that."

Biting her lip to hold back the tears, the little girl said, "Daddy, isn't it wonderful that we are standing out here in the middle of it?"

As we continue our Lenten journey my prayer for you is that you know in the deepest part of your being that God's love for you is infinite. And my question for you to ponder during our Lenten journey is: **What limits do we put on our love?**

Joyfully in Christ's Service,

Pastor Sharon

More to Share

I am so pleased that so many in our church family are taking part in our weekly Bible Studies, attending the **Soup Suppers**, and participating in our Lenten Journey together as we participate in the **One Great Hour of Sharing**.

From my heart, I invite each of you to attend our **Holy Week** activities. They begin on **Palm Sunday** with the **Los Gatos Brass** sharing our Worship celebration followed by annual **Palm Sunday Brunch** of **Middle Eastern Foods**. This year on **Maundy Thursday** we are hosting a **Seder Dinner** to remember that special evening in the life of our Lord Jesus when he washed the feet of the Disciples and told them to love one another as he had loved them. We will be celebrating this special time together as we remember that night with the special symbols of the Jewish Passover. Please plan on attending by making reservations. The cost of the dinner is \$10 per person. If the cost is an issue please see me and I can make special arrangements. Cost should not keep anyone from attending. **Easter Sunday falls on the 31st of March**---what a wonderful celebration it will be. We will also have the joy of making lunches for the homeless youth through the Bill Wilson Center. Plastic Easter eggs with Candy in them would be great to include in their lunches. ~ Pastor Sharon



March Birthdays!

Jenni Dunn	March 5
John Lococo	March 12
Annie Downum	March 16
Ron Bueno	March 19



Michele at work on our reader board
in front of church

Front Door Ministry



In February we made and gave out **1,295 lunches** for some **389 people**.

Monthly Food Drive for the Hungry People Served by Sacred Heart Community Services



In February, we gave **100 lbs.** of useful canned and packaged food to **Sacred Heart Community Services**. So far this year, we have donated **185 lbs.** of food, and **4,260 lbs. of food** since we began our monthly food drive in June, 2009.

Mini 5th Sunday Event on Easter Sunday



Our next 5th Sunday Service Worship Day falls on Easter. Rather than skip this opportunity for service, but not wanting to miss regular Easter events, your Mission Team decided to have a “Mini-5th Sunday,” where we will just focus on making 50 lunch bags for homeless youth served by the Bill Wilson Drop In-Center over on 2nd Street at Margaret.

If you can, along with your plant or basket of veggies (for the church photo), please bring some part of the lunch menu: bread, butter, peanut butter, lunch meat, cheese, apples, or cookies. **THANKS!**



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday

This offering helps three great Mission Programs of the Presbyterian Church (USA); The Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self Development of People, and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program. These three programs bless people in need in our country and around the world.

Please give generously.



Front Door Fun

On Friday, February 22 a group of moms and kids on school vacation came and pitched in making lunches for our **Front Door Ministry**.

Full of energy, these kids raced through more than 100 lunches in the time they were there and this was a huge help to the Front Door Team.



First Presbyterian Church San Jose

Book Club



Review

**Help, Thanks, Wow:
The Three Essential Prayers**
by Anne Lamott

If you have read Anne Lamott before, you know she has a very unique voice. She is the author of many books of fiction as well as non-fiction books about writing (“Bird by Bird”), memoirs of her first year as a mother (“Operating Instructions”) and of becoming a grandmother (“Some Assembly Required”) and several books of essays chronicling her faith journey. She is funny and sometimes irreverent, always thought-provoking while entertaining.

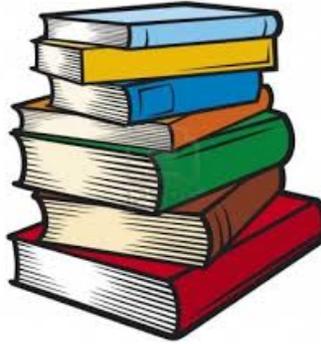
Her newest book – “Help, Thanks, Wow” is about prayer. It is a bit different than her previous books on spirituality; with a couple exceptions there is less straightforward storytelling and each of the meditations focus on the single topic of prayer. Sections are dedicated to what Lamott defines as the three essential prayers, which she describes in the single words “Help,” “Thanks,” and “Wow,” although she also talks about prayer in general and of course “Amen”. In a way, the book has the feel of poetry. The language is often beautiful, and you find yourself stopping to re-read a single passage several times to allow it to sink in. Also, like poetry, a greater appreciation is gained by reading parts aloud (or having it read to you). As always, Anne Lamott has an eloquence that puts into words both what we are thinking or perhaps have never thought about, and this book has a way of bringing calm and reflection to your day. I know I will return to this book again and again.

Next Book?

The FPC book club was started in 2010. It was formed to allow members a chance to read a variety of books and discuss how our faith influences how we approach and understand the book or how the book might influence our faith. We have read both fiction and non-fiction, books that were on spiritual and religious topics and books that were not.

We are trying to decide on the next book for the book club to read. We haven’t read fiction in a while – so there are a few fiction suggestions on the list, as well as non-fiction. Others suggestions are welcome..

Please let **Lori Tierney** know what you think, and she will announce the next book before Easter and set a date to discuss by late spring/early summer.



Fiction:

A Casual Vacancy by JK Rowling – the author of the Harry Potter series has written her first novel for adults, described as comic and thought provoking, about life and humanity even if it is not always pretty.

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver - novel set

in present day Appalachia, touches again themes of the environment and people; a parable of catastrophe and denial that explores how the complexities we inevitably encounter in life lead us to believe in our particular chosen truths

A Thousand Splendid Suns by by Khaled Hosseini – Novel by the author of *The Kite Runner*, it is described as a remarkable chronicle of three decades of Afghan history and a deeply moving account of family and friendship.

Non-Fiction:

The Philosophical Baby: What Children's Minds Tell Us About Truth, Love, and the Meaning of Life by Alison Gopnik - scientists and philosophers are starting to appreciate babies as new science holds answers to some of the deepest and oldest questions about what it means to be human.

My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist’s Personal Journey by Jill Bolte Taylor – The author, a neuro-anatomist, experienced a massive stroke that severely damaged the left hemisphere of her brain. *My Stroke of Insight* is her account of what happened that day, her subsequent 8-year recovery, and how these events changed her life for the better.

The Sunflower by Simon Wiesenthal – A book on the possibilities and limits of forgiveness centered around an event experienced by the author in a Nazi concentration camp. The book includes reflections by many additional thought-leaders responding to questions posed by Wiesenthal.

Waiting on God by Cherie Hill – a short book with reflections on waiting on God in times of His silence and our desperation. (note - first sold only as a Kindle e-book, paperback versions may be available).

Annual Church Family Photo
Easter Sunday

Grow!



This Easter Sunday **Mike Tierney** will once again take our annual Church Family photo. (See 2012 and 2011 photos below.)

Our theme for this photo is “**GROW!**” You can help make the photo wonderful by bringing to church a pot of growing flowers or a basket of vegetables or fruit, or pot of growing vegetables.



2012



2011

Heroes

he-ro (Noun)
 1. One who possesses admirable, courageous, memorable qualities; one who makes a big difference in the lives of others.
 2. Contemporary or biblical
 3. Local, loveable, and living :-)



Our soup Suppers this Lenten season have honored four of our church and community heroes as well as some Biblical ones as well. So far we have honored our own



Ole Johnson, Dan Guhl from Salvation Army and the Kiwanis Club, and Washington Elementary School Principal, **Maria Evans**.

Sister Marilyn Lacey will be honored on

March 6 and share her rich career working with refugees with attendees

Above **Pastor Sharon** and **Ole Johnson**, **Dan Guhl** and (at right) **Maria Evans**.





The 2011 Biblical Feast of Middle Eastern delights

Palm Sunday

Biblical Feast

“Food Talk” is often “God Talk” in the biblical stories, and so it is with Presbyterians. We love a good pot-luck, and we share our friendship and fellowship over a shared meal. Plus - food can act as symbols – stand-ins for so much more – allowing us to think about and deepen our spiritual understanding in many ways.

And so... On **Palm Sunday, March 24**, we will again share foods during fellowship time that remind us of the place/time that Jesus walked on the original Palm Sunday.

Why have a “biblical foods” fellowship? Jesus knew all of the preceding Hebrew traditions, including the rules of who to eat with, and he knew the food symbolism in the Old Testament scriptures. The Hebrew language is very concrete, and therefore uses symbols, metaphors, or myths in order to talk about the indescribable. Food images were perfect for the biblical mind. Salt was used as a preservative in ancient times, and became a symbol of friendship and more, for example. Additionally, the biblical view of community centered around the table – not surprising for a time where life was more nomadic and scarcity of food made sharing often critical for survival. Jesus used parables that included meals or feasts to teach. He used his own act of sharing time and food or water with those considered outside the Kingdom of God as a powerful example. The first Communion shared was a part of a shared meal with the disciples.

So let’s enjoy some simple foods, both those which have been eaten by the crowd waving palms and shouting Hosanna, as well as those more typical of the tax collector or Roman soldier, and think about Christ who invites all to the table.

If you are interested in helping provide some “biblical food” please contact Lori Tierney. It does not need to be complicated—you may have an idea of what you would bring, Lori can help you find a recipe, or no recipe at all is needed (olives, etc).



“God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, in the flowers, clouds and stars.”

~ Martin Luther

A Funny Thing Happened On My Way to Ministry :-)



A Confession from Judy Lococo

“I was working with our church youth group and took 4 or 5 boys on an outing to Stevens Creek Park. It was Fall and we made little rafts out of twigs we found and floated them down the creek.

Two days later, Chris Johnson (Teresa’s son,) was in the ER with a terrible case of poison oak - from those great, soft twigs! He was a mess for weeks, taking all kinds of meds to clear up his affliction, and tortured as one can only imagine.

Obviously, I wasn’t called on again to head outings!”

Do you have a funny story to share? Send to the Plants for next month’s issue (patplant@comcast.net) :-)



Santa Teresa Hills elder Yvonne Miller with big delivery for us

What a blessing!

This the fourth church to help us in this way. (Stone church of Willow Glen, Los Gatos Pres., Sunnyvale Pres., and Foothill Pres.) Yea!

Blessings for our Front Door Ministry from Santa Teresa Hills Church!

On Sunday March 3, **Yvonne Miller** from **Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church** here in San Jose delivered 65 lunches and a case of water for our lunch program for homeless and hungry people.



A Shower of Blessings for the Capuchinos and their baby girl-to-be!!!



Sunday, March 10, 12:15 p.m.

Ladies bring a piece of fruit to add to a big fruit basket for **Irene** and a 3x5" card or piece of paper with a blessing written on it for this new baby girl.



↑ **Irene** on March 3...with a month to go!



← **Irene and John** when they joined the church last year.



Gerry McKenna and new dog Rocket

Gerry McKenna and his wife **Ann Marie** have a new baby in the house, a rescue dog named **Rocket!**

Gerry and Rocket have been taking obedience courses. Both Gerry and Rocket are good students.

Birthday girl Jenni Dunn!



**“Man was made at the end of the week when God was tired.”
~ Mark Twain**

*“For God so loved the world that
he gave his one and only Son, that
whoever believes in him shall not
perish but have eternal life.”
- John 3:16*



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of San Jose
49 North Fourth St.
San Jose, CA 95112

OUR MISSION:

At **First Presbyterian Church of San Jose**, we are a Spirit-led Community of Faith where the life and love of Jesus Christ is felt and shared.

For more information, please contact:

- The Reverend Sharon Hare, Pastor
- Karleen Duchscherer, Administrator
- Church office (408) 297-7212
- email: fpcsj@yahoo.com
- Website: www.fpcsj.org

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit items to **Greg or Pat Plant**. Any format works (in person, church mailbox, email gregplant@comcast.net).

Deadline for the **April, 2013** edition is **Monday, March 25, 2013**.



friends, visitors, newcomers:

Join us this Sunday!

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time: Following Worship

Children attend the first part of the worship service. Following the Children's Message, Sunday School is available for nursery through high school. High school – age children attend worship service on the first Sunday of the month, and a teen discussion other weeks.

First Presbyterian Church of San Jose, 49 N. Fourth St.

3rd St.

4th St.

