



Presbeat



First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah, CA
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The Journey ~ Easter Is About Freedom



Spring is a wonderful time of year! The colors and smells are all around us. It also means that Easter is just around the corner. I am a minister with three church services this week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, so that means I am extra busy. However, even through the busyness of life I like to take some time to watch a Bible movie or two. Instead of finding some old favorites like “Jesus Christ Super Star”, “The Ten Commandments”, “The Life of Brian”, or “The Last Temptation of Christ”, I stumbled across the film “Before Sunrise” (1995). This is by no means an Easter movie, but it got me thinking in a new way about the meaning of Easter. It is a romance story that moves slowly as two people meet each other in a European city and spend one day together.

I was touched by the film's exploration and tragedy of modern life because the couple talks about the barriers we place around our lives that ultimately limit us. The biggest obstacle to living a free, full and faithful life is all too often ourselves. At one level, that is what the Easter message is all about, being set free from within.

The Ethan Hawke character Jesse, says, “that is why so many people hate themselves. It's just they are sick to death of being around themselves. You see, I've heard all my stories over and over, so I'm sick of myself. But being with you, it's made me feel like I was somebody else”. This scene artfully explores the great struggle for freedom in our life. “Wherever you go, there you are.” Or “how can I miss you, if you never go away”. And the person you are trying to get away from is you.

Easter is about FREEDOM! Freedom from living a life of self-criticism, loneliness, constant anger. The Easter message is more than just being made a little bit better; it is about being made anew as a beloved child of God! *Yes, you are a beloved child of God.*

The story of Jesus' resurrection is about being made anew, and the kicker is that a new life happens in the last place imaginable. The graveyard! The discovery of the empty tomb is the heart of Christian faith. The Easter message confronts human and spiritual freedom head on by allowing us to enter into the graveyard, the tomb, the place we fear the most. To experience resurrection, new life, we need the aspect of our life that is destroying us to die, albeit spiritual, mental, emotional death, but death needs to happen if we are to have any real possibility and being made anew as a beloved child of God. Often when we talk about resurrection, we really mean resuscitation. Resuscitate me back into the old life that is destroying me.

Understanding the Easter message is not easy, nor is it arrived at by common sense. It is trust against the evidence, risk in the face of the odds that your life, this world, no matter how desperate it is at times, can be made anew by God. Easter is trust that God can bring new life into the darkest and most unimaginable places of our life and world. Easter is the audacious belief that we are not just what the world makes of us.

Easter invites us to live into the mystery, that God is able to create anew and bring life, where otherwise life is not possible. A beautiful aspect of the Easter message is that it doesn't leave people behind. All of us are invited into the mystery of resurrection. Man or woman, black or white, old and young, gay or straight. The spiritual road to Easter morning is different for all of us. For some, the road to Easter morning is born out of a life crisis. Others will journey to Easter morning with grief on their hearts. Some will journey with gratitude and need to offer thanks. Others are lonely and in need of spiritual renewal. Others will travel out of an immediate and wondrous experience woven into the fabric of their ordinary everyday lives.

What road are you traveling in your life this Easter?

In Christ ~ *Rev. Daniel Christian*



From Pastor David in Djibouti

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HAPPY EASTER

As you are reading this, I am in Mogadishu, Somalia. I'll be leading worship for the troops here. My replacement is with me, which is a bit surreal. It's finally feeling like I am on the way home. I'll be leaving Africa 32 days after Easter!

Thank you for the warm welcome during our visits together these past Sundays. It was a huge morale boost, as folks say around here.

I'll be thinking about you and praying for you as I lead worship on Easter. I can't wait to get back.

In Christ, ~ *David*

The search continues for Director of Youth/Family Ministries...

The search committee for the position of Director of Youth and Family Ministries continues to peruse applications for the position. As soon as a viable pool is selected our committee will then schedule interviews. The job description has been sent to a variety of Christian based learning institutions as well as lay publications. If you know of any individuals who would make a good match for our position please direct them to secure an application from our Office Manager, Denise Beckler, denise@fpcukiah.org



Hangout has resumed!

We need YOU to help make the program a success.

We're looking for cooks, dinner companions, and craft helpers.

Please see Roe, Dory or Maryann if you can support our kids!

~ ~ ~ MISSIONS Michele Young, Elder ~ ~ ~



Don't forget to bring your Cents-Ability offering to church on the first Sunday every month. The collection is taken during communion, baskets are in the front for your convenience. If you need a collection container to keep at home, you can pick one up in the narthex. Remember all your money is used to help feed the hungry in our area. Thank you for helping with your prayers and donations.

WE ARE BUILDING AN ORPHANAGE!

In January, two of our members, Kevin & Shelly, traveled with ALKARE foundation to Uganda Africa. There they met Pastor John Kamulegeya, his wife Sarah, their 6 children and 15 adopted children. This family has been living rent-free in a small home near the church. Unfortunately, the landlord needs the house back at the end of the year. The children sleep on 3-tiered bunk beds or on the floor. Pastor John has been working on a new home for over 4 years but has stalled due to lack of funds. He identified this as his most pressing need. FPCU has decided to partner with Pastor John to finish his home/orphanage that will allow the family and orphans to rest secure knowing they have permanent housing on the way and will allow Pastor John to focus his time and energy on his many ministry responsibilities. Pastor John and Sarah are very thankful for our partnership! The total cost of the project is approximately \$9,000 and will be released during 4 phases. They are so thankful we have decided to partner with them. This project will allow the family and orphans to rest secure in knowing they have permanent housing on the way. This will allow Pastor John to focus his time and energy on his many ministry responsibilities.



On Friday, April 13th we have scheduled our Meals-To-Go Fundraiser in hopes to finance the remaining phases of the Orphanage. As always, we need your help! We have some volunteer opportunities available for the fundraiser.

1. Getting the word out and selling tickets
2. Volunteering Thursday & Friday for cooking, assembling and distribution of dinners

Minimum donations for the meals are \$60 (dinner for 4) and \$35 (dinner for 2). Each meal includes Tri-tip, baked potatoes, salad, roll and dessert. We also welcome additional donations as well to help change the lives of 20 plus children in Uganda, Africa. Thank you in advance for your generosity and prayers!

For more information, or to purchase tickets, please contact the church office at (707) 468-9235.



We are very pleased to share that we received over \$588 in donations on Palm Sunday. PTL!



April VIP Luncheon Wednesday, April 18th @ 11:30

All those Very Important People age 70 and over are invited to a fun-filled luncheon on the 21st. The menu is cranberry chicken, rice pilaf, green beans and pie. Program to be announced. Please call the church, 468-9235, if you need a ride. Hope to see you here!

AFTERNOON TEA SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2 PM

Pinkies raised? The Afternoon Tea of May 5th, 2 pm, is all the talk around church. Tickets will be available soon, for a small cost of \$10.00 each. Cooks and bakers are selecting their most delicious and delectable recipes for tea sandwiches and dainty cookies. 13 tables for 8 will be set with gorgeous china and beautiful centerpieces and they will certainly be an enchanting sight. We are limiting the number to 104 place settings, so be sure to get your tickets soon. We will be offering a variety of lovely baskets, filled with interesting and sought-after items, for a raffle, following the tea and program. Our local community has looked forward to attending our Teas in the past; let's make this one a beautiful experience!



SIGN-UPS

Tea sandwiches – see Jean Davis
Set a table, see Jaunita Coddington

Cookies – see Nancie Garcia
Tickets – see Wilma Pribyl

STILL NEEDED: (see Jaunita)

Items are needed to go into the baskets raffle
Kitchen crew - arrange food trays, make coffee and tea
Clean-up crew
servers needed

The purpose is primarily outreach to both our church and local community. Funds raised will be donated to a variety of in-church projects. To volunteer, please see Jaunita Coddington.

We look forward to having tea together!

Praise God for our Deacons, who love to serve the needs of our congregation and community.

1 Peter 4:10 says *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”*

Some of the duties we joyfully fulfill include our weekly coffee hours, organize and serve memorial receptions, prepare and deliver interfaith lunches and visit shut-ins. Additionally, our prayer shawl group makes and gives out prayer shawls and blankets and beanies for our veterans.

Here is a note of appreciation just received: *“I want to thank you for the very beautiful prayer shawl you gave me. I love all the colors and feel very cozy when I need to be held with the comfort of God to help me through this time of my life.”*

If you would like to come alongside your Deacons, or if you want to know more about what this ministry is about, please talk to Myrinda Head.



Dear Church Family ~ I hope you never tire of hearing us say THANK YOU!!! We are so glad you are all a part of this African adventure. Thank you for your financial support, prayers, words of love and encouragement. They mean so much to us! You were with us in Africa in more ways than one. We look forward to seeing where God takes us from here. We love you all! ~ Kevin & Shelly Mack

2017 Operation Christmas Child ~ results are in:

- Total of 11 countries internationally – 11,012,849 boxes
- Of that number 8,878,954 were from the United States.
- Of the USA number 642,834 were from the West Coast

Thanks to all who helped with this ministry and may God bless all the children touched by these precious gifts!





**April 12 – May 6 PRESENTED BY UKIAH PLAYERS THEATER
FEATURING FPCU MEMBERS INDIGO FUNK AND JANET NOE**
<http://www.ukiahplayerstheatre.org/>

Set in Damon Runyon's mythical New York City, *Guys and Dolls* is an oddball romantic comedy. Gambler Nathan Detroit tries to find the cash to set up the biggest craps game in town while the authorities breathe down his neck; meanwhile, his girlfriend and nightclub performer, Adelaide, laments that they've been engaged for fourteen years. Nathan turns to fellow gambler, Sky Masterson, for the dough, and Sky ends up chasing the straight-laced missionary, Sarah Brown, as a result. *Guys and Dolls* takes us from the heart of Times Square to the cafes of Havana, Cuba, and even into the sewers of New York City, but eventually everyone ends up right where they belong.



**MEETING
MINUTES**

Notes from the Session Meeting, February 15

DECISIONS/MOTIONS:

- **Worship:** Per the Book of Order Section W-3.0414 in addition to ruling elders, deacons and the ministers of Word and Sacrament, the Session may authorize other church members to serve communion
- **Buildings/Grounds:** Comfort Air Heating and Cooling bid for air conditioning the office at \$5,508.00 and Bromley Hall at \$5,204.00, with a \$50.00 administration fee for Comfort Air Heating/Cooling to obtain permits and an estimated Permit Fee cost of \$350.00- \$750.00. A total cost between \$11,112.00-\$11,512.00
- **Personnel:** Extend contract of Reverend Daniel Christian on a monthly basis beginning March 1, 2018 per signed contract 1-8-17 to June 1, 2018 and beyond as needed with a 3% cost living salary as recommended by the Presbytery of the Redwoods.

COUNCIL-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Family Council:

- **Children/Youth Report:** The annual Easter egg hunt is scheduled for 10:00 AM, Saturday, March 24, 2018 at McGarvey Park, with a light lunch in Bromley Hall following the egg hunt. VBS curriculum has been ordered, but we have not set a date yet. Air conditioning might make a difference in how we plan for VBS. I will be put a poll out on Facebook regarding the immediate need for nursery care during Sunday mornings. It would be good to know i.e. people are avoiding worship because of that or if it's not a current need (most of the kids are Kindergarten and older).
- **Missions:** The committee has committed to supporting the orphanage in Africa (\$9,000, Pastor John), using a portion of our currently available monies, \$2,500, to begin the project. The remaining monetary commitment will be given in \$2,500 installments as funds become available. A Meals-to-Go fundraiser for the orphanage project is scheduled for 4-13-18. The committee also continues monetary support for Peggy Arendt, NorCal Christian Ministries, and Alkare. The committee will develop a plan for continued support for the orphanage and troops once David has returned to FPCU. The receiving of the One-Great-Hour of Sharing gift will be Palm Sunday.
- **Congregational Life/Fellowship:** After a discussion regarding the development of church pictorial directory by a professional photography company or in-house the Session, by consensus, agreed to investigate the feasibility, both financially and logistically, to doing the directory in-house. Molly Schultz is arranging the Lenten Lunch for Sunday 2-18-18. No arrangements have been made for lunch for the other Lenten Sundays. By consensus, the Session agreed to have the committee try to arrange a Lenten Lunch for the last Sunday of Lent.
- **Adult Ministries:** The New Members Class, 1-28-18, was a successful undertaking: 6 attendees; one individual expressed the desire to officially join the fellowship of FPCU.
- **Worship and Music:** 35 people attended Ash Wednesday service; 2/18 will be a special service of prayer and thanksgiving with communion and prayer stations; Maundy Thursday 6:00 with seder and soup; Good Friday 6:00 Taize';

Resource Council:

- **Finance:** Presented a two-part financial report: 1) Income-expenses as of 1-31-18, indicating that FPCU had a positive balance for the month of \$8,233.00; 2) Year-to-date (1-2018) comparing full year view of 2017 against 2018 budget/estimate for 2018, noting that expenses for January 2018 were low in part because the Board of Pensions bill for the month was not paid. The finance committee met with the Mendocino Community Foundation regarding the Ramos Property, with the Foundation informing the committee that because the property evaluation report indicated the lower than expected value of the property a partnership between FPCU and the Foundation would not be a good "fit", suggesting that the church sell the property with the assistance of a realtor. Following discussion, the Session, by consensus, agreed that the finance committee to arrange for a second opinion by a realtor regarding the property.
- **Buildings/Grounds:** 17 people plus Scouts assisted with the 2-3-2018 workday. The committee has been discussing the prioritizing of projects needing attention: air conditioning, roof, parking lot.
- **Personnel:** The job description for Director of Youth/Family Ministries has been placed on Craigslist, and other avenues are being considered including Mendocino College. After discussion it was, with the mutual approval of the two individuals involved, MSA to replace Shirley Lewis with Jerry Garcia as a member of the search committee for the Director of Youth/Family Ministries. The Session reaffirmed Roe Sandelin, MaryAnn Snyder, Daniel Christian, and David Rodriguez as members of the 5-member search committee elected by the Session at the 12-21-17 session meeting.

PRESBYTERY REPORT (Shirley, Karen): The Presbytery meeting was held 2-9-18 at the First Presbyterian Church, Santa Rosa. Highlights of the meeting were: a) 2018 Pedal for Protein ride is scheduled for 9/16-9/22 starting from Arcata; b) Cassie Carrol, who has preached at FPCU, was approved to move to the status of Candidate; c) Approved overtures to General Assembly from Redwoods Presbytery: 1) Call to RE/MAX corporation to cease selling and renting property in Israeli Settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem; 2) 2018 PCUSA Fossil Fuel Divestment; 3) Promoting democracy, good governance, human rights and sustainable development in Madagascar.

The next Session meeting is Thursday, April 19th, 6:00pm.

Session Members: Randy Beckler, Daniel Christian, Kevin DeVries, Jerry Garcia, Karen Golden, Randy Huffman, Shirley Lewis, Roe Sandelin, Lenord Swope, Michele Young

Did we miss your birthday last month???

Please contact the church office or email Denise, denise@fpcukiah.org so we can send a card and celebrate with you!



Happy Birthday!

4/1 Ellen Chin	4/13 Donnie Johnston	4/22 Barry Squires
4/3 Ty Yanez	4/16 Bob Budke	4/25 Bradley Singleton
4/8 Chris Gordon	4/19 Len Brutocao	4/26 Eric Singleton
Bill Hook	Diane Yanez	4/27 Desmond Snyder
4/11 Sharon Ruddick	4/21 Dave Longstreth	4/29 Gayle DeVries

Event Calendar ~ March



Sun weekly	10:00am	Worship Celebration
	6:00pm	#SWAG Youth Group
Mon weekly	6:30pm	Cub Scouts
Tue. weekly	6:30am	NorCal Christian Ministries
	7:00am	Men's Bible Study
	8:30am	Serendipity Women's Bible Study
	5:00pm	SIPS Women's Bible Study
	6:00pm	Spanish AA; NAHOP
Wed. weekly	6:30am	NorCal Christian Ministries
	5:30pm	Worship Team rehearsal
		Hangout Kids' club
Thurs. weekly	6:30am	NorCal Christian Ministries
	1:00pm	ABC Program
	6:00pm	Spanish AA

...additional events for the month

4/1	He Is Risen!!! Happy Easter!				
	Cents-ability Offering/Communion				
4/4	10:30am	Worship Committee			
4/5	5:30pm	Buildings/Grounds			
4/7	8:30am	Work Day			
4/8	11:15am	Uganda Update/Slides			
4/11	1:30pm	PW Bible Study			
4/12	12:30pm	ABC Program			
	6:30pm	Boy Scouts			
4/17	12:00pm	Family/Outreach Council			
			4/18	11:30am	VIP Luncheon
			4/19	6:00pm	Session
			4/21	3:00pm	SWAG sleepover
			4/22	3:00pm	Ukiah Symphony Trio
			4/25	1:30pm	PW Bible Study
			4/26	12:30pm	ABC Program
				5:30pm	Deacons
			4/27	3:00pm	Red Wagon Craft Faire
			4/28	9:00am	Red Wagon Craft Faire

Our Calendar is also available online @ <http://fpcukiah.org/calendar/calendar/>
(Note: if using a phone, view in landscape orientation to view properly)