



Presbeat



First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah, CA
514 West Church Street; Ukiah CA 95482
Office Hours Mon-Thurs, 9am-1pm ~ 707.468.9235
Pastor David Rodriguez – *Mobilized to Africa*
Pastor Daniel Christian, 707.380.6486

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Editor: Denise Beckler, Office Manager/Music Director
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Dear Friends,

It has been a joy, honor and pleasure being your pastor for the past 15 months! I am going to miss all of you when we say goodbye. I am grateful to the Elders and Deacons! You do wonderful ministries together! I am proud of the many ministries and worship that we have been part of. NorCal Christian Ministries, SWAG, HANGOUT, Worship Services: All Soul's Day, Christmas, Reaffirmation of Baptism, Lent, Easter, Easter Egg Hunts, and VBS to name just a few. I will take all of these experiences with me to my next call.

I am interviewing with other churches. We shall see what God has planned. Michelle and Tessa are looking forward to having me around more often. My muscles have gotten stiff from all the driving, and I will be happy to start exercising more often!

I am going to miss the manse and the vibrant downtown. The other night I was at Ukiah Brewing Company listening to happy people sing karaoke. I took Tessa to the Sun House during Easter and she is still talking about it. Michelle is trying to perfect a recipe she had at Chop Chop.

I am not sure when my last day will be. It looks like it might be in mid to late June. I will let you know. We have some things to schedule at home and this is influencing my final Sunday.

I know David is excited to come home to Ukiah. We will know more soon on an exact date.

I am available to meet, go for coffee, lunch or just spend some time together. I am in my office on Sunday, Tuesday-Thursday. When you are in Novato and planning on a meal or visit to Beso Bistro, please let me know!

In Christ ~ *Pastor Daniel*

Did you know....???



Rev. David Rodriguez was recently awarded the third highest US Military award: the “**Defense Meritorious Service Medal**” (see the Ribbon above). This medal is worn between the Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medal and is awarded by the US Dept. of Defense to members of the Armed Forces who, while serving in a joint activity, distinguish themselves by non-combat outstanding achievement or meritorious service.



You can see the Award, the Citation, and Narrative at the end of this newsletter. Congratulations David, on this highly prestigious medal! We're very proud of you and the work you have done and will continue to do to the glory of God's Kingdom!

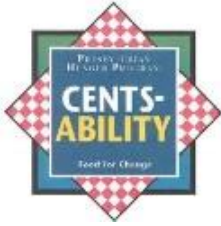
The search continues for Director of Youth/Family Ministries...

The committee for the hiring of the Director of Youth & Family Ministries is actively seeking candidates for the position. When a viable pool is assembled the committee will schedule interviews. As of yet we have not found candidates that would fill our need. If you have knowledge of someone who would like to apply please have them contact Denise, in the office, for a job description and application.

We have been in contact with Pastor David and are in the process of determining his return to Ukiah. There are several factors being determined and as soon as all factors are worked out we will have a specific date to announce. Please bear with us as we work with pastor and his Navy obligations. A tentative date could be sometime mid-July.

In Christ, Jerry

~ ~ ~ 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.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU to all who supported our Meals-To-Go fundraiser with your prayers, donations and hard work – we are excited to have this opportunity to work together to the Glory of God.

We served 132 meals and raised over \$7,500 dollars to go toward our Uganda Orphanage building!!



The orphanage project is on time and on budget! Phase I is complete, which included the completion of all of the walls and preparation for the roof to be installed. The estimated cost in schillings was 5,023,000. That translates to approximately \$1,355. Not bad for a little church in Ukiah!

The recent fundraiser was a tremendous success due to the efforts of the mission committee and the many helpers who put it on. Money has been sent to cover expenses for Phase II, which is approximately \$2,400. This will include roofing, doors and windows, the construction of a water tank base and rain water harvesting. We have all the funds needed and are prepared to send funds for Phase III when they begin. There is a Phase IV, so the project isn't completed yet. Will keep you posted on that Phase.

Pastor John and his family are so happy and grateful for our help. Also, please keep Pastor John in your prayers as he would like to come visit us in June. He has been turned down twice previously when applying for a visa.

Thank you all for your generosity, love and support.
We are truly making a difference in the lives of these dear people.

CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR MILITARY AND ORPHANAGE IN DJIBOUTI

Thank you for all the donations that we have received every month. We send out the last shipment of peanut butter and dry beans last week. Your donations made a huge difference for the children and troops in Djibouti. Thank you!

SHOEBOX RECYCLING PROGRAM

We sent our second shipment (5 large boxes) back to headquarters to be processed and shipped to those in need. Thank you for donating your gently used shoes and keep them coming! We are using the money earned from this ministry to buy new shoes for school age children in our community who have a need. If you know of a family or child that might benefit from our Shoes for You program, please contact the church office to let us know.

Operation Christmas Child - 25 Years, 1993 - 2018

Twenty-five years ago, the first Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were given to children in Bosnia. To mark this important anniversary Franklin Graham celebrated in the best way possible: bringing shoeboxes and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children and their families in January to the Dominican Republic.



Our church has been one of the drop off centers for this ministry for over 10 plus years. The National Collection Week is November 12 – 19th. Plans are to have an appreciation and kick off luncheon in July – stay tuned for more information. May God be praised and the teaching of Jesus go forth in this ministry.

~ ~ ~ **W O R S H I P** Shirley Lewis, Elder ~ ~ ~

Flowers for the Sanctuary

Do you enjoy arranging flowers? Do you have flowers in your garden that you would like to “show off”? If so, and if you would enjoy decorating our sanctuary, you are invited to bring flower arrangements on any Sunday. We have several places where flowers could be placed on display. If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Lewis or the office.



**Easter Morning, Indigo Funk
was baptized and received into
membership of FPCU.
Welcome into our Church
Family, Indigo!**



May VIP Luncheon
Wednesday, May 16th @ 11:30

All those Very Important People age 70 and over are invited to a luncheon on the 21st.

Menu: assorted quiches, green salad, and strawberry shortcake.

Guest speaker: Rev. Daniel Christian.

Please call the church, 468-9235, if you need a ride. Hope to see you here!

AFTERNOON TEA
SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2 PM

Fundraiser sponsored by FPCU's Presbyterian Women USA



Cooks and bakers are selecting their most delicious and delectable recipes for tea sandwiches and dainty cookies. Tables 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!

Tickets are available now for a small cost of \$15.00 each, or purchase a table of 8 for \$96. Tickets are available from Wilma Pribyl or the church office.

To our Dear Church Family,

We want to thank each of you for the love and support you gave us in the loss of our daughter. We appreciated your reaching out to us in so many ways during this sad time. Your prayers and caring were such a comfort and so very, very much appreciated. We are so blessed to be part of such a wonderful, loving church family. We love you and we thank you.



With our heartfelt gratitude, *Dick & Sharon Ruddick*

Notes from the Session Meeting, March 15

PASTOR REPORT: Rev. Larry Ballenger officiated the memorial service of Roland Pringle, March 10th. Indigo Funk was baptized on Easter Sunday.

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:** Easter egg activity is set for 3-24-18. Wednesday's Kids Club (elementary grades) is going again, with some social-emotional challenges that we are addressing by developing steps-consequences for some of the attendees (autism spectrum). The SWAG program for junior high-high school age students continues to flourish
- **Missions:** No report
- **Congregational Life/Fellowship:** An update regarding the feasibility of doing an in-house church directory will be ready for the April 2018 Session meeting. During the worship service on 3-18-18 a request will be made for anyone interested in preparing soup for the Lenten Lunch on 3-25-18. If no one volunteers, Kevin DeVries indicated he would do the soup.
- **Adult Ministries:** No report
- **Worship and Music:** A draft of the Seder program to be presented during the Maundy Thursday activities (3-29-18) was presented to Session. The committee chairman and pastor went step-by-step through the program, with the Session making comments, suggestions, and concerns. By consensus, the recommendation was to review other more traditional Seder's that may be available and prepare a revised Seder to present to the Session at the Called Session meeting, 3-25-18.

Resource Council:

- **Finance:** A modified budget report was presented, with the more detailed monthly report to be forthcoming in the coming days: a) income for February 2018 was \$18,00, which was \$2,000 less than projected but more than expenses for the month; b) to date (3-15-18) giving has been strong for March. The committee has met with a realtor to get a second opinion regarding the Ramos property.
- **Buildings/Grounds** The next meeting of the committee will be 4-5-18, and the next workday, 4-7-18. The church has received an inquiry regarding are policy regarding allowing dogs to attend events (example: worship service); committee will discuss and make recommendation to Session. The air conditioning bid has been increased by \$393.00

As of March 31, 2018		Total \$\$
Income	\$	57,788
Expenses	\$	45,029
Difference	\$	12,759
Balance in Checking Account		Total \$\$
Non-Designated Funds	\$	83,071
Designated Funds (detail below)	\$	43,179
Total Balance in Checking	\$	126,250
Balance in Savings		Total \$\$
CD's	\$	44,312
Mutual Funds	\$	25,742
Other Savings	\$	60,515
Total Balance in Savings	\$	130,569
Detail of Designated Funds in Checking Account		
Missions	\$	-
Hispanic Ministries	\$	-
Hispanic MicroLoans	\$	1,010
Mission Trip	\$	3,043
Missions Fundraiser	\$	1,170
Centsability	\$	-
Shoes 4 You	\$	89
Per Capita	\$	1,138
Deacons	\$	-
Flowers	\$	-
General Memorial	\$	27,944
Camperships	\$	500
Buildings and Grounds	\$	200
Compassionate Ministries	\$	1,382
Singalong	\$	-
Senior Ministries	\$	-
Adult Ministries	\$	3
Youth Ministries	\$	-
Children's Ministries	\$	23
Childrens Playground	\$	3,876
Singalong	\$	704
Vacation Bible School	\$	-
Special Grants	\$	1,933
Fellowship Meals	\$	163
Total	\$	43,179

due to current cost increases but is still within the projected cost range (\$11,112.00-\$11,512.00). Randy will sign the revised contract next week (3/19/18-3/23/18)

- **Personnel:** Search committee for a Director of Youth-Family Ministries has received two resumes. The position has been approved for advertising on a number of websites, including Redwoods Presbytery, Simpson College, and Whitworth.

The next Session meeting is Thursday, May 17th, 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!

5/2 Riley Haselswerdt	5/17 Winnie Edgar	5/25 Francine Selim
5/3 Glenn Logan	Jack Nichols	5/28 Ann Denham
5/10 Teresa Erickson	Roe Sandelin	5/29 Deagan Dockins
5/16 June Jacobs	5/23 Linda Simmons	5/31 Bob Huff
	Evie Wise	

Event Calendar ~ May



Sun weekly	10:00am	Worship Celebration
	6:00pm	#SWAG Youth Group
Mon weekly	6:30pm	Cub Scouts
Tue. weekly	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	5:30pm	Worship Team rehearsal
		Hangout Kids' club
Thurs. weekly	1:00pm	ABC Program
	6:00pm	Spanish AA

...additional events for the month

5/2 10:30am	Worship Committee	5/15 12:00pm	Family/Outreach Council
5/5 2:00pm	Afternoon Tea	5/16 11:30am	VIP luncheon
5/6 Cents-ability Offering/Communion		5/17 6:00pm	Session
11:15am	Women's choir	5/20 Pentecost ~ Youth lead worship	
5/8 1:30pm	PW Bible Study	5/22 1:30pm	PW Bible Study
5/10 12:30pm	ABC Program	5/24 12:30pm	ABC Program
6:30pm	Boy Scouts	5:30pm	Deacons
5/12 9:00am	Stitches from the Heart	5/28 Memorial Day Holiday – Office Closed	
5/13 Happy Mother's Day!			
11:15am	Missions Committee		

Our Calendar is also available online @ <http://fpcukiah.org/calendar/calendar/>

(Note: if using a phone, view in landscape orientation to view properly)



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HAS AUTHORIZED THE AWARD OF THE

DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

TO

CAPTAIN DAVID B. RODRIGUEZ, USN

FOR

EXCEPTIONALLY MERITORIOUS SERVICE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 29TH DAY OF APRIL 2018

COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE – HORN OF AFRICA
COMMAND OR OFFICE



FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DAVID J. FURNESS
MAJOR GENERAL, USMC
COMMANDER



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER

TO

DAVID B. RODRIGUEZ

Captain David B. Rodríguez, United States Navy, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service as Director of the Office of Religious Affairs, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa from April 2017 to May 2018. Captain Rodriguez executed the challenging role of Force Chaplain through inspirational leadership and extraordinary dedication to duty. He was an expert in Strategic Religious Ministry. Captain Rodriguez coordinated over 80 religious support missions, which provided religious support to over 34 thousand military members, coalition forces, civilian personnel and refugees. He was responsible for key leader engagements with senior military leaders, religious leaders, and civic leaders. Captain Rodriguez was a pivotal leader and critical in building partnerships, credibility, partnership capacities, and mutual trust. He developed and directed a positive community relationship with Caritas Internationalis Djibouti, which provided over four thousand pounds of supplies and 12 thousand volunteer hours to alleviate the suffering of homeless orphans. Captain Rodriguez's steadfast devotion to duty, leadership, and professionalism significantly contributed to the success of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa and will have a positive and long-lasting impact on peace and stability in the region. The distinctive accomplishments of Captain Rodriguez reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Navy, and the Department of Defense.

NARRATIVE

Captain David B. Rodriguez, United States Navy distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service as Director of the Office of Religious Affairs, Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) from April 2017 to May 2018.

CAPT Rodriguez executed the challenging role of Force Chaplain for CJTF-HOA through inspirational leadership and extraordinary dedication to duty. He coordinated over 80 religious support missions in the CJTF-HOA Area of Responsibility (AOR) by utilizing religious ministry teams from CJTF-HOA, United States (U.S.) Air Force Africa (AFAF), U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), U.S. Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF), U.S. Army Africa (ARAF), Special Operations Command Africa (SOCAF), Task Forces (TF), and Special Operations Command Forward-East Africa (SOCFWD-EA). CAPT Rodriguez diligently provided religious support to over 34 thousand military members, Coalition Forces, civilian personnel, and refugees. He had a pivotal role within the countries of Somalia, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Djibouti throughout his 370 day Boots on Ground deployment and during Operation OAKEN STEEL.

CAPT Rodriguez provided great leadership and was a subject matter expert to the CJTF-HOA Religious Affairs Directorate strategic religious ministry program in accordance with Joint Publication 1-05 "Religious Affairs in a Joint Environment". He was responsible for Key Leader Engagements (KLEs) with 12 senior military leaders of the Somali National Army, Djibouti Islamic religious leaders, the Sultan of Tadjourah, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Djibouti and Somalia, the Prefect of Tadjoura, the Village Elder of Ali Oune, and the Village Chief of Tadjoura. These KLEs were critical to building partnerships, credibility, partnership capacities, and mutual trust. CAPT Rodriguez was instrumental in facilitating the first visit of a Kentucky National Guard (KNG) Chaplain as part of the State Partnership Program with Djibouti. This involved direct coordination with the KNG Commanding General, the KNG Liaison Officer at the U.S. Embassy, and the AFRICOM Chaplain.

CAPT Rodriguez traveled over 20 thousand miles to personally provide worship services, counseling sessions, mentoring, and suicide awareness classes throughout the CJTF-HOA AOR. As a servant leader, he consistently sacrificed his own personal comfort in order to meet the needs of others. He regularly provided religious support to CJTF-HOA personnel working throughout the night at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti (CLDJ) and at Chabelley Airfield, Djibouti. CAPT Rodriguez developed and directed a Communications Relations (COMREL) with Caritas Internationalis (CARITAS) Djibouti, which provided over four thousand pounds of supplies and 12 thousand volunteer hours to alleviate the suffering of homeless orphans. When he discovered that the children were not receiving protein in their diet, he made this situation known to three churches in the U.S. As a result, these churches began providing CARITAS with dried beans, peanut butter, and vitamins for the malnourished children. When United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced that it would not be funding CARITAS for 2018, he worked with U.S. Agency for International Development at the U.S. Embassy Djibouti to ensure that CARITAS continued to receive vital UNICEF funding throughout 2018.

During the first week of his deployment, CAPT Rodriguez was involved in providing care to TF when some of their members became casualties following a mission. He met the plane at the CLDJ ramp when it arrived and accompanied the body of a TF member to the morgue and provided religious support to the team members and mortuary affairs personnel while there. CAPT Rodriguez was then requested to provide a memorial service for TF. Following this, he was read into their program and was provided with a base access card. He then provided religious support for TF when their assigned chaplain was away. He also incorporated the members of TF into the CJTF-HOA COMREL mission at CARITAS Djibouti.

CAPT Rodriguez went beyond his regular duties to provide religious support at the CLDJ Chapel. He led the 800 weekly Protestant Liturgical Worship Services at the CLDJ Chapel throughout his deployment. When there were no trained chaplains to provide ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) workshops or safeTALK (Suicide Alertness For Everyone/Tell Ask Listen Keep Safe) workshops, he successfully completed the ASIST Training For Trainers and the safeTALK Training for Trainers courses. This training qualified him

NARRATIVE

to facilitate three safeTALK workshops and one ASIST workshop at CLDJ. These workshops are a prerequisite for those who attend the Chaplains' Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO) retreat each month at CLDJ. CAPT Rodriguez provided expert analysis and insightful recommendations to the AFRICOM - SCC Strategic Synchronization Working Group (ASSS-WG) meeting in Naples, Italy. During this workshop, the chaplains and chaplain assistants from AFAF, NAVAF, USARAF, SOCAF, and Commander, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia gathered to discuss and plan military-to-military engagements, key senior religious engagements, and coordination of religious ministry missions. Because of his extensive involvement with these issues during his deployment with CJTF-HOA, CAPT Rodriguez engaged as a subject matter expert, which led to the overall success of the workshop.

CAPT Rodriguez regularly provided expert mentoring to 11 enlisted Reserve Component USN Religious Program Specialists and U.S. Army Chaplain Assistants that were on the staff of the CLDJ Chapel and CJTF-HOA during his deployment. Three of the Religious Program Specialists on the staff of the CJTF-HOA Religious Affairs Directorate completed their Information Warfare Dominance qualifications. CAPT Rodriguez regularly provided expert mentoring to the 17 chaplains at the CLDJ Chapel, CJTF-HOA, SOC FWD-EA, and TF who were present during his deployment. He also participated in four- Commanding Officer/Officer-In-Charge 2N1 Additional Qualification Designator Boards. CAPT Rodriguez was a superb team builder with the Religious Ministry Teams of CJTF-HOA and the CLDJ Chapel. He provided expert help in conflict resolution which greatly contributed to the success of the mission of the Religious Affairs Directorate and the mission of the CLDJ Chapel. In addition, he was frequently asked by the J-Code Directors of CJTF-HOA to provide assistance with conflict resolution and team building.

CAPT Rodriguez provided invaluable leadership and administrative support as a staff officer. He provided expert guidance to the USF-EA Transition Team and Manpower Study. He assisted with the development of the United States Naval Chief of Chaplains Strategic Plan. His work with evaluations, fitness reports, awards write-ups, memorandums of understanding, letters of appreciation, certificates of participation, after action reports, mission planning, travel coordination, and personnel supervision enabled the CJTF-HOA Religious Affairs Directorate to accomplish its mission with excellence. CAPT Rodriguez was responsible for the development and execution of the first KLE events for the Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché U.S. Embassy Djibouti and at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti and at Mogadishu, Somalia. In addition, he coordinated work the of the U.S. Army National Guard personnel who cleaned and painted the French Cemetery of Djibouti in preparation for the U.S. Embassy Memorial Day Commemoration.

CAPT Rodriguez designed and executed the first Professional Development Training Workshop for chaplains and Religious Program Specialists from CFTF-HOA and CLDJ. This training was provided by Rear Admiral Endel Lee, Chaplain Corporation, USN, USN Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Religious Affairs. CAPT Rodriguez designed and executed the first Religious Ministries Workshop for chaplains and chaplain assistants at CJTF-HOA and CJDJ. This workshop included chaplains and chaplain assistants from AFRICOM, CJTF-HOA, AFAF, NAVAF, USARAF, SOCAF, TF, Texas Army National Guard, and SOCFWD-EA. This workshop enabled the Religious Ministry Teams operating in the CJTF-HOA AOR to plan future religious support missions and key leader engagements. It was also a vital part of the turnover of the responsibilities of CAPT Rodriguez to his successor who was present.

Captain Rodriguez has served the Religious Affairs and CJTF-HOA with distinction. He is most deserving of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.