

The Vision



A Community of Comfort and Care

Where:

- ~ Christ Reigns Supreme
- ~ Worship Lifts the Spirit
- ~ The Bible Touches Hearts & Minds
- ~ Serving Brings Meaning
- ~ Relationships Change Lives

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2019



Mon. - Thurs. 7 am-4 pm
Friday 8 am-12 pm



THREADS OF FAITH

Welcome All Crafters!

Join us **February 9th from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in Fox Hall. Come work on a project or learn a craft, or stop by to drop off what you have made. All crafters are welcome, if you can make items we can donate locally or globally. Enjoy fellowship while you give to others. For more information, contact Caroline Cohen (805-345-5297 cscohen45@gmail.com).

TEAM LEADERS
FEBRUARY 5TH @ 6:30 PM
FOX HALL



Genealogy Club – **February 11th @ 10:30 AM**

Our purpose is to help and encourage each other in our research. If you're interested in discovering your family history, we invite you to join us. We can even help you get started on your own family tree. Laptop computer helpful but not necessary. Bring your curiosity and enthusiasm! Contact Kathy Nienhouse at knienhouse@yahoo.com with any questions or to let us know you're coming.



Wednesday, February 20th
Tanner Jacks, AG Mesa
8:00 AM

Weekly Reminders

Thursdays

★ Choir Practice 6:30 PM

Sundays

★ Worship Service 10:30 AM



Monthly Reminders

- ★ **Ladies Bookclub**
2nd Thursday
- ★ **Genealogy Club**
3rd Monday
- ★ **Presbyterian Women's Luncheon**
4th Thursday

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PASTORS CORNER

This Too Shall Pass

Robbie and I love to watch old movies. One that we have watched many times is the wonderful 1953 Oscar winning movie *From Here to Eternity*. The movie takes place on an army base in Hawaii before and during the attack on Pearl Harbor. In addition to being a passionate and star-crossed love story, it is the story of the love and brutality of the men who served on that base. I am always touched by the performances, especially if I watch it during Oscar season. Sometimes, with that movie in particular, I feel a kind of sadness as well. It makes me think of my father as a young Navy pilot in that war and the tiny scalloped edge sepia and white photos he kept of his time in Hawaii (after the Pearl Harbor attacks). There were pictures of Diamond Head, of the beach at Waikiki and of an unknown unnamed WAC with the wide legged shorts and white shirt tied at the waist. As I think of him (this month would have been his 99th birthday) all in the world I want is to turn back the years, to find that young flyer at home starting his law

practice and building the home that will forever be "home" for me.

It is in moments like that, as well as the mountain top experiences of faith, that I can identify with Peter in his desire to build a tent, or dwelling place, to try to keep Jesus, Elijah and Moses with him, frozen in time and glory, on that mountain of the transfiguration. Perhaps you, too, know what it feels like to want to freeze time, to capture moments of deep love, or of the indefinable presence of God's love, and to keep them at your beck and call forever. That is just not the way that it works though, is it? Things change. It is the way that it is. Perhaps Jesus was trying to prepare Peter for that when he refused his offer of a little house to dwell in. Perhaps he was about something even more profound than that. Perhaps Jesus knew that for Peter to become all that he could be he would have to leave the mountaintop, leave his expectations, put his own desires aside and follow Jesus to another mountain, one called Calvary.

It is so natural to want to hold on to the important people and experiences in our lives and there is nothing wrong with that. We get into trouble when our desire to hold on keeps us stuck and unable to move into the new future that God has for us. After all, we cannot change and stay the same. One of the

most frightening and one of the most beautiful realities of the life of faith is that "this too shall pass". Both the wonderful and the horrible experiences in this life are temporary. They cannot be clung to. They cannot be our gods. Whether we are in pain or euphoria we are always headed toward a new and better future. If we try too hard to hold on to our present then we will often miss the very moments for which we were born. And Jesus is always there for that journey. Is that a comfort while I sit fingering my father's old epaulets? You know, I think it really is.

All my love,
Eugenia

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. What are the things in your life that you most want to hold on to? What does that holding on cost you?
2. What are those things that you would most like to be done with? How might you go about leaving them behind?
3. Take a moment to thank God for your precious memories and ask for an awareness of Christ's presence in each new moment.

February 2019 Daily Scripture and Prayer

1st – Isaiah 43:25 *“I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.”*

Forgiving God, your mercy is beyond our comprehension! Help us to follow your lead, and let go of the burden of past mistakes so that we can move on empowered by your grace. Thank you. Amen.

2nd – Col. 2:6-7 *“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”*

Dear God, help us today to sink our roots deeply into your presence and teaching. Thank you for the gift of Jesus. Help us to live in him and reflect him. Thank you. Amen.

3rd – Rom. 8:38-39 *“I am convinced that neither death, nor life...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Dear God, sometimes there is much that seems to threaten our sense of safety and our awareness of your presence. When times are difficult, help us to remember that nothing can separate us from your love. Nothing! Thank you! Amen.

4th – Matthew 6:25 *“Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will wear.”*

Dear God, worry is like a swarm of bees and its accumulated stings can make life a misery. Help us to learn the secrets of trusting you so that we can free ourselves to serve you in joy! Thank you! Amen.

5th – Matthew 5:15-16 *“No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand,*

and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Dear God, we know that who we are shows. Always. Help us in every area of our lives to seek to show your light and love. Thank you! Amen.

6th – John 14:27 *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”*

Dear God, in troubled times, calm our troubled hearts and fill us today with a peace we cannot deny. Thank you. Amen.

7th – John 11:40 *“Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’”*

Dear God, today itself is a testimony to your glory! Thank you! Help us to look around and see your glorious grace all around us today so that we may share it with others. Thank you! Amen.

8th – Proverbs 17:22 *“A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.”*

Dear God, today I ask you to fill my heart with good cheer. Help me to see your beauty and humor all around. Help me today to laugh a lot and to look around and just say, ‘Wow!’ Thank you! Amen.

9th – Psalm 127:1 *“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”*

Dear God, today I offer you all the tools in my tool belt. Please use them to build your dwelling place inside me. Set my priorities today and help me not to leap ahead and try to do on my own, what you alone can do. Thank you! Amen.

10th – John 15:15 *“I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the*

master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.”

Dear God, I am humbled and honored to be called your friend. Help me today to be a faithful friend, to see what you are doing in my life and world and to be thankful. Amen.

11th – John 15:13-14 *“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.”*

Dear God, help me to be so thoroughly immersed in you that your will is natural to me and your commands are obvious and compelling. You have done everything for us, may I do at least that much for you! Thank you. Amen.

12th – Hebrews 12:1-2 *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Dear God, all around I hear the cheers of your people urging us on from around your throne. Help us to keep our eyes on you. Help us to never waver. Thank you for all of the encouragement from those who have gone before. Amen.

13th – Hebrews 13:1-2 *“Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”*

Dear God, the streets are filled with angels, messengers from you. Help me today to open myself to those that

you send. Never let my love grow cold! Thank you! Amen.

14th – Hebrews 13:3 “Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.” Dear God, so many of your children suffer in bondage. Some are in literal prisons, cut off from family, friends and hope. Others are locked in helpless situations or trapped in bonds of pain or grief. Today we lift all of those who are bound to your graceful freeing love. Show us how to help. Thank you! Amen.

15th – Hebrews 13: 5a “Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have;” Dear God, contentment in our times is hard to find. Many seem to stir discontent, greed and fear. Help us to recognize that your love and will are the only lasting currency in our lives. Thank you! Amen.

16th – Hebrews 13:7 “Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.” Dear God, we pray to you today for all leaders of churches, especially those of our PCUSA family. Guide, protect and encourage them as they lead us. Thank you! Amen.

17th – Hebrews 13:8 “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Dear God, amidst all the changes in our lives and world, help us to focus on your unchanging love and grace. Thank you! Amen.

18th – Hebrews 13:20-21 “Now may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working

among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Dear God, these words are soaring and rich! This is the prayer of our hearts. Please complete us so that we may do your will. Thank you! Amen.

19th – Matthew 14:29 “He said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.”

Dear God, this verse reminds me that, with you, I can do more than I can even imagine. It is only when I doubt what you will do in me that I sink. Help me God to focus on you alone so that I may walk to you whatever the obstacles. Thank you! Amen

20th – Jeremiah 31:3 “the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.”

Dear God, Jeremiah knew such hardship. He struggled in nearly every aspect of his life. How he needed to hear of God’s everlasting love for him! So do we. Help us to hear your love songs today. Thank you! Amen!

21st – Jeremiah 31:12c “their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.”

Dear God, you promise all that we need to flourish. Help us to see and be grateful for all of the resources that you give us. Let us bloom beautifully today in your love. Thank you! Amen.

22nd - Proverbs 11:25 “A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water.”

Dear God, help us today to learn the mysteries of generosity and trust. Thank you! Amen.

23rd - Ecclesiastes 3:3 “For everything there is a season, and a

time for every matter under heaven:”

Dear God, help us today to trust your timing in all things. Thank you! Amen.

24th – Jeremiah 29:11 “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Dear God, thank you for your amazing plans for us! When things are confusing or hard help us to embrace your vision for our lives and live into your hope-filled future. Thank you! Amen.

25th – Acts 4: 32 “Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.”

Dear God, help us to realize that, as we all belong to you, we all belong to each other. Thank you! Amen.

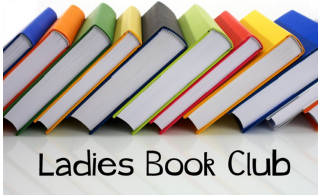
26th – Acts 4:33 “With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.” Dear God, today we ask that you give us just the right opportunities to tell our stories of your saving grace in our lives.

Thank you! Amen.

27th – Psalm 100:1 “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness and come into his presence with a song.” Dear God, help us today to be joyful and to help others find joy as well. Thank you! Amen.

28th – Psalm 75:1 “We give thanks, O God, we give you thanks, calling upon your name and declaring your wonderful deeds!”

Dear God, we thank you for our lives, for everything that you do for us. You are a great God and we are humbled to serve you. Thank you! Amen.



Ladies Book Club

LADIES BOOK CLUB

**February 14 at 11:30 am –
Fox Hall**

February 14: *Tattoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle
(Non-Fiction)

For twenty years, Gregory Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, the gang capital of the world. In *Tattoos on the Heart*, he distills his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith.

Arranged by theme and filled with sparkling humor and glowing generosity, these essays offer a stirring look at how full our lives could be if we could find the joy in loving others and in being loved unconditionally. From giant, tattooed Cesar, shopping at JCPenney fresh out of prison, we learn how to feel worthy of God's love. From ten-year-old Lula we learn the importance of being known and acknowledged. From Pedro we understand the kind of patience necessary to rescue someone from the darkness.

In each chapter we benefit from Boyle's gentle, hard-earned wisdom.

These essays about universal kinship and redemption are moving examples of the power of unconditional love and the importance of fighting despair. Gorgeous and uplifting, *Tattoos on the Heart* reminds us that no life is less valuable than another.

March 14: Final selection of book club books will be made in February.

ALL WOMEN are invited to join our Ladies Book Club. We meet in Fox Hall, at church at 11:30 am, the 2nd Thursday of the month. Bring your lunch! **YOU ARE FREE TO JOIN US FOR ONE OR MORE OF OUR MEETINGS.** Copies of our entire reading list are available on the church library cart. If you haven't come before, please give your email address to Cathy Brady (cathy.brady@gmail.com) so we can update you on any changes to the schedule.



Several of you asked for a copy of the poem I used in worship on Baptism of the Lord Sunday. I was able to track down the poet in the UK and he graciously gave permission to reprint the poem in our newsletter. To grasp this poem, first read from top to bottom. Then read it again from bottom to top. Allow yourself to see and feel how different the world and circumstances look depending on where your starting point, and standing point, is found. EAG

Refugees
by Brian Bilston

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way



People's Kitchen

(serving a hot lunch to the hungry in Grover Beach):

1st Friday, 12-1pm and/or

3rd Saturday even # months, 12-1pm

Please contact Barbara Owen if you can help: (805) 268-4488 or barb_o1@yahoo.com

Sunday Hospitality:

One Sunday/month or substitute list.

Arrive 9:45-ish, set up coffee and snacks, clean up after hospitality.

One Sunday/Month:

Bring non-carb options for hospitality

(fruit, boiled eggs, yogurt, cheese, or ??)

Please contact Barbara Owen if you can help: (805) 268-4488 or barb_o1@yahoo.com

Panera Bread Bagging:

Friday mornings, 9:30-10:30am

Please contact Barbara Owen if you can help: (805) 268-4488 or barb_o1@yahoo.com

Annual Congregation Meeting

February 10th after worship



Save the Date to Celebrate!

**Our Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for
February 10th after worship!**

Please make plans to stay for this important time of celebration and decision making.

**We will have a wonderful lunch prepared for us by the
Celebrations Team (FREE!)**

Time to celebrate God's goodness and grace throughout 2018!

Time to elect new elders to guide us forward!

Time to hear plans and dreams from team leaders!

Time to share your special moments of thanks and praise!

Please make this a priority!

**Presbyterian Women
Thursday, February 28th, at Noon – Fox Hall**



Presentation by Jeri Roberts from Pacific Wildlife Care on the activities at their Rehabilitation Center in Morro Bay.

PWC:

Treats and rehabilitates injured wildlife.

Maintains a hot-line to respond to public calls for help with wildlife.

Works with government and other agencies to protect wildlife.



Join us and find out more about PWC.

All women of the church and their friends are welcome.

Lunch will be served at 12 noon

A \$5.00 donation is requested.



SANTA BARBARA
MISSION CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 21ST

JOIN US FOR THE 17TH ANNUAL
SANTA BARBARA MISSION CONFERENCE

AWAKEN

FEBRUARY 1-2, 2019



JONATHAN
WILSON-
HARTGROVE



NIKKI
TOYAMA-
SZETO



REFUGIO
SANCHEZ



MARLENE
WALL



ROERT CHAO
ROMERO



DAN
MCNERNEY

SBMISSIONCONFERENCE.ORG

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

For more information, contact Kathy Nienhouse @ knienhouse@yahoo.com or 805-931-0755.

nipomopres@att.net, Holidays in United States				Feb 2019 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
27 9:45am - Choir Practice @ 10:30am - Worship/Childrens & 12pm - Connections Team 12:15pm - Local Missions Team	28	29	30	31 6:30pm - Choir Practice @ 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox	1 9:30am - Bread Packaging @ 10am - People's Kitchen Food	2 10am - Worship Team Meeting @	
3 9:45am - Choir Practice @ 10:30am - Worship/Childrens & 12pm - Healing & Wholeness 5:30pm - SLO Jam	4	5 6:30pm - Team Leader Meeting	6	7 6:30pm - Choir Practice @ 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox	8 9:30am - Bread Packaging @	9 10am - Threads of Faith @ Fox	
10 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MTG 9:45am - Choir Practice @ 10:30am - Worship/Childrens &	11 10:30am - Genealogy Group @	12 11:30am - Interfaith Coalition @ 6:45pm - Session @ Fox Hall	13	14 Valentine's Day 11:30am - Ladies Book Club @ 1:15pm - PWCT Meeting @ Fox 6:30pm - Choir Practice @ 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox	15 9:30am - Bread Packaging @	16	
17 9:45am - Choir Practice @ 10:30am - Worship/Childrens &	18 Presidents' Day (regional) VISION DEADLINE 9am - Watercolor Society 6:30pm - Finance Team Meeting	19 1:30pm - Grief Group @ Fox Hall 4:30pm - Deacon's Meeting @	20 8am - Men's Breakfast @ Tanner	21 Watercolor Society Group 10am - Stewardship Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Practice @ 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox	22 9:30am - Bread Packaging @	23	
24 9:45am - Choir Practice @ 10:30am - Worship/Childrens & 12:15pm - Local Missions Team	25	26	27	28 12pm - PW Luncheon @ Fox Hall 6:30pm - Choir Practice @ 6:30pm - Private Group @ Fox	1 9:30am - Bread Packaging @ 10am - People's Kitchen Food	2 10am - Threads of Faith @ Fox	

Please visit www.nipomopresbyterian.org for a full description

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Mailing Address: PO Box 158~Nipomo CA 93444
Phone (805) 473-8059. Email: nipomopres@att.net

February 5th, 2019 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Location: Fox Hall

Team Leaders Round Table

February 9th, 2019 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Fox Hall

Threads of Faith

February 10th, 2019 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Location: Fox Hall

Annual Congregational Meeting

February 11th, 2019 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Location: Fox Hall

Genealogy Group

February 14th, 2019 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Location: Fox Hall

Ladies Book Club

February 20th, 2019 from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

Location: Tanner Jack, AG Mesa

Men's Breakfast

February 28th, 2019 from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Location: Fox Hall

Presbyterian Women's Luncheon

For a full color version of "the Vision" visit nipomopresbyterian.org

