

Volume 207 | February 2024



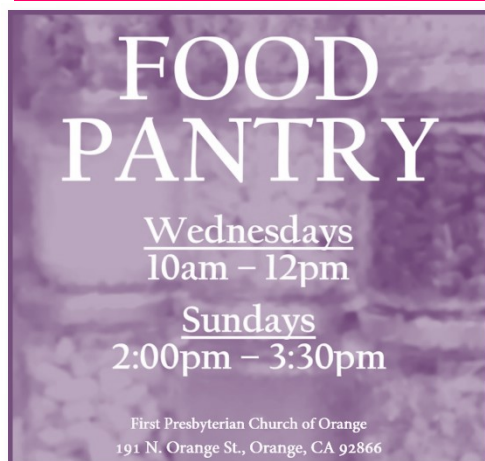
Inside this Issue:

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THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Mission & Congregation Updates

FOOD PANTRY



The church's food pantry continues to operate twice a week: Wednesdays from 10am to noon and Sundays from 2pm to 3:30. Without our fabulous volunteers, both from within our congregation and from the community, this would not be possible. We are now serving between 200 and 250 households each week and the many ways our congregation contributes is greatly appreciated. Thank you for supporting this valuable resource for our neighbors in need.

We are now only distributing household items on the first Wednesday and Sunday of the month. We are fortunate to receive diapers at no cost through the Orange County Food Bank, but most items we distribute require someone to shop. If you are ever at the Dollar Tree or are willing to make a special trip, please consider purchasing a few items to donate. The most requested items are bleach, laundry detergent, baby wipes and dish soap (pictured to the left). They are \$1.25 each at the Dollar Tree. We also need Tuna and crackers (also pictured to the left) for the food bags we give those who don't have a kitchen to prepare food.



We continue to collect the thick, reusable grocery bags, so if you have any, please bring them on Sunday or drop them by the church office. Thank you!

Pam on behalf of the Mission Committee

BIRTHDAYS



| | | | |
|------------------|-----|---------------------|------|
| Carol Chaney | 2/1 | Bill Telkamp | 2/7 |
| Christina Ayala | 2/3 | Ilco Vandercapellen | 2/13 |
| Barbara Khazoyan | 2/3 | Carolyn Backer | 2/25 |

ANNIVERSARIES



| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Carter Jr and Bonnie Sharp | 02/07 |
| Javier and Liz Calvo | 02/16 |



COMPASSION & PRAYERS



Geoffrey Compton & The Compton Family, Carol Chaney, Bob Yeomans, Amy & Rick Wilson, Laura Hapke, Judi McCoy, Aileen Marsile, Susan Butcher, Kate Berg & Zeteo Missions, Lyn (Bush) Reynolds-Johnson, Dave & Robbie Lamondy, The Nelson Family, Steve & DJ Hill, Larry Mamchur, Karen Scott, The Schilder Family, Gale Radmall, Jackson & Lori, Alice Mitchell, Bill & Gail Telkamp, Fred Baja, Priscilla Groot, Shirley Hunt, Jim Mahoney, Linda Rogers, Martha Moyers, and all healthcare workers and serving military personnel.

Dear Eaves-droppers,

How do you get your news?

In my home the television predominantly runs news shows. Occasionally, the Outdoor Network channel interrupts the political babble. I'm a sucker for a deer or elk hunt especially in Montana and New Mexico. Mostly, I like headline news when I am in a hurry to catch up. Headline news is snippets— a piece here and there, and oft repeated within the hour. I like some of the news that I get in those hour long commentary shows, but it becomes argumentative and so-and-so won't shut up.

How do you get your news?

As a child, my mom said she found the news of our "comings and goings" simply by overhearing us. I guess we spilled our agendas in side-bar conversations moving in and out of our bedrooms. Mom overheard this and that. I overhear this and that in my office as conversation flows down the halls within ear shot or the TV is loud enough downstairs. Amazing what news I can overhear. The trouble with overhearing is that I don't hear all of it.



When we over-hear the news it is usually a comment associated with the news. "She was putting dishes in the cupboard." ("Did so and so fall in her home?") I keep listening. I listen more closely. "Her son found her." ("Goodness, is she alright?") I am anxious to hear more, get my questions answered. "Did she break a bone?" "Where is she now?"

You and I would admit that overhearing isn't the best way to get the news. How many times has your anxiety raised when a sentence begins: "I overheard so-and-so saying..." The Session and its committees always want to stay ahead of news that is only overheard or third-hand. "Here is our report." "This update will catch you up." "A town hall meeting is now scheduled." Melissa makes sure we get a weekly ePress. These are the best ways to give and receive news, actually.

Which brings me to the annual reports! Our Annual Meeting is February 25 following Worship. We'll get the news of all the work completed and begun in the last year. We may even whet our appetites for even more this year. We will be reminded that we are newscasters who report what we've done with the gifts from God, shared with each other. Ministry! Church!

How do you get your news? I hope you will get THE news by being part of the community at our Annual Meeting and listening to those who share their lives in service at our church.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Winston".

THE WEDNESDAY WORD

Wednesdays • 5:30pm • via Facebook



The Wednesday Word, formally Word and Wine, still meets on Facebook at 5:30 pm every Wednesday. If you would like to drink your favorite beverage, do it!

The Wednesday Word explores the background and context of each week's Gospel reading. Pastor Winston shares word studies, history, theology and some doctrinal information related to the text. It is hoped that this will enhance your weekly prayer life, study, and hearing of each week's Sunday Sermon.

You can view prior broadcasts on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/firstpresorange

Contact Winston to join our W&W email list: rwinston@firstpresorange.org

HEALTH MINISTRY: HAVE A HEART



February is Heart Month. Heart Disease is the number one killer in the United States. This year the American Heart Association just celebrated its 100th anniversary and has a website that you might find interesting. It is <http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG>. This site has many interesting features such as Life's Essential 8, which describes two areas of healthy living – behaviors and health factors. The topic for this article is Symptoms of Heart Attacks and Strokes. There are four symptoms of a Heart Attack 1) Chest Discomfort – most occur in the center of the chest and last more than a few minutes. 2) Discomfort in other areas of the upper body – one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach. 3) Shortness of breath – with or without chest discomfort. 4) Other signs

– may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, or lightheadedness, chest discomfort, discomfort in other areas of the upper body, and shortness of breath. For Stroke remember FAST. FAST stands for 1) Face drooping or numbness on one side (Ask the person to smile.) 2) Arm weakness – (Ask the person to raise both arms and see if one arm drifts downward.) 3) Speech difficulty – (Does the person have slurred speech, is unable to talk, or is difficult to understand?) and 4) Time to call 911 if any one of these symptoms is present.

FAITH & PRACTICE: THE WIRED WORD

Sundays • 11:00am • Flippen Chapel

Faith & Practice is our Sunday morning Christian Education class for adults following our Worship service. All are invited to participate in this class which explores a variety of topics and themes that we can all relate to and apply to our own lives in faith. F&P is led by Pastor Winston Presnall and occasional guest speakers. Come and see what these thought-provoking sessions are all about!

Starting from January 28th, F&P will be going back to lessons based on The Wired Word.

If you would like to be on the mailing list for class material, please contact: rwinston@firstpresorange.org.

BOOK CLUB

February 28th • 11:00 am • Flippen Chapel



The next book for the Book Club will be *The Next Ship Home* by Heather Webb. Here is a brief synopsis of the book:

“Ellis Island, 1902: Two women band together to hold America to its promise: ‘Give me your tired, your poor ... your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...’ A young Italian woman arrives on the shores of America, her sights set on a better life. That same day, a young American woman reports to her first day of work at the immigration center. But Ellis Island isn't a refuge for Francesca or Alma, not when ships depart every day with those who are refused entry to the country and when corruption ripples through every corridor. While Francesca resorts to desperate measures to ensure she will make it off the island, Alma fights for her dreams of becoming a translator, even as women are denied the chance.”

We will be meeting on February 28th at 11:00 in Flippen Chapel. Please bring a sack lunch and be ready to discuss this very interesting book based on true stories from Ellis Island.

For more information call Lynda Stewart: (714)639-5076

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

“...if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us...”
- 1 John 4:12 -

COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Fellowship Hour will be held after Worship on the first Sunday of every month. Coffee will be served. Come and grab a cup of hot coffee while catching up with fellow parishioners!

Upcoming Coffee and Fellowship Dates:

February 4th

March 3rd

April 7th

SUNDAY WORSHIP ON YOUTUBE

Every Sunday • 10:00am • YouTube

Watch out Sunday Worship Service anytime and anywhere by following this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2qn5IWUH4yNGmS_2eWEzNg

You can also reach our YouTube channel by clicking on the video on our homepage at www.firstpresorange.org

HORIZON WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

3rd Saturdays • 11:00am • Ruth's House

Want to study the Bible and discuss it through a feminine perspective? All women are invited to our Bible Study to do just that! Books are provided.

TNT

2nd Saturdays • 11:00 am • McAulay Hall

TNT, formally Tuesday Nights Together, is a program designed specifically for adults who are developmentally challenged. We provide lunch, teach a developmentally appropriate Bible Study, participate in the TNT choir, and create meaningful friendships and personal relationships with God. Meets in McAulay Hall.

Contact Liz Calvo for further information:

LizC2806@aol.com

February

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|-----|---|---|-----|--|
| | | | | 1 7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal (S) | 2 | 3 |
| 4 10:00am - Worship (S/YT) 11:00am - Coffee & Fellowship (FC) 02:00pm - Food Pantry (MH) | 5 | 6 | 7 10:00am - Food Pantry (MH) 05:30pm - Wednesday Word (FB) 6:30pm - Session (Z) | 8 7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal (S) THURSDAYS IN BLACK | 9 | 10 11:00am - TNT (MH) |
| 11 10:00am - Worship (S/YT) 11:00am - Faith and Practice (FC) 02:00pm - Food Pantry (MH) TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD | 12 | 13 | 14 10:00 am - Food Pantry (MH) 10:00 am - Ashes Pick-Up (CY) 05:30pm - Wednesday Word (FB) 6:00pm - Ash Wednesday Worship (S) 07:00pm - Worship Committee (Z) ASH WEDNESDAY HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! | 15 7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal (S) | 16 | 17 10:00am - Horizon Women's Bible Study (FC) |
| 18 10:00am - Worship (S/YT) 11:00am - Faith and Practice (FC) 02:00pm - Food Pantry (MH) | 19 Office Closed for President's Day | 20 | 21 10:00am - Food Pantry (MH) 05:30pm - Wednesday Word (FB) 07:00 pm - CMC (Z) | 22 7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal (S) | 23 | 24 |
| 25 10:00am - Worship (S/YT) 11:00am - Faith and Practice (FC) 02:00pm - Food Pantry (MH) | 26 | 27 | 28 10:00am - Food Pantry (MH) 05:30pm - Wednesday Word (FB) 11:00am - Book Club (FC) | 29 | | |

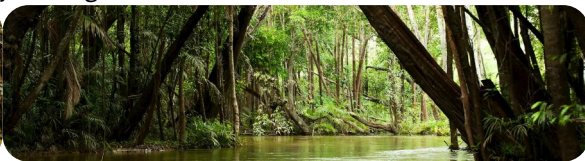
Flavors Around the World: Brazil - Brigadeiros

The past few months have been pretty busy for this traveler, but it's finally time to fuel up the plane and pack our bags! Let's take a trip to a warm country to get a break from the cold weather, Brazil! With Valentine's Day coming up, we are going to try out a dessert for your special sweetie. Brigadeiros are Brazilian fudge rolled into balls and covered in sprinkles. They are a favorite dessert among Brazilians because of its history and rich taste. To Brazilians, it isn't a party unless it has a good supply of brigadeiros. It is also an extremely versatile recipe. Don't want to wait until its cool to form the fudge into balls? Well it is also commonly eaten with a spoon or on top of ice cream. Is the chocolate too rich? That's okay, you can swap out a couple ingredients and make strawberry, coconut, patriotic, or even beer brigadeiros (you can find many varieties brigadeiro recipes online with a quick Google search). Time to learn a few things about Brazil!

This lively and beautiful country is famous for its hospitality, Carnivals, and the Amazon. It is the fifth largest country in the world and consists of tropics, mountains, coastlines, grasslands, forests, and islands. Most of the country's population resides in the southeastern region in its famous areas like Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. During Carnival of Brazil, their population bursts with millions of tourists. In 2019, Rio de Janeiro alone was visited by 1.7 million visitors. Carnival starts on the Friday before Ash Wednesday as a celebration marking the beginning of Lent. There is no such thing as "too much" for those in attendance - giant parade floats, dancers everywhere in opulent costumes, musicians in every direction, roads packed with people shoulder-to-shoulder both day and night. If you are interested, you can see some amazing pictures of this celebration by going to <http://tinyurl.com/carnivalofbrazil>.

The Amazon rainforest is another Brazilian attraction that is famous across the globe. Though, it is not known for its population of people but its population of wildlife and vegetation. Within its vast expanse of around 2.3 million square miles of rainforest (60% is in Brazil) are 40,000 plant species, 2,500 fish species, 1,300 bird species, 430 mammals, and 2.5 million insect species. It is also home to 400 - 500 indigenous tribes. The various plants produce 20% of the world's oxygen. The Amazon River does not disappoint in size or volume either. It spans 2,000 miles and is the largest river by the volume of its discharge rate, a whopping 7.381 million square feet per second! It supplies 20% of the water than runs into the ocean. This rainforest is at serious risk, however. Due mainly to cattle ranchers tearing down trees to make farms for their livestock, 20% of the rainforest has been lost to deforestation. That is 20% of the entire world's oxygen being completely eliminated by 2100. Takes your breath away doesn't it?

So how did Brazil come to be such a complex and diversified country? Just take a look at its history. Before Brazil was founded in 1500 by Portuguese commander Pedro Alvares, it was home to around 30 million indigenous people who lived mostly by the coastline and river banks for around 11,000 years or more. At the time of founding, there were hundreds of tribes who constantly fought with one another. They did not see themselves as one people. So, when Pedro came and offered a few of the Brazilian tribes a trade - help with fighting other tribes for some lucrative red brazilwood trees - they took the offer. Trees were bountiful across the land, after all. For centuries after, Brazilians had to deal with the loose and convoluted authority of the Portuguese. Instead of a centralized government, nobles were given parts of Brazil and were told to rule and occupy it themselves. Meanwhile, Brazil was being stripped of its natural resources such as wood, gold, precious jewels, etc. by Portugal and other foreign countries. Immigrants started pouring in to take advantage of the free-for-all on resources and for other reasons, as well. Slaves were ripped from their homes and millions of Africans were imported until slavery was abolished in 1888, which is around 14 years *after* our church was founded. Many Americans moved to Brazil after the abolishment of slavery in the U.S. to take advantage of it still being legal. Christians immigrated to the country to run away from the Ottoman empire. Even a Japanese and Brazilian immigration treaty brought so many Japanese immigrants, that Brazil has the 2nd largest population of Japanese people. You can definitely see how diversity is so central to Brazilian culture. More on Brazil at another time, I am really craving some sweets!



Brigadeiros

Prep Time: 15 mins • Cook Time: 10 mins • Total Time: 25 mins

Ingredients:

- 1 (14 Ounce) Can Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 1 Tablespoon Butter
- 3 Tablespoons Unsweetened Cocoa
- Sprinkles or Nuts

Directions:

- Gather all ingredients.
- Combine condensed milk, cocoa, and butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Cook and stir until the fudge appears to come loose from the pan, then cook while stirring for 2 more minutes. Remove from the heat and let rest until it is room temperature.
- Use your hands to shape into small balls and place on a serving plate. Can be eaten at once or chilled until serving.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

February 25th • 11:00 am • McAulay Hall

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 25th and will take place directly following Worship in McAulay Hall. Copies of the 2023 Annual Report will be made available to you soon and may be found in the Narthex and online. Keep an eye out for it in the ePresses! As a reminder, all contributors must provide their reports to Melissa by February 4th. The last day we are accepting individual reports is on February 14th. Please do not wait and send it today!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

February 4 • 11:00am • Sanctuary

We looking for volunteers to help clean up the Christmas decorations after Worship on February 4th. Any help would be much appreciated!

MEMORIALS UPCOMING

We regretfully announce the passing of two former members, Cliff Nelson and Corinne Scheibel, late last year. They both have been prominent figures of this church at one point, but found a new church to call home. We will miss them both dearly and will look back upon memories with Cliff and Corinne in admiration. Our peace is to know they both rest with God in His holy kingdom. If you would like to attend Cliff's and/or Connie's memorial services please see below:

Both Memorial services will be held at

Trinity United Presbyterian:

13922 Prospect Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92705

Corinne's service will be held on 02/03 at 11:00am

Cliff's service will be held on 02/10 at 1:00pm

Lenten Season & Holy Week:

**Easter Lily Orders Due:
March 24th**

Ash Wednesday • Ashes Pick-Up

**February 14th
10:00am - 1:00pm**

Ash Wednesday • Worship

**February 14th
6:00pm**

Palm Sunday • Worship

**March 24th
10:00am**

Maundy Thursday • Worship

**March 28th
6:30pm**

Good Friday • Worship

**March 29th
6:30pm**

Easter Cross Decorating

**March 31st
8:00am**

Easter Sunday

March 31st

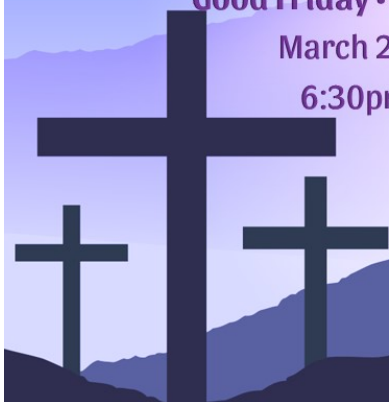
**Flower Donations for the Cross Will Be
Accepted on March 30th from 2pm to 4pm
and on March 31st before 8am**

Worship - 10:00am

Easter Egg Hunt - 11:00am

*Come Reflect Upon
Christ's Journey to the Cross
and Celebrate His Return.*

*all are welcome and
encouraged to join us for
these events!*



FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR DECEMBER 2023

John R. Fotch, Treasurer

| CHURCH OPERATIONS | Month of December | | | Twelve Months Ending December 2023 | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| | Actual | Budget | Variance | Actual | Budget | Variance |
| Offerings | \$ 23,041 | \$ 15,916 | \$ 7,125 | \$ 198,957 | \$ 190,988 | \$ 7,969 |
| Other Income | 5,377 | 2,667 | 2,710 | 42,434 | 32,000 | 10,434 |
| Special Envelopes | 263 | 117 | 146 | 1,583 | 1,400 | 183 |
| Special Benevolences | 175 | 83 | 92 | 250 | 1,000 | (750) |
| Income Sub-Total | \$ 28,856 | \$ 18,782 | \$ 10,073 | \$ 243,223 | \$ 225,388 | \$ 17,835 |
| Transfers - GSC Proceeds | \$ 61,934 | \$ 83,064 | \$ (21,130) | \$ 302,200 | \$ 332,254 | \$ (30,054) |
| Transfers - Pre-School | | | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Transfers Sub-Total | \$ 61,934 | \$ 83,064 | \$ (21,130) | \$ 302,200 | \$ 332,254 | \$ (30,054) |
| Total Income | \$ 90,789 | \$ 101,846 | \$ (11,057) | \$ 545,423 | \$ 557,642 | \$ (12,219) |
| Expenses | \$ 50,088 | \$ 47,803 | \$ 2,285 | \$ 545,423 | \$ 557,642 | \$ (12,219) |
| Net Operating Results | \$ 40,701 | \$ 54,042 | \$ (13,341) | \$ 0 | \$ - | \$ 0 |

Notes to Income: Offerings for the year ended up almost \$8,000 higher than expectations. Another strong showing in Investment Income in December helped Other Income ended the year \$10,400+ above its target. Total transfers from GSC Proceeds needed to balance the 2023 budget came in \$30,000 less than anticipated.

Notes to Expense: A big shout out to everyone who help keep a cap on unnecessary spending. Your efforts resulted in a \$12,219 reduction in anticipated expenses for the year. Thank you.

Communion Schedule for 2024

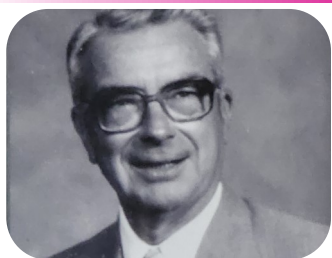
The Session and its Worship Committee invite you to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We will also be broadcasting via YouTube! If you wish to participate online, please plan to have bread and wine or grape juice available at home.

Communion Schedule for 2024

- March 28** - Maundy Thursday
- April 21** - Fourth Sunday of Easter
- May 26** - Trinity Sunday
- July 7** - Seventh Sunday of Pentecost
- September 1** - Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost
- October 6** - World Communion Sunday
- November 24** - Christ the King Sunday
- December 22** - Fourth Sunday of Advent



Passing of a Former Pastor



There was another passing of someone dear to our church. Our former pastor, Dr. John Davies was called home to the Lord in late January. He served our congregation faithfully from 1986 to 1991. He will be dearly missed by many and forever appreciated for the way he served his community.



"A CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP THAT ACTIVELY DEMONSTRATES THE LOVE OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST,
FOR EACH OTHER AND FOR ITS NEIGHBORS."

QUESTIONS ABOUT AN ARTICLE? COMMENTS ON HOW THE NEWSLETTER IS GOING?
HAVE AN ARTICLE YOU WANT INCLUDED IN THE NEWSLETTER?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! EMAIL: OFFICE@FIRSTPRESORANGE.ORG

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RULING

Liz Calvo
Ilco Vandercapellen
Lynda Stewart
John Von Szeliski
Chelsea Tonick
Ruth Kutcher

DEACONS

Laura Compton
Jennifer Grissom
Pat Gunderman
Barbara Khazoyan

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:00 am

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www.firstpresorange.org