



PRESBEAT



First Presbyterian Church of Ukiah, CA
514 West Church Street; Ukiah CA 95482
Office hours Mon-Thurs, 9am-1pm ~ 707.468.9235
Interim Pastor TBA

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Hello my Church Family,



We are learning to see where God is working and to join God in what he is doing, right?! So, I have to tell you my *Experiencing God* story! I was conducting a graveside service at Ukiah's cemetery. After checking into the office, I got back into my car to drive to the site. In the vehicle next to me sat a man. He got my attention and asked if I worked there. I said "no" and directed him to the office inside. He remained sitting in his truck.

I pulled out of the parking spot. As I did so, the Holy Spirit told me to pull back in and check on the man. Being one who likes a plan and arrives early to get to know the "terrain", this instruction from the Holy Spirit interfered with how I expected my time to go. But we have been reading *Experiencing God*, right? In the back of my mind, for some reason, I kept thinking:

- God is always at work.
- God pursues a continuous love relationship with us that is real and personal.
- God invites us to become involved in His work.
- God speaks through the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes and His ways.
- God's invitation always leads us to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
- You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what he is doing.
- You come to know God by experience as you obey him, and he accomplishes his work through you.

So, in the moment of my crisis of belief (*Did I really hear the Holy Spirit speak?*) and making adjustments (*Letting go of my schedule and being available to God*) I pulled back into the parking space. I got out of my car and asked, "Are you okay?"

This man was struggling and experiencing grief and loss. I had the opportunity to talk with him and to pray with him. I also invited him to church. This was something only God could do! I walked away from this experience in awe of God and how he works. I was able to join God in what he was already doing in this man's life. I know God will continue to work in his life and for a moment he worked through me.



God is working all around us. As we continue to study *Experiencing God*, I am sure that you too have experienced an invitation to join God in what he is doing. I encourage you to share those stories with others. It's not bragging, it's bearing witness to God and giving Him the glory. God is working to do only what he can do so let's get excited about it!

Serving Jesus together,
Pastor Katherine



Friends,

I wanted to follow up on the April PresBeat article related to the Interim Pastor Search Committee and the Mission Study process. I also wanted to share additional information about a newly formed Administrative Commission.

The **Interim Pastor Search Committee** can be formed usually one of three ways: 1) The entire Session acts as a search committee; 2) the Personnel Committee is tasked with being the search committee; or 3) an Interim Pastor Search Committee is formed as a sub-committee of the Session and is made of up Elders and members at large. The Session decided to follow the third model.

At the last Session meeting, the Interim Pastor Search Committee was ratified, and I had the privilege of meeting with them for their first meeting on May 28. Those members are Sandra Applegate, Jaunita Coddington, Randy Huffman, Barbara McLean (chair), and Lenord Swope.

There are some key distinctions between a temporary (interim) versus installed (permanent) pastor and the ensuing search process.

- The interim pastor is hired by the Session under a contract, or a covenant of agreement.
- A pastor serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is invited for a specified period of time not to exceed twelve months in length, which is renewable with the approval of presbytery.
- The search process for an interim is usually limited – the Presbytery will supply some names for consideration.
- An installed pastoral relationship is for an indefinite term and can only be dissolved by the Presbytery.
- The Pastor Nominating Committee, which is elected by the congregation, conducts a full and open search process for a candidate to be the installed pastor.
- The installed pastor is called by the Pastor Nominating Committee and is elected by the congregation.
- All pastoral relationships, temporary or installed, including the terms of the contract or the call are approved by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

It is essential that the PNC (who will be calling the installed pastor) and the congregation has a clear sense of its identity – recognizing both areas of strengths as well as improvement. The **mission study** is essentially a congregation's careful self-assessment of its history and current context so that it can envision more clearly what it wishes to become in the future. An analogy that I think is helpful is that a mission study enables the congregation to not only look in a mirror to assess who it is and what gifts it possesses in this time and place but also empowers the congregation to look through a window to understand their mission field and to consider what their ministry and mission might be. The mission study is not dependent upon an interim pastor being in place, but that interim pastor may assist with it.

If you are interested in helping with the mission study process, I would urge you to let the Session know; they are already discerning who might have the gifts and talents to serve in this capacity. Also at the last Session meeting, it was determined that an **Administrative Commission** would be formed. An Administrative Commission acts on behalf of the Session for a very specific purpose for a very specific amount of time. It may be dissolved by the Session earlier or may be extended by the Session for a longer time. This AC has been empowered to act through December 31, 2021, for the purposes of expediting Session communications either to an individual or to the entire church body related to more critical or urgent issues. The members of the AC are Randy Huffman, Shirley Lewis, Roe Sandelin, and myself. Normally, the pastor would serve on an Administrative Commission; however, until an interim pastor is hired, I will sit on the AC by virtue of my role as Session Moderator.

Session has its monthly stated meetings on the third Thursday of each month. In order to make a binding decision, the Session must vote at that meeting. If something comes up, the issue either needs to wait until the next scheduled meeting or a special Session meeting must be called to act. The goal of the AC is to be able to communicate on behalf of Session in that "in-between" time. The AC (unlike a committee or a task force) does not need to wait for Session approval. However, it does need to report all its actions to Session. The Session believes that the formation of this AC will allow for both focused listening and timely responses, as guided by the Holy Spirit.

Warmly,

Ariel Mink, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Redwoods

Please continue to pray for our IPSC as they search for our temporary Interim Pastor and for our church as we transition through the process of receiving the person God is calling to us as our installed Senior Pastor.



First let's shout out a big **Thank you** for your participation in the meals to go event held on May 7th at the First Presbyterian Church Ukiah. Your participation allowed us to raise just over \$3,000 to support our on-going mission efforts locally and globally. Please check out our website for any current events and for the fall "Meals to Go" event.

Our mission committee wanted you, our church family to know what these monies and the other donations received are used for.

- Pastor John in Uganda- we are continuing to support him; our latest undertaking is to build a piggery with 6 pigs for around \$550.
- We are still supporting the Troops overseas and the Caritas orphanage and recently packed 9 boxes of cookies, beans and peanut butter at a cost of \$200.
- Most recently we were asked for a donation to help support one of our own. Kayla Holland, while still in Med School is going on a mission, a trip to Greece where she will be traveling with a group through Global Health Outreach, a Christian Medical Dental Association. The total cost of the trip is \$2400, which covers lodging, transportation, a translation team and the cost of all the medications. Kayla has already received some outside support, leaving a balance of \$1300 that we have pledged to cover. She will spend 10 days overseas with an all-volunteer medical team, putting not only her medical training but her love for God into practice. If you think she is taking the summer off after that? Well not a chance, when she returns, she will spend a week at Mt. Gilead on camp staff running the First Aid program. Then heading over to Redding and working in the Emergency Room before she heads back to Lincoln Memorial Medical School.

If you would like to help with her needs please donate and designate the funds to Kayla. Your donations whether directly or indirectly have gone to further the mission of our Church.

May God bless you and your family,

The First Presbyterian Church – Mission Team

Song Story...



“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” c1757

This past week as I was going through my Experiencing God study a couple weeks ago, we were asked to identify our “spiritual markers”. Suggestions were given of persons we would like to study. All of those persons had a personal encounter with God. Following those encounters, they set up stones so that they, and everyone after them, would always remember that encounter.

One of those persons was Samuel. His encounter with God is described in 1 Samuel 7:1-13. Following his encounter, he set up a marker. Verse 12 says “Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, *“Thus far the Lord has helped us.”*”

I was reminded of a song that we sing in worship. It’s on the ‘top 10’ list for many of us. We sing it traditionally, and sometimes we sing other versions that include beautiful praise choruses. *“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”* was written in 1757 by a pastor named Robert Robinson. It is a song about God’s kindness and grace toward his people. Even though the language is a little bit old-fashioned, there is a powerful biblical story behind the lyrics.

The verse that came to mind when I considered my spiritual markers was this:

*Here I raise my Ebenezer
Hither by Thy help I come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood*

The word Ebenezer literally means “stone of help”. The stone that Samuel erected was a constant reminder to the nation of Israel that God had protected them and led them to victory against the Philistines. Whenever the Israelites walked past that stone, they would remember God’s kindness to them and praise him for it. So, when Robert Robinson wrote these lyrics, he was acknowledging that God had directed his life and provided for him. He was proclaiming that God is our helper, just as he was the Israelites’ helper so many centuries ago.

For many of us, this past 1+ year has been tough, and for others it’s been a good year. But all of us have stories of God’s faithfulness – Ebenezer stones that we can look at to remember his kindness. God has helped us until now, and He will help us in the future. There is always a reason to be thankful and to praise God!

FINANCE REPORT

Dear Congregation,

The May financial report reflects our larger than normal expenses from March. As of April, we should be at 33% of tithes and offerings and 33% of expenses. Year to date we are now at 31% of tithes and offerings and 35% of expenses. The May financial report reflects this. Our checking account balance for non-designated funds has been decreasing due to the higher expenses. The finance team and session will continue to closely monitor our finances. Session members are encouraged to use the designated funds as intended and wherever possible.

Session did budget this year with the intent of using some of our savings and investments if needed, even before the changes in staffing that have happened. As we head into the summer months please pray for session and the future interim pastor that God will call for us.

Blessings,

Finance Elder
Janet Noe

Finance committee: Janet Noe,
Kathy Smith, Cindy DeVries,
Denise Beckler, Pastor Katherine Schoen

As of April 30, 2021		Year to Date \$\$
General Fund Income	\$	82,820
General Fund Expenses	\$	(106,881)
Income Over (Under) Expenses	\$	(24,061)
Balance in Checking Account		Total \$\$
Non-Designated Funds	\$	79,648
Designated Funds (detail below)	\$	106,521
Total Balance in Checking	\$	186,169
Balance in Savings		Total \$\$
Certificates of Deposit	\$	44,645
Mutual Funds	\$	32,664
Other Investments	\$	86,339
Total Balance in Savings	\$	163,648
Detail of Designated Funds in Checking Account		
Missions	\$	2,498
Missions Fundraiser	\$	10,584
Centsability	\$	159
Pedals 4 Protein	\$	-
Per Capita	\$	390
Compassionate Ministries	\$	4,380
General Memorial	\$	30,185
Ramos Trust	\$	51,935
Buildings & Grounds	\$	2,748
Worship	\$	973
Fellowship Meals	\$	50
Adult Ministries	\$	38
Youth Activities	\$	131
Children's Activities	\$	-
Children's Playground	\$	2,389
Camperships	\$	60
Total Designated Funds	\$	106,521

Session Members & Areas of Responsibilities

Phone numbers and email addresses may be found in the "Directory of Family and Friends" or by calling the church office at (707) 468-9235 or emailing the church office at office@fpcukiah.org

Buildings and Grounds – Don Pera

Christian Education and Student & Family Ministries - Pastor Katherine Schoen and Roe Sandelin

Communications - Pastor Katherine Schoen

Fellowship and Congregational Life – Lenord Swope

Finance - Janet Noe

Missions - Randy Huffman

Nominating – Wilma Pribyl

Personnel – Shirley Lewis

Worship – Molly Schultz

Did we miss your birthday???

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

Happy Birthday!

6/1 Lenord Swope
6/7 Larry Ballenger
6/9 Kevin DeVries

6/14 Gerri Dutton
6/16 Johnny Schoen
6/25 Cindy DeVries

6/25 Courtney Hamilton
6/28 Indigo Funk



JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10am Worship - Communion https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah	7 Office hours 9am to 1pm	8 Office hours 9am to 1pm 7am Experiencing God Bible study (Zoom)	9 Office hours 9am to 1pm 1:30pm PW Bible Study (via Zoom) 6pm Youth Group 6pm Worship Team	10 Office hours 9am to 1pm 8:30am Experiencing God Bible study (Zoom) 7pm Experiencing God Bible study	11	12
13 10am Worship - https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah 11:15am Missions Committee	14 Office hours 9am to 1pm	15 Office hours 9am to 1pm 7am Experiencing God Bible study (Zoom)	16 Office hours 9am to 1pm 1:30pm PW Bible Study (via Zoom) 6pm Youth Group 6pm Worship Team	17 Office hours 9am to 1pm 8:30am Experiencing God Bible study (Zoom) 6:00pm Session 7pm Experiencing God Bible study	18	19
20 Happy Father's Day! 10am Worship - https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah	21 Office hours 9am to 1pm	22 Office hours 9am to 1pm 7am Experiencing God Bible study (Zoom)	23 Office hours 9am to 1pm 1:30pm Experiencing God Bible study (via Zoom) 6pm Youth Group 6pm Worship Team	24 5: Office hours 9am to 1pm 8:30am Experiencing God Bible study (Zoom) 5:30pm Deacons 7pm Experiencing God Bible study	25	26
27 10am Worship - https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=presby+ukiah	28 Office hours 9am to 1pm	29 Office hours 9am to 1pm 7am Experiencing God Bible study (Zoom)	30 Office hours 9am to 1pm 1:30pm Experiencing God Bible study (via Zoom) 6pm Youth Group 6pm Worship Team			

Our Calendar is also available online @ <https://fpcukiah.org/resources/events-and-calendar/calendar/>



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WILDFIRE ASSISTANCE

Anyone impacted by wildfires in **Mendocino County** can receive free referral support, group support, and one-on-one crisis intervention by reaching out to **(707) 623-1762** or **MendocinoWildfire@nationsfinest.org**
Peer workshop appointments are available.