



SONSHINE

Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Springs Presbyterian Church
April 2016

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.” (John 14:1)

Such a simple statement, so clear, direct, encouraging; why then so often difficult to remember when we are challenged in life? Jesus said these words to his Disciples to give them guidance and encouragement, and over the millennia they *shout* to us that we can trust the love God has demonstrated in Christ, a love that will not fail.

It seems a bit odd, perhaps, to ‘feature’ this passage just a few weeks after Easter. Easter, a time we are re-charged in our faith, and feel on top of the world in terms of confidence in our relationship with our Creator and the grace we receive on a daily basis. Yet even as we bask in the joy and awe of the Resurrection, the shadows of our daily march through life intervene and too often we find ourselves reaching toward that victory but not quite able to reach it in our hearts; not quite able to touch it, embrace it, *realize* it. Why is this? How do we keep the surprise and confidence of an Easter sunrise in our hearts all year ‘round? Why are we, in a word, ‘troubled?’ Sometimes it feels like we face the Cross and its brilliance, bask in the glow, then on Monday get up, turn our backs on it, and trudge back along a weary path.

I wonder: If the Cross could shout at us and call us back, could compel our attention, would that make every day a day of rebirth and redemption? Of victory and confidence? Of love and transformation? I believe it would, and it does. Just as Jesus reminded his friends not to worry, so he reminds us all along the way. Trust in God, God will not abandon you. And as we trust God, so we can trust the sacrifice made out of God’s love, the Victory over darkness, *any* darkness that challenges what should be the tremendous joy of trust received and returned.

Easy to say, maybe not so easy to do in a world noisy and crowded with robotic behaviors, actions without consequences, indifference and polarizations that separate with a relentlessness that of itself shouts, ‘don’t love your neighbor, save yourself!’ A world that, in the news cycle, seems to actually celebrate violence. What a lonely world this can be, changing so fast that we as individuals are seemingly spun off its surface every ten years to make room for the new normal that no longer considers wisdom of experience a positive trait. When we are made to feel irrelevant. Aside from the normal generational differences and rebellions, when did it all become so mean-spirited?

If the preceding paragraph piques a familiar complaint or fear, then this one is meant to overwhelm it with love meant just for you: ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.’ I will often suggest we take the time to be quiet and listen for the whisper of the Spirit moving through us, reminding us, supporting us. This time, it’s Jesus doing the ‘suggesting,’ and dare I say, the ‘shouting!’ Be aware: of the literal noise of Creation all around you, of the wind that blows across the sand and through trees, of the songs of birds, the noise of a storm, the screaming *silence* of a late afternoon. Of laughter in the distance, or a quiet conversation between strangers; one you can’t quite understand but the murmur of it calms a lonely heart. This is the ‘shout!’ of Creation. It is our God’s world, revealed through the Son and confirmed in the Spirit. It is the Cross, calling you to turn around and receive that rush of an always brand new faith. It never goes away, although at times it hides behind the ‘rest of it.’

The thing is, we can trust it. And because we can trust it, we can persevere, and more than persevere: We can love and be loved, and never turn our backs on a Resurrection morning. Live each day in awe, overwhelmed by a light that will never, ever fade. You will never be alone, you

are not irrelevant, you are treasured. We need not be troubled, because we can trust in the love of God, made alive in Christ, affirmed by the presence of the Spirit. How do we know? Because Jesus told us so!

In Christ, *Rev. Christine*

Fun At Joshua Tree 2016

This year our 'annual' Joshua Tree camping experience was particularly special, thanks to Dirk's oversight and church member and Parks Superintendent David Smith, who arranged the use of the 'employee campground' for two nights. The restricted site, in Lost Horse Canyon, was empty except for our group - which meant quiet times and dark skies, untrammelled wilderness and a plethora of wildflowers. We are deeply grateful for this once in a lifetime opportunity!

Once we each established our campsites, we gathered for the first of many meals together. Our trips are not at all organized (how we like it!), which leaves plenty of time for group talks, individual exploration, reading or just 'hanging out.' This year, our camping troupe was small: Dirk and Erica Voerman, Rick and Carole Anderson, Gina Ross Johnson and Pastor Christine. We were also joined by day visitors Karla Peterson, Mary Ruth Erickson and Kathryn Summers, David Smith and John Evans along with Jakiah and Arial, Holly Heinz and Rosemarie Ferrante, and Bob and Lea McCoy. There was time for a sing a long with Ukulele and guitar, a nature lesson by 'Ranger Dave' (with terrific pantomime by Arial), some bouldering and always, good food with new friends.



Sessions Notes from December 16, 2015 Session Meeting



Donna Gennet (Outreach) Silent auction and Jazz concert was a great success.

Pastor's Report - Chamber Music Concert and ModernMen Choral Group for May 21 at 3 PM was approved.

Deacon's Report - Deacons will provide and host Presbytery Meeting to be held at PSPC on Sunday, April 24 from 12 - 2 PM.

Meeting closed with prayer. Next session meeting will be April 20, 2016 at 5:00 PM. The session meeting will be followed by a training session

*Chamber Music &
Modern Men Choral Group*

Saturday, May 21st

3:00 PM

Palm Springs Presbyterian Church



Do you like to sing? If the answer is yes, the choir is seeking new members.

Sing the praises of God for all to hear! For more information, contact Jeff Morgan or Alex Danson.

Rehearsal is Wednesday from 2 PM

ONGOING PROJECTS

We recycle! Bring your empty aluminum cans and recyclable plastic bottles (look for CA CRV on the bottle) to the church office. Thank you for helping our budget and the environment.

PSPC Aprons for sale "Have You Hugged a Presbyterian Today" - \$20. – See Morella or Jackie

PSPC cookbook, Love Feast, is for sale for \$5. See Jim or Jackie.

Save used ink cartridges for Palm Springs Presbyterian Church. Collection jar is on Jackie's desk.

Save Box Tops for Education for Desert Hot Springs schools. You can leave them in the office.

Bring a package, can or box of food for The Well in the Desert. Leave it in the bin by the front door. They can also use warm clothing.

Save used stamps and Campbell's soup Labels for The Tecate Mission. Leave a 1/4 inch border around the stamp when you cut them out. Leave them with Jackie.

Bring in your gently used women's clothing for Hacienda Valdez. You can leave it in the office with a note on it.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Men's Bible Study with Allen Perrier – Fellowship Hall Wed 9:00 AM

Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesday at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Yoga Class Tuesday at 11:00 AM and Thursday at 5:30 PM.(except on 5:59 Gathering Thursdays). \$10



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Matt Lashey	2
Jeff Morgan	5
Leslie Lutke	5
Melissa Yezek	6
Lynn Hamilton	6
Truus VanderLinden	12
Kate Weezorak	15
Marilyn McMillen	20
Robert Kemp	23
Allen Perrier	23
Angie Hempy	27
Kay Chabot	27
Johnny Jaqua	27
Yvette Martinez	27

Attention: All Seasonal Friends,
Visitors or if you just miss a Sunday
You can listen to the Sunday worship
services on PSPC's website
pspresby.org. Alex has the current
Sunday Service available by Tuesday of
the following week. Even if you are
away you can still enjoy Rev Christine's
sermons, hear our great choir and keep
up with what's going on here.



Online giving is
now up and
running.
Just get on our
website, and
click on the button
in the upper right hand corner.
The website will guide you
through the steps to take
advantage of online giving. It can
be used to make regular tithes to
the general fund or the piano fund.
You can use this option weekly,
every two weeks, monthly,
quarterly or on a one
time basis.



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OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of Palm Springs Presbyterian Church is to proclaim the Good News of God by reaching out to others and inviting them into a new relationship with Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves to be a center for spiritual growth and friendship, where the teachings of Jesus are faithfully received and God's grace is joyfully celebrated.

You can listen to the Sunday worship services on PSPC's website, pspresby.org. They are available by Tuesday of the following week.



Pastor:
Rev. Christine Dickerson

Music Director:
Alex Danson

Office Administrator:
Jackie Morgan

Sonshine Editors:
Jeff & Jackie Morgan