



SONSHINE

Palm Springs Presbyterian Church Newsletter

May 2021

This season is a time of warming weather and nature coming back to life. As flowers bloom and animals are born, we are reminded of the innocence and beauty that exists in this world and that there is new life all around us. As Christians, we are given new life and new mercies every morning. Spring provides a wonderful reminder to us that we should be living a full life and leaving the old dead parts of life behind. There is always hope during the coldest, darkest winters of life. Spring will come and new life will come forth!

Scripture describes the awesome vibrancy of this season in multiple passages:



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Song of Songs 2:11-13

11 See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. **12** Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come the cooing of doves is heard in our land. **13** The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me.”

Luke 21:1-4

1 As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. **2** He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. **3** “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. **4** All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: **2** a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, **3** a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, **4** a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, **5** a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, **6** a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, **7** a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, **8** a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

*Contributed by Peggy Kueffer
Clerk of Session*

Spring Devotional

Rebuild Your Faith During Life's Struggles

There is no shortcut to spiritual maturity. We need trials in our lives to help our faith grow stronger.

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2–4.

In John 16:33 Jesus made a promise to His followers: “Here on this earth, you will have many trials and sorrows”. I can understand that, since this world is opposed to Jesus and all He stands for. But I’ve always had a hard time understanding how I’m supposed to count those trials and sorrows as joy. I do want my faith to become “mature and complete,” but still—joy? Then I heard a story from a friend that changed my perspective on trials.



One spring Mike’s neighbor gave him some duck eggs and explained how to incubate them. Mike watched the eggs carefully; he couldn’t contain his excitement when he saw the [baby ducks](#) trying to break their way out. When he noticed that some were struggling, he helped them by breaking off parts of the eggshell. Sadly, those baby ducks died. His neighbor later told him the babies needed that initial struggle to help them gain strength. So despite trying to help, Mike had actually killed some of the baby ducks.

Just as those baby ducks needed the struggle to grow physically stronger, we need trials in our lives to help our faith grow stronger. There is no shortcut to [spiritual maturity](#). To get there, we have to travel a road of trials, difficulties, and sorrows. But we can persevere because of the second half of John 16:33. The One who travels with us declares, “But take heart, because I have overcome the world” (NLT).

Faith Step: *Think about your hardest struggle. Thank Jesus that He will use it to strengthen your faith.*

by Dianne Neal Matthews

Session Focus



Your Session met on Tuesday evening, April 20th, to faithfully provide the leadership for our church. Highlights of the meeting included:

- 38 congregants responded with approval to the appointment of the eight individuals nominated to be on the Pastor Nominating Committee.
- Rev. Scott Mason, Pastor of Beaumont Presbyterian Church, is confirmed by the Presbytery to be our PNC Moderator and will begin this important effort of calling our new pastor immediately.
- The mixed responses from the congregants regarding the church reopening were reviewed. More than half of the respondents suggested reopening after the Summer months.
- We are checking with our insurance company regarding their guidelines for church reopening (liability) as well as Riverside County and CDC requirements. More information will be forthcoming.
- We encourage everyone to receive their COVID vaccines to assist in protecting themselves.
- We reviewed and accepted the financial statement for the month of March.
- All agreed it is time again to focus on our Summer Fund to sustain the church through the Summer months, assist in funding the reopening of the church and the support of our new pastor.

Your Elders appreciate the trust you have placed in us, and we pray for our Lord's guidance in the future of our Church.

*Submitted by: Elder Carole Rogers
Session Member*



Worship Committee

GOOD NEWS!

We are on our way to having in-person worship services in our Church home. PSPC has a working committee dedicated to "re-opening" the Church in a safe manner. As great as our "on-line services" are, they are no substitute for the congregants to gather in person. In this ever-changing environment, it is paramount we must do so safely and in compliance with all the mandates put forth by our government agencies.

Members and friends, this opening will be unlike anything we've done before and the Committee believes we can do this safely, but we need to prepare for adjustments.

- Each individual will have to decide what personal risks, if any, they are willing to take (or waive) to resume in-person worship. An “on-line service” will continue, however, in a somewhat different format.
- Face masks and social distancing will be in place, as well as the use of hand sanitizing stations.
- Singing will be limited, if at all, face masks do hinder one’s ability to sing, as does the mandates placed by the government regarding this.
- Entering and exiting the Church will be under strict directions, to eliminate unnecessary contact, enter one door exit another. Attendees will be dismissed by row, keeping the center aisle free of congestion.
- Bring your own Bible as those in the pews have been removed, hymnals have also been removed temporarily.
- If there will be the opportunity for socializing after service with food and drinks, it will be done differently from our previous way of conducting fellowship time.

Workdays are being planned to perform a top to bottom cleaning of the Church facilities and grounds, please contact the church office if you are willing to help in this, as the supplies necessary for the cleaning have already been donated, so all you will need to bring is a good work ethic.

Preparing the Church for re-opening and the continued additional maintenance associated with this endeavor is not something for which we have budgeted. The 2021 Budget has no additional funds to spare or redirect. We need your help financially.

As to the financial help needed, outside contractors will be required to prepare all systems and take care of deferred maintenance (plumbing issues in the restrooms, HVAC system, deep cleaning, etc.) as well as additional work to keep the facilities sanitized between uses. These extraordinary expenses are estimated to be approximately \$5,000, to be added to a COVID grant received from the Riverside Presbytery. Music has always been a large part of our worship services, and the Praise Band has been an important piece. At this time, we have no budget to bring back the Praise Band. In order to bring back the Band. We will need an additional \$9,500 to carry us through to the end of year for this unbudgeted item.

Please consider targeting a gift to PSPC Re-opening Committee designated to a specific portion of our needs. We, as committee, would be remiss if we didn’t acknowledge the initial donations

from Bud Cius who at the onset of this pandemic provided, masks, gloves, hand sanitizing stations, and handheld thermometers. Thank you Bud!

Needless to say, things are “fluid” but taking shape. We will be looking forward to the assistance of others as we continue to develop our plan to “Re-open”. Details and dates will follow as soon as we can determine them, in the meantime, have faith and keep the Church and the Committee in your prayers. God was, is and always will be at the helm in all we do.

Should you have questions or comments, please contact a member of the Re-opening Committee: Bill Cameron, Bill Miller, Pauline Gregg, Morella Larsen or Carl Currin.

*Submitted by: Elder Bill Cameron
Worship Committee Chairperson*

Building & Grounds Committee

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



We would greatly appreciate anyone that would like to volunteer their time and effort in helping to prepare our church for the re-opening. There are two sessions scheduled for this effort; Wednesdays, May 12th and 19th. We will meet at the church at 9:00 AM, and each session will be a couple of hours to perform miscellaneous cleaning and sanitizing. If you plan on helping on these days, please be sure to wear your masks and maintain the recommended distancing. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Please contact the Office should you have any questions.

*Submitted by: Elder Bill Miller
Building & Grounds Committee Chair*

Stewardship & Finance Committee



Most everyone should now have received our Summer Fund letter either by email or mail. It is more important than ever we focus on achieving our Summer Fund goal of \$20,000 now to prepare for the summer months and the costs we will encounter for our church reopening and new pastor. Your gracious assistance in this effort will be greatly appreciated so we all can benefit from returning back to the vibrant, joyous and welcoming church we all know and love.

A friendly reminder to please submit your annual capita and pledge if you have not done so already. The 2021 per capita for each individual is \$36.

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*Submitted by: Elder Carl Currin
Stewardship & Finance Committee Chair*

Blessings to our Special Birthday Friends



	March	April	May
6	Bob Wulf	2 Matt Lashey	1 Jim Chabot
6	Dick Erickson	5 Jeff Morgan	4 Jere Ring
12	Sandy Rayner	5 Leslie Lutke	6 Elizabeth Morgan
15	Steve Chown	6 Melissa Yezek	13 Hugh Ash
16	Steve Dobay	6 Lynn Hamilton	13 Margie Meyers
23	Janet Snyder	12 Truus VanderLinden	21 Dick Schultz
25	Don Shepherd	20 Marilyn McMillen	
28	Steve Lutke	23 Allen Perrier	
28	Caryl Williamson	27 Kay Chabot	
		27 John Evans	
		28 Johnny Jaqua	
		29 Jakiah Smith Evans	
		29 Joyce Zurbriggen	

From The Maestro

Do You Know Your Hymns?



Dentist's Hymn . . .	Crown Him with Many Crowns.
Weatherman's Hymn . . .	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
Contractor's Hymn . . .	The Church's One Foundation.
Tailor's Hymn . . .	Holy, Holy, Holy.
Golfer's Hymn . . .	There's a Green Hill Far Away.
Politician's Hymn . . .	Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn . . .	Open My Eyes That I Might See.
IRS Agent's Hymn . . .	I Surrender All.
Gossip's Hymn . . .	Pass It On.
Electrician's Hymn . . .	Send The Light..
Shopper's Hymn . . .	Sweet Bye and Bye.
Realtor's Hymn . . .	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
Massage Therapist's Hymn. . .	He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph . . .	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph . . .	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph . . .	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph . . .	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph . . .	Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folks.