NEWS & VIEWS from the Pulpit & Pews
First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg, CA

Cheryl Finch, Interim Pastor
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2019 EASTER CROSS
Dear friends~
There is indeed, “A time for every thing under heaven,” Yes, it’s true, we have entered yet another season, another new time. It’s spring (allergies and all)! By the church calendar we have moved from Lent to the season of Eastertide (heading straight for Pentecost and ordinary time.)

During this last “time” or season, Lent, we took some time, time away from Busy. The goal was to intentionally make space for our unhurried God. We were encouraged to declutter our lives, by making time and space, both literal and figurative, and by remembering the commandment to practice Sabbath. We handed our worries and our prayers over to God, (God Box and prayer wall) set aside intentional time to sit in silence listening to and for God’s voice (time in the prayer chair), we thought about how we could make room on our calendars and in our homes for what is truly important and life giving. We might have even tried a new spiritual discipline (even if it was just for one day) from our Lenten calendar. So as we come to the end of Lent into the celebration of the resurrection, the question we might still be contemplating is, why? Why did we, (and I hope continue to), slow down and make more space for God in our lives?

My hope is that by creating and focusing on this space we were liberated both as individuals and as a church. That we took some time to figure out what is really most important and vital. Remember it wasn’t, and isn’t, just about not doing, or doing away with something, but more importantly to figure out what is really most important and life giving so that we might focus our energies on those things, with renewed and refreshed purpose. And we find this most clearly within the Eater story, even in the very detail of Jesus telling Mary not to cling to to him because it wasn’t time yet. Did this mean that the time never came? No. For we know that Mary and the rest of the disciples (even a little more slowly) did come to understand and to then go out and tell, sharing the gospel with the world. For Christ is indeed our liberator, the one who, as we were reminded in our Friday Bible study, wants to liberate us that we might live full and abundant lives.

My prayer for each of us is that we have come out of this Lenten season with renewed purpose, refreshed and ready for whatever comes next. For me this new season means a restructuring of my time. As I move from being your full time to part time pastor, (and from part time to full time caregiver for my mother), it means literally less time in Fort Bragg, less time with all of you. But this doesn’t mean less quality or caring for any of this congregation or community. It just means deciding what is the most life-giving for us all. I hope we have all found this to be fruitful time, because the truth is when we allow this space to happen, when we declutter our lives and our minds, surprising things will come, new ideas, new energy, new creativity and believe it or not more time.

If you didn’t or weren’t able to fully embrace some or any of our Lenten disciplines, never fear because we all still have time! And I would encourage each of us to either start and/or continue at least one of the practices you find meaningful and helpful in your walk with God.

A blessed Eastertide to you all. For Christ is risen! He is risen indeed.

Grace, peace and love,
Pastor Cheryl

*Beginning May 15th Pastor Cheryl will move from full time to part time. With some exceptions, she will typically be in Fort Bragg Saturday afternoon thru Tuesday mornings. The rest of the week she will be in Sacramento caring for her mom, who was recently brought home from a memory care facility. You can still reach her anytime by email, text or phone. If there is an emergency while she is in Sacramento please call your deacon and they will see that a pastor gets to you.
COMMUNITY EASTER DINNER SUCCESS
Thank you just doesn’t seem adequate when trying to show appreciation to the countless volunteers who made the 22nd annual Community Easter Dinner such a huge success! This was our busiest Easter dinner yet. We delivered over 200 meals and served almost 200 in house, whether to go or dining in. Some were homeless, some were elderly, some just didn’t have anywhere to go for an Easter dinner. All walks of life were fed and you ALL helped brighten a lot of lives on Easter Sunday!! We couldn’t have done it without you! God Bless You All!! Kathy Orsi

Christian Ed Corner
July 7th - Aug 11th there will be no regular Sunday School. Children are invited to remain in worship on these Sundays, and worship bags are available. Please note that nursery care for preschool age children and under will continue to be available in the nursery throughout the summer.

Westminster Woods
Now is the time to register for summer camp at Westminster Woods. The Woods continues to hold a special place in the hearts of many of us and there is a whole new generation of campers ready to experience it. If you know a child or youth (entering 2nd grade through graduating senior) who is planning to go, or interested in learning more, please pick up a brochure in the church office or visit the Westminster Woods website for information on camps, dates and other details, as well as to register. Scholarships are available from the church and divided evenly between the campers attending each year, but we need to know who is going before June 1st! Here’s to another great summer at the Woods!

Did you know? We have 3 children that we sponsor through Compassion International?

SPECIAL FRIENDS
Mark your calendars and plan to join your special friend for several special events:

Saturday July 13th Picnic Day at MacKerricher - Pat Long will lead a walk, we’ll have a cookout (s’mores included) and have some fun in the sun (or fog). Watch for more details, such as the time, where to meet, and what to bring, coming soon.

Sunday August 18th at 9:30am- Breakfast with Special Friends before worship. We will kick off the new Sunday school year by having breakfast together, share something exciting about our summer and look forward to the year ahead. You won’t want to miss it.

Coming in September! Friday September 6th at 6pm - Game Night is back! Come share some snacks and your favorite game.

Bigs please plan to contact your littles to make plans to attend these events together!

If you are not already a special friend to one of our amazing kids we still need some loving Bigs (adults) to pair with our Littles. Please let Mary Sue Rhoads or Marcia Williams know you are interested and we will get you connected with your own special friend.

JUNE 10-13, 4 nights 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Pastor Randy and Trinity Lutheran will host VBS this summer!
Misc.
We are looking for some help in the AV room. It’s a job folks of any age can do, as well as one you can do sitting down. And extra bonus, we will train you. So if you are willing to help out once a month to once every 6 weeks please let Pastor Cheryl or Misty Elam know.

Thank you choir!

Have you hugged a choir member today?

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to our choir for a wonderful 2018-2019 season. The choir went out with a beautiful bang singing two pieces on Easter Sunday. Under the direction of Steve Worthen and accompanied by our Music Director Sylvia Burns, the choir worked hard not only to provide an anthem twice a month but pre-learned hymns and songs so they could help lead congregational singing. Pastor Cheryl also wants to thank them for the extra work providing musical leadership on Maundy Thursday and Holy Humor Sunday.

When you see them be sure to thank:
Sylvia Burns - Music Director
Steve Worthen - Choir director

The choir: Pat Applegate, Nan Halstead, Nancy and Bob Jorgensen, Les Mann, Cecilia Townsend, Marcia Williams, Printha Worthen, and Pastor Cheryl

Many are looking forward to singing with the Petker Choral Workshop. And remember, we are always encouraging new members to come and join us.

Petker Workshop Help Needed:
It takes many hands to help host this event and welcome Allan and singers from all over Northern California. Mendocino Pres. Is helping us out but we still need to do our part. Take a look on the bulletin board and see if you might be able to help bring food, set up, serve or clean up from meals. Thank you in advance we excitedly anticipate the choir singing for worship on the 12th.

New Members Class:
Are you ready to take the next step? We have some wonderful folks who regularly attend and whom are already consider part of our church family. If that’s you and you think you might be ready to explore what membership in the Presbyterian church means, you are invited to join Pastor Cheryl for 2 Sundays in June 23rd and 30th. We will look at what makes Presbyterians unique, what we believe, how we are governed and what it means to be a member of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg. Lunch will be provided so please RSVP your interest to the church office, so we can plan food accordingly. At the end of classes, if you decide membership is for you, you will be invited to meet with the session and be officially welcomed.

The PER CAPITA BBQ date has been re-scheduled to Sunday, JULY 14!
Kathy Orsi is organizing this fund raiser to help cover per capita dues to the national church which are not voluntarily paid by our church members.
May 2. Meeting ~1:30
—Weaving Demonstration (Nancy) and Garden Tour (Bob) at Jorgensen’s Home. **Carpool from Church** at 1:15. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. 204 McKinley St., FB Handicapped entrance on Alder St.

**May 16 Meeting ~1:30 at Church**
—A presentation by Eve Nighswonger and Gary Champlin followed by a group discussion and brainstorm about how best to grow our church.

**Next Year!!!**
Our program year is from September through June. The sign-up sheet for coordinators will be going up soon. Coordinators are responsible for programs and refreshments. Programs can be guest speakers, sharing stories, an outing, etc. We will also need a leadership team. This is a great group of men and women.

**from Claudelle Zack:**
Dear friends, It is with the saddest heart that I pass on the following. Please join me in remembering a great icon. The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection and complications from repeated pokes in the belly. He was 71. Doughboy was buried in a lightly-greased coffin. Dozens of celebrities turned out to pay their respects, including Mrs. Butterworth, Hungry Jack, the California Raisins, Betty Crocker, the Hostess Twinkies, and Cap'n Crunch. The grave site was piled high with flours as long-time friend, Aunt Jemima, delivered the eulogy, describing Doughboy as a man who never knew how much he was kneaded. Doughboy rose quickly in show business, but his later life was filled with turnovers. He was not considered a very "smart" cookie, wasting much of his dough on half-baked schemes. Despite being a little flaky at times, he -- even still, as a crusty old man -- was considered a roll model for millions. Toward the end, it was thought he would rise again, but alas, he was no tart. Doughboy is survived by his wife, Play Dough; two children, John Dough and Jane Dough; plus they had one in the oven. He is also survived by his elderly father, Pop Tart. The funeral was held at 3:50 for about twenty minutes.

**NEW CHURCH COMMITTEE**
At their last meeting, Session approved of the formation of a **Mission and Outreach** committee. Eve Nighswonger volunteered to chair it. One focus of this committee will be reviewing what has been done in the past to attract and retain new members, as well as researching best practices of other churches. Interested in serving on this committee? Want to share past practices? Please contact Eve at enighswonger@gmail.com 707.478.7212. Consider attending **Fellowship on May 16 at 1:30pm** for a presentation by Eve and Gary followed by a group discussion and brainstorm about how best to grow our church.
Our LENTEN theme "Busy; Reconnecting with an Unhurried God"

The prayer wall with personal ribbon prayers, the potsherds and the memories of things let go, the God boxes—both the large congregational one and the small personal ones taken home—in which to place your written worries to God on a piece of paper—and the prayer chair to sit silently and thoughtfully while praying to God.
SPRING BLOSSOM TEA

Even though there was no chairperson for the Spring Blossom Tea it was a huge success with all the tables filled! Isabel Rogerson read two readings, "The Lines on Your Face" and "The Teacup" and we had background music playing. Three of our men joined us - Fred and Lynn Hollenback and Jody Stickels and they had a great time! We had four of our young people kept the teapots filled for the hostesses and the sandwich and cookie plates full and they did a fantastic job. Our young heroes were Emmitt Sanderson (who also set up a special table for kids), Joden, Jayden and Jeana Stickels. Thank you so much!!!

The social hall looked beautiful with all the decorated tables thanks to Marcia Williams, Marsha Jeffries, Colleen Cleary, Isabel Rogerson, Nancy Mantel, Ruth Sommer, Roen Mallory, Crystal Sanderson, Charletta Evans and Pastor Cheryl and Jacque Moore. The sandwiches were made by Helen Marie Rogers, Lori Cole, Marsha Williams, Claudelle Zack, Nancy Mantel, Geraldine Loomis, Carletta Hollenback, Nancy Jorgenson, Jacque Moore and Crystal Sanderson. The cookies were donated by Charletta Evans, Colleen Cleary, Isabel Rogerson, Ruth Sommer, Roen Mallory, Mary Sue Rhoads and Cathy Hollenback. The kitchen crew were Cathy Hollenback, Norma Cleary and Lori Cole. Many of the women who attend every year look forward to this event. Thank you to all of you who made this event so much fun and beautiful. You are appreciated!

The tea’s three “J” Servers…JEANA, JODEN, & JAYMEN:
MORE SPRING BLOSSOM TEA PHOTOS from Rogerson & Robinson, unincorporated

MAY BIRTHDAYS
1 VICKI HAUTALA
2 CINDI HOOD
  LYDIA MANTEL
3 CAROL STEELE
11 NANCY JORGENSEN
19 DUANE TELL
21 BRUCE ROGERSON
23 TAMI SMITH

JUNE BIRTHDAYS
2 HOLLY UGULANO SKINNER
8 EMMITT SANDERSON
10 BOB STEELE
12 HANNAH BOSMA
  GINABELLE SMITH
16 NANCY HERRON-PIKE
23 RILEY LANIGAN
24 DEANNA LOWE
27 CECILIA TOWNSEND
OUR BOOKSHELF NEWS

Have you checked out the spot on the bulletin board suggesting good books to read from your friends in the congregation? I want to post five different books each month. Please let me know your recommendations with perhaps a line or two describing the book i.e.: autobiography, historical fiction, mystery. Coming in May:

Heart and Soul by Maeve Binchy recommended by Pat Applegate. Fort Bragg Library has a shelf of this English author’s books.

Louise Candlish wrote Our House and is recommended by Ruth Smith. ...a literary thriller, addictive novel of domestic suspense ....

Did you like Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown? Claudelle Zack says Under the Flaming Sky by same author is equally as good. “Reminds me of the fires that we have had in recent years; well researched and exciting!”

Mary Sue Rhodes recommends Louise Penny’s Still Life. This book is the first in a series set around the life of Chief Inspector Armand Gamache, the provincial police force of Quebec.

Printha Worthen is recommending Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver. I have eight of this author’s books and would love to share them. Anyone want to have coffee sometime and talk about their favorite Kingsolver book?

Happy reading, Pat Long

MAY ANNIVERSARIES
1 HOLLY & LEO LANIGAN
10 KAREN & JOHN ANDERSEN - 1997
20 ROEN & NORMAN MALLORY - 1956
22 GINABELLE & JIM SMITH - 1994
31 JULEE & TOM ESTES - 1964

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES
2 SHANNON & ADAM VANWORMER
18 YVONNE & FRANK DOBBINS - 1949
20 PAULA & DAN FOWLER - 1987
24 MACY & KYLE NELEPOVITZ - 2006

IN MEMORIAM

ROGER THORNBURN
1944 - 2019