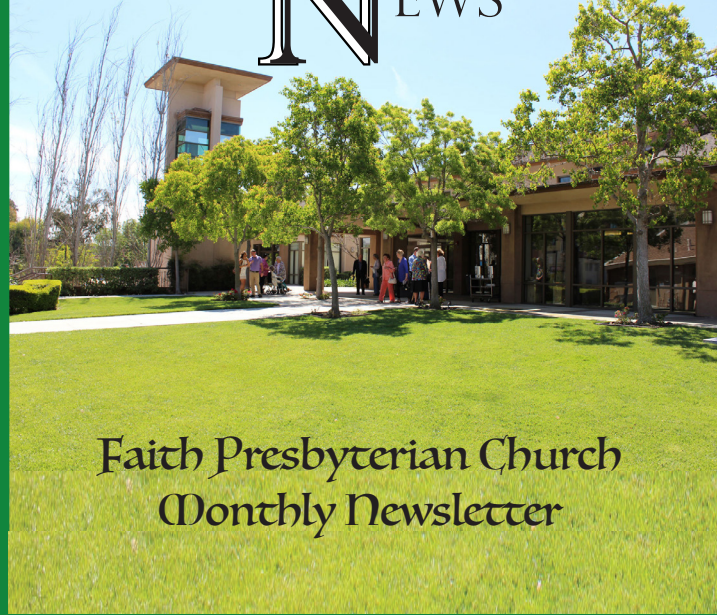


# FAITH FAMILY NEWS



## Faith Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter

**From Pastor Sam**

### *Radical Amazement*

On the first Easter morning, according to Mark's Gospel, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body, one final gesture of love and care.

After encountering a young man dressed in white and finding the tomb empty, they fled, for "terror and amazement had seized them" (Mark 16:8).

The ending of Mark's Gospel may puzzle us – or at least, the ending of some of the oldest manuscripts of Mark's Gospel. It concludes with women running away in fear and wonder. They leave without telling anyone, or at least not yet. But what, we may want to ask, did they do next?

We may wonder why Mark's Gospel does not give us a more finished ending like some of the other New Testament Gospels. Mark's Gospel may strike us as something like a loose end.

In these Winter and Spring months, folks in the

Wednesday Bible study have observed for me that Mark often does not explain what people and events mean, and perhaps, we do not need to explain or understand everything. I am beginning to think and feel that "amazement" is a perfectly good description of the first Easter and of most days.

The resurrection of Christ on the first Easter morning was wrapped in hope-filled mystery, and lest we forget, mystery encircles us every day.

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, we will begin our next book study with Dacher Keltner's book, *Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life*. Though he is not a Christian, he explores deeply spiritual questions, as he asks, "How can we live a good life? One enlivened by joy and community and meaning, that brings us a sense of worth and belonging and strengthens the people and natural environments around us? Now, twenty years into teaching happiness, I have an answer: find awe."

While I must confess to not yet reading the whole book, I can say I am very interested in the book. Christian and Jewish spiritual leaders have said that awe is the beginning of faith. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel went so far as to say that to be spiritual is to live in radical amazement.

I am looking forward to sharing conversations centered around this book for many reasons, not least among them is that we would all do well to slow down long enough to be amazed.

May this Easter season fill you with joy and wonder.

Grace and peace,

Sam



## MEETINGS of OUR FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

**Book Study**  
Every Tuesday of the Month  
7:00pm on ZOOM

**Wednesday Bible Study**  
FPC, Room #2 at 12noon - 1:00pm

**Tuesday Eves**  
Second Saturday of the Month  
No meeting in April  
FPC, Library at 2:00pm

**Women's Circle**  
Thursday, April 13th  
FPC, Room #3 at 10:00am

**Women's Group Bible Study**  
Third Saturday of the Month  
April 15th  
FPC, Library at 3:00pm

## THIS IS US

Faith Presbyterian Church gathers in the College Area from all across San Diego. We desire to embody beloved community. We are diverse. We are people of color, white, gay, straight, married, single, parents, old, young, and with various abilities. We share a common life characterized by concern for justice, delight in education, and excellence in music through all stages of life. We carry living traditions with us as we grow in faith, with the triune God as our best expression.



### 2023 Focus:

*earth care  
and  
mental health*



The Deacons are continuing to collect recycling. Please contact Nancy Flynn at (619) 813-7063 or email at [esch46@hotmail.com](mailto:esch46@hotmail.com) to make arrangements for her to meet you in the church parking lot.

The money goes directly to the Deacons' fund.

Aluminum cans - Plastic bottles - Glass bottles (CRV) - Water jugs

# Faith Family Life

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Jason Lafferty - 1<sup>st</sup>  
Cynthia Hatfield - 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Briana Bashaw Wood - 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Ryan Lafferty - 7<sup>th</sup>  
Sue Razaia - 25<sup>th</sup>  
Kevin Maeda - 28<sup>th</sup>

If you would like to see your birthday listed in the newsletter with just the day, not the year, please email that information to Joe Rodriguez (jcr14@att.net).

## Our Tradition of the Flower Cross

The Flower Cross will be assembled on the Saturday morning before Easter between 10am & 12noon. Flowers brought on Easter Sunday morning need to be in Room 1 no later than 8:30am. Please plan ahead.

Sanctuary Flowers for 2023  
The 2023 Flower Chart is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex and is ready for sign-ups for 2023.



Please clean up the kitchen after using it, especially the kitchen sink.

Big blue recycling bin is for recyclable materials only. Please do not put any trash in this one. Thank you for your cooperation.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

April 2nd - Palm Sunday - 9:30am, Sanctuary  
April 6th - Maundy Thursday, 7:00pm, Courtyard  
April 7th - Good Friday, 7:00pm, Sanctuary  
April 9th - Easter Sunday Worship - 9:30am, Sanctuary  
April 9th - Easter Sunday Brunch - 10:45am, Faith Family Center  
April 16th - Session Meeting - 11am, Room #2  
April 23rd - Newsletter Deadline

Church Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00am - 12:00noon, 1:00pm - 4:00pm  
Please note that office is closed on Fridays

**COME**, TRY OUR  
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY  
12:00pm in Room #2  
LED BY PASTOR SAM

# Financial Report

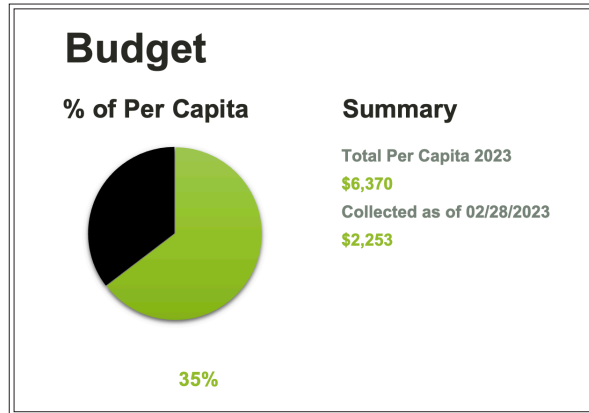
February 28, 2023

Envelope Offering for February 2023 was \$19,386.00

Envelope Offering monthly budget 2023 is \$18,939.00 per month

Per Capita as of 02/28/2023

Please pay your Per Capita, it is \$42.00 per member for 2023.



— Paid for February Gas & Electric was \$3,394.59 —

## SERMONS APRIL

SEARCHING FOR WHOLENESS

### *A Series in the Gospel of Mark*

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus announces the good news that the reign of God has arrived (1:14-15). Is this announcement still good and timely news for us today? The reign of God means liberation, healing, and wholeness for individuals and communities. Jesus invites anyone who will listen to join him in witnessing the reign of God. Ched Myers has observed, “Mark’s Gospel...is a story by, about, and for those committed to God’s work of justice, compassion, and liberation in the world.” The Gospel of Mark is the oldest and shortest of the four gospels in the New Testament. In this sermon series, we will explore Jesus as the physician and the church as a field hospital.

April 2nd	Pastor Sam	<i>Peaceable Love</i> (Palm Sunday)	Mark 11:1-11
April 6th	Pastor Sam	<i>Humble Love</i> (Maundy Thursday)	Mark 12:28-34, 14:22-25
April 7th	Pastor Sam	<i>Sacrificial Love</i> (Good Friday)	Mark 14:1-15:47
April 9th	Pastor Sam	<i>Radical Amazement</i> (Easter Sunday)	Mark 16:1-8
April 16th	Pastor Sam	<i>Signs of Love</i> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter)	John 20:19-31
April 23rd	Pastor Sam	<i>Opened with Love</i> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter)	Luke 24:13-35
April 30th	Pastor Sam	<i>Guided by Love</i> (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)	John 10:1-10

# Special Committee

Last fall, the congregation voted for Session to find a way and develop a plan to allow the church to remain in its current location, as opposed to selling our campus and using the proceeds to relocate. Pastor Sam recommended that a special committee be formed and Session voted to do so.

The committee was formed and started meeting in late January. Nancy Harber and Joe Huffaker are the co-chairs. Michael Ballard, Jill Gustafson, Sue Razzaia and Steve Wood round out the committee. The plan will integrate a financial way ahead using current and new income streams with needed growth, repairs, and maintenance. The congregation has a lot of corporate knowledge and specialized expertise that the committee would love to leverage, so don't be surprised if you are asked to help with particular facets!

Along the way, we'll keep the congregation in the loop with our progress and anticipate congregational meetings when the plan is finished and presented.

Joseph Huffaker, co-chair



## PRESCHOOL NEWS



Dear Faith family,

We are sadly saying goodbye to our preschool director, Nancy McGeath, after serving the preschool community for nearly five academic years. She has accepted a position with the San Diego Unified School District.

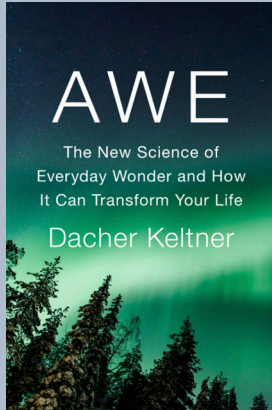
Nancy has introduced many new updates to the preschool program, navigated the Covid pandemic, and maintained a high level of excellence that we have come to value about the preschool.

When you see Nancy, be sure to thank her for her personal investment in the lives of the preschool families, staff, and church community. Her last day will be April 14.

We wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

Blessings,  
Sam

# Coming in April



## Book Study Resumes in April!

### *Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life*

By Dacher Keltner

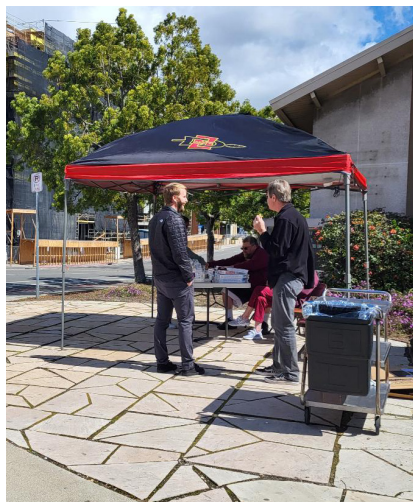
Penguin Press, 2023

We will begin a new book on Tuesday, **April 11<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm on Zoom

From the front book flap: “Awe is mysterious. How do we quantify the goose bumps we feel when we see the Grand Canyon, or the utter amazement when we watch a child walk for the first time? How do you put into words the collective effervescence of standing in a crowd and singing in unison, or the wonder you feel while gazing at centuries-old works of art? Up until fifteen years ago, there was no science of awe, the feeling we experience when we encounter vast mysteries that transcend our understanding of the world. Scientists were studying emotions like fear and disgust, emotions that seemed essential to human survival. Revolutionary thinking, though, has brought into focus how, through the span of evolution, we’ve met our most basic needs socially. We’ve survived thanks to our capacities to cooperate, form communities, and create culture that strengthens our shared identity – actions that are sparked by awe.”

From the back book flap: “Dacher Keltner is a professor of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, and the faculty director of UC Berkeley’s Great Good Science Center. A renowned expert in the science human emotion, Dr. Keltner studies compassion and awe, how we express emotion, and how emotions guide our moral identities and search for meaning. His research interests also span issues of power, status, inequality, and social class. He is the author of *The Power of Paradox: How We Gain and Lose Influence* and the bestselling book *Born to be Good: The Science of a Meaningful Life*, and the coeditor of *The Compassionate Instinct: The Science of Human Goodness*.”

# PICTURES From Around Campus



ONE OF OUR PAST FLOWER CROSSES



# Direct Giving to the PCUSA Mission Agency

The 221st General Assembly (2014) challenged each congregation to begin receiving a new Offering and/or increasing current offering support by 10 percent. We hope this statement helps you track progress of these goals and provide transparency on direct giving to the Mission Agency.

## IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

This chart shows how Faith Presbyterian Church compared with the rest of the PCUSA.

Faith Presbyterian Church 5075 Campanile Dr San Diego, CA 92115-2334	Your congregation		Nationally	
	2021 <i>(end of year)</i>	2022 <i>(as of 12/31/22 preliminary, subject to audit)</i>	2021 <i>(end of year)</i>	2022 <i>(as of 12/31/22 preliminary, subject to audit)</i>
Christmas Joy Offering	\$1,070.00	\$1,570.00	\$2,404,112	\$2,641,386
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,220.00	\$1,320.00	\$7,603,239	\$7,108,285
Pentecost Offering	\$615.00	\$1,665.00	\$734,615*	\$759,320*
Peace & Global Witness Offering <i>(includes Peacemaking Offering gifts)</i>	\$263.33	\$856.67	\$805,554*	\$809,993*
Presbyterian Giving Catalog <i>(includes Special Offerings events)</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,611,437	\$1,568,448

\* Gifts to the Pentecost and Peace & Global Witness offerings do not include the percentages retained by congregations and mid councils.





## HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ABOUT THE HISTORY OF OUR CHANCEL CROSS?

The Chancel Cross in our Sanctuary came from East San Diego Presbyterian Church as part of the merge with College Park Presbyterian Church in March 1995.

Ray and Bea Arntson commissioned artist James Hubbell to create the cross in honor of their son David who tragically died in a hotel fire during the last layover on his way to report for military duty in Viet Nam. David had issues in his life to deal with and his father felt the military would be the place to get him on the right track.

The actual commission was for the cross and a piece for the altar, however, the altarpiece disappeared during the merge and we have not been able to trace its whereabouts.

No one seems to recall whether suggestions had been made to James Hubbell about the creation of the cross or whether he was given full artistic freedom. There have been two thoughts on the symbolism on the burst in the center of the cross. One has been that the burst symbolizes that one has to go through Christ (what He did on the cross for us) for salvation; the other was that it symbolizes the resurrection that followed three days later.

### ABOUT JAMES HUBBELL, THE ARTIST [FROM THE UNION TRIBUNE]

James Hubbell is an artist, architectural designer, a poet, jeweler, sculptor and designer in metal, wood, stained glass, and tile. He is also a teacher to students of architecture and design throughout the world.

Hubbell's formal education was at Cranbrook Art Academy in 1955-56 where he studied Eli Saarinen's accommodation to nature and applied it to his own work.

Travel inspired his work, including tours of Europe where he encountered the work of Gaudi; Africa and its rich sculptural traditions; and Asia, where he painted murals for the Army while serving in the Korean War.

Hubbell has received numerous awards, honors, and lifetime achievement recognition from such varied organizations as Rotary International, the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Institute of Architects, the United Nations Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award, and the Pacific Coast Builders Conference.

Both nature and landscape play a central role in what James Hubbell creates, but there is a different way of looking at his aesthetic. With little exception his is an art not so much about landscape, but as landscape. Rather than illustrating or shaping the landscape, the majority of his work embodies or emulates nature.

James Hubbell's public art is available to visit in many areas throughout San Diego County, Baja Mexico, and the West Coast.

It is impossible to imagine Hubbell's body of work as separate from the place in which it is rooted, which is Ilan-Lael, the place. The architectural vocabularies of Gaudi and Hubbell, for example, are no more obvious than the form and texture that the indigenous manzanita shares with his iron work, or the native flora shares with his delicate line drawings or the leaded lines in his stained glass pieces.

This place where Hubbell lives is simultaneously a nurturer, a resource, a reference, a shelter, a launch pad, and a retreat. It's also a pedestal on which, and around which, the artist continues his personal affirmation.

*- - - When I Survey What Jesus Did On The Cross - - -*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

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## Holy Week Services

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>, 9:30AM**

WE REMEMBER JESUS' PEACEABLE ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM RIDING A DONKEY.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7PM**

- IN THE COURTYARD -

WE REMEMBER JESUS' LAST SUPPER WITH HIS FRIENDS BEFORE HIS ARREST.

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>, 7PM**

- IN THE SANCTUARY -

REFLECTING ON THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST, WE REMEMBER THE LOVE OF GOD IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE SUFFERING WORLD.

## Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

We give thanks for new life that  
God brings out of death.

WORSHIP, 9:30AM, SANCTUARY  
BRUNCH, 10:45AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL



## Brunch

*Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023*

*Come to the 2nd annual All Church Easter Potluck Brunch  
at 10:45am (after morning worship)*

*There will be ham, several side dishes, salads,  
desserts, and beverages.*

*Easter Egg Hunt following the church service*

*Come one, come all!*

# FUN FOR THE KIDS

## Egg-cellent bouquet

Transform an egg carton into a Mother's Day keepsake.

### What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors
- Acrylic paint and paintbrush
- Flat cardboard
- Photo, drawing or note
- Small pom-poms
- Hot glue
- Adult help

### What you do:

1. Bend, stretch and cut the carton cups to make 3-D flower shapes. Also cut leaf shapes from the carton top.
2. Paint the flowers and leaves. Let dry.
3. Cut the flat cardboard to a size and shape you desire. Leave a border at least 2 inches larger than your photo, drawing or note.
4. With hot glue, attach the photo, drawing or note to the cardboard.
5. Arrange and glue flowers and leaves around the border. Attach pom-poms for more color and texture.
6. Present the gift to your mom or a special woman in your life.

## PUZZLE

> NEW LIFE <

How did God work through Jesus to give us new life at Easter?

*Directions: Use the puzzle pieces from the box to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.*

dead	hope	resurrection	given	of
birth	living	Christ	mercy	great
Jesus				

In his [ ] [ ] he has  
 [ ] us new [ ] into a  
 [ ] [ ] through the  
 [ ] [ ] [ ]  
 [ ] from the [ ].

1 P E T E R 1 : 3 , N I V

Answer: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3, NIV

**FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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San Diego CA 92115

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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Director of Music Ministry: Joe Rodriguez

Media Director: Stephen Dichiera

Preschool Director: Nancy McGeath

Custodian: Agustin Urueta

Sexton: Robin Craig

Office Administrator: Lou Castillo

Newsletter Editor: Joe Rodriguez

GIVE THANKS TO  
THE LORD, FOR  
HE IS GOOD.  
HIS LOVE ENDURES  
FOREVER.  
PSALM 136:1

Send all submissions to  
Joe Rodriguez, editor  
[jcr14@att.net](mailto:jcr14@att.net)

DEADLINE FOR  
NEXT  
MONTH



APR  
20