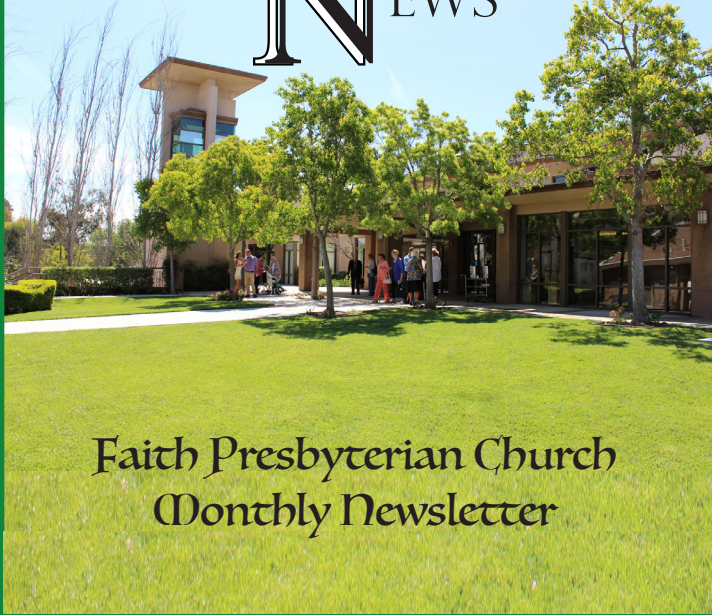


FAITH FAMILY NEWS



Faith Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter

From Pastor Sam

Advent

Advent is a season of anticipation and of hope in a weary world. Throughout Advent, we recall the hopes of the prophets, and we read familiar gospel stories. These people and their stories have lifted weary hearts for centuries, and they remind us that God loves this world.

During Sunday morning worship this year, we will follow the Gospel of Luke. We will hear the story of Zechariah's disbelief when he learns that his wife Elizabeth will have a son, the story of Mary's surprise when she learns that she will have a son, the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, and the song of Mary as she celebrates God's blessing.

One of my favorite passages in the Bible is Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), her song of praise for what God has done in her life. She sings, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

Up until these moments of disbelief and surprise and rejoicing, these people were living rather ordinary lives

caught up in a world bent on war, occupation, and predatory economics. The wealthy and powerful ruled over the poor and powerless. And a large part about what makes these gospel stories truly good news is that they are about God lifting up the lowly and powerless.

I love the season of Advent for many reasons. I enjoy the festiveness of dinners, concerts, gatherings, storytelling, and gift giving. But, most of all, I am grateful for the main message of Advent: God chose to be born into the mess and beauty of all that it means to be human in this world.

When I pray to God, I am praying to the God who has experienced firsthand the hardships, losses, joys, and hopes of being human. This gives me comfort and confidence to face a weary world searching for hope.

If you have not already, I invite you to pick up a copy of this year's Advent devotional, "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" produced by *A Sanctified Art*. You can pick up a copy in the church office. The devotional has beautiful color pictures and daily reflections throughout. As much as I enjoy the festivities of this season, it is important to remember why we are gathering and celebrating: we are celebrating the birth of God in Christ.

Grace and peace,

Sam

The Almighty
has done great
things for me, and
Holy is his Name

MEETINGS OF OUR FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Book Study

Every Tuesday of the Month
7pm on Zoom

Wednesday Bible Study

FPC, Room #2 at 12noon - 1:00pm

Tuesday Eves

Second Saturday of the Month
No Meeting in December
FPC, Library at 2:00pm

Women's Circle

Thursday, December 14th
FPC, Room #3 at 10:00am

Women's Group Bible Study

Saturday, December 16th
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*



Recycle



ReBorn™

The Deacons are continuing to collect recycling. Please contact Nancy Flynn at (619) 813-7063 or email at 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

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS



DEBBIE LENART, FLOWER MINISTRY

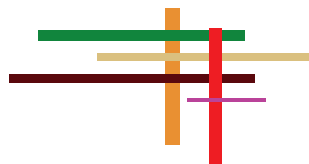
THE FLOWER
CHART IS UP
IN THE NARTHEX

THE CURRENT
PRICE IS \$75.00.
JUST A REMINDER
THAT THE COST OF THE
FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS
CAN BE SPLIT WITH
ANOTHER MEMBER.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bob Arthur - 6th
Ron Gonzales - 7th
Carla Euliss - 8th
Michael Ballard - 10th
James Kelly - 17th
Hailey Talbott Johnson - 20th
Bob Plimpton - 21st
Ben Holman - 26th
Charlene Arthur - 30th
Pat Keller - 30th

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).



DATES TO REMEMBER

December 1st - Christmas Dinner
December 3rd - First Sunday of Advent
December 10th - Second Sunday of Advent
December 10th - Deacons Meeting
December 14th - January Newsletter Deadline
December 17th - Third Sunday of Advent
December 17th - Session Meeting
December 17th - Christmas Concert - 7:00pm
December 21st - Longest Night Prayer Service - 7:00pm
December 24th - Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24th - Christmas Eve Service - 7:00pm
December 25th - Christmas Day - Office is closed
January 1st - New Years Day - Office is closed

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

October 31, 2023

Envelope Offering for September 2023 was \$33,065.87
Envelope Offering monthly budget 2023 is \$18,939.00 per month

Parking Lot Income for October was \$1,833.00
(this was income from mostly student parking)

Expenses for the month of September 2023 as follows:

Gas & Electric \$4,264.76

Maintenance & Repairs \$436.19

Office Supplies/Postage \$370.14

Mortgage payment \$7,656.18

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

End of Year Info for contributions and pledges

Contributions for 2023 are due by December 31. If you have questions about the status of your pledge, please call Beverly Martyn at 619-582-2186 or email 64beam@gmail.com. Pledge envelopes for 2024 will be available at church on December 31. Statements of Giving will be available on or before January 14.



DONATION BOX

Please consider donating your used clothing to the clients at New Day.

New Day serves the homeless and urban poor of San Diego. These clothes make a huge difference to their program and go directly to those in need!

High Need Items:

Men's shirts in Large, XL, XXL, and XXXL

Tennis shoes of any size, but especially men's 11+

Adult jackets and sweaters

Any hygiene items such as shampoo, toothpaste, etc

New underwear

Blankets / sleeping bags

Men's pants, especially with 32"- 34" waist

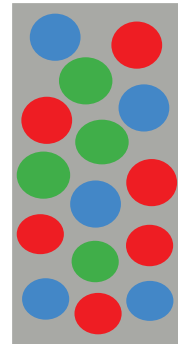
*Farewell Lou
and
Welcome James*



DEAR FAITH FAMILY, thank you all for being wonderful and kind to me while working at Faith. Your warmth and kindness are felt and I am so grateful and pleased to have known you all. I will leave Faith with a treasure of friends and good memories. Thank you for a lunch celebration of retirement and also for the gift of cash. It is very much appreciated. I will surely miss everyone and will be thinking of you. I wish you all a blessed and very merry Christmas. May your 2024 and years to come be filled with love and joy. Hugs, Lou



OUR NEW OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR is James Kelly. He is happy to be back in beautiful San Diego after 25 years in San Francisco. He was born in Monterey and moved to San Diego during his high school years. He has started working since Monday, November 6th. James is looking forward to meeting everyone here and joining the Faith Family. Please come by the office anytime between Monday and Thursday and say hello to James. James enjoys reading, book shopping, visiting museums, riding public transportation, and spending time with his family and friends. He would like to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2024.



OUR PIANO WILL BE HEADING FOR REPAIRS

People of Faith, we will be overhauling the piano that enhances our worship after the holidays. This is going to cost \$7,500.00, and the work is scheduled to begin in January. We encourage you to prayerfully consider a donation to this project. Thank you in advance. This also means we will not have the blessing of the piano for about 1 month during its repairs. Yours in Christ, Worship + Arts Committee and Music Ministry.





ALL CHURCH

Christmas Dinner

DECEMBER 1st, 2023

gathering at 6pm - dinner at 6:30pm

\$25 adults - \$12.50 children

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE

ROASTED SIRLOIN | GARLIC, HERBS, AND PEPPERCORN. MUSHROOM AU JUS.
TURKEY | STUFFED WITH FENNEL, TURKEY ITALIAN SAUSAGE, AND HERBS; ROASTED
MUSHROOM WELLINGTON | PORTOBELLO, SPINACH, ONION, PUFF PASTRY, AU JUS.

Specify VEGETARIAN OR VEGAN

Cantate and the San Diego Harmony Ringers

In a Joint Christmas Concert

Tuesday, December 12th, 2023
7:30pm

Cantate is a women's vocal ensemble
directed by Meryll Nelson.

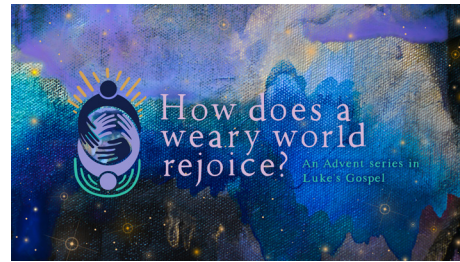
San Diego Harmony Ringers
is an ensemble of handbell ringers
directed by Joe Rodriguez.

Faith Presbyterian Church
5075 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92115

There will be a freewill offering



SERMONS DECEMBER



How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

An Advent Series

For this season of Advent, we are following *Sanctified Art's* series "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?". Each week we will follow the traditional Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, as we approach the celebration of Christ's birth on Christmas Day. You are invited to pick up your copy of the Advent devotional from the church office, so you can follow daily Advent reflections.

December 3rd	Pastor Sam	<i>How Can This Be?</i>	Luke 1:5-23
December 10th	Pastor Sam	<i>Why Has This Happened?</i>	Luke 1:24-45
December 17th	Pastor Sam	<i>What Will He Become?</i>	Luke 1:57-66
December 21st	Pastor Sam	<i>What Are We Carrying?</i> (Longest Night Prayer Service)	
December 24th	Pastor Sam	<i>Can You Hear Me Singing?</i>	Luke 1:46-55
December 24th	Pastor Sam	Treasuring All These Words	Luke 2:1-20
December 31st	Pastor Sam	Anticipating Fulfillment	Luke 2:21-38



CONCERT OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST



FEATURING

Faith Sanctuary Choir - Faith HandBell Ensemble - String Ensemble
Andy James, baritone, and carol singing by you

Director of Music Ministry/Organist - Joe Rodriguez

MUSIC BY THE CHOIR

A Christmas Prayer - Lloyd Larson
Christmas Medley - arr. Joe Rodriguez
Ding Dong Merrily on High - arr. Joe Rodriguez
Gloria - Antonio Vivaldi
March of the Kings - Mark Hayes
Song of the Shepherds - Lloyd Larson
Pat-a-Pan Noel - Ruth Elaine Schram
Tidings of Comfort and Joy - Audrey Snyder

MUSIC BY THE HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

We Three Kings - Cynthia Dobrinski

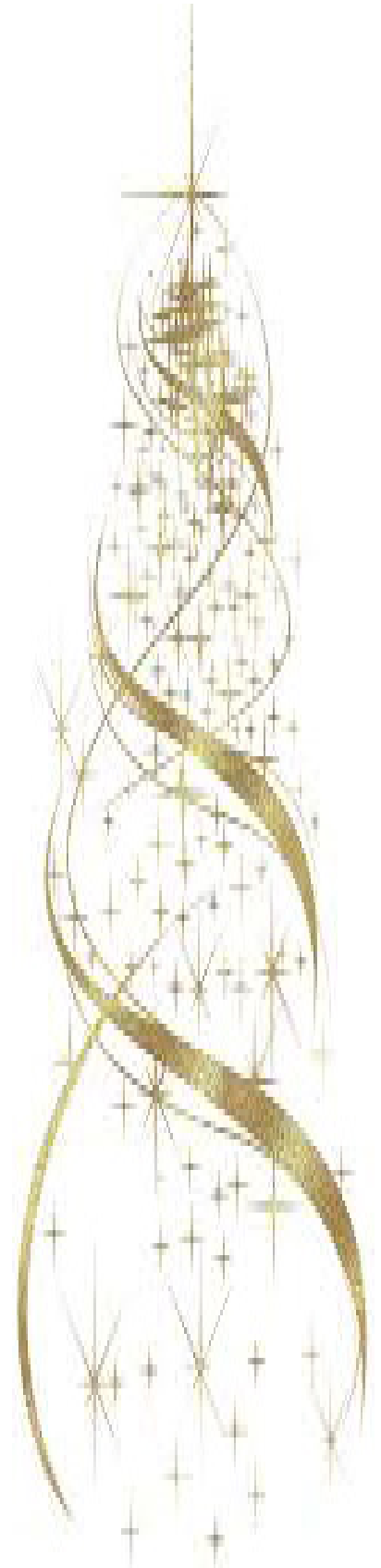
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Strings - American Christmas - arr. Thomas Graf
Piano - Masters In the Hall - Mark Hayes

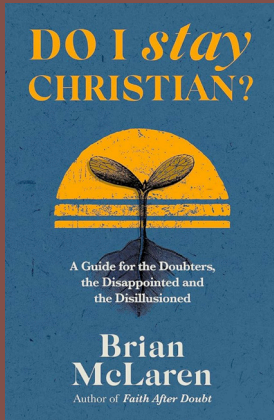
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 - 7:00 P.M.

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FREE WILL OFFERING - RECEPTION AFTER THE SERVICE



Continuing in December



Our group is studying the book

Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, The Disappointed, And the Disillusioned

By Brian D. McLaren

St. Martin's Essentials, Hardback, 2022

Each week, we gather on Tuesdays at 7pm on Zoom to discuss a chapter of a book and how it relates to our lives.

From the front cover: “*Do I Stay Christian?*” publically addresses the powerful question that surprising numbers of people – including pastors, priests, and other religious leaders – are asking in private. Brian McLaren does not urge Christians to dig in their heels, nor does he warn them to run for the exit. Instead, he combines his own experience with that of thousands of people who have confided in him over the years to help readers make a responsible, honest, ethical decision about their religious identity. According to McLaren, there is a way to say *yes* and *no* to the question of staying Christian by shifting the focus from *whether we stay Christian* to *how we stay human*. If *Do I Stay Christian?* is the question you’re asking – or if it’s a question someone you love is asking – this is the book you’ve been waiting for.”

From the back cover: “A former college English instructor, Brian D. McLaren was a pastor for twenty-four years. Now an author, activist, public theologian, and frequent guest lecturer for gatherings in the United States and around the world, his work has been covered by *Time*, *Newsweek*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, CNN, and many other media outlets. The author of more than fifteen books, including *Faith After Doubt* and *A New Kind of Christian*, he is a faculty member of The Living School at the Center for Action and Contemplation. McLaren lives in Florida.”

Because here we are in the center. And although it may seem distant, obscure and hard, we may be eventually able to confess: Here it is actually very simple, plain and childlike. It's exactly now when I must cry out as a professor of systematic theology:

"WATCH OUT! EVERYTHING'S AT STAKE! EITHER SCIENCE, OR THE GREATEST DELUSION!" RIGHT NOW I STAND BEFORE YOU AS A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER BEFORE LITTLE CHILDREN, WHO'S SUPPOSED TO TELL SOMETHING THAT EVEN A CHILD IN THE AGE OF FOUR COULD UNDERSTAND: "THE WORLD WAS LOST, CHRIST IS BORN: REJOICE, REJOICE, O CHRISTIANITY!"

Karl Barth

KARL BARTH ON THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

The wonder of Christmas is described in the article of the Apostles' Creed: "Qui conceptus est de spiritu sancto, natus ex Maria virgine"; "who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary." Or, according to the formula of the Nicene Creed which is recited every Sunday, and on many other days, in the Roman Catholic mass and at least on Christmas and on other high festivals in the German Evangelical Church: "Et incarnatus est de spiritu sancto ex Maria virgine et homo factus est"; "and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man." What does this mean?

It certainly means God's presence in our world, His presence as man among men and therefore God's revelation to men. It means man's reconciliation with God. That this happened and still happens, is the substance of the Christmas message. God is the "He" of whom the Creed speaks. In Him is present not only light but the Light, the eternal Light, not only help, but the perfect, ultimate Helper Himself, not only power, but the Lord of all powers, not only love but the Lover in whom all love is founded, who excels all love and who is so infinitely lovable because He is wholly Love, even if no one responds.

This God is conceived where we all are conceived. He is born of Mary. She who conceived and bore Him, plays our part in the wonder of Christmas, for it concerns us. God has come to us. "Disguised in our flesh and blood, is the eternal good."

In the name of the Messianic King whom Israel expected, the Church has rediscovered the name of "the eternal good" in which she believes and which she confesses. The name is "Immanuel," God with us. (Is. VII.14).

Even described in such general terms Christmas can only be understood as a wonder. That there is this Love of which Paul can say that it never ends, is not a known fact nor some general truth symbolically represented in the Christmas message but also recognisable elsewhere. Can it really be true: God in our world, God in our world? The facts cry out against it, for they speak of God's remoteness from the world and the world's remoteness from God. It needs a confession of faith to recognize reconciliation as truth, a confession whose strength and weakness lies in the fact that it appeals only to revelation and that it can be made and received only by faith. The Creed of the Christian Church is this confession. It appeals only to revelation, it is made only by faith, it demands and expects nothing but faith when it calls the Love which never fails, an event, saying: "Et incarnatus est."

Karl Barth, Christmas



KARL BARTH ON CHRISTMAS



1886-1968



FUN FOR THE KIDS

Golden GIVING

Live out Jesus' golden rule by preparing gift bags for people in need.



What you need:

- Gallon-size zip bags
- New socks
- Hand warmers
- Bus fare or tokens
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Toiletries and first-aid items
- Paper and markers

What you do:

1. Gather supplies, using the ideas above. Fill bags to make care packages.
2. Write notes or draw pictures for recipients, placing one in each bag.
3. Zip bags and keep them in a vehicle to distribute. Or deliver them right away to people in need (or to sick or homebound people, nursing home residents, a homeless shelter and so on).
4. Pray that God will use your gifts to help and encourage each recipient.

Puzzle!



Use the compass guide (and read Matthew 2) to answer questions about special visitors to young Jesus.

1. Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (ESE)
2. Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
3. How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
4. Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
5. In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
6. King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
7. What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
8. When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
9. Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
10. Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
11. Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus.
_____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
12. These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
13. What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
14. The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answer: 1. Herod 2. Magi 3. disturbed 4. Micah 5. Bethlehem 6. worship 7. king 8. overjoyed 9. mother Mary 10. bow down 11. gold 12. frankincense 13. gifts 14. dream

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5075 Campanile Drive

San Diego CA 92115

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5075 Campanile Drive

San Diego, CA 92115

(619) 582-8480

Email: office@fpsd.org

Website: www.faithchurchsandiego.org

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sam Codrington

Spiritual Director: Mary Elva Smith

Director of Music Ministry: Joe Rodriguez

Media Director: Stephen Dichiera

Interim Preschool Director: Meghan Stubbs

Custodian: Agustin Urueta

Sexton: Robin Craig

Office Administrator: James Kelly

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

DEADLINE FOR
NEXT
MONTH



DEC
14