

FAITH FAMILY NEWS

Faith Presbyterian Church Monthly Newsletter

From Pastor Sam

Notes from Korea Visit

On the day after Easter, we (Esther, Ezra, and I) boarded a plane on our way to Tokyo, Japan, where we would take a plane to Seoul, South Korea, a few days later. It was a visit years in the making. We had been especially planning and looking forward to this visit ever since Esther's parents retired last year.

While in Korea, we reconnected with aunts and uncles we had not seen since our wedding more than fourteen years ago, and we met cousins for the first time. We also visited a hospital where my granddad on my dad's side had been a doctor for twenty-five years. On many levels, it was a profoundly meaningful visit for our family.

I might add that Los Angeles can learn a thing or two from Tokyo and Seoul about city transit. Their train and subway systems were more than a little impressive. Even without knowing the language in Tokyo, we were able to navigate throughout the city.

This year at Faith Presbyterian Church, we are using "interfaith dialogue" as one of our focus themes. Since Buddhism has a long history in Japan and Korea, I acquainted myself with some of the history before the

trip, and I wanted to visit Buddhist temples while we were there as time permitted.

In Tokyo, we visited two Buddhist temples, Zo-jo-ji temple and Senso-ji temple. Senso-ji is the oldest temple in Tokyo and draws more than thirty million visitors every year. It was founded in 628.

In Korea, we visited Hwaeomso temple, a Buddhist temple outside my mother-in-law's hometown. It was founded in 544. It was tucked away in the mountains and surrounded by cherry blossoms and other trees. Since it is a temple still in use, after climbing the steep steps and upon entering the inner temple, I removed my shoes at the door and witnessed visitors praying and meditating. To contemplate the long-standing tradition practiced in that space was a moving experience for me.

Though I was unmistakably an outsider in ways that were visible and invisible (physical appearance and cultural background), I had then and continue to have now a feeling that we can learn from each other. Or, in the words of American Christian ethicist, Larry Rasmussen, "Let's study together."

I often have the feeling that we humans have a tendency to look at reality through a keyhole and mistake what we see through the keyhole as a comprehensive view of reality. In truth, we always have more to learn.

I hope as we travel through this year together as a family of faith, we will make the most of the opportunities we receive for learning from traditions other than our own.

Grace and peace,

Sam



Esther, Ezra, and Sam visiting family in Korea and visiting a hospital where Sam's granddad was a doctor.

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
Saturday, May 11th
FPC, Library at 2:00pm

Women's Circle

Thursday, May 9th
FPC, Room #3 at 10:00am

Women's Group Bible Study

Saturday, May 18th
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.

'TRULY I TELL YOU, JUST AS YOU DID IT TO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE WHO ARE MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY, YOU DID IT TO ME.'

FROM MATTHEW 25:40 (NRSV)



Aluminum cans
Plastic bottles
Glass bottles
Water jugs

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. In 2023 we recycled 267 pounds of various types of plastic bottles, 258 pounds of aluminum cans, and 238 pounds of glass bottles. The grand total received was \$786.00.

Faith Family Life

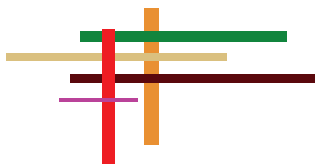
THE CHANCEL FLOWERS



THE FLOWER
CHART IS UP
IN THE NARTHEX

THE CURRENT
PRICE IS \$85.00.
JUST A REMINDER
THAT THE COST OF THE
FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS
CAN BE SPLIT WITH
ANOTHER MEMBER.

DEBBIE LENART, FLOWER MINISTRY



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Virginia Gengor - 2nd

Kim Stiles - 3rd

Sam Codington - 5th

Penny Sartori - 6th

Janet Webb - 14th

Mason Lafferty - 15th

Paula Carmack - 18th

Brooklyn Lafferty - 24th

Emily Maeda - 29th

Aryka Randall - 31st

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).

SAM AND THE CHURCH
CELEBRATING JOE'S
22ND ANNIVERSARY AS
MUSIC DIRECTOR AND
ORGANIST FOR
OUR CHURCH.



DATES TO REMEMBER

May 9th - Women's Circle, at 10am, Room 3

May 11th - Tuesday Eves, at 2pm, Library

May 12th - Mother's Day

May 12th - Deacons meeting cancelled this month

May 14th - Cantate with the San Diego Harmony Ringers concert, at 7pm, Sanctuary

May 18th - Women's Group Bible Study, at 3pm, Library

May 19th - Session Meeting, at 11am, Room 2

May 23rd - Submission deadline for June Newsletter

May 27th - Memorial Day Holiday - Office Closed

May 30th & 31st - Preschool Family Appreciation Breakfast, at 8am - FFC

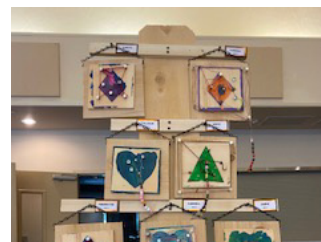
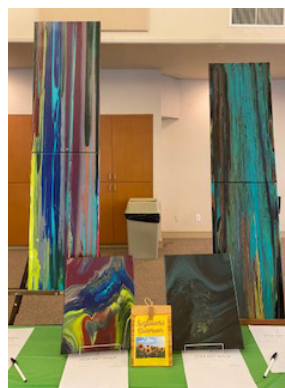
Church Office Hours

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



THE PRESCHOOL'S ART WALK FUNDRAISER

was a rousing success last week. It was held Thursday and Friday in the Faith Family Center. Thank you to all who stopped by the gallery to see the amazing art the young artists made, and a thank you to all who were able to bid or donate! Your visits and donations are appreciated, and so helpful!



SERMONS MAY



Beloved

A Series in the New Testament Letter of Romans

During the summer months, we will read the New Testament letter of Romans together in worship on Sundays and during Bible study on Wednesdays. The influence of Romans on Christian faith and the church's life through history can hardly be overstated. The Protestant Reformer, John Calvin, wrote, "When anyone gains knowledge of this [letter to Rome], he has an entrance opened to him to all the most hidden treasures of Scripture." As we read Romans together, we will read the letter through the lens of the apostle Paul's opening address, as he wrote, "To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." This letter is for the building up of the church in the love of God.

May 5th	Guest Preacher: Kristi Van Nostran, Hospital Chaplain		
May 12th	Pastor Sam	<i>God's Beloved</i>	Romans 1:1-7
May 19th	Pastor Sam	<i>Good News for Everybody</i>	Romans 1:16-17
May 26th	Pastor Sam	<i>A Matter of the Heart</i>	Romans 2:12-16



COLLEGE PARK PRESCHOOL

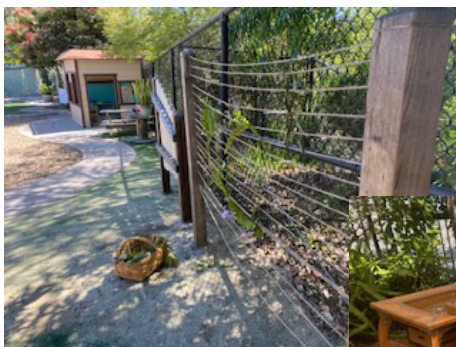
WHERE IMAGINATION SOARS

Meghan Stubbs, Interim Preschool Director

College Park Preschool

Hello Faith Presbyterian Church! The children and teachers at CPP have been enjoying the warmer weather and have been spending more time outside. We would like to highlight some new experiences the children have outdoors. First, the Parent Group purchased the school a new water table. Children have become so engaged in this new water table, working on an array of new skills. The second photo is of a new weaving wall. Two teachers took time during our Spring Break to create this new experience for the children. The third photo shows how creative the teachers are. They sensed the children are needing more opportunities to utilize their gross motor muscles and have created a mini obstacle course. And the last photo is of a large white board the children can use every day. The children love art and drawing and using this white board gives the children a very large canvas to work on.

April 25th and 26th was the preschool's annual Art Walk. The Art Walk is the Parent Group's largest fundraising event for the year. Please see previous page for photos and note on the event.





And a voice from heaven said,
"This is my Son, the Beloved,
with whom I am well pleased"
Matthew 3:17

Beloved Is Where We Begin

If you would enter
into the wilderness,
do not begin
without a blessing.

Do not leave
without hearing
who you are:
Beloved,
named by the One
who has traveled this path
before you.

Do not go
without letting it echo
in your ears,
and if you find
it is hard
to let it into your heart,
do not despair.
That is what
this journey is for.

I cannot promise
this blessing will free you,
from danger,

from hunger
or thirst,
from the scorching
of sun
or the fall
of the night.

But I can tell you
that on this path
there will be help.

I can tell you
that on this way
there will be rest.

I can tell you
that you will know
the strange graces
that come to our aid
only on a road
such as this,
that fly to meet us
bearing comfort
and strength,
that come alongside us
for no other cause
than to lean themselves
toward our ear
and with their
curious insistence
whisper our name:

Beloved.
Beloved.
Beloved.

Jan Richardson

Beloved is where we begin!!!

Again you, I, we are called *Beloved*. Much is happening within
our community of Faith.

We are 'hearing' the call to continue our path ...
to be present in this community...

A note from Ralph Waldo Emerson ...

"Do not go where the path may lead.
Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail" ...
A challenge, a hope, a dream?

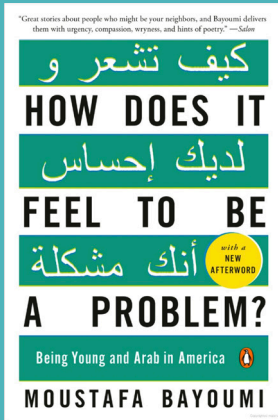
How do you feel when you hear this?

what might we continue...

what might we change ...

Listen for the still small voice of God...

Continuing in May



Our group is studying the book “How Does It Feel to be a Problem: Being Young and Arab in America”

By Moustafa Bayoumi

This book study meets on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm on Zoom.

The story of how young Arab and Muslim Americans are forging lives for themselves in a country that often mistakes them for the enemy Arab and Muslim Americans are the new, largely undiscussed apoplexia of American society, their lives no better understood than those of African Americans a century ago. Under the cover of the terrorist attacks, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the explosion of political violence around the world, a fundamental misunderstanding of the Arab and Muslim American communities has been allowed to fester and even to define the lives of the seven twentysomething men and women whom we meet in this book. Their names are Rami, Sami, Akram, Lina, Yasmin, Omar, and Rasha, and they all live in Brooklyn, New York, which is home to the largest number of Arab Americans in the United States. We meet Sami, an Arab American Christian, who navigates the minefield of associations the public has of Arabs as well as the expectations that Muslim Arab Americans have of him as a marine who fought in the Iraq war. And Rasha, who, along with her parents, sister, and brothers, was detained by the FBI in a New Jersey jail in early 2002. Without explanation, she and her family were released several months later. As drama of all kinds swirls around them, these young men and women strive for the very things the majority of young adults desire: opportunity, marriage, happiness, and the chance to fulfill their potential. But what they have now are lives that are less certain, and more difficult, than they ever could have imagined: workplace discrimination, warfare in their countries of origin, government surveillance, the disappearance of friends or family, threats of vigilante violence, and a host of other problems that thrive in the age of terror. And yet *How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?* takes the raw material of their struggle and weaves it into an unforgettable, and very American, story of promise and hope. In prose that is at once blunt and lyrical, Moustafa Bayoumi allows us to see the world as these men and women do, revealing a set of characters and a place that indelibly change the way we see the turbulent past and yet still hopeful future of this country.

FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Media Director: Stephen Dichiera

Interim Preschool Director: Meghan Stubbs

Custodian: Agustin Urueta

Sexton: Robin Craig

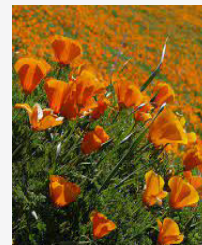
Office Administrator: James Kelly

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**



**MAY
23**