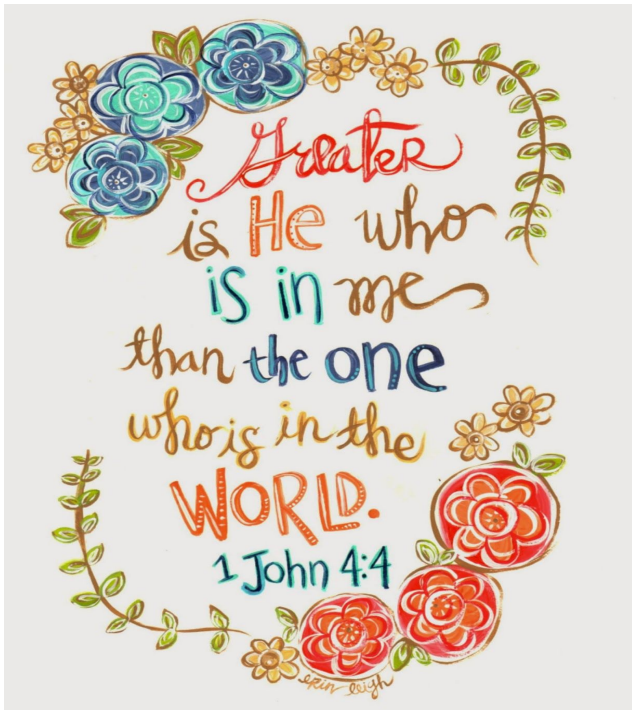


# Community Presbyterian Church

1100 College Avenue

## April 2024



Bonnie Arrhenius 4/01  
Sharon Jensen 4/01  
Gary Foster 4/04  
Kirsten Miller 4/13  
Kristin Burns 4/16  
Evvie Pannell 4/24  
Gwen Edwards 4/25  
Lola Chamblee 4/26



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### ACRONYMS FOR LIFE

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| Basic        | False     |
| Instructions | Evidence  |
| Before       | Appearing |
| Leaving      | Real      |
| Earth        |           |

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Contributed by Ellen Hinton:

It was the first time my 5-year-old had been to church, and she was very excited. After what have felt like an eternity to her waiting for the service to begin, she whispered in my ear, "When does God come on?"

Connie Pinella, Lakewood, CA

I had just purchased a painting of the Last Supper when my young grandson came home. He studied it for a few minutes, then asked, "What are they doing playing poker?"

Theresa Gallegos, Albuquerque, NM

The pastor says they sit front and center. The gay boys. Sometimes they hold hands. And some folks have said he should address the issue. But the pastor tells me he doesn't know what to say.

And then there's the man who sneaks in the back door. Fresh off the street. After the service starts. And leaves before altar call. The people sitting close complain about how bad he smells. Of beer and smoke and sweat. But the pastor tells me he doesn't know what to say.

And then there's the young mama who wears dirty clothes and lets her four children come in and eat all the donuts and drink all the watered-down juice. Some church staff say they

“...eat like little pigs. Like they haven’t eaten in weeks.” While the Mama just stands there and lets them. And the elders say something must be done and said. But the pastor tells me he doesn’t know what to say.

And there’s the whore sitting among the faithful. And everybody knows her. She sits with a painted-up face, cheap perfume, and a broken heart. And those who sit close, well, they all treat her for what they think she is. And at the last staff meeting, her name came up. Something must be done about her. But the pastor tells me he doesn’t know what to say.

The pastor is a good man. Holy and just. And he wants to do the “right and loving” thing. And he wants to “look like Jesus”. And he asks me if I have any thoughts on anything he could say.

Yes, sweet Pastor. I do. Start with this and say it Louder than any other words:

“Welcome to Church. This is a place of love and hope and safety and forgiveness. We will be food for the hungry. Living water for the thirsty. We are so glad you are here. You are invited. You are loved. Come on in—we’ve been waiting on you. Welcome here. We are the church.” Say that. To the called and to the called-out. To the leaders and the greeters. To the dirty and the clean. We are all the same. We are.

May we blow the dust of religion out of our souls and choose affection instead. May our words and actions and reactions be a sanctuary for all.

Jesus broke many laws to love. So, Jesus, be our voice. Be the only words we should ever speak. I believe this with all my heart. Years ago we were kinder. Everybody looked out for one another. We need to go back to that. It takes us all. We gotta do better at looking out for each other instead of breaking each other down.

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“.....once the storm is over you won’t remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won’t even be sure, in fact, whether the storm is over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm you

won’t be the same person who walked in. That’s what this storm’s all about.”

Haruki Murakami, *Kafka on the Shore*

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## History of the Presbyterian Church

The history of the Presbyterian Church traces back to John Calvin, a 16th-century French reformer, and John Knox (1514–1572), leader of the protestant reformation in Scotland. Knox's unrelenting efforts transformed Scotland into the most Calvinistic country in the world and the cradle of modern-day Presbyterianism.

In the United States, the Presbyterian Church derives its origin primarily from the Presbyterians of Scotland and Ireland, along with the influence of French Huguenots, and Dutch and German Reformed emigrants. Presbyterian Christians are not bound together in one large denomination but in an association of independent churches.

### John Calvin: Reformation Giant

John Calvin trained for the Catholic priesthood, but later converted to the Reformation Movement and became a theologian and minister who revolutionized the Christian church in Europe, America, and ultimately the rest of the world.

Calvin dedicated a great deal of thought to practical matters such as the ministry, the church, religious education, and the Christian life. He was more or less coerced into leading the Reformation in Geneva, Switzerland. In 1541, the town council of Geneva enacted Calvin's Ecclesiastical Ordinances, which set forth regulations on issues related to church order, religious training, gambling, dancing, and even swearing. Strict church disciplinary measures were enacted to deal with those who broke these ordinances.

Calvin's theology was very similar to Martin Luther's. He agreed with Luther on the doctrines of original sin, justification by faith alone, the priesthood of all believers, and the sole authority of the Scriptures. He distinguishes himself theologically from Luther primarily with the doctrines of predestination and eternal security.

The Presbyterian concept of church elders is based on Calvin's identification of the office of elder as one of the four ministries of the church, along with pastors, teachers, and deacons. Elders participate in preaching, teaching, and administering the sacraments.

As in 16th-century Geneva, Church governance and discipline, today include elements of Calvin's Ecclesiastical Ordinances, but these no longer have power beyond the members' willingness to be bound by them.

### **The Influence of John Knox on Presbyterianism**

Second in importance to John Calvin in the history of Presbyterianism is John Knox. He lived in Scotland in the mid-1500s and led the Reformation there following Calvinistic principles, protesting against the Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots, and Catholic practices. His ideas set the moral tone for the Church of Scotland and also shaped its democratic form of government.

The Presbyterian form of church government and Reformed theology were formally adopted as the national Church of Scotland in 1690. The Church of Scotland remains Presbyterian today.

### **Presbyterianism in America**

Since the colonial period, Presbyterianism has had a strong presence in the United States of America. Reformed churches were first established in the early 1600s with Presbyterians shaping the religious and political life of the newly established nation. The only Christian minister to sign the Declaration of Independence, was Reverend John Witherspoon, a Presbyterian.

In many ways, the United States is founded on a Calvinist point of view, with emphasis on hard work, discipline, the salvation of souls and the building of a better world. Presbyterians were instrumental in the movements for women's rights, the abolition of slavery, and temperance.

The present-day Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is rooted in the formation of the Presbyterian General Assembly in 1788. It has remained the major judicatory body of the church ever since.

During the Civil War, American Presbyterians divided into southern and northern branches. These two churches reunited in June of 1983 to form the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the largest Presbyterian/Reformed denomination in the United States.

Fairchild, Mary. "Presbyterian Church History." Learn Religions, Sep. 10, 2021,



### **HOW EARTH DAY CAME ABOUT**

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by Earthday.org (formerly Earth Day Network) including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. The official theme for 2024 is "Planet vs. Plastics." 2025 will be the 55th anniversary of Earth Day.

On January 28, 1969, a well called Platform A, drilled by Union Oil 6 miles (10 km) off the coast of Santa Barbara, California, blew out. More than 3 million U.S. gallons (2.5 million imperial gallons; 11 million liters) of oil spilled, killing more than 10,000 seabirds, dolphins, seals, and sea lions. As a reaction to this disaster, activists were mobilized to create environmental regulation, environmental education, and Earth Day. Among the proponents of Earth Day were the people in the front lines of fighting this disaster, Selma Rubin, Marc McGinnes, and Bud Bottoms, founder of Get Oil Out. Denis Hayes, organizer of the first Earth Day, said that Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin was inspired to create Earth Day upon seeing an 800-square-mile (2,100 km) oil slick from an airplane in the Santa Barbara Channel.

## BIBLE WORD SEARCH - STRONGER TOGETHER

E	W	I	G	E	N	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	C	D
C	I	M	S	R	E	H	T	O	E	V	O	L	O	E
I	T	P	I	H	S	W	O	L	L	E	F	G	M	R
F	H	O	W	F	O	S	S	E	N	E	N	O	M	E
I	S	R	T	S	I	R	H	C	F	O	Y	D	O	B
R	T	T	E	C	H	R	T	A	O	S	E	S	N	M
C	A	A	L	O	E	A	S	C	B	D	M	P	U	E
A	N	N	Y	M	A	L	R	T	O	I	I	L	N	M
S	D	T	T	M	V	P	G	E	C	M	T	A	I	Y
T	C	P	S	U	Y	I	O	E	H	H	I	N	O	N
I	O	R	E	N	B	L	H	S	N	O	U	N	N	A
R	V	A	F	I	O	L	O	T	T	T	L	R	G	M
U	E	Y	I	T	O	A	R	K	I	L	N	D	C	S
P	R	E	L	Y	K	R	E	I	S	A	E	O	E	H
T	I	R	I	P	S	E	M	A	S	O	F	S	D	R

All the words are in the puzzle - left, right, down or diagonally. Find each word and circle its first and last letter, drawing a line between. After you have found all the words, take the leftover letters in the correct order to form the mystery answer.

APOSTLES  
COVER  
FAITH  
HABIT  
LOVE OTHERS  
PRAYER  
SHORTCOMINGS

BODY OF CHRIST  
DON'T NEGLECT  
FELLOWSHIP  
HEAVY BOOKS  
MANY MEMBERED  
SACRIFICE  
STIR UP

COMMON UNION  
EASIER  
FIRST CHURCH  
IMPORTANT  
ONENESS  
SAME SPIRIT  
TIME

COMMUNITY  
ENCOURAGE  
GOD'S PLAN  
LIFESTYLE  
PILLAR  
SHAREHOLDER  
WITHSTAND

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MARCH ANSWER **COMMANDMENTS**