

Community Presbyterian Church

1100 College Avenue

July/August 2023

Pastors' Corner



Dear Community:

Throughout his life, Jesus displayed the desire and ability to listen to ALL of God's children. In turn, God has always sought to do the same, as the Holy Spirit empowers us to follow their lead. This lifelong striving is eloquently woven into the poem "The Listening Ear" by The Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman.

THE LISTENING EAR BY DR. HOWARD THURMAN

GIVE ME THE LISTENING EAR. I SEEK THIS DAY THE EAR THAT WILL NOT SHRINK FROM THE WORD THAT CORRECTS AND ADMONISHES.

THE WORD THAT HOLDS UP BEFORE ME THE IMAGE OF MYSELF THAT CAUSES ME TO PAUSE AND RECONSIDER. THE WORD THAT CHALLENGES ME TO DEEPER CONSECRATION AND HIGHER RESOLVE; THE WORD THAT LAYS BARE NEEDS THAT MAKE MY OWN DAYS UNEASY, THAT SEIZES UPON EVERY GOOD DECENT IMPULSE OF MY NATURE, CHANNELING IT INTO PATHS OF HEALING IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

GIVE ME THE LISTENING EAR. I SEEK THIS DAY THE DISCIPLINED MIND, THE DISCIPLINED HEART, THE DISCIPLINED LIFE THAT MAKES MY EAR THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION THROUGH WHICH I MAY BECOME MINDFUL OF EXPRESSIONS OF LIFE FOREIGN TO MY OWN. I SEEK THE STIMULATION THAT LIFTS ME OUT OF OLD RUTS AND ESTABLISHED HABITS, WHICH KEEP ME CONSCIOUS OF MYSELF, MY NEEDS, MY PERSONAL INTERESTS.

GIVE ME THIS DAY THE EYE THAT IS WILLING TO SEE THE MEANING OF THE ORDINARY, THE COMMONPLACE; THE EYE THAT IS WILLING TO SEE MY OWN FAULTS FOR WHAT THEY ARE, THE EYE THAT IS WILLING TO SEE THE LIKABLE QUALITIES IN THOSE I MAY NOT LIKE, THE MISTAKE IN WHAT I

THOUGHT WAS CORRECT, THE STRENGTH IN WHAT I HAD LABELED AS WEAKNESS.

GIVE ME THE EYE THAT IS WILLING TO SEE THAT THOU HAST NOT LEFT THYSELF WITHOUT A WITNESS IN EVERY LIVING THING. THUS, TO WALK WITH REVERENCE AND SENSITIVENESS THROUGH ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE. GIVE ME THE LISTENING EAR, THE EYE THAT IS WILLING TO SEE.

In Christ's Love,
Rev. Bev and Pastor Sly

Following is a brief synopsis from Wikipedia (with sources):

"Howard Washington Thurman (November 18, 1899 – April 10, 1981) was an American author, philosopher, theologian, mystic, educator, and civil rights leader. As a prominent religious figure, he played a leading role in many social justice movements and organizations of the twentieth century.[1] Thurman's theology of radical nonviolence influenced and shaped a generation of civil rights activists, and he was a key mentor to leaders within the civil rights movement, including Martin Luther King Jr.

Thurman served as dean of Rankin Chapel at Howard University from 1932 to 1944 and as dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University from 1953 to 1965. In 1944, he co-founded, along with Alfred Fisk, the first major interracial, interdenominational church in the United States.[2]"

Thurman, Howard (1998), "Introduction", in Fluker, Walter Earl; Tumber, Catherine (eds.), A Strange Freedom: The Best of Howard Thurman on Religious Experience and Public Life, Boston: Beacon Press, p. 2, ISBN 080701057X

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Liz Hughes	07/05
Charlie Treloar	07/06
Crys Harpole	07/09
Eric Besaw	07/11
Carrie Scott	07/11
Chandler Wheeler	07/11
Angela Chandler	07/15
Shirley Williams	07/16
Dennis Scott	07/19
Stacie Mattox	07/19
Tei'Anna Osborn	07/22
Kathleen Cook	07/23
John Hughes	07/28

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A man goes out ice fishing one morning. He reaches the ice and is about to cut a hole in it when he hears a voice from above: "There are no fish here."



The fisherman is shocked but gets up and moves to another spot. As he's about to cut a hole, he hears a voice from above again, "There are no fish here either."

He gets up and moves to a third spot. Before he's even finished walking, the voice says, "I'm telling you, there are no fish here."

The fisherman says, "God, how can you be so sure there aren't any fish here?"

The voice replies, "This is the ice rink manager."

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BACK HOME!

If I had the power to turn back the clock,
Go back to the house at the end of the block...
The house that was HOME when I was a kid,

I know that I'd love it more than I did.

If I could be back there at my mother's knee,
And hear once again all the things she told me,
I'd listen as I never listened before,
For she knew so well just what life had in store.

And all the advice my dad used to give,
His voice I'll remember as long as I live;
But it didn't seem really important then;
What I'd give just to live it all over again.

And what I'd give for the chance I once had,
To do so much more for my mother and dad;
To give them more joy and a little less pain;
A little more sunshine — a little less rain.

But the years roll on and we cannot go back,
Whether we were born in a mansion or in a shack;
But we can start right now — in the hour that's here
To do something more for the ones we hold dear.

And since time in its flight is traveling too fast;
Let's not spend it regretting that which is past;
But let's make tomorrow a happier day
By doing our "good to others" — TODAY.

Author unknown

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|-----------------|-------|
| Margie Gannon   | 08/06 |
| Jim Scourey     | 08/06 |
| Jane Thornes    | 08/07 |
| Alan Daniels    | 08/09 |
| Lana Schumacker | 08/14 |
| Marianne Besaw  | 08/22 |
| Ginny Oakes     | 08/23 |

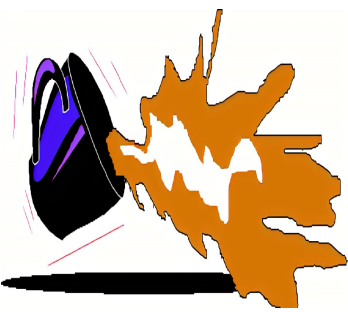


You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you or shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere.

Why did you spill the coffee?  
"Because someone bumped into me!!!"

Wrong answer.

You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup. Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea. \*Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.\*



Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

\*So we have to ask ourselves... "what's in my cup?"\*

When life gets tough, what spills over?

Joy, gratefulness, peace and humility?

Anger, bitterness, harsh words and reactions?

Life provides the cup, YOU choose how to fill it.

Today let's work towards filling our cups with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation; and kindness, gentleness and love for others.

~ Jojo Bennington



### STELLAR Shine Jesus' Light!

Vacation Bible School 2023 program had Space Crews of mixed ages.....the older ones helped the littles, the littles adored the older!

Daily rotations of ALL STAR GAMES, BIBLE ADVENTURES, IMAGINATION STATION, AND KIDVID CINEMAs have all had much exuberance. Learning about shining Jesus's light and looking for ways to find opportunities has been the focus for the week.

Thanks soooo much to Jane for coordinating the week and to all the volunteers: Imagination Station - Rev Bev, Ellen and Kathy; Kidvid Cinema - Bill and Kay; Bible Adventures - Pastor Sly and Gwen; All Star Games - Jenifer, Wade, Claudia Spooner; Galactic Snacks - Pam, Carolyn Szczerby, Sally; Sound booth - Mike, Clark; Nurse and photos - Penny; Registration table - Laura Lee Gibson, Marge and Pinky.

Crew leaders have been awesome too: Jupiter - Ava; Mercury - Rayna; Venus - Nisha; Earth - Sharon; Saturn - Leola.

Opening and closing sessions have had songs, prayer, laughter, SCIENCE!! Fun for all.

Stay tuned for 2024!!

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Valley Vista church service July 30th at 3 p.m.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us. The residents look forward to seeing you.



**PERU 2023
Mission Trip**

On August 19th my son, Brian, and I will be traveling to Peru on a mission trip.

The trip is organized by World Help (worldhelp.net) and sponsored by the church Brian attends in California, District Church. We will fly from Sacramento to Lima then catch another flight to Iquitos. From there we travel to our base camp Nina Rumi Campus. Daily, our mission team will boat



up the Amazon river and then hike into the Village of Momancillo. In 2019 a team from World Help and District Church traveled to the Village to make sure there was running water, a school and a church with a pastor. Due to COVID there has not been any additional teams or work accomplished in the Village. Our team will be the first to return. Momancillo has a population of 185 that make up 64 families/households. Since there has not been a mission team in the Village in four years our mission has not been totally defined. We are preparing to provide medical and dental assistance, construction work, distribute food packets and share the message of Jesus Christ.

We would like to request your assistance. First, and foremost, your prayers for our entire team of 15 for safe travels, our safety and the work we are to accomplish in the Village of Momancillo. Each team member is paying their own travel expenses for the entire trip. We do need help to raise funds to purchase prescription medication and food for the food distribution bags. The total budget for these items is \$4,932.00. For every dollar that the team raises, Brian's church will match dollar for dollar. Also, there is an Amazon Donation Wish List that includes a number of items from school supplies, personal hygiene, soccer balls and more. Upstairs on the Church bulletin boards are some flyers concerning our trip. These flyers include QR codes that can be used for donations or to access the Amazon Wish List. If you're not comfortable using the QR code, you can give me your donation along with how you would like to have the funds spent and I will see that it gets accomplished. Brian and I really appreciate everyone's prayers and support. Thank you.

— Bill Cowin

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A special prayer request from Sandy

A very good friend Sue Moretz in North Carolina has lost most of her sight and suffers from other ailments. Her husband Big'Un (I don't know his actual name!) has just been diagnosed with throat cancer. He will begin chemo and radiation shortly. A feeding tube will be inserted on July 12.

WORD SEARCH

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

APOLLOS APOSTLE ARTEMAS CALISTAS DISCIPLE
EPAPHRODITUS EUSEBIUS FORTUNATUS HIPPOLYTUS JAMES
LAZARUS LINUS LUKE NATHANAEL NICODEMUS
ONESIPHORUS PAUL PRISCILLA PROCHORUS SAINT ANNE
SAINT JOSEPH SIMON PETER SOSTHENES VIRGIN MARY
LUCIUS OF CYRENE MARY OF MAGDALA SIMON THE ZEALOT

JUNE WORD SEARCH WORD: **BARTHOLOMEW**