

Community Presbyterian Church

1100 College Avenue

October 2021

Pastor's Corner



*Give me an answer
Give me the way out
Give me the faith
To believe in these hard times*

These lyrics, by a band called NEEDTOBREATHE, struck me as I listened to them recently. They gave a voice to many of the silent prayers I've been offering lately. The song was written in 2009, which is a good reminder that life has proven challenging for people of faith for a long time.

The Psalms (which were written a lot earlier than 2009!) are full of this prayer, voiced in many different ways, again reminding us that we are not alone in our struggles. And as often as the Psalms raise that prayer, they provide the way forward. "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord...For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem" (Psalm 130:4-7).

The Apostle Paul was well acquainted with struggle, and yet over and over he encourages us to trust in Jesus, even in the midst of suffering. "...but we boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:3-5).

Faith in Jesus does not relieve us of suffering, but reassures us that suffering is not the final word. For those who trust in God, suffering produces endurance, endurance

produces character, character produces hope, and hope in God will never disappoint us. As we seek to find our way in these strange, hard times, may those words never be far from our hearts.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into your church family. The future is in God's hands, and so are we. Thanks be to God!

— John



Marie Miller	10/03
Leon Armstrong	10/08
Barbara Smeltzer	10/08
Marvin Wheeler	10/08
Jaemen Barbour	10/27
Doug Smeltzer	10/30

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## Christian Ed

**Sunday School:** CE (Christian Education) Committee is planning to start the Fall Sunday School program on October 10th\*\*. Lesson Plan packets have been prepared for each session. Volunteers are needed to present the lesson to the students. On Bulletin Board is a signup sheet if you are interested in teaching the love of Jesus to the younger members of our congregation. Additionally, there is lots of room for more students to be a part of the Sunday School. Please reach out to a child that needs to learn about having Jesus as part of their daily walk in life. If you have any questions, contact Sharon Armstrong or Bill Cowin.

**Christmas Program:** The CE Committee is looking

for someone to coordinate this year's Christmas program. If you are interested or would like more details contact Bill Cowin or any member of the CE Committee.

**\*\*UPDATE: September 23, 2021: A temporary "HOLD" has been placed on the start of Sunday School due to the recent Covid case within the Church and the closure of our schools. Please continue to express any interest in helping with Sunday School to Sharon or Bill. This will help with getting everything organized for a future start date. Thank you for your patience.**

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**Penny Carpenter** shared this letter from a friend forced to evacuate their home from the Caldor fire.

God trusted Al to fill some very big shoes. He coordinated and facilitated every need and problem that arose during this disaster. Food and supplies were provided for residents and the hungry. Essential supplies were donated and distributed. From my view everything ran so smoothly but I know the burden Al carried for each need or problem was tremendous. I will never forget the experience of being in the midst watching God working through Al, one man called to fulfill the needs of a disaster zone. I know the burden he carried was excessive but our community helped answer the requests for donations and supplies.

I could never sufficiently thank all those who volunteered food, time money and a shoulder to cry on or a very timely hug. It made such a difference to keep pushing forward.

They not only supported us but my son and my grandchildren. And every walk of life who had a need.

Acceptance has a new definition for me. Love does conquer all.

The influence Al and all the helpers will never be forgotten....the full extent of their influence on each person touched by them is unknown. May God use this disaster to gather more members to His kingdom.

Nothing happens by accident.

There really is a reason or a season for everything.

With a grateful heart!

Thank you Bayside for your most valuable needed support!

We got to go home yesterday...got the word about 2 pm. Packed up asap and got everything home. 16 long days..we were next to the helicopter pad so when it would come and go it felt like a mash show.

Every walk if life was put together in our compound...I know nothing happens by accident, and good will come from this. I made friends with people I maybe wouldn't have. We may have to look long and hard for the good...but good is there. God promised it so.

Bill wore out a pair if tennis shoes unloading donations and then reloading them into those in need. Some came in sobbing knowing they owned only a piece of dirt now. Some came to hoard and maybe didn't loose anything...that was something I had a hard time with.



There were evictions with police escorts, 911 calls for health issues, people were all on edge and adults name calling and threatening. We had a several that were very rude and even some who tested positive for covid.

There were dr appts and patients on chemo. Rides were provided.

On about day 10..I had a meltdown, hit a wall, had a pity party...whatever you want to call it. But when the hospital refused a naked hospice patient with a colostomy bag and catheter, the church found a room for him and his disabled wife on a scooter, my pity party abruptly ended.

We all had times of laughter, cried, held each other, and supported each other.

I saw God at work in all that I witnessed. There truly will come beauty from ashes.

We are forever changed and have learned to love harder, give harder, and we surrender whatever Gods will is for us, today, tomorrow and forever. My heart is much bigger.

Loves!! Hugs!! RaeDel



Sister Mary donned her habit and got in her vintage auto. About a mile down the road she ran out of gas. Fortunately, there was a gas station on the next block, so she over. But when she got there, it was out of gas cans.

Sister Mary walked back to her car and opened the trunk to look for a container. All she could find was a bedpan. She walked back to the station and filled the bedpan as best she could.. Then she walked back to her car and began pouring the gas from the bedpan into the tank.



From across the street, two Baptist ministers were watching all of this. One minister turned to the other and said, "If that car starts, I'm converting to Catholicism."

— Readers Digest, submitted by John Mendonca

## Did you know the PC USA has a Presbyterian Women organization? And a separate logo?



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

### History

Presbyterian Women's predecessor organizations began more than 200 years ago when women had no role outside the home. In spite of numerous societal restrictions, the women's organizations gained respect, especially that of missionaries in the field who requested women's donations and prayers.

In the mid-1800s, with civil strife in the nation, the church split; it would be many years before the wounds were healed and the northern and southern branches of the church were reunited. The work of Presbyterian women varied with the cultural backgrounds of North and South. Despite regional differences, Presbyterian women have always been in the forefront of national movements. Presbyterian women have long advocated for women and children, and crusaded for the right to fair, paid work for African Americans, Native Americans, people of Appalachia and immigrants. They went into the field to actively do something about a host of other societal problems.

In the late 1800s the mission work of Presbyterian women broadened to include areas in Alaska and San Francisco, with a particular focus on Asian women. By answering God's call, women's work in the church and in society was validated, and the role of women in both foreign and home missions expanded throughout the 19th century.

In 1872 the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in North America (UPCNA) asked women members to devise some way to systematically raise money to support women missionaries in the field. In 1875 Sarah Foster Hanna spoke to the General Assembly and received permission to establish the first national organization for women in a Presbyterian denomination, the Women's General Missionary Society. Southern women were more hesitant about organizing a churchwide missionary society; it took the women of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) more than 26 years to get permission to set up a national women's organization, Women of the



**Christmas Bazaar**  
**Friday, December 3, 2021**  
**It's right around the corner**

The first organizational meeting will be held Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at noon. Anyone interested in helping in any way can attend or call Penny Carpenter at (208) 245-4901 or (406) 223-1298 (cell).

### ***The Chosen***

Looks like Monday afternoons is the preferred choice for the showings of *The Chosen*.

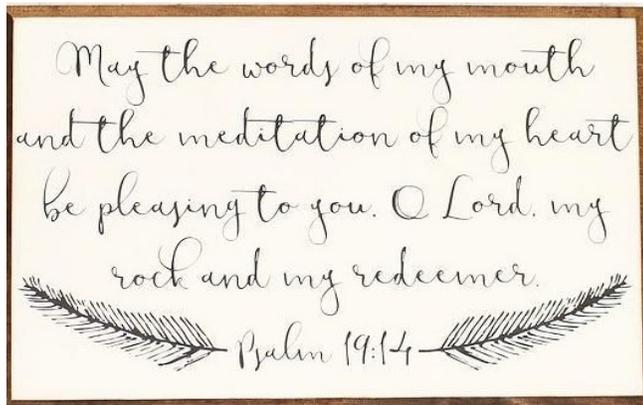
Let's start on October 4th, barring any more Covid outbreak issues. Clark and I will set up at 1:00pm with movies starting at 1:15. The Christmas special and Season 1, episode 1 will be shown that day. We'll go through 8 episodes of Season 1 and then start Season 2.

We'll watch on the big TV downstairs to allow for distancing. We also encourage those attending to wear masks.

Looking forward to it. We could watch all of these over and over!!

Please join us.  
Penny & Clark

Church. Presbyterian women's financial support of missions was phenomenal and included the Thank Offering (begun in 1888) and the Birthday Offering (begun in 1922), both of which continue today.



The early 1900s were a time of upheaval and discontent; women gained power, women lost power, but through it all, women remained dedicated to the church. Then, in 1930, the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (PCUSA) opened the office of elder to women, thereby expanding the power of women to serve on any board of the General Assembly. The offices of elder and minister were opened to women in the UPCUSA in 1958, when the PCUSA and the UPCNA merged to become the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., and to women in the PCUS in 1964 when presbyteries approved the ordination of women.

In the 1930s the definition of the word missions was expanded in the church. It began to mean much more than sending out missionaries, preachers and teachers to distant lands. It meant sending workers to work in inner cities. It meant working to bring people together. It meant working with former enemies after the two world wars. Peace became a continuing emphasis of Presbyterian women as they continued their faith journey through the 20th century and into the 21st century. They also worked to stamp out hunger, exploitation of women and children, and war. Presbyterian women were strong women who took tough positions on racism, reproductive choice and equal rights for women in society and in the church.

After many years of talk about reunification, it became a reality in 1983 when the UPCUSA and the PCUS joined, becoming the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). There were many difficulties in blending two organizations of strong women. Finally in 1988, Presbyterian Women was born, incorporating the best in United Presbyterian Women (UPW) and Women of the Church (WOC).

Two centuries after Presbyterian women first gathered to pray and give their money to the church, women have voice in the church and in the world. A legacy of devotion to the church and dedication to God are a strong foundation for continuing mission and taking Christ into every area of life in Presbyterian women's third century of organization. Presbyterian Women exists today because women are adaptable, determined, proactive, charitable, generous and dedicated to God.

Presbyterian Women continue their life-changing work in the world, now with more recognition. PW incorporated in 2009, establishing itself as a publicly supported integrated auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Then in 2016, the General Assembly added Presbyterian Women to the PC(USA) Organization for Mission as a related corporation. This action formally acknowledges PW's unique role within the church: "The Organization for Mission is incomplete without referencing this important point of mission coordination for Presbyterians."

The same assembly ruled that the national moderator of Presbyterian Women, Inc., is a corresponding member to the General Assembly. This gives the moderator a seat on the floor with voice, but no vote. When speaking to committee about this recommendation, Rhashell Hunter, Presbyterian Mission Agency director of Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries, said, "PW has supported the church for over 200 years—it's beyond time for this voice to be at the table."

In addition to PW's national history, PW celebrates the histories of PW in the congregation, PW in the presbytery and PW in the synod. Learn about how to collect and preserve your group's history.

### **Our Purpose**

Everything we do as an organization and as a community is guided by our PW Purpose, and that includes ministry, resources and relationships.

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Anyone who supports the Purpose in any way is participating in Presbyterian Women. So even if you're just learning about Presbyterian Women,

there's a good chance you're already supporting Presbyterian Women—in spirit or in action!

Presbyterian Women are aligned under a shared Purpose, but the gifts of the Spirit allow us to live into the Purpose in our own, unique ways. Some individuals or groups find themselves particularly drawn to one or two points of the Purpose. Other groups or individuals consciously work toward fulfilling all points. There are many faithful ways to live out the PW Purpose! Learn about the programs and resources that are available to help you and your group support the mission and ministry of Presbyterian Women.

Because of the way the calendar falls this year and the newsletter is distributed, the following November dates are being included this month: November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

## All Saints' Day, November 1<sup>st</sup>

(from pcusa.org)



A 17th or 18th century Greek painting of saints and angels surrounding Christ's throne. Greek icon of saints and angels around

Christ's throne (c. 1700).

In early Christian tradition, saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversary of a martyr's death — his or her “birthday” as a saint. By the middle of the church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs (particularly due to the persecution of Diocletian) that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, known and unknown.

All Saints' Day has a rather different focus in the Reformed tradition. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, the emphasis is on the ongoing sanctification of the whole people of God. Rather than putting saints on pedestals as holy people set apart in glory, we give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age. This is an appropriate time to give thanks to members of the community of faith who have died in the past year. We also pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.

All Saints' Day has been celebrated on November 1

since the year 835. Previously it had been connected with the Easter season as a feast of all martyrs.

## The Faithful of every generation

An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003, 150-151) All Saints' Day is a time to rejoice in all who through the ages have faithfully served the Lord. The day reminds us that we are part of one continuing, living communion of saints. It is a time to claim our kinship with the “glorious company of apostles ... the noble fellowship of prophets ... the white-robed army of martyrs” (Te Deum). It is a time to express our gratitude for all who in ages of darkness kept the faith, for those who have taken the gospel to the ends of the earth, for prophetic voices who have called the church to be faithful in life and service, for all who have witnessed to God's justice and peace in every nation.

To rejoice with all the faithful of every generation expands our awareness of a great company of witnesses above and around us like a cloud (Hebrews 12:1). It lifts us out of a preoccupation with our own immediate situation and the discouragements of the present. In the knowledge that others have persevered, we are encouraged to endure against all odds (Hebrews 12:1-2). Reminded that God was with the faithful of the past, we are reassured that God is with us today, moving us and all creation toward God's end in time. In this context, it is appropriate for a congregation on All Saints' Day to commemorate the lives of those who died during the previous year.

## All Souls' Day November 2<sup>nd</sup>

All Souls' Day, also recognized as the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed and the Day of the Dead is a holiday of prayer and memorial for the souls of those who have died.



Those honoring All Souls' Day traditions often commemorate departed loved ones in numerous ways on November 2nd. Faiths and customs affiliated with All Souls' Day range broadly among Christian denominations.

## The Origin of All Souls' Day

All Souls' Day is a Medieval-era church feast day meant to commemorate the dead. In Catholic and

liturgical Protestant churches, certain saints are given specific feast days. All Saints' Day is for all the saints. All Souls' Day is for every believer.

The exact origin of All Souls' Day is unknown, but it isn't more than about 1200 years old. The Orthodox Church traces the first All Souls' Day to 893, when Emperor Leo VI was denied his request to dedicate a church to the memory of his late wife, and dedicated it to all Christian souls instead.

It is a long tradition in Christianity that certain days were dedicated to intercession for selective groups of the dead. The foundation of All Souls' Day for a general intercession on November 2 is due to Odilo, abbot of Cluny, who died in 1048. The observed date, which became essentially universal before the end of the 13th century, was determined to follow All Saints' Day. After celebrating the feast of all the members of the church who are thought to be in heaven, on the next day, the body of Christ shifts to remember and pray for those souls suffering in purgatory.

In contemporary Western Christianity, the annual celebration is held on November 2nd and is part of the season of Allhallowtide that includes All Saints' Day (November 1st) and its eve, Halloween (October 31<sup>st</sup>)

Catholic Church, Orthodox Church, Lutheran Church, Anglican Church, Methodist Church.

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October 11



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### Between the Pages

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages.



"Momma, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.



With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: "I think it's Adam's suit!"

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Join the Choir..
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

Choir practice is every Sunday at 9 a.m.

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### Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: 10 If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. 11 Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

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Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness

Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.