



News from First Christian Church of San Jose

80 South Fifth Street, SJ 95112
March 2017

Rev. Dana Bainbridge, Pastor
<http://www.fccsj.org>

Lenten Focus: What and Who Fills the Cup of Our Life?

Walter Hudson for the Worship Committee

Our worship in March is based on the book *The Cup of Our Life* by Joyce Rupp. This guide to spiritual growth has six chapters and each of our preachers during Lent is asked to engage prayerfully with a single chapter to bring their message. Each chapter is designed to be used either for individual or group exploration with carefully designed but simple daily practices.

The main themes are hinted in their names:

1. The Cup of Life (finding the quality of our lives in a simple, familiar object)
2. The Open Cup (how our trust and readiness to receive impacts our souls)
3. The Chipped Cup (exploring how our brokenness fills and renews us)
4. The Broken Cup (how we can accept our sorrows and our joys shapes us)
5. The Cup of Compassion (exploring the struggle of compassion and sacrifice)
6. The Blessing Cup (how to grasp the call to give and receive blessing).

As this process brings us to Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week, our hope is that our reflections may empower us to celebrate the Resurrection with brimming hearts!

Hospitality

We would like to revive our hospitality committee that helps keep track of our members, and plans social events for our church. Walter Hudson is our fellowship elder, so talk to Walter or Lorraine if you'd like to be part of this group, or if you have ideas for social times.

Regional Events of Note

I attended the Anti-Racism Training event in February at Niles Discovery Church, Fremont, and learned about discerning the differences between discrimination, prejudice, and bigotry based upon the cultural construct/myth we call race. With more than 40 people from our Region we generated lots of questions and few got answered but many were of surprising insight and emotion. I look forward to the second section of this ongoing dialogue about one of the key spiritual and cultural concerns we face. If anyone would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me: Walter Hudson 408.638.0527.

Mark your calendars for this year's Annual Gathering: April 28 and 29th in Concord. The theme is We Come to the Table Together and the scriptural basis is Romans 14:1-4 (look it up, surprising stuff!) We will have three great preachers and many workshops on Saturday afternoon, good food and great conversation. Speak to any Elder for more details.

Upcoming Events:

April 2 – Potluck following worship time to welcome home from sabbatical, Pastor Dana Bainbridge.

April 28-29 – Annual Gathering of Christian Churches of Northern California and Nevada, at the First Christian Church of Concord.

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Church Family News:

Gerry Tyndall is doing well; the rain has not washed away her home in Felton! She misses church, and will be back as soon as the weather is better.

Nam Pham is working temporarily in San Diego at his sister's house; we hope to see you back soon, Nam!

Ralph Hietala took a fall in his apartment on Feb. 12, and is working on getting his strength back. Ralph's new address is Villa Fontana, 5555 Prospect Road, San Jose, CA 95129. His phone number is still (408) 278-1360. He welcomes visitors.

From the Board

Our church board meets monthly, and more often if needed. Items covered during meetings in January and February included a lot of preparation for the construction to start soon in the social hall. The church has a lot of chairs, tables, etc., that need to be removed from the storage area off the social hall, and the basement. Bob Stienstra is in charge of getting the church ready. Let him know you are willing to help.

At the board meeting on March 15, Bob Stienstra and Walter Hudson were approved as our delegates to the Annual Gathering on April 28 and 29. Virginia Parks, our board moderator, will also attend.

A contribution of \$400 from the scholarship fund was approved for four youths from the Selma First Christian Church who are earning money to attend the General Assembly this summer in Indianapolis.

Also approved was sending \$250 from our church to the "Week of Compassion" offering.

Board members approved \$140 to pay for a clean-up of the landscaping on the south side of the front entrance. Thanks to Roger Thomas who cleared the north side, single-handedly!

We're still working on bids for carpeting in the sanctuary, as well as new vinyl flooring in the two hallways leading to the back yard area. Westwood Properties has had numerous contractors look at the back wall, but have not been successful in

finding anyone who can repair it and make it look better. Stay tuned!

Construction in the social hall has now been pushed back to April 10th, or thereabouts. We're ready!

The small kitchen off the office will be remodeled to include a bigger refrigerator, new microwave, and a hot water heater.

Bob Stienstra has repainted the ladies restroom, and has been able to get the hot water heater functioning again. Go Bob!

Room 7, the classroom off the parking lot, will be used by residents for meals during construction, as well as by other groups using our church building. Thanks to Linda Lappin and Andre Ellison for preparing the room for its new use, and to Bob Stienstra and a plumber for clearing the water pipes that allow hot water to reach the room.

Financial update for February:

Income: \$10,742.36

Expenses: \$15,143.11

Net income/loss: - \$4400.75

YTD

Income: \$25,981.31

Expenses: \$28,314.64

Net income/loss: -\$2,333.33

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Other News

Silicon Valley Progressive Faith Community was officially recognized as a new church in the United Church of Christ Sunday, March 26th.

Silicon Valley Progressive Faith Community was affirmed and voted on to receive full standing as a new church in the Santa Clara Association of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ, and Rev. Nicole Lamarche was officially recognized and installed as its Pastor and Teacher.



Rev. Nicole Lamarche Preached at FCC Recently

While on sabbatical, Pastor Dana and her daughter Hannah were able to reconnect with members of Hannah's birth family including her paternal grandmother and aunts, uncles and cousins.



For some of us, the Cup of our Lives Contains Cats