

Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

A Word from the Pastor



May 2019

“They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. (Jesus) said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” **Luke 24:37-39**

Every Christmas, we think about how amazing the December Jesus is. God, who is Spirit, became incarnate as a human baby. The Creator of the universe cried, spit up, messed his diapers, and was miserable with teething, the same as any baby. God took on our physical nature in Jesus, who was truly human as well as fully God. He became incarnate, enfleshed, as we are; and in so doing, he honored our physical nature.

But we seldom think about the fact that the Easter Jesus is even more amazing. The risen Jesus had skin and muscles and bones, as all the gospels tell us. Jesus’ resurrection body wasn’t exactly the same as his earthly body, since he could and did appear and disappear in an instant. But he was not, is not, and never will be a ghost. He is still incarnate, enfleshed. Our humanity is honored beyond anything we can imagine in this world.

Historically, Christians have always believed this. When we say the Apostles’ Creed in worship, one of the things we say we believe is “the resurrection of the body.” Jesus has a resurrection body, and so will we.

Have you ever stopped to think about what it means that Jesus had a physical body and now has a resurrection body, with flesh and bones, that can be felt and touched? It tells us that we too will have some kind of body when we too share eternal life with Jesus. We will not be ghosts any more than Jesus is. We are born with physical bodies, and we are resurrected with resurrection bodies that have flesh and bone.

I don’t know how to explain exactly what happens. But I do know that there are consequences to the way that God chose to raise Jesus.

If God has so greatly honored our bodies in this world and in the next, then maybe we should honor bodies too—our own, and others’. Honoring our own bodies would mean caring for them well: eating vegetables and protein, drinking lots of water, not smoking, staying sober, going for long walks, brushing your teeth – all those things your doctor and dentist tell you.

Honoring others’ bodies would mean encouraging them to take good care of themselves.

Honor would also mean respecting your body and the bodies of others: not scorning yourself or others as too fat or too thin, not deliberately hurting your body or the bodies of others, not getting into sexual relationships that dishonor you or others, not crowding into other bodies’ space.

Easter means many things – joy, rescue, salvation, the defeat of death, resurrection life. And yes, teeth brushing too! Our salvation and resurrection happened through Jesus’ body, and so will ours. All these things happen to us within bodies, either the body we are created with, or the body we are raised with. As Paul reminds us, we are not our own; we were bought at a price. “Therefore,” he says, “honor God with your bodies.” **1 Corinthians 6:20**

So let’s celebrate the Easter season by honoring bodies!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Janet

GOLDEN NUGGET

Published monthly by
First Presbyterian Church
"Church of the 49ers"

11155 Jackson Street
Columbia, CA 95310
209-532-2441
churchofthe49ers.com

Office Hours:
Tuesday through Friday
9:00 am—3:00 pm

Worship Service:
10:00 am Sundays

STAFF

Rev. Janet Russell, Pastor
Rev. Lee Warford, Assistant Pastor
Deb Johnson, Office Administrator
Carolyn Sylva, Accompanist

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are the Church of the 49ers where God is the gold. We serve and worship God in spirit and in the truth of the scriptures. We live by faith and will be known by our love for others and our voice of hope.

CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY January 1 through March 31, 2019 (exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
Income	\$60,806	\$64,967	\$4,161
Expense	\$58,507	\$55,099	(\$3,408)

Net Ordinary Income as of March 31: **\$9,868.29**
Mortgage Balance as of March 31: **\$84,338.76**
March 2019 Mortgage Principal Payment: **\$947.53**

April Session Highlights

Highlights of the April 24th Session meeting include:

After hearing reports on various options for campus security and maintenance, the Elders voted to lease a video surveillance system, and hire various independent contractors to take care of the grounds, provide janitorial work, and do heavy cleaning and set up/take down for events.

Deacon Liaison Margie Fooshee reported that one additional Deacon is needed for the new term beginning July 1.

Session voted to approve the purchase and installation of an additional stove by the Helen Johnson Community Dinner Committee, for a cost not to exceed \$5,500.

Session voted to approve the Mission Committee's request to invite a

speaker from Global Belief to explain their mission - to provide clean drinking water for citizens of Uganda - to the congregation on a Sunday, and to collect a special offering for this non-profit.

Session voted to approve the History Committee's request to apply for a grant from the Sonora Area Foundation - to fund a project to make the church archives accessible to the community.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 2:00 pm, and members are welcome to attend. Check with the Office first for the correct start time and location.

Diane Brandt
Clerk of Session

10th annual Senior Expo: Community Resources for 50 & Beyond

May 23, 10 am to 3 pm, at Mother Lode Fairgrounds

The Welcome & Evangelism Committee will have a booth again this year at the Senior Expo – to greet visitors, distribute our church visitors brochures and information about Monday Community Dinners, and invite them to join us for worship. We could even get into a conversation about links between faith and health.

Publicity for the Senior Expo explains the event is for residents of Tuolumne County who are age 50 and over, where they can learn about community resources and programs, volunteer and activity opportunities, and health and fitness and much more. Admission is free.

The Senior Expo is on Thursday, May 23, from 10 am to 3 pm. If you would like to join us in the booth, contact W&E Chair Gary Davis at 532-6604. Or stop by to say "hello" as you visit the event.

First Presbyterian Church of Columbia † "Church of the 49ers"

49er Family News

Ushers and Elders (or anyone)

CPR and Defibrillator Training

We have very few ushers and elders who are trained to use our defibrillator and/or have had recent practice or training in CPR. This training and practice is very important for our church, our families and friends.

On Wednesday, May 15, from 1 to 4 pm, Dr. Don St. Clair, retired Stanford University physician, will be presenting a FREE CPR and Defibrillator course to those in our church who need to learn or practice these skills. The class will be held in the Fireside Room at Greenhorn Creek Resort in Angels Camp. Carpooling will be encouraged.

Contact Sharon Poff – at church, or call 209-736-2085 to sign up. Final day to sign up is Sunday, May 12.

Upcoming Sermons

May 5

Communion

John 21:1-12

“An Untimely Barbecue”

Pastor Lee preaching

May 12

Acts 9:32-43; Luke 10:38-42

“Resurrected Life”

Pastor Janet preaching

May 19

Acts 11:1-18; Luke 11:1-13

“Leading to Life”

Pastor Janet preaching

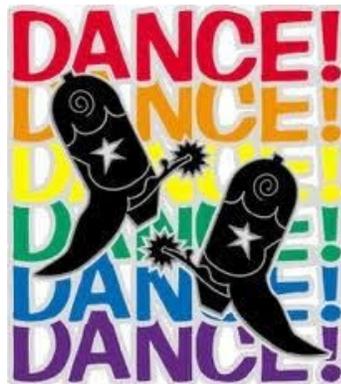
May 26

Acts 16:9-15; Luke 11:29-36

“Life’s Small Beginnings”

Pastor Janet preaching

Listen to scripture readings and sermons on our website at churchofthe49ers.com.



Line Dancing

Carolyn Sylva teaches a FREE Line Dancing Class once per week in Faith Hall - from 9:30 to 10:30 am every Wednesday. If you’re looking for a fun way to exercise, come on down to Faith Hall and join us.

And bring your friends too!

May Birthdays

*Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you.
May the Lord bless you
And keep you,
Your whole life through.*

May 4 Jennie Moiso
May 15 Darrol Davis
May 20 Jean Peters
May 21 Cathy Crawford
May 23 Gary Davis
May 26 Jim Bowin
May 26 Tom Kimura

Happy Anniversary!

Gary & Leslie Davis
34 years on May 18

Monty & Dana Youngborg
5 years on May 31



Parish Nursing

Valerie McCale, Parish Nurse, will provide free Blood Pressure Checks on Sunday, May 12, following worship, right inside the door in Faith Hall.

Holy Week in Images and Poetry



Waved palm branches on Palm Sunday



Celebrated the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday



Nailed our sins to the cross on Good Friday

He Carried Our Burden

<p>He carried our burden A heavy one We nailed him to that cross With every hateful Word uttered.</p> <p>He carried our burden As they fashioned A crown of thorns Around his head The king of mankind Bled for our iniquities!</p> <p>He carried our burden As they nailed him To that tree Every strike of the hammer A price he paid For you and me.</p>	<p>He carried our burden As they mocked him Free yourself Son of man But he hung To that cross Our sins held Him there!</p> <p>He carried our burden For the promise That if only we believed And followed him We'd see eternity.</p> <p>He carried our burden But he did not stay Nailed to that tree Or in that tomb, Our sins held Him to that tree And the Father Set him free.</p>
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April 19, 2019



Placed flowers on the cross on Easter Sunday

Presbyterian Women (PW)

In lieu of a general PW meeting in May, all women (and men) are encouraged to attend the 68th National Day of Prayer event in our community, sponsored by Christian Women's Fellowship. This year's theme is "Love one another. Just as I have loved you." (**John 13:34**)

The date is Thursday, May 2, beginning at 10 am at Heritage Christian Church, located at 19530 Hillsdale Drive, Sonora. For more information, contact Nora Neves.

Last Month's PW Meeting:

Lynne Storm of the Tuolumne County Genealogical Society spoke to the Presbyterian Women at the April 4th meeting. She gave valuable information on researching one's genealogy (family history).

At the April PW Coordinating Team meeting, we brainstormed to start the organization process for the church's "every-three-years" yard sale. We want to emphasize the "Yard Sale of Biblical Proportions" is an all-church fundraiser.

Gwen Harris, PW Moderator

Men's Breakfast Fellowship

All men are invited to meet Saturday, May 11, 8:00 a.m. at Brooks Ranch Restaurant on Mono Way in Sonora. Contact Pastor Lee Warford at 925-470-9953 for more information.

Beware: Washington Street will be closed at 9 am on the 11th because of the annual Mother Lode Round-Up Parade, so plan your route accordingly.

New Carpet - At Last!



Wyatt and Brian, Pinnell's installers

The worn red carpet in the sanctuary (estimated 35 years old) was finally replaced in early March. Two expert installers from Pinnell's were here for 11 days to do the install, including adding red contrast striping at the top and bottom of each set of stairs - a requirement for ADA-compliance. Thanks, Brian and Wyatt!

And just prior to the carpet install, Jim Brandt skillfully rebuilt the front of the chancel. Thanks, Jim!

After ten years of dedicated service to the Church of the 49ers, Pastor Janet is retiring July 1st, and it's time for us to start planning a fabulous retirement party to honor and thank her properly.

Contact Fellowship Chair, Leslie Davis, at 532-6604 if you can help with organizing this very special event, scheduled for Sunday, June 30, after worship.

Columbia Events

Diggins Tent Town 1852

May 18 and 19, 10 am - 4 pm
Columbia State Historic Park
\$7 adult, \$2 for child under 12

Find out what life was like in Columbia about 166 years ago, before the brick buildings were erected, and a couple of years before the First Presbyterian Church was founded. Columbia State Historic Park docents, and many additional volunteers from all over California, will populate the Diggins Tent Town in the southern end of Columbia State Park - dressed in period costume and recreating a "tent town."

Note: Diggins is also open May 16 and 17, but will be inundated with hundreds of 4th graders on those days.



Miners panning for gold at Diggins 1852

Memorial Day Salute

May 27 (Monday, Memorial Day)
11 am in the Columbia Cemetery

The ceremony is about 20 minutes, including prayers, information on Memorial Day, singing of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, and a salute to those buried in a section of the cemetery. Conducted by the Columbia Foot Dragoons and the Columbia Grenadine Belles.



IT'S A YARD SALE OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS!

AUGUST 24, 8 AM - 3 PM

AND PREVIEW NIGHT

AUGUST 23, 6 - 8 PM

The Church of the 49ers is hosting a giant yard sale and all members and friends of the church are encouraged to participate in this fundraiser. Nora Neves is the person in charge.

We call this every-three-years event a Yard Sale, though it will be inside AIR CONDITIONED Faith Hall. Donations of GENTLY USED and CLEAN items are sought, including jewelry, household items, linens, wall art, lamps, heaters, furniture, sports equipment, tools, yard equipment, knick-knacks, etc. But please, **no clothing, shoes or purses, or large furniture.**

We have a room available now in the Christian Education building to store things, but clean and prepare your sale items prior to bringing to the church. Contact Leslie at davisgold@gmail.com or 532-6604 for access to the storage room. If you'd like a receipt for tax purposes, please advise.

We're more than three months out at this point, but it's not too early to start thinking about what items you would like to clean out of your house and donate for the sale. Tell your family and friends too, in case they would like to donate also.

For now, put the August 24th weekend on your calendar. Volunteers will be needed the week before the sale for cleaning, sorting, pricing, as well as workers on Preview Night and the sale day. It takes a lot of volunteers to put on our *Yard Sale of Biblical Proportions*, but the potential is there for a decent profit. Nora will have a sign-up sheet available soon.

Session has approved this all-church fundraiser, with proceeds to be split between Buildings & Grounds projects and a community project (proportion of split to be determined later).

Helen Johnson Community Dinners

Spring is often thought of as a time for new beginnings...and once again we are asking those of you who have considered volunteering to make a commitment for the next four months....not every week, but possibly once or twice a month. Volunteering does not necessarily mean working for 7 hours in the kitchen! It can be as simple as coming for one or two hours and helping roll the silverware in napkins, or helping plate the desserts or setting up the coffee and water table. There are so many little jobs that need to be done and believe it or not, each one of these jobs helps to share the work.



Suzanne Williamson, Margie Fooshee, Melissa Schultz and Leslie Davis worked the Church of the 49ers booth at the Volunteer Fair at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds on April 25th.

The college is now on summer break, and we will not regularly have students on Mondays...several of these students are quite committed and will probably join us once in a while, but the majority of our helpers will not return until late August. We attended the Volunteer Fair this past month and did have several sign ups, but the truth is we need more folks from our church to consider helping. If you think you might like to give this a try, please contact either one of us and we'll put you on the schedule.

Thank you for considering this task!!

**Suzanne Williamson and Margie Fooshee,
Community Dinner Co-Chairs**

PS...Also, we will be having our first barbecue Community Dinner of the year on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th. Hamburgers and hot dogs, potato salad and chips will be served at 6:00 pm...This is a perfect time to visit if you do not have other plans!



Murphys Creek Theatre

Let's go to the theatre together for a Sunday matinee. The final performance of **"Barefoot in the Park,"** a Neil Simon comedy, is at 2:00 pm on May 19 at the Murphys Creek Theatre in Murphys. One reviewer described it as a "laugh out loud and sweet comedy about marriage and how daunting the future can be."



Tickets are \$24 for adults, \$22 for seniors, or if we have a group of at least 10, the price drops to \$18 each, a bargain for great live theatre.

We'll carpool from the church to Murphys after having lunch somewhere in Columbia (or brown bag it in Faith Hall).

Contact Leslie at davisgold@gmail.com or 532-6604, or sign up in Faith Hall.

First Presbyterian Church of Columbia † "Church of the 49ers"

Thank You

Dear Church of the 49ers Family,

Thank you so much for your gift during my visit in October. I am blessed to walk this missionary journey with you. I was excited to hear about the different outreaches locally and internationally. God is using the Church of the 49ers family to bring many people to His Son!

Allen Graham



The 49er Choir sang favorite hymns to Helen Johnson April 5th, and she sang right along with us!

Mission Committee

At our April meeting, we welcomed Margie Fooshee as a new member of the Mission Committee.

Chris Lytle from Spiritual Roads attended the meeting and gave an update on the numerous successes his program is having. He is very grateful to our church and the Monday Night Dinners for providing another way to reach out to people who struggle with addictions. Chris is looking for an affordable 8-12 passenger van to be used to transport people in the community to meetings and treatment. If anyone is aware of such a vehicle, please let Chris or the Mission committee know.

We also voted to donate \$500 to the Habitat for Humanity Women's Build, which will take place on May 18, in Columbia. Two more homes have been completed and were dedicated April 27. Pastor Janet was on hand to present Bibles to the new families, and the Mission Committee gave each family a \$50 gift card to Lowes.



Pastor Janet giving Bibles to the Alonzo and Owens families at the dedication of their brand new Habitat homes.

The committee will continue to be in touch with the Oroville Hope Center, now with a distribution center in Paradise. Once they are fully operational in their new location, we will look into the possibility of sending a team to Paradise to volunteer.

Gary Davis shared information with the group about InterVarsity's plans to start a program at Columbia College, which would train students in evangelism and lead Bible studies. Gary has agreed to volunteer to train the students. Thank you, Gary!

In March, Ken Minett And Roger Haughton presented a check for \$500.00 to Aaron Rasmussen and the board of *Vets Helping Vets of Tuolumne County*. The funds they raise are used to help our local veterans in need.



The next meeting of the Mission Committee will be May 21 at 3:00 pm.

**Judy and Roger Haughton,
Co-Chairs, Mission Committee**

Interfaith News

We have just finished up a department training for all volunteers. Each session was geared to whatever department you volunteer in. This was very helpful in that we all were reminded of the guidelines we are to follow in helping our clients, as well as our input in how we might improve our area. The training was lead by Cathie Peacock, Director of Interfaith. As you can see, if you feel you would like to help out, either on a regular day or as a substitute, there is training available.

We have a revised schedule for dropping off donations. You may bring them to Interfaith on Tuesday through Friday from 10-12. No more Monday donations. However, the Salvation Army bin by the back door is available at all times, just be sure and have your items in a bag. Just lift the lid and drop in.

The Interfaith Pantry can always use donations of canned fruits, vegetables, and soups as well as packaged meals, both canned or boxes.



Be certain to call me if you have any questions or ideas. Thanks for all you do to help in our community.

Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison

News from Allen Graham, Missionary

Greetings from southern Europe!

On May 6, the Muslim world began Ramadan, the ninth month in the Muslim lunar calendar. Healthy adult Muslims fast in Ramadan from dawn until dusk. They do so as an act of worship, a chance to get closer to God and a way to become more compassionate to those in need. This includes abstaining from drinking, eating, immoral acts and anger. Other acts of worship such as prayer, reading the Quran and charity are also encouraged during Ramadan, which will end on June 4.

I want to challenge you to pray for the Muslim world at this time. In 1993, a small group of Christians started a 30-day prayer movement to coincide with Ramadan. Over the last few years, there have been stories about unprecedented numbers of Muslims coming to the Lord. I personally know this is the case because of my work with different media ministries in the region. You can find out more and download a prayer guide at www.30daysprayer.com. There are also resources to help children participate in this 30-day prayer focus.

Here are some key prayer points:

- Pray for Muslims and not AGAINST them.
- Pray for fear to be replaced by FAITH and LOVE.
- Pray for Muslim families, that they would find their hope in Jesus.
- Pray for Muslim youth, that they may know the truth and not carry Islam into the next generation.



- Pray for families to meet Jesus in this month as they eat and pray together — that they will know Him as the One who gives living water so they will never thirst again.
- Pray for the few Christians in many of the North African and Middle East countries to be encouraged in their faith and be a witness and example in their families and communities.
- Pray for the many refugees who are still in difficult and often hopeless situations, with desperate physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Thank you for sharing this ministry with me through your generous gifts and most of all through your faithful prayers. Let's join together this month to focus on the Muslim world during Ramadan. God is listening and HE WILL ANSWER!

Allen

May Calendar

- 1 Line Dancing 9:30 am in FH, Men's Bible Study 10 am at Sonora Hills clubhouse
- 2 National Day of Prayer - event begins 10 am at Heritage Christian Church in Sonora
- 3 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am in SNR
- 5 Worship 10 am, Communion, 49er Choir sings; Worship Committee 11:30 am in RR
- 6 History Committee 9:30 am in RR, Community Dinner 6 pm in FH, Spiritual Roads 7 pm in LS
- 7 Women's Bible Study 2 pm in RR
- 8 Line Dancing 9:30 am in FH, Men's Bible Study 10 am at Sonora Hills clubhouse
- 10 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am in SNR
- 11 Men's Breakfast Fellowship 8 am at Brooks Ranch Restaurant
- 12 **MOTHER'S DAY** Worship 10 am; Deacons meeting 11:30 am in RR
- 13 Buildings & Grounds 10 am in RR, Bible Study 5 pm in RR, Community Dinner 6 pm in FH, Spiritual Roads 7 pm in LS
- 14 Women's Bible Study 2 pm in RR, Welcome & Evangelism Committee 3:15 pm in LS

Sunday meetings begin 30 minutes after worship ends

RR = Ramont Room FH = Faith Hall CE1 = Christian Ed Bldg
SNR = Sadie Nicholls Room LS = Lower Sanctuary (basement)

- 15 Line Dancing 9:30 am in FH, Men's Bible Study 10 am at Sonora Hills clubhouse, CPR/Defibrillator Training 1 pm
- 17 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am in SNR
- 19 Worship 10 am, 49er Choir sings
- 20 Bible Study 5 pm in RR, Community Dinner 6 pm in FH, Spiritual Roads 7 pm in LS
- 21 Finance Committee 1 pm in Office, Women's Bible Study 2 pm in RR, Mission Committee 3 pm in LS
- 22 Line Dancing 9:30 am in FH, Men's Bible Study 10 am at Sonora Hills clubhouse, Session 2 pm in RR
- 23 PW Coordinating Team 10 am in RR, Senior Expo 10-3 at Mother Lode Fairgrounds
- 24 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am in SNR
- 26 Worship 10 am, Country music; Fellowship Committee 11:30 am in RR
- 27 Memorial Day - Office is closed. Bible Study 5 pm in RR, Community BBQ Dinner 6 pm in FH, Spiritual Roads 7 pm in LS
- 28 Women's Bible Study 2 pm in RR
- 29 Line Dancing 9:30 am in FH, Men's Bible Study 10 am at Sonora Hills clubhouse
- 31 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am in SNR

Sundays 10 am – Worship Service in Sanctuary, followed by Fellowship Time in Faith Hall. **Children's Sunday School** – Children are dismissed to Sunday School after the Children's Moment in worship (2nd, 3rd, 4th Sundays). Nursery is available every Sunday.

Mondays

6 pm — Community Dinner served in Faith Hall. All welcome.

Tuesdays

8:30 am — Intercessory Prayer in Pastor Janet's Office

First Presbyterian Church

"Church of the 49ers"

11155 Jackson Street

Columbia, CA 95310



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Address Service Requested

Cost-cutting Measure: For those of you who receive this newsletter through the US mail, please consider a donation of \$15 per year to cover printing and postage costs. Thanks!