

# Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

## A Word from the Pastor

*"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor." **Romans 13:1-7***

With all of the discussion regarding governmental overreach in these days of COVID-19, specifically the disagreements regarding the mandatory wearing of masks, I felt that it was important to explain to you the reasons why I, and the Session, have made the decisions that we have made regarding following



all of the orders issued by the governor. I'm not writing this article as a way to justify our decisions or to call out anyone who is against the mandatory wearing of masks; rather, I am writing this as a matter of explanation for *why* we have made the decisions we made.

Let me start off by saying that, personally, I am not in favor of our government mandating that we wear masks any time that we are in public; however, when I go out in public I put my mask on every single time. Why would I do that, you might ask. The reason that I do that is because of the passage at the beginning of this article; I do it because Scripture commands that we submit to the governing authorities. Paul does not mince words in this passage, he tells us that anyone who rebels against the governing authorities is rebelling against God; and I certainly don't want to get into the business of rebelling against God!

As Christians, we are not called to agree with everything our leaders do, we are not even called to *like* our leaders; but we are called to pray for them and to respect the authority that they have been given. Basically, God is telling us that, unless our government issues a law, order, or mandate that directly

violates His Word, we are to submit to their authority and follow what has been issued. It may rub us the wrong way, we may not enjoy doing it, but we are called to do so nonetheless. God is a God of peace and love, not a God of disharmony and rebellion. Yes, there are certainly times where we need to stand up for the Truth of His Word, and if that causes rebellion and disharmony then that's what it takes. But, being required to wear masks when we are in public is not violating Scripture, it's not violating God's Will; so, is it something that we should be rebelling against? I submit to you that it is not.

So, when our Session made the decision to make masks mandatory in our Sunday worship, we were not doing it because we are living in fear, or because we are following fake news and media hype; we did it because our duly elected governor ordered it, and Scripture tells us that we are to submit to his authority, even if we don't necessarily like or agree with him. We made masks a requirement not because we believe everything we see and hear in the media, not because we are living in fear, but because we are trying to be the best Christians we can be and follow the whole counsel of Scripture.

**Continued on Page 4  
See "Word from the Pastor"**

## GOLDEN NUGGET

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

Worship Service:  
10:00 am Sundays

## STAFF

Rev. Keith Reid, Pastor  
Rev. Lee Warford, Assistant Pastor  
Deb Johnson, Office Administrator  
Carolyn Sylva, Accompanist  
Steve Engle-Borda, Sound Tech

## 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.

Send your articles and Family  
News items for the August 2020  
issue of the *Golden Nugget* by  
July 25th to Leslie Davis at  
davisgold@gmail.com or call  
her at 532-6604.

## CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 1 through May 31, 2020  
(exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
Income	\$111,055	\$99,810	(\$11,245)
Expense	\$105,373	\$90,965	(\$14,408)

Mortgage Balance as of May 31: **\$68,817.04** (not adjusted for prepayments)

Minimum required Mortgage Payment: **\$1,091.98**

Additional principal paid through May 31: **\$300.00**

## June Session Highlights

Highlights of the June 24th Session meeting include:

- Pastor Keith Reid introduced John Aguilar, who after giving his statement of faith, became the newest Covenant Partner of the Church of the 49ers.
- The Nominating Committee will be meeting every other week to suggest new officers for the 2023 terms.
- Masks are to be worn during worship services in Faith Hall.
- Sheri Pendleton has volunteered to work in the office on Mondays – Deb Johnson's day off.
- The elders voted to allow Janet Russell and husband Rob Clark to come back to the church (As our former pastor, church rules said that Janet couldn't be involved with the church for one year - giving Rev. Keith Reid a chance to establish himself as pastor.).
- Karla Reid will add (and manage) Twitter and Instagram accounts for the church. She also does Facebook for us.
- The Executive Session was dissolved now that we can hold regular Session meetings again.
- Elder Jon Whited was given permission to sell the food stored in the Faith Hall freezer to the congregation and donate proceeds to Nancy's Hope.
- Karla Reid was hired as Director of Children's Ministry.

The next Session meeting will be on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary, and members are welcome to attend. Check with the Office first for the correct start time and location.

**Diane Brandt, Clerk of Session**

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

# 49er Family News

## Grieving

Family and friends of **Helen Johnson**, who was called Home to be with the Lord on June 27 - on her 99th birthday. After some of the COVID-19 restrictions pass, Helen's family is planning to have a public memorial for her friends up at her ranch. Date to be determined.

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## Scheduled Meetings in July \*

Until further notice, each Sunday we are conducting two worship services in Faith Hall, at 8:30 and 10:30 am. Please tell Deb Johnson in the church office (532-2441) which service you would like to attend - so we can balance out the numbers and keep everyone safely socially-distanced.

The Men's Bible Study will meet each Wednesday - July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - at 10:00 am in CE2.

The Women's Bible Study will meet each Thursday - July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - at 2:00 pm in CE2

The Nominating Committee will meet every other Tuesday - July 7 and 21 - at 10:30 am in CE2.

Line Dancing with Carolyn Sylva is on Fridays at 9:30 am in CE3.

The Men's Breakfast Fellowship will meet on Saturday, July 11, at 8:00 am at Papa's New Roost for a no-host breakfast.

The Deacons will meet on Sunday, July 12, at 9:30 am in CE2 - between the two worship services.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee will meet on Monday, July 13, at 10:00 am in CE2.

The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, July 21, at 1 pm in the church office.

## Not meeting in July

Mission Committee

History Committee

Fellowship Committee

49er Chancel Choir and 49er Chancel Ringers

Also suspended for the time being: The Helen Johnson Community Dinner Program and the coed Bible Study led by Gary Davis on Mondays.

*\* Most of the meetings are held in Room 2 of the Christian Education building, with chairs set up around the perimeter of the room. Be certain to wear your mask and sit socially-distanced from each other.*



## July Birthdays

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

July 5	Kourtney Alcantara
July 6	Shelly Goularte
July 9	Brynna Neves
July 10	Cathy Christian
July 11	Kathi Lewis
July 12	Keith Reid
July 15	Jordan Warford
July 21	John Etheridge
July 21	Travis Reid
July 24	Carl Rudolph
July 27	Carolyn Rich
July 30	Debbie Snodgrass
July 31	Carol Kent

## Anniversaries

No known wedding anniversaries, but July 1st is Rev. Keith Reid's first anniversary as pastor of the Church of the 49ers.

## Church Office

The church office is now open Monday through Friday generally between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Note, however, the office will be closed on the following days in July: 3, 6, 10, 13.



## Word from the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

The Bible certainly tells us, as Christians, not to live in fear. I think of verses like Isaiah 41:10, which reads, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and

help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." So, we need not live our lives in fear of COVID-19 because God is with us and holding us up; and I don't think that most of us are. But, as we have seen, the Bible also tells us to submit to our governing authorities and give them respect and honor; and *that* is the reason why we will be wearing masks in worship on Sunday.

May the blessings of the Father and the peace of the Son be with you all!

With much love and care,

**Pastor Keith**



Gary Davis providing special music for the June 14th worship service



Worshipping in Faith Hall June 7th, the first time we could gather together, socially distanced



Doreen Bass playing a Father's Day tribute during the June 21st worship service

## Sermons and Scripture

Pastor Keith began a new sermon series April 5th, called "The Gospel According to Mark: Three Years That Changed The World." For all those with email, he will send a link so you can listen/watch them online.

### July 5

Sermon: Mark 4:35-41

OT: Habakkuk 3:16-19

### July 12

Sermon: Mark 5:1-20

OT: 1 Samuel 16:14-23

### July 19

Sermon: Mark 5:21-43

OT: 1 Kings 17:17-24

### July 26

Sermon: Mark 6:1-13

OT: Psalm 69:6-15

Visit [churchofthe49ers.com](http://churchofthe49ers.com) to listen to past sermons (before March 2020). Click on "Worship" and "Sermons" and then the small white triangle on the left underneath each sermon listed. The audio includes the Scripture verses being read and goes right into the sermon.



# Singing Exercises During the Pandemic

By Barbara Broad, Choir Director

It looks like it'll be a long time before it's safe for the 49er Choir to rehearse and then sing for the congregation. Because the COVID-19 virus is being spread through coughing and sneezing and breathing out, . . . singing is not safe. And it doesn't work behind a mask.

Some of us are being reminded that if you don't use your singing voice, you lose your singing voice. It's all about muscles, and they need to be exercised. AND with this isolation, especially if you live alone, your speaking voice is suffering too. I'm using a prescription for that, and you might enjoy it too. It is Two Hymns a Day (THAD).

I suggest warming up with several repeats of "Happy Birthday" to start up those vocal muscles. You can do that as you make your bed in the morning or clean up after breakfast!

Then how about "Be Thou My Vision" a few times through. If you like, you can sing with YouTube (I suggest [youtube.com/watch?v=ZyFu0r158qQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyFu0r158qQ)). See three verses to the right.

Then, try "Amazing Grace." I picked one that gives you the words:

[youtube.com/watch?v=Jbe7OruLk8I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbe7OruLk8I)

You can also search for your own favorites on YouTube. Share them with me ([bbroad226@gmail.com](mailto:bbroad226@gmail.com)), and we'll put them in the August *Golden Nugget*. But, remember that like any muscle-building exercise, you start with a few minutes.

*Be Thou my vision, oh Lord of my heart  
Nought be all else to me, save that Thy art  
Thou my best thought in the day and the night  
Waking or sleeping, Thou presence my light*

*Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord  
Thou my great Father and I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one*

*Oh high king of heaven, when battle is done  
Grant heaven's joy to me, bright heaven sun  
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all*

## THE CHRIST BELL

### I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)  
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)  
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)  
I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)  
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)  
I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)  
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)  
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)  
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)  
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3:20)  
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)  
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)  
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)  
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)  
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)  
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)  
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)  
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)  
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)  
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)  
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)  
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)  
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)  
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)  
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)  
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)

## News from Allen Graham, Missionary

Greetings Church of the 49ers family! I trust you are all well as we slowly come out of the shelter-in-place guidelines and move to what is being called “the new normal.” One thing remains the same though, there are many people around us who still need to know God and have a personal relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ. Let’s keep on telling the Good News to all we can!

Thanks for praying for my plans to return to Ecuador. This was originally scheduled for June 29, which obviously didn’t happen. Most government offices in Spain are now open, so let the paperwork begin!

However, another stumbling block has surfaced. I had a suspicious dark brown spot on my back. It was removed on June 5 and I got the biopsy on June 22. I have nodular melanoma. I am scheduled for several other tests and examinations to see if there has been any spread.

I don't know how long the growth had been there before I noticed it one morning when God *told me* to glance into the mirror while drying off after my shower. Please pray that I can get all the tests done and get the results soon so that I will know what my next steps are. Specifically, pray that there has been no further spread of cancer, if that is God's will.

I'm thankful for the good healthcare that we have available to us in Spain and for the good health insurance provided by Reach Beyond. I'm also thankful for the help and support of our local team here. Most of all, I'm thankful for your prayers.

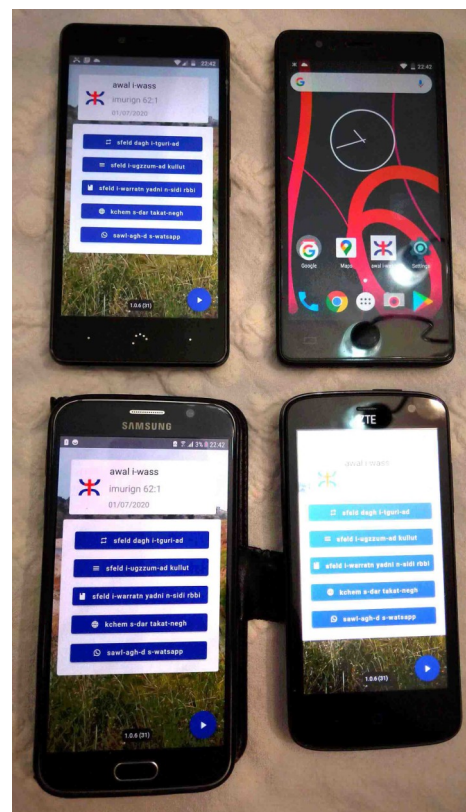
Regarding the return to Ecuador, a lot will also depend on what kind of treatment I will need for the melanoma and when I can get it. God is in control and

everything will happen in His time, not mine.

Let me close by sharing some exciting news from two of our partners:

A missionary who has a ministry with some of the isolated people in our region has been producing programming in their native language that we broadcast via shortwave. Recently, three young men contacted our partner and became Christians. Many of the people in these remote areas have shortwave radios, but even more of them have cell phones. It is the hope of our partner to use a smartphone app in order to reach even more listeners. The app will clearly convey the message of God’s Word. Pray for wisdom for those leading this project and for positive outcomes from the field testing which is going on now.

Praise God for His protection over our partner in southern Lebanon and their refugee ministry. The teacher for the music school with the youth and children says they are now meeting again in small groups for lessons. He says, “The seeming tragedy of the pandemic has instead brought about incredible fruit and greater openness to the gospel! We're so grateful and excited for what God is doing and what's to come in the weeks and months ahead.”



**This photograph depicts four of the phones that Allen is using for the field test. He used the fifth one to take the picture!**

Please pray as Reach Beyond seeks missionary candidates to serve with this partner.

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial gifts. I am privileged to walk this journey with you!

**Allen**



**First Presbyterian Church of Columbia † “Church of the 49ers”**



# Ramont Hall

By Dick Dyer

What's in a name?

The meeting room in Faith Hall is appropriately named after two of our church benefactors: Charles and Mae Ramont.

And, the Ramonts? Originally they were members of the First Presbyterian Church, Modesto. Later, Charles assisted in purchasing property for a new church, the Geneva Presbyterian Church, also in Modesto, and the Ramonts joined that church in 1953. This Christian couple were devout ecumenicists. Their generous contributions, especially to new Presbyterian churches and Sunday School programs, were appreciated by cash-strapped ministers and congregations. Charles' volunteer work led him to become a mentor to several young pastors.

However, Charles and Mae—both Stanislaus County employees—also loved the mountains and rural folk, especially the children. They had no children of their own. Their weekend visits drew them to the little country church in Columbia, a small sanctuary with a “sagging bell tower.” It became their second spiritual home in the 1940s, and thereafter. The Ramonts served faithfully, tithing, teaching and participating in various church groups. The Sunday School teachers appreciated their scripture readings; children looked forward to their sweets; and others always felt comfortable when they saw their glowing smiles.

As we reminisce, recall that the great fire of June 22, 1950 destroyed our historic church sanctuary and the manse. Even before the charred timbers had been removed, Pastor Joseph Hillhouse announced plans for a new sanctuary to emerge from the ashes—



Rebuilding the sanctuary in 1951

a replica of the original First Presbyterian Church, the “Church of the 49ers.”

Donations were sought from people all over the state of California, and about 200 volunteers were gathered to begin the rebuild. Meanwhile, the congregation was forced to worship at the IOOF and Masonic Halls in Columbia.

Fortunately the tiny Youth Center survived the fire; it was a rough-hewn retreat built during the Depression years as a gathering place for church boys and girls and occasionally small groups of adults.

A few months after the fire, a hastily constructed addition to the Youth Center enabled most church activities to resume on the campus. It was a generous \$5,000 donation, given anonymously by Charles and Mae Ramont, that made this possible. This temporary church was later named “Ramont Hall” in their honor.

Until 1954 when the new sanctuary was completed, Ramont Hall became the 49er Church's manse, sanctuary, business office,

social hall and even a community center. It was a popular meeting place for young and old of the congregation and their friends. Seating approximately 100 with a stage, the hall was used for worship, Bible study, the Dorcas women's group and the Mariners couples' groups, church socials, and for Wednesday movies, weddings and receptions. Vacationing youth groups from the Valley and even the Bay Area who came to experience the spectacular Mother Lode and play in the snow used it for overnight lodging. Also, the College of the Pacific (now UOP) drama students slept and ate in Ramont Hall while performing at nearby Fallon Theatre.

**Continued on Page 8. See “Ramont”**



Charles Ramont (with shovel) and church elders during groundbreaking ceremony for Ramont Hall

**First Presbyterian Church of Columbia † “Church of the 49ers”**



# Ramont

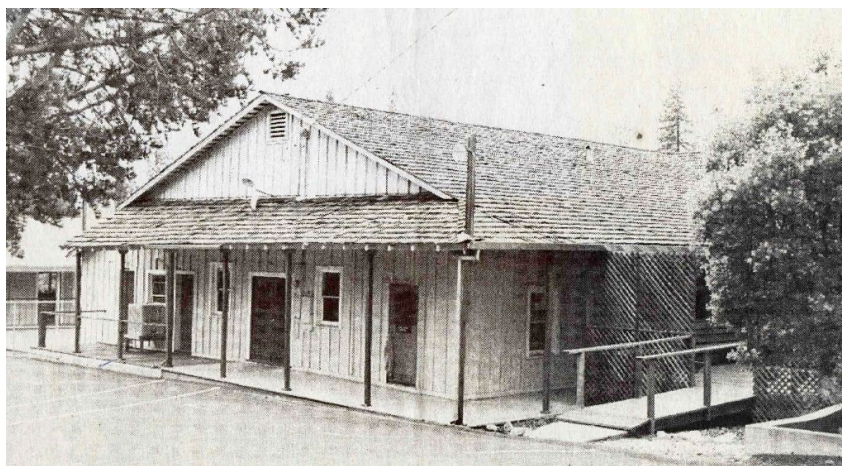
Continued from Page 7

In the midst of these activities, Pastor Hillhouse and his family maintained their household in the building for several years.

Through the years, the Ramonts continued to drive to their adopted "Church of the 49ers" until Mae passed away on April 10, 1955. Charles remained active in the Geneva Presbyterian Church until his health began to fail in the mid 1960s. During his last weeks in 1966, he wrote to Columbia friends that he hoped to "find some automobile going in the direction of Columbia some Sunday morning" which had "room for an extra passenger" so he could worship and visit with his old friends.

Charles H. Ramont died in Modesto on April 22, 1966 at the age of 91.

Friends, our Church of the 49ers has been blessed by benefactors such as Charles and Mae Ramont.



**Ramont Hall in 1996. It was razed to make room for the construction of Faith Hall 1999-2001, which is purportedly almost double the size.**

One of Charles' favorite scripture passages was...

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...'"  
Matthew 28: 18-19

**Dick Dyer, Church Historian**



**Helen McCleary Johnson serving food from the Ramont Hall kitchen, sometime in the 1990s**



**Caption on this picture of the interior of Ramont Hall reads: *New church recreation hall - temporary church is now in use. Made possible by Mr. Charles and Mae Ramont donation of \$5,000!***



**View from the stage. Entry into the pastor's family quarters can be seen in the back of the room on the left. The five pews in the back survived the 1950 sanctuary fire, and four are currently located in the choir lofts in the current sanctuary.**

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





Unfortunately, Columbia's 2020 Glorious Fourth of July Parade has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Hopefully next year we will be able to march again in the parade!

This photograph of us in the 2012 parade in Columbia State Historic Park was taken by Michael Sharps.



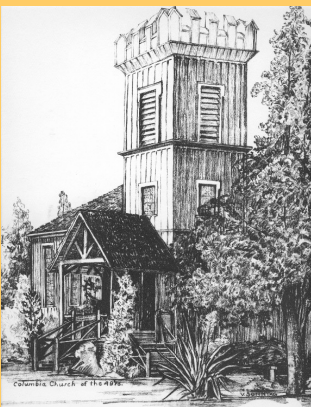
Mr. Grace on guard early one morning, waiting for his breakfast.

### 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!