

# Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

## A Word from the Pastor

"Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many'"

**Matthew 20:25-28 (NIV)**

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

**1 Peter 4:8-10 (NIV)**

Well, we have reached the month of November; Halloween has come and gone and Christmas is right around the corner. November is the month that people all over our country give thanks for all of the good things that we have in our lives; where we Christians thank God for all of the blessings that He has bestowed on us. As we start to put up our Christmas decorations and make plans to prepare and eat the biggest meal of the year, we also take time to remember and reflect upon the things for which we are thankful. And, as I reflected on this month and the things for

*In everything give thanks; for this is  
God's will for you in Christ Jesus.  
1 Thessalonians 5:18*



which I am thankful, my mind couldn't help but wander back to our ongoing stewardship campaign.

Now, you might be asking yourself, "Pastor Keith, what does Thanksgiving have to do with stewardship?" And, I'm glad you asked. I think that there are two important ways that the Thanksgiving holiday and the idea of gratitude that it represents are connected to stewardship. First, if we look at the passage above from Matthew, Jesus informs the disciples that whoever wants to be first, whoever wants to be great, must be a servant just as He came not to be served, but to serve. During the Thanksgiving holiday, and really during the Christmas season at large, people tend to focus more on serving others; whether they volunteer at a homeless shelter or food bank to help serve Thanksgiving dinner to those in need or they spend all day in a hot kitchen to cook a big meal for their entire family, most people make an effort to serve others during the holidays.

And what Jesus is saying in the above passage is that serving others is not something that we should be reserving only for the holiday season, it's something that we should be doing everyday

November 2020

all year long. God calls us to be servants, so we shouldn't be restricting ourselves to fulfilling that command only during the holidays and think that we are doing "enough;" we should constantly look for ways that we can be of service, that we can be a blessing, to others. And this idea of service ties directly into stewardship. Being a good steward, as the Apostle Peter tells us, means that we are utilizing *all* that God has blessed us with for His glory and for the service of others; this includes our money, our talents, our wisdom, our experience, even our life. Stewardship means, rather than being stingy or hoarding God's gifts, we utilize all of them properly for the advancement of His kingdom. And how do we advance God's kingdom in this world? We do it by being the hands and feet of Jesus and serving others just as He did when He walked this earth. Therefore, we can see that we are being good stewards of God's many blessings if we are utilizing His blessings in the service of others; that other people will experience the love of Christ through our service to them.

And this idea of using all of God's blessings to serve others is one of the main reasons why we undertake a Stewardship Campaign every year. Our church wants to make sure that we are being as

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## GOLDEN NUGGET

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

Worship Services:  
8:30 & 10:30 am Sundays  
in Faith Hall, wearing masks  
and socially-distanced

## 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.

## CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY January 1 through September 30, 2020 (exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
Income	\$189,988	\$196,770	\$23,988
Expense	\$163,992	\$172,782	\$25,996

Mortgage Balance as of September 30: **\$64,953.72**  
Minimum required Mortgage Payment: **\$1,091.98**  
Addtl. principal paid through September 30: **\$700.00**

## October Session Highlights

Highlights of the October 28th Session meeting include:

Pastor Keith Reid informed Session that Jim and Sandie Spicer will be moving to the Bay Area. As a result, we will need a new elder with a financial background. This person could join the Finance committee right away, and become an elder at least by next June.

Announcement of the 2021 National Gathering, January 29-31. The event will be online and available for anyone to view. Due to Covid-19, covenant partners cannot attend in person.

The next Session meeting will be on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary (one week early because of Thanksgiving on the 26<sup>th</sup>).

**Diane Brandt, Clerk of Session**



## Deacon Officers 2020-2021

**Moderator:** Rosie McCarthy

**Vice Moderator:** Sheri Pendleton

**Treasurer:** Jim Lashbrook

**Asst. Treasurer:** Vi Morgado

**Secretary:** Denella Kimura

## Deacon Committees 2020-2021

**Memorials:** Chair Margie Fooshee, Pat Lincoln, Marijean Davis, Susie Porte

**Communion:** Chair Marijean Davis

**Contact homebound parishioners for Communion:** Doreen Bass

**Deacon Fund:** Chair Jim Lashbrook, Vi Morgado, Susie Porte, Gwen Harris, Margie Fooshee

**Grief Booklet Coordinator:** Chair Jim Lashbrook, Denella Kimura

**Interfaith:** Chair Vi Morgado, Rosie McCarthy

**Worship Liaison:** Dana Avila

**Session Liaison:** Sheri Pendleton

**Prayer Chain (email and phone):** Rosie McCarthy

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

# 49er Family News

## Grieving

Pastor Lee Warford and other family and friends of **Kurt Warford**, who died October 7 at the age of 59. A memorial service for Kurt was held in Faith Hall on November 1.

**Celebration of Life for Marge Rickman** will be November 14 at 2:00 pm. Marge was called Home to Jesus on September 13. Immediate family will be in the Sanctuary and the service will be live-streamed into Faith Hall for all others. Also due to Covid-19 restrictions, there will be no reception.

## Thank You

Please accept this message of grateful thanks for your cards and notes that were sent to us during our Covid illness. We were so fortunate to have our family's devoted help in the early weeks; Jim's daughters were here for several of them. As this is a longer journey than we could have imagined, having them to read again reminds us of our blessings. Until we can meet again.

**In Christ, Barbara and Jim Lashbrook**

## November Birthdays

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

Nov 3	David Stearns
Nov 4	Sharon Bickell
Nov 4	Valerie Gurney
Nov 8	Mary Chalmers
Nov 9	Jan DeMassey
Nov 11	David Harris
Nov 13	Bernice Ray
Nov 14	Jimmy Bryant
Nov 18	Carolyn Weber
Nov 22	Arlene Cunningham
Nov 22	Nick Walls
Nov 28	Mary Adams
Nov 28	Trisha Adams

## Highway 50

Traveling east on the loneliest road in America  
No cars, No trucks, No police:  
Only an occasional SUV heading west.

Haunting winds blow tumbleweed  
Across the black-tarred ribbon  
Snaking its way into the dusty desert,  
Cornered by the hill

I stop near a crossroads for a drink of cool water  
Where a cluster of sunflowers in brown-eyed innocence  
Turn their golden grins like a smile from God  
To comfort me, and I'm not alone.

Copyright Denella Kimura 2013



## Happy Anniversary!

Bob and Betty Sagaser  
41 years on November 21

# Word from the Pastor

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effective as we can possibly be in our missions and our ministries, as effective as we can possibly be in serving others, and the only way that we can do that is if we have an accurate picture of the resources we will have to work with for a given year. It is only through your pledges that we are able to plan a budget and, thus, plan our programs and ministries in order to faithfully fulfill Christ's command to serve others; it allows us to focus on being the hands and feet of Christ in our community without having to constantly worry how we are going to get the money for it and where it's going to come from.

But, there's another way that Thanksgiving is connected to the idea of stewardship. Thanksgiving is a time for us to be thankful for all the good things that we have, for all of the ways that God has blessed us; and what better way to show God that we are thankful for His blessings than by following His command to utilize those blessings to serve others and be good stewards of His grace? I submit to you that there is no better way to show our gratitude than that. So, in whatever way that God has blessed you, show Him how thankful you are by using those blessings to bless others. But, as I said in my article last

month, don't give of your blessings out of compulsion or out of sense of obligation, do it out of love, love for God and love for others; do it joyfully knowing that you are honoring God and showing your gratitude for Him and the way that He has blessed you.

My prayer for the Church of the 49ers is that we will be known as a church who cares for others and is willing to help out and serve our community in any way that we can; that we will be a church which makes a positive impact in the lives of the people of Tuolumne and Calaveras counties. We can only be examples of Christ, we can only be His hands and His feet, if we are following His example to be a servant of all; and, we show that we are good stewards of God's blessings and resources when we utilize them to accomplish this goal. It is through our Stewardship Campaign, then, that we can take an accurate accounting of the resources we will have available to utilize next year to joyfully fulfill our Christian responsibility of service.

May the blessings of the Father and the peace of the Son be with you,

**Pastor Keith**

Send your articles and Family News items for the December 2020 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by November 25th to Leslie Davis at [davisgold@gmail.com](mailto:davisgold@gmail.com) or call her at 532-6604.

## Sermons and Scripture

Pastor Keith began a sermon series April 5th, called "The Gospel According to Mark: Three Years That Changed The World." From November 29 through December 20, he will be taking a break from his series on Mark in order to do an Advent series leading into Christmas.

Listed below for each Sunday are the New Testament scripture verses each sermon is based on, and the Old Testament verses.

If you have email and want to listen/watch the weekly YouTube videos of our sermons, contact Pastor Keith at [ktreid84@gmail.com](mailto:ktreid84@gmail.com) to receive his Sunday emails with the link.

### **November 1 Communion**

Sermon/NT Scripture: Mark 10:1-12  
Old Testament Scripture:  
Deuteronomy 24:1-4

### **November 8**

Sermon: 10:13-31  
OT: 2 Kings 22:15-20

### **November 15**

Sermon: Mark 10:32-45  
OT: Isaiah 1: 16-20

### **November 22**

Sermon: Mark 10:46-52  
OT: Daniel 3:12-28

### **November 29**

Sermon: Genesis 3:8-15  
NT: Matthew 4:1-11

Visit [churchofthe49ers.com](http://churchofthe49ers.com) to listen to past sermons. The audio includes the Scripture verses being read and goes right into the sermon.



# Bible Studies Resume

We are again starting the Men's and Women's weekly Bible studies, beginning this Wednesday, November 4, for the men and Thursday for the women. Both studies will meet in Faith Hall.

The study will be on the book of Daniel, and for those who never understood this fascinating book on prophecy it is an opportunity to come and ask questions or contribute. It is a book written for our time, and makes the issues of today fit right into God's plan with increased meaning to our generation.

The emphasis will be on a deeper prayer life, a new sense of God's power in our own lives, strength to resist temptation, and understanding truth for our times concerning events coming for the world.

Jon Whited will lead the men. Study material is free on the Internet at [itiswritten.com](http://itiswritten.com) The men will use these materials as a guide in their studies. Suggested supporting scripture is outlined with questions and even answers to the questions.

The women will be led by Judy Nason and she is formulating the questions for study based on a format similar to Community Bible Study (CBS), which the women have been comfortable with. Judy will start with a historical background to the book of Daniel.

The study will be for 12 weeks and will lead up to a study on Revelation to be conducted by Pastor Keith on Wednesday evenings.

Come and study with us all and share your questions and thoughts.

**Jon Whited and Judy Nason**



## Buildings & Grounds - Seeking Volunteers

A few of us in the church have been spending some time working on the church campus in the last 7 months - in a socially-distanced manner.

***Thank you, John Malaspino, Robert Baker, Jeff Goularte, Sharon Poff, Sally Tullar, Gary Davis.***

Just in case you are getting bored at home, and would like to help us beautify the campus, may I suggest some simple one-man/woman projects where volunteers are desired:

- 1.) We have two park benches in the front yard which need to be sanded and repainted. They were donated by Pat and Russ Edell when they moved to Texas back in 2014 and have been repainted once already. But they both need some beautification. We're finally headed for a little cooler weather, so now is the time. They can be moved to the Faith Hall porch if desired for a more pleasant place to work.
- 2.) When we ordered the new pew cushions for the sanctuary, we also received enough of the burgundy material to reupholster the three chancel chairs so they match the cushions. It appears to be a simple job of taking apart the wooden chairs and stapling on the new material. This could be done inside the sanctuary, or the chairs could possibly be delivered to your home for the project.
- 3.) We have about 30 more reupholstered pew chairs that need steam cleaning. In July Sharon Poff and I cleaned the 20 used in CE and they look so much better!
- 4.) A yard work project (which our gardener Jean can't do) is to pull away all the old leaves/dirt from the base of the fence in the back of the sanctuary. The front side of the fence is pretty good now, but to keep the fence from rotting so quickly we need to also clear the back side.
- 5.) Experienced volunteer painters are welcome too!

If any of these projects appeal to you, contact Leslie at 532-6604 or [davisgold@gmail.com](mailto:davisgold@gmail.com).

# Allen Graham, Missionary

Happy November and greetings once again from Sonora.

As I mentioned last month, I was hoping to return to Ecuador around this time. However, with the pandemic, there are significant delays in getting the required documents that I need to apply for my Ecuadorian missionary visa. *Please keep praying for this.*

When I was in Ecuador before, I lived in Quito, the capital city. This time however I will be in the country's largest city, Guayaquil. I will be working with the small team at Radio HCJB2, an FM station that serves the two southwestern provinces of Ecuador. November 1 is the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the station, so *Happy Anniversary HCJB2!* I remember the first time I visited the station was for its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1997. I was so impressed with the excitement and gratitude that was expressed by the listeners and their families when they came to the Open House that day. My task was to blow up balloons for the children. As I write this, a celebration is going on to thank God for His faithfulness to this ministry for the past 48 years.

In early October, the team at HCJB2 heard about Zoila, an elderly woman who can barely see and hear. Zoila's neighbor listens to the station and called to say that she lived in neglect and was running low on food. Because

the station has received donations of food items for situations like this, they went to visit Zoila. When they arrived, they found her kneeling next to her bed asking God for someone to come with food for the next day because she had run out. With a big smile that lit up her face, Zoila received the producers and with tears in her eyes, she did not stop glorifying God for having answered her prayer that same night. With emotion and gratitude, she said: "You are the angels that God sent to answer my prayer," while showing her Bible, which, according to her words, she embraces every night before falling asleep. She said: "Keeping the Word of God at your side gives you hope, you know that God's promises are there, they sustain you every day."

In her morning show the next day, one of the producers, Mayra, told the story of Zoila and then challenged the audience with this question: "Do you want to show mercy? Then visit Zoila." The response was impressive, several people went to Zoila's humble room with food and household items and a medical center and dentist offered their services too.

Meanwhile in Quito, we heard the story of eight-year-old Joel, a faithful listener of HCJB. He loves oatmeal and heard our producers talking about it on the radio. However, his parents could not buy it for him because they did not



**Zoila and Mayra**

have money. His father told him that if he really wants to eat oatmeal, he needs to ask God. A few days later, a producer from HCJB arrived with food for members of her church who barely have enough to eat. Joel's family received a basket containing four packets of oatmeal. When Joel opened the box, he exclaimed with amazement and joy: "I asked God for one bag, but He gave me four!"

Praise God for how He hears and answers our prayers, as well as those of listeners like Zoila and Joel. Thank you for allowing me to walk this journey together with you. And although it will be very different this year, Happy Thanksgiving!

**Allen**

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## Interfaith News

As some of you may already know, Interfaith is still open and serving clients on a daily basis. We do have some changes which I would like to bring to you this month. Our food pantry is open Monday through Friday as usual, other departments are open one or two days only. This is due to the lack of volunteers to help serve our clients. We are in great need to have more people to volunteer one or two days a month (or more) in all departments. If you have the time and would like to help, please call Interfaith at 532-0905 and ask for Cathy or Barbara, or you can always call me at 532-4358. We will make certain you're assigned an area where you will be trained. It is not hard and is so rewarding. Every measure is taken in regards to the Covid 19 guidelines. Interfaith Community Social Services is open to the public each day from 10 am to 1 pm. For any questions you may have, you may call me at home or see me at church on Sunday. I attend the early service, but would be able to meet you before the second service if needed.

**Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison**

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

# November Calendar\*

Worship services and/or meetings are subject to cancellation due to Covid-19 safety concerns. Socially-distanced worship services with masks are held in Faith Hall at 8:30 and 10:30 am on Sundays.

- Monday, November 2, 9:30 am: History Committee in CE2
- Saturday, November 7, 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast Fellowship at Papa's New Roost in East Sonora
- Sunday, November 8, 9:30 am: Deacons in CE2
- Monday, November 9, 10:00 am: Buildings & Grounds Cmte. in CE2
- Sunday, November 15, 9:30 am: Welcome & Evangelism in CE2
- Tuesday, November 17, 1 pm: Finance Committee in Office
- Tuesday, November 17, 2 pm: Mission Committee in CE2
- Wednesday, November 25, 2 pm: Session in Sanctuary
- Prayer Group 8:30 am Tuesdays in CE2
- Men's Bible Study 10 am Wednesdays in Faith Hall, beginning November 4
- Women's Bible Study 2 pm Thursdays in Faith Hall, beginning November 5
- Line Dancing with Carolyn Sylva 9:30 am Fridays in CE3

**\* Be certain to wear a mask and sit socially-distanced from each other.**

## **Not meeting in November**

The following groups/activities are not currently meeting due to safety concerns:

Presbyterian Women

Fellowship Committee

49er Chancel Choir

49er Chancel Ringers

Helen Johnson Community Dinner Program

Monday evening Spiritual Roads

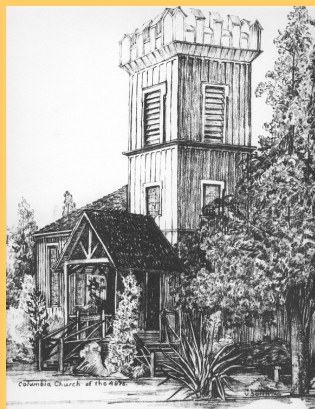
Monday Co-ed Bible Study

## **First Presbyterian Church**

**"Church of the 49ers"**

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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!