

Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

A Word from the Pastor

“They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!’ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’ The crowds answered, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’”

Matthew 21:7-11

On the last Sunday of this month we will be celebrating a very familiar and special day in the church; Sunday, March 28 is Palm Sunday, the day that we celebrate Jesus triumphantly entering into Jerusalem just a mere few days away from His betrayal arrest and execution. Last year, for my Palm Sunday sermon, I spoke about why we celebrate Palm Sunday and why the events of Palm Sunday are so important. Now, since I know that a few things have happened in the world in this past year that might have contributed to you all not quite remembering what I preached about around 48 weeks ago, I wanted to give you a small reminder, a brief refresher of the significance of Palm Sunday.

When we read the story of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we’re



reading the story of His arrival in Jerusalem so that He could be tortured, crucified, and executed; we’re reading the beginning of the story of the Passion of the Christ. Without this Palm Sunday story, there would be no Good Friday story, and there would be no Easter Sunday story. The story of Palm Sunday is the story of Jesus arriving in the right place at the right time in order to bear the crushing weight of our sins and purchase redemption for all who would call on His name throughout history. It is the moment in Scripture that is the beginning point for the account of how the Savior saved His people.

That is why Christians around the world have celebrated Palm Sunday for generations upon generations; it is the beginning, the first day, the first event of the most important week in the history of the world. But, that’s not all I wanted to chat with you about in this article, because one aspect of these Palm Sunday celebrations that is near universal is to recite the cheers and shouts of the crowd, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” We all have joyfully shouted, “Hosanna,” but how many of us truly know what that

March 2021

word is and what it means? My guess would be not too many of us. So, I want to take a moment with you to talk about what “hosanna” means, and how understanding that meaning actually enhances our celebration of Palm Sunday and, really, of Holy Week as a whole.

The word Hosanna is the Greek word that is derived from two Hebrew words, “yasha” (to save, to deliver) and “na” (please, I pray). The use of these two words together in Hebrew is prominent in Psalm 25, which reads, “Save us, we pray, O Lord!” The phrase “save us, we pray” in Hebrew is “hoshiya na,” which sounds an awful lot like “hosanna.” So, what hosanna essentially means in English is “please save us now.” But, over time, the meaning of this word began to change; whereas it originally meant “please save,” it has come to mean, “Salvation has come!” The meaning shifted from being a plea for help to being a confident statement that help has come. It is a joyful shout of salvation from a soul that just cannot keep it in any longer.

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See “Word from the Pastor”**



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

GOLDEN NUGGET

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

Worship Services:
**Currently held in Faith Hall
8:30 and 10:30 am Sundays,
masks required**

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 January 31, 2021 (exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
Income	\$17,725	\$14,534	(\$3,191)
Expense	\$18,936	\$15,519	(\$3,417)

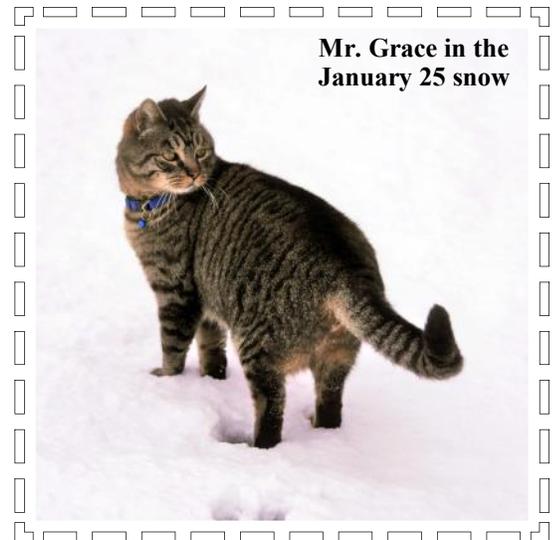
Mortgage Balance as of January 31: \$162,163.15
Minimum required Mortgage Payment: \$2,236.41
Addtl. principal paid through January 31: \$150

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Elders 2020-2021

Buildings & Grounds: Co-Chairs Leslie Davis and Sharon Poff
Christian Education: Pastor Keith Reid and Karla Reid
Fellowship: Deb Handy, with Leslie Davis as liaison to Session*
Finance & Stewardship: Jim Brandt
History: Tom Kimura
Missions: Pastor Keith Reid, interim
Personnel: Dean Cunningham
Special Projects: Larry Lincoln
Welcome & Evangelism: Tom Kimura
Worship: Ken Minnett

*When a committee is not chaired by an Elder, an Elder is assigned to act as liaison to 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

49er Family News

Welcome

Mac Colton McMurray was born February 19 and weighed in at 6 lbs 13oz. Mommy Lily Harris McMurray and Daddy Jesse McMurray are doing great and so is baby Mac. Thanks to everyone who has been praying for them. God is so good!

Love, Gwen and David Harris, proud grandparents



Open Again

In November the church had to discontinue in-person worship due to yet another surge of the novel coronavirus, but now we are open again—with restrictions.

To keep everyone safe, two Sunday morning worship services are held in Faith Hall (8:30 and 10:30), **with masks and social distancing required**. The service is also videotaped and available on-line for those who can't make it.

Meetings are being conducted on campus too, but again, masks and social distancing are required.

March Birthdays

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

- Mar 4 Gwen Harris
- Mar 6 Jewel Guhl (106 years)
- Mar 6 Pearl Bickell
- Mar 12 Allen Graham
- Mar 14 Betty Sagaser
- Mar 17 Lily Harris McMurray
- Mar 18 Bobby Carr
- Mar 19 Glenda Balmet
- Mar 25 Denella Kimura
- Mar 26 Janice Williams
- Mar 27 Brian Ramos
- Mar 30 Berna Hamilton
- Mar 31 Robert Baker



**Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!**

March Calendar

March 1, 9:30 am: History Committee in CE Room 2

March 7, 9:45 am: Christian Education Committee in CE Room 2

March 9, 2:00 pm: Missions Committee in CE Room 2

March 8, 10 am: Buildings & Grounds Committee in Faith Hall

March 14, 9:30 am: Deacons in CE Room 2 between worship services

March 16, 1 pm: Finance Committee in Office

March 24, 2 pm: Session in Faith Hall

March 31, 10 am: Men's Bible Study will resume meeting on Wednesdays at 10 am in Faith Hall, beginning March 31. Led by Jon Whited.

April 1, 2 pm: Women's Bible Study will resume meeting on Thursdays at 2 pm in Faith Hall, beginning April 1. Led by Judy Nason, the ladies will review, and continue on with the book of Daniel.

Word from the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

So, when Jesus was entering Jerusalem and the crowd was shouting “Hosanna!” they were praising Jesus for coming to save them, though they likely were not talking about saving them from sin. These folks expected that Jesus would save them from their Roman oppressors. The crowd was joyful and excited because they expected Jesus would be the warrior Messiah who came to liberate the Jewish people.

And it is from these joyful shouts on the very first Palm Sunday that the word “hosanna” has become a regular part of the Christian lexicon. In the church today, “hosanna” is still used as a way to praise God. When we shout “Hosanna!” we are not praising God for saving us from human oppressors, rather we are praising Him for saving us from the oppression of sin, death, and the devil; and we are doing this as a way to remember and honor the fact that Jesus accomplished the necessary work to provide us with that salvation, that victory of sin and death is available through Him and Him alone. When we shout, “Hosanna!” we are doing it to exalt Jesus to the highest heavens, to exalt Him above all else because He is worthy of that level of praise for what He accomplished for us during that week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday; and what He is still accomplishing on our behalf even now at the right hand of His Father.

So, this Palm Sunday, as we all shout “Hosanna!” together, let us keep in mind what we are saying. We are praising our God, our Savior, our King, because He has come and has saved us from an enemy that is greater than even the mighty Roman Empire; He has saved us from sin and death and bought us a place in paradise for eternity in His Father’s Kingdom. Salvation is here! It is available to all who would call upon the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

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 April 2021 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by March 25th to Leslie Davis at davisgold@gmail.com or call her at 532-6604.

Sermons and Scripture

Pastor Keith began a sermon series April 5, 2020, called “The Gospel According to Mark: Three Years That Changed The World.” From November 29 through December 20 he took a break from his series on Mark in order to do an Advent series leading into Christmas. And now we’re back in Mark!

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 to receive his Sunday emails with the link.

March 7

Communion

Old Testament: Zechariah 13:7-9

Sermon: Mark 14:27-42

March 14

OT: Amos 2:6-16

Sermon: Mark 14:43-52

March 21

OT: Isaiah 50:5-11

Sermon: Mark 14:53-72

March 28

OT: Isaiah 53:7-11

Sermon: Mark 15:1-15

Visit churchofthe49ers.com to listen to past sermons. The audio includes the Scripture verses being read and goes right into the sermon.

From Allen Graham, Missionary

Dear Church of the 49ers family! Thank you so much for your prayers in February.

Thanks for praying for my Ecuadorian visa. I received it on February 24, praise God! The process is so much easier here than it was in Spain!

Two days before the elections in Ecuador (February 7), we held a Day of Prayer on the radio. We had over 300 prayer requests come into the station. Our radio team and volunteer pastors prayed for each of these requests either on air or in private. It was a very special time.

The presidential elections will go to a second round on April 11 as no one candidate garnered 50% + 1 of the votes. A very small percentage separated the two candidates vying for the second round. The situation has caused a lot of anger and division in the coun-

try. Please pray for God's peace to come over the country and its people.

On February 8, we held a virtual conference for small business owners and startups. The title of the conference was, "Doing business God's way" and outlined biblical principles for success, some of which are counter to how business is done in Ecuadorian culture. This was the first time for us to do an event like this and we weren't sure what to expect. We thank God that we had almost 200 participants for the 90-minute event.

Reach Beyond's Sub-Saharan Regional Director, Alex Walker, asked me to train the leadership and team members at CCFM in Cape Town, South Africa. Although they have been doing radio sharathons for a few years, they were particularly concerned about the response because of the pandemic's impact. I was able to share ideas on how

we conduct our on-air fundraisers and give them some tips on how they might improve. Please be praying for their sharathons March 24-27.

Thank you again for your prayers and your financial gifts for my ministry through Reach Beyond and HCJB2 in Ecuador. This month, may God use you to touch the lives of your friends, family and neighbors in Colombia, Sonora, and the surrounding areas.

Allen



COVID-19 News

Valerie McCale, Parish Nurse

On February 26 our Parish Nurse, Valerie McCale, attended a meeting of the Faith Nurses in Tuolumne County, and learned the following:

Adventist Health Sonora scheduled its fifth Covid-19 vaccination clinic at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds February 27-28, with plans to vaccinate 1,000 county residents—with some receiving their first dose and others the second dose.

Also, the Tuolumne County Health Department is conducting drive-through vaccination clinics in the parking lot of the Sierra Bible Church on certain weekdays.

So far, twenty percent of Tuolumne County residents have received at least their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, either the Pfizer or the Moderna version. It's very important that each person receives two doses (from the same manufacturer) to afford the best possible immunity against the novel coronavirus, and hopefully, also the variants that are appearing now. Getting the two vaccinations dramatically lowers the risk of anyone getting Covid-19, and if they do become infected, the risk of hospitalization and/or death is extremely low.

Valerie was told it is estimated that in another twelve weeks, the whole county can be vaccinated; and that about two weeks after we receive our second dose,

we should be able to eat inside restaurants and hug our children and grandchildren again. Until enough people have been vaccinated so we have "herd" immunity in the U.S., the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and other government entities do advise all to continue to "wear a mask, wash your hands, and keep your distance."

Find a Vaccine Appointment

Currently those eligible to make an appointment for the Covid-19 vaccine are Tuolumne County residents age 65 and over, as well as workers in the education and childcare, emergency services, and food and agriculture sectors.

As of last week, we now have three vaccines available in the U.S.: The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines both require two doses, and Johnson & Johnson is one dose.

To schedule an appointment at one of the **Adventist Health Sonora** clinics at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds, go online to <https://www.adventisthealth.org/sonora/patient-resources/covid-19-vaccine/> Note as this Nugget goes to print, however, vaccine supply is unstable, so Adventist Health Sonora is not accepting appointment requests at this time. Call their hotline at 209-536-5165 for a recorded message.

To get an appointment with the **Tuolumne County Health Department**, visit <https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1317/COVID-Vaccine> or call 209-533-7440.

CVS Pharmacy in Sonora recently began vaccinating people with one of the Covid-19 vaccines. To make an appointment, visit <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine?icid=cvshome-hero1-link2-coronavirus-vaccine> You can also call CVS at 800-746-7287 to schedule an appointment.

Rite-Aid Pharmacy.

Visit <https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier> But currently the closest Rite-Aid offering vaccine appointments is in Oakdale.

Safeway Pharmacy:

<https://www.safeway.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html> But not currently offering vaccinations at the Safeway in Sonora.



Another option is to register at myturn.ca.gov, which is a California State website to assist people with obtaining a Covid vaccine appointment.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to get an appointment for one of the Covid-19 vaccines if you don't have a computer or smartphone with Internet access. If you need assistance with the registration process, call Leslie Davis at 532-6604. Let's all get our "jabs" so we can be safe and get back to worshipping and serving the Lord and His people together.

Interfaith News

If you can benefit from the services offered by Interfaith Community Social Services, come and get signed up. Interfaith is located at 18500 Striker Court in Sonora (off Tuolumne Road) and open Mondays-Fridays 10 am to 1 pm (except holidays). Normally Tuolumne County residents may come for free groceries once per month, but during the pandemic, food can be picked up twice a month. Food is available Monday-Friday, house-

hold items and toiletries can only be picked up on Mondays and Wednesdays, and clothing only on Wednesdays. Due to coronavirus safety concerns, clients wait in their cars in the parking lot for volunteers to assist them. Also, on Fridays free legal help is available, by appointment only (call 694-3481).

New volunteers have joined the ranks and been trained recently, but additional

volunteers are welcome. Some jobs currently available are: home delivery of groceries, splitting/stacking firewood, vegetable garden tenders; and volunteers are always needed as substitutes.

If anyone has questions as to what is available, please feel free to call me. If I don't have the answer, I'll get it for you.

Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison

CARPENTER IN HEAVEN

(for Uncle Harvey Baker)

St. Peter:

There's a new man standin', knockin'
At heaven's open door;
He's lookin' mighty heavy—
Three hundred pounds or more—
And he's come up here, like all the rest,
Just hopin' to get in
But he's hangin' on to somethin'
He don't need:
That load of sin.

Jesus:

Now, Pete, you know I asked you
For a handy man of sorts;
You know the kind I'm wantin'
Complete with scars and warts.
He's just the kind to fix a roof
Or build a wall of bricks;
He'd hammer nails,
Saw some boards,
Anything, he'd fix.

St. Peter:

But Jesus, you don't understand!
This man is kinda poorly:
I know his skills are in demand,
But his back is rather squirrely.
He hurt it helpin' someone
Puttin' shingles on a roof,
And he's carryin' this bundle
And he cannot
Take it off.

Jesus:

Now, Pete, you must remember
I've been a carpenter.
Ask him to hold this cross beam
And let his feet enter.
His load of sin becomes *my* sin,
His pain becomes my own;
See, I'm buildin' all these mansions,
And I know he'll
Feel at home.

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First Presbyterian Church

"Church of the 49ers"

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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!