Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

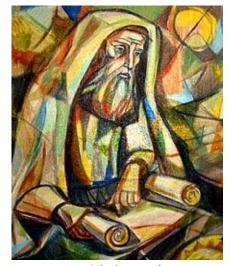
Word from the Pastor

"'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,' declares the Lord. 'This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,' declares the Lord. 'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, "Know the Lord," because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,' declares the Lord. 'For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.""

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NIV)

In light of our sermon series on Daniel, with all of its apocalyptic visions and the like, I have been finding myself thinking more and more about the New Covenant that was prophesied in the book of Jeremiah. So, I thought it a good idea to share with you all a bit about this New Covenant in this month's newsletter.

And this passage from Jeremiah is extremely important because it is one of



Jeremiah the prophet

the most theologically significant passages in the entire Bible. It is this covenant that Paul is pointing to when he quotes Christ's words at the Last Supper, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood..." (1 Corinthians 11:25). It is also a prophecy that has generated some debate within Christianity as it is used by people known as dispensationalists to support their views that Israel and the church are two distinct peoples. Many dispensationalists argue that Jeremiah's prophecy applies principally, if not exclusively, to the church and that the major difference between the Old and New Covenants is that God dealt with his people on an external, physical level in the Old Covenant; but he deals with his people on an internal, spiritual level in the New Covenant. Essentially, this means that the dispensationalist believes that the Israelites in the Old Testament were justified, meaning "saved," through their works, whereas Christians from the time of Jesus onward are justified by grace through faith in Him.

September 2021

Covenant theologians, however, take exception to this argument because we understand the continuous relationship of redemptive history and God's covenantal relationship with His people; we don't see God dealing with His people in distinctly different ways in the Old and New Covenants. Seminary professor and covenant theologian Michael Horton explains it like this, "No Israelite was ever justified by works, but the nation had to keep the conditions of the law in order to remain in possession of the earthly type of the heavenly rest. The prophets, culminating in John the Baptist and Jesus, brought the ax to the root of the tree: the earthly Jerusalem is now in bondage with her children. Only in Christ can anyone, Jew or Gentile, be a child of Abraham." So, it can be seen that the position of covenant theology is that the Old Covenant with Israel was still based upon grace, but it no longer worked and needed to be replaced; so God established the New Covenant with His people through Christ.

See "From the Pastor" Continued on Page 4

Send your articles and Family News items for the October 2021 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by September 25 to Leslie Davis at davisgold@gmail.com or call her at 532-6604.

GOLDEN NUGGET

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

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

Worship Services in Sanctuary:

Sundays at 10 am; masks and social distancing required.

STAFF

Rev. Keith Reid, Pastor
Rev. Lee Warford, Assistant Pastor
Deb Johnson, Office Administrator
Karla Reid, Dir. of Children's Ministries
Carolyn Sylva, Accompanist
Steve Engle-Borda, Sound Technician

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 July31, 2021 (exclusive of other income/expenses)

| | Budget | Actual | Difference Over/(Under) |
|---------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Income | \$124,173 | \$111,639 | (\$12,534) |
| Expense | \$126,564 | \$124,173 | (\$2,391) |

Mortgage Balance as of July 31: \$151,199.92 Minimum required Mortgage Payment: \$2,236.41 Addtl. principal paid through July 31 \$675.00

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Elders

Dean Cunningham (Liaison to B&G)

Roger Haughton (Missions Chair)

Tom Kimura (Welcome & Evangelism Chair, History Chair)

Ken Minett (Worship Chair)

Judy Nason (Personnel Chair)

Jon Whited (Finance Chair, Treasurer)

Suzanne Williamson (Christian Education Chair, Liaison to Fellowship)

Co-Clerks of Session: Diane Brandt and Leslie Davis

Deacons

Dana Avila Doreen Bass Sandy Brooks Margie Fooshee Deb Handy Gwen Harris

Michelle Kidwell Pat Lincoln Rosie McCarthy (Moderator)

Vi Morgado Sheri Pendleton (Vice Moderator)

Susie Porte

Session Highlights

Session did not meet in July, and in August conducted two special called meetings: (1) to determine Elder committee assignments and (2) to vote to approve to again require the wearing of masks in worship. Following are highlights from the August 26 Session meeting:

- Member Monty Youngborg gave a presentation on the History Committee's plan to hire a website designer to revise the church's website to add a history link, and Session's consensus was to approve. This is an aspect of the History Committee's project to make the church's historical information available to anyone in the world—by using the Internet. This project was made possible by a grant from the Sonora Area Foundation in September 2019.
- The elders participated in a round-table discussion to brainstorm ideas to attract new members.
- Proper ways to conduct Session voting by email (when necessary) were discussed.
- Consensus was for Faith Hall to continue to be available for use as a
 public shelter in an emergency. Judy Nason will coordinate and pull
 together a team of 3-5 from the congregation.
- Session voted to remove the names of 16 people from the church membership roll, following the Welcome Committee's attempts to contact each to determine if they wanted to come back to worship and remain a member.
- Session voted to approve Roger Haughton and Judy Nason as new check signers, to replace former elders Jim Brandt and Leslie Davis.
- Renovation/painting of remaining 3 walls of the sanctuary, and back of CE and office buildings, is now complete.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, at 2:00 pm in Faith Hall.

Leslie Davis, Co-Clerk of Session

49er Family News

Grieving

Carol Kent, following the death of her father, **LeMoine Kent**, at the age of 95 on August 18.



Men's Breakfast Fellowship

All men are invited to meet Saturday,
September 11, at 8:00 a.m. for a
no-host breakfast at Papa's New
Roost Restaurant on Mono Way
in Sonora. Contact Pastor Lee
Warford at 925-470-9953
for more information.

Seeking Volunteers

As another summer comes to an end, we are all trying to get back into our routines again. Hopefully, this means more families will be available to worship with us! Now that we all have less summer plans with family and friends and vacations, it is the perfect opportunity to become one of our Sunday school volunteers! We do need lead teachers, but if that isn't what you are looking for, but want to work with kids, we always need another adult in the room as a helper. Helpers will assist the kids when doing crafts, word searches, snacks, etc. Teachers will be the main speaker and leading the lessons. Teachers guide the flow of the lesson and activities. We are also in need of nursery volunteers. The nursery accepts children from newborn to 5 years old. There is a speaker that streams the service live in the room.

At the time of this letter, we have 3 nursery volunteers and 5 Sunday school volunteers. What has been working best for us, is for volunteers to sign up for a specific Sunday and work that Sunday each month. For example, volunteer A is available the first Sunday of every month, so he/she is automatically

signed up for the first Sunday of every month. We have an immediate need for Sunday school volunteers the second and fourth Sunday of the month. In the nursery, we currently have 1 volunteer the first and second Sunday and we have 2 volunteers the third and fourth Sundays. More nursery volunteers for the first half of the month would be great! In an ideal situation, we would also have back-up volunteers for those times that our regular volunteers will not be in attendance. As I stated above, I have hopes and prayers that we will have more families join us as the school year gets going, again. This will definitely create the need for more volunteers in both rooms.

I hope this article reaches you all with an open mind to what God may be calling you for in His ministry, whether it be in Children's Education or elsewhere.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Blessings,

Karla Reid
Director of Children's Ministries

September Birthdays

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

| Sept 5 | Bob Morris |
|---------|-------------------|
| Sept 8 | Cheryl Pittman |
| Sept 8 | Jacqueline Donges |
| Sept 9 | Carolyn Stearns |
| Sept 10 | Barbara Lashbrook |
| Sept 13 | Shirley Stephens |
| Sept 17 | Lilian Graham |
| Sept 18 | Vincent Annett |
| Sept 22 | Kathy Rudolph |

Dean Cunningham

Sept 25 Patti Lau

Sept 23

Sept 27 Nevaeh O'Dea

Sept 28 Millie Fitzsimons

Sept 29 Weston Goularte

Happy Anniversary!

Robert and Jeannie Baker 22 years on September 11

Ken and Deb Romberger 40 years on September 12

Doug and Patti Lau 52 years on September 13

David and Gwen Harris 42 years on September 29

Line Dancing

Carolyn Sylva leads a free one-hour Line Dancing class every Thursday at 9:30 am in Faith Hall — a fun way to get your exercise.

From the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

The New Covenant prophecy in the book of Jeremiah was written as a promise from God to His people for a new covenant that is a continuation of His previous covenants, but in a different form; it is the divinely promised answer to the perennial problem of Israel's hard-hearted rebellion against the LORD. This covenantal relationship ("I will be their God and they will be my people" in v. 33) was established through God writing the law on their hearts; and the result of the covenantal relationship is that everyone in this relationship with God, from the least to the greatest, will know the LORD.

But the significance of the New Covenant is that it is the Kingdom of Christ, ushered in through His person and work, in which His people come to fully realize redemption. The future redemption promised by God through the New Covenant prophecy in Jeremiah dawned in the ministry of Jesus and will be brought to its ultimate fulfillment in His second coming. Jeremiah's promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah is applied to both Jewish and Gentile Christians, who comprise the whole church. Through Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection, and through the continuing work of the Holy Spirit, the church is already experiencing the Kingdom of God; we are already

citizens of that Kingdom. However, because Christ has not yet returned to completely defeat evil and fully usher in the Kingdom in all of its glory, we are still waiting and anticipating the day that it will come to fruition and our place in the new heavens and new earth will finally be fully realized.

In the end, we can certainly say that the New Covenant is a better covenant because it is centered around Christ rather than Sinai; it fused together around the Son and is enacted on better promises; but, this renewed, better Covenant, while affecting and ordering our world today, will not achieve its fulfillment until Christ ushers in the new heavens and the new earth. Biblical scholar Walter Kaiser sums all of this up quite succinctly when he writes, "With the death and resurrection of Christ the last days have already begun (Hebrews 1:1), and God's grand plan as announced in the Abrahamic-Davidic-New Covenant continues to shape history, culture and theology." And all of this is done as we wait with anticipation for the day of our Lord's return.

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

Pastor Keith

Notices

In an attempt to reduce the chance of infection during this fourth surge of Covid-19 in Tuolumne County (and around the world), masks must be worn while in the sanctuary for the Sunday worship service. Faith Hall is open following worship for a time of fellowship, however only coffee and water are available. Remember to practice social distancing and wash your hands frequently.

The Ladies Lunch Bunch, Presbyterian Women, and Helen Johnson Community Dinners are not currently meeting until the level of coronavirus transmission in our area improves significantly.

Sermons and Scripture

Since April, Pastor Keith has preached a sermon series on the book of Daniel, which will conclude September 19. September 26 he will begin a new sermon series titled "The Calamity of Christianity."

Listed below for each Sunday are the scripture verses the sermon is based on, and other verses. (NT = New Testament) (OT = Old Testament)

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

September 5 Communion

Sermon: Daniel 11:2-35 NT: 1 John 4:1-18

September 12

Sermon: Daniel 11:36-45 NT: Revelation 13:1-10

September 19

Sermon: Daniel 12:1-13 NT: Revelation 20:7-15

September 26

Sermon: Matthew 7:1-6 OT: 1 Samuel 16:6-13

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

Missions Committee

Comprised now of twelve congregational members, the Missions Committee met on August 24 to discuss ways in which our church could assist others and thereby extend God's presence in us.

Darrell Slocum, Executive Director of the Sonora Area Foundation (SAF), spoke to the committee about the operational scope and objectives for SAF. We discussed several initiatives that our church could consider contributing to within our community. One such initiative is Teen and Adult Challenge, which operates a temporary home for recovering men in Jamestown. Its manager, Ron Havill, will be speaking to the committee on September 21 at 2:00 in

Faith Hall. If you would like to join us and listen to Ron as he talks about his organization, please do so.

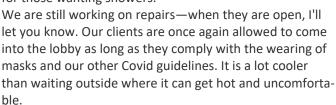
After Darrell's presentation, we discussed how we could assist in supporting relief efforts for recent catastrophes. We agreed to support the efforts in Haiti, because of the earthquake, with a \$500 contribution. Locally, the fires in Northern California have created great concern this year and the committee agreed to contribute an initial \$1,000 to help with the relief efforts that Presbyterian churches are providing. Our committee will be contributing additional designated donations from our church as fire relief efforts continue. We all pray for rain, as well as the overall containment of these terrible fires.

God has been so good to us. His love for His people is reflected in so many ways. We thank our church congregation for the contributions to our mission efforts. If you would like to visit during one of our meetings, please do not hesitate to do so. If you would like to become a member of our committee, please let Roger or Judy Haughton know. Furthermore, if you would like to recommend a specific organization for support, also let us know. Together, we can show our love for Jesus as we help spread His word and thereby provide our support throughout the community.

Roger Haughton, Missions Committee Chair

Interfaith News

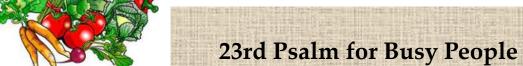
Interfaith is open for all services once again except for those wanting showers.



Just a reminder, after you call to see if we are accepting clothing donations, drop-off hours are Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 am to 12 noon. Any other time, place your donated clothing into the new clothing containers located outside Interfaith. They are green in color and against the building on the left side.

Toiletries, household and pantry items can be brought to the back door during our regular hours (Monday-Friday, 10 am to 1 pm). Interfaith Community Social Services is located at 18500 Striker Court in Sonora.

We still are looking for volunteers to help out. You can call me at 532-4358 or call Interfaith at 532-0905 for more information. Please pray about this need. Contact me with any other questions. **Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison**



By Toki Miyashiro

The Lord is my Pace-setter, I shall not rush;

He makes me to stop and rest for quiet intervals.

He provides me with images of stillness, which restores my serenity.

He leads me in ways of efficiency, through calmness of mind.

And His guidance is my peace.

Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day I will not fret, for His presence is here.

His timelessness, His all-importance will keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity

By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquility.

My cup of joyous energy overflows.

Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours, For I shall walk in the pace of the Lord and dwell in His house forever.

A Japanese version of Psalm 23 published in Guideposts Magazine

From Allen Graham, Missionary

Hello Church of the 49ers family. Thanks for your prayers this past month.

One of my colleagues from my work in Reach Beyond's North Africa Middle East Region, Janine, recently returned to the U.S. where she will now work remotely. She has lived the last few years in the Middle East. At some point in her travel home, she was exposed to COVID-19. She wasn't improving and was admitted to the hospital on August 29. Please pray for God to fulfill His will in her life.

September is the Month of the Bible in Ecuador. Please pray for plans that our station is making with the United Bible Society in Ecuador for a special event at the station on September 25. Please pray for hearts to be open to the Word of God and that the Bible will touch and

transform the lives of the station's listeners and their families.

I will be in California in mid-September to help a Christian radio station in Stockton, KYCC, with their annual fundraiser as they are partnering with Reach Beyond. Please pray for this event: that God will be glorified with everything that is shared on-air, that the station can raise the funds needed for their ministry, and, most of all, that some listeners might come to know Jesus Christ as their savior or reconcile their relationship with God. I look forward to being in service with you on September 19, before leaving for Stockton.

In July, we held a one-day minisharathon at HCJB2 as monthly donation income was running a bit behind budget the past several months.

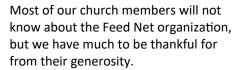


Praise God for the generous response from listeners, allowing the station to continue to be a voice of hope and encouragement. Praise Him also for allowing the station and its team to be His voice and hands to the communities served by the station.

Thank you for being a faithful partner in the work here in Ecuador and with Reach Beyond around the world. This month, together, let's be the voice and hands of Jesus to those around us!

Allen

Feed Net Provides Church of the 49ers with an Emergency Generator

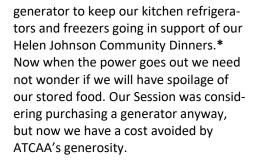


Feed Net is an organization started by the Sonora Area Foundation and is intended to coordinate the food distribution to needy individuals in our county. Many of the area churches participate as well as County government, private groups like Interfaith, and any other organization that wishes to participate in understanding and supporting feeding those in need.

By meeting quarterly, or sometimes bimonthly, we find out what other organizations have to offer, and at the same time learn from programs being used. This allows us to do a better job of coordinating services and programs available through our joint efforts, and do a better job of managing costs, services and programs.

The County of Tuolumne, Interfaith Community Social Services, and ATCAA (Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency) are involved, and we support those organizations with food and services distribution. Some churches give from food pantries and others serve hot meals. It may be interesting to note that the Church of the 49ers is noted for our Helen Johnson Community Dinners as an example of a well-balanced program of hot food, counseling, social interface and Bible studies offered. Even Nancy's Hope Community Center & Thrift Store benefits from Feed Net. All the churches involved communicate with each other about their community outreach programs and share cost savings ideas to facilitate their outreach. Most of all we all learn what works best to provide benefit from our combined and coordinated efforts.

This month ATCCA made available to our church free use of a new emergency



The membership of Feed Net jointly benefits all our organizations and we are grateful to all that combine their experience and support to make this partnership so useful to the community.

Jon Whited, Elder

*Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we've been unable to serve weekly dinners for the past 18 months, but plans are being made to resume the popular program as soon as it's deemed safe enough.

Emergency Notification System in the Event of a Wildfire or Other Life-threatening Emergency

At least three of our church members had to evacuate from their homes during the recent Washington Fire which threatened parts of Jamestown and Sonora. After that scare, they thankfully were able to return to their intact homes, but others came back to burned-out homes, and one person apparently perished in the fire. That was a close call.

Tuolumne County has a robo-call type of emergency system which worked well during the wildfire emergency: those who had signed up previously and lived in the affected and surrounding areas received multiple calls on their phones that day regarding the wildfire, directing them to either immediately evacuate or be ready to evacuate.

If you have not yet signed up for this free service, you might want to do it now as the wildfire season is far from over. See below for information about Tuolumne County's alert system—taken from the website at https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1170/Emergency-Alerts.

The Everbridge Citizen Alert System allows residents and visitors to receive alerts issued by the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office of imminent threats and emergency warnings. This system has the option to enter one or multiple addresses that any registrant requests to be aware of in the event of an emergency (examples: primary residence, vacation property, child's school, daycare facilities, pet sitter, etc.).

It also allows for multiple methods of notification which can be customized by each registrant (examples: phone call, text message, e-mail, page, etc.). It is essential that you enter your most current information into your Everbridge account, and keep it updated.

If you are not able to register online, Office of Emergency Services staff can add you into the system! Just fill out all of the applicable fields on the Everbridge form* and mail in.

Another tip is to gather together important papers/pictures, medications, clothes, etc. you would want to take with you if told to immediately evacuate. In other words, have a "go bag" ready by the door. You never know how much time you might have to evacuate, and preparation is the key.



When Everbridge calls to warn you of danger, based on your address they will advise if you need to evacuate now (mandatory), or be prepared to evacuate (warning). Definitions are:

Mandatory Evacuation "Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access."

Evacuation Warning "Potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate, and those with pets and livestock, should leave now."

*Copies of the Everbridge form are available in the narthex, or from Leslie Davis.

BOOK REVIEW BY DENELLA KIMURA

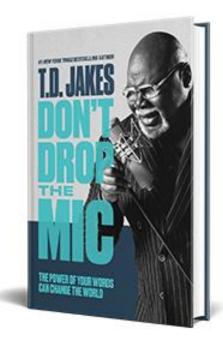
"Don't Drop the Mic: The Power of Your Words Can Change the World"

T. D. Jakes' new book, Don't Drop the Mic: The Power of your Words Can Change the World, speaks to our worst fear: speaking into a mic to an audience who could be a Sunday School class, a board meeting, committee report, being a liturgist, or just giving the announcements.

If you see him on his TV show, "The Potter's Touch" on one of the Christian channels, you will observe that his style is the call and response style long practiced in African American churches. His messages, as well as his book, speak to issues in his Christian community and express the viewpoints on the issues of the day. His examples are mostly from his personal experiences and Bible stories.

That given, *Don't Drop the Mic* gives us excellent advice and stories to help us Prepare, Practice and Present our messages with confidence, courage and sensitivity to an audience. He also gives us ways to avoid the pitfalls of a "hot mic" situation.

I can relate to his stories from my own experiences of the terror of presenting a poem to my eighth-grade class by memory; to freezing before a bunch



of kids in my first Sunday school class teaching; to turning white during my first senior political science class as a teacher trainee; to holding on to the podium, a white knuckled, knock-kneed soloist experience at a church service.

I always wanted to speak at a women's conference, and when asked, I jumped at the chance. I had months to prepare. And even at the last minute, I wasn't sure of what I would say. My preparation was weak, but using some teaching skills and examples from what I already knew, I got through it. Only one person came to me much later and said she liked my *Shrek* example about how "Ogres are like onions" because that's how God sees us from the inside out, just as we are.

In his book, T. D. Jakes coached me in how to prepare and how to take criticism. I reached one person in that audience, and it gave me hope that I might have reached others.

The chapter on "The Pregnant Pause" was not only fun, but spoke to writers and artists as well on how to use white space: Taking a breath before you pass out; use dialogue in writing stories; length of line in a poem or spaces

between verses; or white space or background color tones to help focus on the subject on a canvas. It's the rhythm of a song that gives the pregnant pause just before the punch line at the end. It creates tension, mystery, and a down-beat to the final flourish.

This is the book to savor. The print is larger, and easier to read. Jakes' coauthor, Dr. Frank Thomas, is professor of Homiletics and Preaching to doctoral and master's degree—level students at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois, and at Memphis Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tennessee. Using a cooking metaphor to explain the "prepare, practice and present" topics, he closes the book in Part 5.

Happy reading!

Denella Kimura



Mr. Grace, guarding the church campus every day and all night. He first came to us in May of 2014 as a very young cat, so is about 8 years old now.

September Calendar

We are conducting one weekly Sunday worship service in the sanctuary, beginning at 10:00 am—with masks required due to the Covid-19 surge. Other listings on the church calendar include:

September 6, 9:30 am: History Committee in CE Room 3
September 7, 8:30 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2
September 9, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
September 11, 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast Fellowship
September 12, 11:30 am: Deacons in CE Room 2

September 13, 10:00 am: Buildings & Grounds Cmte in CE3

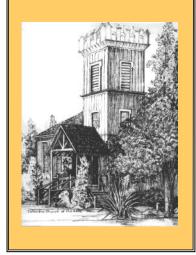
September 14, 8:30 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2
September 14, 3:30 pm: Christian Ed in CE Room 2
September 16, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
September 21, 8:30 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2
September 21, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office
September 21, 2:00 pm: Missions Committee in CE Room 2

September 22, 2:00 pm: Session in Faith Hall September 23, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

September 26, 11:30 am: Worship Committee in CE Room 2

September 28, 8:30 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2

"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!