

# Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

## Word from the Pastor

*“For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”* **1 Thessalonians 4:14-18**

*“But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”*

**1 Corinthians 15:20-22**

The month of April is always a special time on the calendar. It is the month where it really seems like winter has come to an end and spring has dawned. The sun shines a bit brighter, the grass is a bit greener, and the flowers start to really bloom brightly. But, the most important thing that happens in April, at least the vast majority of the time,



## Holy Week

is the celebration of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. It certainly is the most important week that this world has ever known and, therefore, is one of the most important times for the church as we remember and reflect upon all that Jesus accomplished for us during this week all those centuries ago. Of course, that includes remembering and reflecting upon the pain, suffering, and death that He endured on our behalf on Good Friday, a most solemn and somber occasion as we recount how our Savior was brutalized and killed. Good Friday is a powerful and emotional day for all of us who believe in Christ.

The thing that makes Good Friday bearable, however, is the knowledge that Easter Sunday is right around the corner; Easter Sunday with all of its joyful and exuberant celebration of the fact that the grave could not hold Jesus Christ, our King. The sorrow of Good Friday is replaced with the glory and pure joy of Easter Sunday. Death has lost its victory, it has lost its sting; Satan and hell have been defeated! Hallelujah! What an amazing work Jesus completed on our behalf on Resurrection Sunday! And that’s what I want us to think about now, exactly

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what Jesus accomplished on our behalf when He arose victorious over sin and death. Specifically, I want us to think about how the work Jesus accomplished is reflected in the two passages quoted above.

In the passage from 1 Thessalonians, Paul tells us that God is going to send WITH Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. And what that word “with” tells us is that, when Christ returns, every Christian that has passed on from this earth will be coming with Him; meaning Jesus is going to bring them back when He comes back. This is significant because it shows us that Jesus, in His resurrection, guaranteed the bodily resurrection of all who place their faith in Him. So, in His resurrection, He won the victory over death and the grave that makes the way for our own resurrection in the new heaven and the new earth.

Next, Paul tells us that those “who have fallen asleep” in Christ, meaning those who are Christians and have passed away, will rise first at the loud command and trumpet sound of God.

**Continued on Page 4  
See “Pastor”**

*Have a  
blessed  
Easter*



## GOLDEN NUGGET

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209-532-2441  
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**Office Hours:**  
Tuesday through Friday  
9:00 am—3:00 pm

**Worship Services in Sanctuary:**  
Sundays at 10 am

## 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  
Mariza Engle-Borda, Videographer  
Charlee Pullen, Nursery

## 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 Officers

### ELDERS/Assignments

Gwen Harris: Welcome & Evangelism Committee  
Judy Haughton: Missions Committee  
Roger Haughton: Missions Committee  
Judy Nason: Worship Committee  
Sharon Poff: Personnel Committee, B&G Committee  
Jon Whited: Finance Committee  
Suzanne Williamson: Christian Ed Cmte, Fellowship Cmte

**DEACONS:** Mary Adams, Doreen Bass, Sandy Brooks,  
Margie Fooshee, Deb Handy, Carol Kent, Michelle Kidwell,  
Denella Kimura, Rosie McCarthy, Sheri Pendleton,  
Susie Porte, Sally Tullar

## Session Highlights

Highlights of the March 22 Session meeting:

- Ron Leedy gave his statement of faith; Session accepted him as a covenant partner (member).
- The search for Clerk of Session is on-going.
- Printed copies of committee Mission Statements and respective responsibilities will be available as hand-outs at the April 23rd Committee Fair in Faith Hall following Worship.
- Suggested consolidation of committees was presented for early stages of discussion.
- The solar panels project is moving forward.
- Holy Week schedule: Palm and Easter Sundays, April 2nd and 9th at 10 a.m., Maundy Thursday, April 6th at 7 p.m., Good Friday, April 7th at Noon.

**Sheri Pendleton, Clerk of Session Pro Tem**



## Seeking Clerk of Session Responsibilities:

- ◆ Attend stated monthly Session meetings (4th Wednesdays at 2:00 pm) and occasional called Session meetings for the purpose of taking minutes.
- ◆ Manage the church roll (list of covenant partners).
- ◆ Submit annual report to the ECO denomination (Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians).

Contact Pastor Keith if interested.

## Christian Education

All of our Sunday School teachers are being fingerprinted through a rather new process which is done electronically. It is now required by the State of California via AB506 that all adults who work with children be fingerprinted and undergo a background check. We hope to have this completed by mid-May. It is done locally at the County Superintendent of Schools office.



In addition, it is also required that we have two adults in each classroom. This is an area that our committee continues to struggle with on an ongoing basis. At this time we have two classrooms, which means we need at least four teachers each week. Please pray about this need, and if this is something you could do (one time each month), please contact Karla Reid. **Suzanne Williamson, Christian Ed Chair**

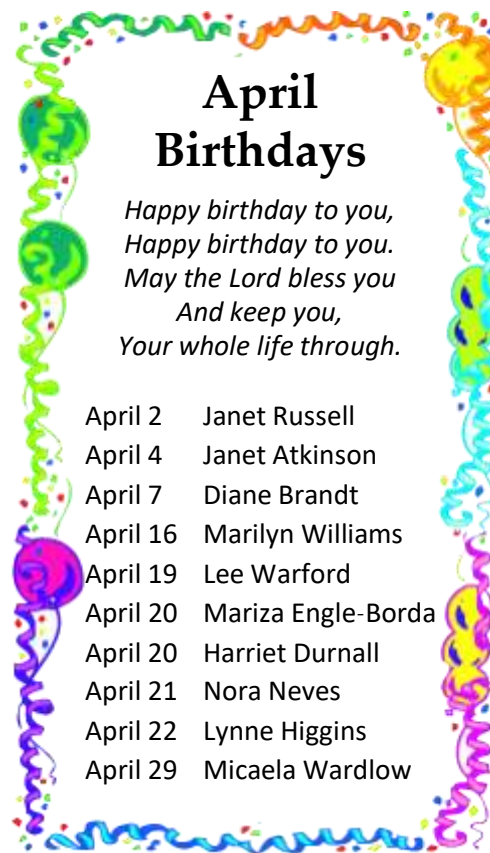
# 49er Family News

## Committee Fair

Join us Sunday, April 23rd, immediately following worship for a Committee Fair. The purpose of the Fair is to give everyone in our congregation the opportunity to learn about all of the areas of ministry, or "committees," and to encourage us as we consider choosing the best committee to join to best utilize our talents. Representatives from each committee will be present to give information and answer questions. Please make plans to be there to learn how you can contribute to the mission and ministry of the Church of the 49ers!



Pastor Keith



## April Birthdays

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

- April 2 Janet Russell
- April 4 Janet Atkinson
- April 7 Diane Brandt
- April 16 Marilyn Williams
- April 19 Lee Warford
- April 20 Mariza Engle-Borda
- April 20 Harriet Durnall
- April 21 Nora Neves
- April 22 Lynne Higgins
- April 29 Micaela Wardlow

## Welcoming a New Covenant Partner

**Ron Leedy** became a covenant partner of this church on March 22nd during a Session meeting, and was introduced to the congregation March 26th by Pastor Keith.

## Isaiah Bible Study

Pastor Keith's co-ed adult Bible study of the Old Testament book of Isaiah continues on Tuesday evenings. Dinner is at 5:30 pm in Faith Hall and the study begins at 6:00.

Dinner is provided by the church, though donations are accepted and appreciated. Childcare is available.

## Happy Anniversary!

Jon Whited and Suzanne Williamson  
10 years on April 13

Bob and Margie Fooshee  
30 years on April 24

## Men's Breakfast Fellowship

The Men's Breakfast Fellowship will gather for a no-host breakfast on **Saturday, April 8, at 8:00 am at Papa's New Roost.**  
Call Pastor Lee Warford at 925-470-9953 for more information.

## Line Dancing

Carolyn Sylva's free one-hour Line Dancing class meets every Thursday at 9:30 am in Faith Hall.

## Women's Bible Study

The women's Bible study on Genesis meets weekly on Tuesday afternoons at **3 pm** in CE Room 3. All women are welcome to jump in for a short review. We are still near the beginning of the book. Contact Judy Nason for more information.



All women are invited to meet **Thursday, April 6,** at 11:30 am for a no-host lunch at **Be Wok Sushi** in Sonora. Call Deb Handy at 209-768-2067 or Denella Kimura at 209-532-6561 to sign up.

Menfolk are welcome too, but they have to find their own table!



## From the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

When Paul referred to believers that have passed away, he always referred to them as having “fallen asleep” rather than “died.” The reason for this is that he was stressing that, for Christians, death is something that was only temporary, like being asleep; we all wake from sleep, just like we will all be resurrected after we die. This is what we are referring to when we recite the Apostles’ Creed and state that we believe in the resurrection of the body; we’re stating that we believe that the physical bodies of all of those who passed will one day be resurrected and rise to meet Jesus. Again, we see the guarantee that the work Jesus accomplished in His resurrection secures the bodily resurrection of all who believe in Him. Death is not the final word because Jesus rose, on that first Easter Sunday, victorious over death!

Then Paul writes, “And so we will be with the Lord forever.” Those are the most amazing nine words ever written! We will be with the Lord forever! We will finally be face-to-face with the one who gave His life for us, the one who paid the price so we could obtain that gift of everlasting life; oh, what a great day that will be! These nine words are the greatest source of hope and joy we could ever have; as we face the difficulties of this life, we have the hope and comfort of knowing that we will be with the Lord forever. And that’s why Paul exhorts the Thessalonians, and all of us reading the Scripture throughout the generations, to encourage one another with these words. Paul’s words in

this passage are meant to be a source of encouragement so that all who call on the name of the Lord do not need to stress, worry, doubt, or fear; Christ has won the victory!

But, that begs the question: why did Christ need to come to this earth to suffer, die, and rise again on the third day? And the answer to that question is in the passage from 1 Corinthians 15 above. The reason that Christ had to come and pay the penalty for sin and rise victorious over death is because we were dead in our sins. When God created Adam and Eve, when He created humanity, He created us to be a reflection of Him...sinless and eternal. However, when Adam and Eve succumbed to the temptation of the serpent and broke God’s command by eating fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they allowed sin and death into the world. That original sin so corrupted God’s perfect creation that humanity was no longer sinless or eternal, we had become slaves to sin and death. So, since Adam, a man, brought death upon all humanity through his original sin, we needed a man to bring about our redemption from sin and death. Knowing this, God sent His only Son to become a man, yet a man without sin, so that He could be the perfect, sinless sacrifice for us so that we might know the eternal life for which God had originally designed us. Adam’s sin brought death to humanity, and Christ’s sacrifice brought redemption from that sin and resurrection from the dead for all humanity who would believe in Him.

THAT’S why we celebrate Easter: we were all destined for death and for an eternity outside the presence of God; but, on that first Easter Sunday, Jesus made the way for us to know eternity IN God’s presence. And if that’s not a cause for celebration, I don’t know what is!

Happy Easter! **Pastor Keith**

## Sermons and Scripture

### Sermon Series: “Ecclesiastes: The Meaning of Life”

Following are scripture verses each sermon is based on, and other verses (NT = New Testament, OT = Old Testament)

To receive link for *YouTube* videos of services, send email to [ktreid84@gmail.com](mailto:ktreid84@gmail.com).

### April 2—PALM SUNDAY

OT: Zechariah 9:9-17  
Sermon: John 12:12-19

### April 6—MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 PM - Communion

OT: Exodus 12:1-4  
Homily: Matthew 26:17-30

### April 7—GOOD FRIDAY

12 NOON

OT: Isaiah 53:1-6  
Homily: Mark 15:16-47

### April 9—EASTER SUNDAY

OT: Isaiah 53:7-12  
Sermon: Luke 24:1-12

### April 16

NT: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16  
Sermon: Ecclesiastes 7:15-29

### April 23

NT: Romans 13:1-7  
Sermon: Ecclesiastes 8:1-9

### April 30

NT: Luke 18:1-8  
Sermon: Ecclesiastes 8:10-17

# Easter Sunday is April 9

## Easter Sunrise Service Jamestown 6:45 a.m.

For many, many years the Church of the 49ers congregation celebrated Easter with a Sunrise service at the McCleary-Johnson ranch in Columbia.

This year we have been invited to worship outside on a hill with a cross at 6:45 a.m. Easter morn, across Jacksonville Road from Jerry and Lois O'Day's home. The address is 13750 Twist Road, Jamestown. Call Jerry at 209-743-0531 for more information...and bring your own chair!

## Church of the 49ers Sanctuary 10 a.m.

The 49er Chancel Bell Choir, currently composed of Gary and Leslie Davis, Sandy Brooks, Hailey Reid, Denella Kimura, and John Aguilar, will be ringing our praises on Easter Sunday, 10 am in the sanctuary. Don't be late. Songs are Were You There?, Easter Day with Joy, and Glory and Honor. If you would like to join the bell choir after Easter, contact our Head Ding-a-Ling, Doreen Bass, at 209-352-3096.



## Columbia's Victorian Easter Celebration

Activities on Easter Sunday in Columbia State Historic Park include the Victorian Easter Parade at 1:00 p.m. Dress in your old-time Easter finery and join the parade. Registration begins 11:00 a.m. in front of the Fallon Hotel.

The Columbia Chamber of Commerce also hosts very popular egg hunts, beginning with the Small Fry Egg Search for ages 3 to 5 at noon, the Junior Egg Poachers (ages 6 to 8) is at 2:00 p.m. following the parade. And finally, the Great Egg Scramblers (ages 9 to 12) will go on the hunt at 2:30 p.m. Find the golden egg and receive a special prize! Also, be on the lookout for Thaddeus E. Hare (aka the Easter Bunny) walking around town and handing out goodies to the kids. There will be a raffle for Easter Baskets filled with goodies from Columbia's merchants at 3:00 p.m. in front of the Johnson's livery stable. Tickets are \$1. each or 25 tickets for \$20. For more information, contact Leslie Davis at [davisgold@gmail.com](mailto:davisgold@gmail.com) or 209-559-7723.



## He Bore the Cross

An original poem by Michelle Kidwell

He bore the Burden for you And for me Nailed to Calvary's tree, The weight of sin On his shoulders. Mary wept At the foot Of that tree Her son Hung on that Cross Humanities burden At his hand And feet. The crown of Thorns On his head Pierced and bleeding Jesus paid The price For you And me.	He experienced hell Three days Of a punishment He did not deserve Salvation experienced Hell For you And for me.  The tears They must Have cried The pain In his eyes The burden of a Loss so great Salvation But not forever He rose again Christ the King Took his rightful place On that Heavenly Throne!
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March.24.2023



In March, we had a blast! We finished up our lesson on The Parable of the Sower and also began our lesson on Worship. The children are learning all about what worship is, how to worship, and different ways to worship. Our next lesson, Transfiguration, will begin halfway through April.

We had outstanding attendance in both Sunday School classes on Sunday, March 26th, with a total of 15 children!! We had five in the Pre-K room and ten in our school-aged room, which caused us to have to move into CE3, the church library, to have enough space! (A much welcomed problem to have!) I want to thank our Sunday School volunteers who helped that Sunday. They accepted the children into the rooms with enthusiasm and eagerness to teach them. I know we were all blessed that day!



Our Tuesday Night Bible Study child-care worker will not be available for the month of April. If you are interested in filling in that role, please let me know. All that is required is supervision of the children - we do not have a lesson plan or activity planned on those nights. The dates we will need assistance are Tuesdays in April from 6 pm to 7:15 pm; arrive early if you'd like dinner provided by the church, which is served at 5:30. Contact Karla Reid if interested or have questions.

**Karla Reid,**  
**Director of Children's Ministries**



**Note:** Pictures include the children writing their own Psalm, and playing a game to help them remember the memory verse.

## Columbia College Community Chorus SPRING CONCERT

The Columbia College Community Chorus is pleased to present its annual Spring Concert, with two matinee performances at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Sonora - at 3:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23.

American composer Randall Thompson is featured in the first half. *Frostiana*, with Robert Frost's evocative poetry and the tantalizing harmonies of Randall Thompson, is complemented by *Alleluia*, restrained yet luscious, plus his work *The Last Words of David*.

The second half showcases "Songs of Nature," including *The Soul of a Tree*, *Earth Song* and *The Wonders of Nature*, a piece featuring the collaboration of Dr. Hollinger, the composer, with Bonnie Hollinger, the poet—it's a world premiere! Songs from *Around the World* brings two songs from the African continent as well as a piece based on a traditional Indian raga. The concert concludes with two rousing African American Spirituals.

Tickets are available on-line at [gocolumbia.edu](http://gocolumbia.edu) (scroll down to *events*) for \$15 adults/seniors, or \$20 at the door. Tickets for children 12 and under are free, but must be reserved.

Chorus members from the Church of the 49ers are Gary and Leslie Davis, Pirkko Dyer, Jennie Moiso, and Carl and Kathy Rudolph—any of these will be happy to assist you with procuring tickets.

Also, if you'd like to carpool to the concert, contact Leslie at 209-559-7723.



Columbia College Community Chorus - April 2019

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

## Adding Solar Power to Faith Hall

Dear Church of the 49ers Supporters,

Session authorized our Finance Committee to pursue investigating the analysis of benefits to our church using solar power vs. PG&E. The investigation continued to come up showing a great benefit to help to keep our church costs under control using our own solar system.

PG&E has been increasing our fees each year to keep up with inflation, and this year submitted to the State of California a plan to increase fees by 15% each year for the next five years. So, for at least the next five years we must plan for an extra 15% more in monthly electricity costs. That's 75% in five years.

We have received bids of \$115,000 and \$91,000 for the installation of a good solar system. Session approved the program costing \$91,000. Installation will be possible as soon as the panels are available with a lease already offered by church members. Depending on gifts, the term of the lease/purchase can be shortened appropriately. There are already gift commitments of approximately \$50,000 toward the total cost of \$91,000. The Finance Committee is hoping to have the entire program funded by gifts.

Even during the lease payback period, we will not have any increase in electric utility costs because we will be supplying our own electricity; not buying from PG&E. After the lease is paid off, we will only be paying for what we use that we don't generate with our own solar panels. Our costs should be reduced to \$15 a month for electricity.

If members elect to donate enough funds it is possible to pay for the whole solar program now. That would reduce our annual budget needs by about \$12,000 annually now, plus a 15% increase each additional year.

That will be in effect for the next 15 years.

For the individuals wanting to participate, you will be able to see your dollars at work. Your participation will be evidenced by solar panels on the roof of Faith Hall. It is always more exciting to be able to see your donations at work.

If you have a heart to give to God's church and purpose, call our church office or give Jon Whited, our Finance Chair, a call, and we can work together to make your wish happen.

We are hoping to hear from you.

God's Blessing to our Church

**Jon Whited, Finance Chair**  
jonawhited@gmail.com  
cell: 805-300-3403



## Interfaith News

Interfaith Community Social Services at 18500 Striker Court, off Tuolumne Road in Sonora, is open weekdays 10 am to 1 pm year-round (except for holidays). Tuolumne County residents needing assistance are invited to come in once per month for free food, clothing, toiletries, household items, also showers. Interfaith also offers free legal services 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Fridays by appointment only (call Legal office at 209--694-3481 for appointment).

Interfaith is especially seeking donations of sheets, blankets, sleeping bags, and toiletries including shampoo and conditioner, body wash (no bar soap), deodorant, tooth paste and tooth brushes.

Donations are accepted Tuesdays through Fridays 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., but it's best to call first at 209-532-0905. Or, you can bring them to church and Deb or Vi will deliver to Interfaith for you.

**Deb Handy, Interfaith Liaison**

## Nancy's Hope Food Pantry

Open to the public  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The  
food pantry is hosted by



the Church of the 49ers and operated by Nancy's Hope with volunteers. It is located in the back corner room in the lower level of the church's Christian Education building - accessible from the lower parking lot. Donations of new or gently used coats and other donations are sought for food pantry clients. Talk with Michelle Kidwell at church or just bring to the Food Pantry on a Tuesday or Thursday between 10 and 1.

Send your articles and Family News items for the May 2023 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by April 26 to Leslie at 209-532-6604 or davisgold@gmail.com.

## BOOK REVIEW

By Denella Kimura

### “Who Moved the Stone?”

By Frank Morison

The story of Easter Sunday centers on a new tomb owned by Joseph of Aramathea for his own use . . . a cave built into the mountain called Golgotha. There was a bench with a large pit beneath it for the “gathering of the bones” ceremony, held a year after a death when the remains are “gathered unto the fathers.” But as a new tomb, Jesus wouldn’t experience this part of Jewish ritual because his bones had risen. So, who moved the Stone?

That is the question Frank Morison asks in his book, “Who Moved the Stone?” He writes as a scientist who is looking for the facts of the resurrection and its consequences— writing against the nay-sayers and doubters of his day. So he based his study on the oldest manuscript as eye witness accounts from the Gospel of Mark.

Everything in the story leads to the empty tomb: who was there first, and who could have rolled away the heavy boulder that blocked the entrance? And it appears that it was quite a crowded scene.

There were the temple guards sent by the priests to seal and guard the grave because “[Jesus] said, while he was yet alive, ‘After three days I will rise again.’” (Matthew 27:63) They returned early Sunday morning reporting an empty tomb.

There were the three or four women who brought spices and oil to prepare Jesus body, and wondering how they were going to move the stone in order to fulfill their mission.

There’s the young man dressed in white who in Mark 16:6-7 says, ‘Be not amazed. Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified; he is risen; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples, and Peter, that he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.’

When did Jesus say this? Go back to Mark 14:28 in the Garden of Gethsemane.

My mother used to call me, “Big ears,” because I sort of hung around the adults trying not to be noticed, gleaning knowledge of little things that will happen and communicate that to my brothers and sisters. Perhaps I’d help with the chores just to overhear what’s going on.

In the story of Jesus, that person was John Mark. He’d carry water for the disciples wherever they went. He’d hang out with the women cooking the soup, listen to Jesus talk, walk with the disciples, witness miracles and serve at the last supper. He followed them to the Garden of Gethsemane, heard Jesus say that he’d meet them in Galilee after he is raised up. Remember the kid whose garment was stripped off as he fled away starkers? Yup! John Mark.

If I were John Mark, where would I be on that first Sunday morning just before that long sunrise? I’d want to be first; to hear the stone grind, screech and moan away from the cave; to hide until the guards fled. I’d watch until I saw a familiar figure dressed in white step from the tomb, and perhaps I’d say, “Hi ya, Jesus. Glad you’re back!” And hear Jesus laugh. And I’d go in to see the empty grave clothes, the neatly folded face cloth, and sit down right next to it and wait to announce that Jesus is not here. He is risen, just as he said.

Of course there were angels. And Peter and John. And a Gardener.

Denella Kimura



### Nancy’s Hope Spring Tea & Fashion Show

Faith Hall is again the venue for the famous Nancy’s Hope Spring Tea & Fashion Show. The date is Sunday, April 30, at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$20. Contact Leslie for information on how to purchase tickets.

Proceeds benefit Nancy’s Hope, a non-profit thrift store that supports various community programs, including food banks in two locations. Other programs are Back to School Backpacks, Blanket and Coat Giveaway, Compassion Closet, Dress 4 Success, and Fresh Start.

**Pictured: Nancy and granddaughter, models in the May 2018 event**



## MISSIONS

To complete our article from last month's Nugget, Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), as you remember, does good work helping people in remote areas of the world while spreading the Gospel. Jon Whited is an Advocate, representing our church with MAF. We agreed to send them \$500.00 for their work. Unfortunately, Jeff Fouche and his wife have had to postpone their trip to Haiti, with MAF, because of the unrest there.

We reviewed our priorities for 2023 as a committee and will continue to update you on our progress during the year. Roger and Pastor Lee are working with Adult and Teen Challenge to determine how we can help them secure housing in our county as they continue to reach out to both men and women who are struggling with addiction and other challenges in their lives. As you remember, Rick Sousa and the men from Adult and Teen Challenge contributed to our service last month and we thought they did a terrific job!

All in all, in 2023, we have contributed to six organizations that serve to help people in need in our local community, as well as other places in the world. Thank you, Church of the 49ers, for your support of our mission to others in Christ's name. The thank you notes we received from Banyan Tree Counseling, Habitat for Humanity and Save the Children show that we are making a difference in the world.

We did not have a committee meeting in March, but our next meeting is scheduled for April 11, at 2:00 in Faith Hall. We truly thank our Heavenly Father for His guidance and love as we strive to spread the Gospel to others in need.

**Judy and Roger Haughton,  
Missions Co-Chairs**

## Allen Graham, Missionary

Greetings dear Church of the 49ers family. Thank you for your prayers in March. I am privileged to have you stand with me in the ministry.

Thanks especially for praying for the renewal of my Ecuadorian visa. God answered and I received my indefinite residence visa on March 2!

In 2017, during my first year in Spain, and every year since then, I have asked you to be in prayer during Ramadan. This year, the month-long activity began on March 22 and will end on April 20. During this time, all healthy adult Muslims fast from dawn until dusk. They do so as an act of worship, a chance to get closer to God and a way to become more compassionate to those in need. This includes abstaining from drinking, eating, immoral acts and anger. Other acts of worship such as prayer, reading the Quran and charity are also encouraged during Ramadan.

I want to challenge you again this year to fervently pray for the Muslim world. In 1993, a small group of Christians started a 30-day prayer movement to coincide with Ramadan. Over the last few years, there have been stories about unprecedented numbers of Muslims coming to the Lord. You can find out more and download a prayer guide at [www.30daysprayer.com](http://www.30daysprayer.com). There are also resources to help children participate in this 30-day prayer focus.

Here are some key prayer points:

- \* Pray FOR Muslims and not AGAINST them.
- \* Pray for fear to be replaced by FAITH and LOVE.



\* Pray for Muslim families, that they would find their hope in Jesus.

\* Pray for Muslim youth, that they may know the truth and not carry Islam into the next generation.

\* Pray for families to meet Jesus in this month as they eat and pray together, that they will know Him as the One who gives living water so they will never thirst again.

\* Pray for the few Christians in many Muslim countries to be encouraged in their faith and be a witness and example in their families and communities.

\* Pray for the many refugees who are still in difficult and often hopeless situations, with desperate physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Another great resource is PrayerCast <https://prayercast.com/index.html> where we are reminded, "Want to change the world? Pray."

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

**Allen**

# Brainard Diary

By Dick Dyer

Clementine Brainard's diary provides important information about Columbia's residents during the mid 1850s. She lived in the celebrated mining camp during the historic gold rush years and frequently wrote about the Old West and also her nostalgic holidays with former Maine relatives in the distant Pine Tree State.

In her twenties she began an adventure in California's gold rush communities while having memorable associations with new friends and their activities. However, from the early years, Clementine was critical of the Catholic Church as the priests insisted on using Latin in their worship services. By 1854 after several visits to the local Presbyterian Church, she and her husband Marcellus became members of their congregation and admirers of their pastors, the Reverends John Henry Brodt and Laurentine Hamilton.

Clementine's husband was an enterprising merchant in the thriving community. On occasions he traveled to Stockton and San Francisco to purchase mercantile supplies for his business. Storybook Columbia during its prosperous years became California's El Dorado in the Mother Lode; the community was soon known as the "treasure city" of the historic mining camps during the gold rush days.

Unfortunately, after a few years, persistent health problems led to Marcellus' unexpected death in 1856, leaving Clementine a widow with a young son and soon to birth a daughter. At that time, many changes occurred in the camp. Columbia was experiencing a decline of the precious gold from the surface placer mines. The once easily acquired mineral of the early years was gone. The exciting days of the gold rush were fast becoming an occurrence of a bygone era.



**Clementine and Marcellus Brainard**

Clementine's diary was discontinued with the death of Marcellus. The bonanzas of the early years were suddenly becoming afterthoughts. Eventually, she returned to Maine and her relatives. Soon thereafter, she remarried, had more children and continued her exciting life but with old friends in her former homeland.

I am enclosing an edited segment of the *Brainard Diary* written by Clementine as she observed the mining camp and began to record melancholy passages in the diary. It is informative to read her reminiscences during one Sabbath. She wrote on October 23, 1853, I "have attended church today, all day have [heard] two very interesting discourses...the text this forenoon was *Remember the Sabbath Day and Keep it Holy...this afternoon, Righteousness Exalts a Nation...never heard morals preached as such, and it appears to be just what the people of this state need; would citizens of Columbia could have been present, and then would profit by what they heard. My soul has been deep of the truth that I have this day listened to, and I hope by the grace of God to profit from it; may I be able to cast my influence in favor of religion, temperance, and good influence...and what little influence I have, I am resolved shall be good.*"

Clementine's conclusion provides an unexpected message. It is somewhat

of a "confession of the heart" in her handwriting on a clipping inserted among the pages of her diary. It includes afterthoughts during her memorable days in the Mother Lode.

*Home, Home  
I am weary thinking,  
of my friends  
at home.*

*Why, Oh Why, this  
cloud o'er my mind, I cannot  
define it, yet I know  
it is there, and the more  
I try to remove it, the  
heavier it settles down.*

We understand during the 1850s in California mining camps, "homesickness was the greatest drawback to life in the diggings."

At this point, a speculation about the 1850s may be helpful. By the 1860s in the Gold Country, several "naysayers" announced the historic Mother Lode had experienced a "Twilight Time" for the pioneer residents. Nevertheless, other writers have disclosed the continued discovery of valuable ore in deep hard rock mines and improved gold refining procedures enabled the pioneer miners and their investors to predict they were actually on the threshold of California as the "Golden State." Parenthetically, we are aware the historic gold rush story continued despite conflicting reports. A new El Dorado saga with some modern improvements continued well into the following century.

Today, we hear that visiting tourists continue to be interested in Columbia's character, authenticity and uniqueness which suggests an image of the Old West. Some Western Historians seem to believe the English Lord James Bryce's observation after several visits in the 1880s: the Old West was "the most American part of America."

**Dick Dyer, Church Historian**

# April 2023 Calendar

Weekly Sunday worship service at 10 am, and:

April 1, 9:00 am to 12 noon: All Church Work Party

April 1, 5:00 pm: Movie Night in Faith Hall

**April 2, 10:00 am: Palm Sunday service in Sanctuary**

April 2, 11:15 am: Congregational Meeting in Sanctuary

April 2, 12:00 pm: Handbell Rehearsal in L. Sanctuary

April 4, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

April 4, 3:00 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE Room 3

April 4, 5:30 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

April 6, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

April 6, 11:30 am: Ladies Lunch Bunch at Be Wok Sushi

**April 6, 7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday service in Sanctuary**

**April 7, 12 noon: Black Friday service in Sanctuary**

April 8, 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast at Papa's New Roost

**April 9, 10:00 am: EASTER SUNDAY**

April 11, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

April 11, 2:00 pm: Missions Committee in Faith Hall

April 11, 3:00 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE Room 3

April 11, 5:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

April 13, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

April 16, 11:30 am: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration in FH

April 16, 11:30 am: Deacons Meeting in CE Room 3

April 16, 11:30 am: Buildings & Grounds in Lower Sanctuary

April 16, 1-4 pm: Just Dance! in Faith Hall

April 18, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

April 18, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office

April 18, 3:00 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE3

April 18, 5:30 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

April 20, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

April 23, 11:15 am: Committees Fair in Faith Hall

April 25, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

April 25, 3:00 pm: Women's Bible Study in CE3

April 25, 5:30 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

April 26, 2:00 pm: Session Meeting in CE Room 3

April 27, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

April 30, 2:00 pm: Nancy's Hope Tea & Fashion Show in FH



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