

# Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

## Word from the Pastor

*"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.' Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.' How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her." **Luke 1:26-38***

This passage is a passage that is very readily, and commonly, associated with the Advent season as it tells a story associated with the conception and birth of Jesus. However, as easily as it is associated with Advent, I think the



above passage is just as appropriate as a Mother's Day passage; after all, it tells the story of how Mary found out she would be our Savior's mother. So, as I was thinking about the month of May and the celebration of Mother's Day on May 14, my thoughts quickly turned to Mary. In light of this, I want to take some time with you this month to think about Mary, the mother of Jesus, and about what she represents to us.

The Scriptures don't give us a ton of details about Mary and her life: we know **that she is of Jewish origin and was a devout Jew**; we know that she lived in Nazareth; we know that she was not wealthy; we know that she was pledged to be married to Joseph when Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit; we know that John the Baptist's mother, Elizabeth, was her cousin; we know that she did, in fact, marry Joseph; we know that she and Joseph had more children after Jesus; we know that she was widowed because Joseph is no longer mentioned after Jesus is found teaching at the temple when He was 12; we know that she kept close tabs on Jesus' ministry and even accompanied Him at times; we know that she was present at Jesus' crucifixion; and we know that she was present and praying constantly with the disciples after Jesus ascended to heaven and before the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. That is really all that we know about Mary

## May 2023

from Scripture, not very much for one of the most significant people in the redemptive story.

However, it is more than enough to show us one very important detail about Mary, and that is that Jesus' mother was just an ordinary Jewish girl who grew into an ordinary Jewish woman. There was nothing special or significant about Mary that she should have been chosen by God to be the mother of His Son. Mary was chosen by God not because she was some especially qualified woman for the task of being His Son's mother; rather, He chose her because she was just an ordinary woman who was devout, faithful, courageous, and loved the Lord. She was chosen because her faith gave her a willingness, and the courage, to serve God in whatever capacity He required of her.

**Continued on Page 4  
See "Pastor"**



Pentecost is May 28. Wear red, orange, yellow if you wish...  
See information about Pentecost on Page 7.

## GOLDEN NUGGET

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209-532-2441  
churchofthe49ers.com

**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.

## Session Highlights

Highlights of the April 26 Session meeting:

- New custodian Chris Armstrong was introduced.
- Search for Clerk of Session is on-going. Anyone interested should contact Pastor Reid.
- Concern over the facilities rental fees increase opened the door to consider exceptions.
- The Nominating Committee meets again on May 3rd.
- The Committee Fair on April 23rd generated interest.
- Pastor Reid will take vacation May 15th—21st.
- Monthly Monday Night Dinners will start May 1st.

**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.

## Church Officers

### ELDERS

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

### 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

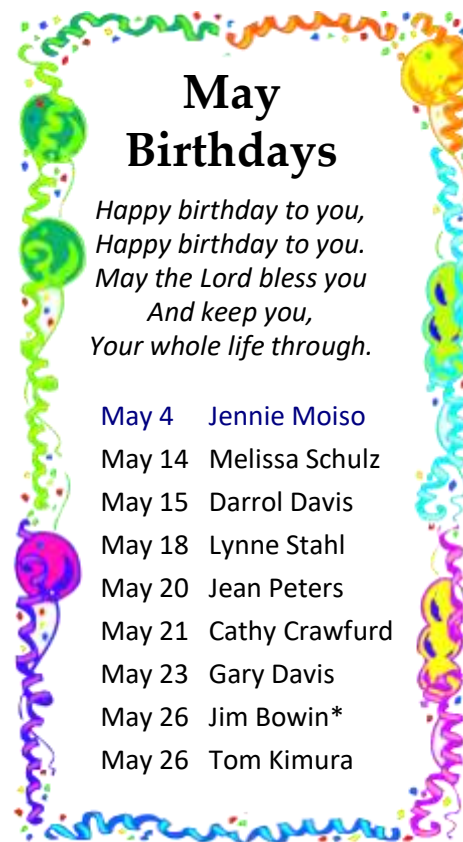
# 49er Family News

## Grieving

Family and friends of **Joan Scroggs**, who died April 20 at the age of 87.



The Bell Choir is looking for more ringers! We will resume rehearsals on Sunday, May 21, at 1:00 pm in the Lower Sanctuary as we prepare patriotic music for July. Contact Doreen Bass, Head Ding-a-Ling, at 209-352-3096 to let her know you're interested in joining the Bell Choir.



## May Birthdays

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

- May 4 Jennie Moiso
- May 14 Melissa Schulz
- May 15 Darrol Davis
- May 18 Lynne Stahl
- May 20 Jean Peters
- May 21 Cathy Crawford
- May 23 Gary Davis
- May 26 Jim Bowin\*
- May 26 Tom Kimura

## 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!

Gary and Leslie Davis  
38 years on May 18

Monty Youngborg and Dana Avila  
9 years on May 31

## Men's Breakfast Fellowship

The Men's Breakfast Fellowship will gather for a no-host breakfast on **Saturday, May 13, at 8:00 am at Papa's New Roost** in East Sonora. 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 of Exodus will begin meeting weekly at 3 pm on Tuesday afternoons beginning May 16 in CE Room 3. All women are welcome. Contact Judy Nason for more information.



All women are invited to meet **Thursday, May 4,** at 11:00 am for a no-host lunch at **Applebee's** in Sonora. Call 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

And, I think that the fact that there was nothing inherently special about Mary should be an encouragement to all of us as we try to live our lives faithfully. Too many Christians shy away from truly serving God, from truly being His ambassador, from truly following the Great Commission because they feel as though they are underqualified, or are not well-versed enough in Scripture, or are ill-equipped in any other number of ways. Too often we Christians allow our own personal insecurities to keep us from boldly following Christ as completely and totally as we should; we think, "Surely God can find someone else who's better qualified." We allow the fact that we feel inadequate, or not special enough, to keep God from using us to the fullest capacity to accomplish great works for His Kingdom.

But, what the fact that Mary was simply an ordinary person shows us is that it doesn't matter how educated we are, it doesn't matter how financially well-off we are, it doesn't matter how long we have been Christians, or how much of the Bible we have memorized. What matters is that we love God, are faithful

to Him, and are willing to serve Him in any capacity that He requires of us. If we strive to do and be all of those things, then we can be assured that God can, and will, use us to accomplish great things for His Kingdom.

I have been the pastor at the Church of the 49ers for almost 4 years, but the truth of the matter is that I am woefully underqualified for the job. There is nothing inherently special about me; I am a broken and sinful human trying my best to live like Christ in this broken and sinful world just like everybody else. However, just because I am underqualified for the job doesn't mean that God is underqualified for the job; and it is through His grace, His wisdom, His love, it is through putting my faith in Him daily and being willing to serve Him as He has called me that I am able to serve you as the pastor. And guess what, because there is nothing special about me, I know that God can, and will, use each and every one of you, as well; He will use you to accomplish great things in His name if you put your faith in Him and are willing to serve in whatever capacity to which He calls you. Take heart and be encouraged, you can do ALL THINGS through Christ; put your faith in Him and have an open heart that is willing to serve, and watch what God can accomplish through you! That is the lesson that Mary's life teaches us.

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

**Pastor Keith**

## Coming in the June Golden Nugget:

A special story on Pastor Keith's role at the Presbytery level in our denomination, the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, better known as ECO.

**Denella Kimura**

## 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).

### May 7 Communion

NT: John 11:17-27

Sermon: Ecclesiastes 9:1-12

### May 14

NT: Matthew 7:21-29

Sermon: Ecclesiastes 9:13-18

### May 21

Rev. Dave McGurk from Central Presbyterian Church, Merced is preaching

### May 28 Pentecost

NT: Romans 1:18-25

Sermon: Ecclesiastes 10:1-20

Send your articles and Family News items for the June 2023 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by May 26 to Leslie at [davisgold@gmail.com](mailto:davisgold@gmail.com), or call 209-559-7723.

## Community Dinners Are Back!

On the first Monday of each month, beginning in May, the Church of the 49ers will be hosting a dinner for the community. As I write this article for the Nugget, I am feeling very thankful to everyone who helped today (May 1<sup>st</sup>) make our first dinner a success. We started in the kitchen at about 1pm and we locked up at 8 pm. A long day, but with so much help it was really a pleasure to work together once again and to be reaching out to others in our community.



Renee (our friend from the Columbia College Culinary Department) was the chef of the evening, assisted by Vi, Greg, Sandy, Rose, Mary, Margie, Millie, Larry, and John. Servers included Renee, Vi, Patti, Doug, Hailey, and the clean up crew included Melissa, Kathy, Judy, Ella, John E., Tom, Jon, and more...What great support!

Our next community dinner will be on Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>—serving at 6 pm. We will be doing some publicity to get the word out to the community, and we hope to see more guests in the months ahead.

Anyone interested in being active in this outreach, please call or send me an email. **Suzanne Williamson**

## Committee Fair

On April 23rd, the Elders hosted a *Committee Fair* in Faith Hall during Fellowship Time. Members of the congregation visited each booth to gather information about the various committees, in the hope they will choose one for service to the church.

Committees represented at the fair included: Buildings & Grounds, Christian Education, Community Dinners, Finance, Welcome & Evangelism, and Worship.



Karla and Ella in the CE booth

## 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.

**Vi Morgado, 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, including some from the Church.



The pantry 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 your donations to the Food Pantry on a Tuesday or Thursday between 10 am and 1 pm.

## Missions

At our April meeting, we reviewed a request from Cathie Peacock with Interfaith. Due to the recent storms, the trailer roof of a homebound, Tuolumne County resident collapsed. Through the *Grace Fund at Interfaith*, we contributed \$500 toward the roof repair and mold abatement. We also voted to send \$500 to *Save the Children* for specific relief efforts in the United States due to flooding and/or tornadoes. Finally, with the help of committee members, we were able to purchase \$220 worth of underwear, boys' and girls' sweatpants, leggings and baby wipes as requested by Tina Cruz, Counselor at *Columbia Elementary*. These will be provided to students in need.

Once again, *Love Tuolumne County* asked our church to participate in their yearly efforts to serve our county by volunteering for a project, which will benefit its citizens. Last year, we wrote notes of encouragement and hope to senior citizens and chose to do the same project this year. Thank you to Jennie Moiso, Betty Egan, Denella Kimura, Margie Fooshee, Sheri Pendleton, Judy Nason, Judy Haughton, Carol Sturgis and Ella Reid. Even Travis Reid drew a picture on one of the notecards. Because of everyone's effort, we were able to deliver 116 notes to the Senior Center. The cards will then be distributed through Meals on Wheels. We were told the recipients greatly appreciate their notes and proudly display them.

Our next meeting will be May 16, at 2:00 pm in Faith Hall.

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

## Allen Graham, Missionary

Hello dear Church of the 49ers family! It was good to be with you again a few weeks ago. Thank you for the kind gift for the ministry and for your prayers this past month.

I hope you were able to take some time to pray for Ramadan using the prayer points that I shared in last month's Nugget. Only the Holy Spirit knows the impact of those prayers.

In April, the radio station asked listeners for donations of food, clothing, and home supplies to help the victims of an earthquake and a landslide in March in Ecuador. The response was good, but more is still needed. Will you please be praying for this?



The heavy rains in Guayaquil have caused several power outages for the station and the generator for the main frequency needs to be replaced. The road to the transmitter site has experienced a lot of erosion and the local authorities are not able to maintain it. As such, the engineer handling the generator problem was not able to get to the site to detail what needs to be replaced. A few weeks ago, he was finally able to get

there and assess the current installation. I will meet with him in the first week of May to analyze the report. Please pray for God's provision for the necessary funds to buy and install a new generator as soon as possible.

Here is a testimony from an HCJB2 listener who sent a text message to the station. One of our Donor Care assistants then called her. It turns out that her mother had passed away a short time ago. The mother was a faithful listener and donor to the station. The daughter, with mixed feelings, expressed the following: "Thank you because God uses HCJB2 amid the pain. I never understood why my mom listened so much and why she donated. It didn't seem right to me. Now that she is not with us, I listen to the radio and agree with my beautiful mother. In these hard moments, it refreshes my heart. Thanks to my mother for donating so that today through the radio I can learn about Jesus." Praise God for allowing the station to minister to their audience in such a relevant manner.

Please don't stop praying for the violence and insecurity in Ecuador and especially in Guayaquil where I live. The situation continues to worsen. At the end of April, the national government made some strategic moves to confront this serious problem. Please pray that these steps will be effective. Pray also that the music and messages of the station will be a source of comfort and peace for our audience.

Thanks for your prayers and gifts that allow me to serve with Reach Beyond through Radio HCJB2. Have a great month of sharing Christ wherever God may lead you! Please take a moment to tell me about it!

**Allen**

# Pentecost: The Birthday of the Church

**Editor's Note:** The following article on Pentecost was written by Rev. Hilary Livingston and found on the website of Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church in Newark, Delaware.

We are approaching Pentecost - a time when we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the early followers of Jesus in Jerusalem. Pentecost originated in the Jewish tradition, and was known as Shavuot or "The Feast of Weeks"—a prominent feast in the calendar of ancient Israel celebrating the giving of the Law to Moses at Sinai.

In many Christian traditions, Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter (the original Jewish feast of Pentecost was celebrated 50 days after Passover). The liturgical color for Pentecost is red. Traditionally, Christians wear red in worship on Pentecost to symbolize the tongues of fire that descended upon the early followers who were receiving the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is often called "**the birthday of the church**" because it is the day when Jesus' followers together received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as promised by God. They became Jesus' witnesses, preaching the good news of his life, death and resurrection to everyone

in the power of the Spirit. Together, they carried on the work of God's Kingdom, and gathered together for prayer, fellowship, teaching and worship. This is the same work the church is to carry on today.

The story of the first Pentecost is recorded in the Bible in the Book of Acts. On the Jewish feast of Pentecost, the disciples were gathered. "And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire,

appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability" (Acts 2:2-4). After Peter's rousing sermon, the people ask how they should respond, and Peter replies, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him" (Acts 2:38-39). After this, those who accepted this message were baptized, and "they devoted themselves

to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42).

Pentecost is a special season of hope for Christians. Often we get discouraged in our work. We lament that people don't come to church the way they used to. Society doesn't seem as interested in God or Jesus or the Bible like it did in the past. Pentecost reminds us that God is still at work in our world and in our church. Early followers of Jesus faced many of the same issues we face – they too lived in a culture that was hostile to Jesus. At times, it was difficult to be a follower of Jesus. Yet, the early church had the power of the Holy Spirit. They had the teachings of the Apostles. They had each other. They prayed and had fellowship with one another. And, by God's grace, others continued to join them in their mission. We have the same Holy Spirit the first Christians had. We have the Apostles' teaching, and we have each other. We can carry on the same mission to which Jesus called and empowered the first Christians on that Pentecost Sunday long ago. Let us live into the hope of Pentecost!

**Pastor Hilary Livingston**  
Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church  
Newark, Delaware

## Memorial Day Salute

Monday, May 29, 11:00 am  
Columbia Cemetery



The ceremony is about 30 minutes, including prayers, information on Memorial Day, singing of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *Taps* on the bugle, and a black powder musket salute to those buried in a section of the cemetery. Conducted by the Columbia Militia and the Columbia Grenadine Belles. See Leslie Davis for more information.



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



The Children's Ministry has been busy again this past month! We have had as many as 15 children recently between the two Sunday school classes, averaging about 8 most Sundays.

With steady attendance in these classes, we are in need of steady volunteers to lead them. At the Committee Fair on Sunday April 23rd, we received multiple sign-ups for alternates. If you are interested in helping, we do offer the option to sit-in on any class, any day, to see what we do before making any commitments. See Karla if interested. I am so thankful to those who felt it in their heart to help out! I know your presence will be a blessing to the children!

Looking into May, we have another **Family Movie Night** planned for Saturday, May 27th, at 5 pm. The featured movie will be *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*, which is the sequel to our last movie. Like always, this is a free event for our church and community, all are welcome to attend. Please take some flyers that are around the church and give them to friends and family to help promote the event.



Ella, Angie, Chap in Sunday School

We are looking for donations for the Movie Night raffle. Items we have raffled in the past include gift cards to fast food restaurants, movie theater gift cards, and a movie themed gift basket (popcorn, popcorn butter, popcorn seasonings). If you have any questions regarding donations, contact Karla Reid.

## Senior Version of "Jesus Loves Me"

*Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.*

*CHORUS—sing after each verse.  
YES, JESUS LOVES ME.  
YES, JESUS LOVES ME.  
YES, JESUS LOVES ME,  
FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.*

*Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.*

*When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song..  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."*

*When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.*

*I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.*

**Submitted by Darrol Davis**

## Cinco de Mayo

Did you know the very first Cinco de Mayo was a spontaneous celebration in Columbia, California? It was 161 years ago - 7.5 years after the Church of the 49ers was founded -when word was received in Columbia that the Battle of Puebla had been won 3 weeks earlier.

Columbia is going all out this year for Cinco de Mayo, and you are invited to join the festivities.

### Friday, May 5, 5 to 10 pm:

Street Dance, featuring live music by the Mario Flores Latin Jazz Band and Rod Harris on saxophone.

### Saturday, May 6, 11 am to 5 pm:

The celebration continues beginning at 11 am with Latin music, a folkloric dance troupe from Columbia College, pop-up vendors market featuring arts and crafts. A Mariachi band will perform from 11-4 pm. An indoor interpretive exhibit on the history and significance of Cinco de Mayo will be in the Miners Hall located in front of the chicken coop.

Throughout the event, festivalgoers will have an opportunity to learn about the interesting, interwoven history and destinies of Mexico, California, and the US. Local restaurants will feature authentic and traditional Mexican specials.

The Battle of Puebla was fought during the Second French intervention in Mexico and took place on May 5, 1862, near Puebla City, Mexico. The battle ended in a victory for the Mexican Army over the potent French Army and was significant and a morale booster because the victorious Mexican Army was greatly out-numbered and out-gunned. When word of the Mexican victory reached the gold camps in California, it was joyously received by the proud Latino citizenry and a spontaneous celebration erupted in Columbia, marking one of the first known Cinco de Mayo celebrations in the United States.



## BOOK REVIEW

By Denella Kimura

### “The Love Stories of the Bible Speak”

By Shannon Bream

In her new book, *The Love Stories of the Bible Speak: Biblical Lessons on Romance, Friendship, and Faith*,” Shannon Bream explores different aspects of biblical love in both marriage and close friend relationships, and how they illustrate God’s perfect love for us.

Bream differentiates between romantic love and friendship according to how the ancient world worked: “[Today] the love and fidelity of friendships can often be relegated to a kind of ‘runner-up’ status in the sweepstakes of love. . . [but then] Marriage was largely about obligation, but friendship was about choice . . . [they] valued friendship over marriage because their culture viewed marriage as a legal agreement primarily dealing with property and assets. (pp 156-157)

David’s love life has good examples of all these relationships. David’s proposal to Abigail came after her husband died. By marrying her, her property went to David as her new husband. I think her skill as a peacemaker was very attractive to David who was on the run from King Saul at the time. But the romance between David and Bathsheba was a more powerful romantic love relationship which Bream explores in her earlier books.

However, David’s friendship with Jonathan is one of the most powerful in Scripture. In I Samuel 18, Jonathan became “one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.” Jonathan, knowing that David had been anointed as the next king by Samuel, made a covenant with his new friend as well as



giving David his robe, his tunic, his sword and his bow. Later, this friendship commitment of love was to save David’s life.

Some of the legal aspects of marriage are shown in the book of Ruth. I’m sure there was a romantic attraction between Ruth and Boaz as she gleaned in his barley fields. However, Boaz is a relative of Naomi’s and could act as a kinsman redeemer. But his claim stood behind another nearer cousin whose closer relationship meant he had the first right of refusal to marry Ruth and raise her children to inherit her first husband’s land. Thankfully he refused, and Boaz and Ruth became the grandparents to David, and are included in the ancestry of Jesus. God is a God of second chances.

Shannon Bream also examines failed marriage relationships as well as the successful ones. Adam and Eve failed to obey God and paid a terrible price not only for themselves, but unleashed sin and death into the world.

Samson and Delilah---Jews weren’t supposed to marry or have relations with someone outside their faith. But Samson had not taken his Nazarene vows seriously, breaking them almost from

the beginning---except for his hair, of course. And (spoiler alert) that’s how Delilah betrayed him to his enemies.

But the story of Hosea and Gomer is an allegory of God’s passionate, forgiving, long suffering love for Israel. Bream sums it up, “Hosea’s heavenly assignment was to enter a marriage that would serve as a real-life picture of the decaying relationship between God and His people.” (p. 259)

In Hosea 2:19, the “love” of God is translated from Hebrew as *hesed*, which is “[a] covenant term, wrapping up in itself all the positive attributes of God: love, covenant faithfulness, mercy, grace, kindness, loyalty---in short, acts of devotion and loving-kindness that go beyond the requirements of duty.” (p. 265)

God then told Hosea to go and redeem his wife and live with her, and change the names of their children from “Not my God” to “You are my God.” Because God is the one who redeems and restores his people, and that love should be lived out in our marriages, and our friendships. It should reveal the beauty of the Lord’s salvation to those around us because of God’s love in our lives.

I love the depth of thought, character descriptions, and the scripture based examples that make the reader think. It felt like I was delving into the meat of what God wants me to know about love. Her personal examples are really interesting, and it was a good read.

“The Love Stories of the Bible Speak” is available at your Church of the 49ers library in Room 3 in the education building. Ask Michelle Kidwell, our librarian if you need assistance.

**Denella Kimura**

# May 2023 Calendar

Weekly Sunday worship service at 10 am, and:

May 1, 6:00 pm: Community Dinner in Faith Hall

May 2, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

May 2, 5:30 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

May 4, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

May 4, 11:0 am: Ladies Lunch Bunch at Applebee's

May 9, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

May 9, 5:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

May 10, 10:30 am: Buildings & Grounds in Lower Sanctuary

May 11, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

May 13, 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast at Papa's New Roost

May 14: **MOTHER'S DAY**

May 16, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

May 16, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office

May 16, 2:00 pm: Missions Committee in Faith Hall

May 18, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

May 21, 11:30 am: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration in FH

May 21, 11:30 am: Deacons Meeting in CE Room 3

May 21, 1:00 pm: Handbell Rehearsal in L. Sanctuary

May 21, 1-4 pm: Just Dance! in Faith Hall

May 23, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

May 23, 5:30 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

May 24, 2:00 pm: Session Meeting in CE Room 3

May 25, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

May 27, 5:00 pm: Movie Night in Faith Hall

May 29: **MEMORIAL DAY**



First Presbyterian Church  
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!