

Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Words from the Pastor

“Later they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Jesus to catch him in his words. They came to him and said, ‘Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay or shouldn’t we?’ But Jesus knew their hypocrisy. ‘Why are you trying to trap me?’ he asked. ‘Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.’ They brought the coin, and he asked them, ‘Whose image is this? And whose inscription?’ ‘Caesar’s,’ they replied. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.’ And they were amazed at him.

Mark 12:13-17

With the calendar turning to July, the collective thoughts of our country inevitably turn to Independence Day and the celebration of the founding of our great country, the United States of America. Independence Day celebrations are always a lot of fun as we remember all of the sacrifices that our ancestors made to establish this country and set it up as the land of the free.

However, in my mind, it also brings up an issue that I think is important for all Christians to consider: how do we faithfully live as both part of the church and the state? How do we exist as citizens of the United States and citizens of the Kingdom of God when it seems like those two realms are increasingly at odds with one another? And, I think that



Jesus’ answer to the Pharisees and Herodians in this passage points us to the answer to those questions.

First, to live faithfully as citizens of both the United States and the Kingdom of God, this passage points us to the fact that we must understand how we are called to give the proper fidelity to both the church and the state; how being a Christian doesn’t give us license to escape our obligations as citizens of the United States. As Christians, the Bible makes it very clear that we are called to follow the rules and regulations of our land as established by the duly appointed government; this is certainly made clear in Jesus’ command to give back to Caesar that which is Caesar’s.

However, this doesn’t mean that we have to agree with everything, nor does it preclude us from speaking out against laws and policies that we feel are unfair, unjust, or just outright wrong; for example, we can certainly speak out against excessive taxation by the government, but that does not mean that we are absolved by God from paying that tax. The only time we should even consider outright breaking the law is if the law is in direct violation of Scripture; for example, if the government decided to make it illegal to own and read a Bible, we would have an obligation to break that law. Outside of direct violations of Scripture however, we Christians are commanded to submit to the laws imposed by the civil authority that is our government.

July 2023

Second, this passage points us to the importance of understanding that God does not intend for us to establish a theocratic state. Too many Christians concern themselves with trying to shape and conform our government and the laws of our land to the church and Scripture; they think that it is our Christian duty to make this a Christian nation and are willing to do whatever is necessary to make that happen. But, that is not the mission that God has given His church nor is it what He wants us to be occupying ourselves with.

Rather, what He wants is for us to share the Gospel, to speak His truth in every situation and with everyone we encounter so that they, too, might come to a saving knowledge of Him. That is our job as we await His return where He WILL set up a Kingdom that is ruled and governed by Him and according to His Law and His will.

Jesus was alive during the time of the corrupt Roman Empire; yet, He never once called for a revolution or a rebellion; He never called for any kind of overthrow of the government. Instead, as we see in our passage, He taught to give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s. And the reason that Jesus never called for the overthrow of the oppressive Roman regime is because He had a much more important task, overthrowing Satan and his dominion of sin and death. Again, I’m not saying that we shouldn’t stand up or speak out for what we believe in; in fact, it is important that we do that.

Continued on Page 4. See “Pastor”

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

GOLDEN NUGGET

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

Worship Services 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 June 28th Session meeting:

- Come to the July 4th hot dog BBQ with drinks and popcorn from 12 to 2:30! Wear a patriotic sash provided by the church and march in the Columbia parade behind the 49er fire engine driven by Roger Haughton. Follow it back to church for food in Faith Hall and games for kids outside. Our beautiful Sanctuary will also be open for visitors.
- While Pastor Keith is on vacation July 18 through August 1, Pastor Chuck Westgate will preach July 23 and 30.
- Session approved Pastor Keith and Karla to organize a “Younger Adults—Middle-Lifers” small group ministry. Note your interest on the contact slip.
- Children’s Ministries is growing with up to 16 children attending! Karla does all the program planning, so get involved as a teacher or aide. It’s rewarding to help these kids grow in their faith.
- The new CE restroom is now complete! Many thanks to all the hard workers!
- We had 7 participate in the latest Inquirer’s Class, and 5 new Covenant Partners joined our church! WELCOME!
- As the chair of the Fellowship Committee, Suzanne Williamson leads a talented team of helpers who prepare and set up the tasty treats after church services. With our growing congregation, they can use more volunteers to bring food and help, so sign up with Suzanne. The next Monday Community Dinner is July 10 at 6 pm.
- Session thanked Judy and Roger Haughton for serving as Elders. Our prayers go with them in their new health challenges.

Doreen Bass, Co-Clerk of Session

Congregational Meeting June 25: Tom Kimura and Betty Egan were each elected to serve as Elders; and Victoria Dinesh-Balaraman, Vi Morgado and Rose Shaffer were elected as Deacons.

CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 1 through June 30, 2023
(exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Actual	Difference Over/(Under)
Total Income	\$19,053	\$34,451	\$15,398
Expense	\$20,014	\$23,704	\$3,690

Mortgage Balance as of June 30: **\$108,668.32**
Minimum Monthly Mortgage Payment: **\$1,560.70**
Addtl Principal paid through June 30: **\$500.00**



Be certain to come early to get good seats on Sunday, July 9, when the 49er Chancel Bell Choir will be ringing our praises to the Lord during the worship service.

Doreen Bass, Head Ding-A-Ling (Director)

Send your articles and Family News items for the August 2023 issue of the *Golden Nugget* by July 26 to Leslie at davisgold@gmail.com, or call 209-559-7723.

49er Family News

Grieving

Family and friends of **Donna Cretan**, who died unexpectedly on June 5 at the age of 88.

Family and friends of **Bernice Ray**, who died on May 30 at the age of 98. Bernice was our longest-living member of this church, having joined at the age of 13 in 1939.



Parish Nursing

Valerie McCale, Parish Nurse, will provide free Blood Pressure Checks on Sunday, July 9, in Faith Hall following the worship service.



Line Dancing

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

The first-Thursday monthly women's no-host luncheon will be at Columbia Kate's Teahouse on **Thursday, July 6, at 11:00 am**. Call Denella Kimura at 209-532-6561 to sign up.

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



July Birthdays

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

July 1	Larry Lincoln
July 6	Shelly Goularte
July 9	Brynna Neves
July 10	Deb Johnson
July 10	Ric Johnson
July 11	Kathi Lewis
July 12	Keith Reid
July 15	Jordan Warford
July 21	Sheri Pendleton
July 21	Travis Reid
July 21	John Etheridge
July 21	John Aguilar
July 24	Carl Rudolph
July 27	Carolyn Rich
July 27	Judy Scott
July 31	Carol Kent

Happy Anniversary!

No known wedding anniversaries, but July 1st is Rev. Keith Reid's fourth anniversary as pastor of the Church of the 49ers.



Taking a Summer Break...

- Pastor Keith's Bible Study
- Women's Bible Study
- Men's Bible Study
- Men's Breakfast Fellowship



From the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

But what I am saying is simply that the job of every Christian is to spread the good news of the Gospel. Our witness to Jesus Christ will be hindered if people look at us and see us as trying to force our beliefs upon them, unwilling to follow the law of the land, and acting rebellious against our government.

But, by showing our willingness to be good citizens while also standing up and speaking out for what we know is right and for the truth of the Gospel, we are putting ourselves in a much better position for the Gospel message to be heard and accepted. Let the state be the state and let God be its judge; our mission is to share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, there is nothing that should take precedence over that.

Third, this passage points us to the importance of understanding that we must be unwavering in our fidelity to God and to His will. When Jesus was approached with the questioning of the Pharisees and Herodians that was clearly meant to entrap Him, He didn't coddle His questioners, He didn't waver in His message, He didn't merely humor them for the sake of preserving Himself; no, He told them the truth straight. We must follow that example and stand firm and speak up for what we know to be right and what we know to be wrong according to His Word. But, we do it in a respectful way as responsible citizens so that God will be glorified and no one has the ammunition to speak against Him.

Finally, the fourth thing this passage teaches, and the point Jesus was trying to get across when He said "give to God what is God's," is the importance of understanding that, just as we are obligated to give the government what is theirs, that is the money that they have printed and have authority over, we are also obligated to give God what is His, that is our lives, our very selves.

Our money, in many ways, belongs to our government because it bears the images of our government; we belong to God because He created us in His image. Therefore, where the government can make claims on things such as our money, God makes a claim on our very being; as such, being a Christian is a full-time job: It is about completely and totally devoting yourself to God, His Word, and His will; it is about understanding that there is no part of your life that is "outside" of His sovereign authority; it means sharing the Gospel even if you are nervous or scared; it means trying to live and behave like Jesus anywhere and everywhere you are and no matter what you are doing.

It also means that you are making time every day to spend in prayer and in the reading of Scripture no matter how busy you are or what else you have going on. It means making God the #1 priority in your life and not just fit Him in wherever you can when you have a moment of free time. It means getting up on Sunday morning and going to church even when you want to sleep in. It means turning the other cheek and forgiving someone who has wronged you.

Submitting to the authority of the government no matter which side of the political aisle you're on means treating everybody with the love and respect they deserve as children of God. THAT is what it means to give to God what is His because what is His is every breath you take, every blink of your eye, every thought you think, every word you speak. What is His is your entire life, your entire existence...so give it over to Him.

Sermons and Scripture

Sermon Series:
**"The General Epistles:
Exhortations On Godly Living"**

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.

July 2

Communion

NT: Revelation 1:1-8
Sermon: Exodus 3:1-14

July 9

OT: Isaiah 48:12-17
Sermon: John 8:54-59;
Romans 8:9-11

July 16

OT: Isaiah 53
Sermon: John 14:1-7

July 23

Rev. Chuck Westgate preaching

July 30

Rev. Chuck Westgate preaching

This 4th of July, as we are honoring and celebrating all of the commitment and sacrifice that it took to establish our country, let's also remember that, while we are all citizens of the United States of America, we are, first and foremost, citizens of the Kingdom of God. And, let us remember that we are called to faithfully live out our lives under this dual citizenship.

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

Pastor Keith



The Sunday School room, CE2, is in need of several volunteers this month: one on July 23 and two on July 30.

For the month of July, we are taking a break from Family Movie Night. We will resume in August, details TBD.

During the church's Fourth of July BBQ, kids activities will be available. These activities include bubbles, chalk, car race track, corn hole, ring toss, and more!

Last month, all of the Sunday School teachers and aides over the past year gathered together for an appreciation lunch at El Arroyo Restaurant. This was a great time for fellowship and thanks for all their dedicated work. If interested in joining our team, see Karla Reid.



Karla Reid, Director of Children's Ministries

The Sunday School Pre-K kids have been enjoying more hands-on and interactive Bible story lessons. Recent lessons have included Jonah and the Whale, Daniel in the Lions Den, a special Father's Day craft, David and Goliath, and more to come in July!



2023 Financial Review Results

First of all, how many of you enjoy balancing your check book?

Well, multiply that by many times and you have the balancing the Church of the 49ers Office Administrator has to do monthly. The church's Finance Committee and Office Administrator use guidance from ECO guidelines in matters of safe financial practices. For example, when we deposit your check or cash offering, the following occurs:

- At least two unrelated people (an elder and church administrator) count the weekly church offering for deposit and prepare the deposit slip.
- Counting occurs weekly in a safe location
- Deposit slips are stamped by the Bank of Stockton staff and given to the Office Administrator for recording and comparison to the bank statement.

- Annually, the Session approves the signatories on church bank accounts. Two unrelated elders are authorized by Session to sign checks.
- Bank account reconciliation is performed monthly and reviewed by the finance committee.
- Annual review is completed and reported to the Session and made available to the congregation.

To verify that the Church of the 49ers' financial procedures are being done correctly, in 2022 we hired an independent third party to review our financial procedure.

Hawks and Associates, CPA is a local financial firm hired to do a financial review of the 49er Church financial procedures. Hawks, CPA is required to be independent of the 49er Church.

A number of financial reports were provided Hawks and Associates to complete the financial review. The review began in July 2022 and was completed in May 2023. There were seven analysis and evaluation procedures associated with the review. They were:

1. Transfer between funds
2. Cash handling and deposits
3. Reimbursement of expenses
4. Payroll processing
5. Banking and reconciliations
6. Due to/due from accounts
7. Donor restriction accounts

To summarize the three-page review, Hawks, CPA did not find any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in their 49er Church financial review work.

Finances of the church are a very important factor in a healthy church and we are pleased to receive high marks in the 2023 financial review.

Finance committee members are: Jon Whited, Chair, Larry Lincoln, Betty Egan, Lynne Higgins, and Tom Kimura. Also present during the meetings are Rev. Keith Reid and Office Administrator Deb Johnson. It should be noted that Jim Brandt prior to moving to Placerville, CA has been a member and chair of the finance committee for many years.

Tom Kimura,
Finance Committee Member

Ministry/Committee News

Deacons

- Your Deacon Board welcomes new Deacons: Victoria Dinesh-Balaraman, Vi Morgado, and Rose Shaffer. Doreen Bass is returning for another term.
- The Deacons are responsible for preparing the elements, setting up the Communion table, and cleaning up after the service.
- Any homebound parishioner may request Communion, and Deacons will schedule a visit to present the Communion service.
- Each Deacon is given a Care List of members and attending friends of the congregation listed in our 49er Church Directory. We regularly pray for each person and try to contact everyone by phone, email, or postal service.
- The Deacon Fund supports the Fellowship Committee, Interfaith, Memorial Receptions, Grief Booklets, and anyone requesting emergency financial assistance. These funds depend on voluntary contributions, so if you would like to support these efforts, please designate the Deacon Fund with your donation.

Doreen Bass, Deacon Secretary

Monday Night Community Dinners

Community Dinner – July’s Monday Community Dinner is being held this month on the **second Monday, July 10**. We are hoping this will not cause confusion, but because the 4th of July falls on a Tuesday we will be busy hosting a free Hot Dog lunch after the parade. We thought it best to spread these two events out.

Last month we had a good turnout from the community, but not so many from our church. Please consider coming next Monday, July 10, to spend some time with friends and neighbors. I like to remember what Pastor Keith said to our committee after he attended several dinners back in 2019: “We want to not only feed their bodies but we also would like to fill their souls.” For this to happen we need **YOU!**

Suzanne Williamson

Missions Committee

Judy and Roger Haughton completed their terms as Elders and so are no longer chairing the Missions Committee. A new chair will be announced in July. The regularly-scheduled Missions Committee meeting of July 17 has been canceled.

Judy and Roger Haughton

Buildings & Grounds

We are doing a great job as a team. The ADA-compliant restroom is finished. The sink in the kitchen has been reattached. The garbage disposal is not leaking and the switch is working. Our new Janitor Chris is doing a wonderful job. We just installed new locks in the kitchen, and Mark has the shop all together. Thank you, Michelle, for your part in taking minutes, and Sharon for the agenda each month. Thanks also to Mary, Larry, Mark, Greg, Leslie, and Pastor Keith.

The next meeting of the Buildings & Grounds Committee is August 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Betty Egan, B&G Chair

Interfaith News

Interfaith Community Social Services at 18500 Striker Court, Sonora is open week-days 10 am to 1 pm year-round except for holidays. **They are closed July 3 and 4.**

Tuolumne County residents needing assistance are invited to come in once per month for free food, clothing, toiletries, household items, also showers.

Beginning in July, a cosmetologist will be available to give free haircuts each 4th Friday.

Interfaith also offers free legal services 8 am to 1 pm on Fridays by appointment only. Call Legal office at 209-694-3481 for appointment.

Vi Morgado, our Interfaith Liaison, reports that Interfaith is especially seeking donations of plastic grocery bags, and toiletries. You may deliver your donations to Interfaith Tuesdays through Fridays between 10 am and noon, but it’s best to call first at 209-532-0905. Or, you may give them to Vi to take to Interfaith.

Nancy’s Hope Food Pantry

The food pantry is hosted by the Church of the 49ers and operated by Nancy’s Hope with volunteers. It is located in the lower level of the Christian Education building and open to the public Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am to 2 pm.

BOOK REVIEW

By Denella Kimura

CHOICES CHANGES

By Joni Eareckson Tada

In her book "Choices Changes," Joni Eareckson Tada takes us through three significant areas of her life: her movie, her ministry and her marriage. In each area, Joni brings her honesty about her hardships through starring in her own movie about herself, her strike for independence and a new ministry to the disabled, and her new relationship with a guy named Ken Tada, a handsome young teacher and athletic coach.

Joni Eareckson Tada's life could have been a cautionary tale of the consequences of diving off a raft in water that was too shallow. In her case, the famous dive left Joni a quadriplegic. She could have lived in an institution for the rest of her life, but she found God who gave her a purpose and a ministry.

"Choices Changes" begins with Joni making a movie about her life-defining injuries and how God gave her a testimony of her struggle for faith and value. But the experience of reliving her memories left her doubting who she was, and worried that she failed to stay humble through the experience.



Ken Tada and Joni Eareckson Tada

Once the movie, "Joni," was completed, we begin to see her daily struggles through seemingly [to us] ordinary things; she decided to move to the Los Angeles area where she could do strength building exercises at a local rehab. There she saw other people with similar problems to her own, and began making friends and developing a ministry that encouraged them to not give up, but develop their own strengths so that they could also do many things that she could do.

Then she spotted this guy by the back of his head [hair style?]. Joni began praying, *"Father, if this man knows You, get him deeper into Your Word . . . Save him if he's not in Your family. Strengthen him. Refine his faith . . . sustain his health . . . guard his mind . . . deepen his friendships . . . make him into the man*

You want him to be." After praying this prayer, Joni's heart was "filled with honest-to-goodness joy." And she hadn't even met him yet. I love this part of her story, because she found someone who loved her like Jesus.

But there is also another surprising part of the story. Joni was a friend to Corrie ten Boom. Joni, sensing that Corrie was failing and not able to carry on her own ministry, visited Corrie a few weeks before her death. The first time Joni met Corrie, Corrie said, "I will dance with you in heaven." Joni accepted this promise with delight; and when she attended Corrie ten Boom's funeral, it became her "rain check" in heaven for a dance with a friend.

Denella Kimura

As water reflects a faith, so a man's heart reflects the man.

Proverbs 27:19

4th of July



Columbia's Glorious 4th of July Celebration begins at 11 am with a concert by the Lucky CuZn Brass Band on Main Street—entertainment for the crowd as they anticipate the parade which will step off at noon. Roger Haughton is driving his 1932 Chevy firetruck in the parade this year, and welcomes our congregation members to "jump aboard" for the four-block parade up Main Street (some will be walking). Meet the firetruck at the church by 11 am, as our parade entry needs to be in line in front of the Fallon Hotel no later than 11:45.

The crowd of spectators will be invited to join us up at the church following the parade for lunch, featuring hot dogs, chips and drinks inside air-conditioned Faith Hall. **Leslie Davis**

Finance Report to our Covenant Partners

There have been so many improvements to our buildings and equipment that it is hard to think of all that we have been able to accomplish through the loan secured by our church membership. Planned improvements or repairs to our Church, Faith Hall and the Christian Ed building have been largely accomplished and the Church Capitalization funds used.

Our church looks so improved that it gives the community visual proof that we are vibrant and growing. When community members or ECO church members visit, the comments are always that we have such beautiful facilities. And the truth is that we are growing when so many churches suffer losses in members and finances.

The very next big project is to install a solar system for the church. This will enable lower payments for utilities that will be significantly less than what we now pay, and very significantly lower future cost of living increases in the future. With the installation of the new solar system our electric utilities will stay at 2023 rates for the next 15 years. We are financing this effort through church members with already pledged or gifted funds of \$61,000 toward the \$91,000 cost. The cost savings projections indicate that the project will pay off in less than five years, and beyond that save the church considerable funds in the future. With enough pledges or gifts, it can be paid off this year.

The utilities savings will enable us to expand our services in our planned youth programs and pastoral services.

We expect to pay back this year from our reserve funds used during the COVID epidemic restrictions the full amounts “borrowed” from our reserves. And we expect to be debt free as a church within the next five years. Just think of all our church has accomplished in the last five years. And we will own our church and grow.

That is what has happened by our members being active in our loan program and church improvements. We talk a lot about being active with our faith, and you, our members, have shown the community we are alive and growing. The truth is that we are now attractive to our community.

The next year will be a pivotal year for our church finances. The indications are positive and show us to be active and headed toward stable growth. With the completion of our solar project and final payment for that project, we should be in a stronger financial position.

I will attach a list of most (I honestly can't remember all the improvements) of what your funds have contributed and made possible. So look around when you come to church and give thanks to all the hands and pocketbooks that have made our church so vibrant in our community.

Jon Whited
Finance Chair

List of Projects Completed with the Semble Loan or Designated Gifts

- Replaced CE Building roof and gutters
- Painted CE building, replacing some siding
- New ADA-accessible restroom in CE building
- Painted and redecorated three CE classrooms
- New flooring and heat/cool mini-splits in three CE classrooms
- Created new space for Nancy's Hope Food Pantry in two CE downstairs rooms, including new floors and cupboards, painting of interior, new steps and sidewalk platform
- Installed sump pump under office to provide better draining and keep Sadie Nichols Room dry
- Installed sump pump under bell tower to keep Lower Sanctuary dry
- Leveled office floor
- Replaced two windows in pastor's office
- Added 2 heat/cool mini-splits in office building
- Painted office building exterior
- New siding/battens on two sides of Sanctuary
- Installed new gutters on the Sanctuary
- Replaced emergency stairway from Sanctuary
- Replaced stairs behind CE building
- New sound and monitor systems in Sanctuary
- New internet to Sanctuary to enable videos of services shut ins and YouTube distribution
- Two new furnaces in Sanctuary
- New carpet in Sanctuary
- New pew cushions in Sanctuary
- New spotlights in Sanctuary
- LED lighting installed in Faith Hall
- Roof repairs to Faith Hall
- Roof improvements to Faith Hall
- Upgraded sound system in Faith Hall
- New stove to enable community dinners preparation

Pastor Lee Retirement

With tears of joy and appreciation beyond the greatest stretch of imagination, I share my love for every one of you and find NO need to disagree with a single thought expressed in our Holy Spirit ordained gathering. I share the importance



of "focus" as not only our continuing position of contact with Him but, also, at times of great need. "Focus" Phil 4:6 "Fix your thoughts on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."

Speaking now of 'Relationship,' only and not specifically of 'healing,' which captured a major part of our conversation, the meeting on June 11 was not, nor did God intend it to be simply a "happy hour," rather an APPOINTMENT!! The world needs the 'church' (ekklesia) however, we cannot give away something we do not own and our meeting, ordained by God, is a part of the 21st Century introduction of his plan. God's people are moving to begin an understanding of 'cause' and the elimination of the 'effects,' i.e. we must move in the highest level of Spiritual fitness. My instructions: "Retail ALL of your thoughts from that infamous meeting, build on them and allow Him to continue instructing. Keep in your minds and your anointed voices obliterating the worthless chatter of the world. Finally, II Cor. 1:21. Calendar for recall as the time of God's promise, June 11, 2023.

Pastor Lee Warford



Retirement Party for Pastor Lee June 11

Allen Graham, Missionary

Dear Church of the 49ers family, thanks for your prayers in June! What a privilege to be able to journey together with you.

I'm writing from the city of Loja, which is the capital of one of the southern provinces in Ecuador, near the border with Perú. One of my coworkers, Enrique, and I have just finished three days of training with the teams from OE Radio (Waves of Hope) and Good Shepherd Radio. For more than twenty years, both stations have been fully funded by their respective mission organizations. They now have the opportunity to raise support from their local audiences and contacted me to share the experience that we have had at the stations in Guayaquil and Quito. They are in the exact



Training with the staff and volunteers of OE Radio and Good Shepherd Radio, Loja Province

same place that we were 22 years ago, so we fully understand their concerns, questions and fears. It has been a special time for Enrique and me to talk about what we've done right, what we've done wrong, and to be a part of both stations taking these steps to become fully funded by their own listeners. Please pray for these colleagues as they put into practice what we've taught and for God to bless their efforts and ministries through radio in the Loja Province, which is estimated to have less than 2% evangelical presence. Loja is a stronghold of the Catholic church in Ecuador.

Thank you for praying for the repairs on the backup generator for HCJB2's Guayaquil transmitter site. There have been a few delays, but in a note that I received from the electrical engineer today, he is confident the reinstallation should be done by the end of this week. As I said last month, please pray for his safety and that of his team as they complete this process.

Our station in Guayaquil must replace a key piece of equipment. The current unit is now 21 years old. It has served us very well but is now giving us some problems. We have decided on a supplier and are now looking for funding to complete the purchase, shipment to Ecuador and installation. I have contacted several foundations and am waiting for their responses. Will you please pray for God's provision to help us make this purchase?

Please continue to pray for the violence which is gripping Ecuador and especially Guayaquil where I live. I'm sure that I sound like a broken record as I've mentioned this several times. Thanks for praying for protection for our team. Please pray also as we strive to share hope and encouragement with our listeners. May they know the peace that can only come from God even amid trials and tribulations.

Thank you for sharing this ministry with me through your gifts and most of all through your faithful prayers. To God be the glory and honor! **Allen**

July 2023 Calendar

Weekly Sunday worship service at 10 am, and:

July 4: Columbia's 4th of July Parade 12 pm
Hot Dog BBQ Lunch in Faith Hall 12-2:30 pm
July 6, 11:00 am: Ladies Lunch Bunch @ Kate's Teahouse
July 7, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
July 9, 11:30 am: Deacons Meeting in CE Room 3
July 10, 6:00 pm: Community Dinner in Faith Hall
July 11, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
July 13, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

July 16, 11:30 am: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration in FH
July 16, 1 to 4 pm: Just Dance! in Faith Hall
July 18, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
July 18, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office
July 20, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
July 25, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3
July 27, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall
July 30, 11:30 am: History Committee in CE Room 3



First Presbyterian Church
11155 Jackson Street
Columbia, CA 95310

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Address Service Requested

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