# Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

# Words from the Pastor

Dear Church of the 49ers Family,

The Church of the 49ers is involved in many areas and ways to answer God's call to minister in our community. The outcome of these ministries determines our church growth and, most importantly, the growth of God's Kingdom; therefore, it is significant. It is an awesome honor and privilege to be involved in something with such far-reaching-positive impact. As an example, think of all of the community engagement initiatives we have undertaken in the not too distant past. We've hosted concerts by local Christian band the Lack Family which saw many guests and first-time visitors join us. We've hosted many Family Movie Nights, providing a safe and wholesome environment for families to spend meaningful time together. We also hosted a massive Fourth of July hot dog cookout where we were able to serve, and connect with, over 200 members of our community. These are all ways that we have been able to reach out into the community to show them that we are here and we care about them. But, more importantly, they present us with an opportunity to share Jesus with those in our community who may not know Him.

However, ministries like this don't happen on their own, it takes many stewardship functions to make them happen; functions such as: funds, volunteer



hours and service, community involvement, and alliances with other local organizations.

But, this is not the only way in which we are involved in creative ministry and mission. Another example of our outreach is our Outreach Committee. Our church is involved in many ministries in the local community, nationally, and internationally; and the great thing is, if there is a particular ministry you are passionate about (such as Allen Graham, the Deacon Ministry, the Outreach Committee, etc.), you can always give special gifts to those specific ministries by designating your contribution to them. Your financial support and volunteer services help us to transform people's lives through our missions and outreach. When we participate with our time, talent and money we let the community we serve know how much we care; we engage in Christian discipleship through service to our community as it shows others who Jesus is and how much they are loved by the God of the universe.

The Session of the Church of the 49ers thanks you for being a partner in the ministry and mission of the church, and we want to let you know that your on-

### October 2023

going financial contributions are making a difference in the lives of many people. You know the Truth of the Gospel, and through your giving and volunteering of your

time and talents, you are being an example of Christian love by sharing care and concern for members of our community and reaching them with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

In the next few weeks you will be hearing more about how we as a congregation are seeking to grow and answer God's call. As you know, that will require the investment of both our spiritual and financial gifts. Because you already contribute to the church in so many ways, you know the difference your gifts make. Therefore, Session invites you to find the pledge card on Page 5 of this newsletter and cut it out, or pick one up from your pew on Sunday morning; then, we ask that you prayerfully consider how much you will be able to give in the coming year. Consider how you are able to answer the challenge of our continued growth and whether you can take a step up and increase your financial support, as well as volunteering and using your talents for the coming year. After that, we ask you to fill out the pledge card and either drop it in the offering box in the sanctuary or return it to Deb in the church office by November 5.

Continued on Page 4 See "Pastor"

#### **GOLDEN NUGGET**

Published monthly by First Presbyterian Church known as "Church of the 49ers" Editor/Photographer: Leslie Davis

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

#### Office Hours:

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

Worship Services in Sanctuary: Sundays at 10 am

## STAFF

Rev. Keith Reid, 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.

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

## 49er Chancel Handbell Choir

Chancel Bell Ringers have started practicing on Sundays after church in the Lower Sanctuary. We are working on music to perform the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

If you can commit to regular attendance on Sundays 11:45 To 1:15, we can still use new ringers. Contact Doreen at 209-352-3096.

Doreen Bass, Head Ding-A-Ling



#### Sonora Bach Festival Concerts

For nearly fifty years the Sonora Bach Festival has been bringing the enjoyment of classical music to the Mother Lode. Two of their annual concerts will again be held in the Church of the 49ers sanctuary in October, and you're invited.

The **Youth Concert** is Sunday, October 1, beginning at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 at the door. And two weeks later, on Sunday, October 15, they are presenting the **Locals' Concert**, also at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 at the door.

Visit sonorabach.org for more information on these, and the remaining concerts this fall — the Salon Concert and Bach's Brunch scheduled for October 22 and 29 respectively.



Picture of the participants in the 2023 Bach Festival Youth Concert.

# er Famil

The Deacons Memorial Committee wishes to thank everyone who contributed toward the memorial luncheon for Kathy Sudduth on September 16, both fi-

nancially and as volunteers for set up/clean up and food service.

All your contributions made for a wonderful memory for Kathy's family.

Kathy was well-known in this church as an amazing and tire-

less cook, especially for Community Dinners and fundraising events. During the luncheon, Suzanne Williamson, Margie Fooshee, Vi Morgado, and Doug and Patti Lau told stories of Kathy's prowess in the kitchen, and presented Ed





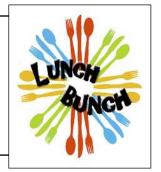
Valerie McCale and Ozell Gilmore, Parish Nurses, will provide free Blood Pressure Checks on Sunday, October 8, in Faith Hall following the worship service.

# **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 Papa's New Roost in Sonora on Thursday, October 5, 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.



# October **Birthdays**

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

	Sept 4	Zollie Ward
•	Oct 3	Teresia Wilson
	Oct 4	Deb Handy
4	Oct 7	Jim Lashbrook
.)	Oct 10	Nancy Whipkey
"/	Oct 15	Brian Annett
	Oct 16	June Perea
V.	Oct 19	Pat Lincoln
	Oct 23	Ella Reid
/	Oct 26	Evie Harris-Fitzsimo
	Oct 26	Kim Mayer
	Oct 27	Valerie McCale
	Oct 27	Sandy Brooks
.4	Oct 31	Sonja Harris
•		

# Happy Anniversary!

10/18/2015: Larry and Pat Lincoln 10/19/1996: Deb and Ric Johnson 10/27/2000: John Aguilar and

Sandy Brooks



For all of you Just Older Youth, our next no-host dinner will be Monday, October 16, at 6:30 pm at Viney's Italian Kitchen in downtown Sonora. If you are in your 20s-40s, we hope to see you there for a time of food and fellowship.

**Pastor Keith** 



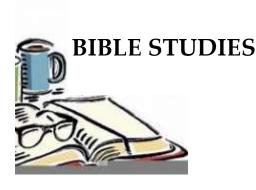
# From the Pastor Continued from Page 1

The practice of generosity is a faith discipline, and I am so grateful for the generosity that you have continued to show throughout the years, specifically during the difficult times in which we have found ourselves in the past few years. As it seems like we are finally truly starting to recover from all of the effects of the pandemic, we are hoping that 2024 will present us with the opportunity to

dive even more fully into our community engagement initiatives. I know in my heart, from talking to many of you, that we all want to be involved with something that really matters in this community; to be a force of hope and love in a lost and broken world. Because of your commitment to the ministry of this church, we have been able to do that in so many ways, and we will continue to be able to do that; we will be able to be an increasingly effective witness for Jesus Christ in Tuolumne and Calaveras counties, and beyond.

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

#### **Pastor Keith**





Judy Nason will resume leading her Women's Bible Study soon—the date is TBD.

Once this weekly study begins, it will include discussion of the remaining books of the Pentateuch: Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

# Sermons and Scripture

Current Sermon Series: "Why We Believe What We Believe"

New Series beginning October 15: "Giving of Ourselves to God"

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.

# October 1 Communion

NT: 1 Corinthians 11:13-16 Sermon: Genesis 2:18-24

#### October 8

OT: Psalm 40:1-10 Sermon: Matthew 28:16-20

#### October 15

OT: Proverbs 11:23-28 Sermon: Matthew 9:35-10:1

#### October 22

OT: Numbers 8:15-26 Sermon: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

#### October 29

OT: Exodus 35:30-36:1 Sermon: 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

## **Tuesday Night Bible Study**

Pastor Keith teaches a Bible study of Isaiah on Tuesday evenings beginning at 6:00 pm in Faith Hall. Dinner is no longer served, but coffee, water and refreshments are available. Join us for this exciting deep dive into the world of Isaiah!

**Pastor Keith** 

Acknowledging	g that all we have is a gift from God, I/we pledge:	
2024 General	Budget	
	Per Month Per Year For local ministries, including worship, education, pastoral service, church care and upkeep, and the world outreach of the church.	
	or ministries such as the Community Outreach fund, n, Deacon fund, Missions Committee, etc. are always	
	addition to your regular offering.	
welcomed in a	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	

Approximate Weekly Commitment Proportionate to Income										
Annual Income	15%	10%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%			
100,000	288	192	135	115	96	77	58			
75,000	216	144	100	87	72	58	43			
60,000	173	115	80	69	58	46	35			
50,000	144	96	67	58	48	38	29			
45,000	130	87	61	52	43	35	26			
40,000	115	77	54	46	38	31	23			
35,000	101	67	47	40	34	27	20			
30,000	87	58	40	35	29	23	17			
25,000	72	48	34	29	24	19	14			
20,000	58	38	27	23	19	15	12			
15,000	43	29	20	17	14	12	9			



Family Movie Night is starting back up on Friday, October 20th, at 5:30pm with "The Prince of Egypt." Join us for this free family event in Faith Hall.

New activities are happening for Church of the 49ers children and youth on Tuesday nights! During Pastor Keith's Isaiah Bible Study, the children are participating in Bible-focused games and activities. The latest of these is a Bible Escape Room game. Our childcare worker is the "Game Master" who holds all the answers, while the children work in teams to find clues and decipher puzzles. The fastest team wins!

Karla Reid, Director of Children's Ministries

# Family Movie Night Oct. 20, 5:30 pm—FREE

\*\*\*\*

The Prince of Egypt is a 1998 animated musical drama film by DreamWorks Pictures. It is an adaptation of the first fourteen chapters of the Book of Exodus and follows the life of Moses from being a prince of Egypt to a prophet of the Lord, chosen by God to carry out his ultimate destiny of leading the Hebrews out of Egypt.

\*\*\*\*



# **Deacon Update**

With help from many volunteers, the Deacons, led by Memorial Chair Rose Shaffer, provided a lovely memorial luncheon for the family of Kathy Sudduth on Saturday, September 15.

After church on September 17, Pastor Keith provided training for Communion servers, which includes all ordained Deacons and Elders—current

and inactive. As Deacon Liaison to the Spiritual Growth Committee, Doreen had agreed to find servers for October 1, so Rose Shaffer, Vi Morgado, Jon Whited, Sharon Poff, and Gwen Harris volunteered.

The Deacons are planning a retreat on Saturday, October 14, from 9:30 am to 2 pm, to focus on how we may better serve our congregation.

**Doreen Bass, Secretary** 

# **Community Dinner October 2**

Our last Community Outreach Dinner for 2023 is being held this Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. As always, we are hoping to have a good representation from our Church family and our friends from the community. Our "chef" for the evening is our own Rose Shaffer! The menu will consist of *Artichoke Parmesan Chicken*, green beans, and of course, dessert! It is my hope to see many of you there!

This was a unique program that was originally planned to be an eight-month outreach, however due to various circumstances it was delayed two months and began in May. There are many of us who are hoping to continue these dinners next year, beginning in March. If you would be interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Gwen Harris or Suzanne Williamson.

Suzanne Williamson

# Allen Graham, Missionary

Dear Church of the 49ers family, how special it was to be with you a few weeks ago. Thanks for your prayers last month.

The presidential runoff election is October 15. Please pray that Ecuadorians will inform themselves well and vote wisely. Pray also for an atmosphere of peace.

The paperwork for the purchase of our new ministry home was delayed. However, it should be completed in the first week of October. Please be praying as we start planning for the needed renovations.

I invite your prayers as I travel to the Ivory Coast on October 13 to teach a five-day training-of-trainers course followed by two days of fundraising workshops at the Africa by Radio Conference.

We have had several touching stories this past month from our listeners. Please let me share them with you.

Rafael\* had made up his mind to go to a witch and later kill his wife because

she had been unfaithful to him. God led him to listen to HCJB2 and he "just happened" to hear a story like his. The Lord spoke to his heart and changed his mind. It was no longer necessary to go to the witch. Instead, he came to the station to talk to one of our counselors and receive prayer. In the photo below you can see several of our team members praying for him.





Angie is a faithful listener to HCJB2. Her five-year-old daughter, Abigail (above), was diagnosed five months ago with liver cancer and has to go to the pediatric unit of a local hospital for cancer patients to receive chemotherapy. Angie says that Abigail always wants to listen to the radio while she is in the hospital because it lifts her spirits. Join us in praying for Abigail. We believe that one day she will be able to come to the station and tell her story in person.

Thank you for letting me share this update with you and thanks in advance for your prayers. May you have a blessed time of personal ministry in October.

#### Allen

\* Name changed to protect his privacy.

## **Interfaith News**

Now that our weather is cooling off, we have some new needs for our clients. We are short on King and Queen size blankets and sheets. Also needed are bath towels, toiletries, white wash cloths (for the shower area), silverware (does not have to match) and candles. None of these items has to be new, just clean with no holes or tears. Another repeat request is for volunteers. Even if you can give us one or two days a month, it would be very helpful—as well as someone who could substitute. Give me a call at 209-532-4358. I can tell you what it entails, or see me at church on Sundays.

# 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, excluding holidays.

Donations of food and seasonal clothing are accepted, as well as toiletries—however they need to be brought on Sunday or on Thursdays between 10 am and 2 pm. Do not drop off any donations after hours, and please, no expired products or damaged clothing.

Michelle Kidwell, Food Pantry Liaison

Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison

#### **BOOK REVIEW**

By Denella Kimura

# THE LAST SUPPER ON THE MOON:

NASA'S 1969 LUNAR VOYAGE, JESUS CHRIST'S BLOODY DEATH, AND THE FANTASTIC QUEST TO CONQUER INNER SPACE

By Levi Lusko

Levi Lusko's "The Last Supper on the Moon" (W Group/Thomas Nelson, 2022) promised this blast off of a book is "Not an end but a beginning. A beginning to a new way to be human. A fresh way to be you—as you were intended to be and are capable of becoming." This is a thoroughly researched Apollo 11 mission to go to the moon as envisioned by President John F. Kennedy in his address to the joint session of Congress on May 25, 1961, "I believe this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth."

Lusko describes his compelling book in his own colorful language, as "a little like a Christian-living book had a baby with a history book—the Frankenstein love child of Max Lucado and David McCullough." I think his writing style is more Max Lucado than the purely historical McCullough.

He adds aspects of the space program as a metaphorical enhancement of the major themes surrounding Jesus' dying on the cross while adding the seven last words of Jesus on the cross, the seven "I AMs" in the book of John, and the seven letters to the churches in the book of Revelation.



His quotes are memorable: From Mark Twain, "Everyone is a moon, and has a dark side which he never shows to anybody." Other *Lusko* quotes from the same chapter:

- The craters and chasms and canyons of your character give texture and color and complexity that sparkle in your heavenly Father's eyes.
- Your shape and size and personality type and spiritual gifts and life experiences all have been carefully calibrated and crafted to create your calling.
- God didn't make a mistake when he fearfully and wonderfully made you in his image.

Here is one example of how Lusko brings it all together—Did you know that Abraham Lincoln had a hand in the space program? In the 1860s, he made the final decision on the width of the train tracks for the transcontinental railroad of 4' 8 ½", the same as the East Coast railroad system, which matched the width of train lines in England, retrofitted from preexisting roads built by the Romans throughout the empire.

How does this connect to the Space program? Parts of the Apollo space

craft, and later the shuttle, were built in Utah and had to be transported to Florida by railroad, and could be no wider than what could be transported on the four feet, eight-and-a-half—inch width of the train tracks.

This unusual fact ties into one of Jesus' great "I AMs" from John 14:6, "I am the way [road], the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Thomas expressed his doubts, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Lusko says, "Thomas's superpower wasn't that he had doubts (like I said, that's all of us) but that he was honest about them. Those doubts prompted Jesus to say, "I AM the Way . . ."

One look at Levi Lusko's 375-page love letter to Jesus and the Apollo 11 crew, "The last Supper on the Moon," appears like a daunting read, but it's like eating an elephant, one chapter at a time. After reading each one, you will have to rest and think about the powerful message before you reset to the next awesome chapter.

In reference to Buzz Aldrin's taking the Lord's Supper after the Eagle landed on the moon, and before Neil Armstrong performed his "one small step for man," Lusko says, "The Last Supper didn't end anything; it began everything. You have a clean slate, a fresh start, and a new heart. No weapon formed against you can prosper (Isaiah 54:17).

Kennedy never saw the completion of the vision he set for America, to land on the moon and return home safely. But when Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong and Michael Collins returned to earth safely, a mysterious flower arrangement appeared on John F. Kennedy's grave site with the note, "The Eagle has landed."

**Denella Kimura 2023** 

# **August Session Highlights**

Many of you may have noticed the "clickers" on Sunday mornings; these are counters to keep track of how many people are in attendance. The reason for the counters is because of recent growth in attendance on Sundays.

Since more visitors are attending, Pastor Keith will hold a Fall Inquirer's Class sometime soon. Stay tuned for that date to be announced.

Tuolumne County Fire Department completed their inspection on 7/27/23. With only a few minor items to correct, the Fire Marshall noted it was an excellent inspection for our first one.

Pastor Keith suggested a restructuring of committees so there will be 7 committees for the 7 Elders to oversee. This will create less workload for each Elder, and hopefully gain more interest in volunteering. Restructuring was approved by session and is now as follows:

Missions and Evangelism combined into the Outreach Committee, Elder Gwen Harris
Welcome and Fellowship combined into the Church Life Committee, Elder Judy Nason
Worship and Christian Education combined into the Spiritual Growth Committee, Elder Suzanne Williamson.
Finance Committee, Elder Jon Whited
Personnel Committee, Elder Sharon Poff
Buildings and Grounds Committee, Elder Betty Egan
History Committee, Elder Tom Kimura

Minutes of the August 23, 2023 Session Meeting recorded by Co-Clerk of Session, Karla Reid

# September Session Highlights

Pastor Keith and Co-Clerk Karla Reid are importing church membership information into ChurchTrac software. Once completed, the information will be easily maintained and useful.

October is Stewardship Month, so pledge cards will be available in the pews for everyone to use. Our goal is to receive pledges to match our expected budget of \$225,000.

Betty Egan (Building and Grounds) is trying to get the heating and cooling repaired in Faith Hall and the room used by Nancy's Hope. All locks will be rekeyed to make one master key limited to 4 people. However, keys to a particular room can still be checked out from the office.

Due to improper fire storage, three groups that have been paying minimal user fees for storage have been asked to terminate their use of 49er Church facilities at the end of their contracts. This will allow Christian Education to expand into those spaces eventually, as the number of children attending Sunday School is increasing. Christian Education does need another preschool volunteer.

Jon Whited stated that the church is growing, and finances are improving. Fire alarms are working, and the fire inspection is complete. The solar installation is waiting on parts. Recent improvements to the church facilities may reduce our combined insurance costs.

The Outreach Committee (Missions & Evangelism) will be meeting October 17 in Faith Hall at 3:30pm. The History Committee met in August, and they are working on articles for the Golden Nugget.

Minutes of the September 27, 2023 Session Meeting recorded by Co-Clerk of Session, Doreen Bass

## October 2023 Calendar

#### Weekly Sunday worship service at 10 am, and:

Oct 1, 11:30 am: Buildings & Grounds meeting in CE Room 3

Oct 1, 11:45 am: Bell Choir Rehearsal in Lower Sanctuary

Oct 2, 6:00 pm: Community Dinner in Faith Hall

Oct 3, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

Oct 3, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

Oct 5, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

Oct 5, 11:00 am: Ladies Lunch Bunch at Papa's New Roost

Oct 7, 8:30 am: Men's Breakfast at Papa's New Roost

Oct 8, 11:30 am: Deacons Meeting in CE Room 3

Oct 8, 11:45 am: Bell Choir Rehearsal in Lower Sanctuary

Oct 10, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

Oct 10, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

Oct 12, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

Oct 14, 9:30 am to 2:00 pm: Deacons Retreat in Faith Hall

Oct 15, 11:30 am: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration in FH Oct 15, 11:45 am: Bell Choir Rehearsal in Lower Sanctuary Oct 16, 6:30 pm: J.O.Y. Club - Dinner at Viney's Italian Kitchen

Oct 17, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

Oct 17, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office

Oct 17, 3:30 pm: Outreach (Missions) Committee in Faith Hall

Oct 17, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

Oct 19, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

Oct 20, 5:30 pm: Family Movie Night in Faith Hall

Oct 22, 11:45 am: Bell Choir Rehearsal in Lower Sanctuary

Oct 24, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

Oct 24, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

Oct 25, 2:00 pm: Session Meeting in CE Room 3

Oct 26, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

Oct 29, 11:45 am: Bell Choir Rehearsal in Lower Sanctuary

Oct 31, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

Oct 31, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall



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 sects. Thankel

costs. Thanks!