Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Words from the Pastor

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: 'They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.'"

2 Corinthians 9:6-9

This month, we continue our Stewardship Campaign; and, as such, I want us to take some time to think about "stewardship" and what it means. What do you think of when you hear the word "stewardship" mentioned in church? If you are like most people, you probably associate "stewardship" with "tithing," so you think about money and finances; and, certainly, finances do play an important part of stewardship.

However, even though our Stewardship Campaign is largely focused on the pledging of monetary donations for the upcoming year, the word "stewardship" entails so much more than money. The Greek word that is used in the New Testament that has been transliterated as "steward" is "oikonomos." This word means "the manager of a house or household affairs." Basically an "oikonomos" did not own the house with which they were charged to oversee. Rather,



they were tasked with managing someone else's house, from cleaning, to managing finances, to overseeing servants.

The question then becomes, what does any of this have to do with the Christian life? Why does the New Testament compare Christians with these 1st Century stewards? It makes this comparison because we are not our own, everything we have, our church, our home, our money, even our life itself, is on loan from God who has entrusted us to manage these assets for His glory.

So, when we talk about "stewardship" from a Biblical perspective, we are not simply talking about finances; nor are we making a direct connection with tithing, though tithing is an important part of stewardship. Rather, what we are talking about is utilizing all that God has blessed you with for His glory and for the good of others; this includes your money, your talents, your wisdom, your experience, your life. Stewardship means, rather than being stingy or hoarding God's gifts, we utilize all of them properly for the advancement of His kingdom, as we have spent plenty of

November 2023

time talking about in our current sermon series.

And, honestly, that is exactly where and how our Stewardship Campaign fits into God's overall calling to be good stewards of all of our gifts. This church, the wonderful, historic, Church of the 49ers, is not our church, it is God's church. God has given us this church as a place where we can worship Him and become equipped to minister to those in this community who are lost. Since this is God's church, and since God has created and called His church to be a witness and minister to Him, it is our job, as stewards of His church, to make sure that we are managing it in such a way that it accomplishes the mission its rightful Owner and Master has given it.

And how do we do that? We do it by giving of all that God has blessed us with; by utilizing our time, our talents, our wisdom and experience, and, yes, our finances, to accomplish the mission that God has given to us as His church. Our church cannot effectively minister to either our covenant partners or to the community around us without the support of people like each one of you. It is only through your financial donations, your volunteering of your time and talents, your wisdom, experience, and ideas that we, the Church of the 49ers, can truly be a beacon of light in a cold, dark world for so many people.

Continued on Page 4 See "Pastor"

GOLDEN NUGGET

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

Office Hours:

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

Worship Services in Sanctuary: Sundays at 10 am

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.

October 1 through October 31, 2023 (exclusive of other income/expenses)

	Budget	Difference Over/(Under)
Total Income	18,242.50	(855.50)
Expense	20,014.32	23,994.57

Mortgage Balance as of October 31: \$72,905.72

Minimum Monthly Mortgage Payment: \$245.00

Addtl Principal paid Oct.1 through Oct. 31: \$20,566.90

October Session Highlights

Highlights of the October 25, 2023 Session Meeting were not available at press time.

The Outreach / Missions Committee will be meeting on November 14, 2023 at 2 pm in Faith Hall. We will be going over the year-end activities. Everyone who has a heart for Outreach / Missions is welcome to attend.

Gwen Harris, Chair

Begin your holiday season with the Columbia College Community Chorus in concert!



The annual "Sounds of the Season" concert will return the first weekend of December (December 1-3) at the Sonora Opera Hall (Fri 7:30 pm, Sat 3:00 pm, Sun 3:00 pm).

Tickets are \$20 presale (\$25 at the door); free for 12 and under (must have ticket). They can be purchased online by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone, or visiting *gocolumbia.edu* and scrolling down to *Events*, or by contacting Leslie Davis at davisgold@gmail.com or 209-559-7723.

In the first half, the 45-voice chorus and orchestra under the direction of Dr. Daryl Hollinger will present "Magnificat" by Taylor Scott Davis, and "Mary's Song" by Dr. Hollinger. Both traditional and jazzy Christmas carols and other holiday music,



and an audience sing-along, are featured after an intermission, and the concert finale is the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah."

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

49er Family News

Grieving: Robert Finnegan and family and friends of **Colleen Finnegan** who died October 14 at age 77. A beautiful Celebration of Colleen's Life was held in Faith Hall on Saturday, November 4th.

Grieving: Family and friends of **Betty Sagaser** who died unexpectedly November 3rd. Details for a memorial service to follow.

Celebrating: Josh Ward and Samantha Pedroza were married by Pastor Keith in our sanctuary on October 20.



Ozell Gilmore, Parish Nurse, will provide free **Blood Pressure Checks** on Sunday, November 12, in Faith Hall following the worship service.

Hanging of the Greens

December 3rd is the first Sunday of Advent. To prepare, our annual **Hanging of the Greens** is scheduled for Thursday, November 30, at 11:00 am.

Volunteers are sought to set up and decorate the Christmas tree on the chancel with the white chrismons donated by the Reid Family a couple of years ago. We'll also be hanging wreaths, garlands, bows and lights, and setting up the nativity scene.

Judy Nason, Church Life Committee Chair

The first-Thursday monthly women's no-host luncheon for November was November 2nd. The next one will be **December 7 at 11:00 am at My Garden Café** in East Sonora. Call

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

Denella Kimura at 209-532-6561 to sign up.



November Birthdays

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

Nov 3 David Stearns

Nov 4 Valerie Gurney Rosencrans

Nov 8 Mary Chalmers

Nov 11 David Harris

Nov 14 Jimmy "Dewey" Bryant

Nov 22 Arlene Cunningham

Nov 22 Nick Walls

Nov 24 Carol Rogers

Nov 25 Michelle Kidwell

Nov 28 Mary Adams

Nov 28 Trish Adams

Nov 29 Josh Ward

Line Dancing

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



This month, our J.O.Y Club dinner will be held on the fourth Mon-

day, November 27th, as Pastor Keith and Karla will be on vacation on the 20th. So, for all of you in your 20s-40s, please join us on Monday, November 27 at 6:30 pm at Emberz Wood-Fired Foodz in downtown Sonora for a time of food and fellowship.

Pastor Keith



From the Pastor Continued from Page 1

God calls us to abound in every good work, to freely scatter our gifts to the poor, and we need you to fulfill this calling.

But, as you also know from our current sermon series, this giving shouldn't be done begrudgingly or only out of a sense of obligation; it should be done joyfully and with thanksgiving in our hearts knowing that God has promised if we sow generously, we will reap generously.

Since God has promised us that, if we generously give of our resources, we will reap the rewards of that generosity, shouldn't that make us all the more eager and excited to give to Him a portion of anything and everything that we have? I submit to you that it should. The rewards for giving generously of your gifts and talents are both rewards in the here and now and rewards in eternity with Him.

My hope for the Church of the 49ers in 2024, and beyond, is that we will become an ever-increasing presence in Tuolumne and Calaveras County, and that our witness and ministry will reach more and more lives so desperately in need of Jesus Christ. That we can, with confidence, say that we are doing everything in our power to minister to the lost, make disciples, shepherd believers, and be a force for good and a witness to Jesus Christ in all that we do.

I truly believe with all of my heart that we have the right people to accomplish this; we have caring, loving people who truly desire to see the lost in our community come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We, brothers and sisters of the Church of the 49ers, are the right people for this mission and ministry; and it is my job, and the job of our Session, to ensure that all of us are fully utilizing the gifts that God has given us to accomplish it. Stewardship is all of us working together to make sure that God's church in Columbia, California is accomplishing His mission in this community and in the world.

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

Pastor Keith

Sermons and Scripture

Current Sermon Series: ""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.

November 5 Communion

OT: Isaiah 58:6-11 Sermon: Matthew 25:35-46

November 12

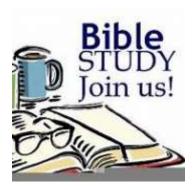
NT: Ephesians 6:10-18 Sermon: Psalm 6

November 19

Rev. Chuck Westgate preaching

November 26

OT: Psalm 100 Sermon: 1 Timothy 4:1-15



Tuesday Night Co-Ed Bible Study

Pastor Keith teaches a Bible study on *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!

Women's Bible Study

Judy Nason will resume leading her Women's Bible Study after the first of the year. Once this weekly study begins, it will include discussion of the remaining books of the Pentateuch: Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.



Tuesday Night Youth Activities

Tuesday night Bible Study is going well with the youth. They look forward to our games and activities each week. We have one more Bible Escape Room left to do, then we will move on to something new. If you are interested in your child participating in Tuesday night youth activities, you can drop in anytime. We are also in need of another childcare worker. Please reach out to me if you would like to help on Tuesdays; we meet from 5:45 pm to 7:30.

Stewardship Presentation

In October, Suzanne, the Chair of Christian Education, and I (Karla), the Director of Children's Ministries, gave a

presentation to the congregation during Sunday morning service about what we have going on in the children's ministry. We spoke a little about how we use our finances to put together this program. This includes the materials needed, such as toner and paper to print the lessons for the teachers, classroom supplies for cleaning and organization, and craft supplies. I spoke on what my weekly job duties look like in preparation for Sunday and Tuesday, as well as any other events we are doing. At the end, we advised our teacher needs in order to comply with insurance regulations and to make this program a success!

Teacher Needs

We have a great volunteer staff, some who have been with us since the beginning, several years ago. However, with increasing numbers of children, we need a few more regular volunteers.

We operate on a set rotating schedule that allows our teachers to make only a once a month commitment.

- Areas of need include one regular volunteer for Tuesday nights, this person will work alongside our childcare worker, Charlee.
- Some months have an extra Sunday in them, a 5th Sunday. We could use one person who is willing to help in our older, school-aged room, CE2, on those random 5th Sundays.
- CE2 also needs two regular teachers on the 4th Sunday of each month.
- Specific dates we are looking to fill:
 Rm CE2 November 19

Rm CE1 November 26

Rm CE2 December 31

Karla Reid, Director of Children's Ministries



Typically congregations like to have a pictorial directory created every three years, but the pandemic set us back some. Pictorial directories make it easier for us to connect names with faces to help us get to know each other.

In 2011, as a rookie photographer with assistance from Fred White, I took portraits of our parishioners and designed a directory. Many liked their portraits enough to purchase prints, providing enough profit to pay for printing of the directories in full color.

In 2014 Lifetouch, a professional photography company formerly known as Olan Mills, took our portraits, sold prints to us, and printed directories many months later — after I had to deal with their userunfriendly software to prepare the book for print. In

2018 we tried a different tack, inserting only candid pictures into the directory—but then we had to scramble to pay the printing bill for the directories.

I am finally now tackling this project again, have set up a portrait studio with background and lights in Room 3 of the Christian Ed building, and have already taken portraits of 15 in our congregation.

There is no charge to take your picture (family members and your dog are wel-

come too), and each will receive a free directory once they are published, hopefully in January. If you would like to order prints, they will be available for purchase at a very reasonable price.

There is a table set up in Faith Hall during fellowship time—where you can choose a day and time for your portrait. Most Sundays I am able to take pictures of a few of you, before and after worship. However, if you can make it to the church on a weekday for a 10-15 minute appointment, that is preferable.

It would help me if someone can volunteer to sit at the sign-up table for a half hour on Sundays after worship to encourage people to make their portrait reservations.

Leslie Davis

Allen Graham, Missionary

Hello Church of the 49ers family. Thanks so much for your prayers last month. Let's praise God together for how He answered!

The presidential runoff election in Ecuador was very peaceful and without incident. Daniel Noboa is the president-elect. There are many significant challenges that he faces. Please pray for him, his cabinet, and a spirit of cooperation in the primarily opposition-run congress.

The paperwork for the purchase of our new ministry home was completed on October 18. Praise God! Pray now as we start planning for the needed renovations, especially for the broadcast studios.

My trip to the Ivory Coast went very well. There were 11 participants from five countries for the five-day training-of-trainers course. It is now their responsibility to take up the baton for media training in their respective countries and in the region. The two days of workshops at the AbR (Africa by Radio) Media Conference also went well. There were almost 80 attendees from more than 25 nations. Pray that each

participant will be able to put into practice what he or she learned.

Back at home, HCJB2 celebrated its 51st anniversary on November 1. We had a fun day honoring God for His provision year after year for the ministry. Many listeners stopped by the station along with a number of radio personalities from other stations in Guayaquil who have at one time or another been impacted by our ministry.

Please pray for our station's annual sharathon (on-air fundraiser) in mid-November. Donations have dropped off somewhat, so we are hoping that a renewed commitment to the station will come out of the event.

At the end of the month, two of my colleagues and I will go to the city of Loja in southern Ecuador to help the team at OE Radio with their sharathon. The concept is still relatively new for them, so they have requested help from us. You may remember that another colleague and I did some fundraising workshops with them at the end of June. Praise God for how He has used that training to allow the team there to cultivate local donors and advertisers.



Allen with friends on the Ivory Coast.



Allen with colleagues from Guayaquil's No. 1 station. The man in the green shirt came to Christ through the ministry of HCJB2. Praise God!

I hope you will rejoice with me in the answered prayers and continue to pray for what lies ahead in November. To God be the glory!

Allen

Interfaith News

Interfaith is always in need of donations of sheets and blankets and towels (especially the larger sizes) to give out to its clients. None of these items has to be new, just clean with no holes or tears. Toiletries are needed also.

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.

Vi Morgado, Interfaith Liaison

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

The Smith Saga

The Church of the 49ers has only a few records in our archives about the influential pioneers in Old Tuolumne before the Gold Rush days. Some of the earliest inhabitants in Columbia, Sonora and adjacent communities have disclosed information about the settlements in the virgin foothills of central California in their letters, diaries, trip journals and even a few personal activities. Dale Morgan's scholarly biography of Jedediah Smith does include important information not always available by others about California's Mother Lode. Several historians have examined the available primary source records to more thoroughly provide written details about area pioneers and the Church of the 49ers.

Jedediah
Strong Smith
was among the
mountain men
who set his
moccasins on
Old Tuolumne
in the late
1820s; he was
twenty-four
years old and a
Bible toting and



Jedediah Strong Smith

quoting "man of many gifts." He trapped and explored in the historic Mother Lode foothills for several weeks; almost daily he recorded his activities in a journal. He has been considered by some historians as "the most devout man" in the mountains. He took his religion "into the wilderness and let nothing corrode it."

In his informative journal and family letters, Smith reminisced, "...God only knows, I feel the need of the watch and care of a Christian Church...men of good morals seldom enter into this business....I hope you will remember me before [His] Throne of Grace...that I might be able to help those who stand in need. Pray for me, My Brother..., as I face every danger...."

In recent years, this intrepid pioneer has been honored during annual "rendezvous" at the Jedediah Smith Society conferences on the campus of the University of the Pacific in Stockton. In the Smith journal, we note he described the "Appelaminy River" (Stanislaus River) as flowing headlong into the valley from "Mount Joseph" (Sierra Nevada mountains) and he provided details of hardships while in the Mother Lode highlands.

In 1936 at the rustic Tuolumne County Museum, regional historians dedicated a granite monolith in honor of Jedediah Smith and the accompanying men who crossed the majestic Sierra in May 1827. This harrowing journey lasted eight days as they strugged in the rugged snow-covered mountains. The monument with its informative plaque is about two by five feet and rests on a substantial pedestal. This historic expedition is considered the first crossing through Old Tuolumne by the American mountain men.

I believe the words of historian Morgan provide an appropriate farewell to Jedediah Strong Smith: "...yet was he moest, nover obtrusive, charitable, without guile...a man whom none could approach without respect, or know without esteem....he must not be forgotten."

Dick Dyer, Historian



Jedediah Strong Smith marker erected 1930, located in front of the Tuolumne Historical Society Museum on West Bradford Street, Sonora.

I Don't Stand Alone

I don't stand Alone Amidst The waves In the heaviest of Storms. I don't stand Alone As the ship Sways And the Waves Rock The boat Side to side. I don't stand Alone As the news Echoes News of wars And rumors Of wars. I don't stand Alone As Those who Tell me not To judge Are the ones Casting stones. I don't stand Alone As words of Praise Form on My lips Because even In life's Storms He is worthy Of our praise And I'll Sing Them Even until The end Of days.

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BOOK REVIEW

By Denella Kimura

The Daniel Dilemma: How to Stand Firm

and Love Well in a
Culture of Compromise

By Chris Hodges

"The Daniel Dilemma" by Chris Hodges is not a Bible study on Daniel. Hodges calls it a field guide for living in the last days, "while multiple generations have experienced various signs, no one generation has experienced them all at the same time . . . Until now."

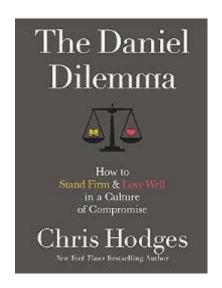
Hodges' book is a look at how the principles Daniel lived by can help us face cultural challenges in a world that is progressively chaotic.

Hodges calls on Biblical characters who have gone through challenging times like Daniel, Job, Joseph, Paul and Jesus, to show us how to handle evil events with the spirit of peace, love and joy, to control our reactions, and to trust in Jesus.

God is in control of all things. He is not the author of evil—Satan is. But Jesus takes us through the mania that we see on the news and opens our eyes to the truth that God loves everyone.

Hughes says, "Our world views require truth, and if we haven't based them on God's word, the ultimate truth, then our world views rely on the false and negative contributions of the world."

Hodges affirms that our core convictions are not based on what feels good or seems right at the moment, but on the foundation of our faith in Christ and the word of God.



He addresses the values we live by in six areas that help us live in a culture gone mad.

- ◆ Worship (Col. 1:15-19) is where we embrace God's attributes by "surrendering yourself to the power, majesty, and goodness of your creator, letting God be God—even when we don't understand what God is doing." (Rom. 12:1)
- ◆ God's Word (II Tim. 3:16-17) addresses our worth and value system so that we may be "thoroughly equipped for every good work." Hodges urges us to "rely solely on the truth, avoiding gossip, hearsay, and the opinions of others."
- ◆ Holiness (I Thes. 4:2-5) means living a pure life, reflecting who God is and what He's about."
- Family (Eph. 6:2-4) speaks to the twisting cultural values that attack God's best design for relationships.
- ◆ Life (Jer. 1:4-5) Hodges affirms, "Life is precious and only God has the right to control when we live and when we die—not human beings."
- Humility (James 4:6) reflects an attitude of service, compassion and strength. Hughes says that our twisted culture is Satan's "smokescreen for obscuring truth and confusing God's people."

Hodges expands through "The Daniel Dilemma" how we can grow in our spiritual lives. And if that takes us through painful circumstances, we may experience spiritual growing pains.

"We want God to change our circumstances, but God wants to change *us*," says Hodges. Taking up our cross and following Jesus, or like Paul's aspiration to "crucify self," (Gal. 2:20) are Biblical challenges for us to have more of Christ and less of self. It means not giving in to what the "flesh" [self] wants and desiring more of God's best for our lives.

The world may think we're old-fashioned, but we know that God's truth is the source for true liberation and authentic freedom," says Hodges. "They give us full, abundant life. They give us peace, joy, purpose and fulfillment."

Daniel's dilemma was to resist the idoltoxic culture of the Babylonians and to honor God in all of his life. His faithful prayers eventually landed him in the lion's den, but God's angel shut down the lions' voracious appetites, sharp claws and toothsome maws.

So it's time we shut off the TV and get some sleep, and celebrate our victories tomorrow.

Dan in the Den

Hey, you big cats!
I'm Dan.
I'm not lyin'
I hear your tumtums rumblin'
And your drippin' tongues a' slurpin';
See, I brought God's angel
with me
to make you feel better.
So, let's all lie down
and have a good nap,
and I'll leave you some
breakfast,
in the morning.

By Denella Kimura

November 2023 Calendar

Weekly Sunday worship service at 10 am, and:

Nov 2, 11:00 am: Lunch Bunch at My Garden Café Nov 4, 8:30 am: Men's Breakfast at Papa's New Roost

New 4,44,00 and Callery Figure 200 Calabornian of life in 1

Nov 4, 11:00 am: Colleen Finnegan Celebration of Life in FH

Nov 5, 11:15 am: Inquirers' Class in CE Room 3

Nov 5, 11:30 am: Buildings & Grounds in CE Room 2

Nov 5, 12:00 pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal in Lower Sanctuary

Nov 7, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2

Nov 7, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

Nov 9, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

Nov 10: Office is closed for VETERANS DAY

Nov 12, 11:30 am: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration in FH

Nov 12, 11:30 am: Deacons Meeting in CE Room 3

Nov 14, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

Nov 14, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office

Nov 14, 2:00 pm: Outreach/Missions meeting in Faith Hall

Nov 14, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

Nov 16, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

Nov 19: 1-4 pm: Just Dance in Faith Hall

Nov 19, 11:45 am: Bell Choir Rehearsal in Lower Sanctuary

Nov 21, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 2

Nov 23 THANKSGIVING DAY

Nov 24 Office is CLOSED

Nov 26, 11:30 am: Spiritual Growth Committee in CE 3

Nov 26, 11:45 am: Bell Choir Rehearsal in Lower Sanctuary

Nov 27, 6:30 pm: J.O.Y. Club - Dinner at Emberz in Sonora

Nov 28, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

Nov 28, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

Nov 28, 2:00 pm: Session Meeting in CE Room 3

Nov 30, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

Nov 30, 11:00 am: Hanging of the Greens in Sanctuary



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!