# Golden Nugget

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

# Words from the Pastor

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." James 1:2-3 NIV

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." James 1:12 NIV

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Well, here we are, the beginning of a New Year. And, I think these verses are such a good reminder as we start another trip around the sun because one thing is certain: 2024 will be filled with many times of trial and difficulty just like 2023 was, 2022 was, 2021 was, and every year has been since the moment that Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden. We've certainly seen our fair share of difficulty in the world over the past several years; we've dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic, a war in Ukraine, violence in Israel, social and political strife in America, among many other things. Every time we turn on the news, we are encountered with reminders that we live in a broken, fallen world; and, because we live in a broken, fallen world, we can be assured that times of turmoil and difficulty will certainly continue in 2024 in some form or fashion.

"Start the new year off with a sure thing—God's promise to give you a hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

Billy Graham

However, even though this world is full of problems, we Christians are still called to live faithfully, to be good disciples of Christ, and to share the good news of the Gospel. So, to hopefully reenergize you all as we head into 2024, to put a little spring in your step to prepare you to get back out there and get to work for Jesus, I want to dedicate this space this month to give you some words of encouragement; but, better than simply my own words, I want to give you words of encouragement straight from the Word of God.

As we look at the first passage listed above, James 1:2-3, we see a beautiful word from James, likely the brother of Jesus, regarding believers having to endure trials. James tells us that when we face trials, and our faith is being tested, God is using it to produce perseverance in us. This means that we have not endured the trials of this world for nothing; no, we have endured them in order that our faith may be strengthened and we will be better equipped to face whatever trials and tribulations that Satan and/or this world throw at us in the future; the trials that we face give us the fortitude to stand firm in our faith no matter what comes our way.

# January 2024

Then James continues in verse 12 of chapter 1 that not only have the trials of this world helped to produce perseverance in us, but that perseverance will be rewarded with the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. We have the promise right there, from the Word of God itself, that our remaining faithful in the face of the myriad of trials this world continues to throw at us is going to be rewarded; we have the promise that enduring everything we have had to endure in our lives will be worth it in the long run.

Finally, from the mouth of Jesus Himself, recorded in John 16:33, we are told that we should have peace; we should have peace not because we will never face trouble in this world, but because, even though we WILL endure trouble in this world. Jesus has overcome the world. This means that we have no need to stress or fret or be saddened or disheartened whenever we are faced with trials and tribulations, even trials as widespread and devastating as the ones we have faced in recent years, because Jesus has already won the ultimate victory over this sinful world and the one who controls it, Satan.

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#### **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.

Send your articles and Family News items for the February 2024 issue of the Golden Nugget by January 26 to Leslie at davisgold@gmail.com or call 209-559-7723.

## **Report from Session**

Although Session did not officially meet in December, they conducted an email decision to allow the Columbia College Community Chorus to use Faith Hall on Mondays for their rehearsals starting in January. The Community Dinners can be rescheduled for Wednesdays.

The next Session meeting will be Wednesday, January 24, at 2 pm in CE Room 3.

Doreen Bass, Co-Clerk of Session



The Deacons met Sunday, December 10. Names to be removed from their Care Lists were supplied as approved by Session. Betty Gilliam has resigned from the Deacons, and Rosie McCarthy will assume her parishioner's names. After the first of the year, Doreen will update all of the Care Lists.

The next Deacon meeting will be Sunday, January 14 in CE Room 3 at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted, Doreen Bass, Deacon Secretary

### **Outreach / Missions**

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the Alternative Christmas Fair this year. Your donations of over \$800.00 were greatly appreciated.

Our next meeting will be January 16, 2024 at 2:00 pm in CE Room 3. We will be setting our goals for the new year and review last year for the annual report. Please come join us as we serve our Lord together.

**Gwen Harris Chair, Mission Committee** 

# 49er Family News

#### Grieving:

Margie Fooshee, family and friends of **Bob Fooshee** who died December 15 at the age of 83.

Marijean Davis, family and friends of **Darrol Davis** who died December 26 at the age of 87.

Dates for memorial services for both Bob and Darrol have not been determined yet.

Christmas Décor Take Down Sat, Jan 6 10 am

# January Birthdays

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

		•
	Jan 4	Daniel Wright
	Jan 5	Ellen Bridges
)	Jan 7	John Malaspino
	Jan 12	Suzanne Williamson
h	Jan 13	Philip Balmet (
	Jan 24	Rob Clark
	Jan 24	Kristina Wright
	Jan 28	Judy Nason
	Jan 29	Carolyn Sylva
	Jan 30	Betty Gilliam
	Jan 30	Tony Pokorny

# Happy Anniversary!

David and Carolyn Stearns 66 years on January 24



Ozell Gilmore, Parish Nurse, will provide free **Blood Pressure Checks** on Sunday, January 14, in Faith Hall following the worship service.



The J.O.Y Club — for all of you "Just Older Youth," our next dinner will be Monday, January 15, at 6:30 pm at the Diamondback Grill in downtown Sonora.

If you are 20ish to 40ish, we hope to see you there for a time of food and fellowship. **Pastor Keith** 

The first-Thursday monthly women's no-host luncheon will be January 4 at 11:00 am at Applebee's in Sonora.

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



# **Line Dancing**

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



# From the Pastor Continued from Page 1

If we already know the outcome, if we already know the end of the story, and that outcome is that our Savior has won the war and will usher in the perfection of the new heavens and the new earth, then we have no reason for worry, stress, or fear because we have the promise that one day all of our pain, our sorrow, our heartache, and our suffering will melt away into a distant memory.

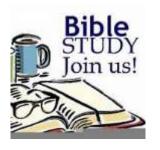
So, my prayer for each and every person reading this, whether you are an active covenant partner of the Church of the 49ers or a friend who likes to stay in touch, is that you will take the

three passages above to heart, that you will use them as a source of strength and encouragement, and that you will be rejuvenated to get out into your communities and share the Gospel with others so that they, too, can know the love that is found only in and through Jesus Christ. After all that this world has been through, people need hope, they need peace, they need forgiveness and mercy, they need Jesus.

We have been given a great opportunity to reach the lost with the saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; so, as His church, let's take that opportunity with the utmost seriousness, and the utmost eagerness, and let 2024 be a year in which we all dig down deep and make a positive impact for the Kingdom. Christ has won the victory over this world...let's tell everyone!

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

**Pastor Keith** 



# 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! The first class after the Christmas Break will be January 9th, covering Isaiah 41.

# Sermons and Scripture

**Current Sermon Series:** 

Paul's Letter to Philippi: Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility

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.

# January 7 Communion

OT: Deuteronomy 28:1-14 Sermon: Philippians 1:1-11

#### January 14

OT: Proverbs 3:1-8 Sermon: Philippians 1:12-26

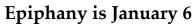
#### January 21

OT: Psalm 1

Sermon: Philippians 1:27-2:18

#### January 28

OT: Joshua 24:14-15 Sermon: Philippians 2:19-30





Epiphany commemorates the first occasion on which Jesus' divinity was manifested: when the three kings visited infant Jesus in Bethlehem. It is one of the oldest Christian feasts and has been celebrated since the end of the second century, before the Christmas holiday was established. It is commonly known as Twelfth Night, Twelfth Day, the Feast of Epiphany, or Three Kings' Day. It means "manifestation" or "showing forth."



First, I'd like to say WOW! We had 12 children for the morning Christmas Eve service, with 7 of them in CE1, our Preschool Classroom. Thank you to all of the families that came!

Our much anticipated hot cocoa party is set for Sunday January 21, 2024. It will be held in CE2 during Sunday School. We will have a brief lesson, then time to celebrate all the hard work the kids have put into memorizing the books of the Bible. If any Sunday School teachers would like to stop by after church for a cup of cocoa, too, they are more than welcome!

Tuesday Night Bible Study is starting back up on January 9, 2024. Like always, all children are invited to attend the Tuesday Night Youth Activities. In the past, we have played Bible Escape Room games, participated in crafts, and other fun activities. Since we are seeing growth in this area, we are in need of another volunteer. Please let Karla know if you are interested in getting involved in our Tuesday Night Youth Activities or have any questions about what we do.

December was a month filled with fun and learning about Jesus. Along with their regular Sunday School lessons, the children were involved in many activities focused on Jesus' birth, including Sunday School crafts, stories, CE1 held a birthday party for Jesus, a large portion of our church children participated in the 40th annual Las Posadas Nativity Procession in Columbia as angels, and the Christmas Eve handbell performance. Our church has been so blessed by these active, Jesus-loving Children!

Karla Reid,
Director of Children's Ministries





Zoey and Hailey made their debut as "roof angels" in the Las Posadas Nativity Procession as they appeared on the City Hotel Balcony

### **Bell Choir "Notes"**

The 49er Chancel Ringers performed on Sunday morning December 24 including a prelude of "Church Bells Are Ringing" composed by Doreen's mother. And a bell quartet played special music for the evening Christmas Eve service. Their last piece accompanied a flute solo by Toni Sudduth. We ring to glorify the Lord and bless all who hear our efforts.

The Bell Choir will take a break until Sunday, February 18 at 11:45 am, when we will again meet in the Lower Sanctuary for rehearsal. If you would like to play bells with us, contact Director (Head Ding-a-Ling) **Doreen Bass** at 209-352-3096.

# Church Pictorial Directory Update

Portrait taking for the new pictorial directory is about halfway complete, and the plan is to set appointments with the rest of you during January.

And soon proofs will be available for you to view on my laptop in Faith Hall on Sundays after worship—to allow you to pick out your favorite pose for the directory, and perhaps order prints.

It would be good to get group photos of the Elders and Deacons for the directory also. **Leslie Davis** 

# Interfaith

Interfaith has, once again, finished the year with being able to help in the community in a number of ways. Most recent was our annual Cash and Coat Drive which took place the first Friday and Saturday in December. It was a big success thanks to the many generous people in our community as well as our local radio station. If you know of anyone who could benefit from this and other services (which are many), have them stop by Interfaith at 18500 Striker Court in Sonora and sign up. All services we provide are free. We will again be taking appointments for hair cuts — just call Interfaith at 209-532-0905 and talk to our receptionist.

We are closed for the holidays and will return on January 8th.

Please continue to consider being a volunteer; we are in need of more workers in several departments. You may call me or see me at church. I love to talk about what all we have to offer.

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.

Volunteer Michelle Kidwell reported the pantry had to be closed 2-1/2 days last month: 1-1/2 due to a freezer break down, and they were closed December 26. Even so, the food pantry volunteers still served 166 people including 74 families. Christmas gifts also were handed out to a few families in need.

The pantry welcomes donations, but Michelle asks that donations are not dropped off after hours, and please, no expired products or damaged clothing.

Michelle Kidwell, Food Pantry Liaison

### Allen Graham, Missionary

Happy New Year dear Church of the 49ers family!

Do you remember the training of trainers course that I did in October in the Ivory Coast? Well, some of the participants have already put into practice what they learned at a station in central Liberia. In early 2024, others will be passing on their knowledge to broadcasters elsewhere in Africa. I love it! What a blessing to have been a part of this process! Thanks for praying!

In December I had several meetings with the architect as we talked about the plans for remodeling our new ministry site. I know many more such meetings are coming up in the months ahead. As I mentioned last month, we want to move to the new facility in March or April. Continue to pray for the sale of our current location which has been our home for the past 60 years.

We are waiting for the frequency renewal process to open by Arcotel, Ecuador's version of the Federal Communications Commission. This was supposed to happen in 2021, then in 2022, etc. Our frequencies have been in "extension" for over a year now. Please pray for this process to open in 2024, for success in the renewal of our two current frequencies, and for our application for four more repeater frequencies. This will allow us to cover the entire coast of Ecuador with the Good News of Jesus

Christ. We are excited about the possibilities this would mean for our ministry.

Please let me share with you a message from Susana that came in on social media to our afternoon hosts: Thank you Kike and Jair because you are a light. A light that God put on this day when I was going through such difficult moments in my life. It was the light that illuminated me and made me see that I was not alone, that I had this great Being who was by my side, who would never abandon me. You have me here



Jair and Kike, our late afternoon drive-time hosts, and our station slogan: Share hope!

because you are my family, the family that accompanies me every day. The whole day, the night, you are my company. I am very grateful because since that day I have not stopped listening to the radio. They are the blessing that God gave me in life and a light that illuminated me to be able to see that there is such a great and loving Heavenly Father. That, in the most difficult moments, He is there to lift us up. I am very grateful in life to God and to you because you were my light.

I invite your prayers for our team. Praise God for allowing us to be ambassadors of hope to our audience. Thanks for being a part of my ministry through Reach Beyond and HCJB2 with your prayers and gifts. May you have an incredibly blessed 2024!

Allen



## The 49er Thrift Shop

By Dick Dyer, Church Historian

Jesus' Great Commission reminds the people to extend His Good News to others, especially nearby families by providing them with essential necessities during times of enduring hardships. The 49er Church's public service has featured the organization of the 49er Thrift Shop in Sonora. One of the dynamic directors was Ellarona Miller, popularly known as "The Great Recruiter" of church helpers to assist in the shop. Additional assistance was forthcoming from many, including the Presbyterian Women and Mariners organizations of the Columbia church. The shop proponents received approval from Church Session in May 1968 to establish a church-sponsored thrift shop which would assist families while raising operating funds for the church.

In June 1968 a rental building across from the downtown Sonora Courthouse Square Park was leased—to sell donated merchandise at reduced prices to community residents. Many church and community volunteers became participants; "they wanted to work in the shop" helping neighbors in need. An organizer said, "The camaraderie was fantastic" after the shop began

serving the public. The street room included a variety of the donated items; it was managed by several helpers who assisted in the selections and sales.

In an adjoining room, the church workers were considered the "heart of the shop" doing "menial and grungy work." They prepared various household items and clothing for sale. The

donated items were cleaned, repaired by experienced workers, labeled with price tags, and then transferred into the outer sales room. A few items were sent to a church helper for distribution to indigent families in Mexico and local assisted living facilities. Only a small number of the donations was discarded. Several of the attendants disclosed that the workers expressed eagerness in being asked to help the public. One said, "We had tons, tons of stuff" for the needy; it was a "win, win community service." When the shop opened on June 8, 1968 to serve the public, it was the beginning of thirty years of community service. The 49er Thrift Shop became a precedent for other local organizations to provide outlets to assist local residents in need.



Helen Wood preparing items for sale

At the shop, some items were available "at no charge" and a few customers were told they could "take all that you need." The income from the sales became an important supplement for the growing Columbia church — renovations, restrooms, day care facilities for children, kitchen supplies, carpeting, landscaping and other essentials. Actually, we are aware that the Thrift Shop volunteers assisted the church by helping in the purchases of choir robes and an organ for the sanctuary.

Through the years, the shop's community donations seemed to increase. It was Christians helping their church and neighbors—the homeless, "burned out" families, college students and even a few recent local residents. Almost fifty members and friends of the church volunteered their time and talent working at various ventures in the shop and community.

Only a few dedicated individuals will be mentioned; many workers did not seek recognition, however they were known as the church's Good Samaritans. Initially, Milt Schroeder and Jim Scott, with his bright red pick-up, collected many donations throughout the Mother Lode communities. They promised, "We will take anything!" And indeed they did, including "Laddie," a friendly local pony. He was stabled until sold for \$25. A regular helper was Alice Schroeder. At her home, for more than ten years, she collected donations, mended items and prepared clothing for sale. Her husband, Milt, in a recorded interview mumbled, "Yeah, she wore out three machines, washing everything!" At their home one room became storage of cleaned and repaired shop items.

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# Thrift Shop

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At the Sonora shop, Fred White could be found at a workroom desk during working hours. He routinely recorded sales, donors, reports and other communications and even arranged for newspaper publicity in the *Union Democrat* newspaper.



Fred White working at the front desk

Ellarona Miller and later Clyda Woodward, the executive managers of the Board of Directors, received regular support in the church's Golden Nugget newsletters, worship services and from committed church members.

The Thrift Shop was open three days each week from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. On occasions, lunch was provided for the helpers in what became a "backroom banquet." After a church member arrived with special donated delicacies, it became a treat for all, a time to dine and confer before the next shop shift.

The volunteers contributed generously all they could to provide provisions for the local needy; it was the sharing of His Spiritual Golden Rule for the humble from the honorable in community and church. In an article by Fred White (Golden Nugget, June 2010), he wrote, "The 49er Thrift Shop is part of a proud heritage of our church. Our archives room boasts stories and pictures of this time in our history....It lives on in vivicolor in the memories of those who were a part of it."



Jim Scott collecting donations, circa 1972

Although the 49er Thrift Shop closed in 1998, we remain thankful for the volunteers who helped those who were struggling during arduous times in Old Tuolumne, our HOMELAND.

After rereading the epistles by the Apostle Peter, I am reminded we can look forward to a New Heaven and New Earth of glorified "resting places" for God's servants...we can be assured, it will be about His Good News of various, vibrant and virtuous people continuing to serve others in the Mother Lode communities.

#### **Dick Dyer**





10 am Service





7 pm Service

#### **BOOK REVIEW**

By Denella Kimura

# THINGS THAT GO BUMP and the MYSTERIES OF CAROL BIEDERMAN

On a Friday evening, 45 writers and artists dressed in blue jeans, long skirts and bonnets, trailed down Main Street following the red hat of the local Columbia "Pied Piper" storyteller, Carol Biederman, to the Fallon Hotel and Fallon House Theater. We squeezed into the red carpeted hotel lobby where Carol stood next to the stairway guarding the second floor and its ghostly denizens.

Dusk had arrived, stealthily shooting shadows into the dark crevices and corners of the Fallon Hotel lobby. Carol's black corduroy dress-coat with a cutaway collar and matching pleated skirt common in the 1890s, blended into the blackness so that only the white of her blouse, her face and hair floated above. And on her head she sported a lady's red stove-pipe hat.

As she began to speak, her blue eyes twinkled as if she were the sole possessor of a secret and was about to tell it. Carol waited. Everyone held their breath in anticipation. Then, in her sardonic voice, she began to tell about the City Hotel spirit, Elizabeth, who roams the upper rooms in grief looking for her lost child. The staff of the hotel has named her "Elizabeth" and credits her for any paranormal disturbances.

Carol stopped, looked around the room, and then began again, identifying three more spirits that might be



Carol Biederman in 2012 at our "Turn the Pages with Authors of the Mother Lode" event in Faith Hall hosted by Presbyterian Women

found at the Fallon Hotel. One can normally be seen wearing a miner's costume. Another is a furniture mover who can account for the mysterious relocation of the bed in Room Number One. And there's a little boy who takes the toys of kids who come to stay at the haunted hotel.

The writers trooped after our leader to St. Anne's Church where more tales awaited us, as the sunset slit the western horizon with lightning strikes. In the distance the full moon rose over the cemetery.

Before COVID, Carol could often be seen at the Third Friday Open Readings, presenting her sardonically humorous poems to both a physical audience as well as the KAAD-LP 103.5 FM radio audience. As a featured reader, Carol read from passages in her books.

You've heard, and may have even said, "If these stones could talk!" Carol's first mystery novel resurrects some of the residents of Columbia's cemetery, in The Oldest Inhabitant, who tell how they met their demise.

In her second mystery novel, Biederman weaves a tangled web of clues to entice the most avid Sherlock Holmes fan. Sherry With the Bishop, is about a fatal dose of poison in the Sherry, and this "Who-done-it" will keep you guessing until the end. I know. It's a groaner.

Her third mystery, <u>Johnny's Café</u>, has another surprise ending. Told from a child's point of view, the twists and turns in this story center around what happened to Johnny. Like an embroidery piece, the reader sees the knots and strings from the bottom of the work, but turning it over, the picture falls together and the mystery is solved.

So after publishing three books, writing a children's book sounds easy, but there's a lot to learn on the way to the final product. "I had no idea how to write a children's book," said Carol. "It's a bigger task than it looks." She had audience tested her story as a dramatic poem, and needed an illustrator.

One day, artist Patti Cherry told Carol, "I'd really like to illustrate a children's book." That began a collaboration that became The Six Lives of Henry the Ape.

Cherry loved bringing Henry to life. "Henry did make mistakes, felt rejected, but always came right back," said Cherry. "I always like the Shakespeare quote, 'To thine own self be true.' Henry learned how to be himself successfully."

If you like mysteries, or a good children's book, you may find them online. As soon as I find my copies, you'll be able to find them in the Church of the 49ers library in Room CE-3.

**Denella Kimura** 

# January 2024 Calendar

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

Jan 4, 11:00 am: Lunch Bunch at Applebee's Jan 4, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall

Jan 6, 8:30 am: Men's Breakfast at Papa's New Roost

Jan 6, 10:00 am: Take down Christmas decorations

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

Jan 9, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

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

Jan 14, 11:30 am: Deacons Meeting in CE Room 3

Jan 14, 11:30 am: Birthday/Anniversary Celebration in FH

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

Jan 16, 2:00 pm: Outreach/Missions in CE Room 3 Jan 16, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

Jan 18, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall Jan 21, 1 - 3:30 pm: Just Dance in Faith Hall Jan 23, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

Jan 23, 1:00 pm: Finance Committee in Office

Jan 23, 6:00 pm: Pastor Keith's Bible Study in Faith Hall

Jan 24, 2:00 pm: Session Meeting in CE Room 3 Jan 25, 9:30 am: Line Dancing in Faith Hall Jan 30, 10:00 am: Prayer Group in CE Room 3

Jan 30, 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

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