

Consecration Sunday Is Coming



Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has once again selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for

his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, (tentatively scheduled for the Sunday before Thanksgiving) we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge everyone to attend, including those who may be opposed or

uncomfortable with completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Session members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Pastor Toby †

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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.

Farewell Letter from Paul Ferris

(re-print of letter mailed to the congregation dated August 15, 2017)

Dear Congregation,

First of all, thank you so much for your cards, prayers and good wishes for my surgery. It went very well, and I am feeling close to normal much more quickly than I expected.

It is with mixed emotions that I tell you that I will be leaving FPCC as of September 10. I have been called to a part time position near my home in northern Michigan. The way that events have fallen into place to make this happen convinces me that it is nothing less than Providential. So, I am excited for myself and sad to be leaving you.

I will be gone from August 30 through September 6 celebrating 40 years of marriage. I will meet with the choir and band on Thursday, September 7 and we will sing in worship on the 10th. Hopefully we will have found my replacement by then, but it's impossible to know that at this time. I will be working with the personnel committee toward that end.

I want you to know that it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your director. I expected my tenure to be longer and I regret leaving you after only one year. I will treasure our time together and the many friendships we have formed.

Love,
Paul Ferris
Director of Worship & Music



Update: FPCC Staff Changes

Announcement from Personnel

Andrew Cardiasmenos

Andrew will join FPCC, effective September 21st, as our new Director of Music & Worship.

Andrew was born and raised across the bay in San Carlos, CA. Passionate about music and deeply spiritual since his childhood, Andrew sang in several choirs, played the piano and composed music in both sacred and secular settings.

He later received a Bachelor of Music Composition in Wisconsin and a Master of Education in Chicago, and began directing church choirs. Andrew led Greek Orthodox choirs for six years and more recently Presbyterian choirs for four, where he expanded his knowledge of Christian music and Protestant worship. He also gained experience with worship planning, balancing contemporary and traditional styles and incorporating a variety of creative media. Andrew most recently served as the Music & Worship Director at New Bridges Presbyterian Church in Hayward.

Apart from directing music, Andrew also teaches high school French and enjoys spending time with his wife, Jessie, and his 3 year old son, Blake.

We look forward to getting to know Andrew and to the gifts he will bring to our music ministry and the congregation. Choir rehearsal will continue Thursdays at 7:15 pm – 9:00 pm in the sanctuary. The choir will be going on its annual retreat at Bodega Bay on October 13th-15th to prepare for the coming choir season.

Please welcome Andrew to our family when you see him!



From the Desk of Rebecca Chase

Director of Community Care

Small Groups

We have many groups meeting in or around FPCC campus on a weekly or monthly basis. We invite you to consider joining.

Weekly – no need to call ahead, just come!

- **Small Group** (Mon 6pm-8pm) Starts Sept 18. Remembering Your Story: Spiritual Autobiography - Fireside Room Rebecca Chase (676-7177)
- **Men's Bible Study** (Tues 7am) Book of Acts. IHOP on Clayton Rd David Dowell (707-751-0738)
- **Bible Study** (Tues 8:30am) Revelation - Room 205 Jonathan Aanestad (435-2685)
- **Women's Community Bible Study (CBS)** (Wed 9:15am-11:15am): Starts Sept 6 Matthew - FPCC sanctuary – Diane Quigley dqmtzmom@aol.com
- **Bible Study** (Wed 1:00pm-2:30pm) – Hebrews Heritage Plaza Towers, Christiansen Room LaVerne Herren (682-3882)
- **Mission Sewing Group** (Thurs 10am-2pm) Ladies service sewing & quilting group. Bring a lunch! Beginning sewers welcome. Fellowship Hall Valerie Gardner (689-1455)
- **Al-Anon Group** (Thurs 12:10pm - 1:00pm) - Family of Alcoholics support group – Room 205
- **Cathedral Choir** (Practice Thurs 7:15pm-9:00pm, Sunday Worship 8:45am-10:30am) Fireside Room & Sanctuary
- **Adult Community Bible Study (CBS)** (Thurs 7:15pm-9:15pm): Starts Sept 7 - Matthew Fireside Room Diana Riveness aundi5@comcast.net

Monthly: Call the organizer of the group to check on meeting times or locations.

- **Circle IV Women's Bible Study and Lunch**, (1st Thurs 11am-2pm) Meeting in the Spirit - Location Varies - Anna Belle Horgan (685-5595) & Joanne Myers (825-9684)
- **First Fridays** (1st Friday 6pm-10pm): Adults Art/Culture discussion– Harvey's House, Concord - Eric & Kristin (617) 584-8919
- **Adult Fellowship & Bible Study** (2nd Monday 10am-1pm) - "Peter" Bring a lunch! - Fireside Room Catherine Longoria (685-1577)
- **Merry Macs Fellowship** – Christian fellowship group, with ministries. Location Varies – Bill Selb (925) 672-6393

If you would like to start, or join, a group you don't see listed, let me know!! I have all sorts of helpful tools and trainings to get a group going.

Don't be shy!! If you ...

H – Have a Heart for people

O – Can Open your home (or a café, or a friend's house, or...)

S – Can Share some Snacks

T – Can Turn on a DVD player or video

... then you can **HOST** a small group.

Adult Education

Darryl McCollum will be teaching a class on his book *In All Things Grace*, from Sunday September 17th until October 22nd. We will meet in the Fireside Room at 11:00am. If you have been thinking about sharing a topic with the

11:00am group, let me know! You don't have to fill the whole hour! Training or guidance available. †

Children's Worship & Education

The Children's Worship Team will be leading the preschool to 5th graders in stories, songs, and games about Joseph from September 17th through October 22nd. They will learn about David from October 29th to November 19th, and Daniel from November 26th to December 10th. We are looking for YOU to be on our team! Super fun, and you get training.

Our Nursery is growing! Come volunteer to hold babies! Lynn Justice needs some loving arms and keen eyes to help out once a month. Get your spot on the schedule now!

Prayer and Healing

Please join us on our MONTHLY Prayer Walk, the THIRD Saturday of the month. We start at 9:30am and walk and pray for our neighborhood for about an hour. If you are not a walker, the Chapel is open! Coffee and water is served.

Pray for our PNC: (Coordinators Eric Harvey & Susan Koester, Robin Stearns, Marin Stanczak, Jim Whitfield, Ann Johnson, and Darryl McCollum) for guidance, strength, and discernment.

Please call the office if you would like to be on the Prayer Chain (led by Carol Hance) or on the Prayer list for Sunday.

Rebecca Chase – 676-7177 x 15, (858) 805-5874, rebeccac@fpccconcord.org.

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The Well

Held Aug. 24, 25 & 26

The Well was developed to put more focus on families getting together to refresh their spirits and to renew and reenergize their relationships with our Lord. It replaced VBS to focus more on families and community. We extended invitations to the other congregations that use our facilities to join us at *The Well*. Concord City Blessing Church, (the Indonesian congregation), Casa de Dios Roca de Jacob (the church we are sponsoring through 1001 New Worshiping Communities), the Tongan Church, and Iglesia Bautista Pueblo de Dios all had members who attended.

The first evening we renewed our relationship with God through

meditation. The second evening we focused on a local mission. Bay Area Rescue Mission sent a representative who gave a presentation on the work they are doing. The families worked together on a project for the adults and children at the shelter. Saturday morning Ruth Mejia from Casa de Dios Roca de Jacob gave a wonderful presentation on our sponsorship of their new pastor which is part of the 1001 New Worshiping Communities program. The families made flowers to take back to their various congregations as a reminder of our growing friendship. We had dinner two nights and a continental breakfast

Saturday morning. The Flock played each session and Beth Byrnes led us all in singing praise songs at the end of each session. Three children from the Tongan Church sang one of their songs for us. What a delight! There were short breakout sessions for children, youth, and adults after each meal.

Thanks to our volunteers who graciously stepped up to help make *The Well* a successful event.

It was a busy 2½ hours filled with joy, refreshment, and meeting new friends.

Marilyn Wollenweber



Service Worship Day

Thank you so much for participating in the August 6th Service Worship Day. We had over 30 people participating with lots of laughter, sharing and smiling as we served our community by:

- Packing backpacks at Monument Crisis Center (MCC)
- Cleaning up parking lot
- Visiting the Friends at Home (shut-in's) & Prayer Walk about Todos Santos Park
- Cooking lunch for volunteers
- Cooking / Serving Homeless Shelter's Brunch †



Deacon Request

As deacons we are worried that we are not able to keep up with our many parishioners and provide the support they need. Many of us have at least 20 people in our parish. We have a growing number of people who we call "Friends at Home" who are no longer able to attend church and others who have very restricted movement outside their homes.

Many in the congregation keep in contact with these homebound people as they have been friends for many years, and it is natural to do so. Others of you may be willing to make a call or visit someone but don't want to be responsible for doing it every week or month.

What we are wondering is if we could have a more coordinated system for support. If you currently are regularly contacting someone to support them can you let me know at saykay5277@gmail.com or let Ann in the office know? If you feel you might be able to provide this kind of support, let me know as well.

Thanks for all of your support to our deacons.

Wayne Matzen, Moderator †



1965 Colfax St., Concord, CA 94520

Change Service Requested

First Press

Deadline for Nov/Dec/Jan Issue:
Monday, October 23, 2017

Thank you for your contribution.

Submit all news in writing. Digital photos are also welcome as long as we may use them on our website.

Please contact the church office with address changes!

Office Hours!

Monday, Wed. & Thursday

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Tuesday

11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed Friday

Sunday Bulletin

EVERY MONDAY @ 12 Noon

FPCC Values Statement

***Guided by Scripture and prayer,
we are a welcoming place
where people, service,
and God's love meet.***

***Focused on hospitality,
inclusiveness, and spiritual gifts,
we worship God with delight.***

***Unified in Jesus Christ,
we are led by the Holy Spirit
to invite, engage, and share
God's Truth with each other,
our community and the world.***

November Presbytery Meeting at FPCC

FPCC is hosting the next San Francisco Presbytery meeting on **November 14th**. There will be 80 - 100 persons on our campus from all over the Bay Area gathering at our church to conduct Presbytery business, share information, and learn more about what's happening in our local congregations. The evening meal will feature a home-cooked dinner for Presbytery representatives prepared by our wonderful Connections Team. Following dinner there will be a worship and communion service before concluding the evening with additional Presbytery business. This is an opportunity for our members to help make this event memorable. We will need about 35-40 people to welcome our visitors, provide directions and making them feel at home. Watch for more news as we get closer to the BIG DAY! Remember that many hands make light work. Let's show off FPCC's friendly, smiling faces! The coordinators are Elders **Anna Belle Horgan** and **Ann Johnson**.

First Press Distribution

The primary distribution of First Press is electronic via e-mail. If you did not receive this and would like to be added to the electronic distribution please email FirstPress@fpccconcord.org. A pdf copy is also available on the FPCCConcord.org website, and a limited number of paper copies will be available in the Narthex and office. We can also mail copies to those who do not have access electronically and who cannot make it to church. Please call the office to request this service.