



# FIRST PRESS

The newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Concord, California

October - November 2024

## Harvest Festival



It's this Saturday! Don't forget! If you haven't signed up, maybe you can call the church office and squeeze in. Don't miss a fun and exciting time from 4:30 to 7:30 PM. Plan to join your fellow church members for a time of great fellowship, fun, and good food prepared under the supervision of our own Chef Chandra.

The preschool families are also invited. There will be pumpkin decorating for the children, as well as games and other activities for everyone.

### Photos from last year's pumpkin decorating contest:



## Blanket Drive



It's that time of year when the temperatures start to get cooler. It reminds us that some of our communities lack shelter and coverings to keep warm. In the past, our congregation has strongly supported Share the Warmth. Once again, we are asking for your financial help to purchase blankets or donate blankets to those who are less fortunate than we are. Margaret Bachman is collecting money or blankets through the end of October. You may also donate by Zelle making a notation that it is for the Blanket Drive. Please pray that we will once again have a successful mission for our community. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret.

## Merry Mac's Kick-Off Its New Year



It was time to celebrate the annual passing of the torch. Thanks were extended to Jim and Marilyn (the W's), along with David and Diana Stearns, for their service during 2023-2024 and to the W's for hosting the fun gathering.

Bill Selb called forth the leadership team for 2024-2025. Clayton and Carol Worsdell will be our Skippers for the year, and Margaret Bachman will serve as Logger and Purser.

Clayton and Carol circulated the events signup sheet, asking everyone to select a month to host

or co-host an event. Our goal is to have an event every month. The Merry Mac ship is open to everyone. Contact any member you see listed above or in this photo.

## A New Outreach Team: "HPT Plus"



"HPT Plus"? What does that mean...? Who does it serve?

So glad you asked!

HPT stands for Heritage Plaza Towers, the two residential buildings that are our neighbors across the street on Pacheco and Grant Streets. We have about a dozen members and regular attendees who live in those apartments.

We have found that many residents of HPT have needs that we, as a church, can address. For example, most residents live alone and need opportunities to gather with other people and socialize. So, as you know, we threw a Sock Hop last May! We also host breakfasts and dinners, where we can meet their needs and also get to know them better and develop close relationships.

We have also found that some residents are "food insecure" – that is, they do not have continuously reliable food sources. This is another reason we offer food-inspired gatherings.

You may also have seen unfamiliar faces serving or cleaning up after one of our food events. These are volunteers from HPT who want to thank us for our generosity by giving back to us. We have also helped them with their own parties.

We created this HPT Plus team to continue finding ways to connect with those who are alone, either at the Heritage Plaza Towers or in other places in our immediate neighborhood. This includes the seniors in the Tuesday Adult Activities group. This is the "plus."

Can you think of any other lonely folks we could reach out to? People still struggle to get back out after the pandemic lockdown. If you have a heart for our HPT neighbors or want to learn more about what you can do to serve and build a stronger community, contact me at [Rebeccac@fpconcord.org](mailto:Rebeccac@fpconcord.org).

**By Rebecca Chase**



# Pancake Brunch Pictorial - September 22, 2024





## Highlights of the Summer

In June the Session approved a 6-month extension to Rev. Dr. Carol Antablin Miles' Interim Pastor Contract with First Presbyterian Church of Concord; M/P

In August CLP Darryl McCollum, working with the Property Management Team, presented a new fee schedule for weddings and memorials. The recommendations were approved.

CLP Darryl reported that much progress has been made on updating FPCC's website. It may be ready to "go live" soon.

The Session approved the Finance Team's request to pay \$19,077.16 for repairs to the PCC air conditioning from the Rider Bequest Fund.

The Outreach Team reports that it canceled the contract with Church Candy, which was providing support for Facebook use. Our social media staff feels that it learned a lot but no longer needs help. In addition, it is now utilizing TikTok, Spotify, and other social media platforms.

The Outreach Team also reported that it participated in "Thursday Night in the Park" at Todos Santos Park and plans to continue participating in the future.

### FPCC Staff

Rev. Dr. Carol Miles  
Rebecca Chase, CLP  
Lisa Justice, Student Pastor  
Darryl McCollum, CLP  
DeVonn Powers, CLP  
Andrew Cardiasmenos  
Robin Stearns  
Linde Weber  
Harold Lund

Interim Pastor  
Commissioned Pastor for Community Care  
Seminarian in Residence & Church Administrator  
Commissioned Pastor for Outreach  
Commissioned Pastor for Urban Ministries  
Director, Music & Worship  
Preschool Director  
Financial and Human Resources Specialist  
Custodian & Night Watchman

David Dowell

Editor, First Press

### Editor's Note:

First Press is a publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Concord, California, printed several times yearly.