

The CHIMES

February, 2024
Published Every Two Months
Editor: Bill Kubecki

A newsletter for and about the First Congregational Church, Oroville, CA

General

Please send me any stories or pictures of your travels or successes to be considered for the next edition of The Chimes at dubkub42@gmail.com, or call me at (805) 636-8505.

Jeannie Maes Charitable Works

I received this note from Jeannie who is still doing the Lord's work in Mexico:

“At different schools at the dump, 119 pair of shoes have found feet, thanks to you donors!

The volunteers from my church here have thoroughly enjoyed their work and were very impressed with the schools. Currently, one of the schools has 5 students who have graduated from the University and 10 enrolled! Amazing.”





Disaster Preparedness Presentation at Social Hour

On January 21, before the end of social hour, we had a guest speaker, Angie Mennel, who is with the Butte County Office of Emergency Management, give a presentation on what to do to be prepared for disasters that affect us in this area.

Following are summaries and places to go to get further information:

—Be sure to know your Evacuation Zone as the Sheriff's Dept here uses Zone Numbers for evacuation warnings and orders. For example, the Church evacuation zone is BUT-ORO-956. Dial 211, or text 898211 to get your zone, or you may go online at www.buttecounty.net. At this site, you may also sign up to receive emergency notifications via Text, Phone or Email, and sign up for the app Code Red, which can be downloaded for phones in your app store.

—Tune in to local radio station 1290AM for emergency information and updates.

— Sit down with family and create and practice an emergency plan.

—Have a common meeting place and an alternate in case you and your family are separated. Keep in mind that phones and computers will likely not work during emergencies.

—Make sure you have a go back for people and pets and update these at least every 6-months.

—Go Bags for People include: Age appropriate non-perishable food items, bottles of water, first aid kit, surgical style facemasks, prescription meds, other essential meds, hygiene items, flashlights and extra batteries. Be sure to have insurance and other necessary paperwork, cash and have adequately fueled vehicles.

—Go Bags for Pets: Food, water (bowls) and meds, pet carrier for each animal, secure collar with ID tag, and know if there is a location for pet drop off if evacuation area does not take pets.

—In case of Flooding, stay on high ground and do not drive around areas marked as flooded. If you must evacuate, follow directions of local emergency management personal, which may include turning off electric at the panel, shutting off gas at the meter, etc.

If you have further questions, contact Angie Mannel at (530) 552-3332.

Church Painting Project

We have raised a little under \$6000 of a goal of \$15,000 for repainting the church. If you know of any corporations that might be interested in donating to this cause, or anyone at Home Depot or a similar store that may be able to donate or discount products, please contact Bill Kubecki at (805) 636-8505.

At the last diaconate meeting, we discussed taking the money we already raised and using it to begin painting the trim work.

Pulpit Swap

On Sunday, January 21, we had a pulpit swap where Andrew went to First United Methodist Church and Pastor Chen Yang from there, pastored at our church.

Pastor Yang spoke about cultural differences in greetings, and his subject was Shalom (Peace).

It was nice to hear a little but about his Hmong culture. He also thought it would be a good idea to have more of these pulpit swaps to better get to know each other.

The Question of Giving

I was recently discussing church donations with someone who told me they don't give regularly as they can't give much and they are embarrassed as they feel they may be judged.

I asked what amount they would have donated without fear of judgement, and was told \$5 weekly.

I did some math and showed them that that's \$20-\$25 per month, per year, roughly \$275 per year, and \$2750 in a decade. And that's just one person.

It's amazing what a small church like ours can do with donations and because of all of you, we are able to have a very wide reach. We usually find Jeannie Maes shoe drive each year in Mexico, we were able to send money to the church that Pastor Andrew visited last year, and of course, we are mostly able to cover our overhead generated by the church building.

We have a very large building and with that comes some large bills (heating, A/C, alarm monitoring, repairs and maintenance, etc.

I'm not a big fan of being pressured to donate, and this is not that.

I decided to include this information to let you know that we appreciate anything you can give, and please don't think anyone is going to judge you for giving less than you think would be proper.

Small churches such as ours typically operate at a deficit, and every penny is appreciated!

Donations

We have an online option for your offerings and donations! It's incredibly easy and safe. Check it out at FCCOroville.org. If you have any questions, please call John Zenor at (530) 521-8177, or, please mail your contribution to: FCCO, 1715 Bird St., Oroville, CA 95965.

If anyone is interested in taking over the Missionary Chair position, please contact Pastor Andrew.

Services

Our live worship service on Sundays has changed to 11:00am, with fellowship in the social hall beginning at 12:00 noon. Join us in person if you can.

For those who cannot join us in-person, online ministries will be available as an alternative for those who prefer to stay at home. People can participate either by Zoom or Facebook live. The Zoom meeting ID number is 902 614 1333, Passcode: 1715. Facebook link: <http://www.facebook.com/fccoroville>.

Bible Study is held in person every Wednesday at 11:00am in the Church, and can be found using the info above, live on Zoom or on www.facebook.com/fccoroville. It will remain on our website for future viewing.

If you have any questions, or need help accessing any of these online events, please don't hesitate to call Pastor Andrew McHenry, 530-360-6030.

Pastor McHenry's People News – January 21, 2024

-A definite highlight from 2023 for me was the mission trip I took to Kenya in August. I gave a presentation on it in Henderson Hall at Trinity Presbyterian Church back in early October, and there was good attendance from both churches – plus a few folks from the Taylor Memorial CME Church as well. I really appreciate both churches interest in supporting our Kenyan brethren. It was a very rich experience. Maybe in the future a few others from the church can join me?

-So far the shared-pastor collaboration with Trinity Presbyterian Church has worked out well, praise the Lord. It takes six minutes to drive from one church to the other, and both churches have a good history of working together. It certainly makes for a busy Sunday – especially when I go to Sycamore Glen in the afternoons, (and then sometimes I go to Country Crest for a 4:00 p.m. service there). It's hard work, but it's good ministry – and I'm grateful for the opportunity. It's energy well-spent.

-Speaking of Sycamore Glen Chapel: First Congregational Church, thanks to our Trustees, is now helping to manage the missions giving for that ministry. An offering is taken each week, portions of which go to to offset clergy mileage expenses and provide for an accompanist. Most of the rest of it has been given to missions. In December, almost \$1,200 was given to Samaritans Purse – which is a relief agency in Billy Graham's family of ministries that is active in following-up disasters, both domestically and abroad.

-Special thanks to Oroville Hospital's Chaplain Kris Widmer for filling in for me when I was on vacation – and also to Stan Henderson for filling in after my father's passing in November. I really appreciate the church's support so I could go back to Kansas and officiate his memorial service. My dad, James A. McHenry, Jr., regularly tuned into our broadcasts and was definitely a supporter of my ministry in Oroville. I have a fruit-picker in my office that goes back to his contributions to our Citrus Savers ministry. I will always be drawing from his life and the legacy he's left me.

-Our church family also extends our sympathy to all the family and friends of Bea Grant, who passed away right about at the same time as my Dad did in November. I was reminiscing with Fred Grant on the fact that we both lost a parent at about the same time. But we're all thankful for Bea. She was a regular part here when I started back in 2019 – and she had been involved before with the Bethel Assembly church that rented space here. Eventually that group folded and Fred and Bea came in with us. In recent years Bea had lived with Fred so he could help

take care of her. She was with Fred's sister, Jeanie Gori, when she passed. As I write this we are planning for her memorial service on January 25th at the Memorial Park Cemetery. We mourn her loss, much as we believe in the resurrection and the hope of seeing her again.

-Special thanks to John Zenor for organizing the organ concert by Ryan Enright back in November. We really have a treasure here with our organ. It's said to be the finest one north of Sacramento. His skill brought out the full sounds of it in a concert that included 19 th and 20 th century pieces. It was well-attended both by people in the church and in the community. It's good when we can do creative things in the community like this.

-Special thanks also to Gino Magliocca, one of our church's newest members, who assisted me in harvesting some persimmons from a tree belonging to Meryl Townsend of Trinity Presbyterian Church. Most of our gleanings went to the local Salvation Army for distribution; we brought in a whole carload of them. The blessing of our Citrus Savers ministry happens when we keep good food from rotting on the ground and get it to people in need.

-Gino was also present on our church work day just before Christmas, along with Bill Kubecki, Chuck Tracy, Jack Laney, John Zenor, myself, his mother Bridget, and probably a few others I'm forgetting. Our work was productive and the grounds look a lot nicer because of it!

-Rick & Nancy Kester were kind enough to host a holiday reception for folks from both churches out at Lake Madero in mid-December. We had a good time enjoying their cabin, sipping refreshments, and singing hymns. It's a blessing to share fellowship in the holiday season.

Pastor McHenry's Blog:

Check out Pastor Andrew's blog at <http://www.pastormchenry.weebly.com>