

# The CHIMES

October, 2023

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

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. KayCastro has done a wonderful job for the past 5-years, so thank her when you see her. Bill Kubecki will be taking over as the new editor. 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](mailto:dubkub42@gmail.com), or call me at (805) 636-8505.

Pastor Andrew has been busy as well, as he is taking over pastoral duties for the Presbyterian Church here in Oroville, as well as keeping his duties with our church.

He went to Kenya in August ministering to the youth at the Upper Room Ministries and we are happy to have him back. Hopefully some of you followed him on Facebook and Instagram. Here's some photos of that trip for those who didn't.



The drawing is my favorite!



Jeannie Maes is getting ready to head back to Mexico in mid-November for her work with the locals there. If you are able to donate to her mission for shoes for the school children in those areas, please contact her through the Church.

We are having a tea party at the Church in the social hall on October 14 (Saturday) from 2-4pm. Entrance is free and it's recommended you bring at least 4 non-perishable food items such as canned goods. There will be games, prizes, teas and food. Plan on being there if you can to support our church and community.



A few weekends ago, a few of us (Lynda, Bridgette, Tony, John, Bill and Alise) went up to Rick and Nancy Kester's lovely lake house in Berry Creek for a day of kayaking, fun, sun, food and music. A great time was had by all.



Our Choir, which has grown substantially over the last several months, was asked to perform at the 78th Anniversary service of the Taylor Memorial CME Church on Sunday afternoon, September 11th. All went well and they got to see other choirs perform as well.



## 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](http://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.

## Donations

We have an online option for your offerings and donations! It's incredibly easy and safe. Check it out at [FCCOroville.org](http://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.

The Missions Committee met on 9/17/23 and approved the following:

- Donating \$100 to ORM for turkeys.
- Donating \$100 to Salvation Army for turkeys.
- Donating \$200 for Jeannie Maes shoes for kids who live at the dump.
- Donating \$150 for the Presbyterian Church with their food baskets.

Members ( Jeannie -Chair, Pastor Andrew, Kathy and Kay) will meet again late October with more Missions ideas.

### **Pastor McHenry's People News – August 5, 2023**

- It's been a while since our last issue of the Chimes came out. Since then, we've been blessed to take part in several good instances of ecumenical cooperation. As we usually do each year, we hosted the Cooperating Christian Churches of Oroville (CCCO) annual Good Friday service back on April 7th. It was well-supported by Christians in the community. **Stan Henderson** (from Trinity Presbyterian Church), **David Goodson** (from Taylor Memorial C.M.E. Church), **John Mitchell** (from Kingdom Community Church), and **Annie Terry** (from the Oroville Rescue Mission) all took turns giving different messages about the narrative of Jesus' arrest. And then on Ascension Day, May 18th, the CCCO hosted a collective service at the local Salvation Army Corps. **Josh Jamison** (from the Hope Center) gave an inspiring message. **Jaymes Lackey** (from the Table Church) joined me and **Captain Helden Ainios** and his family (from the Salvation Army) in providing the worship music. Afterwards we had some good food and fellowship in the gathering area.
- For us though, the bigger news in terms of ecumenical cooperation has been our work towards a collaborative pastoral arrangement with Trinity Presbyterian Church. I guest-preached at Trinity on May 21st (while the Oroville Hospital Chaplain, **Kris Widmer**, filled the pulpit for me at First Congregational Church). I'm pleased that so far the support has been unanimous; there are no signs of any dissension. On July 23rd we had a congregational meeting where the church voted unanimously to change our Sunday worship time to 11:00 a.m., beginning on September 3rd. Trinity Presbyterian Church will move their start time to 9:30 a.m. to accommodate the schedule. This should work well for everyone. It takes six minutes to drive from one church to another.
- I think this is a good time to speak a word of appreciation for **Toby Nelson**, who has been serving as the Interim Pastor at Trinity since 2019. He's been faithful to the task and has done a

good job. I know he's widely appreciated. We'll pray for him as he begins a new chapter. The folks at Trinity will be having a potluck in his honor on August 27th, which is his final Sunday with them.

- The last few months have kept me busy with memorial services and funerals...

- o Back in mid-April we lost our next-door neighbor, **Kelly McNichols**. He was a kind gentleman, a plain-spoken fellow who was always glad to help out in any situation where he was needed. Hillary and I are thankful for him. He was always real kind to us.

- o In mid-May I officiated the service for **Martha "Gwen" Whitlow**, who was a beloved grandmother from the Berry Creek area.

- o **Barbara "Bunny" Burkett** was a sweet little woman who was active in the Sycamore Glen chapel ministry. She went home to be with the Lord in early June. I have a Jesus mug that she gave me; I think of her whenever I drink from it. She was a woman of deep faith. We had a nice service for her up at Sycamore Glen.

- o I also found out that **Maggie Brown** passed away. She was a part of the congregation I served in Paradise. Those of us who remember her will always cherish her great sense of humor. She was quite a character. I think she was 94. She had relocated to Southern California since the Camp Fire of 2018.

- o We had a service for **Edie Wood** on July 29th. She made it to the tender age of 106. Dozens of folks in her family were in attendance that day, and our church ladies did a spectacular job in putting together the lunch afterwards. Edie's remembered as someone with a stubborn spirit; it's part of the reason she was with us for such a long time. She was also much-loved; her determined streak came out in her love for her family and other people she helped through the years.

- o Most recently, **Marge Webber** passed away July 30th – just a few hours after I visited her in the hospital. Her grandson also came in to see her late that night. She was a pleasant woman who had been a part of the church going back quite a few years. We're thankful for her and her family and all they did to take care of her. She was 99.

- Our church did a series on "Amish Grace" back during Lent. Part of the ministry was an open panel-discussion on how Christians can respond to the problem of violence. We did it on a Tuesday night in the social hall, the panel had some good last-minute substitutions: **Annie Terry** was on hand, as was **Ed Hall** (a Sheriff's Department Chaplain and local clergyman).

They joined **Chuck Tracy** (who is a former law enforcement officer and a retired school superintendent) and **David Goodson** (from Taylor Memorial C.M.E. Church). It was a rich discussion. I also appreciate the church leaders who had food on hand for everyone who came.

- These are exciting times at First Congregational Church, partly marked by some new members and some new baptisms! I had the honor of baptizing **Gino Magliocca** during worship on Easter Sunday. Then he joined the church along with his mother, **Bridget Magliocca**, as well as **Jack & Raunda Laney**. Then on the first Sunday of June I had the honor of baptizing **Lynda Upthegrove** in the Feather River. **Bill & Alise Kubecki** joined the church a few weeks later, along with **Lynda**. It's been a great blessing to have them on board. Part of the reason is that **Lynda** and **Alise** are now in the church music team. The new practice time is Mondays at 5:30 p.m.; newcomers are always welcome. We're also blessed to have **Bill Kubecki** tending to the sound and technology on Sunday mornings. **Bill** and **Raunda Laney** have also joined the diaconate, and **Jack Laney** is the newest addition to the church trustees. Praise the Lord for new leadership in the ranks!

- **Lew & Marian Seidlitz** are now living out at Country Crest. We miss them in church, but it's been good to see them there when I lead the afternoon chapel service each month. Back in church, **Linda Kyle** has been good about asking us to pray for them – with all the transitions they've been through. On July 23rd we turned the tables and prayed for **Linda** while I was out at Country Crest. The gift of fellowship is quite a blessing when you're going through major life changes.

- **Hillary** and I had an enjoyable vacation for our 14th anniversary down in San Francisco. One of the blessings was being able to visit Chinese Congregational Church, one of our sister churches located in Chinatown. During worship I gave them a greeting on behalf of our church. We also had a chance to visit Alcatraz for the first time. Some interesting history: **Byron Eshelman** was a chaplain there (in 1947-48) before coming to be the pastor here in Oroville (in 1949). **Dick Chamberlain** told me he remembered it as heyday for the church. Eshelman was a popular pastor. He left in 1951 to become a chaplain at the prison in San Quentin.
- Special thanks to everyone who made the July 4th Ice Cream Social go so well. Music was provided by **Margie Maes'** jazz/Latin group, the Rogue Roosters. It was well-attended. The Congregational Women's Fellowship (CWF) is really an active bunch these days. Praise the Lord, we have lot of good stuff coming up!