

CLARION

Bridging the Centuries through Faith
1913 – 2020

Worship July 18



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALTADENA

Altadena, California 91001
Wednesday, July 7, 2021
Volume LXXIII, Number XXVII

OUR CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JULY 6

Clarion Mailing

SUNDAY, JULY 11

Services Suspended for Health Concerns
Live Stream Online Worship 10:30am

TUESDAY, JULY 13

Clarion Mailing

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

Mission Study 7:00p

THURSDAY, JULY 15

Church Work Day 8:00a

SUNDAY, JULY 18

Sunday Family Worship 10:30
(In person)

Sunday, July 4, 2021

Thoughts from Pastor Ann

From the May 31 Presbyterian Outlook came this true story in Leslie Scanlon's article entitled: Faithfulness.

'Sometimes, grace appears on the new unmarked road. It's what pastor John D'Elia heard from a mom with two young children - an inquisitive 11-year-old boy and a 4-year-old daughter he describes as a "Bohemian in the making." The family almost never showed up in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. But now, the mom says they love Zoom church, which they watch as a family on Sunday afternoon in comfy clothes. Sometimes the boy will ask his mom to pause the recording in the middle of the sermon, saying: "OK, stop it, what did John mean right there? What was that word?" And the 4-year-old dances through all the music, fully in motion, with no one complaining.'

This is just one example of the 'new thing' that is happening in the life of congregations around the country. A new thing. Scripture continually reminds us that God is in the business of change and bringing about something new. Isaiah 43:18-19 states: 'Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?' Isaiah is recalling the Exodus in which God led his people out of slavery in Egypt and into a new promised land. King David's beautiful prayer of thanksgiving and deliverance in Psalm 40 holds up a journey where God delivered him out of the 'desolate pit' and he is now able to sing with a 'new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God'.

We all know the effects of this tremendously difficult time - this 'desolate pit of a pandemic' - that the world has been experiencing since it started in early 2020. And it is not over yet. But in the midst of this tremendous time of loss, pain, suffering, anger, confusion, there has also been tremendous faithfulness from congregations and people of faith all across our nation and around the world which have brought about new life and new ways of doing things. New things like Zoom church with 4-year-old children dancing to the music. Churches have responded in unique and creative ways to continue to provide spiritual guidance and to still be involved in mission. From sewing masks, to having adult education classes through Zoom, from setting up pastor support groups, providing new collaboration between congregations, churches have continued to not just survive, but thrive in the new ways of living their faith. And we at FPCA have been part of that.

As I reflect on these first 8 months, I have been with you I have seen a church willing to jump in and 'be new': from Zoom congregational meetings, Zoom fellowship, Easter and Lent- in-a-bag (and delivered to homes), a very generous and successful Christmas food and toy drive, Safer-At-Home worship and many more things. New things.

Soon you will be receiving information from the Mission Study team about a survey to take about your reflections on your experience with FPCA. You will also be asked to dream about the future. I hope you will 'dream big' and 'dream new'.

While we talk about wanting things to get back to 'normal', maybe instead we should be looking for the 'new unmarked road'. May we continue to allow God to lead us down a 'new unmarked road' and be surprised by the 'new song' that may be in people's hearts and homes where 11-year-old children listen to sermons and 4-year-olds dance to the music.

Blessings and peace to you as we continue this glorious journey of faith,
Pastor Ann

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

We are grateful to those persons who led us in live on-line worship on Sunday, July 4, 2021, with social distancing. Call to Worship, Ann Kiriya; Scripture, Bob Uchida (Mark 6: 1-13); music, Allison and Karina Lee, Ann Kiriya, and Gus Zdanovich; Sound and Visuals, Kevin Hayashi, Gary Lee, Ron Ota, and Nick Tomoyasu; and Rev Ann Oglesby-Edwards for her on-line worship sermon "Traveling Instructions".

WHO'S MAILING

July 13	Volunteers
July 20	Volunteers
July 27	Volunteers
August 3	Volunteers

*This week: Volunteers

STAFF JUNE 26

Editor	Donna Kiriya
Printer and Mailing Crew	Dorothy Kirkland and Alice Young
Email	Bobby Hayashi

OUR THANKS

Our church expresses our sincere appreciation to the following members and friends for their gifts from June 30, 2021 thru July 6, 2021

Presbyterian Women

Debbie Yonemura and Glenn Hiraoka,
In memory of their mother Frances Hiraoka on her birthday.



Clarion Fund Begins this Week

During our traditional Clarion fund drive in July, our church will remember and celebrate the contributions and dedicated life of Ted Tajima, the editor of the Clarion for 62 years. Beginning in 1948 and ending in 2010, Ted edited the Clarion every week until he became seriously ill toward the end of 2010 and passed away on February 20, 2011.

He was unable to edit the Clarion during his illness, so various church members continued to edit the Clarion weekly. They included Donna Kiriyaama Gonzales, who edited the Clarion issues of February 2, 9, and 16, 2011. It was then that the church Session, in its wisdom and foresight, selected Donna to become the editor of the Clarion. We are fortunate that Donna has had the dedication, skill, and physical stamina to continue into her 11th year as the editor and to continue the personal mission of Ted Tajima of editing Clarions weekly.

The church appreciates the donations made in past years from our many readers who receive the Clarion via U.S. mail and email. To make it easier for email readers to make a donation, this week we are sending a hard copy of the Clarion along with an envelope to everyone on the U.S. mail and email lists. Proceeds from the drive will enable the church to pay for expenses such as materials, equipment, the upkeep of our computer system, and salaries of office staff persons involved with the editing of the Clarion.

Thank you in advance for your donations.

(this article was submitted by the Board of Stewards).

Mission Study Team Makes Progress Towards Inviting Congregational Participation

The Mission Study Team has been working diligently over the past three months, since Session appointed the 10 team members in March 2021. We have met seven times and completed a number of assignments to lay the preliminary groundwork for the work ahead.

Our goal is to conduct a Mission Study that incorporates congregational involvement and input that will then serve as a basis for our search for a new pastor. The study includes an assessment of our historical context, who we are as a church today, and what is God calling us to be in the future.

During the month of July, the Team will be ready to invite the congregation to share their input in this process. Initially, your input will come in the form of a congregational survey in which you will respond to a variety of written questions. Later, there will be opportunities to share your insights in person or through zoom.

Because your participation in this Mission Study process is so critical, we request that you take ample time to thoughtfully and prayerfully present your sincere observations and opinions about the life of this church. Thank you.

Mission Study Team:

- Pastor Ann Oglesby-Edwards, Moderator*
- Virginia Gin*
- Donna Gonzales*
- Katherine Hashimoto*
- Kevin Hayashi*
- Larry Jung*
- Dorothy Kirkland*
- Kathy Matsumoto*
- Pete Morris*
- Veronica Ota*
- Bob Uchida*



First Presbyterian Church Altadena



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

The Clarion would like to acknowledge the following graduates of the class of 2021.

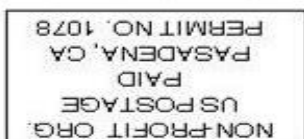


High School

Natalie Anne Tomoyasu – Marshall Fundamental School, ASB, Year Book, Girls' Basketball, Amy Utsunomiya Service Award 2020. Natalie is the daughter of Larry and Carol Tomoyasu. She will be attending the University of Oregon and will study Communication Disorders and Sciences.

College

Gwendolyn Keiko Hashimoto – University of California, Los Angeles, Bachelor of Science Mechanical Engineering. Gwen is the daughter of Lewis and Katherine Hashimoto



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