

The Messenger

First Presbyterian Church of Garden Grove



2019

Walking in Faith, Living in Hope, and Acting in Love

Sunday Worship
9:30 am

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Garden Grove, CA
92840

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From Pastor Jack's Study:

LOOSE IN THE WORLD

by Rev. Dr. Jack Michael Loo



I believe love and truth to be two of the highest of life's values, supremely worthy of possession and certainly worthy of extending to others. They originate at the core of God's character, they are powerfully revealed in the person and work of Jesus Christ, and they are capable of drawing people into a profound community.

Perhaps the most exciting thing about a community shaped by those values is that it is unable to exist solely for itself. It is compelled to extend itself to the world, wrapping needy hearts with the love and truth of God.

In John Masefield's powerful drama *The Trial of Jesus*, Procula, who is the wife of Pilate, overhears the report that Jesus is no longer in the tomb but has risen from the dead. She asks Longinus, a Roman soldier, in great excitement,

"Do you think he is dead?"

Longinus replies, "No, I don't."

Procula asks, "Then, where is he?"

And Longinus declares, "Loose in the world, lady, where neither Jew or Roman nor anyone else can stop him!"

Masefield has captured the mission of Jesus Christ – to be loose in the world where no one can stop him. And I believe that to be the mission of Christ's church as well. We are sent by God to be loose in our world, allowing no one to stop us from delivering God's truth and love.

We are First Presbyterian Church of Garden Grove, growing in truth and love as a community, going with truth and love into the world.

The Messenger is published monthly to inform members and friends of church news, upcoming events, and "food for thought".

Deadline for contributions is the **10th** of each month.

Contributions are subject to editing with regard to subject matter, space requirements, and *timely* submission. The Editors and Staff appreciate your kind and thoughtful cooperation.

For weekly updates, please come to Worship Service each Sunday morning to receive your copy of the Bulletin with announcements.



**Worship begins
in (air-conditioned) Leonard Lounge
at 9:30 am**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 4
COMMUNION
“Gifts With A Mission”
Psalm 96:1-6
Ephesians 4:7-16**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 11
“A Change of Clothes”
Psalm 15:1-5
Ephesians 4:22-32**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18
“Turn On The Light”
Psalm 36:5-9
Ephesians 5:1-10**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25
“Spiritual Battle Gear”
Psalm 18:30-35
Ephesians 6:10-20**

**Rev. Dr. Jack Loo,
Transitional Pastor**

A BIT OF WISDOM FROM A JULY SERMON

Ephesians 3:14-21 was the text for “Beyond Our Imagination”, Pastor Jack’s sermon on July 28th. Jack explained that, “In the book of Ephesians we find Paul praying for a church that is divided. He wants reconciliation so he prays for the people to be filled with ‘all the fullness of God’—full of His strength, full of His love, and full of faith in His ability to do ‘more than all we ask or imagine.’”

One illustration Pastor Jack used was this: “Years ago Dr. Donald Barnhouse pointed out that love is intrinsic to all the fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. He said, ‘Love is the key. Joy is love singing. Peace is love resting. Long-suffering is love enduring. Kindness is love’s touch. Goodness is love’s character. Faithfulness is love’s habit. Gentleness is love’s self-forgetfulness. Self-control is love holding the reins.’ Barnhouse is pointing out that there are no fruits of the Spirit without love!”

[Donald Grey Barnhouse, Th.D. (March 28, 1895 – November 5, 1960) was an American Christian preacher, pastor, theologian, radio pioneer, and writer. He was pastor of the Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from 1927 to his death in 1960. As a pioneer in radio broadcasting, his program, *The Bible Study Hour*, continues today, and is now known as *Dr. Barnhouse and the Bible*.]





Take Note!

by Marilyn N. Stiltz, Music Director, FPCGG

THE OFFERTORY

The Shortest Quiz:
Choose the correct answer.
5 points for each correct answer.

What is the original purpose of the Offertory?

- Offer bread and wine to God
- Offer tithe to God
- Offer music to God
- Conceal the sound of coins dropping



ANSWER: a. During the Catholic Mass, the bread and wine are placed on the altar. It is a very solemn moment, with equally solemn music. As the Protestant churches evolved, the Offertory became associated with the collection of tithes.

In my experiences playing for various churches, the offering traditions are as equally varied. Personally, I think the plate should be passed around and around and around until the music stops—I have several pieces that are over 10 minutes in length! Or, perhaps the shorter the sermon, the more money is contributed. Father Leo, Catholic Parish priest in Breckenridge, Colorado, never gave a sermon that went over 10 minutes. As I reflect on my time working with him, the plates were consistently full. However, I'm getting off topic.

Currently, at FPCGG, the Offertory music is quite short, much like the "shortest quiz" at the start of this month's article. When Ellen and her helper have on their roller skates, I barely have enough time to play 4 measures! In that brief event, I try to make the music meaningful, by bringing in some element based on the sermon or theme for the week. Occasionally, I will improvise or play a hymn. Other times, I will play short, meditative music.

Do you like having instrumental music during the Offering? Would you prefer silence until the sung response? Let me know your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. Oh! and by the way, I would be highly disappointed if Pastor Jack were to condense his message to a mere 10 minutes. I hope you agree with me.



Next month: ***Take Note! Communion music.***



YOUNG-AT-HEART IS GOING BOWLING! JOIN US SATURDAY, AUGUST 10th!

Young-At-Heart is planning a bit of friendly competition as a part of their fellowship gathering in August. They will gather on **Saturday, August 10th, at 11:30 am at Linbrook Bowl, 201 South Brookhurst St., Anaheim, CA, 92804, phone 714.774.2853.** First the group will enjoy individually ordered lunches from the

Linbrook Snack Bar, served and savored in their party room. At 1:00 pm, all will move to the reserved lanes, striving for spares and strikes and fun. Lunch, shoes, and ball will be provided for \$10 per person. Those who aren't up to aiming a ball at the pins are welcome to enjoy the fun by cheering for those who are.

Linbrook Bowl, located at the corner of Lincoln and Brookhurst, opened in 1958. It is the perfect combination of a classic vintage bowling alley which has now stepped into modern times with new scoring systems and monitors. This outing would be a great way to introduce a neighbor or friend to your church family and perhaps thereby interest them in joining us for worship and service gatherings as well. **Contact Sharon Scism at 714.930.6465 or sharonscism@sbcglobal.net** to reserve your spot for this fun and relaxing diversion from those "must-do tasks"!

FPCGG BOOK CLUB READING CHOICE TO CONSIDER THE STRUGGLES AND TENSIONS OF TWO GENERATIONS OF AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY

For August, the FPCGG Book Club has chosen to read a new novel by UC Riverside Professor of Creative Writing Laila Lalami. Born in Morocco, educated in London and L.A., Lalami chose the wild and unfamiliar landscape of the Mojave Desert rural towns near Joshua Tree National Park as the backdrop for a novel that explores the "unexpected consequences of immigration," including the prejudice faced by

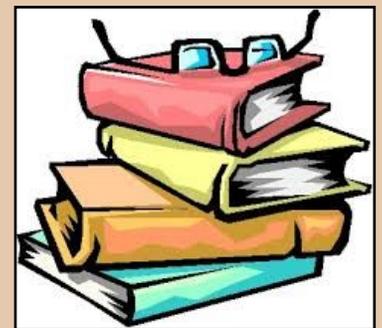
outsiders in an insular community. A Santa Monica resident who visits the desert frequently to hike, camp, and write, this is the first novel she has set in California, her home for the past 20 years.

The novel opens with the mysterious hit-and-run death of a Moroccan immigrant outside his restaurant on Highway 62, the rural artery that is the main street through town. The victim's daughter Nora, who returns home from Oakland to grieve with her family, is certain the death is no accident and presses authorities to track down the driver. The evidence is murky, but gradually the truth emerges through the voices of the nine characters who narrate the book.

Praised by *Los Angeles Times* reviewer Michael Schaub as "many books at once: a gripping literary thriller, a complex love story, and a sharp critique of an America wracked by war and hatred, divided against itself, constantly near a breaking point....The novel is intricately plotted, up to its shocking but unforced end."

The FPCGG Book Club invites you to read *The Other Americans* and then come to help us apply the Christian faith and love we share as we consider the timeless theme of immigration and this story. The group will gather around a table in the back room at Marie Callender's at 13252 Brookhurst in Garden Grove on **Tuesday, August 20th, at 5:00 pm.** Couples and singles choose from the menu (possibility including a sinfully-delicious piece of pie), and share ideas of other good books to read and interesting conversation on a whole range of interests. Shucks, we'll even enjoy your fellowship if you don't find the time to read the book!

Direct your questions and RSVP to Joan Mildenstein (714.539.1034).





Group Outing

ENJOY *The 39 Steps* WITH YOUNG-AT-HEART Sunday, September 15th, 2:00 pm matinee

Young-At-Heart's Sunday, September 15th drama excursion will have us traveling to the Costa Mesa Playhouse, 661 Hamilton Street, Costa Mesa CA 92626; (949) 650-5269; (on the campus of the REA School); costamesaplayhouse.com, a 73-seat, not-for-profit, community theater now in its 55th season. We will be enjoying their 2:00 pm matinee performance of *The 39 Steps*. (It will be important to arrive by 1:30 pm in order to be seated by curtain time.)

The 39 Steps by Patrick Barlow and John Buchan, directed by Chris Merten, is a gleefully theatrical parody of Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 adventure film. Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel, add a dash of Monty Python, and you have this thrilling and riotous whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre. A cast of four actors plays over 150 characters in this fast-paced tale of an ordinary man on an extraordinarily entertaining adventure. One actor plays the hero, an actress plays the three women with whom he has romantic entanglements, and two other actors play every other character in the show: heroes, villains, men, women, children, and even the occasional inanimate object. This often requires lightning fast quick changes and occasionally playing multiple characters at once. Thus, the film's serious spy story becomes a comedy thriller. This dramatic adaptation has been the winner of two Tony Awards and the 2007 Oliver Award for Best Comedy.

The FPCGG Young-At-Heart folks have been awarded a group discount on tickets; they will be \$15 each. Please make reservations at your earliest convenience to secure your seat. **The only way to reserve a seat is to pay for your ticket** with exact cash or a check written to Wayne Wolfe, since he has already paid for the seats.

Contact Wayne or Sharon Wolfe at (714) 540-2746 or wayashar@aol.com for further information.

**Take this opportunity
to invite a friend or neighbor
to enjoy an afternoon of comedy
with your church family!**



PATIO REPAIR

by Wayne Wolfe, Administrative Ministry

Outside the pastor's office, a large, beautiful tree that had been planted many years ago had begun to push its roots to the surface. We have seen this type of thing happen along our city sidewalks where they are bulged upward and make walking and wheelchair access very unpleasant. Well, our tree had pushed the bricks heading toward the two benches upward to where the first brick was totally out of the ground. Several members of our congregation had commented to me about the trip hazard this was creating for our members and anyone else using our campus.

Once I was made aware of the bad situation, it then became a legal liability for the church if anyone were to be injured. Discussions were held and suggestions made—such as enlarging the ring around the tree to relieve the pressure on the bricks. That would have meant that the circle cut-out would then be too close to the benches and it would become the trip hazard. But the bricks were not the only problem. Cracks began radiating in all directions from the base of the tree through the concrete patio. One large crack was heading right towards the pastor's door. This meant that the walkway was in danger of cracking and the expense of repair would become even more costly. As it is, this is a \$7,500 patio safety renovation.

The decision of Administrative Ministry was to remove and replace the concrete. We are renovating concrete work done in 1992 to prevent women's high heels from sinking into the grass that once covered the entire patio area, (that date is escribed in the remaining concrete). So, what was to become of the tree if we were to do that? We could cut away the current surface roots, pour concrete, and hope the roots did not reappear and the tree would still be stable in a Santa Ana windstorm. There seemed to be too many unknowns in that scenario. Therefore, the choice we all did not want to make was to remove the tree to prevent reoccurring problems that the tree created. (This means we will miss the hatching of ducklings in our very special tree!) The tree on the opposite corner has not created similar problems, and the decision was made to leave that tree as is.

Shade for the benches is the next concern. We therefore will contract with a professional awning/shade company to complete the project with an appropriate canvas sail awning.







TIME FOR LUNCH ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 16th, 11:30 am

FPCGG guys and gals will be meeting separately for lunch at 11:30 am on the third Friday of the month at Oggi's, at the intersection of Chapman Ave. and Harbor Blvd. in Garden Grove.

One way FPCGG strives to build meaningful relationships with those with whom we worship on Sundays is to share our lives while eating together during other casual occasions. Men's and Women's Luncheons at Oggi's provide such a setting. The ladies and gentlemen enjoy lunch and conversations on a whole range of topics at separate tables in the same back room. We enjoy our time together, our personally chosen favorite salads, flat breads, and sandwiches, and Chris's excellent service.

We would be pleased to have YOU join us at one of those tables this month!

To make reservations:

Gentlemen—contact Wayne Wolfe (714.342.4331).

Ladies—contact Sharon Wolfe (714.540.2746).

It is important that you make reservations so that correct seating can be planned; and that you notify us if your plans change after you've reserved a spot. Thanks for your help!



This sketch by Jim Eads illustrates a cute church family story we want to share! Deacon Jeongkya "Jay" Choi has been faithfully brewing, serving, and cleaning up the pot afterwards for coffee fellowship time after Sunday worship. Jim and Elaine Eads wanted to show their appreciation to Jay for his efforts, so Jim presented Jay with this Starbucks-like icon. We all had fun and thanked Jay for his service and Jim for sharing his sketching talent!



FPCGG tenant Chapman Montessori Preschool is striving to gain additional students during this period of enrollment approaching fall.

FINANCIAL NEWS

by Administrative Ministry



Praise God for Generosity!

Here are the numbers!

Commitments and Regular Giving Income as of June 30th, 2019:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| YTD 2019 Actual | \$ 43,154.50 |
| YTD 2019 Anticipated | \$ 42,258.00 |
| YTD Difference | \$ 896.50 |

Financial Update as of June 30th, 2019, for total income and expenses:

| | |
|------------------|---------------|
| YTD 2019 Income | \$ 106,851.80 |
| YTD 2019 Expense | \$ 101,758.02 |
| YTD Difference | \$ 5,093.78 |

Ahead as we continue to serve!

We have reached mid-year, and our Session is diligently striving to keep expenses reasonable. This church family affirms that all that we have and all that we are have come from God; we give generously beyond ourselves — our time, our energies, and our financial resources — and we pray that God will continue to use them and us to serve the call of the church.



One Tuesday morning recently while Shower Plus Ministry was busily offering showers, food, clothing, and fellowship, a gentleman sought out an FPCGG church volunteer, and very privately handed him an envelope, said quietly "First Fruits," and then promptly disappeared. Shower Plus Ministry Coordinator Tom Windhausen identified the man as a former SPM

participant who now has a job and a safe place to live. [That envelope contained \$90 in cash!] This incident just illustrates the appreciation felt by the homeless guests who come to use the facilities offered and then give back as they are able. We are First Presbyterian Church of Garden Grove, striving to grow in truth and love as a community, going with truth and love into the world.



SHOWER PLUS MINISTRY STATISTICS FOR 4 WEEKS OF JUNE 2019 (a total of 8 days)

Total showers taken: 481 (duplicated individuals;
approximately **60** unique individuals each day)

Total breakfasts served: 509 (duplicated individuals;
approximately **64** unique individuals daily)

Number of participants who were new to us: 31 (unique individuals)

Number of volunteer hours donated: 414.5 (a value of **\$ 5,577.00**,
\$11.00 per hour, CA minimum wage)

Bakery Donations from Costco: approximate value, \$ 1,965.14

Food Finders, St. Jude's Hospital Fullerton, Donation: 551 lbs. of pre-cooked food

BREAD OF LIFE



BREAD OF LIFE DONATIONS

Non-perishable food items are collected monthly. These gifts are then shared with H.O.P.E., a Garden Grove organization which helps families who are hungry and hurting. Requested donations for August's Bread of Life program: **cold cereals**
Thank you for your generosity!



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 Gumm Gibson
10 Roger Gibson
11 Jim Eads
12 Christeen Warrick
16 Michaelray Cerince,
Barbara Conrady,
Sharon Wolfe

Count Your Treasures

Count your garden by the flowers,
Never by leaves that fall.
Count your day by golden hours.
Don't remember clouds at all.



Counts your nights by stars, not shadows.
Count your life by smiles, not tears.
And, with joy on every birthday,
Count your age by friends, not years.

This verse was first published in 1927. The authorship is somewhat uncertain; it has been attributed to both Dixie Willson and Bing Crosby's wife Dixie Lee Crosby.

“MUNCHIES FOR MISSION”

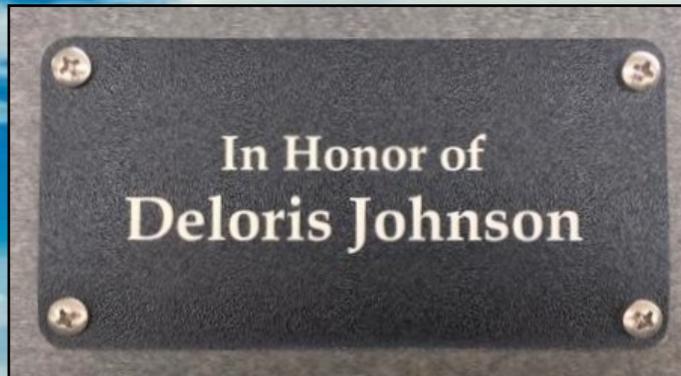
August Focus: The Sheepfold by Outreach Ministry

After Sunday worship, as we gather in the Choir Room for fellowship, coffee, and punch, we also may enjoy sweet treats from the “Munchies for Mission” table. Those goodies are donated each week; the binder with the upcoming calendar of volunteer sign-ups is on that table, along with a donations basket. Those cash donations (augmented by the Deacons’ Fund to reach \$150 monthly) are sent to a designated local non-profit organization at the end of the month. In August, those “Munchies for Mission” moneys will be given to The Sheepfold.

Providing shelter, safe refuge, and a new beginning in life for homeless, abused, and forsaken women with children since October of 1979, The Sheepfold operates shelters in Orange and Riverside Counties. The Sheepfold is a two-step transitional living program for mothers with children in their custody, (boys up to 12 years of age and girls up to 17 years of age). The first step of the program is set in a residential communal environment with five families maximum at each facility. The second step of the program is set in a private apartment complex with a maximum of 10 families at a facility. The six-month program focuses on each family’s individual needs while providing everyone with a safe and healing environment. Each mother establishes a means of support for herself and her children, develops and adheres to a budget, learns parenting skills, locates affordable housing, and saves for future living expenses. After completing the program, she is ready for independent living. The Sheepfold accepts no funding by the state; otherwise they would not be able to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. They receive donations from individuals, churches and businesses.

The Sheepfold may be contacted by mail at P.O. Box 4487, Orange, CA 92863; by phone at 714.237/1444; or via email: mail@thesheepfold.org. Shop or donate new or gently used goods at their Sheepfold Boutique, 810 N. Tustin Street, Orange, CA 92867.

♥♥♥♥♥ NEWS from and about our extended church family and friends ♥♥♥♥♥



The children of Deloris Johnson chose to honor their mother's memory with an engraved plaque mounted on the upper back board of one of the grey benches installed around the inner courtyard.

Those benches were originally purchased with the Restricted Memorial Gifts Fund supervised by Administrative Ministry. A few additional bench back spots are still available where a loved one could be so honored, for a \$300 donation. If you would be interested in honoring a loved one in this manner, please present your check written to "First Presbyterian Church" to Business Administrator Denise Cerince with a note stating that it is for a bench plaque, and completing this wording for the plaque: "In Honor of..."



**UPCOMING FPCGG EVENTS,
AUGUST 2019 FORWARD**



| | | | |
|----------|--------------|----------|---|
| Saturday | August 3 | | Shower Plus Ministry Volunteers Thank You Luncheon |
| Saturday | August 10 | 11:30 am | Y-At-H lunch, then bowling at LinBrook Bowl |
| Sunday | August 11 | | Marilyn Stiltz on vacation; Guest Pianist Adrian Rangel-Sanchez |
| Friday | August 16 | 11:30 am | Men's and Women's Luncheons at Oggi's Denise Cerince, vacation day (in Oregon) |
| Sunday | August 18 | 11:00 am | Session Meeting |
| Monday | August 19 | | Denise Cerince, vacation day (in Oregon) |
| Tuesday | August 20 | 5:00 pm | FPCGG Book Club @ Marie Callender's |
| Sunday | September 15 | 2:00 pm | Y-At-H <i>The 39 Steps</i> at Costa Mesa Playhouse |
| Saturday | September 28 | | Los Ranchos Presbytery at St. Peter's-By-The-Sea, HB |

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