

The Messenger

First Presbyterian Church of Garden Grove

FEBRUARY

2020

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

Sunday Worship
9:30 am

11832 Euclid Street
Garden Grove, CA
92840

office (714) 534-2269
www.fpcgg.org
church email:
fpcgg@fpcgg.org

Transitional Pastor
Rev. Dr. Jack Loo
949-444-1028

Business Administrator
Denise Cerince
denise@fpcgg.org

Music Director
Marilyn Stiltz

Shower Plus Ministry
Coordinator
Tom Windhausen

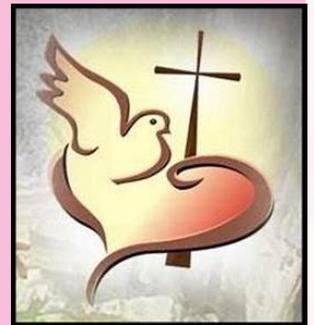
Custodian
Christopher Tran

Editors
Sharon and Wayne
Wolfe
wayashar@aol.com

From Pastor Jack's Study:

"DUMPSTER THEOLOGY"

by Rev. Dr. Jack Michael Loo



Some years ago, when our family made the decision to move from one city to another and, of course, from one house to another, we faced some interesting challenges. Over the years we had accumulated a whole bunch of, for lack of a better word, stuff. Our garage was full of stuff, our closets and other storage spaces were full of stuff. We had stuff everywhere. What were we going to do with all the stuff?

Some of the most challenging decisions we had to make had to do with what we were going to take with us to the new place and what we were going to discard and leave behind. I rented a dumpster (Yes, it took a dumpster.) and "d-day" was upon us (small "d" for dumpster). What were we going to dump? What were we going to keep? Everybody had his or her own ideas. We all contributed to the large bin. Some periodically retrieved. It was a fascinating exercise worthy of a family case study. Our psychological profiles were competing in entertaining fashion.

In a few days we had accomplished the task. We had dumped all the things that were no longer needed or over the years had lost their significance. (OK, maybe not all the things. A few pack rats had apparently infiltrated the family.) But we were ready to establish our new home. And we could not have done that if we had dragged all our old stuff with us. There would not have been enough space for the new things we needed to put into our new residence.

(continued, page 2)

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.



**Sunday Worship
begins at 9:30 am**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
COMMUNION SUNDAY
“Finding Some Shade”
Mark 4:26-32**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9
“People with a Purpose”
Mark 6:7-13, 30
Annual Congregational Meeting
after Worship and Luncheon,
Fellowship Hall**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
“The Heart of the Matter”
Mark 7:1-23**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
“The Ultimate Question”
Mark 8:27-38**

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

“DUMPSTER THEOLOGY”

by Rev. Dr. Jack Michael Loo
(continued from page 1)

Is it not the same with our spirituality? If at the beginning of this new year, we want to move to a new spiritual place with God, don't we have to get rid of a bunch of old junk that has been cluttering up our soul? If spiritual renewal is our hope, we will need a spiritual dumpster. We will need a place into which we discard the old, the meaningless, the selfish, anything that hinders goodness and Godliness. Once God helps us do that, we are ready to move to a new spiritual place, that place in which we have made room for God, where our lives are ready to be filled with the best of spiritual furnishings – love, joy, peace, truth, faith, kindness. It is 2020 and I think “D-day” is coming (large “D” for spiritual Dumpster).

“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 3:13-14)

Pastor Jack



CELEBRATING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GARDEN GROVE

First Presbyterian Church of Garden Grove is currently in our sixty-fifth year of “Walking in Faith, Living in Hope, and Acting in Love” in ministry and service in this community. That anniversary milestone was commemorated with a special cake served during the fellowship time after worship on the last Sunday in January.

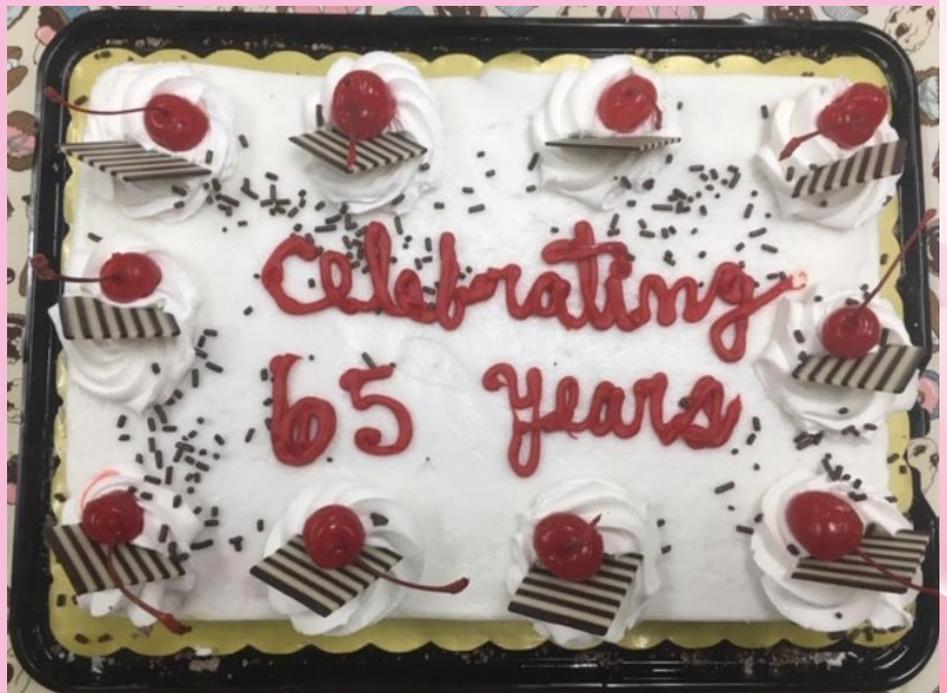
First Presbyterian Church of Garden Grove actually “began” at an initial meeting of a Presbyterian Steering Committee of eight couples in a private home on October 3, 1954. The Adventist Church in Garden Grove was available for worship services until the church could build; a donation of \$25 per week for the use of the building was deemed appropriate. On Friday, January 21, 1955, a special dinner was held at the Garden Grove Masonic Temple for the purpose of meeting the Organizing Committee from Presbytery to receive Charter Members and elect Church Officers. Nine men were elected Ruling Elders, 12 men were elected Deacons, 3 men were elected Trustees, and 161 Charter Members were received. Sunday, January 23, 1955, was the day on which the church was officially organized.

The first Session meeting was held January 25, 1955, at 8:00 pm in the home of founding pastor Rev. Thomas W. Gillespie. (Tom was President of Princeton Theological Seminary when he officially retired in 2004.) Elder Allan W. Bryan was elected the first Clerk of the Session (hence Bryan Memorial Area—the picnic area of barbecue grills and tables and benches located on our campus north of the preschool).

Official church records also tell us that Stuart M. Leonard was charter member #94 of FPCGG on January 23, 1955, that he was ordained as an Elder on January 10, 1956, and that he also served as Clerk of Session. When Stuart Leonard succumbed to lung cancer just before Christmas in 1966, his death devastated a church family whose founding pastor had recently accepted a new call to Burlingame. Other charter members had died before him, but Stu was the first young active lay leader to be lost. Session Minutes for January 24, 1967, record a motion to set aside one room within the church as a memorial to Stuart Leonard. On November 28, 1967, Session voted to name the lounge “Stuart M. Leonard Lounge.”

First Presbyterian Church
of Garden Grove
is so very thankful for the vision
of those early leaders.
We really have been
welcoming all
since that hopeful beginning.

**To God Be The Glory
For The Things He Has Done!**



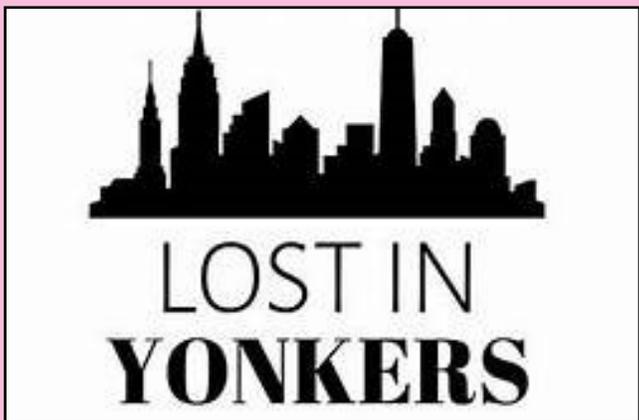


Up-Coming Events

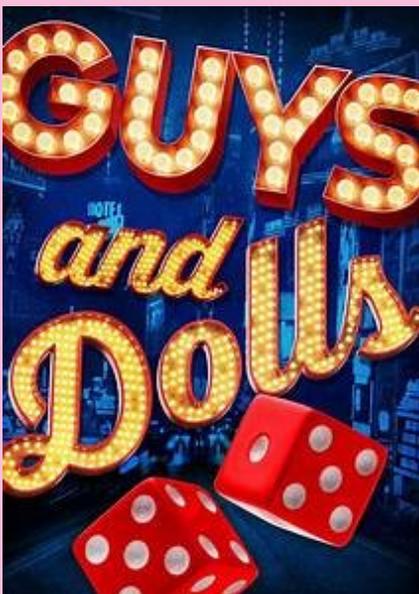
PLAN TO SHARE THEATER ADVENTURES WITH YOUNG-AT-HEART

Young-At-Heart focuses upon making connections and welcoming new friends, especially those 55 years of age or older, though we embrace everyone. We strive to plan at least monthly events that encourage deepening relationships and having fun with trips to community theaters, museums, or other interesting local attractions, and to events on the church campus as well. We endeavor to arrange group discount tickets; each participant pays his / her own way; ridesharing is encouraged. Two upcoming theater outings are planned for February and March. We encourage you to join us, and to invite and bring with you a friend or neighbor who might enjoy the fellowship and be introduced to our Christian community.

On Sunday, February 16th, at 2:00 pm, Young-At-Heart will be viewing *Lost in Yonkers* by Neil Simon at the Costa Mesa Playhouse, a 73-seat, not-for-profit, community theater located at 661 Hamilton Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626; (949) 650-5269; (on the campus of the REA School); costamesaplayhouse.com.



Lost in Yonkers is a funny and heartrending drama about the trials and tribulations that test family ties by one of America's most acclaimed and beloved playwrights. Neil Simon's coming-of-age memory play, set in Yonkers in 1942, is a tale of family dysfunction at its best. Arty and Jay, two teenage brothers, are forced to live with their mentally challenged aunt and stern, bitter grandmother while their ne'er-do-well father takes to the road as a traveling salesman to pay off his debts to a loan shark. *Lost in Yonkers* won four Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.



Tickets to *Lost in Yonkers* at \$15 each may ONLY be secured by cash or check payable to Wayne Wolfe. You may contact Wayne at (714) 342-4331 or (714) 540-2746 or wayashar@aol.com. Make your plans now, before the reserved seats are gone.

On Saturday, March 14th, at 2:00 pm, Young-At-Heart will be enjoying *Guys and Dolls* at the GEM Theatre located at the end of historic Main Street in Garden Grove. The GEM, now extensively remodeled, was a vaudeville house in the 1920's. The GEM Theatre, 12852 Main St., Garden Grove, CA 92840; (714) 741-9550; www.onemoreproductions.com.

YOUNG-AT-HEART, continued

Considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy, *Guys and Dolls* ran for 1,200 performances when it opened on Broadway in 1950. Set in Damon Runyon's mythical New York City, *Guys and Dolls* is an oddball romantic comedy. Gambler Nathan Detroit tries to find the cash to set up the biggest craps game in town while the authorities breathe down his neck; meanwhile, his girlfriend and nightclub performer Adelaide laments that they've been engaged for fourteen years. Nathan turns to fellow gambler Sky Masterson for the dough, and Sky ends up chasing the strait-laced missionary Sarah Brown as a result. *Guys and Dolls* takes us from the heart of Times Square to the cafes of Havana, Cuba, and even into the sewers of New York City, but eventually everyone ends up right where they belong.

Tickets to *Guys and Dolls* at \$28 each [for Seniors 60+] are available from Denise Cerince. Each may ONLY be secured by cash or check payable to First Presbyterian Church. You may contact Denise during the week during her 8:00 am to 2:30 pm office hours at the church office (714) 534-2269 or denise@fpcgg.org. Even though they are more expensive, tickets to the GEM go quickly because it is such a great venue and the young people on stage are so talented. Solidify your plans now while the reserved seats are still available!

**Enjoying local community theater with your church friends can be a priority!
Bring a friend to share the comradery. Make your plans NOW—not later!**

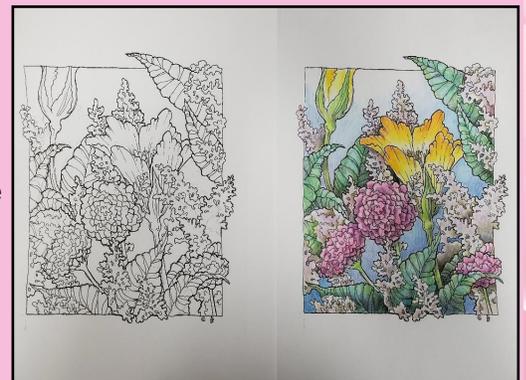
YOUNG-AT-HEART TIME-OUT TO RELAX AND COLOR Wednesday, February 26th, 2 – 4 pm FPC Choir Room



Jim Eads is offering another leisurely and informal afternoon time-out to share fellowship and just relax together, and experiment with crafting your own unique pictures with the help of colored pencils. Jim has generously shared his artistic talent for sketching to create images to color and will show those who are interested his techniques for turning black and white images into colorful creations.

Participants will gather at tables set up in the choir room to watch and learn and experiment with their own innovations, using their choice of Jim's black and white sketches as a start. Jim and Elaine will have already set up tables with the basic supplies needed to blend your own creation. Bring a friend, and even your Starbucks coffee or tea is welcome! Come to the FPC Choir Room at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, February 26th, and share this time-out.

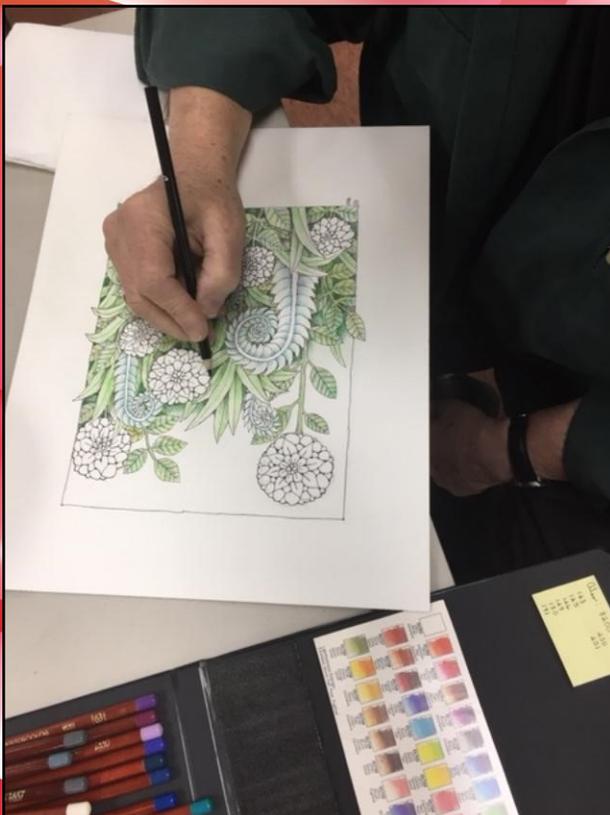
**Contact Jim Eads @ 714.595.1959 with any questions.
Make plans to color; bring a neighbor!**



**Snapshots of Unique Combinations of Color Being Created
Young-At-Heart Time-Out to Relax and Color in January**



All those who experimented with color under the tutorage of Jim Eads in January chose watercolor pencils and brush as their medium. Each first worked with an image of a butterfly, then progressed to a larger sketch of choice to experiment further. It was a time to share fellowship and the time to just create. The two hours passed very quickly!



**FPCGG SHOWER PLUS MINISTRY STATISTICS
FOR JANUARY 2020
(a total of 8 days)**



Total showers taken: 431 (duplicated individuals; approximately 54 unique individuals each day)

Total breakfasts served: 604 (duplicated individuals; approximately 76 unique individuals daily)

Number of participants who were new to us: 16 (unique individuals)

Number of volunteer hours donated: 508.5 (a value of \$ 5,593.50, \$11.00 per hour, CA minimum wage)

Bakery Donations from Costco: approximate value, \$ 1,425.64

Food Finders, St. Jude's Hospital Fullerton, Donation: 420 lbs. of pre-cooked food

(The Shower Plus Ministry reopened after restructuring on January 7th.)

FINANCIAL NEWS

by Administrative Ministry



Here are the numbers!
Commitments and Regular Giving Income as of December 31st, 2019:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| YTD 2019 Actual | \$ 84,114.35 |
| YTD 2019 Anticipated | \$ <u>84,516.00</u> |
| YTD Difference | (\$ 401.65) |

Financial Update as of December 31st, 2019, for total income and expenses:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| YTD 2019 Income | \$ 205,997.80 |
| YTD 2019 Expense | \$ <u>203,847.99</u> |
| YTD Difference | \$ 2,149.81 |

FPCGG ended the year with an Actual Total Income vs. Total Expenses surplus of \$2,149.81. Actual income figures are 102.16% of that which the 2019 Budget anticipated; pledges and regular giving were 99.52% of what was anticipated. In addition, initial offering gifts were 985% greater than were projected. Session did, however, authorize that certain major capital expenses, such as replacement of a furnace, removal of a tree, and cement work needed for safety reasons be paid out of reserves and restricted accounts and not the regular budget. Generous one-time gifts from the Eides and the Perkins also were utilized. Having VPC's monthly stipend and the Chapman Montessori Preschool lease payments continue to be important to our financial survival. This church family gives 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 God's call of this church.



**TIME FOR LUNCH
ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST, 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 and serve the community throughout the week 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).

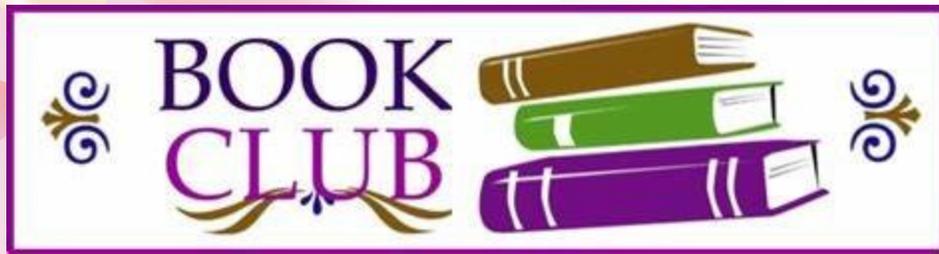


It is important that you make reservations so that correct seating can be planned; and that you notify us if your plans change after you've reserved a spot. Thanks for your help!

Love lights more fires than hate extinguishes.

You can't do everything,
but you can do something.

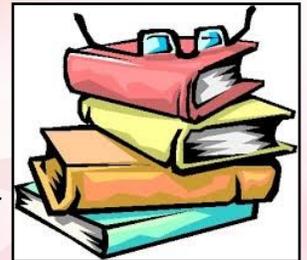
No amount of darkness can hide a spark of light.



FPCGG BOOK CLUB REFLECTS UPON THE LONG-LASTING LIFE DECISIONS MADE BY TEENAGERS

AARP Magazine's top fiction picks of 2019 influenced the FPCGG Book Club members as they chose their February "read". AARP explained, "*Red At The Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson is a lyrically told story about the lasting repercussions of youthful choices, focused on three generations of two Brooklyn families shaped by the forces of social class and race." Woodson considers not just their successes but also the costs.

Won't you read with us about the realities of the decisions young people must often make about their lives—even before they have begun to figure out who they are? Then **join us on Tuesday, February 18th, at 5:00 pm** as we gather around a table in the back room at Marie Callender's at 13252 Brookhurst in Garden Grove. Choose from the menu (possibility including a sinfully-delicious piece of pie), and share thoughts regarding *Red At The Bone* and ideas of other good books to read plus interesting conversation on many other varied topics both trivial and significant, serious and fun.



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

Prayer gives your faith roots and branches.

Count your rainbows, not your thunderstorms.

Learn from yesterday.
Plan for tomorrow.
Live for today.

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 abandoned and abused women and children from disadvantaged families. Requested donations for February's Bread of Life program:
canned main dishes
Thank you for your generosity!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Erin Kural
- 12 Carol Opstad
- 13 Walt Hauenstein
- 25 Joan Mildenstein
- 26 Herb Meadowcroft



“MUNCHIES FOR MISSION” February Focus: CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) 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 February those “Munchies for Mission” moneys will be given to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

Every day, abused and neglected children in Orange County are taken from their homes and placed in foster care because their parents cannot provide safe homes. Court Appointed Special Advocates of Orange County (CASA) is a privately-funded non-profit organization that serves those severely abused, neglected, and abandoned children through the recruitment, training, and continued support of volunteers who advocate and mentor these children, representing their best interests in the courtroom and other settings. Their mission is to provide quality advocacy for children through a unique one-on-one relationship between a trained and supervised court-appointed volunteer and an abused, abandoned, or neglected child.

CASA serves annually approximately 1,000 of the children who move through our court system as a direct cause of abuse and neglect. Today, more than 120 children are on CASA’s wait list, referred by a judge and in need of a mentor-advocate of their own. For volunteer opportunities, contact **Matthew Wadlinger** at **714-619-5155**, or contact **CASA** at **714-619-5151** (1505 East 17th Street, Suite 214; Santa Ana, CA 92705).



UPCOMING EVENTS,
FEBRUARY 2020



| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------|---|
| Sunday | February 2 | 11:00 am | Distribution of printed Annual Report Distribution of printed <i>The Messenger</i> |
| Sunday | February 9 | 10:45 am | Annual Luncheon, Congregational Meeting, FH |
| Sunday | February 16 | 2:00 pm | Y-At-H <i>Lost in Yonkers</i> , Costa Mesa Playhouse |
| Monday | February 17 | | President's Day, National Holiday |
| Tuesday | February 18 | 5:00 pm | FPCGG Book Club @ Marie Callender's |
| Friday | February 21 | 11:30 am | Men's, Women's Luncheons @ Oggi's |
| Wednesday | February 26 | | Ash Wednesday (First Day of Lent) |
| | | 2:00 pm | Y-At-H Time-Out to Relax and Color, Choir Room |
| Saturday | February 29 | | Los Ranchos Presbytery at Garden Grove, VPC as official hosts |
| Saturday | March 14 | 2:00 pm | Y-At-H <i>Guys and Dolls</i> , GEM Theatre |

ASH WEDNESDAY

by Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Jerusalem*

Ash Wednesday
and we are on our way
to Your Way.
O Lamb of God,
have mercy upon us and
keep us from all the smallness of our lives
that would take precedence over
kneeling in Jerusalem.

PUT AWAY THE TINSEL

by Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Jerusalem*

When Lent comes,
you have to put away the tinsel;
you have to take down your Christmas tree,
and stand out in the open . . . vulnerable.
You either are or you aren't.
You either believe or you don't.
You either will or you won't.
And, O Lord, how we love the stable and the star!
When Lent comes the angels' voices
begin their lamenting,
and we find ourselves in a courtyard
where we must answer
whether we know him or not.

The Messenger
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11832 Euclid Street
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Congregational Meeting



State-of-the-Church
REPORT

**Sunday, February 9, 2020
Following Worship and
Sandwich / Salad Luncheon
Hosted by the Deacons
FPCGG Fellowship Hall
(\$5 donation per person)**

Please plan to attend
the Annual Congregational Meeting
as we celebrate
what God has done among us in 2019
and what God has yet to do among us in 2020.