

CORNERSTONE

Jesus Christ, the living cornerstone
and you are also living stones,
built into a dwelling place of God,
in the Spirit.
- Eph. 2:20-22 1 Peter 2:4,5



Irvington Presbyterian Church

Fremont, CA

April, 2017

This Changes Everything

Sundays

Bible study 8:45 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

**(Nursery and Children
Sunday School During
Service)**

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A lot happens at meal times. Think of the first meal in the Bible. The woman took some of the fruit, and ate it; she gave it to her husband, and he ate it; then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked (Gen 3:6-7). The tale was told, over and over, as the beginning of the woes that came upon the human race. Death itself was traced to that moment of rebellion. The whole creation was subjected to decay, futility and sorrow as a result of our ancestors' distrust and betrayal in that meal.

The first meal of the new creation is recounted in Luke. Jesus had been tortured to death and buried. Three days later he met two of his followers walking on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Since they thought he was dead, it was not surprising that they did not recognize him as he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself (Luke 24:27).

They reached their home and invited the stranger in for a meal. At the table he took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they recognized him. (Luke 24:30-31). There at the village of Emmaus, the couple discovers that the long curse has been broken. Death has been defeated. God's new creation, brimming with life, joy and new possibility, has burst in upon the world of decay and sorrow. Jesus, risen from the dead, is the beginning and the sign of this new world. Jesus has gone through death and out the other side into a new world, a world of new and deathless creation. His body is still real and solid, only somehow transformed into life that never dies.

On Easter Sunday we cry, "Christ is risen!" "He is risen indeed Halleluiah!" The life is now ours that Jesus won by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. Sharing his life and victory, we now live not to please ourselves but to love God. As we soak ourselves in his words, Scripture reveals the risen Christ, the source of power to live, to change our hearts and the world.

Easter is the event that split history and changed the world. What is the real meaning of Easter? In John 1:29, as he sees Jesus approaching, John the Baptist announces to the crowd around him, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" - Christ has risen!

Pastor Larry and all at IPC wish you a blessed Easter.



MUSIC MINISTRY

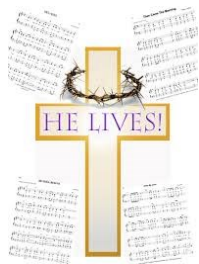


This month as we celebrate the Easter season, we have excellent opportunities to reflect on why we worship and who it is that we worship. As children, we tended to think of Easter as a one-day affair steeped in tradition. We dressed up in new clothes for church, sang joyful songs in worship and enjoyed the traditional Easter egg hunt. As adults our focus becomes deeper as we reflect on what brings the most meaning to worship.



Many things can inspire our worship, but few things are as meaningful as the cross and the empty tomb. When you think about the cross, what emotions do you feel? Do you look at the cross and feel sadness, guilt, love, or peace? The cross is the ultimate display of grace, it is the Lord himself sending His own son to die for us, that we could be saved and adopted as sons and daughters into His Kingdom. This should be a central focus for our worship. Music worship can help us strive for a deeper understanding of what the cross means for our faith.

Some Easter renditions inspiring us during this season include Johann Sebastian Bach's Easter Oratorio, which narrates the events of Easter morning; Johann Pachelbel's Easter Cantatas, which includes "Christ has risen" and Handel's Messiah; the second part of which, tells of the work of redemption and looks especially to the cross and resurrection of Christ. More recently, our inspiration can come to us by listening to, and singing hymns in praise such as "Holy, Holy, Holy," "Because He Lives" and "All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name." At IPC, the praise songs and hymns are accompanied by a band that includes electric guitars, bass and drums. While the presentation is contemporary, the message is preserved. No matter what type of music inspires us, the cross and empty tomb remain our two points of focus.



Jesus' life and ministry didn't end with the cross. Jesus rose from the dead, leaving the empty tomb to inspire us. He was victorious over sin and death. This too should be a focus of our worship and an absolute cause for celebration, Paul even reminds us: "*And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.*" 1 Corinthians 15:14. But Christ is risen and because of that truth, we bring hope, joy, and celebration into our worship.



If you would like to volunteer your talents in Music Ministry, contact Derek Post by e-mailing or calling the Church Office.

SESSION NEWS & NOTES - Mustapha Baksh

On March 21, Session held its regular meeting . We began with prayer for God's guidance as we continue to work together for His glory. Pastor Larry then took us through a reading and discussion of Acts 2: 1-13. These verses tell of how the apostles received power through a baptism with the Holy Spirit. This fulfilled the promise Jesus had made to them just before His ascension (Acts 1:8).

The minutes of the February 21, Session Meeting and the February 26, Annual Congregation Meeting were approved. A motion to approve the Church Ministries and its Leaders was also approved.

Pastor Larry reported that the new registration and prayer request cards were working well. There is a request from a Mandarin speaking couple to join IPC and help launch a Chinese Ministry here. This appears to be an exciting opportunity for IPC to reach out to the Fremont Mandarin speaking population. The couple will soon be seeking ordination in the PCUSA. More details will be available next month. A new member orientation is scheduled for March 26, with eight believers who have expressed interest in becoming part of the IPC family.

CE and Family Ministry reported that "the Great Surprise" event for Palm Sunday is garnering support and volunteers. The IPC traditional Easter egg hunt after worship is scheduled. Both events are being advertised.

Worship Ministry plan a Tenebrae Service of the Spoken Word for Good Friday at 7 PM. Easter Sunday Service will be followed by an egg hunt. The new layout of the chancel was completed.

Communications Ministry reported that the new website which is easier to navigate, is now regularly updated. A visitor welcome packet is being readied for Palm Sunday. The packet will include a welcome letter from Pastor Larry, and trifolds on the Church, Missions, and opportunities to serve.

Session reviewed Communion Elements and agreed to continue using bread and juice. One Great Hour of Sharing is scheduled for April 30.

The Clerk reported that an IPC Clerk Handbook was completed and will be made available on google docs. This handbook delineates the functions and responsibilities of the Clerk of Session and will be included in the IPC Operations Manual. Certificates from PCUSA for New Members, Baptism, Installation and Ordination that were adapted for use at IPC, were shown to Session. A decision to implement will be made at the next Session Meeting. The Clerk also recommended that Session meet in April to review its performance. A date will be decided at the next Session meeting.

The meeting closed in group prayer, as we thanked the Lord for an effective meeting. We prayed for teamwork in Session and asked that He send kids for the Palm Sunday event.

This year's Per Capita amount is \$36 per member. This amount goes to help pay for the operations of the Presbyterian Church USA, at our national level (General Assembly), the regional level (Synod of the Pacific) and the area level (Presbytery of San Francisco). It would be most appreciated if you would make a contribution in the amount shown for each member of your family. Please mark your check or giving envelope "Per Capita" and place in the collection plate. Thank you.



DEACONS' CORNER

The Ministry of Compassion and Service - Mary Lou Craig

Deacons meeting opened in prayer by Pastor Larry. Coffee and communion assignments for April and May were completed. Deacons will especially need your prayers as they minister to several in the congregation who are ill. With eight new members being added to our congregation, Russ Pennelly will review and make recommendations on Parish assignments at the next meeting.

On Mother's Day, May 14, following worship, Deacons will host a baby shower for two expectant mothers in our congregation. Cake and refreshments will be served, and all are invited. Shower gifts are welcomed. Contact Mary Lee Starkel if you need to check registries.



Deacons are still taking lily orders for Easter Sunday. These should be available for Good Friday service. The goal is 25 –30 orders. To date there are 21 orders. You may sign up through April 9.

As is the custom at IPC, Deacons are planning corsages for Mothers Day, We continue to provide prayers, benevolent support, care and visits to the home bound and hospitalized in our congregation. If you are a member of our church, you are in a parish and have a Deacon.

What do Deacons do?

Keep you connected to our church family. Your Deacon will contact you by letter, email, or phone several times a year just to check in with you. Should you have a crisis, loss, or hospitalization; and would like prayers and support of your church family, contact your assigned Deacon.

How may I contact my Deacon?

Simply call the church office at (510) 657- 3133 and ask our admin for the contact information.

Medical Equipment and Supplies

IPC maintains a limited supply of medical equipment and some supplies including walkers, wheel chairs, shower seats, hand exercisers, stool height extenders, portable toilet commodes, crutches, canes and adult briefs. These are available for members and their families.

Currently there is a need for newer wheel chairs. If anyone knows of wheel chairs that are available for loan to those in need; or if you need to use any of the items listed above, please contact:

Deacon Joe Di Maggio @ 651 - 1323 or

Deacon Moderator Mary Lou Craig @ 656 - 4388



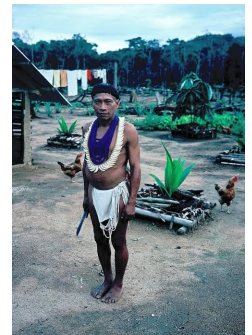
MISSIONS: THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

To Our Dear Church Family,

In 1976 we went to work with an Indian tribe in the Amazon jungles of Venezuela. Our team had to learn the language, culture, translate and establish churches. This process usually takes 20-40 years. Our work also included much doctoring since the lifespan of the natives was about 30 years.



When we first arrived, this tribe appeared to be barely out of the stone age (picture on right). Since then, they have advanced by leaps and bounds. After 30 years of working in this region we successfully established 50 churches, each with its own Pastor. After this, we were expelled by the government and barred from living with the tribe. For the last 10 years, we continued to do what we could by laying out Bible lessons in their language and making periodic visits to the area.



Since we were expelled, the initial 50 churches, by God's grace, have grown to over 120. There are regional conferences, attended by thousands (regional meetings picture to the left). Recently a couple was commissioned to go cross-culturally to a neighboring tribe. They too will have to learn the language, culture and provide translations for the new tribe.



I travel to Venezuela to teach in a missionary training program for Venezuelans. Since foreign missionaries are barred from working directly with the tribes, the Lord is raising up Venezuelans to take the gospel to the tribes of their own country. The picture on the right is the last class that I taught. Last month the government barred me from visiting the country again. This really throws a wrench in "my plans". However, I rest in the reassurance that He knows what's best for me.



We have a huge immigrant population here in Lincoln, Nebraska. Valerie has weekly meetings with Yazidi girls who speak Kurdish. They have no written "scriptures" and follow the "peacock angel". Their parents seem set in their ways, but allow their kids to attend Bible classes. They hesitate to attend classes with Arabs, as there is a lot of "bad blood" between these ethnic groups. Valerie also has two other children's classes. Larry helps with quite a few Arabic speaking (also speak English) kids in a children's program at the church we attend here called AWANA. Their parents are Muslim, Christian, and Sabeen (followers of John the Baptist).

We both now have a ministry with the children of the Yazidis, Kurds, and Muslims in the area. We are in the process of deciding if this is the new direction in which God is leading us.

With our love and appreciation,

Larry and Valerie Bockus

FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE - Stephanie Yamada

Easter week reminds us that there's no greater love than the one Jesus gives. It is one week that changed history forever, and the one unselfish act that changes lives for eternity. The believers at IPC are using their time and talents to open children's eyes to the wonder of Jesus' resurrection during the Easter holiday.



April 9th, Palm Sunday, Irvington Presbyterian Church is presenting The Great Surprise, a fun family interactive experience doing amazing science object lessons that tie in to the greatest surprise of all, that Jesus is alive! Our Social Hall will be a hub of excitement from 11:30 – 1:00, and we are praying for many

guests!

April 16th, Easter Sunday, we will be hosting our annual Easter egg hunt after worship. Invite your friends, neighbors and family to the hunt, as we distribute nearly 500 eggs on our grounds for our youngest guests to find.

The fun does not stop when Easter is over. Our families are continuing to celebrate their bond in Christ with a movie night this spring (details to follow), and a trip to the Oakland Zoo after church on Sunday, May 21st. Group tickets available for purchase (\$14.75/adult, 10.75/child, no refunds) and can be ordered through me at children@irvingtonpres.org.

We are excited to teach, learn, and grow in our love of Christ together.

Surprise!

At The Great Surprise, kids and their families will experience hands-on fun with a variety of surprising activities. Through these **WOW** experiences, everyone discovers the amazing surprise that **Jesus is alive!**

JOIN US!

Irvington Presbyterian Church
4181 Irvington Avenue, Fremont, CA

Sunday, April 9th
11:30 - 1:00

Register at: irvingtonpres.org

the GREAT SURPRISE
Jesus is alive

Group Publishing, Inc. • group.com

Group
Real. Bold Love.

Irvington Presbyterian Church
Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 16
After 10:00 am worship service

Irvington Presbyterian Church
4181 Irvington Avenue
Fremont, CA 94538

Decorate your own bag!
All children welcome!

Food & refreshments provided

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

KNOWING YOUR NEIGHBORS, THE SIKHS

Who are those Men with Turbans? *Now we know more! "Sat Sri Akal"*

On Sunday March 19, Pastor Wilson Koppula's presentation to 50 of our members and visitors provided more insight into understanding, interacting with, and sharing the gospel with our Sikh neighbors. We learned that Sikhs are neither Hindus nor Muslims. Sikhism has some similarities to Biblical Christianity such as, belief in one Creator God, rejection of idol worship, emphasis on a life of service, high moral standards and the value of mediation on God's truth. There are also some critical differences. Sikhism does not accept the Biblical Trinity; Jesus is viewed as one with Moses, the Buddha, Muhammad or the Sikh Gurus; they assert that people are essentially good and they deny the reality of sinful human nature. We learned some basic Sikh greetings and how to share the gospel with Sikh friends.

Pastor Koppula offered an open invitation to visit a Sikh temple in Fremont. Your Mission Team will be organizing this visit within the next couple of months. If you are interested in visiting the Sikh temple, please contact any member of the Mission Team. Thanks to Lynette Ariathurai, Peggy Handono, Johnny Handono and the Mission Team for preparing delicious Indian fare for the event.



WEEKDAYS AT IPC

The Church office is open Tuesday through Thursday each week from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM. If you would like to meet with Pastor Larry, you may schedule an appointment by calling the office.

Highlights for April:

4 th Deacons Meeting 7 pm	13 th Missions Ministry Meeting 5 pm
7 th Church Alive Meeting 7 pm	14 th Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7 pm
Tuesdays "Son of God" Life Group 1 pm	16 th Easter Service and Egg Hunt 10 am
Wednesdays ROMEO breakfast 8 am	18 th Ladies out to Lunch 11:30 am
Wednesdays "Son of God" Life Group 7 pm	18 th Session Meeting 7 pm
Thursdays "Son of God" Life Group 7 pm	25 th Life Group on Devine Direction 1 pm
9 th "the Great Surprise" 11:30 am	26 th Life Group on Devine Direction 7 pm
10 th , 24 th Home Bible Study 7 pm	27 th Life Group on Devine Direction

Church Directory

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Larry Thorson	Address: 4181 Irvington Avenue
Family Ministries Director :	Stephanie Yamada	P.O. Box 1336
Worship Leader:	Derek Post	Fremont, CA 94538
Bookkeeper:	Jeanette Ollison	Phone: (510) 657 3133
Office Manager:	Marissa Hughes	Fax: (510) 657 7040
		Email: info@irvingtonpres.org



Bible Studies

Sunday Bible Study - at 8:45 AM in the McKowen Room preceding worship.

Join Elder Richard Craig as he leads the class in studying the Book of Revelation.

Women's Bible Study - Women meet Mondays in the McKowen Room at 9:30 AM.

Contact Helen Jorgensen for details.

Home Bible Study - Regularly scheduled bi-weekly Bible Classes at Mary Ellen's house on April 10 and 24 at 7 PM. Studying the Gospel of Matthew. Contact Mary Ellen for details.

CONGREGATION NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Alex Ariathurai	Dean Ostdiek
Lynnette Ariathurai	Pearl Ray
Amy Brown	Mary Lee Starkel
Teresa Oliver	Amy Wu



Know Your Missionaries

Sunday, April 23, during worship, Esther Manoukian will present an update of the work being done in Armenia through Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). CEF is a Bible-centered organization whose purpose is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ; and to establish (disciple) them in the Word of God and in their local church for Christian living.

CEF has been in Armenia since 1991 and IPC has helped support this organization for two decades.

Ladies out to Lunch

The "Ladies Out to Lunch" group will meet at the : **Sala Thai 2 Restaurant**

Date: Tuesday, April 18

Time: 11:30 AM

Location: 44800 South Grimmer Blvd., Fremont 94538
(Please note new location)

Contact: Gill Carson (510) 657 4069 to confirm your reservation



New Member Orientation

On Sunday March 26, Pastor Larry conducted a seminar for eight adults who were interested in membership at IPC. This class examined the history of our church, clarified our doctrinal beliefs, provided an opportunity to get to know the Leadership Team, and helped new members discover how they can "plug in" to church life and ministries. Attending this class is required for church membership.

A person may join IPC by Profession of Faith, Transfer of Church Letter or Reaffirmation of Faith.

Six attendees decided to join our church family and were accepted by Session. These six new members will be presented to the congregation on Easter Sunday.

Our next Class will be June 11. If you, or someone you know would like to become a member and be part of the IPC family, contact Pastor Larry (pastor@irvingtonpres.org) or call the church office.

KNOWING YOUR CONGREGATION

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8. Here is the story of two students who met at the American Chinese Evangelical Seminary in Sunnyvale, Ca; and who are working to fulfill God's purpose for their lives:

Elaine Liang was born in Xiamen, China. She is the sixth generation of Christians in her family, the result of PCUSA missionaries leading her great grandfather to Christ in China. When she was 10 years old, Elaine began to translate the Bible for the senior members in her church. She was baptized at age 24. She lead Bible classes at Athens Chinese Christian Church in Xiamen and has preached sermons and trained coworkers for local churches in the countryside of China since 2011. After graduating from Xiamen University with an MBA, she initially worked as a marketing manager for the Coca-Cola Company, Xiamen Branch. Later she became the General Manager of UFIDA



Healthcare Information System Co., Ltd., Fujian Branch. In 2007, while at UFIDA, Elaine received her calling from God to devote herself to doing His work. She quit her job in 2012 and enrolled at the American Chinese Evangelical Seminary in Sunnyvale, CA. In December 2016, Elaine graduated with a Master of Divinity Degree and is trained as a minister. She now plans to seek ordination in PCUSA. She is fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese and English.

Jonathan Jiang was born in Shanghai, China, the fourth generation of Christians in his family. He was baptized at age 19. In 2015, he started to preach sermons in the family church in Shanghai. After graduating from Beijing University with an MBA, he went to work as a Finance Manager at SAIC Volkswagen Automotive Co., Ltd., in Beijing. In February 2015, during one of his trips to the Volkswagen headquarters in Germany, he went to pray at a church in Cologne. There he received his calling from God. He resigned his work, and came to the U.S.A to pursue a Master of Divinity at the American Chinese Evangelical Seminary in Sunnyvale, CA. His gifts include business acumen, ministry and spreading the gospel. While on his many trips abroad, he eagerly shared the Good News to those he met.

Elaine and Jonathan were married in a church ceremony in Sunnyvale on February 4, 2017. They received a calling from God with a vision of planting a Mandarin Church in the Fremont area. Two days later they visited our IPC breakfast program where they met many Mandarin speaking guests. Elaine recognized the need and started a Mandarin Bible study class which now meets every Friday evening in Fremont. This couple have been attending IPC since March 5; and are scheduled to meet with Session on April 9, to be accepted as members. Elaine would like to be ordained in the PCUSA and Jonathan would like to do his internship alongside her. They believe Fremont gives them the best opportunity to reach Mandarin speaking people in the Bay Area and want to do ministry in a PCUSA church. IPC will have an opportunity to endorse them to the San Francisco Presbytery to go "under care" of the Presbytery.

Jonathan and Elaine sincerely invite you to be a partner in their Mandarin Ministry.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

During Lent we think ahead to the glorious celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ's victory over death with His resurrection. All are invited to join us for these special worship services to remember our Lord's great love and the gift of His life for us:

Sunday April 9 - Palm Sunday

Contemporary Service 10 am

Friday April 14 - Good Friday

Tenebrae Service of the Spoken Word 7 pm

Sunday April 16 - Easter Sunday

Contemporary Service 10 AM.

New Life Group Series Begins April 25 - Pastor Larry



Dear Friends,

Reading Scripture gets my mind focused on God and spiritual matters instead of my "to-do" list. Then standing still before God, I just allow Him an opportunity to overtake my mind. What I am really looking for is an answer to my question, "what do you want me to do today, God?" By that time (usually 6:00 am) my day is already fully committed and I think I know what I'm going to do that day. So where do you think divine direction comes into our lives?

Craig Groeschel, Pastor of Life Church in Oklahoma has written a new book "Divine Direction"; a practical approach to God's direction for our day-to-day lives. Beginning Sunday, April 23, and continuing for four weeks, we will explore ways that God gives us to direct our lives. We will also be offering Life Groups for the four weeks that correspond with the Sunday message series. This Life Group series will be led by Craig Groeschel via videotape.

You've got a life story to finish. The best part of your story could be in the days ahead or not. But if God has anything to do with the next chapter or even the end of your story it's going to be good. It will come down to some good choices. My favorite quote from the series is "If you are becoming the right who, you will choose the right do." Join us for four weeks of Sunday messages starting April 23, either in person or online; and join a Life Group to help flesh out ideas presented in this series.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



April 20 is the deadline for our May issue.

All articles are to be delivered by email to: cornerstoneeditors@gmail.com. Cornerstone is the medium to keep your current and past congregation members informed of all activities at IPC.

Your timely submissions are important to everyone.

Acknowledgements

We appreciate the time and dedication of all who submitted articles and provided information for the April issue.

This month's Cornerstone pictures were provided courtesy of: Larry Bockus, Johnny Handono and Elaine Liang

You play a significant role as we work together in the name of Christ.

A special thanks to Elaine Liang and Jonathan Jiang for sharing their story of God's plan for their lives.

Kamroon and Mustapha Baksh

Editors