

# 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, 2020

## *TriCity Free Breakfast Meets the Needs of Our Guests*

Faced with the rapid movement of the COVID19 virus, the uncertainty of guidelines, the advanced age of our dedicated volunteers and guests, and the generally vulnerable population we serve, the question was: How does the Breakfast Program continue the service we provide in the community? With little time to react, a team led by Kathy McDonald, Gerlinde Mardirosian and Tom Mardirosian got together and decided to serve a take-out boxed breakfast that started on Monday March 16. Yes, our guests came and their numbers continued to grow. Both guests and volunteers missed the camaraderie and fellowship we are used to sharing when our guests dine together and are served their meals. However, we count our blessings that our guests are continuing to receive a hot nutritious meal. We thank God for our volunteers who do the essential work needed to keep the guests fed and thus fulfill a need in the community. Thanks to our leaders, safety precautions are being practiced to keep all our guests and volunteers safe during shelter in place.

We now regularly prepare 80-90 take-out meals each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. There has been a temporary decrease in the quantity of bread, cakes, pies and milk being donated by groceries and other food stores.

This has subsequently affected the quantity of pantry items available for

guests to take home with them. Our kitchen staff, however, through careful and creative meal planning continue with the service we have been providing for over 22 years.



# WORSHIP MINISTRY

## *Worshiping OnLine*

For the first time in recorded history, churches around the world are unable to gather and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Today, it's important to remember that although we are isolated, we are not separated — **nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is Jesus Christ.** The love of Jesus is what keeps us connected. This is why Paul writes, *"I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow — not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love."* Romans 8:38 ESV. So no matter how isolated you feel, always remember that you are not alone. We are **bound together in the love of God and in the love of our church family.**

Worship Ministry is thankful for all the work that Pastor Ed, Marissa, the Audio/Visual Team and the many behind the scenes volunteers who contribute to bring worship into our homes each Sunday. Everyone is working from their homes. It is truly amazing to see how everything comes together during worship.

A special thanks to the Presbytery of San Francisco for providing IPC with a paid Zoom account. This kind gesture allows us to hold worship and meetings on line.

Over the years, IPC has celebrated an Easter Egg Hunt every Easter Sunday. This year, instead of an egg hunt, Worship Ministry has a plan to deliver red eggs to your home so that you may participate in the "breaking of eggs." Go out to your front door on Saturday evening and retrieve two or more eggs in a bag on your door handle or on the porch. Wait for Pastor's signal during worship on Sunday to break the eggs together. These eggs are edible and were prepared under very strict sanitary conditions. For those of you living in an area where we cannot deliver to your door, please check with the front desk or office for your eggs. See article on Pg. 5.

Take a moment and listen to the song "Good, Good Father". <https://youtu.be/-ak0OoFBw3c>

We hope it encourages and uplifts you in the midst of your week!

## *There are two easy ways to join us for worship*

### On Line Church

Join us Sundays at our 10:00 am online services connect via:

<https://zoom.us/j/610194286>

<https://irvingtonpres.org/sermons>

<https://www.facebook.com/irvingtonpres>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/irvingtonpres>

### Service on Demand

You can access the service on demand any time, including on Sundays.

Watch now:

<https://irvingtonpres.org/sermons>

# SESSION NEWS & NOTES

Pastor Ed opened the March 16, meeting praying for all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. "We asked God's guidance as we come to grips with the changes and uncertainty that lie ahead".

In his report, Pastor explained that we were able to quickly put together an online worship that will become more polished as we learn and move forward. As directed by state and local governments, we are suspending all gatherings including all Bible study, Connect Night Fellowship, and Praise practice. We need to be vigilant and courageous for the Lord is still in control. Let us help those fearful of the situation to have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who reigns and loves us so.

Elder Elaine reported that the New Worshiping Community Investment Grant application was approved on March 10. The amount is \$25K, matching fund from San Francisco Presbytery is \$25K for total of \$50K. They are continuing to work on a plan that will lead to financial independence. Because of the Coronavirus, Fule Church will immediately move to online worship and fellowship.

B&G's motion to paint the Social Hall was not acted upon because Finance believed that the forecasted 2020 deficit would be increased. Rather, the group requested that a quote be obtained for degreasing the kitchen in the social hall. The broken stained glass window and the main door to the social hall were replaced with help from Joe DiMaggio and Russ Pennelly. Finance did not feel that we should do any work on trimming trees because of the expense involved. The Child Leap Nursery contract was reviewed by Finance and recommended changes incorporated. With no other input from session, the contract will be extended to Mrs. Eldeeb by March 18.

Finance did not report any unusual trends to-date. This is understandable with only two months of income and expenses. Pastor's Karl \$25K was paid to the Pension Board. Finance questioned why Child Leap did not pay rental for October - December 2019. B&G reported that the company requested they be allowed to pay \$500/month more in rent each month beginning April for the next 7 months. Child Leap Nursery has a cash flow issue because of the \$12K invested in upgrading and inspecting the classroom wings to meet local fire codes.

Elder Kamroon reported that there are volunteers for coffee and snacks through April.

Mustapha Baksh volunteered to be the session representative for NomCom.

The following Elders volunteered to serve as Ministry leaders for 2020:

**Communications** - Elaine Liang

**Finance** - Don Carson

**Personnel**— Jonathan Jiang

**Education and Worship** - Co-Chairs Kelvin Chow and Kamroon Baksh

**Stewardship and Missions** - Ron Fong

**Buildings and Grounds** - Mustapha Baksh

With no Deacons at this time, Session agreed to accept responsibility for Congregational Care. Clerk will work with the Admin to randomly select five or six members that will be sent to each Elder. Scheduling two additional Training Sessions was tabled due to shelter in place directive.

Pastor Ed closed in prayer at 9:10 pm.



## *The story of the Birth of a Guatemalan Ukulele Band*

### **“Tres Acordes y la Verdad”**

It started with a \$50 ukulele and a little Guatemalan Mayan girl named Jocelyn. In three months it was a 20 member Ukulele Band named “Three Chords...” being invited to play for the International Women’s Day celebration in Central Park.

Jocelyn’s family, for as long as they can remember, have been subsistence farmers, growing coffee on the side of a volcano in Palin, Guatemala. Jocelyn is now 7; but I first encountered her as one of the 3-year-olds playing together, under our feet at the 50th-anniversary celebration of the La Ceiba Cooperative. Jocelyn’s grandfather helped start the cooperative as a young man with a dream of making a better life for his children, and now grandchildren, growing and processing his own coffee. La Ceiba Cooperative is one of the only Mayan owned coffee cooperatives in Guatemala. This celebration would be the first of many celebrations Jocelyn and I would attend over the next 4 years as the cooperative recognized each new step in becoming the only indigenous cooperative to control their own coffee production from seed to export.

Over the next 4 years, we spent many hours at the La Ceiba Center talking coffee and the future of the cooperative and Jocelyn was always there with her grandma, mom or big sister - taking it all in. I watched her eye my ukulele when I would play it during breaks. When trying to teach one of the older kids how to play - the ukulele always seemed to find its way into Jocelyn’s little lap like a magnet.

It was just in November 2019 that I brought an extra ukulele that I thought I might leave with an interested young person. It wasn’t long until Jocelyn took ownership of that ukulele and called me over for lessons whenever she was around. She was a quick study and her deep interest and mastery of the instrument piqued the interest of a few other kids.

When I posted on my Facebook page this ukulele story, four friends offered to buy a few more ukuleles and before we knew it Jocelyn, me and a couple of other youth were invited to play a song we had written in Jocelyn’s native Mayan language, Poqomam, at the next La Ceiba celebration.



Now I need to introduce to you, Cynthia. Cynthia is a bright and compassionate young college student who lives in Palin, Guatemala. I met her officially on a long van ride to Antigua with 14 other people. We got bored and I had my ukulele and one-thing-led-to-another; and before the end of

the ride, Cynthia and I were taking turns playing my ukulele and teaching each other songs. Before the day was over Cynthia had volunteered to be part of the four-member band that would be playing at the La Ceiba celebration in three days. Turns out Cynthia loves music, had just started playing ukulele, and loves to teach.

(Continued on p 5)

# ACTIVITIES UPDATE

## *The story of the Birth of a Guatemalan Ukulele Band (from p 4)*

As we sat around after our first ukulele band performance Cynthia asked me, tentatively, if she could direct the new ukulele band. Though I wasn't sure there was a band I said yes anyway. So now they have a band. With some more donations, the band now has about a dozen ukuleles to share. Within a couple of weeks, the band had a dozen members and Cynthia had them practicing once a week, and soon, twice a week. They now have 20+ members, a Cajon drummer and are planning to join up with the local youth marimba band. When asked their goals they say; "to be famous in Palin", play in the Central Park of Antigua for all the international tourists and go on a band tour of Central and South America. And that's all in the next two years. Cynthia says that Jocelyn and her buddy Fatima keep asking when they are going to Antigua and then added "what is an Antigua?" They have never been to the historic capital, only 15 miles from their hometown.

This is just one of the amazing things that have happened in this little city of Palin, Guatemala when some beyond-hope indigenous coffee farmers decided 54 years ago to cast off the old colonial ways of being "coffee slaves" and began the long, hard, risky, journey of self-reliance and inviting others to share their vision.

*Pastor Karl*

## *The symbolism of Cracking Eggs on Easter*

On the first hours of Easter Sunday and right after "Christ has risen" we crack red eggs during dinner. This tradition-while fun as a game-has the symbolism of resurrection and new life. The egg is seen by followers of Christianity as a symbol of resurrection: while being dormant it contains a new life sealed within it. Easter eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Christ, shed on the Cross, and the hard shell of the egg symbolizes the sealed Tomb of Christ- the cracking of which symbolizes his resurrection from the dead.

While the origin of Easter eggs can be explained in the symbolic terms described above, a sacred tradition among followers of Eastern Christianity says that while Mary Magdalene was bringing cooked eggs to share with other women at Jesus' tomb, the eggs in her basket miraculously turned brilliant red when she saw the risen Christ. The egg represents the boulder of the tomb of Jesus. A different, but not necessarily conflicting legend concerns Mary Magdalene's efforts to spread the Gospel. According to this tradition, after the Ascension of Jesus, Mary went to the Emperor of Rome and greeted him with "Christ has Risen," whereupon he pointed to an egg on his table and stated, "Christ has no more risen than that egg is red." After making this statement it is said the egg immediately turned blood red.

**The rules:** The game is called tsougrisma (τσουγκρισμα in Greek) and it involves two players and red eggs. Each player holds a red egg, and one taps the end of her/his egg lightly against the end of the other player's egg. The goal is to crack the opponent's egg. When one end is cracked, the winner uses the same end of her/his egg to try to crack the other end of the opponent's egg. The player who successfully cracks the eggs of the other players is declared the winner VICTORY!!!! (a singular version of this can also involve using opposing hands.)

# ACTIVITIES UPDATE

## R O M E O

Join the men fellowship now on Zoom.

**Date:** Wednesdays

**Time:** 8:30 am

**Location:** Via zoom

Bring your coffee and breakfast too.



## *One Great Hour of Sharing*

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is an opportunity for us to participate by giving our gifts and supporting the good work that the Offering does. Today, projects supported by OGHS are in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada. Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. IPC has been generous to this ministry in past years. Last year you gave \$516; we pray that you would again come together on **Palm Sunday, April 5**, and participate in this giving. [Mark your checks One Great Hour of Sharing and mail to the office or go online to give.](#) If sheltering in place prevents you from contributing at this time, we will have another OGHS Day again after we get back to worshipping in the sanctuary.



## *Outreach Ministries*

**FARMINGTON**, our Community Garden is being readied for spring planting. Boxes were cleared, the ground was rotor tilled and new planter boxes are being built. We plan to have more than 16 boxes fully planted this year. Water lines and electricity were installed.

Beginning February 29, we started a six week Bible Study titled: "Faith Nurtured in a Garden". However, with the COVID –19 outbreak, we have had to postpone our series until it is safe to do so. The class is taught by Pastor Karl Shadley who is also training facilitators to continue the teaching. In the study, we are using tools developed by Eric Law. It is a process that starts with an invitation that allows everyone the space to share, listen and be heard. Before we start our text study, we agree to uphold our respect guidelines.

Join the class and continue with garden projects; or simply join the class in studying the biblical text. Save your brochures of the six week curriculum. They will be used when we restart the course.

# CONGREGATION NEWS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lynnette Ariathurai

Elaine Liang

Rinkesh Parma

Mary Lee Starkel

Mariel Bade

Teresa Oliver

Pearl Rey

Amy Wu

## *Fule Church Goes OnLine*

Fule Church Mandarin Ministry moved to online services through Wechat, Zoom and YouTube since March 3rd, the first Tuesday of March. Beginning March 22, we started joint Sunday Worship and Friday Fellowship with First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame, Mandarin-Tai congregation. This



does not mean that we plan to join another church. At this time, because of the decrease in member contributions, both churches are able to share expenses as well have a larger audience since the language is the same.

On March 15, a day of prayer led by Elder Elaine, even reached several online visitors from mainland China.

Several members of our congregation returned to China.

They now connect with us and even invite their friends to connect via:

Church website: [www.fule.church](http://www.fule.church)

YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_NCAg--le244\\_Ntt8Xk2XQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_NCAg--le244_Ntt8Xk2XQ)

Sunday Worship and Friday Fellowship Zoom meeting ID: 7725169434

**This year's Per Capita amount is \$38.00 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). We would appreciate your making a contribution in the amount shown for each member of your family.



**Please mark your check or envelope "Per Capita" and mail to the church office. Thanks**



***Please Note: April 26 is the deadline for our May issue.***

All articles are to be delivered by email to: [kandmbaksh@gmail.com](mailto:kandmbaksh@gmail.com). Cornerstone is the medium to keep your current and past congregation members informed of all the activities and events at IPC. Your timely submissions are important to everyone.

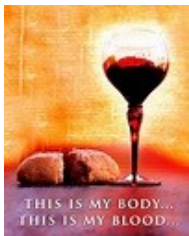


# HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*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:*



### *Maundy Thursday Service, April 9 at 7:00pm*

*Via Zoom, IPC website, you tube, facebook. Maundy Thursday's acts provide the paradox of a celebratively somber and solemnly celebrative service. Pastor Ed will lead in taking communion online. Please have your bread and juice ready before worship.*



### *Easter Sunday Service, April 12 at 10:00 am*

*Via zoom, IPC website, you tube, facebook. This is an Easter when we need desperately to hear from heavenly messengers and the risen Christ: Do not be afraid, Jesus is risen, Jesus is here and He knows what it is to suffer. He will not let us be alone in our pain. We have many reasons to celebrate and be thankful for His resurrection!*

*Pastor Ed will lead in taking communion online. Please have your bread and juice ready before worship.*

