



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

March, 2020

Celebrating New Life and New Changes

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2Corinthians 5:17)

With grateful hearts, we would like to share how God blessed Fule Church Mandarin Ministry during the past few weeks. As we entered the Lenten season, our worshipers have much to be thankful



Baptism by Pastor Jonathan

for. First, Anna Wu was baptized by Pastor Jonathan Jiang at February 25, Tuesday worship. Anna was also accepted by our Session as a member of Fule Church and Irvington Presbyterian Church.

Connect night on Feb. 25th had even more reasons for celebration! Brother Mr. Yan, Sister Mrs. Li and Pastor Jacob Gao had February birthdays. To mark the occasion, all three and



福乐教会二月生日会
Fule Church February
Birthday Celebrations 2/25/2020

Anna Wu were invited to share their testimony on how they came to believe in Jesus Christ. We were very touched and inspired, as we got to know each other better and build eternal relationships in the name of Jesus Christ.

At the beginning of March, we experienced a drop in attendance at our Tuesday Worship. We believed that this was in large part, a result of the fears related to COVID 19, the Corona virus that affected some worshipers in very personal ways. God showed us the



Sharing her testimony

way to lead this smaller group by implementing new teaching skills learned in Presbytery-sponsored classes. We practiced being more flexible and creative by using Mutual Invitation for our group discussions and eliciting testimonies that led to worship and



Baptism Anna Wu
2020 February 25

praise. In addition, we created a "Wechat" official account to promote on-line worship which helps to keep our Mandarin community friends in touch; and provides an opportunity to continue nurturing our faith. You are welcome to scan this QR code and join our online messaging.

We are fully filled with lots of love, joy and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ. Please lift up Fule Mandarin Ministry and other Chinese churches in prayer during this season.



"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:19 NIV)

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ED

The spread of COVID-19 around the world has infected many. If not well-controlled, infections can spread quickly and easily. Not surprisingly, many of us are carrying a sense of fear and caution in our hearts. Retail and warehouse stores have had their inventories depleted by panicked shoppers stocking up on non-perishable food, bottled water, toilet supplies, medicines and other virus-preventive supplies. As your pastor, my advice at this time would be to practice the following 4 Cs:

1. Show **Compassion** to those who are affected. No one wants to be affected, but sadly, many are. Instead of being prejudiced toward those affected, let us remember them in our prayers.
2. Show **Consideration** by practicing preventive habits as recommended by your doctor or health-care team. In the meantime, your Buildings and Grounds team will be implementing additional cleaning measures as recommended.
3. **Communicate** effectively. Your Session is committed to sharing with you, information and advice from the Presbytery and Presbytery Agencies as well and following their advice and recommendations regarding preventive measures. If you are hosting events or meetings, be sure to inform participants of any changes or cancelations. As responsible citizens, we can seek out information concerning the virus that is professional and factual. We can advise our friends and loved ones using information that we are professionally qualified to give. As Christians, we should do our best to assure those who are fearful to take comfort and trust in God's sovereign love and care.
4. **Create** safe space: In lieu of a handshake, offer an elbow bump or a warm smile. Help to create the space that others may need to feel comfortable. Should the situation worsen and there is a need to cancel worship services; rest assured that technology can be implemented by the Worship Team to give you Sunday worship access and keep you informed of church activities.

As we continue to practice repentance during this Lenten season, let us focus on keeping ourselves healthy while trusting God for protection and healing. Our God reigns supreme and He is in control.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Ed

The Victory Cross

The victory cross in the narthex has become a Community Victory Cross now featuring prayer requests in different languages. This is an opportunity to celebrate any major victory you have had in your life; or to share the victory that you need to ask God for this year. Your church family and



session will celebrate your success or pray for the victory you need. Write your success or need in the language you are most comfortable with on color index cards provided and place on the cross. Whether it is a habit you would like to kick, a relationship you want to heal, or a characteristic you would like to transform, know that God is always available to help and you do not have to rely on your strength alone.

On Easter Sunday, bring a special flower (your garden, purchased or made) to decorate the cross.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Diversity and Inclusion in Worship

On Tuesday, February 11, IPC worship team welcomed an invitation to take part in worship services during the 712th Presbytery of San Francisco meeting held at our campus. Pastor Karl Shadley had the privilege of leading the Presbytery meeting worship, his last act as a co-moderator. The theme of the meeting, "Hearing voices of those long silenced" a phrase from the short statement of faith, was evident in worship as well. The service reflected practices of sharing, inclusion and lifting each other as we joined together to praise the Lord. Pastor Karl put the service together with all of us in mind. He asked each of us to help lift up those voices that the main stream church often miss. He considers us as having been God's gift to him in better understanding the nature of the kingdom of God. Pastor Ed was invited to lead the Call to Worship; our worship team was also invited to donate their talents to sing, play musical instruments, read scripture and serve communion. In keeping with inclusion of other cultures from our diverse community, the sermon message was co-preached in English by Pastor Karl and in Spanish by Pastor Pablo Morataya with English translation by Pastor Monte McClain. We all joined in singing traditional hymns as well as contemporary praise songs with English and Spanish lyrics.



The first of our Lenten season services, Ash Wednesday on February 26, was marked by a 6:30 worship service with soup dinner, Communion and application of repentance ashes. The completed prayer chain was placed on the Victory Cross in the narthex and will be included with the prayers requested and prayed for during Lent. On Sunday, March 1, we were blessed to have the youngest



members of the Fremont Youth Symphony string ensemble, led by conductor Judy Lam, perform prelude selections for worship. Maundy Thursday service will be held in the Sanctuary and the cross will be draped. On Palm Sunday, the youth will teach worshippers how to make their own palm crosses. Pastor Ed is including a handout in the bulletin



each Sunday during Lent, with Lectionary-suggested bible readings. Easter Sunday will include a pre-worship waffle breakfast followed by reaffirmation of baptism, undraping of the cross and Easter worship with communion. Our traditional Easter egg hunt will begin immediately after worship. We continue to include our youth in serving during worship; reading scripture, serving Communion, playing music and collecting offering. Judy and Lina are working on plans to involve the youth and children in music worship.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28 ESV

SESSION NEWS & NOTES

Pastor Ed opened the meeting in prayer as the 2020 Session met for the first time. He reported that the elementary after-school program headed by Carol Lynn has resumed. There were two connect nights in January and a men's Tuesday night Bible Study has started at Pastor's residence. He is continuing marriage counseling to Nick McClure and Arlina Gomez. The initial 2020 Vision casting took place in January and we will continue to discern where God is leading us.

Clerk reported that the Presbytery meeting went well. More than 30 church members and friends helped with preparations, welcoming guests and serving. Elder Jonathan Jiang was commissioned as Lay Pastor. Session minutes for 2019 were approved by Presbytery.

The Fule Church requested and received permission for the baptism of their newest member Anna Wu. Pastor Jonathan would perform the baptism during worship on Tuesday February 25. Pastor Jonathan and Elder Elaine resubmitted the New Worshiping Community Investment Grant request. Fule church was also requested to develop a plan that would make them a self-sustaining ministry.

Worship Ministry reported on plans for the Lenten season and Holy Week. There will be Ash Wednesday service preceded by a simple soup dinner. Elder Kamroon will prepare the ashes and service with communion will be held in the social hall. Holy week services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday will be added to the web site and publicized within the community. Details will be worked out at a short meeting on March 8. On Sunday March 1, FYSO youngest members who started last summer at IPC will perform during worship. Judy shared music for the younger kids and will work with Lina to prepare them for performances in adult worship.

Farmington presented an unaudited financial report for 2019 and indicated that a six-week Bible Study: "Faith Nurtured in a Garden", led by Pastor Karl, will commence on Saturday February 29.

Buildings and Grounds reported on several issues with failing circuit breakers in the social hall and classrooms. These are being addressed along with replacement of lamps in all the classrooms. Church volunteers will work on replacing the toilet bowl in the small sanctuary bathroom. They will also work on the broken stained glass window facing the parking lot. The main TV in the sanctuary will be replaced by 3/15. B&G was requested to work with Finance to prepare a contract for Child Leap Childcare and circulate to session for review before forwarding to Child Leap for signatures.

The 2020 Budget with a forecasted \$40K deficit was approved. Because of this deficit, all ministries were requested to carefully evaluate and where possible, reduce spending for 2020. \$25K received from a deceased member's estate was placed in the building fund.

Under new business the following appointments were approved as delineated in the by laws. Elder Mustapha Baksh was elected Session Clerk for 2020. Elder Don Carson was elected to serve as Church Treasurer. Elder Brook Mantia and Mustapha Baksh were elected to serve as President and Secretary of the Board of Trustees. Elders Ron Fong and Mustapha Baksh volunteered to serve as commissioners for Presbytery meetings in 2020.

Session approved serving communion at IPC on the first Sunday of each month as well as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday and for other occasions as requested by Pastor. Session also approved serving communion at Fule Church on the second Tuesday of each month.

The meeting was closed in prayer.

CONGREGATION NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ken Ariathurai Darlene Neesham
Dawn Lunn Nick McClure
Robert Reavis



Mei Chang and Robert Frey

Ash Wednesday Service

Many of you joined as we began the 40 days of Lent on Wednesday February 26, with a simple soup supper at 6:30 pm followed by worship at 7:00 pm in the social hall.



Special Lenten Series

Saturdays: Faith Nurtured in a Garden. Using biblical text we take a different look at how we are related to the land, the ground, the dirt, the planet, each other and God.

Sundays: Adult Bible School - "Practicing Christianity and Exploring Spiritual Disciplines".

Easter Lilies

In keeping with the Deacons' annual tradition of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary on April 12, will be available for purchase. Signup in the social hall beginning Sunday March 22.



Glorify the season by giving a lily in memory of a loved one or as a tribute. Following the Easter morning service, you may take your lily to enjoy at home or plant outdoors.

Contact Shirley Scafidi (510) 798 1003

Love is in the Air Again

Valentines Day in Brazil is June 12. Each year IPC gets together to make valentine cards for the children at Hope Unlimited in Brazil, a mission we support through your generous contributions. The children who receive your cards are poor, neglected and for the most part, have never before experienced familial love and concern. For some, yours will be the only Valentine card they receive and will be overwhelmed by your outpouring of love for them.



Join the team in the Social Hall on February 22 and 29, to write cards. There will be card-making supplies as well as Portuguese phrases and the names of Hope Children available for you to personalize your cards.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

This Winter at IPC Cooks

March 28, 2020 Corned Beef Night



Like last year, we will do a St. Patty's dinner again. Corned Beef and cabbage with all the trimmings. Last year, twenty of us enjoyed a meal in celebration of everything Irish-American. IPC Cooks is an opportunity for us to come together for food and fellowship. Sometimes, it's cooking lessons focused on short cuts and ideas when cooking for just one or two: - call it cascade cooking. You cook less often but a larger quantity and change it for each meal to make it different and interesting. Sometimes it's just for fellowship.

Join us March 28, at 6:00 p.m. in the social hall for food and fellowship!

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. Envelopes and literature are available in the narthex.

[Mark your checks One Great Hour of Sharing and place in the collection plate.](#)

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, drip irrigation and electricity are being installed

Elder Jonathan Jiang, the treasurer of Farmington, prepared an unaudited financial report for 2019 that delineated a year end balance of \$23,678.93. A copy of this report, as per the Bylaws, was sent to the IPC Session and the Presbytery of San Francisco Central Region.

Beginning February 29, we started a six week Bible Study titled: "Faith Nurtured in a Garden". The class is initially being 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. Brochures of the six week curriculum are available for all attendees and all are welcomed.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Ladies Out to Lunch

The "Ladies Out to Lunch" fellowship will meet at: **Las Casitas Restaurant**

Date: Tuesday March 18
Time: 11:30 AM
Location: 41240 Fremont Boulevard, Fremont
Contact: Pearl Rey at **510-656-0218** to confirm your reservation

R O M E O

Join the men fellowship on Wednesdays at the Classic Diner in Fremont.

Date: Wednesdays
Time: 8:00 am
Location: 39403 Fremont Blvd, Fremont, CA 94538



Come on out for a chat and coffee or stay a while and have breakfast.

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). It would be appreciated if you would make a contribution in the amount shown for each member of your family.



Please mark your check or envelope "Per Capita" and place in the collection plate. Thanks



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

All articles are to be delivered by email to: 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.



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:

Palm Sunday Service, April 5



10 am in the sanctuary, we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Led by our youth, we will make crosses from palm fronds in the social hall after worship. These crosses will be collected and used in making ashes for 2021

Maundy Thursday Service, April 9



7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Maundy Thursday's acts provide the paradox of a celebratively somber and solemnly celebrative service. We will drape the cross and exit the sanctuary in silence as the last candle is extinguished.

Easter Sunday Service, April 12



8:45 am waffles, sausages and fruit breakfast in social hall.

9:30 am in the sanctuary. We will remove the drape from the cross and celebrate by reaffirmation of baptism.

10:00 am worship in the sanctuary.