

# 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

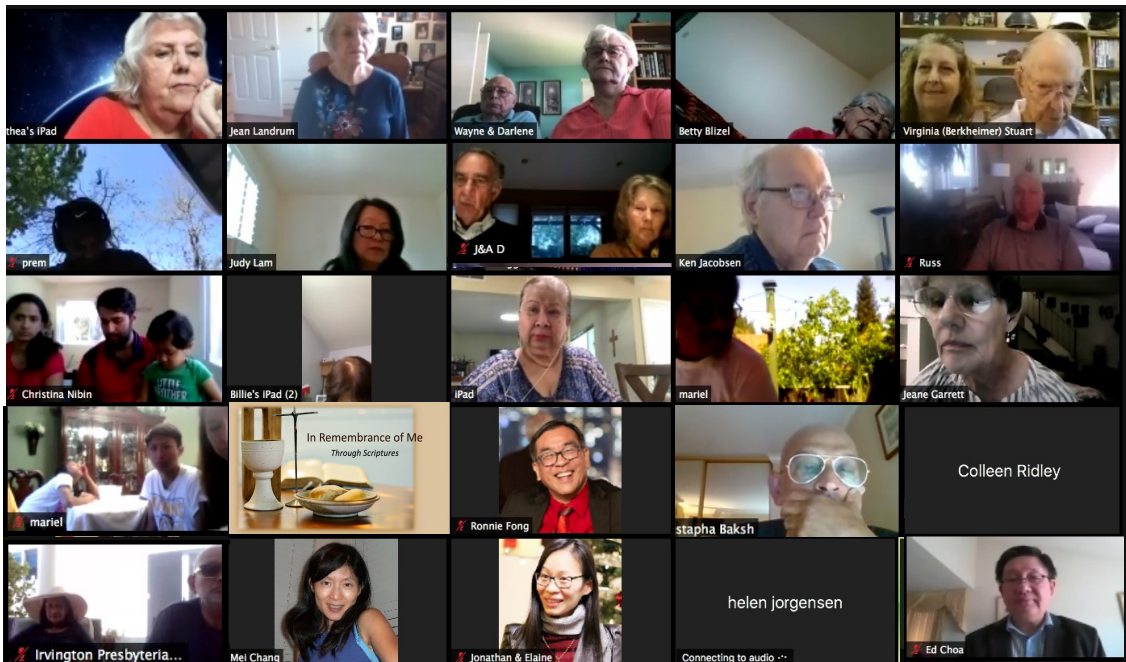


Irvington Presbyterian Church

Fremont, CA

May, 2020

## *IPC Worships On Line*



A partial view of the many members and friends who worship on zoom each Sunday since March 15. Others join in on YouTube and Facebook.

We may be isolated because of COVID 19, but we are not separated!

## *TriCity Free Breakfast Marks 23 Years of Community Service*

The Tri-City Free Breakfast Program, (TCFBP) one of the local missions supported by IPC, will celebrate its 23rd anniversary on May 12, 2020. This is as Pastor Karl often referred to "The Diner", where anyone may come and be served a hot breakfast on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Ever since the doors were open to 12 guests on May 12, 1997, the program has continued to be a source of breakfasts to the unhoused, elderly and others. More than 435,000 hot nutritious meals have been served to thousands of guests in a table service setting of love and care and with an all volunteer staff.

Today with COVID 19, our guests are still served. Instead of table service we provide a take out boxed breakfast. Guests are also able to have a hot shower and clothes laundered each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, during the breakfast hours, when the City of Fremont Hygiene Truck is on campus.



# WORSHIP MINISTRY

## *Worshiping On Line*

During COVID-19 Shelter in Place, the Worship Team continues to meet monthly and work together to find new ways to adapt to the changing environment, bringing Sunday worship to the homes of our parishioners and online visitors. What a blessing it has been to worship with our church family on line and to fellowship via Zoom before and after worship. God is with us.... apart and together! We are thankful for God's support and guidance as we seek to work separately but with one heart. The goal is to bring purposeful worship where everyone feels loved and included.

Audio/Visual team reported that we had 36 members, family and friends worship via Zoom plus 20 others worshipped via the Website on Easter. Glory be to God! The A/V team continues to work with those in the congregation who feel technologically challenged or may not have internet access to connect. It is a blessing to see the faces as more and more members of our church family join us every Sunday. Thanks to those who donated time and equipment to make this happen.

**Your prayers are needed**, as Worship Ministry embark on bringing as many of the elements from our in-person worship program to enhance our on-line presentation. We have added videos of the scripture readers as well as our pianist, Judy, playing the prelude, postlude, offering and doxology. We also plan on adding videos of the praise singers.

Despite an initial learning curve as we faced the sudden technological and logistical challenges of Virtual Worship, we are well on our way to provide meaningful Sunday worship. We rejoice in God for guidance and for providing the skills and talents of our A/V team, worship team and Communications Elder working on new ideas to refine our on-line worship presentation.

Easter Sunday was a special challenge in trying to maintain our traditions. Rather than the customary Easter Egg Hunt, we prepared "red eggs" and delivered to members and friends. These Easter eggs were dyed red to represent the blood of Christ, shed on the cross, and the hard shell of the egg symbolized the sealed Tomb of Christ. During Sunday Worship, we cracked the eggs to symbolize the resurrection of Christ.



Preparing and bagging Red Eggs

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

### **On Line Church Services**

Sundays at 10:00 am. Connect via:

<https://zoom.us/j/9970411553>

<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 April 20 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 noted that since worship went online on March 15, we had experienced a few glitches. These are now resolved, service is smoother and attendance is very encouraging. Each session elder has been assigned to care for a set of members. This has helped us maintain a care web that potentially reaches our entire congregation. The Presbytery provided a \$1K grant that Pastor may use for any need in the congregation or the community.

Elder Elaine reported that the Presbytery of San Francisco granted Fule Church a \$2K Corona Virus Fund that was received and they are awaiting funds from the approved Investment Grant.

Following a successful Easter "Red Eggs" celebration, and in keeping with tradition, Worship is working with the Deacons in planning a Mother's Day activity for all the mothers in the congregation. A Worship Flow Plan was created to help insure that the online service is ready on Sunday. This is important as we are all working from different locations.

Buildings and Grounds noted that the campus is closed except for Monday, Wednesday and Friday breakfast. With no other church functions, B&G has implemented several cost saving measures in areas of cleaning and maintenance. With the other churches unable to gather on campus, rental income has been significantly impacted. B&G is also working with the renters to plan how we can continue to have some income to pay bills and provide basic maintenance until we return.

Finance indicated that the higher than forecasted rental income in March was due to two renter's checks being counted in March and \$1050 from Child Leap. In addition, an extraordinary donation in March, resulted in higher envelope offering. An unsolicited \$5K grant was received from the Presbytery to help with decreased revenue.

Stewardship as requested, mailed a letter to the congregation reminding them they can continue to tithe either by mailing their contributions to the office or by giving on line.

Personnel requested access to personnel files. These will be provided by Finance. In addition, Session agreed that changes in employee status will be communicated by Personnel.

Communications Ministry chaired by Elder Elaine held its first meeting and outlined a plan to work with all the communication channels and help with disseminating information.

Pastor Ed suggested we begin to make plans for when we return. What are some of the activities we want to leave behind and what we need to improve? Elder Don recommended that Pastor delineate what we want and then we can begin to make plans at the next meeting.

Elder Mustapha presented a short explanation of a planned Together Wednesday Zoom meeting where all members will be invited to share joys, issues, victories etc. Details will be communicated via IPC eNews.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm with Pastor Ed praying for the church family and all renters to continue bringing glory to God.



## *News from the Field*

During this pandemic we asked you to write and let us know how you were doing. Your responses were overwhelmingly heartwarming ... Thank You! We will print more responses in the June issue. Your church family who prays for you and with you were thankful to hear that you are coping and staying safe. Here are some excerpts that are printed with your permission.

Patti and I are doing well. We have our farm to work on to keep us busy, and our daughter, son-in-law and three granddaughters live next door. The girls are home because their universities and high school are closed, so they study on line. It is great to be able to visit together. Tomorrow I will preach on Zoom in English to our Cambodian church here in California, and Patti will teach her ladies Bible study to the Cambodian ladies on Zoom. We were able to have an Easter dinner with our daughter and her family and still maintain social distancing by having a long table, on which they put the food at our end wearing gloves and masks. See attached picture.

Love to all of you in Jesus, *Pastor Michael Boyland*



Getting bored but staying home and trying to keep busy. Luckily it's garden planting season, so that gives me something to think about. I'm glad they still let us go out and walk, so I can at least get some exercise. *Betty Blizel*

I am grateful for all the care from the church family and I join in prayer and concern for all. The extra efforts at Easter were much appreciated! The electronic communication does not happen by itself! The red eggs meant loving hands took many steps to bring about! And phone calls were appreciated and emails.

I am well, in my apt. Where meals are delivered to the door 3x daily at imprecise times. Each resident's temperature is taken daily. All staff here are masked and gloved. We have no activities and visitors by rigid need only. I walk to the Lobby daily, wearing a mask, to get my mail. I have not been bored and enjoy sorting through many long-saved paper items.

Grace and peace. *Cecile Litherland*

Gina and I are well, we are in Portland, OR since last August as Gina got a managerial position at Intel here. I am studying at Portland State University to get an MA in education and planning to be a music teacher in the schools here. Schools have moved online but otherwise we are not affected.

Many of you know my grandmother Esther Manoukian. She was diagnosed last week with stage 4 pancreatic cancer and is at home now on hospice care, with my mother taking care of her as well. She is full of faith and hope to see Jesus soon face to face. We will post updates at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/esthermanoukian>. Please leave notes of encouragement and prayers on the website. *Alishan and Gina Merjanian*



*News from the Field*

Dear Church family,  
First of all, thank you for caring & praying for us!  
As with most everyone, we are hunkered down.  
Our normal ministries with the children & Kurds  
& Yazidis is on hold. Valerie has an almost full  
time job taking care of our grandsons - ages 5 &  
7. This includes schooling.

I (Larry) try to avoid atrophy with an hour  
long bike ride every day.

I do help those in the  
church who are at high  
risk, by doing their gro-  
cery shopping & getting  
their medicines. Of late,  
I have been preparing  
the garden....

Again, thank you for everything,

*Larry & Valerie Bockus*



This is Esther's daughter Christine.

My mom did pretty ok during the lock down.  
However, she was not in the best of health. We  
eventually had to take her into the emergency  
where she was diagnosed with pancreatic can-  
cer. She is now home.

Thanks for your prayers. You and us and we  
all need to pray for each other.

Love, *Christine Merjanian*

Mary Lou and I have been doing great!

We have our daughter Kristy 2 miles from us  
and she takes care of our grocery needs.

Last Saturday our 3 daughters, Kathy, Karen  
and Kristy, brought dinner out to us. We  
stayed apart from each other and everything  
went great!

Thanks for asking. *Richard Craig*

Thank you so very much for sharing the lovely  
Services. It warmed my heart to know I was  
sharing God's word through IPC with all of



you. We are doing well here  
in little country town of  
Riverbank in the Central Val-  
ley. We go for days without  
seeing a single person, too  
quiet here across from the

Stanislaus River. The shelter in place is saving  
lives, thank goodness. It does make for long  
days. The twins are three years old and we  
enjoy daily river walks. Blessings and warm  
wishes to all of our IPC Families. *Dawn Lunn*

So good to hear from you. All is well  
here...adjusting to staying at home. I am a  
homebody by nature, so not much of a stretch  
for me.

I hear you are having church services via  
Zoom. That's great! My grandson turned 1  
year old on Wednesday and his parents had a  
zoom virtual birthday party for him. The down-  
side is that we didn't get to share his cake. :(

I think of you often and miss my IPC family.

Take care and stay healthy! *Kathy Jeffries*

We are well and safe. Thank you so much for  
asking.

Stay safe,

*Jeff Hutcheson*

*Presbytery Pastor for Mission and Vision*

*Presbytery of San Francisco*

I am doing very well... working with my Pastor  
Monte to make this a time of not getting back  
to normal but an opportunity to "enter into"  
some more like the Kingdom of God. Exciting...  
so lots going on. Thanks so very much for  
keeping track of me..

Many blessings, *Pastor Karl Shadley*

So special was the personal delivery of the bag with 2 red eggs - and the bag decorated with stick-  
ers in the form of the Cross - lots of time went into this for the whole congregation. What a Joy it  
was. Thank you. I'm doing fine here, getting lots of things done that didn't have time for before - still  
have more to do. Gratefully, *Jeane Garret*

# CONGREGATION NEWS

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Natalie Artiathurai  
Mustapha Baksh  
Michael Baksh

Don Carson  
Richard Hong  
Jean Landrum

Tom Mardirosian  
Jeanette Ollison  
Bruce Schlobohm

Tim Stachowiak  
Dave Yeager



### Ellen Black

Ellen loved her church and church family. Raised in the Alameda Presbyterian Church, then raising her family at IPC beginning in 1960. She served as Deacon, Elder, President of the Presbyterian Women's Association and held many more positions. Ellen and Forest moved to Sonoma in the mid 80s to join St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. She loved her Lord and serviced him always. She was a great organizer and as her daughter writes, "on behalf of the family, we are sure she is organizing Heaven as we get used to the idea she has passed".

### Mary Lee Starkel

On April 25, Deacon Mary Lee departed for the Lord's house while sitting peacefully in her room at the Carlton Plaza rest home. While serving as a Deacon, Mary Lee always remembered members' birthdays, anniversaries and special occasions with hand-written cards. She loved to sing praises to the Lord and was a member of our choir for many years. A memorial will be planned at IPC at a time to be announced. Pray for Mary Lee's family as they cope with their loss.

**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: May 27 is the deadline for our June 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.

# 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. If sheltering in place prevents you from contributing at this time, we suggest you mail your check to the office just as you do for your tithing.



Mark your checks [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) and mail to the office or go online to give.

## *Outreach Ministries*

*Farmington*, our Community Garden celebrates its first year in existence. What a journey!

I heard today some interesting facts about the coronavirus and how it is killed. We all know about soap and 20 seconds of washing. Bleach and water kills in 5 minutes, alcohol in 30 seconds and the sun...kills the virus in around 90 seconds.

Now I know that we need to continue to do all that medical folks and scientists tell us but I was thinking...

So where is the first place we can most safely gather again? Farmington! Not now but it will be one of the places, with proper precautions, we will be able to gather sooner than later. We should have known. A garden is so important for so many reasons... food supply, personal renewal, community building, a place to better understand much of our Biblical text and now... less risk to pass on the coronavirus.

I miss you and the IPC community and I am so looking forward to being back in the garden nurturing faith together.

Until then, wash those hands, keep a safe physical distance and a close community distance and if you are on a walk sometime, and you see Farmington empty, drop in and pull a few weeds.

To you and yours, Pastor Karl & Myrna



## ACTIVITIES UPDATE

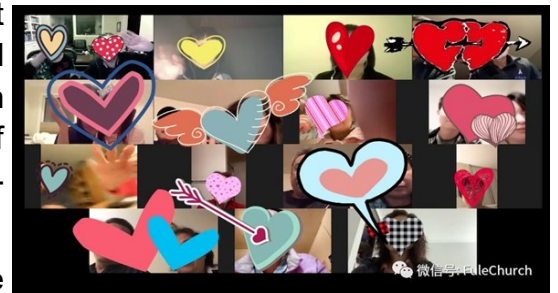
### COVID 19 Grant Delivered the Love of Christ to Fule Church

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6, NIV)*

Coronavirus has spread all over the world and the pandemic has caused immense hardships. This is especially true to our New Worshipping Community that serves locally, many of whom are new immigrants. Many of these community members and friends have become unemployed and are struggling to pay their rents and feed their families.

Thanks to God, Fule Church received a special Covid-19 Grant of \$2000 from the Presbytery of San Francisco. We used this grant to help members pay their rent and purchase food. We also purchased N-95 and surgical masks that were donated to local medical groups and church members. We are so blessed to be a part of the Presbytery of San Francisco, and so happy to be a blessing to our community.

The money received from this grant helped to light up the darkness for some in our congregation. God has once again taken care of His people. This has opened our eyes to His grace that is for everyone, helping us to stay nourished, safe and protected.



Fule Church Worships On Line

### *Mother's Day at IPC*

In keeping with another one of our traditions, Deacons are working with Worship Ministry to prepare and deliver corsages to the ladies in the congregation for Mother's Day. Wear your corsage at worship on Sunday to symbolize your honor in being a mother; to honor your own mother or mother figure; or because you are thankful that God provided us with mothers.

These corsages will be delivered to your front porch or lobby on Saturday May 9.

### *Together Wednesday*

All are invited to join your church family on zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86593226302> starting this Wednesday May 6 at 7:30 pm for a time of sharing of joys and victories, fellowship, prayer and scripture application.

There will be a time for sharing what God is doing in our lives and how we can help one another. We will use the gracious leadership tools of Respect Guidelines and Mutual Invitation when sharing. Beginning next week we will add some online games like Scattergories, Pictionary, Bingo, and any other suggestions you may have.