



Wearing a mask is another way
to love your neighbor.



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

October, 2020

Drive Thru Pantry

Saturday July 11, IPC Outreach and Engagement Ministries launched a drive thru pantry. With an initial cash outlay of \$350, we had planned the drive thru every Saturday from 9:30 am to 11:00 am through the end of summer when we expected the current pandemic to be under control, people would be back to work and the need would no longer be there. Food type options offered were staple shelf foods, breads/sweets and packaged food grocery items. Farmington, our community



Packing eggs

garden was producing tomatoes, squash, corn, beans and eggplant that were soon added to the food distributed at the drive thru. Thanks to the contributions from church members, one dozen eggs, a valuable source of protein, was added. Then with a \$2K benevolence grant from the Presbytery of San Francisco, we added canned chicken breast, tuna, pork and beans, soup, pasta and sauce. Thanks to those who graciously donated their extra garden produce to the food pantry. Working with Kids Against Hunger, fortified rice packets each feeding a

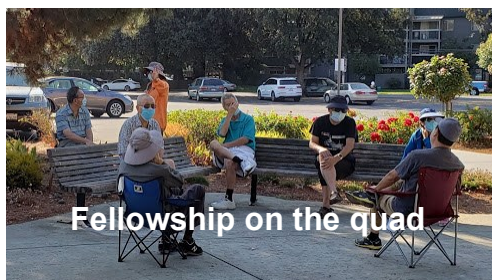
family of six were then added. Beginning October 24, we will add the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box on alternate weeks.

As the cars come through the drive thru, the drivers are asked to pop their trunks and volunteers deliver bags with food to the vehicle without any contact required. Those who ride bicycles or walk up to the pantry receive the same care and grocery bags as everyone else. As the number of people coming to the food pantry continue to increase, Outreach Ministry is actively seeking additional funding and stable food sources to continue this program.



Grocery in trunk

Outreach Ministry was launched to fill the needs of those in the community experiencing food insecurity during the pandemic. We quickly realized that God had created an opportunity for the church to share the gospel with the guests who came to the



Fellowship on the quad

pantry. Well, for the past few months every Saturday morning on the quad, several Mandarin speaking guests meet with Elaine Enling and



Packing groceries in bags

Jonathan Jiang pastors of Fule Church and Pastor Ed.

They have now formed a small group, meeting for fellowship and sometimes, prayer. We pray that some in this group would come to know and accept Christ.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

All Presbytery Worship Sunday October 4th

IPC joined other churches to participate in the first-ever Presbytery-wide Sunday Worship Service on Worldwide Communion Sunday. The Rev. Roland Gordon from Ingleside Presbyterian Church in San Francisco shared a message about God being love, and our calling to live out God's love in the world. What an appropriate message during these turbulent times in which we live. A virtual choir, a virtual brass band, and many other offerings from the talents of the congregations were featured as we joined in unified praise that committed to the life-giving work of being part of a Matthew 25 Presbytery. The Irvington Presbyterian Church worship team contributed praying of the Lord's Prayer in 5 of the more than 15 languages spoken at our church. We celebrated the Lord's supper with other congregations in the San Francisco Presbytery. Thanks to Rev. Talitha Aho and others for organizing so much of the service's components in multiple languages and songs. IPC was thankful for this time to give a well deserved day of rest to our Pastor and the teams that work behind the scenes to make our virtual Sunday Worship service a reality.

During this time of sheltering during the pandemic, the congregation has continued to enjoy virtual worship. All facets of worship continue to improve, gaining positive feedback from worshipers with the number of participants staying consistent. Worship Ministry continues to work with Buildings and Grounds to promote and execute ideas for social-distancing worship and fellowship. Although drive-thru fellowship events have worked well, the parking-lot worship held on September 27 had low attendance along with logistical and weather-related issues. The planned zoom worship with fellowship in the social hall slated for October 18 was postponed until after October 26. In the meantime, join Worship Ministry to continue praying for flexible, patient and understanding hearts as we do a balancing act to keep us worshipping safely while adhering to state and county guidelines. At this time, the plan is to return to Sanctuary worship and livestreaming beginning November 22.

To enhance virtual worship, Judy Lam reported that Fremont Youth Symphony Orchestra students will be working on a video wall presentation for the holidays featuring religious music. IPC kids are invited to perform sign language interpretation during the presentation. Betty Blizel and Judy Lam are videoing flute duets; Lina Choa volunteered to sing solo hymns in other languages; Judy is also working on a recorded rendition of The Lord's Prayer for future services. A necrological segment will be added to the worship program on November 1 observance of All Saints' Day.

2020 advent devotions from The Presbyterian Outlook written by Rev. Jill Duffield will be sent to all. This will include a reflection, daily scripture reading, suggestions for living out the Bible and a short prayer for each day. **We are thankful for all who continue to serve in worship.**

There are two easy ways to join us for worship

On Line Services 10:00 am on Sunday

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

<https://irvingtonpres.org/sermons/>

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

Service on Demand

Watch anytime:

<https://irvingtonpres.org/sermons/>

SESSION NEWS & NOTES

Pastor Ed opened the September meeting praying for God to help us be good stewards of our time, the church resources and foresight as we plan to reopen the church. He then read from Psalm 103 reminding everyone that our God remembers who we are and we are here to glorify him. In his report Pastor requested vacation March 8-14, 2021. He also reiterated that the passing of Harry and Cecile occurred after our August meeting and that they will be missed.

Clerk reported on the 8/25 Presbytery Meeting over zoom. Key events included extending a lease agreement to First Pres. Hayward for the New Bridges campus that Presbytery purchased. There is agreement for another round of COVID funding if needed. The recent IPC survey on returning to in person worship showed about 22 members would return, wear masks and observe social distance.

Elder Ron requested Fule Church provide a financial component of income and expenses in light of the recent \$10K COVID -19 grant awarded to Fule Church by the Presbytery of San Francisco. Elder Elane indicated that IPC already records and has all Fule's financial information.

Elder Kamroon reported that IPC will make a short video reflecting the diversity in languages spoken in the congregation for the October 4, Presbytery worship on World Wide Communion Sunday.

Finance renewed one of the CDs for an additional year since the demand account fund will cover all immediate needs. Elder Ron indicated that he was working with Marissa and Don Carson to come up with a projection for spending in the remainder of 2020. Questions were asked on how to use the \$10K COVID-19 grant from the Presbytery. Elder Mustapha pointed out that the \$10K COVID-19 grant awarded to IPC is to be used for specific needs as outlined in the application that he will distribute before the next meeting. Finance responded that session would decide the allocation.

Elder Kamroon suggested that Finance review and consider/update the check request process so that husband and wife serving on session are not subjected to a biased negative connotation. The discussion on this topic was then tabled as the moderator requested Finance take a closer look at the need for change since this issue was based on a 2016 document that Elder Ron would provide. Elder Ron requested a copy of the document that defines the ministries and their functions; and Clerk would distribute. Pastor requested that Missions set up visits with the missionaries whom we support so we get to know them. Elder Ron will work on a plan for Missionary visits.

Mustapha will continue as the B&G Elder. A return to in person worship is planned for 11/22, if allowed by County of Alameda and the State of CA. Church insurance is now with Presbytery One and this represents a significant cost savings going forward. We are actively working on a plan to repair all the sanctuary roof leaks before the rains start later this year.

For new business, Session approved extending a lease contract to the Child Leap Preschool with some modifications. B&G reported that it was difficult to get quotes for repairing the roof and Elder Ron provided two references. Clarification was provided on how we should handle the \$10K COVID -19 grant received for the Fule Church. Elder Mustapha explained that this a pass through that Fule can use for needs in their ministry.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm with Pastor Ed giving thanks for the session who continue to work together as a team. We prayed for the members who are ill, for the shut ins, those who are experiencing loneliness and for children who are being schooled on line.

Outreach Activities During COVID-19

Farmington

We are now well into fall and activities are winding down. Despite COVID –19 and the late start, we reaped over 300 ears of corn, 200 lb of tomatoes, 240 lb of zucchini, 80 lb of peppers, and 20 lb of beans. All of the produce were distributed at the drive thru pantry and some given to the breakfast program.



Produce for the Pantry

Three planter boxes have fall plants that are being tended to by guests from the breakfast program while the remainder are being cleared and prepped for spring 2021. Additional boxes will be added for next year. The area at the back of the pump house is being prepared with additional mulch. Tables and chairs will be added to give Farmingtonians a place to rest and have our Saturday Bible class.

If you feel safe, come and join other Farmingtonians in clearing and preparing for next year.

Drive Thru Food Pantry

The drive thru pantry now distributes 40+ bags of groceries each week. Each bag contains eggs, pasta, sauce, bread, rice, canned beans, canned meat, fruit and vegetables. For six weeks fresh produce from Farmington, our community garden, were a big hit! The Presbytery of San Francisco



Packing bags with groceries

gave an initial \$2K grant for purchasing protein. Additional contributions from church members and community friends, help support the pantry.

Contact Outreach Ministries to volunteer (510) 579 3694



Delivering groceries to vehicles

Kids Against Hunger

Outreach Ministry has teamed up with the local chapter of KIDS AGAINST HUNGER to bring food packets of fortified grain to seniors and the unhoused in the local community. This fortified grain is also added to the grocery bags of guests who come to the drive thru pantry. In addition, we delivered two boxes each with 36 packs of fortified grain to Rancho Santa Marta, at their local US office in El Cajon, CA. Rancho Santa Marta is a non-denominational Evangelical Christian Ministry for at risk, abandoned and special needs Mexican children.



Delivering grain in El Cajon

CONGREGATION NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Margarita Austin | Waymond Ho |
| Mary Lou Craig | Gerlinde Mardirosian |
| Holly Chaikin | Mary Ellen McKowen |
| Mei Chang | Maisha Ollison |
| Gustina Ho | Pastor Larry Thorson |



Shelley and Bob Reavis
Gerlinde and Tom Mardirosian

In Memoriam

Clara M. Aston, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother passed away peacefully on September 25, 2020 at the age of 106. Clara was born on July 26, 1914 in Beadling, Pennsylvania. She married James on March 17, 1941, in Butler, PA. James was in the U.S. Army throughout WWII. She moved to Fremont, CA in April 2008 to be close to her son and his family. Clara was a devout Christian throughout her life. She enjoyed attending the Plaza Bible Church while she lived in Orange, CA and became a beloved member of Irvington Presbyterian Church after she moved to Fremont, CA. Her dear friend Shirley Scafidi remembers Clara as: "A sweet and devoted friend whom she was unable to say goodbye to in person because of the pandemic".



134 Years of Ministry and Service

In 1886 some people at Washington College knew what they should do; they founded a church in their little village. They came to church on foot or in horse-drawn buggies. Hymns were accompanied by a foot-pumped organ. The bell, cast in 1889, rang out over the fertile vineyards and apricot orchards, God's glory shone over Washington Corners.

Times have changed. Washington Corners was renamed Irvington. We come by car; we have an audio system with a large screen TV and a web site.

Though the good news of Jesus Christ has not changed, we present Jesus in new ways to our fast changing diverse community. Like Issachar (1 Chronicles 12:32), "who understood the times and knew what Israel should do", we know what we need to do and are adapting to the community around us. On the unshakable foundation of the love of God in Jesus Christ, we are reaching the hearts of the young and old in our community. Through our excellent team of staff, dynamic volunteers and the many programs, God is being glorified in Irvington as he was through our church 134 years ago. Plans for a celebration were tempered this year because of the pandemic and Worship Ministry, God willing, will focus on the 135th anniversary next year.

CONGREGATION NEWS

Fule Church

Fule continues its weekly joint online Sunday worship and Friday fellowship with Burlingame Presbyterian Church Mandarin/Taiwanese-speaking congregation. Both Elder Elaine and Pastor Jonathan have accepted the kind invitation by the Burlingame Presbyterian pastor to preach and teach in Mandarin via Zoom at the joint Sunday worship and the joint Friday fellowship respectively. In August, Pastor Jonathan started a sermon series titled "The End Time." This will conclude in December 2020. Elder Elaine started a sermon series "The Church Life Under Covid-19." This will run through the fourth quarter of 2020. We are both grateful for these preaching and teaching opportunities. Worship has observed increased viewers from locations in China.

Some Fule worshipers from the Fremont Mandarin-speaking community continue to participate in



the Irvington Presbyterian Church Saturday drive thru pantry. A small informal group gather for social distancing fellowship on the quad during this time. The group was also invited to join the Burlingame Mandarin Sunday Zoom worship as well as Friday fellowship.

We are grateful to IPC for continuing its support of programs that help the Mandarin speaking community during this pandemic.

Missions Ministry - News from the Field

Missions giving during the year has remained low, but steady. Thank you IPC for your continued prayerful contributions to Missions Ministry.

Missions recently funded 100 Arsi Oromo Bibles, the Arsi Oromo dialect New Testament. These are being distributed in Ethiopia through Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship and Light of Hope - a Mission we currently support. The majority of recipients are Arsi Oromo Muslim converts.

Hope Unlimited is one of the ministries that IPC supports. Each year in the Fall, for the 30 days leading up to November 8, [Orphan Sunday](#), Hope Unlimited has invited its supporters, partners, donors, and friends to set aside a few minutes each day to read excerpts out of life in Brazil, from the campuses of the City of Youth and Hope Mountain. Hope Unlimited refers to this time as "30 Days of Prayer". For each day beginning October 9, there is a scripture, a story, and a prayer from a person or situation in Brazil. These are real stories; they are sincere prayers that are shared with you in hopes that you will join in prayer before God our Father. You may sign up for a daily email at: <http://bit.ly/Hope30d2020>.



ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Serving the Church and Community

Irvington Presbyterian Church Drive Thru Pantry: This ministry which started off as a service to our congregants who were unable to do grocery shopping during the Covid-19 lockdown continues to grow. Food insecurity has an increasingly negative effect on our community during the pandemic and wildfires, creating an increasing need for food sources. For the past three Saturdays, we prepared and distributed 40 - 45 food bags each Saturday.

All in our community and the IPC congregation who need grocery items, are invited every Saturday morning 9:30 to 11:00 am to pick up a bag containing protein, dry or canned shelf food items and fresh veggies when available. Outreach Ministries would also deliver to the homebound. Social distancing and masks are required for everyone visiting or working in the pantry. Donations for provisions come from IPC congregation, Fule Church congregation and Presbytery of San Francisco who donated cash to purchase fresh eggs, canned and boxed food items. Fresh Produce from Farmington is donated at harvest time. Carol and David Chow also donate produce from their garden. Kids Against Hunger donates fortified vegetable rice product and cereal. Tom and Gerlinde Mardirosian have donated surplus bread, some shelf items, fruit, potatoes and onions, when available, from Tri City Free Breakfast Program. This past week, we were able to distribute four pound bags of freshly prepared cabbage, carrots, lettuce, and spinach from Peninsula Food Runners. Beginning October 24, thanks to Marissa Hughes, we will be working with Pastor Dave Chiolero at Harbor Light Church to distribute more complete nutritionally balanced boxes containing fresh poultry, eggs, milk veggies and fruit from the United States Department of Agriculture. We continue to look for other food sources to supplement offerings.



From Peninsula Food Runners

Thank you Carol Lynn for joining the volunteer team to help bag food items on Saturday mornings. Thanks to Elder Elaine Liang, Pastor Jonathan Jiang and Pastor Ed for providing spiritual guidance and solace in the love of Christ, to many of our pantry visitors. Thank you to Elder Mustapha for shopping, negotiating, transporting food items from warehouses and distributing food to our visitors.

Prayers are needed for:

- ♦ Additional volunteers to help with shopping, setup, carting, packing and distribution of food.
- ♦ Additional funding to purchase canned and packaged food and supplies.
- ♦ Volunteer drivers with vehicles to pick up food boxes from Harbor Light.



Distributing bags with groceries

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Iglesia Worships on the Lawn



Wearing masks and practicing social distancing, our friends at Iglesia Rey de Reyes led by Pastor Cabrera, returned to Sunday Worship with average attendance of 30 worshippers.

Gujarati Church Meets on the Quad



Our friends at the Gujarati Church including some also in the IPC congregation, returned to their regular 3rd Saturday monthly worship and fellowship on the quad.

Mission Peak Chamber Singers Meets on the Labyrinth



"A Roof Over Their Heads" was released and today we gathered for the first time since March 16, to sing together. It was outside, with masks, but we made music together again! Watch for our next video in a few weeks, featuring three songs in which we encourage everyone to let their voice be heard as we VOTE!"

<https://vimeo.com/466940243#at=0>



Please Note: October 27 is the deadline for our November 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.