



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 I Peter 2:4,5



Irvington Presbyterian Church

Fremont, CA

January, 2021

2020: The Year in Pictures

Join us in thanking the Lord for an unusual and exciting year at IPC.



Hosting Presbytery Meeting



Preparing Dinner for Meeting



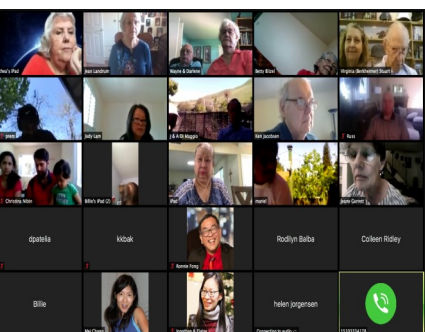
Baptism by Pastor Jonathan



Ash Wednesday Service



Communion on Ash Wednesday



IPC Worships On Line



Social Distancing while Waiting for Breakfast



Serving a Take Out Breakfast

WORSHIP MINISTRY

During the Liturgical season of Advent, we prepared for the coming of Jesus Christ. Worship Ministry provided to all worshipers weekly Advent devotions prepared and written by Rev. Jill Duffield, editor of Presbyterian Outlook. The devotions included a reflection, daily scripture readings, suggestions for living out the Bible and a short prayer for each day. Our worship plan also included the tradition of inviting our families to light the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love each week; and the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve.



Worship Ministry continued to plan with Buildings and Grounds for a Christmas Eve worship trusting in God's guidance. Once again, He provided a new challenge to keep us on our toes. The Purple Tier, the most restrictive of the State of CA reopening framework for the pandemic was tightened. This meant that we could no longer gather to worship on the quad and stream the service as planned. With help from our A/V team, we then immediately switched to a live Zoom service from our homes that was simultaneously broadcast on the church website and YouTube.



This format proved successful because it created a feel that we were worshipping together in the sanctuary. The team decided to use this live format going forward.

Worship Ministry did a "porch drop" of a Christmas package containing hand-made Christmas cards designed by Audrey Chow. Included in the package were Christmas cookies and goodies, hot chocolate packs, cider, a small Christ candle, a communion packet as well as instructions for a Zoom Christmas Eve celebration. Many thanks to Marissa Hughes who quickly edited and printed the cards. Pastor Ed and the Patelia Family lead us in lighting the Christ Candle. We also lit our own candles together at home, turned out the lights and shared the Light with each other and the world. We participated in Communion, read scripture, prayed, sang Christmas hymns and shared a Christmas snack as we engaged in fellowship and celebration of our Savior's birth.

Fule Church - a New Worshipping Community

Fule Church and First Presbyterian Church in Burlingame Mandarin-Taiwanese congregation continue to worship together. In addition to serving this group, they continue to expand into an online presence in China where over 20 families now join in. Beginning January, Fule started a program of "one-to-one" disciple training with visitors and worshipers who attend online service. They maintain a regular presence and continue to pastor to the Mandarin speaking guests who come to the drive thru pantry on Saturday mornings. Social media is used to keep in touch with the church members who live in the Fremont area.



Please Note: January 27 is the deadline for our February 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.**

SESSION NEWS & NOTES

Pastor Ed opened the December 21, meeting in prayer that we continue to find peace, love and hope as we work together. In addition to his report, added that since writing the report, we are unable to worship as planned and will wait for the time when it is safe to do so. Pastor asked that Session rescind his vacation planned for March. Thanked all the Elders for serving together these past 12 months. Following discussions regarding Annual Meeting, the Team decided to have the next Session Meeting on January 18, the Annual Congregation Meeting on January 24, installation of the New Session on January 31 and New session will meet on February 15.

Clerk in his report requested that Pastor's housing allowance of \$42K be added to the minutes for tax reporting. He further added that Session allow Pastor to carry over his unused study leave into 2021. A motion to allow Pastor to carry over his unused vacation was not agreed to since Finance believed that this was already paid. The Church 2020 membership report was approved by Pastor.

Ministry reports were accepted as written with the following additions: B&G requested and Session approved extending a rental to Beloved's Church providing it would not interfere with existing rentals. Finance wanted to ensure that the space heaters stored did not have propane tanks attached.

Under old business, Buildings and Grounds recommended we postpone any work on the handicap bathroom because of insufficient use and that degreasing the kitchen would cost ~ \$3.5 K which would be a TCFBP expense. Personnel recommended that we wait on any staff salary changes until we have a final budget. Elder Ron reported that the Insurance Board denied Ms. Avery's claim on 12/4/20, hence her reaction of more threats. Ms. Avery was informed via email and phone calls that she needs to contact the Church Insurance representative going forward.

New business and resolutions included:

The financial budget as presented needed to have some corrections. Elder Helen would send the excel file to the clerk who will make the recommended changes. This should take about one week and after a final review by Finance, the revised budget will then be distributed.

The TCFBP would like to replace the "Deacons" refrigerator in the kitchen. Because the church is not using the refrigerator at this time, TCFBP has full use of the refrigerator. After much discussion, a motion to allow TCFBP to replace this refrigerator was approved with the understanding that it is the church will have priority use as needed. Elder Brook will obtain a written agreement from TCFBP with this stipulation.

Clerk suggested and session agreed that we apply for a second round of the Presbytery COVID funding based on the fact that we will be operating at a deficit in the coming year.

Clerk recommended we do not send email blasts that will expose the church members to potential hackers. There is software available, but at this time, it is too expensive for the church to purchase. Hence the recommendation is, going forward, email to the church distribution will be sent through either the church admin or the clerk. Another option is to use bcc for general distribution.

Pastor Ed closed the meeting in prayer thanking God for a productive meeting and the programs and activities that are continuing. Pastor and session prayed for all the families, those who are hurting and those who have lost loved ones. Gave thanks for Christmas Eve Service and that the joy and love of Christmas stays in our hearts. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be with us in the New Year as we continue to work for the glory of God.

THE YEAR IN PICTURES



4th of July Drive Thru Picnic



Grilling and Preparing



Bringing Picnic Boxes to the Cars



Serving the Unhoused



Preparing and Bagging Easter Red Eggs



Farmington Corn



Picking Tomatoes



Farmington Produce



Farmington Produce for TCFBP



Fule Church Worshipping On Line



Liturgical Dance at Worship

THE YEAR IN PICTURES



Packing Groceries for Pantry



Grocery Bags
Ready for Distribution



Distributing Groceries



Loading Groceries in Car Trunk



USDA Food
Boxes



Vehicles at the Drive Thru Tamale Festival



Preparing for Tamale Festival



Lighting the Candle of
Hope



Lighting the Christ Candle



Hanging of the Greens



Christmas Eve Service

CONGREGATION NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Peter Bade	Johnny Handono
Betty Blizel	Kimberly Jeffries
Patti Boyland	Vimla Macwan
Gill Carson	CM Macwan
Ron Fong	Alishan Merjanian
Nibin Geevarghese	Daxesh Patelia
Jonathan Fadner	Melissa Tulley



Robert Arthur Reavis

March 23, 1049 - November 27, 2020
Robert was a past member of IPC where he served as the church's official photographer.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Date: January 24, 2021

Time: 11:15 AM

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

Tentative Agenda:

Annual Report

Nom Com Report

Election of Elders for class of 2023

Election of Board of Trustees

Election of three at large members for NomCom

Presentation of Budget

Questions and Answers

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday will soon be upon us and Worship Ministry is a planning service. Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter as we confront our own mortality and confess our sins before God within our community of faith. The form and content of the service will focus on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ. We would not be in the sanctuary but we will be able to participate over zoom. What this means is that you would have everything as though you were in the sanctuary worshiping with your church family. Here at IPC we have traditionally held the service in the early evening following a sacrificial meal of soup and bread.



The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes may be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. Yes, you will have ashes. In addition to the imposition of ashes, Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Your Worship Ministry will be preparing a porch drop providing you with all the elements to insure that you stay safe and are able to participate in this solemn service.

Watch your weekly announcements and eNews for more details!

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Birthday Party for Jesus

Heartfelt thanks to all who contributed gifts and to all who helped make a successful Birthday Party for Jesus. This was a very unusual year since we could not bring gifts to the sanctuary on the same day. Some of you brought gifts to the church office while others had gifts picked up at home. There were 45 unwrapped gifts and twenty-five \$20 gift cards donated to Tri City Volunteers. The gifts were distributed on Monday December 21, at the Tri-City Children's **Toys in the Trunk** event.

Your generosity brought smiles to many young faces.



Christmas Joy Offering

This year our Christmas Joy Offering totaled \$285. The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers in time of need and help develop future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools that equip communities of color.

On behalf of your Stewardship Ministry, sincere thanks IPC for your generosity!

Forty Days of Prayer - a Church-wide campaign

During these difficult times, many of us are hurting and are struggling with difficult circumstances and situations. The events of Wednesday January 6, while shocking, have caused us to stop and ask: "What is going on? Many of us feel we need healing as a nation.

Worship Ministry is inviting you to a campaign of 40 Days of prayer throughout the Lenten season. Throughout this campaign, we will:

- Learn to pray for breakthroughs
- Develop a daily habit of prayer
- Learn to love and unify our congregation
- Learn the secret of answered prayers
- Experience God's blessings

Full details will be available in the February newsletter and in our weekly announcements.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Outreach and Engagement Ministry

Saturday Morning Drive-Thru Pantry: Just before Christmas, we were again able to connect with Pastor Dave Chiolero at Harbor Light, pick up and distribute 60



USDA food boxes. What a wonderful holiday treat for our guests! The number of food insecure families continue to grow. We now distribute about 100 bags of groceries supplemented by Google food donations from Peninsula Food Runners. Sherry Hsu is providing contacts for community volunteers. We have a group of six volunteers who pack and distribute filled bags of groceries starting at 8 am each Saturday.

Farmington: This month oak trees were planted along the sidewalk on the Chapel Way side of the church. Thanks to volunteers Phil Stob and Caroline Harris who donated their time, talents and treasures. The trees were donated by Phil and Caroline who own a small tree farm. The garden is now cleared. Planter boxes are being repaired and reinforced with gopher wire at the bottom. The area opposite the garden and behind the pump house is covered with mulch in its entirety. Tables and chairs will soon provide a rest area for Farmingtonians at this location.

IPC On Line Cooking Classes - No Experience Needed

It is said that cooking is love made visible, so share your love of food, love of people and love of your church by joining in the IPC Cooking class. Beginning Saturday January 23, Elder Kelvin Chow will champion a monthly cooking class where you will have the opportunity to learn to prepare a simple dish and have the opportunity to build relationships with others in your church family. Each month we are planning a different dish, that will also feature someone else preparing and cooking.



Elder Kelvin will launch the program by describing the first dish and sending a list of the ingredients about six days before. This will give us enough time to purchase the ingredients. Then on the Saturday at 5:00 pm he will begin the preparation and cooking demonstration via zoom. We will also join in via zoom.

If you have a family recipe or your own favorite creation that you would like to prepare and share, your church family would love to learn from you and also prepare. You will need to sign up with Elder Kelvin to take a turn demonstrating and cooking.

We chose the 5:00 pm time so that the dish we prepare may be dinner or an accompaniment to dinner that evening.

More details will be published in the weekly eNews.