

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
121 DAVIS STREET
SANTA PAULA, CA 93060-2788



Sunday Schedule

11:00 Bible Study
9:30 Worship Service
11:00 Worship in the
Park

Church Office Hours
9-12 a.m. 2-4 p.m.
Tuesday-Wednesday
9-12 a.m. Thurs.-Fri
(805) 525-6654

Visit our websites at :
www.sppresby.com

WAYPOINT STATEMENT

To make disciples in the Heritage
Valley and beyond who are rooted
in God's Word, led by the Holy Spir-
it, and devoted to prayer and
growth in His grace.

Prayers of Guidance for Church Leaders and Workers:

Pastor Ron Urzua

Bob Ramos & Rob Schlee: Commissioned Ruling Elders
Steve Batstone, Music Director Donna Nelson, Organist/Pianist
Chris Buchanan, Church Coordinator Penny Carlson, Treasurer
Those serving on Session and Board of Deacons

Presby-News prepared by Chris Buchanan

Presby-News

March 2024

THE CHOSEN *Coming soon on Friday*
Nights at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall
Movie about the Life of Christ
Fellowship, Watch, Discuss, Pray,



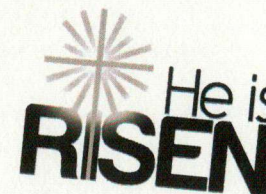
March 24
Palm Sunday
Hosanna!



Maundy Thursday, March 28

6:00 Soup Supper (reservations requested)

6:30 Worship (no reservations)

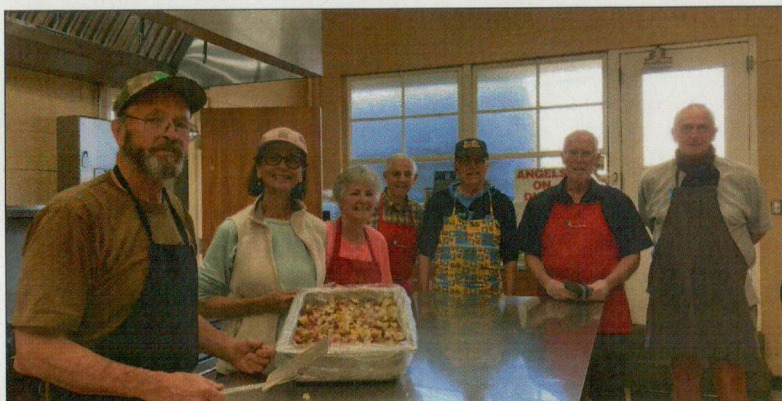


EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 in the Sanctuary + Appetizer Buffet

WORSHIP IN THE PARK + Lunch

Veterans' Park



Since 2009 food for Many Meals and then the Harvard Shelter have been prepared in our kitchen. Last Friday the cooks officially retired. Some of them have dedicated 15 years to this endeavor. We will miss the aroma of their weekly culinary masterpieces.



Fellowship, Food, Friends, & Bible Study
It's all in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-noonish.
They're annual retreat is Saturday, May 18. Save the date!



Can You Lend a Hand?

Our See's Candy sale will be starting soon. Tuesday through Friday candies are available in the church office from 9-4. We need someone to handle the sale from noon-1:30 so Chris can go to lunch. We also need help on Saturdays March 16, 23, and 30.



A good friend is like a 4-leaf clover; hard to find and lucky to have. Irish Proverb

May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.



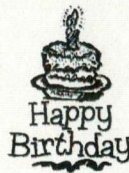
A huge thanks to Priscilla Holmes for designing our See's Candy Sale ads and all the of our advertising needs.



Mother Nature won the battle! Our fountain succumbed to the super saturated ground beneath it. It was not salvageable.

March

- 6 Lola Law
- 8 Susan Elder
- 11 Laura Staben
- 18 Cheryl Leatherman
- 26 Nadyne Macom



Santa Paula Church of Revival

Bible Study: Wednesday 6-9 p.m.

Worship: Sunday, noon-3 p.m.

Fellowship Hall & Fireside Room

HOPE, AWE AND LIFE



Every late winter we observe the Lenten season which culminates in early spring with the celebration of Easter (Resurrection Sunday). Throughout the entire year, the resurrection of Christ thrills me and fills me with hope, awe, and new life.

The New Testament teaches us that following the resurrection of the dead in Christ that God will live with humans and wipe away every tear from our eyes! The N.T. teaches that we along with all of creation will be made new! Scripture teaches that Christ will rule the world with love and justice. I believe that one day God will resurrect you, all believers, my family, most of my extended family, many of my childhood friends and myself to live bodily in perfect harmony in the presence of God forever! Oh, how the Holy Spirit through this holy conviction often thrills me and fills me with hope, awe, and new spiritual energy! This Resurrection hope is water and oxygen for the soul!

The New Testament calls all believers to deny themselves, embrace their cross and trust into Christ's death and resurrection. Jesus and His apostles taught us that if we stand in solidarity with Christ's death and resurrection by faith that we will share in His supernatural resurrection life while still here on the earth. The Apostle Paul informed the Ephesians that he was praying for them so that they would come to know and receive the power of the resurrection to REALLY LIVE NOW.

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the... ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

- Ephesians 1:18-20 (NIV)

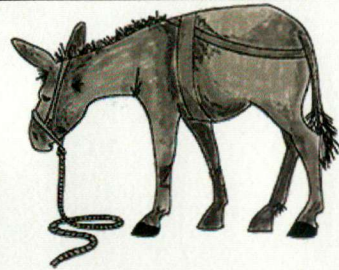
Time and time again God has raised me up to life when my faith, passion, obedience and joy has waned. Every time we embrace the cross, die to self and identify with Christ in His death and resurrection we are on the path to being resurrected afresh. This Lenten resurrection season lets identify with the risen Christ so that corporately He resurrects our fire, faith, dreams, obedience, and joy I the Holy Spirit.

Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)

A person who is an ordained elder and has completed a program of preparation related to the ministry, but has not been ordained, may serve in the ministry of a church as a CRE. The local church determines what the role of the CRE will be.

Rob Schleef, commissioned as a CRE at the recent meeting of Presbytery, served in the same capacity for many years in the Nevada Presbytery. His title here is Elder of the Word and Sacraments. He will continue to serve at both the 9:30 and park worship services and in the greater ministry of the church. Rob is not a paid staff member.

Bob Ramos, also a CRE, serves as an associate minister mainly as pastor to the park ministry along with other responsibilities. Pastor Bob is a paid staff member.



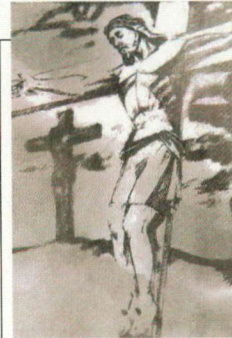
Be the Donkey!

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

"When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches

and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" she replied. "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor."

Jesus told his followers they'd need to carry (or "take up") their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?



Because Jesus Said So!

One intriguing person in the Passion account is the thief on the cross whom Jesus promised a same-day entrance to paradise (see Luke 23:43). Pastor and radio host Alistair Begg says he can't wait to meet that man and ask how everything unfolded. "You were cussing [Jesus] out with your friend," Begg says. "You've never been in a Bible study. You've never been baptized. You didn't know a thing about church membership, and yet you made it!"

In a sermon, Begg pictures an imaginary angel at the pearly gates, growing frustrated during the sinful thief's entrance interview. After receiving no clear answers from the thief about doctrines such as justification, the angel finally asks, "On what basis are you here?" The thief simply replies, "The man on the middle cross said I can come."

SHAMROCK

St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.



ORDER EASTER LILIES NOW!

Once again this year we offer the opportunity to purchase **Easter Lilies** in memory of or to honor a loved one. The flowers will adorn the sanctuary on Easter morning. Names of the honorees will be listed in the bulletin.

You may take the flower home with you after worship or the deacons will deliver it to a shut-in.

Orders for the lilies (\$13.00) each may be placed at coffee hour or in the church office **by Sunday, March 26.**



Our Feeble Prayers, Our Father's Response

In *He Still Moves Stones*, Max Lucado recalls the story of Derek Redmond, a 1992 Olympic competitor in the 400-meter race. Halfway through Redmond's semifinal run, a torn hamstring sent him tumbling to the ground. His dad, Jim, immediately ran onto the track. He met up with Derek, who, though crying, had managed to stand and was hopping forward.

"You don't have to do this," Jim said. But Derek insisted. "Well, then, we're going to finish this together," said Jim, who supported his son as he hobbled to the finish line. The crowd cheered and wept as Derek, with Dad's assistance, finished the race.

Lucado writes: "What made the father do it? ... Was it the strength of his child? No, it was the pain of his child. ... God does the same. Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."

Resurrection Rumbblings

In *Easter Earthquake*, James A. Harnish explores the "earthshaking promise" of Jesus' resurrection. Easter Sunday "shatters the power of fear," he writes. "Because Christ is risen, we no longer allow fear to dominate, control or manipulate us. We don't remain imprisoned in the tombs of our past failures or buried under the weight of present anxiety. In the risen Christ, old things pass away and everything becomes new."

Easter, Harnish adds, is proof that God hasn't forsaken us and is present among us. "The Resurrection contradicts the assumption that Christ resides on an ethereal cloud in a distant heaven. Rather, we find him on the dusty road that leads to the real stuff of our ordinary world."

Jesus' followers can find him everywhere, Harnish concludes. "The risen Christ will meet us along the confused, chaotic, fearful paths of our lives and speak the same words the women hear at the tomb, 'Do not be afraid.'"



DON'T MISS OUT BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T KNOW....

VCAA Ventura Area Agency on Aging, advocates for the needs of those 60 years of age and older in the county. They provide info and resources on: health services, housing, in home services, senior centers, nutrition and transportation.

We have invited Roger Horne, Public Information Officer to speak to us on Wednesday, April 10 at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. This is open to anyone who would like to attend. The presentation would likely be one hour and time for questions after. Feel free to invite friends and family members to join you.