

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

# Presby-News

April 2024



## Sunday Schedule

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

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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](http://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 Spirit, and devoted to prayer and growth in His grace.

## Prayers of Guidance for Church Leaders and Workers:

Pastor Ron Urzua

Pastor Bob Ramos, Commissioned Lay Minister

Steve Batstone, Music Director

Donna Nelson, Organist/Pianist

Chris Buchanan, Church Coordinator

Penny Carlson, Treasurer

Those serving on Session and Board of Deacons



# Celebrate Life!

*"This musical will remain significant for years to come because it's telling the greatest story ever told! It's all about Jesus!"*

*Presented by the choir....*

*Saturday, May 11 at 4:30 p.m.*

*First Presbyterian Church*



## April BIRTHDAYS

4 Bessie Cantero	26 Sandra Crespo
5 Vicki Thompson	26 Jeri Mead
6 Jodi Ponce	30 Diana Leon
8 Veronica Urzua	
15 Donna Nelson	

Celebrate in Fellowship Hall on  
Sunday, April 21

Let's take these friends with long term health issues to God in our prayers.

Anthony Martinez  
Gretchen Rogers  
Mal King  
Sherie Foley  
Stephanie Stallings  
Sally Staben  
Ann Cody  
Kay Hara  
The Crespo Family  
Lucinda & Dion Anderson



Lola Law  
Bessie Cantero



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

VCAAA 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.



women's  
retreat

Rescheduled to  
Saturday, June 22

See's Candy will return on Saturday, May 4  
in time for Mothers' Day and graduations.



## When We Least Deserve Love

"Love me when I least deserve it," says a Swedish proverb, "because that's when I really need it." My mom recounts how my 1-year-old sister, scooting around in a walker, somehow got hold of and spilled a loosely capped bottle of cooking oil. As Mom cleaned up, my sis scooted into the bathroom and unwound all the toilet paper.

Mom went to investigate the ruckus, and as she respooled the TP, my sister went back to the kitchen, pulled crackers out of a lower cupboard, tossed them on the floor and drove over them — in the remaining oil. At that point, Mom decided it was naptime! Yet I know Mom laid her little one in her crib with tender love. After a rest, they'd start afresh.

In John 21, the risen Jesus addresses Peter, who had denied him three times the night of Jesus' arrest. But Jesus didn't treat Peter harshly. In love, the Savior offered his disciple a fresh start. So too, when we're at our worst, hurting God's heart by hurting others and creation, God loves us all the more. He loves us into a fresh start — even, and especially, when we least deserve it.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

## God Is Watching

In the cafeteria line one day, a seminary dean noticed a bowl of big, juicy oranges. A sign by it read, "Take only one. God is watching you!" At the other end of the lunch line sat a large plate of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies. Beside it was a hastily scrawled note, likely from a hungry student: "Take as many cookies as you want. God is back there watching the oranges."

The message behind that good-natured irreverence? If you believe that God's sight is limited to one place, then your idea of God is too small!

—adapted from *The Wired Word*



In Philippians 4:8, the Apostle Paul writes:  
*[8] Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

I happened upon this verse a few months ago. It has stuck with me ever since. I have come to realize that I engage in too much with "faulty" thinking. The kind of thinking that leads me away from my Savior, healthy relationships with others, and myself. You know, the type of thinking that I have when I'm following the person driving at 45mph on the freeway. Or, the lack of patience with someone you have texted an "important" message to and they haven't responded for 5 seconds. We are all prone to "faulty" thinking.

In our passage above, Paul challenges the Philippians to think about things that lift others and give glory to God. As well as wash out our faulty thoughts about ourselves.

One of his examples is to think about what is true. The bottom line is God has given us a renewed mind. And the characteristics found in our verse above give us a launching pad.

## Invaluable!

"The kingdom of heaven," said Jesus, "is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:45-46, NRSV).

In 2021, the Good News Network reported that a crab fisherman in Thailand stumbled upon a valuable Melo pearl while cutting up a snail for lunch. In wonder, he brought it to his brother to verify the discovery. "My family had been fishing for generations," said Prasarnphon Phunwan, "but I believe our fate is about to change because of my lunch." Several months prior, another fisherman had been offered \$351,000 for a similar pearl.

Likewise, God's priceless love immeasurably alters our eternal fate. If we fully comprehended the value of that love, we'd give up everything to obtain it. But the greater wonder is that we don't have to buy it. God gives it to us as a gift! Whether we seemed to encounter Jesus by chance or someone joyfully shared the Gospel with us, our Savior is the merchant who "sold all that he had" — even his life. So priceless is salvation! So valuable are we!

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Before



After



the Deacons for the delicious buffet following worship on Easter Sunday.

Led by Veronica Rios and Ruth Rope they created a spread pleasing to the eye and equally tasty. The Deacons also delivered lilies to several of our shut-ins.

## God's Provision While Wait

A November 2023 landslide trapped 41 construction workers in a tunnel they'd been excavating for a Himalayan highway project. For 17 days, they were stranded nearly 3 miles from freedom. When rescuers' drilling equipment broke, miners drilled through the last 2 meters of rock and gravel by hand. Finally, all the workers were pulled to safety through a 3-foot-wide steel pipe. Because they had received food, water, medicines, oxygen and even light through a narrow pipe while underground, all were in good health.

We are trapped in sin and brokenness: our sin and that of others, fragmented relationships and systems, nearby and across the globe. Christianity teaches that God's way of goodness will win in the end. But before full rescue comes, what keeps us alive and hopeful — even healthy?

As water was faithfully provided to the laborers through that narrow pipe, God quenches our thirst through baptism. Scripture and the sacrament of communion are the food and medicine that nourish and strengthen us. Prayer — our own and others' prayers for us — along with the Holy Spirit's gifts such as comfort and joy flow into our lives like the light of hope and the oxygen of life. Though complete rescue seems slow to come, God provides for us while we wait.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



The team of Rod Thompson and Jim Stallings are tackling the much needed job of replacing the doors in the annex building.



On Wednesday nights at 7 and Sundays at 1 we share our space with the Santa Paula Church of Revival. They arrive an hour before their services to prepare the Fellowship Hall and Fireside Room for their place of worship. They recently celebrated one year of ministry in Santa Paula.



# First Presbyterian Church of Santa Paula

## April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9:15 Staff Meeting 10:00 Worship Committee 7:00 AI Anon	3 9:30 Women to Women 10:45 Men's Bible Study 4:30-5:30 Pantry 6:00 Church of Revival	4 5:00 Choir Practice 6:45 Praise Team  Bday: Bessie Cantero	5 10:00 Prayer Group  Bday: Vicki Thompson	6 9:00 Men's Bible Study at Flight 126 Café  Bday: Jodi Ponce
7 <b>✠ Holy Communion</b> 9:30 Worship 11:00 Worship in the Park 11:00 Adult Bible Study 12:00 Church of Revival	8  Bday: Veronica Urzua	9 9:15 Staff Meeting 10:00 Worship Committee 7:00 AI Anon	10 9:30 Women to Women 10:00 Agency on Aging Presentation 4:30-5:30 Pantry 6:00 Church of Revival	11 5:00 Choir Practice 6:45 Praise Team	12 10:00 Prayer Group	13 PEO
14 9:30 Worship 11:00 Worship in the Park 11:00 Adult Bible Study 12:00 Church of Revival	15	16 9:15 Staff Meeting 10:00 Worship Committee 6:30 Finance, Property, Endowment Committees 7:00 AI Anon	17 9:00 Band Practice 9:30 Women to Women 10:45 Men's Bible Study 4:30-5:30 Pantry 6:00 Church of Revival	18 5:00 Choir Practice 6:45 Praise Team	19 10:00 Prayer Group	20 9:00 Men's Bible Study at Flight 126 Café 9-12 Choir Rehearsal
21 9:30 Worship 11:00 Worship in the Park 11:00 Adult Bible Study 12:00 Church of Revival	22	23 9:15 Staff Meeting 10:00 Worship Committee 6:45 Deacons/Elders 7:00 AI Anon	24 9:00 Band Practice 9:30 Women to Women 10:45 Men's Bible Study 4:30-5:30 Pantry 6:00 Church of Revival	25 5:00 Choir Practice 6:45 Praise Team	26 10:00 Prayer Group 1:00 Memorial Service  Bday: Jeri Mead Sandra Crespo	27
28 9:30 Worship 11:00 Worship in the Park 11:00 Adult Bible Study 12:00 Church of Revival	29	30 9:15 Staff Meeting 10:00 Worship Committee 7:00 AI Anon  Bday: Diana Leon	1 9:30 Women to Women 10:45 Men's Bible Study 4:30-5:30 Pantry 6:00 Church of Revival	2 5:00 Choir Practice 6:45 Praise Team	3 10:00 Prayer Group	4 9:00 Men's Bible Study at Flight 126 Café