

KENSINGTON PRESS

NOVEMBER 2018

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear friends in Christ,

It's autumn! Autumn is when we invite the congregation to remember that the work of the church needs our financial support. This season is especially suited to our annual giving campaign because...

- We celebrated Reformation Sunday on October 28, a reminder of the long, long history of women and men who sought to be faithful to Christ and Christ's Church.
- We celebrate All Saints' Sunday on November 4, a reminder that we stand on the shoulders of the faithful people who preceded us, mentored us, encouraged us, served as role models, and gave generously so that we could occupy this corner of San Anselmo.
- We celebrate our congregation's 121st birthday on November 14: 121 years of serving and inspiring San Anselmo and Marin County.
- We celebrate Thanksgiving Day on November 22 (our ecumenical worship service is the evening before), our annual reminder that everything we have is a gift from God, and that we are answerable to God for how we use God's gifts.

Our annual giving campaign theme this year is "Woven Together." This calls to mind our summer focus on community, and our need to build community. It also points to the way we are woven together with those we remember every autumn: those who came before us, and those who will come after us and are counting on us to be good stewards of the gift of this congregation.

In his letter to the Christian community at Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote, "I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery" (Colossians 2:2, The Message). In Paul's metaphor,

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TWS ALL-CHURCH DINNER

"Birthday Bash at the Duncan Diner" Sunday November 11, 5 pm.

Celebrate our congregation's 121st birthday at an all-church, retro-diner-themed dinner. Free admission; all are welcome. Sign up at coffee hour or email Erica Heath ericajheath@gmail.com





FAMILY MINISTRIES

Godly Play

The sacred space for children to do Godly Play is both a worshipful and educational environment. In November, Godly Play will conclude its time with Sacred Stories for now, and look to establish and work with the traditions of the Church and the Circle of the Church Year in preparation for Advent! Our young ones will continue their work with the Great Family of Abraham and Sarah, learn about the traditions of the Church, and observe the Liturgical Calendar (the seasons of the church year.)

Godly Play is not just a worshipful opportunity for children – adults can join in the fun and creativity, and feel close to God observing our young ones engaging with God and their faith. We welcome learners of all ages to join us in Godly Play each Sunday! Volunteers are still needed to be a second presence in our Godly Play room each week. If you are interested in volunteering for this, please email Patrick at poconnor@students.sfts.edu.

For Parents: An Afternoon Out

The youth group would like to take care of your kids while you Christmas shop! On December 2nd the youth group will be babysitting kids between the ages of kindergarten and 5th grade in a fun and happy Christmas-themed day. Snacks will be provided and we'll have arts and crafts, movies, and games to keep your kids entertained. This will give you the freedom to go Christmas shopping, pick up groceries, or have much-deserved personal time to relax by yourself. A suggested donation of \$20-30/ per family would be graciously received and will be put towards future youth group events. Please RSVP to Heather at hcgordon16@gmail.com.

"Gratitude turns what we have into enough."
 ~Melodie Beattie

Youth Events Calendar

Nov. 11, 11:30am-12:30pm Pageant planning meeting. Youth will meet with Heather to plan the pageant for this year. Heather has a lot of experience with different pageants. Please come and bring your ideas and enthusiasm!

Nov. 11, 5pm Annual All-Church Dinner. Youth are invited to help with the dinner for the church in Duncan Hall. We could use help with set up, serving, and clean up. We will also have a youth table with games during the dinner.

Nov. 25, 12-2pm Movie! Youth will go see a matinee movie at Northgate

Dec. 1, 11am-2pm Older Adult Luncheon Service opportunity. Youth who are interested can help with the Christmas luncheon for Older Adults. They would like help with set up, service, and clean up.

Dec. 2, 12-3pm Youth Group provide Afternoon Babysitting for community.

Dec 9, 16, & 23, 11:30am-12:30pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsals in the sanctuary.

Dec 24 6pm Christmas Eve Service and Pageant

A Thanksgiving Prayer (from Bread for the World)

Holy God, you cause the earth to bring forth an abundance of beautiful and nourishing food. Thank you for your overflowing generosity toward all your creatures. Bless this meal, that it may give strength to our bodies. Remember, O Lord, those whose cooking pots are empty today. Bless them with the knowledge that you are with them and that help is coming. Move the hearts and hands of those who have power to end hunger, so that kitchens all over the world will be filled with food, laughter, and hope. Amen.

AROUND TOWN

First Presbyterian Celebrates Community at San Anselmo Country Fair Day

Baked goodies, free water and a community art project were First Presbyterian's contribution to the San Anselmo Country Fair Day this year. The art project, to which all were invited to color a square, was inspired by the summer's theme, "We're all in this together," was the perfect activity to highlight the spirit of welcome and inclusion that is the hallmark of this congregation. The youth brought baked goodies to raise funds for their activities, and many availed themselves of a cool drink of water what turned out to be a beautiful warm, Indian summer day. It was all great, good fun. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and energy into helping us get to know and be known by our neighbors.



...From the Choir

In December, the chancel choir, community singers, and orchestra, conducted by Daniel Canosa, will present a trio of works, each called, "**O Magnum Mysterium**," by contemporary composers Morten Lauridsen, Javier Busto, and Ola Gjeilo. This magical text ("O Great Mystery") is a responsorial chant from the matins (nighttime liturgy) of Christmas. Here is a translation:

*O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord,
lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ. Alleluia!*

We've started rehearsals for these wondrous works on Thursdays. We invite all community singers to join us, 7:30-8:30 pm. The orchestra will include some of the finest instrumentalists in the Bay Area! Come listen at 10 am on December 9th!

If YOU would like to sing with our regular choir for Sunday worship, just show up any Thursday (8:30-9:30 pm) and we'll welcome you with open arms, and the music! After each weekly rehearsal on Thursday, you can then sing the following Sunday (choir rehearses at 9 am prior to worship). Singing together with people is good for your physical and mental health. Any questions, please contact Linda Price, 415-272-3461 or lgprice57@gmail.com.



ANNUAL GIVING



Woven Together – 2019 Annual Giving Campaign

"It will be very interesting one day to follow the pattern of our life as it is spread out like a beautiful tapestry. As long as we live here we see only the reverse side of the weaving, and very often the pattern, with its threads running wildly, doesn't seem to make sense. Someday, however, we shall understand. In looking back over the years we can discover how a red thread goes through the pattern of our life: the Will of God."

These words of Maria Von Trapp tie in beautifully with the theme of our Annual Giving Campaign – "Woven Together." If you were in worship on October 28th, you've already heard about the campaign. Our goal is to raise pledges from members of the congregation to cover the church's operating costs in 2019. We're not asking for payment now, just a pledge that reflects your personal commitment to this wonderful community of faith.

With your pledge, we'll be able to continue weaving the tapestry of our church community – through vibrant worship services, opportunities to grow in spiritual faith, fellowship events, activities for all ages and interests, and our shared commitment to serve others and protect our environment.

As you reflect on your own spiritual life, we invite you to consider what gift you will make to the church in 2019 so we can continue to do God's work together. Pledge packets have been distributed in person and by mail – if you do not receive yours by November 3rd, please let the church office know. And do plan to join us in worship on November 18th when we'll celebrate and dedicate our pledges.

Your Annual Giving Campaign Team – Margaret Melsh, Laurie Buntain, David Jones, Martha Joyce and Joanne Whitt

green Chautauqua

Green Chautauqua: Dahr Jamail Author of *The End of Ice* Coming Soon

After nearly a decade overseas as a war reporter, the acclaimed journalist Dahr Jamail returned to America to renew his passion for mountaineering, only to find that the slopes he had once climbed have been irrevocably changed by climate disruption. In response, Jamail wrote **The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption**. The book will be released January 15, 2019, and one of Jamail's stops on his author's tour is the Green Chautauqua at First Presbyterian Church. Coming Soon!

WORSHIP

Annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Wednesday, November 23, 7:30pm Saint Anselm Catholic Church

For the 104th year, we'll worship with our neighbors in our annual ecumenical Thanksgiving service. As we have for the past few years, we will gather on "Thanksgiving Eve" – Wednesday evening, November 21, at 7:30pm. This year, the service will take place at Saint Anselm Catholic Church, 97 Shady Lane, Ross.

Clergy from St. John's Episcopal Church in Ross, Saint Anselm Catholic Church in Ross, First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, and St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, San Anselmo, will lead worship. This year, our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, will be the preacher for the evening. The choirs of all four churches will provide music, directed by the Director of Music from Saint Anselm.

Join us in expressing our gratitude to God on Wednesday evening, November 21 at 7:30pm.

MARIN BAROQUE

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MARIN BAROQUE

Daniel Canosa, Music Director
Chamber Choir & Period Instrument Orchestra

*Songs of Innocence &
Songs of Experience*

French & Spanish Music of the Renaissance
with poetry by William Blake



November 17, 2018 8:00 PM
Brownpapertickets.com or 415.497.6634
First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo, CA
Marinbaroque.org Marinbaroque@gmail.com

PRAISE FOR THE UNSUNG HEROINES

One of those things that happens in the background

We don't always know something's getting done here at First Presbyterian until one day, you just notice or it's pointed out. In the choir room, there are a series of cabinets containing a substantial collection of choir music, and it all needed to be organized and catalogued.

Thanks to Margaret Melsh, Martha Wall, and Linda Price, the library, which "was a mess" (not my words) is now almost completely organized, with a new filing system. Music Director Daniel Canosa wrote, "Your work on the library is superb, it will keep things organized and clean for many years to come. We should call it the 'Melsh-Wall-Price' library."



DEACONS



FOOD
for **Friends**

Food for Friends

Two or three times a year? Or maybe, once or twice a month?

The deacons are looking for a number of people who would be willing to be on a team called **Food for Friends**. The purpose of this team would be to provide a meal or two for someone who is in a particular situation where this service would be extremely helpful. It is a gift, a ministry, that does not require being on a committee. You serve on occasion to contribute to the well-being of a member of this church. Perhaps you have been a deacon and know firsthand how gratefully this service is received.

If we had perhaps six or eight people from the congregation at large to call on when such a need arises, it would be so very helpful. This would give the deacons a wider range of possibilities for having this need addressed. It may be that you might offer to shop for groceries if someone is housebound for some reason. Or if it's a short-term situation, one or two meals might be all that is needed.

Others provide meals and fellowship to a particular family or church member on an ongoing basis when this need is part of an overall plan for health and well-being. You might want to be part of a group of dedicated people who have taken on this call for service.

To join **Food for Friends** please contact Sue Neil at susanneil@comcast.net, or talk with her at coffee hour and let her know of your interest and intent.

Daylight Savings Ends Sunday, November 4th



Set your clocks back 1 hour before bed on **Saturday** night and enjoy that extra hour of sleep!

WORSHIP

Worship in November 2018

- November 4** DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS
All Saints' Sunday
Communion
"Hallelujah!"
Psalm 146
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching
- November 11** **Together We Serve Sunday**
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
"Woven Together"
Mark 12:38-44
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching
- November 18** FAMILY SUNDAY
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
"Gratitude"
Psalm 100
1 Thessalonians 5:16-28
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching
- November 21** **The Evening before Thanksgiving Day**
Wed., 7:30pm "Enough is Enough"
Matthew 6:24-34
The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, preaching
Saint Anselm Church, 97 Shady Lane, Ross
- November 25** **Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday**
2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12,
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37
The Rev. Linda S. Powers, preaching

OLDER ADULTS



Save the Date: Christmas Luncheon December 1st

The Older Adult Committee invites you to our annual Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 1st at 11:30am in the Fireside Room. Please save the date and watch the bulletin for sign up information. We hope you will join us for great food, fellowship and a special performance by Firefly (aka Linda Price & Robin Truitt). Please call Martha Spears at (415) 342-2578 if you have any questions.

CHURCH & SOCIETY

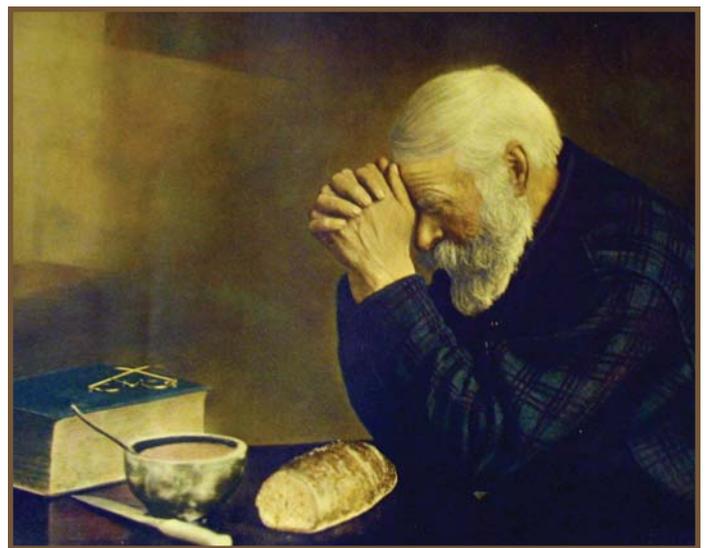
New Global Warming Predictions

Currently, wildfires are larger and much more widespread, forests are dying, insects are disappearing, polar ice is melting, salmon are disappearing from rivers, coral reefs are dying - all due to global warming.

And now the October 8 **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report** lays out further rather grim set of observations, predictions and warnings. Perhaps the biggest takeaway is that the world cannot warm more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (1.5°C) over pre-industrial levels without dire consequences—namely intensified drought and heat waves, famine, disease, and displacement for hundreds of millions of people—from things like rising sea levels and increased drought and flooding.

In addition, time for action to stem the worst effects of climate change is quickly running out. If we're to stay below or within range of that 1.5°C threshold, global carbon emissions must decrease by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, and we must reach zero carbon output around 2050. Energy sector carbon emissions, however, are still growing, not shrinking and the other political, economic and lifestyle changes required to stay below the 1.5°C threshold still seem very resistant to change.

The Climate Action Team will give a summary of the report along with expert responses at a future Sunday Seminar.



Grace, by Eric Enstrom (1916)

church members are like threads on a loom. Each thread brings its own beauty, strength, and character – its own particular gifts. Together through the worship and work of the community, these threads/members are woven into a tapestry of God's love that not only makes each thread more useful and more beautiful, more "confident and at rest," but that conveys God's love to a hurting world.

That is what we strive to do, together, every day of the year, in our worship and service. That is what we hope to do in the future. There is so much we can do, woven together, with your gifts.

Together we serve,

Joanne

CHURCH & SOCIETY

Advent Coat Drive

Health experts report that even a **2-degree drop in body temperature** results in reduced heart rate, loss of coordination, and confusion. Adults cannot work effectively and children find it difficult to learn. For most, a warm coat solves the problem. **But, for the nearly 15% of Americans living in poverty, a warm winter coat is a budget "extra."**

During Advent this year, we will join with the organization One Warm Coat in sponsoring a coat drive, not only within our congregation but in our neighborhood. Advent, the first season of the church year, includes the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. One of the Advent lectionary Scripture passages this year includes this directive from John the Baptist: "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." (Luke 3:11)

We will collect new and gently used coats for those who need them. Beginning in December, coats may be dropped off in the church office during office hours, or in the church library on Sunday mornings. We have registered with One Warm Coat, which provides tools for promoting and publicizing the coat drive. Donated coats will be delivered to a Marin nonprofit to be chosen by the Church & Society Committee. Our coat drive web page can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2CEcqIJ>

THEATRE OUTINGS

Theatre Outing Sunday Dec. 16th Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple"

Join Theatregoers for Ross Valley Players' production of Neil Simon's comedic classic, "The Odd Couple" on Sunday, December 16th, at 2:00pm at the Barn Theatre, Marin Art and Garden Center, in Ross.

Polar opposite friends, Felix Unger and Oscar Madison, become housemates, with frustrating, but hilarious results! Directed by Mike Reynolds and Jay Krohnengold, the obsessively neat Felix and the free spirited Oscar will keep you laughing at their antics! Tickets \$27 or \$22 for 12+. Please let Maureen Kalbus know if you are interested in attending: maureenkalbus@comcast.net or (415) 444-0302.



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415.456.3713
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mail@togetherweserve.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:00am
(Nursery Care)

The Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt
Pastor and Head of Staff

The Rev. Doug Olds
Parish Associate
Laurie Buntain

Church Accountant

Daniel Canosa

Director of Music

Heather Gordon

Director of Youth Ministries and
Seminary Intern

Tom Lannert

Church Custodian

Joanna Magee

Office Administrator

Audrey Mahler

Sexton

Natsuko Murayama

Organist

Patrick O'Connor

Godly Play Teacher

Martha Spears

Coordinator of

Older Adult Ministries

Mary Wright Gillespie

Associate Pastor Emerita

Sally Johnson

Director of Music Emerita

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Mailing

Marin Organizing Committee (MOC)

Calendar of Events

November 7th Renter Protection Action with Mayor Gary Phillips, in San Rafael at a place TBD.

November 26th Renter Protection Team Meeting, 6:30 pm. Marin Kids Offices, 1050 Northgate Drive, Suite 130 (get there before 6:30 or call Meredith's cell at 415-302-1383 if you get stuck outside)

December 4th and 11th Board of Supervisors hearings on Just Cause Ordinance at 5:30 pm (Pre-meeting at 5:00 under the arch). These are the first and second readings of the ordinance. The final vote is on the 11th, but the staff report will circulate before the 4th and they will be listening to public comment about it.

Post-election MOC Orientation and Discussion "Does Local Organizing Matter?" (dates vary by institution)

December 6th MOC Leaders Meeting -Place TBD

Training Opportunities

November 26th thru December 1st Regional IAF Training in Phoenix

January 20-25th Regional IAF Training in Berkeley