

*The*  
*Window*

First  
Presbyterian  
Church of  
Santa Monica

May 2017

It's springtime



May 14<sup>th</sup> - Mother's Day

May 28<sup>th</sup> - Annual Hymn Sing

Easter has come and gone. Now what?

In our usual experience, the church year reaches its climax on The Day of Resurrection. It is a day of celebration of a great mystery. A day of hope. A day of joy. We cue the balloons and sing, "Hallelujah!" But after Easter has come and gone, what's next?

Our Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship* says this:

*Easter is a fifty-day season of seven Sundays, beginning with the Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Day), the festival of Christ's resurrection. Ascension Day, forty days after Easter, is celebrated to affirm that Christ is Lord of all times and places. The Day of Pentecost marks the end of the Easter season. The liturgical color is white and gold, except for the Day of Pentecost which is red [Book of Common Worship, p. 1039].*

So Easter is not a day, but a season. It is a season of fifty days that takes us through another mystery—the ascension of the risen Christ forty days after Easter. And it takes us to yet another mystery—The Day of Pentecost. It's hard not to consider these holy days anticlimactic. But they're anything but.

*Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God [Luke 24:50-53].*

The return of the risen Christ to eternal realms completes the story of his earthly journey. The empty tomb is not the end of the gospel story but, instead, the story goes on into Galilee and beyond with us taking part in the telling of the good news of resurrection. So it is with the ascension. The story goes on. The risen Christ does not depart forever. He goes, as he said he must go, so that he may return as living Spirit.

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability [Acts 2:1-4].*

The sound of a violent wind. Tongues of fire. A cacophony of speech in other languages. There's nothing calm or ordinary or simple or safe about the coming of God's living Spirit. The Spirit of the living Christ comes to us to light a fire under us and enliven us and encourage us and push us onward to do great things to the glory of God.

The season of Easter is about all of this. The greatest good news that has ever been given. Ascension of the risen, living Christ to transcendent realms. Return as Holy Spirit to present, this-worldly glory.

Anything but anticlimactic. Empowering. Encouraging. Full of hope.

So may it be for us all.

Grace and peace,

Bill



# May 2017 Calendar

**May 5th**

6:30 p.m. Vawters' Daughters, Off-Site

**May 7th**

10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class, Youth Lounge

11:00 a.m. Special Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Mariners Social, Renaissance Room

**May 14th**

10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class, Youth Lounge

11:15 a.m. Congregational Life Team Meeting, Conference Room

11:15 a.m. Mission Team Meeting, Work Room

11:15 a.m. Deacons Team Meeting, Library

**May 20th**

8:00 p.m. Jacaranda Concert, Sanctuary

**May 21st**

10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class, Youth Lounge

11:15 a.m. Inquirer's Class, Library

**May 28th**

10:00 a.m. Annual Hymn Sing, Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Confirmation Class, Youth Lounge

**WEEKLY AT FIRST PRES**

**Wednesdays:** 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Gathering, Wictum Hall

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Church Mice, Church Mice Room; C.E. Building

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Youth Study Hall, Renaissance Room

5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Midweek Groups Dinner, Renaissance Room

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Midweek Groups Activities

7:00 p.m. Yoga, Renaissance Room

**Thursdays:** 9:30 a.m. Bible Study, Library

**Sundays:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

## Interim Pastor Search Update

As you know, Dr. Wood will be retiring a few months from now. We have established an Interim Pastor Search team to work with the Presbytery of the Pacific's Commission on Ministry (COM) to recruit and identify a suitable interim pastor for our church. The team is headed by co-leaders Phyllis Kai-Kee and Karen Carrey. Members are Bill Ireland, Amy Iorio, Kathy Stickel (ex-officio), and Tracy Riley. The team has been working closely with the session to prepare for the kick-start meeting with a COM representative. We have been advised that the COM representative will be assigned by the Presbytery to our team during the next 1-2 weeks.

The Interim Pastor, after approval by the Presbytery, will be under contract with the session. The contract is typically for one year, renewable and adjustable as needed. We are open to considering local candidates as well as those from other parts of California. We aim to have the Interim Pastor on board in September. Should we experience gaps between the time that Dr. Wood leaves and the Interim Pastor starts, we will arrange for guest preachers on Sundays.

A separate team, the Pastor Nominating Team, will be formed to conduct the search for the new Installed Pastor after the Interim Pastor is in place.

# Children's, Youth, and Family Ministry

## May 2017

### CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Classes are here!  
If your middle school or high school student is interested in becoming a member of the church they are encouraged to join us for the month of May. Classes begin Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. This will be in place of our usual Sunday school. Students who have already taken the class are welcome to join us and freshen up on their theology. This will be a time of fun and learning for all students. Students will be invited (and are not obligated) to become members after the completion of the course. If a student has to miss a class that class may be made up at a later time.

### Sunday Faith Groups

#### Church Mice (Preschool – Kinder)

May 7 – *Elisha turns back the soldiers*  
May 14 – *Caring for those in need*  
May 21 – *Respect everyone*  
May 28 – *A time of peace*

#### Faith Discoverers (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade).

#### Faith Explorers (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

May 7 – *A young girl and Naaman*  
May 14 – *Caring for those in need*  
May 21 – *True greatness*  
May 28 – *Healing on the Sabbath*

#### Middle School Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

#### High School Youth (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

May 7 – *Youth Confirmation Class*  
May 14 – *Youth Confirmation Class*  
May 21 – *Youth Confirmation Class*  
May 28 – *Youth Confirmation Class*

### MIDWEEK FAITH GROUPS

Kids meet on Wednesdays for fellowship, games, and Bible study activities led by Peter Earhart, Irene Navarro, Paula Lowe, and David Derus

#### Church Mice (Preschool – Kinder)

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Church Mice Room, C.E. Building

#### Faith Discoverers (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

#### Faith Explorers (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

5:30 p.m. Dinner in Ren Room  
6:00 p.m. Meet for activities, Wictum Hall/Big Yard

#### Youth Group (Mid High and Sr. High)

3:30 p.m. Study Hall in Ren Room  
5:30 p.m. Dinner in Ren Room  
6:00 p.m. Meet for activities, Youth Lounge



We are currently in the season of Eastertide, that fifty day period that follows Easter and leads to Pentecost. Most people know Pentecost as a Christian holiday, where we commemorate the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles of Jesus as they gathered together in the upper room following the Ascension of Jesus. The Bible actually tells us that Jews from many different nations were in Jerusalem that day. They were there celebrating the *Jewish Feast of Pentecost*.

It's true; Pentecost is originally a Jewish holiday. It's one of the three great feasts, along with Passover and Tabernacles, on the Jewish calendar. It has a historical significance, as it commemorates God giving the Torah to Moses on Mt. Sinai. It also commemorates the time when the first fruits of the wheat harvest were brought to the Temple in the form of leavened bread.

So, we may ask, why did Jesus choose to pour out the Holy Spirit on his Church during this very Jewish holiday?

The idea that people had gathered together to celebrate a harvest ties in perfectly with the fact that a great "harvest" for the Lord was experienced! The New Covenant was put into effect with full force. This day truly was the beginning of the Church...our "birthday", if you will. That very day 3000 people came to believe in Jesus and were baptized after hearing Peter's teaching! Pentecost really was the FIRST great revival!

Do you remember learning about the Holy Spirit as a child? The Trinity can be a tricky thing to grasp, much less teach to kids. When talking to your kids about Pentecost and the significance it has in our lives, remind them that as Jesus was preparing to return to God, he made a promise. He told his disciples that even though he would be leaving them and wouldn't be here on earth as a man, he would NOT be leaving them all alone. He promised to send someone else: The Holy Spirit.

If a child doesn't exactly understand what the Holy Spirit is, tell them that it's something that we feel inside that helps us know and understand God's love and a way in which we feel God's actual presence in our lives. In fact here we are, over 2000 years later, still feeling God's love and presence exactly like they did on that day of Pentecost!

How can you celebrate Pentecost with your family at home? Here are some suggestions:

- Let your children help make a birthday cake and celebrate by singing Happy Birthday to the Church!
- Read the Pentecost account with your family from the Acts of the Apostles (2:1-47). Then, if you have a fireplace or outside fire pit, make a fire together. Talk about the power of the symbol of fire and how the Holy Spirit came to the apostles through fire.
- Write the gifts of the Holy Spirit on pieces of paper (see Isaiah 11:2 or Romans 12:6-8). Let each family member take a gift. Then talk about how they can use their gift throughout the year.

Blessings and Happy Pentecost,

*Peter*



# Happenings at First Pres

## “SHARE THE LOVE” – Children’s Lenten Mission Project



The Children’s and Family Ministry team is now putting together a team to set up the Upward Bound House apartment. Please contact Peter Earhart at [Peter@fpcsantamonica.org](mailto:Peter@fpcsantamonica.org) or call the church office to be involved in this.

Thank you to everyone who participated in getting all of the items on the list. We will post photos of the apartment after it is set up.

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## ANNUAL HYMN SING – MAY 28, 10 a.m., Sanctuary

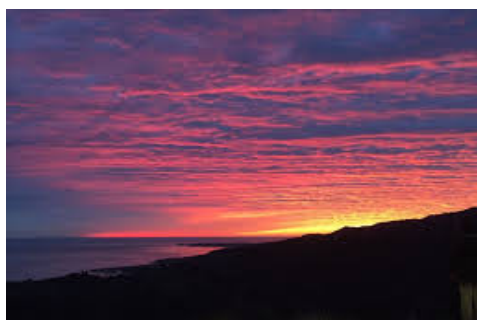
The annual Hymn Sing and picnic will be held May 28. The Congregational Life team will provide the fried chicken. The congregation is asked to bring salads, side dishes, cookies, and cupcakes. If you have not already done so, sign up and tell us what you will bring by emailing the church at [info@fpcsantamonica.org](mailto:info@fpcsantamonica.org).

We are excited to have the congregation share in this popular annual event. Come prepared to sing and eat heartily.

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## VAWTERS’ DAUGHTERS – Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

On Friday, May 5th the Vawters’ Daughters will meet at Kathy Stickel’s house at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy dinner and celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Come take in the beautiful sunset from Topanga Canyon and mingle with some friends.



# FIRST PRES COMMUNITY

## Wednesday Morning Gathering

We are working on crochet coat hangers, embroidering kitchen towels, crocheting scarfs, and making squares to use in lap robes for a hospital. Come join us on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and have coffee with us at 10:00 a.m.

## Bible Study

*Romans—Paul's Magnum Opus of Hope, Joy, and Peace*, Join Dr. Wood as we delve into the apostle Paul's great work proclaiming the hope-filled good news of God in the Spirit of the living Christ, 9:30 a.m., Thursdays, in the library.

## Mariners Social

Mariners socials include lunch, entertainment, and informative presentations year round. This group meets one Sunday a month following the church service.

## Sunday, May 7, 11:15 a.m.

The Mariners will meet in the Renaissance Room at 11:30 a.m. for the May social that will feature Sherril Wood's flute group with her students playing chamber music. Party platters and cookies will be served for a donation. You won't want to miss this enjoyable music event. Please contact Diane Henszey at 310.470.2536 or the church office to RSVP.



## Vawters' Daughters

Join the women of the congregation the first Friday of every month. In honor of those spunky sisters who played such a vital role in the history of the church, we are the **Vawters' Daughters**. Contact the church for more details.

## Flowers

They beautify our sanctuary, honor your loved ones and provide cheer to our hospitalized and homebound parishioners. The deacons divide each week's arrangement into two or three bouquets and deliver them to members who can't get to church because of illness or frailty. It keeps our "friends at home" connected to their church family in a meaningful way.

We also can put to good use any vases that may be taking up space in your cupboards at home. If you'd like to reserve a date please see Pat Alston during the coffee hour or call the church office 310.451.1303. The cost of the flowers is \$65.

## Greeters Welcome You

*The Price Is Right*. Do you know the TV show that gives you prizes if you know the correct price of an item? It's fun to guess along with the guest, isn't it? Today, we want you to know that this place is right. You don't have to know anything except that God loves you and so do we. We greet you and give you a warm welcome because we are happy that you are here. Please join us in fellowship and worship. You are invited to be a part of the Greeter ministry; call the church office or contact Carole Riggs at ccriggs@hotmail.com.

## Westside Food Bank

The Westside Food Bank provides immediate hunger relief to the people of our community. Bring your donations of cash and checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with Westside Food Bank in the "memo" line to church the first Sunday of every month. Canned food and durable goods are also welcome, but donations of cash or check are preferred, as the Westside Food Bank multiplies these donations tenfold through its bulk buying power. A list of needed food items is available. Call the church office for more information.

## Need a Ride to Church?

If you are in need of a ride to church, our van driver, Tyrone DuBose has been providing transportation to First Pres members and friends for thirty-four years. He will make sure you get to church on time and in style in the First Pres van, and take you back home after the service. To schedule a ride call Tyrone directly at 310.920.0410.

## Hatha Yoga

Join us for yoga in a supportive relaxing atmosphere! Knowledgeable, trained, innovative teacher. Bring water and a mat to the Renaissance Room, Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. The suggested donation is \$25 per month. Questions? Call the church office 310.451.1303.

# May Birthdays

May 1 Avelaine Thompson  
May 2 Cory Bales  
May 2 Allison Fagundes  
May 3 Joe Kosinski  
May 4 Gavin Dechaussé  
May 4 Tyrone Du Bose  
May 4 Katie Haddock-Longarzo  
May 4 Dan Lukas  
May 7 Stephen Hall  
May 8 Sarah Baum-Lopez  
May 10 Antonio Hernandez  
May 11 Karen Carrey  
May 11 Judy Sommer  
May 12 Ellen Comesky  
May 12 Dionicio Aguilar Martinez  
May 12 Shelly Hyde-White  
May 12 Chloe Sullivan

May 13 Gemma Rodriguez  
May 14 Fred Armitage  
May 14 Colton Thompson  
May 18 Madison Forsander  
May 18 Carole Riggs  
May 19 Kristin Kosinski  
May 20 Suni Allen  
May 20 Mathias Matkovic  
May 20 Richard Vincent  
May 22 Melanie Wolff  
May 23 Tate Doré  
May 23 Sofia Weed  
May 24 Marlo McNeil  
May 26 Boden Woods  
May 29 Eric Larson  
May 30 Hahrin Chiang  
May 30 Diane Henszey



## Concerts

jacaranda

**Saturday, May 20, 2017 – 8:00 p.m.**

### Drum Summit

**Steve Reich:** Drumming;

Music for Mallet Instruments, Voices & Organ

**Artists:** Jacaranda Percussion Ensemble, M.B. Gordy, leader  
with Holly Sedillos, soprano; Zanaida Robles, soprano;  
Mark Alan Hilt, organ



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SUBMISSIONS:  
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