

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

April 2014

Church Website: oldfirst.org

Church Photostream: www.flickr.com/photos/oldfirst

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY

Palm Sunday, April 13, 11:00 am
Worship with Procession of Palms at Old First Presbyterian

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:00 pm
Worship at Old First Presbyterian
Together with Saint Luke's Episcopal Church and
Their Rector, the Reverend Dana Corsello preaching

Good Friday, April 18, 12:00 noon
Tenderloin Stations of the Cross
Gather at noon on the Polk Street side of the Civic Center, in front of
City Hall, for all or part of this two-hour service of prayer and
pilgrimage. The prayers remind us that Christ is crucified among us
every day in the suffering of those who have no home, health care, food,
or living wage.

Good Friday, April 18, 8:00 pm
Tenebrae Service at Old First Presbyterian
A Service of Readings and Growing Darkness Recalling the Crucifixion

Great Vigil of Easter, April 19, 9:00 pm
Grace Cathedral, California Street at Taylor
Beginning in darkness and including kindling of new fire, candles, and
communion, this ancient service is the first proclamation of Easter,
Christ's glorious resurrection.

Easter Sunday, Christ's Resurrection, April 20
Pancake Breakfast, Fellowship Hall, 9:30-10:30 am
Easter Worship, 11:00 am
Easter Garden, Brass Choir and
Handel's Hallelujah Chorus for the Whole Congregation

LILIES AND MUSIC FOR EASTER

The Worship Committee invites you to add to the Easter celebration at Old First Presbyterian Church by making a donation toward Easter lilies for the sanctuary and special music for Easter Sunday worship. Submit your contribution and dedication to the church office by **Monday, April 7.**



Your contributions can honor someone living, remember the dead or give thanks for some blessing in your life.

- The suggested contribution for **EACH gift and dedication is \$15.**
- To be included in the Easter bulletin, all contributions must be received at the church office no later **than Monday, April 7.**
- For each gift of \$15, please submit your name, your choice of **either lilies OR music**, and ONE dedication in memory, honor or thanksgiving of someone or of some event.
- Lilies will remain in the Sanctuary until after worship on the Second Sunday of Easter. At that time, the lilies will be donated to the Senior Center.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to our Easter Celebration!

OGHS: SHARING RESOURCES, CHANGING LIVES, EASTER DAY, APRIL 20

On Easter Day, April 20, Old First Presbyterian will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with those in need. Our generous gifts assist those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and help to empower the poor and oppressed. These gifts support the following:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) receives 36% of undesignated gifts. Disaster after disaster, Presbyterians have responded in record numbers with prayers, financial gifts, and hands-on-experience. In the last 9 years, more than 70,000 volunteer missions have been served in the U.S. Gulf Coast, Iowa, Missouri, Alabama, Tennessee, Texas, New Jersey, New York, and other places where natural disasters have occurred.
- Our financial support enables the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), 32% of undesignated gifts. People in the U.S. and worldwide are taking back their food systems – fighting for their land and waterways, reclaiming vacant lots, teaching others how to grow food, and developing local distribution systems – while simultaneously creating jobs, providing fresh food, preserving the environment, building rural-urban connections, advocating for just policies, and revitalizing their communities. Local control of seeds—by farmers, gardeners and seed keeping groups—is crucial for food security and food sovereignty.
- The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP), 32 % of undesignated gifts. Jesus of Nazareth befriended and assisted poor and oppressed people, and he taught his followers the same responsibility. Through Self-Development of People (SDOP), the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) lives out the primary responsibility taught by Jesus and demonstrates its solidarity with poor people here and around the world. SDOP affirms God's concern for people by participating in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people by establishing partnerships with low-income community groups

OLD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS IN MY WILL! BY MARY RUSSELL

I love Old First, and I love who we are in the lives of our members and friends. I love how we reach out to our community and to the world in ways we know Jesus Christ wants us to.

My prayer is that the joy people find here, and the compassion our time and treasure provide to those who will never have the blessing of coming here, will go on for generations to come. With that in mind, I have included Old First Presbyterian Church in my will, in equal measure with my three nephews.

This was a very simple decision for me. As we all do, I know many excellent non-profit organizations whose work I admire and to which I contribute, but none that comes close to this beloved community in my heart. I am pleased to know that I will leave something to those who will follow me for many years of worship and nurture here!

LENTEN STUDY OF HANDEL’S “MESSIAH” CONTINUES

A Lenten study of Parts 2 and 3 of Handel’s “Messiah” will be offered during Lent on Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 pm as a Soup and Study. Soup, bread and fruit will be available at a modest cost as we delve into the texts and music of this glorious work. The same study will be presented the following Sunday from 9:30 to 10:30 am. The choir will be singing many of the arias and choruses during the Lenten season and the Hallelujah Chorus on Easter. Join us for this opportunity to learn how the Biblical texts and musical settings combine to deepen our understanding of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as portrayed in part P and the importance of faith in the redemption of the world as seen in Part 3 using materials from Kerygma as a guide.

April 3 and 6 Why do the nations so furiously rage together? Let us break their bonds asunder He that dwelleth in heaven Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron	April 10 and 13 Hallelujah! Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
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TWO AMONG THE RIGHTEOUS FEW: A STORY OF COURAGE IN THE HOLOCAUST

Author Marty Brounstein, April 10

Join author and Holocaust educator Marty Brounstein on a literary journey of courage, compassion and risking it all to do the right thing. Brounstein’s book, *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*, tells the remarkable tale of how Frans and his wife, Mien, saved the lives of at least two dozen Jews in southern Holland during World War II. They were Catholics who led a simple life in a small town, but took risks and displayed bravery to help others in dire need, instilling hope during one of the most horrific points in history. The story also has a meaningful personal connection to Marty, which he reveals in his engaging storytelling presentation: Thursday, April 10, 7:00 pm, JCC Members \$12, Public \$15. To register, visit jccsf.org/jewish or call the JCCSF Box Office at 415-292-1233.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stop Hunger Now! April 5

Come and help pack 10,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now on Saturday morning, April 5, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, at Christ United Presbyterian Church (CUPC) in Japantown. We'll work with members of CUPC, Chinatown Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian of San Anselmo. For more information, speak with David Altshuler, david@oldfirst.org, and visit: www.stophungernow.org

Christian Education Committee, April 6

This year, the Christian Education Committee will meet each month on the first Sunday of the month. The April meeting will be on Sunday, April 6, in Room A. For the remainder of the year, the committee will meet in the library. See committee chair Priscilla Yu for further details.

Interfaith Food Pantry, April 12 and 26

On Saturday, April 12, Old First will join our six partner congregations to staff the Interfaith Food Pantry; and on Saturday, April 26 Old First will staff the pantry on our own. If you are able to help unload the truck, distribute food or clean up on either of these days, please contact Dianne Middleton or Dana Nojima via E-mail foodpantry@oldfirst.org.

Tenderloin Stations of the Cross, Good Friday, April 18

On Good Friday, April 18, Temenos Catholic Worker and The Society of Franciscan Workers, Inc. will lead "A Place of Grace" – the Stations of the Cross through the Tenderloin. This service of prayer and pilgrimage will begin at noon on the Polk Street side of Civic Center in front of City Hall and will last until 2:00 pm. Along the way the prayers will remind us that Christ is crucified daily in our midst in the suffering of those who have no home, health insurance, food, or living wage. Come walk with us! Come walk with Christ! Walk in solidarity! For more information contact The Reverend River Sims: 415-305-2124, temenos@gmail.com.

Night Ministry 50th Anniversary Concert, May 3

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the San Francisco Night Ministry. On Saturday, May 3, masters of the Great American Songbook, Wesla Whitfield, voice, and Mike Greensill, piano, will perform at Old First Presbyterian Church at 8:00 pm followed by a gala reception. The cost of your ticket will go directly to support the work of the SF Night Ministry: Admission \$50, Students and Seniors \$20. Watch for other announcements about future events in this year of celebration.

Temenos Catholic Worker 20th Anniversary Banquet, May 9

A banquet to celebrate Temenos Catholic Worker's twenty years of ministry will be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1755 Clay Street, on Friday, May 9, at 5:00 pm. The guest speaker will be Dr. Will Tuttle, author of *The World Peace Diet*. The meal is free. Come Join the Reverend River Damien Sims, SFW; remembering his twenty years of service among the sex workers and the homeless in San Francisco. For More information, contact River: 415-305-2124 or temenos@gmail.com.

NEW ADDRESS FOR CAROL CARTER

Carol Carter is moving to a new address, effective April 1. Drop her a greeting at this address:

Carol Carter
Julie's Care Home
1363 5th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122.

INSPIRATION FOR THE SEASON

J. Barrie Shepherd's "Easter Essentials"

Retired pastor and widely published poet, J. Barrie Shepherd, A friend of Old First Presbyterian member and elder Pam Byers, just sent her his latest poem.

EASTER ESSENTIALS

Strip away the perfect lilies
massed along, across the chancel steps,
the bright reflecting sight and sound of brasses,
and the white and gold of paraments and stoles.
Set aside two thousand years, almost, of holy words
and gestures, the jostling flotsam of an epic tidal surge
of global custom and conviction, conquest too.
Try to ignore this new spring sunlight,
the steady warming of the soil, the waking birdsongs,
green and early fragrant air. Reject all this
and you are left with a report, some blood-stained bandages
in a vacated garden cave, several startled temple guards,
a gaggle of bewildered witnesses, and through all this
a dawning hope, so strange yet sure it drives you
to your trembling knees, groping for fresh syllables
and sounds to shape this ever new, yet ancient cry.
The Lord is risen...risen indeed!

David Altshuler's Charge, Sunday, March 16

On Sunday, March 16, Old First Presbyterian's seminary intern, David Altshuler, sent the congregation forth from worship with these words:

Let us go now in peace, and love, and care for one another in the name of Christ. May we all consider if God has "given us all that we need" that can help us forward with assurance. And may God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit continue provide light, water, and soil, for our inner gardens and deserts of innocence and adulthood. Amen.

REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY: THE SUNDAYS IN APRIL, 2014

Date	Day	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel Reading
Apr 06	Lent 5	Ezekiel 37:1-14	130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
Apr 13	Passion Sunday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-6	Philippians 2:5-11	Matt 26:14-27:66 or Matt 27:11-54
Apr 17	Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Apr 18	Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	22	Hebrews 10:16-25 or 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1-19:42
Apr 20	Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6	118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10
Apr 27	Easter 2	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31

OTHER DATES TO NOTE

Saturday	April 12	All Faiths' Day at Interfaith Food Pantry
Sunday	April 13	Palm/Passion Sunday; New Members Received during Worship Service
Thursday	April 17	Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary
Friday	April 18	Good Friday: Tenebrae Service, 8:00 pm, Sanctuary
Saturday	April 19	Presbyterian Women, 12:00 noon, Library
Sunday	April 20	Easter Breakfast, 9:30-10:30 am, Fellowship Hall
Sunday	April 20	Easter Day: Christ's Resurrection, 11:00 am, Sanctuary
Saturday	April 26	OFPC Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry
Saturday	April 26	Community Dinner, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	April 29	Session Meeting, 7:00 pm, Munro room

The Officers of Old First Presbyterian Church

Session

George Becker, personnel; Michael Berg, Mission and Giving, Chris Burt, Worship; Pam Byers, Community-Building; Barry Clagett; Finance, Bill Feister; Christian Education, Gregory Free; Treasurer, Jeanne Kirkwood; Clerk of Session, Jean Olson, Linda Reyder, Randy Smith, Sally Spencer, Steve Taber; Operations, Betty Voris; Community Building; Priscilla Yu

Board of Deacons

Nina Berg, Cindy Burt, Carol Carter, Samuel Cheng, Hsiaochien Chuang, Craig Kehne, Diane Lewis, Diane Molberg, Bryan Nichols, Dana Nojima, Leota Parker, Glen Potter, AnnieScott Rogers