

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

March 2020

Telephone 415-776-5552

Website www.oldfirst.org

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

Maggi's Musings

Many of you began Lent with our joint Ash Wednesday service at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, when we were marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes. Those ashes remind us both of our mortality and of God's promise of resurrected life that we will celebrate on Easter Day, April 12.

I am so thankful for our opportunity to share worship with St Luke's. Worship on Ash Wednesday re-sets us as we go forward into Lent. Since many of us were not able to be at the Ash Wednesday service, we will offer an alternative re-set for Lent: a Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday introit *When The Saints Go Marching In*, an opportunity to receive ashes during the first hymn after which we will move into Lent head-on.

Lent signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. It is a quieter time for us to reflect, to prepare ourselves for the great mystery and joy of Easter by taking on a new spiritual discipline or letting go of a distracting habit, an unhealthy vice, or a practice that gets in the way of us fully following the Risen One.

The theme for the Lenten season this year is Matthew 25:31–46 which calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both 2016 and 2018 General Assemblies of the PC(USA) exhorted us to act boldly and compassionately in service of people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. The Presbytery of San Francisco has become a Matthew 25 Presbytery. By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, we help our denomination become a more effective presence in the world. We respond to Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. It is all about becoming the beloved community, becoming a community of justice, love and hope, becoming a community of God's beloved Son and of action as God's beloved ones in the world.

Spiritual Practices for Lent

- Read, study, pray, with our Lenten Devotional *Becoming a Beloved Community: A Matthew 25 Journey to the Cross*.
- Acknowledge that God gives creation enough for all, if food and resources are shared.
Please bring food for the SF/Marin Food Bank and place it in the barrel in the narthex.

<i>March 1 Canned goods</i>	<i>March 15 Cereal</i>
<i>March 8 Tuna or canned meat</i>	<i>March 22 Canned Soup</i>
- Collect your loose change in a One Great Hour of Sharing "fish box." and take part in restoring hope, feeding the hungry, empowering the Oppressed.
Last year our gifts supported 5,676 Presbyterian Disaster work team volunteers who went all over the USA and the world; sustained 329 farms and gardens provided healthy food to families in need; helped plant 95,500 trees and seedlings planted around the world; and enabled 5,310 clergy, wage-theft monitors, human rights trainees, organizers, policy advocates, and indigenous leaders attended intensive trainings in the USA.

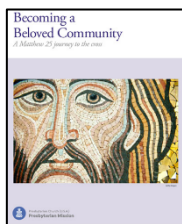
May we live deeply in this Lenten season!
Peace, Pastor Maggi

Old First Planning for the Future: Draft Vision Statement

Below is Old First's new Vision Statement for the future! Following congregational conversations in November, the task force on Planning for Old First's Future produced a draft Vision Statement, which was reviewed by the Session and the Board of Deacons. As noted earlier, the Vision Statement is aspirational, which means that it describes what Old First wants to be in the future. The statement builds on who we are today and describes Old First's future. Please take the time to review the Vision Statement and if you have any questions or comments, please let any of the task force members know by E-mail or telephone. The task force members include: Pastor Maggi Henderson, Tom Culp, Steve Taber and Lori Yamauchi... with help from Sam Lundquist.

Old First Presbyterian Church seeks to be a faithful, dynamic, and caring spiritual community that connects people to God's rich love.

Uplifting worship and inspiring music in the Reformed tradition are central to our vibrant community life, which leads us outside our walls to care for all of God's diverse family. We reach out to all who long for spirituality and community with opportunities for personal growth through service, learning and reflection. As socially progressive Christians, we embody God's life-giving hope and liberating justice by welcoming the stranger, helping the marginalized and standing against oppression. We initiate and support the transformational work of those who will fulfill God's justice, love and hope in San Francisco and beyond.



Devotional Booklet, Devotional App for Lent

Pick up a copy of the Lenten devotional booklet, ***Becoming a Beloved Community***, in the narthex, or call the church office to have a copy sent to you. You can also download the **D365.org** daily devotional to your smart phone. D365.org has a five-point flow: pause, listen, think, pray, go.

New Orleans Potluck Lunch, March 1

Mark your calendars now for a New Orleans-inspired potluck lunch following worship on March 1. The church will supply jambalaya with shrimp and sausage and vegan red beans and rice. Keep your ears open for more details!

Don't Miss this Great Opportunity to Learn More about Evangelism and Welcome with Leslie Veen, March 1, Room A

The Reverend Leslie Veen, Director of Contextual Education at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University and ordained Presbyterian minister (and previously seminary intern at Old First), will be teaching the last of three classes on evangelism on March 1. Dr. Veen is a long-time friend and frequent guest preacher at Old First. The class will take place after the worship service, starting at 12:30 pm.

Daylight Savings Time Begins: "Spring Forward!" March 8

Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday morning in the wee hours, when we "spring forward." So set your clocks ahead one hour before retiring for the night and avoid arriving late for worship.

Old First Staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry, March 14

Please mark your calendar and let Dana Nojima know that you can lend a hand at the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, March 14



and/or send Dana an E-mail: nojdt@gmail.com. We need helpers anytime from 7:30 am to 10:45 am to unload the truck, to distribute food, and to clean up.

Holy Week and Easter 2020

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, April 5

Worship with Palms, 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday, April 9

Worship, 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 19

Worship, 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 12

Pancake Breakfast, 9:00 am

Prelude with Organ and Choir, 10:30 am

Easter Worship, 11:00 am

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering: Fish Boxes Are Here!

Old First will once again take this annual Presbyterian Church (USA) offering at Easter. The funds enable the Church to share God's love with our neighbors in need anywhere in the world, from initial disaster response to ongoing community development, providing safety, sustenance, and hope. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance offers relief to victims of natural disasters, with funding as



well as volunteers who travel to help where disasters have left people homeless and otherwise in need. The Presbyterian Hunger Program provides food and farming techniques to the hungry. Self-Development of People helps empower the poor and oppressed to work toward self-sufficiency. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Can pick up your fish box in the narthex any Sunday after worship and start collecting your spare change for One Great Hour of Sharing soon. For more fun, use pens or crayons to decorate your fish box in unique colors.

Session Report

The Session of Old First met on January 28, 2020. Following are some highlights:

- Elders adjourned to Room A for a budget discussion; the budget for 2022 was adopted.
- It was agreed that a Congregational Meeting would be called for February 9.
- There was some discussion about follow-up on estate gifts.
- Pastor Henderson shared a proposal for "Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations," a program for churches and their pastors to engage money and finances together and in healthy ways.
- The Christian Education Committee reminded elders about the upcoming seminars lead by Leslie Veen on Evangelism starting on February 16.
- The latest version of the Old First Vision Statement was shared.
- The Mission Committee announced the Ukulele & Hula Concert Bond Fundraiser at St John's on Saturday, February 29 starting at 4:00 pm.

Tom Culp, Clerk of Session

Board of Deacons Report

- Cindy Burt has completed her terms of service as member and moderator of the Board.
- Mary Russell is the new moderator and Riley Kramar is the recording secretary.
- The Board of Deacons sponsored the memorial reception for a longtime member, Mary Culp on February 15.
- The Board of Deacons reviewed a draft OFPC Mission statement and have given feedback to the planning committee.

- Four deacons will be completing terms of service. Please consider if you might be called to serve as a Deacon and let Glen Potter or Steve Taber know a.s.a.p.

Cindy Burt, Outgoing Moderator

A note of thanks to these deacons who've completed their current terms on the Board: Beth Arnaoot, Courtney Blake, Cindy Burt, Glen Potter and Jian Wang have all fulfilled their current terms. Thank you, all of you, for your service to the members of your parish.

The PC(USA) Book of Order calls ordained deacons to a ministry of "compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress (G-2.0201).

Mary Russell, Moderator

Pastoral Resident Sam Lundquist

Hello Old First Family! If you're wondering why you haven't seen me as often lately, it's because I've just started my own "shared life" between both Old First and St. John's Presbyterian Church in the Inner Richmond. Every other week, I'll be spending time with them learning what ministry looks like in their community.

Here's just a taste of what I've been doing over the past month:

- Building a *giant* leaf, caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly to decorate the sanctuary during Lent
- Exploring the complicated, overwhelming issue of homelessness in San Francisco
- Attending a ukelele fundraiser concert to raise money for immigrants in detention
- Creating children's bulletins and worship activities for the kids of St. John's

One of the most important things I've seen in my short time with St. John's is a dynamic spirit of experimentation. God's Spirit is all about renewal, and the Spirit moves us to continually try new things. Sometimes we'll get it right. Other times not so much, but we can learn what to do differently. God's Spirit gives us the strength, imagination, and courage to keep experimenting with new and better ways to the work that God has called us to.

This month, I invite you to keep St. John's in your prayers. May they continue to be a bright light of hope and justice in their neighborhood and our city. I am so thankful to get to learn from two different communities, united in the work of bringing God's love to life in San Francisco.

Old First Concerts

On Friday, February 14, I attended an Old 1st Concerts performance by Conspiracy of Venus. In case you missed it, February 14 was St. Valentine's Day. As I sat in the balcony with my friends, the voices of Conspiracy of Venus, a twenty-five woman vocal ensemble, soared through the church. It was a joy to hear. Come enjoy and experience the varied musical offerings we have at Old First. You can find information about Old 1st Concerts in their seasonal fliers in the narthex, on the bulletin board on Van Ness Avenue, on-line at oldfirstconcerts.org, and in our Sunday bulletins. Enjoy!

Betsy Lutz, Editor

Prayers for Healing and Wholeness

Jim Fagler, for recovery from hip surgery with improved and pain free mobilization.

Betsy Chiao, for increased strength and keeping cancer on hold.

Jeanne Kirkwood, for smooth sailing with chemotherapy.

Glen Potter, for increasingly confident and fluid mobility.

Lorraine Bellesi, for successful chemotherapy

Kurt Schwartzmann, on for healing of his pneumonia.

Karyn Payne, for improved pulmonary function.

Larry Marrieta, for successful spinal surgery, healing, and rehabilitation.

Dates to Remember

March 1	Sunday	Evangelism with Leslie Veen, 12:30 pm, Room A New Orleans Potluck, 12:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
March 8	Sunday	Daylight Savings Time Begins: "Spring Forward!" Board of Deacons, 12:30 pm, Munro Room
March 14	Saturday	Old First Staffs Interfaith Food Pantry: Volunteers from 7:30 am
March 15	Sunday	Deadline for Submissions to the March Issue of <i>Shared Life</i>
March 17	Tuesday	St Patrick's Day Worship Committee, 7:00 pm, Munro room
March 21	Saturday	Presbyterian Women, 12:00 noon, Library
March 24	Tuesday	Session, 7:00 pm, Munro Room
March 28	Saturday	Saturday Community Dinner, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Easter Garden, Easter Music

Easter Day falls on April 12 this year and we have the opportunity to donate flowers for our Easter Garden or to support the special Easter Music dedicated in honor or in remembrance of a loved one, or in thanksgiving for a blessing. The cost is just \$15 per dedication.

Simply fill out the form below, include \$15.00 for each dedication, and deliver it to the church office. You can also cut-and-paste the info into an E-mail to the church office: **brad@oldfirst.org**, but make sure when you send your payment that it is clearly labeled "Easter Garden" or "Easter Music." Submit your gift **by Monday, March 30**, for it to appear on the bulletin on Easter Day.



My Name: _____

1st Dedication: LILIES or MUSIC dedication (**circle one**):

In memory of or in honor of (circle one) _____

2nd Dedication: LILIES or MUSIC dedication (**circle one**):

In memory of or in honor of (circle one) _____

3rd Dedication: LILIES or MUSIC dedication (**circle one**):

In memory of or in honor of (**circle one**) _____

Donation: \$15.00 x ____ Dedications = \$_____ total