

# "The Grapevine"



## Church Calendar

Deacons Decorating for Advent  
Saturday, December 2 @ 10am

2024 Pledge Forms Due  
Sunday, December 3

Feeding the Hungry  
Tuesday, December 5 @ 430pm

Men's Breakfast @ Four Corner's Restaurant  
Saturday, December 16 @ 8am

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule  
Sunday, December 24 @ 10am & 5pm

Church Office **Closed - Christmas!!!**  
December 25-26

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## Save the Date:

*2024 Zephyr Point*

*Family Camp*

**JUNE 16 - 21, 2024**

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Men's Circle of Faith is taking a break  
for December but will resume Saturday,  
January 13, 2024 @ 830am.

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## Flower Calendar

December 3 ~ Jill Bailey

December 10 ~ David Lee



December 17 ~ Robert & Ellen Opie

December 24 ~ Poinsettia's

December 31 ~ Elizabeth Dubie & Family

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## Happy Birthday:

7- Rosemary Lara

12- Bill Swenson

15- Rebecca Dubie

18- Tiffany Cole

20- Peyton Pardo

Kaya Vella

23- Kendyl Thomsen

30- Pat Kruse

## Happy Anniversary:

2- Pastor David & Connie Hill

19- Jake & Shirley Gahm



Pastor's Article:

Dear Brothers & Sisters of our Lord,

The Season of Advent is upon us. This is the Season of the Christian year that celebrates and rejoices in the birth of a little baby named, Jesus! He is born to His mother, Mary, and Earth Dad, Joseph because the Lord of the universe is Jesus' Father.

The promise of the ages has come to fruition in Jesus' birth among us! The One the prophets prophesied about for centuries. The One who would change our lives by His Life/ Death/ Resurrection, and the giving us the powerful gift of His Holy Spirit.



God gave us life and redeemed us in this infant's life and death, and resurrection. The four gifts of His presence in our lives; are Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. These gifts are given to us by the Holy Infant child born to be our Lord and Savior!

What do these words mean to you and your family, your place of work, your community, and the world as a larger world community??? Please prayerfully consider these gifts and what our Lord would desire for us to do with them in His name.

May our Lord bless you and keep you in the divine love, peace, joy, and hope during this wonderful season of the year!

In the name of the Infant born to be our Lord & Savior,

Pastor David

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*Deacons Doings'*

The Deacons would like to thank everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving baskets. 72 dinners were given to needy families. The boxes contained information about First Presbyterian Church. With one project over, another begins! The Deacons are the ones who decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. We are thankful for all the help we got with lifting and carrying. We are also grateful for the help of members of the First Korean Evangelical Church. Later, in December, we will be arranging the poinsettias. We will be saying goodbye to Marie Patterson who is rotating off Deacons. We are happy to welcome Colleen Colenso, who is returning, Ellen Opie and Daisy Hamilton.

Donations for the TIM barrel in December is: **"DIAPERS"**



We will be decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve Worship. If you would like to give a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below.

This Poinsettia is given in (check ONE):

MEMORY \_\_\_\_\_ OR HONOR \_\_\_\_\_

OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

THIS FORM IS DUE BY SUNDAY, DEC.17<sup>th</sup>!

**Poinsettia's need to be dropped off at the church office or Social Hall by Thursday, December 21.**

**If you would like your poinsettia to take home, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_**

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DEACON'S  
BARREL ITEM:  
"DIAPERS"

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*Christmas Ham Dinner  
w/ the Vets*



(OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

Saturday, December 16, 2023  
@ Tracy Community Center  
950 East St.

\$15/ per person

Veterans & children under 5 eat free!  
Karaoke/ Raffle/ Ugly Sweater Contest

All proceeds benefit Veterans



## *Session Updates*

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has recently determined that the denomination, each synod, presbytery, and congregation develop an antiracism and antiharassment policy in addition to other required policies. The Presbytery of North Central California has asked that each congregation begin the process of developing these policies by forming a small group. If this is something in which you would be interested in participating. Please make this known to Jill in the church office.

The Christian Education Committee will begin looking into establishing a Sunday School program. If anyone has ideas or would like to be involved in this, please contact the chair of the Christian Education Committee, Lynda Mendoza.

Roy and Marie Patterson have agreed to continue coordinating the Feeding the Hungry program next year. If you would like to help with this ministry, please speak with either Marie or Roy.

The Finance Committee has sent out the stewardship letter for 2024, and request that the pledge cards be returned as soon as possible. Having an understanding of the expected income for next year greatly assists the committee in developing the budget.

Session approved the Worship and Music Committee to modify, on a trial basis, the way that the worship service is done. The Korean congregation has offered to lend our congregation their projector to enable the worship liturgy to be showed on the wall of the chancel. This trial period will run from December 10<sup>th</sup> through January 14<sup>th</sup>, after which the congregation's reaction to this change will determine how we go forward. A laptop computer has been acquired by Jean Shipman's generous agreement to use a portion of Ray Shipman's memorial funds. The Worship and Music Committee will use the computer to create a Power Point slide show for each worship service.

Session was made aware that Rev. Celeste Lasich is serving as the Transitional Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sacramento. Rev. Lasich's first call after graduating from McCormick Theological Seminary was as the Associate Pastor in Tracy.

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## *Mission Committee*

*On Tuesday, November 7, we gave out 60 meals through "Feed the Hungry." The menu was pasta with ground turkey, bread, green beans, mandarin, donuts (provided from Tracy Interfaith), and water. I would like to thank Marie Patterson for working with me to prepare the meal, and Marietta McClellan for delivering the donuts. I would like to thank Sunday Borges, Don Burnett, Carolyn Gamino, Liz Hanson, and Marie Patterson helping me serve the meals.*

*The Mission Committee would also like to thank all who donated to the Peacemaking offer. I hope all had a happy thanksgiving and I give thanks to our many blessings we all have.*

*Committee Chair,*

*Roy Patterson*

## *Financial Summary*

DESCRIPTION	MONTHLY	YEAR TO DATE
<b><u>GENERAL FUND</u></b>		
DEPOSITED WITH THE BANK OF STOCKTON		
BALANCE FORWARD		\$ 23,443.69
INCOME	2,577.19	135,318.48
EXPENSES	21,417.70	154,011.27
<b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 3,759.49</b>	<b>\$ 4,750.90</b>
 <b><u>DEDICATED FUNDS BALANCE</u></b>		
DEPOSITED WITH THE BANK OF STOCKTON		
SPECIAL FUNDS		\$ 11,864.38
IN-AND-OUT FUNDS		10,589.38
DEPOSITED WITH THE SYNOD OF THE PACIFIC		530,026.62
<b>DEDICATED FUNDS BALANCE</b>		<b>\$ 552,480.48</b>

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