

“The Grapevine”

February 2020

Flower Calendar

February 2

Dale & Pat Brandes

February 9

Matt & Sandi Clarke

February 16

Nancy Morgan Link

February 23

David Edwards

~~~~~

*Deacons Barrel Item:  
“Canned Vegetables/Fruit”*

~~~~~

2020 “Per Capita”

Each year, members of the Presbyterian Church are asked to contribute an amount over their pledge or other giving to support the connections we have to each other. That gift is called the per capita. It provides the resources to fund meetings and committees or commissions of the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly. This year the per capita is **\$25.00**. Please mark your check or envelope “per capita”. Thank you.

Events

Feeding the Hungry (Good Shepherd Church)

Tuesday, Feb. 4th @ 515pm

Wednesday Bible Study W/ Lynda McCormick

Wednesday's @ 10am (Lea Lounge)

Pastor's Study – “What Did Jesus Do?”

Wednesday's @ 630pm (Pastor Doug's House)

Piano Recital – Sanctuary in use

Saturday, Feb. 8 @ 6pm

Newsletter Deadline - Feb. 15th

Office Closed – President's Day

Monday, Feb. 17th

Newsletter Folding Crew

Wednesday, Feb. 26 @ 845am

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, Feb. 26 – Time TBA

T.I.M Workday

Saturday, Feb. 29 @ 10am

2020

FEBRUARY

2020

"PD's Pickings"

Christmas is barely past, and already another momentous cultural holiday approaches on February 2nd. It is a day on which families and friends gather to share in food and festivities. We cheer and laugh and wait with eager anticipation to learn the outcome of a great and glorious quest. The momentous day I'm talking about, is, of course.....

GROUNDHOG DAY!

(Oh, and apparently there's also a football game, and some nearby team is in it?...). 😊

Our perspective on life and life's circumstances can be everything. Here in the Bay Area and Northern Central Valley, the 49ers in the Super Bowl makes an already big deal an even bigger deal. Meanwhile, in Kansas City, it is just as big of a deal, but for opposite reasons. One of these two cities will celebrate the outcome, one will grieve it. Meanwhile, in Miami where the game will be played this year, they'll celebrate either way as they enjoy the economic boon. And in Punxsutawney PA,... well the game is still a big deal, but without the Pittsburgh Steelers in it, the *real* event is the annual gathering at Gobbler's Knob to await the meteorological pronouncement of a (rather fat) rodent, interpreted to a waiting world by men in tuxes and top hats.

God's perspective on life is very different than ours. Our God is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent (it's ok to look these up!). We are not. God is bound by nothing. God is the only one who sees the whole chessboard, all the possible moves, and which moves will actually be made.

We talk a lot about what God "wants" and "expects" of us in our faith, and rightly so: scripture has much to say about how we should live. Yet in a sense, to God there is no such thing as an "expectation" as we understand it. By definition an expectation contains uncertainties and unknowns. But with God there are no uncertainties or unknowns.

The more we consider this, the more humbling it becomes. We constantly have expectations of ourselves and others, some communicated some not, some a big deal some not. We form opinions based on if or how much they are met. We invest a lot of emotion into them. We condition our relationships on them. They color our experiences in every way. But all of them are uncertainties containing unknowns.

But God is different.

Even though God *already knows* everything about us—past, present, and future, God accepts us unconditionally, as we are, were, and will be. If God can be said to have "expectations" at all, God already fully knows whether we will meet or disappoint them—before we're even born. And yet, God extends an unconditional, accepting hand. Always restoration and unconditional love have the last word. "Grace bats last."

If God knows *everything* about us, and still does that, can we give that same grace to others? Can we really "forgive each other as God has forgiven us?" Yes, we can. We can because God the Holy Spirit lives in us, because Jesus shows us in his life and death how to, and because we ourselves have been and will be forgiven so much. When we realize how much we *don't* know that God does, and that God still accepts every person anyway, we can see them through new eyes—including ourselves.

So, Happy Groundhog Sunday, or Super Bowl Sunday, or who-cares-about-the-game-I love-the-commercials-and-food Sunday, or just-let-me-hide-from-football-in-my-reading-nook Sunday, or wow-that's-an-insane-amount-of-money-being-spent Sunday, or whatever other day it is from your perspective. And let it be a reminder to you that the God who knows and sees all sees you too, and accepts you anyway, just as you are. May we keep growing in doing the same, from the heart, no matter what.

Shalom,

Pastor Doug

“Treasurer\$ Report”

General Fund:	<u>MONTHLY</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Balance Forward		\$ 41,690.56	
Monthly Income	\$ 27,720.28	\$ 157,104.26	
Monthly Expenditures	\$ 25,652.93	<u>\$ 163,908.32</u>	
Balance:			\$ 34,886.52
Special Fund Balance:			\$ 33,770.14
In-and-Out Fund Balance:			\$ 4,991.34
Memorial Fund:			
Undesignated:		\$ 5,100.00	
Designated:		<u>\$ 11,355.73</u>	
Balance:			\$ 16,455.73
New Site Fund:			
Balance:			\$ 4,153.30
Synod Savings Account			
Youth Reserve		\$ 1,072.32	
Manse Fund		\$ 61.66	
Julia Sturtevant Fund		<u>\$ 26,723.89</u>	
Balance:			\$ 27,857.87

Save the Date: *“Spring Tea”*

Sunday, March 15th @ 2pm

A sign-up sheet will be available in the Social Hall for RSVP's. See Deacons, Faith or Daisy.

Happy Birthday:

- 1- *Georgiana Asah*
- 2- *Marie Patterson*
-
-
- 4- *Helen Kelly*
- 4- *Dr. Sam Oh*
- 5- *Pat Brandes*
- 6- *Nicholas Weisenberger*
-
-
- 8- *Christopher Weisenberger*
-
- 8- *Connor Winkler*
-
-
-
- 8- *Charlie Mendoza*
- 10- *Kalani Schreiner*
- 16- *Kyle Link*
- 17- *Joel Pena*
- 19- *Cathy Weisenberger*
-
-
- 19- *Adam Reich*
- 22- *Carolyn Gамиno*
- 23- *Jinor Morikang*
-
-
- 23- *John Morikang*
-
-
- 23- *Johnathan Morikang*
- 26- *Phil DiFilippo*
- 27- *Roy Patterson*
-
-
- 27- *Jim Kruse*
- 28- *David Flanigan*

Prayer Chain

Are you interested in being part of an email "Prayer Chain"? If so, call the **Church Office @ 835-3247** or **Deacon, Lynda McCormick @ 209-612-1613** if you would like to join the email chain where you can request or receive prayer requests, share a joy or praise, or get updates regarding someone you are currently praying for.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Happy Anniversary:

- 11- *Alex & Darline Pineda*
- 24- *Rick & Liz Hanson*