

# the SPIRE

January 2020

First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills

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# From the Pastor's Desk

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Once again thanks to all who made our Advent and Christmas celebrations so wonderful and meaningful! Folks are still talking about the Christmas Concert; we are certainly blessed with so many wonderful musicians. Now on to 2020!

I am very pleased to share that Carol Morian has agreed to serve as interim Director of Children's Ministries beginning this month. Carol served First Pres as both Director Children's Ministries and as our first Director of Family Ministries. Carol has the gifts and wisdom to help us in this next chapter as we seek to effectively share the love of Jesus and what it means to follow him with our youngest disciples. Welcome back Carol!

Another ministry I am excited about is rebooting Alpha Ministry. Alpha is a wonderful outreach to people who have questions about Jesus but are not Jesus followers. Alpha provides a no pressure environment that encourages questions and discussion around the issues of faith. Bryant is leading this ministry. If you would like to be a part of the Alpha team or know someone you may be interested in attending, let him know.

I am grateful to Rik Faigh for accepting the role of Media Coordinator for us. A couple of Rik's tasks will be helping us move to a more seamless streaming ministry and improving our sound amplification in the sanctuary. Speaking of streaming, we are aware of some of the legal issues, especially in terms of children. For this reason, we won't be streaming the video portion of the Time of Young Disciples on Sunday mornings.

We kick off the New Year with Epiphany Sunday, and the arrival of the Magi. Bryant will be preaching as we welcome the strangers in the night. The following Sunday I begin a new study called Majoring in the Minors, a look at what are called the minor prophets. The goal will be to see what the prophets have to say to us today.

Happy New Year!

Jim

# Sermons

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**January 5**

“Stranger in the Night”

Pastor Bryant Benitez

**January 12**

Communion will be served at both services

“The God Who Loves”

Pastor Jim Sillerud

**January 19**

“The Next to the Last Word”

Pastor Jim Sillerud

**January 19**

“The Call to Justice and Righteousness”

Pastor Jim Sillerud



Jim Sillerud  
Head Pastor



Bryant Benitez  
Interim Pastor



Melissa Leo  
Pastoral Intern

## Prayers of the People

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### Ongoing Concerns:

Norma Cooper, Don Benson,  
Jackie Lundgren, Jean Jauck,  
Jim Yoder, LaVelle Sharp, Delia Hernandez,  
Gerda Maxey, Henson Dial, Martha Sturgeon

### Hospice:

Gordon Magruder, Bonnie Rardin, Dean Daily

## Spire Articles

Articles for the February Spire are due by  
Sunday, January 19  
To Stephanie at  
[communications@fpcgh.org](mailto:communications@fpcgh.org)

# ALPHA

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Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith.  
No pressure. No follow up. No charge.

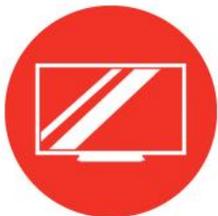
We will be meeting on Thursdays at 6:30 pm  
In Lee Hall  
Starting January 16  
Sign up at [fpcgh.org/alpha](http://fpcgh.org/alpha)

Each Thursday session we...



Eat dinner together.

*Creating a relaxing space to make friends and open discussion.*



Watch a video presentation.

*Tackling core questions about the Christian faith.*



Discuss.

*Allowing people to impact these ideas without judgement.*



# ALPHA

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Our weekly discussions:



January 16	Is there more to life?
January 23	Who is Jesus?
January 30	Why did Jesus die?
February 6	How can we have faith?
February 13	Why and how do I pray?
February 20	Why and how do I read the Bible?
February 27	How does God guide us?
Saturday, March 7	<i>Alpha Weekend</i> Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? How can I make the most of the rest of my life?
March 12	How does God guide us?
March 19	Why and how should I tell others?
March 26	Does God heal today?
April 2	What about the church?



This is a great opportunity to invite friends, family, or co-workers who are curious about who Jesus is and the Christian faith.

This is a “judgement free” event for people of all faiths.

Sign up at [fpcgh.org/alpha](http://fpcgh.org/alpha)

And invite a friend!

# Youth Group

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## **S.U.R.G.E (Middle School)**

Our 2020 kick-off is on January 8. We meet on Wednesday evenings.  
Dinner is from 5:30-6:15 pm and our program is from 6:15-8:00 pm.

## **J.I.V.E (High School)**

Our 2020 kick-off is on January 5. We meet on Sunday evenings from  
6:00-8:00 pm.

Contact Scott Landon at [sdlandon@fpcgh.org](mailto:sdlandon@fpcgh.org) for more information.

# College Ministry

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We will be joining Alpha on Thursdays at 6:30 pm starting January 16.

# Men's Ministry

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## **Men's Movie Night**

Saturday, January 11 at Gary Ventimiglia's home.

## **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

Meets Thursday mornings at 6:30 am at Coco's on Sepulveda. Facilitated by Pastor Jim. For more information contact the church office at 818.360.1831.

## **Monday Night Bible Study**

Meets Monday Nights at 7:00 pm. We are reading "The Christian Man" by Patrick Morley. For more information contact Rick Spence at [rjspence1@msn.com](mailto:rjspence1@msn.com).

## **Thursday Night Bible Study**

Meets Thursday Nights at 7:00 pm in North Lounge. For more information contact Dave Peterman at [dmp88@earthlink.net](mailto:dmp88@earthlink.net).

# Small Groups

## Young Marrieds

We will be joining Alpha on Thursdays at 6:30 pm starting January 16.  
Contact Stephanie Deach-Foyle for more information at [communications@fpcgh.org](mailto:communications@fpcgh.org).

## Outriggers

Outriggers, our young family ministry, is starting up again on Sunday, January 12 at 10:15 am in North Lounge. Hope you can join us as we explore how to practice gratitude and teach our kiddos about gratitude. Contact Christina Chambers ([christina.s.chambers@gmail.com](mailto:christina.s.chambers@gmail.com)) with questions or ideas.

## Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Meets at 7:00 pm in the Choir Room  
Contact Harry Seidman at [t\\_h\\_seidman@yahoo.com](mailto:t_h_seidman@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Sunday Morning Bible Study

We are a small group of coed adults that meet twice a month on Sundays from 10:30-11:45 am in the Choir room to study God's Word. In the past we have studied the Old Testament prophets, the Portrait Of Jesus, the books of Revelation, Habakkuk, and more. For the beginning of this season, we are fortunate to have Gary Ventimiglia who will be sharing the book of Colossians with us. (If you ever wanted to know who Jesus is, this is the book to read!) All are welcome! Please contact Sue O'Connor at [taffie1@verizon.net](mailto:taffie1@verizon.net) for further information.  
Hope you can join us!

# Women's Small Groups

## Wednesday Morning Study

Join us from 9:30-11:00 am. Please RSVP to Helen Magaña at 818.400.8469.

## Wednesday Evening Bible Study

New Study! Wednesday night Bible starts back January 8th!

Wednesday nights are a perfect way to connect and meet women in our church, especially if you work during the day! We meet in the church library Wednesdays at 6:00pm. We invite you to join us!  
Starting January 8th, we will be studying the Book of Luke. Our study is called, "Determined," by Heather M. Dixon, and will be six weeks long. It includes a DVD every week. The study will "follow the life and ministry of Jesus as we consider the choices He made on His way to the cross." The workbook for this study is available on Amazon for \$13.19 plus tax. Please contact me if you'd like me to order it for you.  
Questions? Please contact me! I'm excited to see everyone in the New Year!  
Carol Morain 661 373-5875 or [carolcraze@aol.com](mailto:carolcraze@aol.com)

## Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday Morning Bible Study will resume on January 16th with What Love is: The Letters of 1,2,3 John by Kelly Minter. We meet in Hampton Lounge from 9:00 - 11:00. For more information, contact Karen Bass at [kmbass2015@gmail.com](mailto:kmbass2015@gmail.com).

## Day Circle

Meets on the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 am in the North Lounge. Our next meeting is Thursday, January 9th, and our study is "God's Promise", chapter 8. All women are welcome. For more information, please call Marian Morrow - 818.363.6431.

# Ministry for Seniors

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## MFS Luncheon

JANUARY 23

You won't want to miss this one! Board of Education member Scott Schmerelsen is our speaker, telling us all about what is happening in public education locally, statewide, and nationally, and a lot is happening! He is a retired teacher and principal, and was elected to the Board to represent children and taxpayers in our area. A delicious hot meal will be served, and you will enjoy the fellowship. Lunch for \$14 is at noon, and the speaker begins at 1:00 pm. Reservations can be made on the patio starting Jan. 5. All ages are welcome. If you prefer, you can come at 1:00 pm for just the speaker at no charge.

## Senior Singles

The Senior Singles group is flourishing! In December we had a well attended Happy Hour and a fun filled Bingo-Pizza night to ring in the New Year. In January we are attending a performance at the Soraya Theater on Sunday afternoon January 26 and have planned a midweek luncheon at the Junkyard Cafe in Simi. (Date to be announced.) We would love to have you join us. Call Ron Oswald at 818.363.0981 or Linda Beaumaster 818.363.0474 to get more information or to be put on the mailing list.

# Book Club

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Book Club is starting 2020 with two great books and a change in our meeting day! We are moving our gatherings to the last Tuesday night of the month. We are hoping that this will make it easier for all of you to join us because the more the merrier and the better the discussion.

In January we will meet on Tuesday, the 28th. We will be discussing *Becoming Mrs. Lewis* by Patti Callahan. This is a historical fiction book about Joy Davidman and her husband C.S. Lewis and their love story. The book is a little on the long side, over 400 pages, but I have heard that it is worth the time investment.

In February, we will meet on Tuesday, the 25th. We are going to be discussing *Peace Like a River* by Leif Engel. This story is narrated by an 11 year old boy and tells of his family's search for his fugitive older brother, who has been accused of the murder of two men who had been terrorizing the family.

We will be meeting at 6:30 pm at Bonnie Lewis' home. Please contact Jill Wolffe at [jawolffe@aol.com](mailto:jawolffe@aol.com) or 818.795.7405 with any questions. Hope that you will be able to join in on the reading fun!

# Stewardship Ministry

2020

## Vision

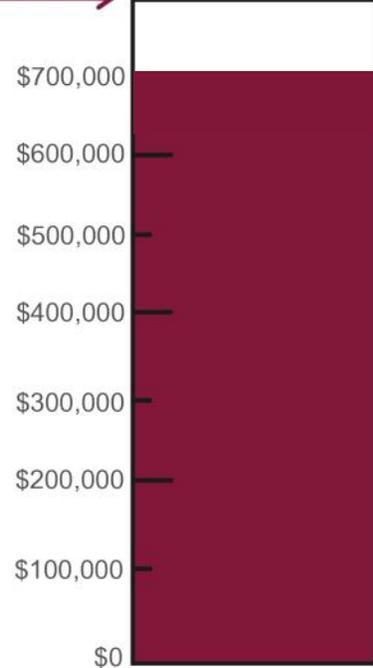
Our end of the year goal is to get \$800,000 in pledges! Help us create a vision for 2020 by:

- Filling out a Pledge Card, or
- Pledge Online at [fpcgh.org](http://fpcgh.org) and click "Giving"

We thank you for your great generosity as we enter the new year!

Your support helps further our outreach with local and world wide

Our Year End Goal of  
\$800,000!



## Finance

### 2020 Offering Envelopes

If you did not pick up your offertory envelope, it will be mailed to you. If you have not had a box of envelopes and would like one please contact Rosemarie at [finance@fpcgh.org](mailto:finance@fpcgh.org).

### 2019 Contribution Statements

Your 2019 Contribution Statement will be mailed to you this month. The IRS requires you to keep this statement to substantiate your tax deductible donations to First Pres.

### 2020 Per Capita

Every year our budget includes money to cover our congregation's share of the administrative costs of being a part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). An individual congregation's share is calculated on its total membership. This is called "Per Capita." This year the per capita is \$37.18 per member. There are blue Per Capita offering envelopes located in your box of offering envelopes, or in the Narthex on the Information Table, or payable online.

### QR Code

We have made online giving, per capita payments, and special event payments even easier! Just scan the QR code with your smart phone. Once scanned, your browser will be directed to our online giving page.



# Pictures from Our Christmas Concert

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## Facebook Group

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If you are not already following First Pres on Facebook, find us at [www.facebook.com/fpcgh/](http://www.facebook.com/fpcgh/)

We are starting a new Facebook Group for members of First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills to share in community, fellowship, and to share classifieds.

Go to [facebook.com/groups/fpcgh](http://facebook.com/groups/fpcgh) to request to be a part of the group.

## Flower Dedications

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Would you like to honor a loved one or celebrate a special date?

The new 2020 flower calendar is in the Narthex for you to sign up on.

# Music Ministry

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## Ministry Opportunity

It's January! Time to start anew with resolutions, thoughts of what you "might do someday"! The Music Department of First Pres invites you to join any of their music groups. Time to pray about starting that something new, and we hope you'll join US!

Carpenter's Union (Kinder-5th grade): Meets Sundays, 10:15-10:55 am; Maggie Benjamin director

Gloribells: Meets Tuesdays, 7:-15-8:30 pm; Chris Sillerud director

Cathedral Choir: Meets Thursdays, 7:00-9:00; Chris Sillerud director

Voices of Gabriel: Meets every other Sunday, 11:00-12:00 pm. Prior choir experience necessary; Chris Sillerud director

Contact Chris Sillerud at [chrissillerud@gmail.com](mailto:chrissillerud@gmail.com) for more information

# Inspiring Notes

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January 26, 2020 at 4:30 pm

Inspiring Notes invites YOU to our first community concert in this New Year 2020. It will be right here at First Pres in our beautiful sanctuary. Bring your family and friends.

Inspiring Notes presents "A String Concert Extraordinaire!!!"

A CELEBRATION OF BEETHOVEN'S 250TH BIRTHDAY!!!

The Program: Minor Opus 1 and No 3 and a variety of other selections

Featuring: Araksia Nazlikian, violin -- Beryl Acosta, cello --- Susanna Israyelan, piano

After the concert you will have an opportunity to participate in a brief up close and personal conversation with the musicians.

ADMISSION: Adults - \$40. Inspiring Notes Members - \$35. YOUTH UNDER 18 YEARS FREE!

You may purchase tickets through Paypal, check or cash and at the door.

All funds raised support our FREE MUSIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAM for students and families in eight elementary schools this year. In the past 11 years we have given our music program to nearly 30,000.

YOU, our community make the music happen!!!

Contact Marge Roten at 818.780.2308 or Ally Treptow at 818.3688.410 for more information.

# Mission



## Shedding light on Tom's missionary trials and triumphs...

Our Rev. Thomas R. Shedd didn't get the memo, it seems. While we nodded off after polishing off turkey and pie, he perked up and went into a "thanksgiving" mode that has pulled out all the stops. His GTN partner Miles Fagerlie wrote on November 28 that he awoke at 5:30 am to the Muslim call to prayer from a nearby mosque. Tom posted on FB that this

day was the final Timothy Leadership training in Nebbi, Uganda. *Home, sweet home* was beckoning. Hold it! Enter what Tom calls "The Four Ugandans."

Nebbi **Pastor Pius Manano**, in his FB post, thanked Tom warmly for his vital ministry of raising up qualified Christian leaders in his country, pointing also to the aggressively promoted spread of Islam. **Bishop Opio George** rode a bus all the way across Uganda to attend the final training in Nebbi. Likewise, **Rev. Okot Bonny** had also traveled back and forth between his home and other training sites to complete this course. Nebbi leader **Pastor John Kennedy** and his colleague **Pastor Manano** are ready and committed to take training into the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo. And that is why Tom's cup of thanksgiving keeps overflowing. All four Ugandans have diligently attended all the sessions and written out their action plans. Now they all have committed to implement those and to become trainers themselves in already targeted cities and churches, with the aim of raising up more indigenous leaders. Could anything else please the Rev. Tom Shedd or honor God more?

Tom's thrill in Brazil was literally music in his ears. Members who had completed his Music and Worship Arts courses presented him with a copy of their new CD, **Escravo da Graca**, available on iTunes. He loves the fantastic music and the great lyrics. Send Tom an email at [tomshedd@globaltrainingnetwork.org](mailto:tomshedd@globaltrainingnetwork.org) and you will get them with Portuguese and English text side by side. Best of all, those Brazilians are now prayerfully considering sending a team to bring the MWA training and music to Mozambique, where they also speak Portuguese.

On one long flight Tom sat with a Christian businessman from Singapore and both considered it a divine appointment. Can we guess where this is going? Doors flying open, wisdom needed, and work to be done while there is still light. May we thankful ones petition heaven for more ministry partners to emulate Tom's **four Ugandans**.

-Vreni Schiess



# Ministry

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## African Enterprise

*“To evangelize the cities of Africa through Word and Deed in partnership with the Church”*

African Enterprise is unique for our focus on stratified evangelism—reaching every strata of society with the Gospel.

Each year we run 9-12 city-wide missions and each mission has three phases:

### Preparation

Preparation begins over a year in advance for each mission and includes getting churches involved, selecting and training local evangelists, mission volunteers and counselors. Leaders are also in communication and work with local authorities and leadership of the selected city.

### Proclamation

The Proclamation phase is the 7-10 days where AE brings the Gospel to a city through several evangelistic and social action events.

### Preservation

Preservation begins post mission where those who made a decision to follow Christ during mission week are connected with local churches and mentors.

***Over the past few years we have reached 1 million people annually with the Good News of Jesus Christ.***



# Community Concerns

## Handy Handouts

Handy Handouts will be on sale on January 12

\$3 a bag or \$5 for two

Give these bags out to those on the street who are in need. The bag is filled with water, food, toiletries, and pamphlets on how and where to receive more help.

## Serving Further:

*Looking to make meals for the homeless? Contact Michele Morse at [cardeno60@gmail.com](mailto:cardeno60@gmail.com) to get the paperwork in order before serving.*

### **Making meals for San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission**

First Wednesday of every month.

### **Making meals for LA Family Housing**

Third Wednesday of every month.

## Volunteer Opportunities:

### **Donating Baked Goods**

Donate some homemade desserts for our monthly meal serving at San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission or LA Family Housing.



# January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Cathedral Choir	3	4 9:00 am Yoga
5 9:00 am. Worship 10:20 am Outriggers 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm JIVE Kick-Off	6 6:30 pm Yoga 6:45 pm Cub Scouts	7 8:00 am Willing Weekday Workers 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:15 pm Gloribells	8 9:30 am Womens' Bible Study 6:00 pm Womens' Bible Study 6:15 pm SURGE Kick-Off	9 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 9:30 am Day Circle 7:00 pm Cathedral Choir	10	11 9:00 am Yoga 9:00 am Deacon Retreat
12 9:00 am. Worship & Communion 10:20 am Outriggers 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm JIVE	13 6:30 pm Yoga 6:45 pm Cub Scouts	14 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:15 pm Gloribells	15 9:30 am Womens' Bible Study 6:00 pm Womens' Bible Study 6:15 pm SURGE	16 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm <b>Alpha Kick-Off</b> 7:00 pm Cathedral Choir	17	18 9:00 am Yoga
19 9:00 am Worship 10:20 am Outriggers 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm JIVE	20 6:30 pm Yoga 6:45 pm Cub Scouts	21 6:00 pm Adult Ministry 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Cathedral Choir 7:15 pm Gloribells 7:30 pm Session	22 9:30 am Womens' Bible Study 6:00 pm Womens' Bible Study 6:15 pm SURGE	23 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 12:00 pm MFS Luncheon 6:30 pm Alpha 7:00 pm Cathedral Choir	24	25 9:00 am Yoga
26 9:00 am Worship 10:20 am Outriggers 11:00 am Worship 4:30 pm Inspiring Notes 6:00 pm JIVE	27 6:30 pm Yoga 6:45 pm Cub Scouts	28 9:30 am MOPS 7:00 pm Cathedral Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm Gloribells	29 9:30 am Womens' Bible Study 6:00 pm Womens' Bible Study 6:15 pm SURGE	30 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Alpha 7:00 pm Cathedral Choir	31	

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