The Grapevine

A Publication of First Congregational Church of Salida

WINTER 2020 ISSUE Volume 10, Issue 3

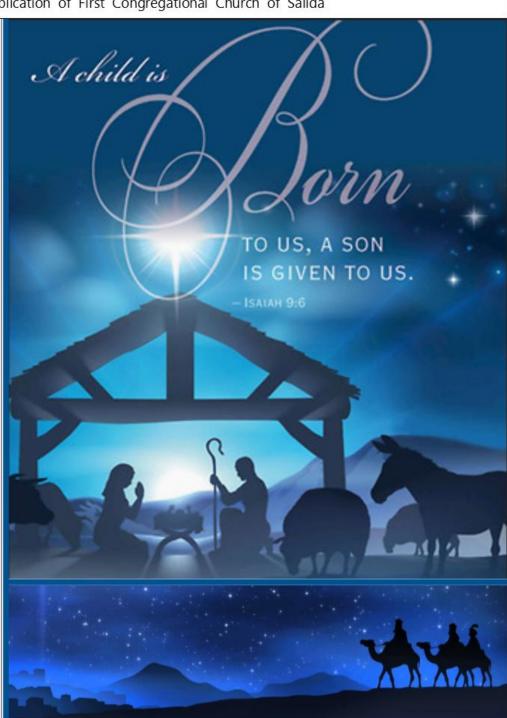
What's INSIDE

- From the Pastor
- 4 Trustee Snapshot
- 5 From the Deacons
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 7 Advent Devotional
- 12 My Favorite Hymn
- 14 Advent Happenings
- 22 What's Happening at FCC
- 22 Grapevine Online
- 23 Church Information Grapevine Information



Bringing together Congregational Christian Churches for mutual care and outreach to our world in the name of Jesus Christ.

> Learn more at NACCC.org







James Frost, Pastor

As is so often the case, the world gets things exactly reversed. From before Thanksgiving to December 25, it's all about buying, and doing, and buying more stuff, so that by Christmas, everybody is exhausted. Then the carols stop and the decorations come down, emphasizing the post-holiday letdown.

But the Church knows better. During Advent, we wait; we prepare, and we reflect. The word "advent" means "arrival": we await the arrival of Our Lord Jesus Christ—both past and future. Past: because at Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, for He is not an idea or a metaphor, but truly God and truly man, an individual, a specific man entering into the world's history on a particular day. Future: because we look forward to Our Lord's second coming, on the Last Day, when all the dead will be resurrected either to eternal life or to eternal punishment—heaven or hell. It's an unsettling thought, but also is a clarifying one, for it matters whether we live and die in friendship with God, or in rejection and opposition to him. That's why the traditional themes of Advent—death, judgment, heaven, and hell—are serious ones, and why Advent is a partially penitential season.

And so, during Advent, as we wait, we should also be in a state of preparation, because eventually our earthly life will come to an end—either in our own death, or in the coming of the Lord. And are we prepared like the wise virgins in the parable, who had their lamps full of oil, ready to meet the Bridegroom, or like the foolish virgins, who didn't give it a thought and were unprepared and left outside when the Bridegroom came?

And so after we have prepared our hearts, we must reflect...and to reflect, we must be people who pray. So when is it a good time to pray? The resounding answer to this question is: all the time! When we pray, we connect with God. And it is interesting to note, that the Apostle Paul doesn't talk about prayer as a part of life, or just to be done in special times like Advent, but in all aspects of our lives. For him, prayer is our ongoing concern; therefore, we are to pray unceasingly. Paul reminds us to do this in his words, "Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).



As Christians, we strive to follow Paul's advice and focus in on prayer as a discipline for spiritual growth. We focus on prayer as a living encounter with God. Our goal is to achieve a continuous state of recollection and awareness of the presence of God. We focus our thoughts and our total being on what we need to share with God.

Continued from Page 2

Simply stated, being on what we need to share with God. Simply stated, we must ACT (Adoration, Confession and Thanksgiving), which means we magnify God with our praise and worship, we confess our sins and failures, and we offer our thanks to Him. I heard someone say it once this way: Prayer is much like chicken soup for the soul -- that we should taste and see that it is good, and it definitely is. So in this time of waiting, preparation and reflection, let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of life, but anticipate these wonderful things which lie ahead.

This year has been a tumultuous time to say the least, but it has also been a time of testing and growth. But also let us recognize, how the Lord has walked with us, and at times carried us, which should bring about our praises and adoration, with thankful hearts, because for those of us who have tasted, and have committed their lives to Him know, that He is good, and His mercies endure forever. Come Lord Jesus, come!

Kaw Kaw, Lu, and myself, want to wish all of our church family a wonderful Advent Season, and a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.





TRUSTEES SNAPSHOT

Well, here it is—my final newsletter article as a trustee. First, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve this wonderful church in this capacity. I consider serving God, by serving you, an honor and a privilege for these past six years. Through your generosity, we have been able to accomplish quite a lot, and we as a Board appreciate all of you and your giving of time and monies. This truly is a church that gives and gives in so many ways.

These past few months have been particularly challenging, and we have appreciated your support and prayers as we have navigated these troubled waters. We truly will come out on the other side a stronger and better Church family for all this! Our God is in control and never surprised by anything. It is such a comfort knowing that.

I know He is going to continue growing this church and making it a beacon in the community for His glory! I appreciate my time on the Board and will miss it-well maybe not all of it, but most of it! :-)



I want to thank all the Board members and Elizabeth especially for making my job easier. You all are the best!

May God continue to bless all of you and this church for years and years to come. Love you all!!!

Kim Beck, Chairperson





Even though COVID hit us, we Deacons have stayed pretty busy. We decided to start getting our Christmas shoeboxes out in July so people could start getting them filled and ready to send out. We have filled 38 boxes. Thanks to everyone that helped fill our boxes for these children.



We decided to try a drive through chicken dinner. To be honest I didn't think we would have more than 50 people that would be interested but to my surprise we served over 150 dinners and we made \$2,602.00. I need to start trusting Jesus more. I want to thank everyone that came out to help with the dinner and a special thank you to my son Brian, my daughter-in-law Meridith, and granddaughters Rachel and Tori. Without their help it wouldn't have happened.

We had our Thanksgiving Dinner on November 19th, and had a wonderful time. Thank you for all who participated.



We decorated our sanctuary for Christmas on Saturday November 28th, and it was such a fun time. Thank you all who made our Sanctuary so festive.

Anyone that wishes to purchase a poinsettia from Duarte's nursery just let me know or you can buy one and bring it to the church.

I think that's about all I have to report at this time.

Happy Holidays Everyone,

Linda Kendall







9/2 Linda Kendall

9/3 Jerry Cheek

9/5 Carol Hertle

9/5 Lorena Horton

9/13 Dale Stambaugh

9/13 Kaley Kiernan

9/19 Matthew Lamm

9/27 Gil Huckell



12/1 Lu Frost

12/7 Kim Kiernan

12/11 Roberta Steen

12/14 Chris Geletich

12/16 Karly Kiernan

12/17 Chuck Byrum

12/18 Jackie Zuniga

12/18 Ross Campbell

12/19 Diane Suzuki

12/22 Phyllis Nelson

12/28 Vicki Cheek





10/1 Josh Baker Jr.

10/5 Larry McDonald

10/7 Kelly Kiernan

10/7 Julie Felber

10/8 Darrol Tuggle

10/8 Gilbert Romero

10/14 Rick Kendall

10/20 Cindy Beynon

10/23 Phyllis Agers

10/29 Sharon Riley



11/4 Claudia Lopez

11/8 Ralph Patterson

11/21 Debra McDonald

11/24 Wade Meier

11/25 Vicki Pelucca

11/26 Phillip Lopez

11/27 Kim Beck

11/30 Anna Deane

11/30 Diana McKechnie



SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER



9/20 Larry & Debra McDonald

9/23 Gary & Maryellen Johnson

10/6 Beverly & Larry Connacher

10/16 John & Denise Beynon

11/16 Dave & Janna Lou Baker

11/28 Jim & Georgette Leach

12/12 James & Lu Frost

12/22 Darrol & Sandy Tuggle

12/29 Rick & Linda Kendall

12/31 Chuck & Ginny Byrum



OFFERINGS AND TITHES

Please remember that you can either place your offering in the little white offering box in the rear of the Sanctuary, send your offering in to the Church office at: FCC of Salida, P. O. Box 1039, Salida CA 95368, or on our website at FCCofSalida.org. Thank You!!



What I remember about Mary before Jesus was born, was a trip that she really didn't want to take, but we never hear a complaint. With patience she does what has to be done. We each have to accept what big or little challenges come our way.

It used to be that my writing was illegible due to "familial tremors." Now even to hit the correct key on the keyboard is a two hand effort, one hand steadying the other. The keyboards are just too sensitive. I spend more time with delete/ backspace. But I remember before computers when there was no delete/backspace and you just had to erase or start over.

Onion skin paper was a blessing as you could erase and wouldn't get a hole in the paper. And Mary was just grateful for a donkey. How times have changed. We must continually count our blessings. We must do what we can do in the time we're in. The important thing is to express love to each other, to improve things for humanity, to protect our earth, etc. etc.

I've been walking around my neighborhood and noting all the litter, I decided to carry a bag with me and on the way home pick it up. Now as we recall God's many blessings, his gifts to us, let us imagine what we can give to others. Not just the material thing that you put in a box and wrap up, but the more important things, like love, compassion, understanding, maybe a smile or a phone call or a note, or an email.

Lord help us to cheerfully accept what we can't change, what we used to call our 'crosses.' You probably won't have to ride a donkey 9 months pregnant.- or possibly you have bigger or different problems than tremors, but whatever it is, use it as a steppingstone to get closer to God.

Next find what you enjoy doing to help others. It's probably not picking up litter. Maybe you enjoy entertaining in your home, or helping in the kitchen or cooking, or trimming bushes, or being liturgist, or greeter, or usher, or making phone calls, etc. Find what works for you. We each have different gifts. Use your personal gifts to give back to God and to your community. Remember "Whatever you do for the least of these..."

Phyllis Agers

The GRAPEVINE Volume 10, Issue 3





Jim and Georgette Leach - November 9, 2020





Joanne and Sam Jennings, Ralph Patterson - September 27. 2020







SHEILA LAMM and RALPH PATTERSON

October 26, 2020





ETHAN GABRIEL MARTINEZ September 13, 2020





Babies • Babies • BabiesBirth Announcements



AVA GANDELL

Born: November 11, 2020

6 lbs. 17"

Parents: Daniel & Ashley Gandell

Grandparents:

Kenny & Denise Eastburn

Great Grandmother:

Ethel Eastburn

#15 for Ethel!



Born: October 18, 2020

6 lbs. 7 oz.

Parents: Rob & Meag Pethtel



ISSAC ROMAN FROST

Born: November 21, 2020

6 lbs. 15 oz.

Parents:

Christian & Tirzah Frost

Grandparents:

Pastor James & Lu Frost







CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

August 30, 2020

















MY FAVORITE HYMN

Dan Beynon

Like many other hymns, this song came together from series of events that, while unrelated, joined to yield this wondrous creation.

The story begins in a small town in Southern France, Roquemaure in the year 1843. The church and its organ had recently been renovated, prompting the priest to call for a celebration. A local poet, Placide Cappeau, was asked to write a poem for the celebration. The Christmas poem was entitled "Minuit, chrétiens", which translates to "Midnight, Christians".

Soon afterwards, the French composer Adolphe Adams wrote the musical score to accompany the poem. While best known for his operas and ballets such as *Giselle*, he had composed other works and was a renowned music teacher. The music does have a melody that lends itself to almost a "dance" tempo.

In 1855, an American Unitarian minister, John Sullivan Dwight, translated the French song to English, renaming it *O Holy Night*. Since that time, the song has been translated to many other languages such as German (*O heil'ge Nacht*), Swedish (O Helga Natt), Russian (по русски) and many others. The song is widely known as "Cantique de Noël", owing to its French origin.

The original French poem, a literal translation of the French, and the final English version from John Dwight are shown below for a comparison. This shows only the first verse and refrain.

Original Poem

Minuit, chrétiens, c'est l'heure solennelle,

Où l'Homme Dieu descendit jusqu'à nous

Pour effacer la tache originelle Et de Son Père arrêter le courroux.

Le monde entier tressaille d'espérance

En cette nuit qui lui donne un Sauveur.

Peuple à genoux, attends ta délivrance.

Noël, Noël, voici le rédempteur,

Noël, Noël, voici le Rédempteur!

Literal translation

Midnight, Christians, is the solemn hour,

When God as man descended unto us

To erase the stain of original sin And to end the wrath of His Father.

The entire world thrills with hope

On this night that gives it a Saviour.

People, kneel down, await your deliverance.

Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer,

Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer!

Dwight's English version

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,

It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,

Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,

For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!

O night divine, O night when Christ was born;

O night divine, O night, O night Divine.

Continued from Page 12

This popular hymn has been recorded many times by different artists, but it original message and tone remains intact — celebrating the birth of Jesus. It is one of the most beloved songs of Christmas; it brings a flood of emotions each time it is performed.



Let Dan or the office know your favorite hymn and Dan may feature it in the next issue.











THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020 5:00 p.m.

Traditional Christmas Eve Service at a time the whole family can enjoy and refocus upon celebrating the true meaning of this precious Holiday. Invite your family, friends and neighbors for this special, reflective service of celebration.



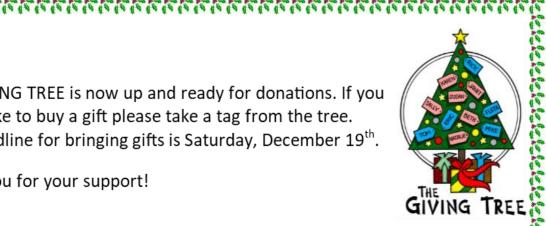


CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Come celebrate Christmas with good food and friends at the ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GATHERING, on Sunday, December 20th. We will have a BBQ following Sunday Service rather than Coffee Hour. No need to bring a dish. Thank you.

Our GIVING TREE is now up and ready for donations. If you would like to buy a gift please take a tag from the tree. The Deadline for bringing gifts is Saturday, December 19th.

Thank you for your support!



The GRAPEVINE Volume 10, Issue 3

Dear Church family,

We just wanted to express how much we have enjoyed being a part of the FCC family. These past years have been some of the best church experiences we have had, and we will always cherish them.



We've made some good friends and been part of some wonderful events and activities. We will truly miss you all! We are excited to start this new adventure and know we are going to be exactly where God wants us—just as we were here for such a time as this, we will move on to a new time and see what God has in planned for us. We will definitely be back to visit and will look forward to seeing everyone when we do.

Thanks again for all the great memories. You all will remain in our prayers as God leads this church to becoming even more of a light for Him in this community.

We love you!!

Kim and Wayne

I AM THANKFUL

Florence Velthoen

Well, I thought for awhile this pandemic would do us all in but we seem to have survived the worst of it. It will soon be 202I and we'll have a whole new year to recuperate and go on to bigger and better things. At the beginning of our isolation, Diane asked us what we were going to do once we were "released". On top of my list was I was going to head to Mr. T's and buy myself an apple dumpling and guess what? Two of our church family took pity on me and as a result I have had not one.....but two apple dumplings. Thank you Dianne Gillette and thank you Cindy and Dan Beynon. So thoughtful......And while I'm thanking people I want to thank all who called to offer help if I needed it and special thanks to Phyllis Nelson for taking me shopping and to Kim Beck for providing all the good meals. What a great group you all are. Included in these thank yous can't forget to thank God for his son, Jesus, and for all the blessings I have been privileged to enjoy.



IN MEMORY OF ALICE BILLINGS

10 January 1937 - 21 September 2020 Mother of Gilbert Borchardt



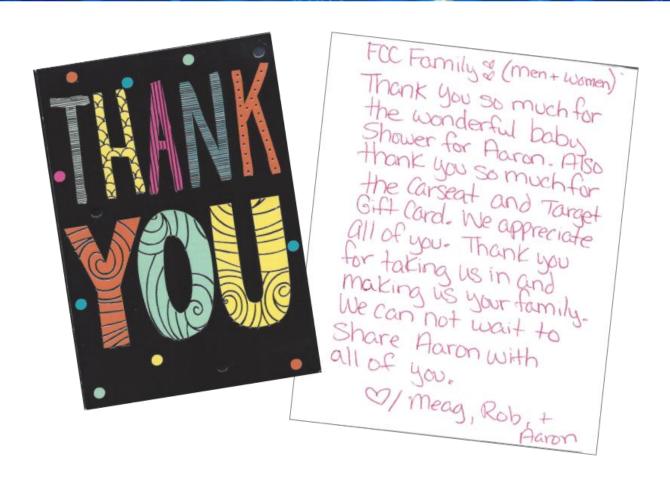


IN THE SPIRIT OF PRAYER

Lifting up in prayer those who cannot be with us for Sunday service.

Capt. John & Denise Beynon

Lu Frost's Dad





PHYLLIS AGERS

October 23, 1940



The GRAPEVINE















"The Crew"

The GRAPEVINE Volume 10, Issue 3



November 19, 2020





WHAT A FAIRY TALE

Diane Suzuki & Sandy Tuggle

Once upon a time, as you may recall from a previous Grapevine story, there was a dog, a part pit bull mix to be exact, who was homeless. He lived in the bushes by an elementary school and senior apartment complex along the Virginia Corridor.

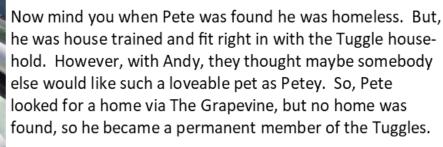
The Fairy Godmother, in this case, Sandy Tuggle, would see the dog on her morning walks with their dog, Andy, a beagle. Sandy with her ever so kind heart began leaving dry dog food through the fence for this poor homeless dog. Even with the food and kind words, the dog would always retreat when Sandy and Andy approached. On their return trip home Sandy would check and the food was gone.

As time went on, Sandy began preparing breakfast sandwiches for their new friend—bacon and cheese on bread cut in quarters. After a while the

dog decided he had a friend, a true friend and someone who he came to trust. Finally, Sandy's soft heart for this lonesome and homeless dog led her to bring him home.

Because he looked like the dog from the Little Rascals, Our Gang, Darrol name him Pete, the dog with the ring around his eye... Petey. Well, after 7 1/2 years, Petey's eye ring has aged with his hair

and is barely visible today.



When Darrol was driving, he took Pete with him on his jaunts to McDonald's and Dunkin' Donuts. He also took him for rides in the alley. Pete always rode "shot gun" in Dar-

rol's pickup. Now that Darrol is not driving, their son, Mark, takes Pete for rides in the pickup.

His storybook life has him getting morning and evening walks, chasing and fetching a ball or toy, and, or course, getting all the treats any dog could want. Water bowls in the bathroom, kitchen and outdoors.

And, today Pete is recognized on The Virginia Corridor. He is such a mellow dog with a lot of charisma. Children run up to him to pet and talk with him. People stop Sandy to tell her what a great dog she has. Remember... He is part pit bull. Everyone says what a well behaved dog!







Continued from page 20

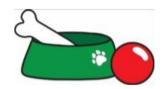


Recently when someone new moved into a house on their street and asked a neighbor about special things in the neighborhood. He said we have a mascot, Petey. He is a special dog.

What a life Pete has... from homeless to "King of the House".









SUBMITTING PHOTOS

When submitting photos please attach a narrative describing the photos. Readers need to know what the photos are all about... Please include event/activity name, date, and any other pertinent information like the funds raised and for what purpose, etc.





WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FCC

Activities suspended until further notice due to COVID-19 with the exception of Salvation Army Commodities,
Bible Study & Prayer Group

TUESDAY BILE STUDY

Fellowship time 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. Every Tuesday, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

BOOK CLUB

Second Wednesday of the month, 1:00 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Second Tuesday of the month,12:00 noon exceptions June, July, and August

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Every other month. Held first Saturday of month at 9:00 a.m.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Every other month. Held first Saturday of month at 9:00 a.m.

PRAYER GROUP

Every Thursday morning, 9:00 a.m.

SALVATION ARMY COMMODITIES

Second Monday of the month, 7:30 a.m. Help assemble grocery bags for community distribution

SUPPER CLUB

Fourth Friday of the month, 6:00 p.m. exceptions June, July, and August

THE GRAPEVINE ONLINE



You can read *The Grapevine* on our website at FCCofSalida.org. Choose "Publications" from the top row menu and scroll down to view the current issue.

Our website is updated weekly to include a video of our current and past worship services. You can also find the current issue and all past issues of The Grapevine. Our homepage includes our upcoming scripture and message for those wishing to read the passages before Sunday service.

If you would prefer to read The Grapevine online rather than receiving a hard copy, please let us know by calling the church and letting Elizabeth know, 209-545-1156.

The GRAPEVINE Volume 10, Issue 3



If you need assistance from the Church Office please contact Elizabeth our Church Secretary at:

209-545-1156

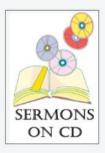
Email:

fccsalida@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.



CD's are available for each Sunday service. Please contact the Church Office to request a copy. You may also listen to sermons on our website at FCCofSalida.org.

PASTOR'S CONTACT INFO

Pastor James Frost is available in the Church Office Sunday through Thursday. For emergencies he is available 7 days a week. He may be reached at:

Office: 209-545-1156 Cell: 626-320-2361

Email: fccsalidapastor@sbcglobal.net



GRAPEVINE DEADLINE

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT 2020 ISSUE To Be Announced Keep submitting articles & photos so we'll be ready for the next issue

If at all possible, please e-mail your submissions to fccsalida@sbcglobal.net By e-mailing, it makes it easier for Elizabeth to format your article into the newsletter. We are always up against the time factor, and e-mailing expedites the process as she can cut and paste rather than retype the entire article.

Keep the articles coming in... We appreciate everyone's efforts. Remember... Without your articles, there would be no Grapevine.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

All articles submitted should be publication ready: How you submit it, is how it will appear. You may:

E-mail to fccsalida@sbcglobal.net

Mail to: First Congregational Church of Salida

P.O. Box 1039 Salida. CA 95368

 Hand deliver to the Church Office, "Newsletter" slot behind Elizabeth's desk.