

# The Grapevine

A Publication of First Congregational Church of Salida

**Spring 2023 ISSUE**  
**Volume 13, Issue 1**

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**Welcome  
Spring!**





James Frost, Pastor



I know I usually have a post regarding the Lenten and Easter season in this time of the year, but a commercial recently came up during the Super Bowl, and so I would like to address a little bit about the Jesus "gets us" campaign. And this also goes well with what we have been discussing recently in our Hebrews study regarding false teachers and their message.

Now as I was looking into this situation, I found an article from a pastor, with whom I respect very much, by the name of Mike Riccardi, and instead of befuddling the situation, I will just show you what he has written.

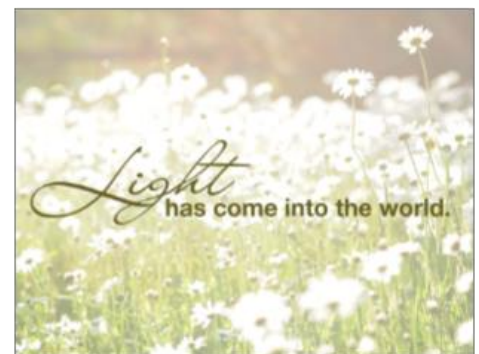
Mike said this, Jesus does indeed "get us." And this is what He has to say about us:

**"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man" (Mark 7:21-23).**

**"...but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5).**

**"I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him" (Luke 12:4-5)!**

**"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed" (John 3:19-20).**



Continued from page 2

**"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).**

Jesus gets us perfectly well. He knows exactly who and what we are. And something is so fundamentally wrong with us that He declares that if we are to have any hope of escaping our deserved eternal judgment, we must be born all over again.

**"Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel'" (Mark 1:14-15).**

And so bringing this back to this Lenten and Easter season, the reason that our Lord put on flesh and dwelt among us, was so that He might redeem us from our sin; we truly need a Savior. So Jesus truly does "get us" while He also sees our weaknesses and frailties, and what we need the most, a new life in Him. We are to come unto Him, and not remain in what we were, but what we are becoming in Him.







WE DEDICATE THIS ISSUE TO. . .

KAW KAW



This first issue of the 2023 is dedicated to KAW KAW HPARAW for all that she contributed to First Congregational Church while a member before moving to San Jose to further her education.

With the COVID-19 Pandemic necessitating our Sunday Services be live streamed via Facebook, Kaw Kaw was the person videoing from the get-go. Every Sunday, behind her tripod and phone she captured the service. She did this every Sunday until she moved to San Jose! Well, one Sunday, she did take off to attend a field trip for her Zoology class.

During her time here, she was the “official” photographer for church events as well as posting them to our Facebook account. We will certainly miss these photos.

As her last “official” endeavor, she made a slide presentation of the 2022 year in review and photos from Pastor James’ visits to members which was shown on Sunday, 1 January 2023. A photo montage of members who had passed during 2022 ended the presentation. Many left the sanctuary with teary eyes...

And... Let us not forget her musical talents. She graced and blessed us a few times with her wonderful voice. The last time she sang before moving was with her brother, Andrew, on New Year’s Day. Andrew was on the piano. A very talented family, indeed.

Thank you, Kaw Kaw, for enriching our lives while you were here. The best to you in your new endeavors in San Jose. We miss and love you!





Take time out before Easter to double check that your behavior, thoughts, words, etc. are in line with Christ's example.

One of the inspiring things for me to do is to re-read the four Gospels. I would suggest that the men start with Mark. It's the shortest of the four. It only has 16 Chapters, and about 30 pages. It's concise and to the point, just the bare facts, at least according to Mark. Also it has a surprise ending, or rather 2 different endings. Not all Bibles include this I do have a Bible that includes both endings. I can share with if you're interested.

For the women I would recommend that you start with Luke. Supposedly he got a lot of his info from Mary, the mother of Jesus. Also he was a physician, a medical doctor (this I've read and/or heard). So he might have a different slant. Is he the one that quotes, 'and she pondered these things in her heart,' referring to Mary. Ponder these possibilities as you read. (24 chapters, about 50 pages)

Note Jesus walked a lot, like most everywhere He went. He rode a donkey once, the triumphant entry into Jerusalem, but mostly he walked, maybe you need to walk more? Not everywhere, but sometimes when you need a break, instead of hitting the fridge, or fast food, etc. go for a walk. A great chance to clear your head. Even if it's just around the block or down the hall. Start small, but start!

If most all that He said in 3 years, can fit into 30 or 50 pages, he really didn't say that much. But what He did say, or at least what they recorded, was pertinent. Do we think before we speak, is it going to help or hinder another?

He also took time to go off by himself, to be with His Father. Do we take time to pray or meditate? To communicate with God, to either speak, (to pray,) or to listen, (to meditate)

There is so much to learn in just reading these books, and it really doesn't take that long. Then apply what you learn, so that you too can rise on Easter morn with a smile on your face and joy in your heart.

*Phyllis Agers*



*Georgette Leach*

The Board of Trustees voted to purchase an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in December. In the event of a cardiac emergency (heart attack or sudden death), this could be lifesaving.

Thank you to all of you that donated towards the \$2000.00 purchase price! We have met the goal and our actual defibrillator should be delivered by the end of the month. (As seems to be the normal any more - production is held up due to "covid" and not enough people working to produce them).

As soon as it is delivered we will make an announcement at church and have it mounted so everyone will know where it is.

Thank you! The Board of Trustees







Easter is just around the corner. So please mark your calendars. ***Palm Sunday is April 2nd and we will be having an omelette breakfast starting at 8AM.*** Bring a friend, neighbor or even your family.



Easter Sunday is ***April 9<sup>th</sup>***, we will be having our ***Sunrise Service at the park starting at 6:15 AM.*** Coffee and donuts will be served afterwards. Hope to see everyone there and at our 10AM Easter Service. Maybe we will even have an Easter egg hunt!!! No coffee hour after service.

God Bless,  
***Linda Kendall***





**ANNUAL MEETING - 12 FEBRUARY 2023**  
**RECAP**

*Diane Suzuki*

MEETING NOVEMBER 2022 MINUTES. Minutes approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT. Projected a cartoon... "It's from our church... We've been called up for active duty." His theme for this year is that it takes all of us - Get involved. Let's make this an even better year than last year.

LINE OF CREDIT. Approved to payoff loan.

FINANCIAL REPORT. Financially stable. 2023 Budget approved.

TITHES REPORT. Important to track economics of church. Tithes up. Expenses up for new year.

**APPROVED BY-LAW CHANGES.**

Article IX. Section 1. The Trustee Board

The Board of Trustees shall now consist of up to seven active members, but no less than five, two of whom shall be elected annually to serve a term of three years.

Article IX. Section 2. The Diaconate Board

The Diaconate shall consist of up to 8 active members, but no less than six, two of whom are to be elected annually for a term of three years.

Article V

Section 3. Business Meetings. B Regular Church Business Meetings.

The Church shall meet a minimum of two times yearly (including the Annual Meeting), the format and the date of the meeting to be set by the Moderator.

Article III. Section 1. Affiliation

This Church chooses to be not in fellowship with the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) and its regional association.

OPEN FORUM. No Discussion





## *Remembering...*



### **RALPH PATTERSON**

3 November 1941 - 25 December 2022



Your Kansas City Chiefs won Super Bowl LVII, beating the Philadelphia Eagles 30-35.

Summer will be not the same without your delicious tomatoes!



### **LORRAINE HORTON**

5 September 1922 - 7 December 2022





It's a new year, Spring is around the corner and a good time to refresh Coffee Hour.

Coffee Hour was once different people bringing the refreshment served - cookies, cracker and cheese, fruit, etc. In the beginning, Claire and Ray Wilson were in charge of Coffee Hour. Claire would call members to remind them. They came in on Saturday to get the coffee urn ready for Sunday. After the Wilsons retired, you signed up on a list for your Sunday. Then it somehow morphed into people bringing sandwiches, etc. - a light lunch. And, then Potluck Lunch on the last Sunday of the Month.

Then COVID-19 came with no in-person Sunday service, hence, no Coffee Hour.

When we began to gather again, prepackaged snacks were served. Slowly homemade items have been introduced with leftovers from a potluck served as well. Potluck Sunday on the last Sunday of the month has also resumed. And, we all enjoy Coffee Hour.

Not sure if everyone knows or realizes that the refreshments including coffee and the other beverages served during Coffee Hour are NOT purchased by the church, but a few members of the church.

So if you enjoy Coffee Hour and the refreshments served and would like to lend a helping hand, here is how. For either one, see Dianne Gillette or Linda Kendall..



- You can bring snack items - cookies, pastries, individual bags of chips, etc.
- Coffee
- You can give them money to purchase items.



This is an ongoing thing. We all eat and/or drink coffee, iced tea or juice, so it would be nice if we all could contribute throughout the year in some way.



## KAW KAW'S GOING AWAY

On Sunday 8 January, the Deacons hosted a Going Away Lunch for Kaw Kaw. She will begin the next phase of her college education at San Jose State University.

For this lunch, spaghetti was served as it has become one of her favorite dishes since moving here. She was presented a basket of well wishes from the congregation for all that she has contributed to our church since arriving in 2019. We will miss her!

Her brother, Andrew, arrived on Christmas Eve day. He will begin his studies at San Jose City College.

**Best wishes to Kaw Kaw and Andrew!**









# Thanksgiving Dinner

3 November 2023







# Women's Christmas Tea

December 2, 2022



Guest Speaker,  
**Major Maggie Laubach,**  
with the Salvation Army



Thank you to the butlers





# CHRISTMAS PARTY

Home of Hank & Melody Ireland  
16 December 2022



## Wonderful Hospitality



Thank you to Melody and Hank Ireland for hosting the Church Christmas Party at their home. What a wonderful evening of fun, fellowship, and food! Their home was festively decorated in Christmas cheer... Tables and chairs spread out in all the rooms for nice sit down dining. There was even Christmas background music provided at the Baby Grand Piano with Maryellen Johnson at the keys.

Again, thank you to the Irelands for getting our Christmas holiday off to a cheery start...



*Dianne Gillette*

What name does everyone call around the church? Everyone from Pastor James and the "kitchen ladies"?

**"GILBERT!!!"**

Gilbert Romero always up and ready to help at the mention of his name. Always with a "smile".

Thank you, Gilbert, you are so much appreciated by all!



# BAPTISM

## A Family Tradition

Sunday, 15 January 2023

### JAMES WILLIAM HOLLOWAY FAMILY

Parents: Bradley and Liz Holloway  
Grandparents: Chuck and Loretta Holloway  
All from Sheridan, Wyoming  
Great grandmother: Florence Velthoen

Bradley was baptized in our church. He was presented to the congregation as Carol Hertle carried him up and down the aisle. Young James' sister, Emma, was also baptized in our church a few years ago by Pastor James.







It is my pleasure being able to share about our life in San Jose. Things over here have been extremely busy as our first exam of the semester is coming soon. Honestly, I had to adjust to leaving my family and church that I love and seen almost every day while my brother and I are experiencing a lot of changes. For me, change is not always easy nor is it exciting although we are trying our best to embrace it since moving to a different town isn't just about the new place, it is also about making new friends at a new school, and living a different lifestyle.

My classes are going great, and I got myself in a Christian Club, Burmese Club, and Pre-med Club on campus. Andrew's also hanging on as well although for most of the time, he's on the bus commuting. The most exciting thing that happened to me is that I got an offer to work in an entomology research lab. I can't wait to share my experience when I come back!!



At Palace of Fine Arts, SF



At San Jose Burmese Church w/  
Associate Pastor

# THANK YOU to The Chan-Ang Family



And of course, Dr. Chan at the piano.



Sunday, 13, November 2022







### ***IT'S BRISTOL BABY!***

*Maryellen Johnson*



After much prayer and planning, dreams and goals can come true!

Gary Johnson, former race car driver, had wanted to see the night race at Bristol Motor speedway for a very long time. Brain surgery and Covid put a delay in our goal, to say the least.

Last September, we packed up our 23 year old motorhome and headed East! "Under The Lights At Bristol" is a big deal for stock car divers and fans! We weren't alone at the track. The total capacity is 153,000 fans and we were part of an estimated crowd of 100,000. We spent a week in our motorhome in an RV lot on the raceway property, watching a total of four races.

On our way home, we visited the Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum which were both amazing. 5,000+ miles later, the Lord showed His faithfulness by getting us back to Modesto safely. And, by the way, Gary and I are still best friends after that adventure.





## Message from Rock of Ages

*Pastor Frost,*

*Thank you so much for all the help and support you've given us towards the Christmas Stocking Project. Please pass along our thanks to the church for their hard work and sacrifice in making stockings and giving to fill them. God has been so good to us and met every need. Let me know if Grandpa Hank gives you any trouble and we'll have mom whip him into shape.*

**Brother Stone  
Rock of Ages**

Have you noticed?

We have a  
New Gate  
addition!





1 - Dave Baker  
14 - Jeff Nelson



12 - Gary Johnson  
13 - Roy Wilson  
20 - Kristy Waterman  
26 - Lee Unruh  
27 - Bev Connacher



6 - Alicea Flores  
14 - James Frost  
22 - Sheila Lamm  
29 - Dianne Gillette  
29 - Bella Martinez



**APRIL, MAY & JUNE**

4/14 - Jeff & Phyllis Nelson  
5/20 - Dave & Vicki Pelucca



**1:00 P.M.**

**2nd Wednesday of each month**

See Phyllis Agers for book. Check with the office for meeting location.

The Storyteller	March 2023
Sea Glass	April 2023
The Glass Castle: a Memory	May 2023
Shanghai Girls	June 2023
To be announced	July 2023
To be announced	August 2023
Tortilla Curtain	September 2023



**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY AT FCC**

**SATURDAY, May 6, 2023**

at 9:00 a.m.

Please join us for the next Informative Study. Breakfast will be provided. Hope to see you there!

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AT FCC**

**SATURDAY, April 1, 2023**

at 9:00 a.m.

Please join us for the next informative **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**. We will be providing a lite breakfast followed by a study on the life of a woman from the scripture. Hope to see you there. Bring a friend, or two!



If you have a change for the Church Directory, such as a new address, phone number, or email update, please submit your changes to the office at [fccofsalida@yahoo.com](mailto:fccofsalida@yahoo.com). We will include this information in the future issue of The Grapevine. Thank you!

Please update your directory with these changes:

**FLORENCE VELTHOEN:**

New Address: 2832 Healthcare Way, #335, Modesto 95356





Jan 2023

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

James 5:7

Dear Pastors, Families, and Friends,

Sometimes waiting on the Lord is one of the most difficult tasks we can manage. It often seems like what we are praying for will never occur. If we will patiently wait on God, He promises He will never disappoint us.

We had the pleasure of waiting outside the Gates of Coffee Creek for a dear friend. She had been part of our services since we first started our ministry in 2004. What a joy to see her walk through those gates after 25 years of incarceration. I could count on one hand the number of services she missed over the last 19 years, and she was filled with joy at every one of them. Although physically imprisoned she had been free spiritually the entire time. Please pray as she transitions back to society and reunites with her family.

Covid created a huge gap in our ministry since we were excluded from some facilities for almost 3 years. We lost track of many of the people who were faithfully attending our services. This was particularly true at Maclaren Youth Facility which kept us out the longest. I was holding a service at Columbia River when a familiar face walked in. It took me a minute to realize he was one of our faithful friends from Maclaren. He had aged out of the juvenile facility and still has time on his sentence. I was greatly encouraged to see him faithful to church after all that time, and still seeking the Lord.

2023 has already been wonderfully blessed throughout our many services. We were able to relaunch our Midweek Bible Study at Coffee Creek. We are enjoying the fellowship and freedom to interact with these inmates in a smaller group setting. We also expanded our Saturday night service back to a 2 hour times slot. This again allows us 2 preaching sessions during that service. We were able to see 9 people pray to receive Christ through our facilities in January. We are so thankful for all the volunteers, help, and support we have to make this possible.

Your Partner in the prisons:

*Brother Stone*

Rock of Ages Missionary

Send Correspondence To:

Timberline Baptist Church  
24645 SW Old Hwy 99 W  
Sherwood, OR 97140

Send Support To:

ROA Missionary #191  
Sidney & Gayla Stone  
PO Box 2308  
Cleveland TN 37320

*2 Corinthians 4:5* For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

Dr. Terry R. Ellis, President  
Dr. Ricky Dunsford, Exec. Vice-President



PO Box 2308, Cleveland, TN 37320  
(423) 479-3243 www.roapm.org



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FCC

### TUESDAY BIBLE 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.  
See page 23 for list of books to be read.

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Every other month. Held first Saturday of month at 9:00 a.m., next meeting April 1, 2023.

### MENS'S BIBLE STUDY

Every other month. Held first Saturday of month at 9:00 a.m., next meeting May 6, 2023.

### PRAYER GROUP

Every Wednesday morning, 9:00 a.m.

### SALVATION ARMY COMMODITIES

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

### FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 12:00 p.m. We do not meet June, July & August.

### SUPPER CLUB

Every 3rd Friday of the month, 5:30 p.m.  
We do not meet June, July & August.



## THE GRAPEVINE ONLINE

You can read *The Grapevine* on our website at [FCCofSalida.org](http://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 need assistance from the Church Office please contact Elizabeth our Church Secretary at:

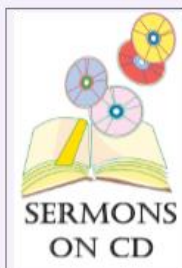
209-545-1156

Email:  
fccofsalida@yahoo.com

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 web-site 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: jtfrost61@yahoo.com



## GRAPEVINE DEADLINE

### DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT 2023 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 fccofsalida@yahoo.com. 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 fccofsalida@yahoo.com
- 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.