



The story is told that one Easter morning, the preacher gathered the children of the church in the front of the sanctuary for the weekly children's sermon. He began with a thematically appropriate question.

"Children, today is Easter Sunday. What do we celebrate on Easter?"

One girl spoke up quickly: "We remember our mothers and how much we love them."

"No, that's not quite right," the pastor replied. "You're thinking of Mother's Day."

Then, an eager boy took a shot: "Easter is a time when we say 'thank you' to God for all the good things in our lives."

"We can always say 'thank you' to God," the pastor said, beginning to worry about the dullness of the children in his church. "But, you're thinking of Thanksgiving, not Easter. Children, what is the meaning of *Easter*?"

After a few seconds of awkward silence, another girl in a fancy Easter dress gave it a try.

"Easter," she said tentatively, "is the day when we remember that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Then he was buried in the tomb. On Easter morning, God rolled the stone away and Jesus came out of the tomb."

"Excellent," cried the relieved pastor.

"And then," the girl continued, "Jesus looked and saw his shadow, so he went back into the tomb and there were six more weeks of winter!"

It is an old classic pastor joke, but it captures a point. Not everyone knows what the big deal about Easter is.

Last year, the New York Times just didn't quite get the hang of Easter. An article on Pope Francis initially read, "Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection into heaven, three days after he was crucified ..."

Well, nice try, but that's not exactly what Christians believe. (In the same week, CBS also muffed a story about Mary, the Mother of Jesus, claiming that John the Baptist stood by Mary's side as Jesus died on the cross.) Apparently, the reporter and the layers upon layers of editors employed by the Times missed that rather important detail of Jesus hanging around the earth for a while.

A few days later, they did offer a correction. On one level, it's a boneheaded mistake that shows the Times' shoddy journalism and (willful?) ignorance about basic Christian beliefs. But on

another level, I wonder what would have happened if that reporter had at least one Christian friend she could have asked, "Hey, can you give me some advice on an article that focuses on the details of Easter?"

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus in a few weeks, there are two challenges for us. First, we need to be those kinds of friends, the kind that it would be safe to ask about spiritual things. People who are not regular church goers often have questions long before they darken the door of a church. Let's be available to listen to them.

Who Have  
You Told?

Second, let's invite friends, co-workers, family, loved ones to church this Easter. For some, they will come because they are curious. Others will come because they are invited. Some will come because God is calling them to come, they just don't know it yet. And when they do come, let us greet them with all the enthusiasm we can muster. Who knows what part we may be playing in their spiritual journey?

He is risen! He is risen, indeed!  
SDG

*Jim*

## UPcoming EVENTS

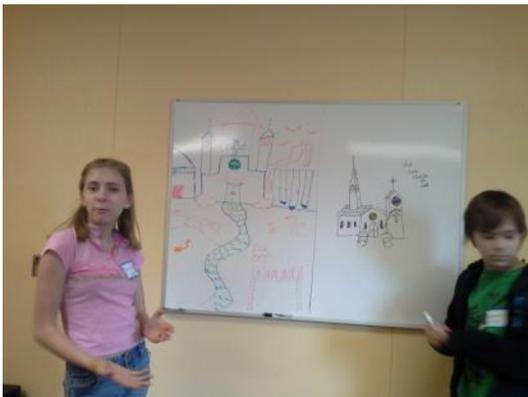
April 6- Communion Sunday

April 20- East Sunday! He is risen!

April 21-April 25—Brenda Collins on vacation

April 28-May 2- Pastor Jim gone to West Coast  
Presbyterian Pastor's Conference at Mount Hermon

May 3- Stockton Presbytery Meeting

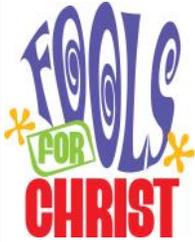
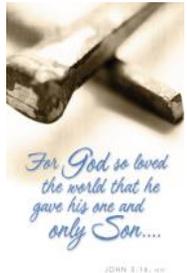


On the left is Hannah and Darien explaining the Children's Worship Lesson in their own words while Ardra on the right is listening intently.



# APRIL 2014



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 	2	3 9:30 a.m.— Alpha Circle 6:00 p.m.— Praise Practice 7:00 p.m.— Choir Practice	4 10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study at Margaret Kuglin's	5
6  Collection for Inter-Faith 9:15—Bible Study 10:30—Worship / Communion	7 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.— Outreach Committee Meeting	8	9	10 6:00 p.m.— Praise Practice 7:00 p.m.— Choir Practice	11 10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study at Margaret Kuglin's 1:00 p.m.— Deacons Meeting	12
13  9:15—Bible Study 10:30—Worship	14 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	15	16 6:00 p.m.— Session	17 6:00 p.m.— Praise Practice 7:00 p.m.— Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.— Maundy Thursday Service in Chapel	18  GOOD FRIDAY 10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study at Margaret Kuglin's	19
20 <b>HARVESTER DEADLINE</b>  9:15—Bible Study 10:30—Worship/ Easter Sunday	21 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.— Worship Com- mittee Mtg @ Laranjo's	22	23	24 6:00 p.m.— Praise Practice 7:00 p.m.— Choir Practice	25 10:00 a.m.— Women's Bible Study at Margaret Kuglin's 6:00 p.m.— Mariner's Meeting & Potluck	26
27 9:15—Bible Study 10:30—Worship	28 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting	29	30			 <small>JOHN 3:16, etc.</small>

## **ENCOURAGING OTHERS—Margaret Kuglin**

Are you a person who likes to be around people and converse with them? Are you outgoing, enjoy talking with people, getting to know them and have interest in them? Or you like to keep to your self, kind of offish? Do you stand on the outside of the crowd? Do you say "I like to keep my religion to myself" or you say "that's the way that I am". Is that what the Bible says? Lets see what the Bible says about our relationship with others. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Paul said a lot about how we should treat one another. Verse 11 states, "Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. There is a lot of meaning in comfort and edify. He is saying encourage one another, build up another to encourage them.

We cannot ignore the responsibility to encourage fellow believers. Christianity is about relationships. God's people are to live out what God intended with each other. Believers relate to others buy accepting, admonishing, comforting, confessing, encouraging, forgiving, greet each other, be hospitable, be kind, live in peace, love, be patient, pray for one another, serve, motivate, be subject to one another, be tenderhearted. In the Christian life we are a family. When we live in a little island with just me, myself, and I, there is something missing. One does not build relationships by being an island which you build your self, and are self contained. We are made to relate to each other and encourage others.

Encourage means to call to one's side; to help, console, or strengthen; or to instill courage in another person. Well you say Jesus didn't need encouraging. Well lets see if this is true. In Matthew 26:36-38 "Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane and said to the disciples: Sit here while I go and pray over there" and he took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful even to death, stay here and watch with me." This tells me that Jesus who is Almighty God, was human flesh feeling the same things we feel. He needed encouragement at this stressful times before going to the cross. He needed the presence of others to stand with him. These three men's presence encouraged Him.

Do you know Barnabas, he was called the Son of Encouragement. Barnabas sold land and gave the proceeds to the church in the first century. The church was young and needed encouraging. He also stuck his neck out for Paul who persecuted the Christian and hunted them down and put them in prison, then he met Jesus on the Damascus Road and changed his life tremendously. Paul wanted to be in contact with other Christians but they were afraid of him. Barnabas searched for Paul and brought him to the disciples in Jerusalem who eventually accepted him. You never know whose life you will impact. Paul was an encourager, he encouraged the ship mates on the ship in the storm to eat and to stay on the ship so they all could be saved even though the ship would eventually be lost. Paul kept encouraging the new churches he had planted on his missionary journeys with the letters he wrote in prison. Be an encourager.

I challenge you to be an encourager. We all need encouraging. God wants us to be an encourager.

## MISSIONS—Lynn Laranjo

We had an incredible out pouring of generosity for Living Water International. We collected \$440.06 which will be put to good use providing people with clean drinking water and spiritual water. Thank you all!

As Easter approaches we celebrate the ministry of Jesus and all that he taught us. Many people in our church reach out to help others in need as He did. For many years Harvest has helped children around the world through Samaritans' Purse and the shoe box collection. Some of our very own shoe boxes are still being shipped to their final destinations. This year we have the special opportunity to help a missionary in our own church, Marlin Sena, go and hand deliver those shoe boxes to children in Africa. If you feel led to help send our missionary to Africa please designate your check/money to "mission trip fund". The final collection day is Easter, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

With this special opportunity we have decided to not do the One Great Hour collection. If anyone has a strong desire to still give you are welcome to just write "One Great Hour" on your donation.

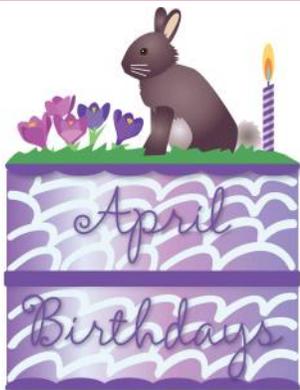
Remember the yard sale will be May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please let Lynn know if you are interested in selling your prized goods or have a friend/neighbor/relative that wants to join in. It's never too early to start sorting through your belongings.



Easter Sunday has a special addition to the sanctuary of the flower cross. If anyone is interested in helping to prepare and decorate the cross please talk to Lynn. Also, if anyone has shrubs that have not been pruned in the last year please talk to Lynn. The usual supply of greens is not available and if the church grounds cannot produce enough another source will be needed.



We are in the planning stage of VBS to be held July 14-18 from 8 a.m. to Noon. Please sign up to help either be a leader to help plan or sign up to help the week of VBS. Many positions need to be filled! Positions are Food, Crafts, Stories, Activities and floaters in an as needed basis. To sign up for any of the needed areas there is a sign up list in the Narthex or see Cyndy Cawley.



- 1—Virginia Irons
- 9—Jacob Holleman
- 20—Cayla Finneman
- 22—Hannah Holleman
- 22— Frank Reed
- 27—Lucy Gilliam



**30—Richard & Isabel McKay**

*If your birthday or anniversary has not been listed, please call the office and let us know.*

## **Regular Prayer List**

### *Assisted Living:*

- Mildred Vine—  
*Paramount Court*
- Donna McRae—  
*Paramount Court (memory care)*
- Mabel Cronan—  
*The Stratford Place*
- June Limprecht—  
*Paramount Court (memory care)*

### *Health Issues:*

- Lucy Gilliam
- Virginia Irons
- Roger Morrow
- Dorothy Nelson
- Bill Sperry



### **Stockton Presbytery Prayer List for April**

- April 6—Trinity Presbyterian: Stockton  
Pastor:  
David & Wendy Warner HR
- April 13—First Presbyterian: Tracy  
Pastor: Everett Bosch  
Byron Nelson HR
- April 20—Cortez Presbyterian: Turlock  
Pastor: Nancy Clegg  
Don Strongman
- April 27—First Presbyterian: Turlock  
Pastor: Craig Wright  
Diane Myers Wilson  
Navy Chaplain

### **Ceres School's Prayer List for April**

- April 6—Cesar Chavez Junior High  
Principal: Jose Beltran
- April 13—Don Pedro Elementary  
Principal: Rick Hall
- April 20—Hidahl Elementary  
Principal: Vaughn Williams
- April 27 —La Rosa Elementary  
Principal: Lori Mariani



## **ARGUMENTATION CLASS– LEARN HOW TO GET YOUR POINT ACROSS**

I know we have all had arguments with people in our lives. Have you ever felt overwhelmed, upset, or just annoyed because of people arguing? Have you ever wanted to express your point of view but unsure how to get your point across? Well this Fundamentals of Argumentation course has everything you will need to understand argumentation from the basics up to some more advanced understanding of argumentation.

### **Who will be teaching:**

Jacob Holleman with an A.A. in Communication Studies from Modesto Junior College.

### **What will the class focus on:**

Fundamentals of logic based argumentation: structure of an argument, main schools of thought for argumentation, logical fallacies. This class will have an emphasis on the importance of argumentation for the Christian Faith in today's world. The course text will be "Argumentation Handbook: Basic concepts of argumentation and debate" by Allan McKissick.

### **Where will the class be held:**

The class will be held at 1813 Moffet Road, Ceres California 95351.

### **When will the class be held:**

Every Friday from May 16th to July 18th from 6pm-8pm (to include time for a break.)

### **Who can attend:**

Students from ages 12 and up are welcome to join and participate in the class.

### **Costs:**

The cost of the course will total \$80.00 per-person for the 9-week course plus an approximate \$20.00 for the course text (only one per-group needed.)

### **Contact information:**

To sign up for the class and for more information on payment or other questions please contact:

Jacob Holleman  
Cell Phone: (209) 605-4740  
Email: mightenya@hotmail.com

Come learn the art of argumentation to be a voice for yourself and those around you!

"If you do not speak for yourself then someone will speak for you and you may not always like what that person has to say." - Daniel Lopez

Mission Statement ~ With God in control, the mission of the Harvest Presbyterian Church is to proclaim and bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and nurture the faith of our church family.

**Church Information**

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Brenda Collins—secretary@harvestpres.org



**HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**1813 Moffet Road**  
**Ceres, CA 95307**

**POSTAGE**

**Harvester Deadline for May 2014 is  
April 20, 2014**

**Mariner's Past and Future**

We had a wonderful St. Patrick's day dinner.  
The delicious corned beef and cabbage was  
expertly prepared by Marlin Sena.

The board helped decorate and serve. Thanks to  
all for an enjoyable Irish evening!

Mariners will meet again Friday, April 25th  
at 6:00pm. Bring your place setting and a dish  
for the potluck.

Come and join us for food and fellowship.

