



My parents always told me that they knew where they were the day Pearl Harbor was attacked and the day when President Kennedy was killed. As a kid, I didn't quite understand how those events could mark people. Then 9/11 happened, and I began to understand.

Where were you on 9/11/2001? I was in my car, driving from Los Angeles to Palo Alto. Specifically, I was just over the Grapevine, and approaching Bakersfield. (I had left the house very early in the morning.) I got a phone call from Beth, saying I should turn on the radio. I did so, and listened in horror, in anger, and in tears for the next several hours of my drive.



I was driving to Palo Alto because my mom was having surgery. The day before, she had surgery to replace some arteries to her legs, as 40 years of smoking and diabetes had impacted the blood flow to her legs. One of the new arteries worked well, the other not so well. And so it was decided to amputate her left leg just below the knee. She knew nothing of this, as she was still under anesthesia. The doctors had not even told her that this was a possible risk of the initial surgery. So I was driving to be with my brother and my step-dad, Kel.

The whole day was surreal. When I got to Stanford Hospital, it had to be evacuated of all non-essential personnel as there had been a bomb threat. So besides the attacks on 9/11, my mom was in surgery in a hospital that was under attack, too! Eventually, the all-clear signal was given and we made it make into the hospital to wait.

We waited. And waited. And waited. Finally, after what seemed like forever, the surgeon came out to say the surgery was successful, and that my mom was resting comfortable. She had gone into surgery the day before with both legs and the Twin Towers standing. She would awake with half of one leg missing, and the Twin Towers a pile of rubble. And the world would be changed. It was all horrible, we felt at the time.

A few months later, I got to visit my mom at her home in Aptos. She had recovered from the surgery. She had a prosthetic leg. She was walking. She was driving. She was back to playing bridge. And her husband, Kel, told me an incredible story. He said that my mom's amputation had been the best thing for their marriage. Huh?

Before the surgery, my mom and Kel would live at opposite ends of the house. He would be doing financial things and she would be doing her gardening. After the surgery, Kel had to help her bathe, help her go to the bathroom, help her to dress. They spent a lot more time together, and talked a lot more to each other than they had before. And their love for one another grew, not in spite of the adversity, but because of it.

The story of Joseph came to mind when I heard this. Joseph the dreamer. Sold into slavery by his brothers. Then turned rescuer and savior of his family. “You meant it for harm, but God meant it for good.”

I don't wish adversity for anyone I know, and certainly not for myself. But God certainly uses adversity to work out His purposes.

When we say and think, “Where is God?” in trying times, in our troubles, perhaps we need to keep in mind Joseph's story.

SDG

Pastor Jim



Notes:

- 1) We will have a special worship service on 9/11 to commemorate those who lost their lives, and how the world has changed, and how God has been at work ever since. It will be a time to remember, but also to receive comfort and strength from God.
- 2) I intend to preach a brief sermon series on a Christian View of Politics this fall. I also intend to preach a sermon series about our mission to be communicators of the Good News of the Gospel, based on a book titled “I Once Was Lost”.
- 3) The beginning of September is hard for me, as both my brother (9/1) and my dad (9/2) passed away during this time period, though four years apart.
- 4) After the summer, our regular events will resume this month. Our weekly Worship service will return to its regular time of 10:30 beginning September 4, 2016. Our monthly “Last Sunday Potluck” will commence on September 25th. Mariners will begin on September 16th. Alpha Circle will begin September 1st.



**Fall
Worship
Time**

Worship Time

10:30 a.m.

Welcome our New Secretary



Our new church secretary is Kohl James. He is a student at MJC, and has been playing with the Praise Team for the last month or so. The office hours have changed, so make a note of them. Welcome, Kohl!

New Office Hours

Mondays 1:30 -4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays 1:30 -5:30 pm

Fridays 11:00 –3:00 p.m.

Ten Things Church Members Would Love to Hear from Their Pastors (Thom Rainer)

<http://thomrainer.com/2016/08/ten-things-church-members-love-hear-pastors/>



- 1) “I love you.” They want to know that you pastors love them in good times and challenging times. They want to know you really care for the sheep God has entrusted to you.
- 2) “I would love for God to give me a long-term ministry here.” Church members desire for you to perceive your church as more than a steppingstone to the next church. Though they don’t expect you to commit to a lifetime there, they are weary of the one to three year pastorates.
- 3) “I will provide clear leadership for you.” Church members would like to know you are truly leading them. And they want to know where you are leading them.
- 4) “I will listen.” They want to know you care enough about them to hear what they have to say. They want to know you truly value input and different perspectives.
- 5) “I will communicate clearly and often.” Church members don’t want to wonder what’s happening in the church. They desire ongoing communication and transparency.
- 6) “I will be a praying pastor.” Church members desire for their pastors to be in regular and prayerful fellowship with God. They want to know you are leading in God’s power and not your own.
- 7) “I will focus on preaching.” They understand the importance of the preaching of the Word. They want to know you have put hours of prayer and preparation into your message so they can truly understand what God is saying in Scripture.
- 8) “I will share my faith.” Most evangelistic churches have an evangelistic pastor. Most church members will follow the lead of their pastors. They want to do as you do more than do as you say.
- 9) “I will care for you.” Most church members are reasonable. They know you cannot be present nor should you be present for every ministry need. But they want to know you care for them, hurt for them, and pray for them.
- 10) “I will not show favoritism.” Church members sometimes see pastors demonstrating preference toward some church members over others. It grieves and hurts members to see pastors catering to the cliques, the big givers, and the power brokers.

What do you think of this list? What would you add? What would you subtract? And how am I doing on this list for you? Let me know.

Harvest Presbyterian Church
1813 Moffet Road
Ceres, CA 95307

POSTAGE

SEPTEMBER

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.

Harvest Leadership 2016

Deacons

Virginia Bathe (Moderator)
John Baughman
Pat Cousins
Art Johnston
Nora McKinsey
Martha McNamara
Linda Sherman
Myrna Wilhite

Elders

Patti Arbizu (Clerk/Worship)
Susan Bennett (Communications)
Cyndy Cawley (CE/Mission)
Michael Cousins (Treasurer)
Staci Edwards (CE)
Brandy Meyer (CE/Youth)

Church Information

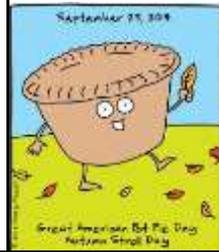
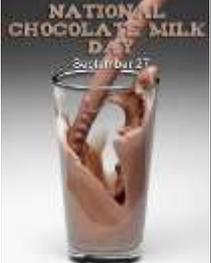
Church Office Phone: (209) 537-3519
Church Fax (209) 537-1869
Website: www.harvestpres.org

Emails:

Pastor Jim Stochl— harvest.pastor.jim@gmail.com
Prayer Requests—prayer@harvestpres.org
Kohl James —secretary@harvestpres.org

september 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:30 a.m.— Alpha Circle Meeting	2 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's	3
4 10:30 a.m.— Communion 	5 Labor Day 6:00 p.m.— Prayer Meeting	6  National Read A Book Day!	7	8 6:30 p.m.— Choir 7:30 p.m.— Praise Team	9 10:30 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's 12:00 p.m.— Deacons Meeting	10
11 9/11 15th Anniversary 10:30 a.m.— Worship	12 6:00 p.m.— Prayer Meeting	13 National Peanut Day  September 13	14	15 6:30 p.m.— Choir 7:30 p.m.— Praise Team	16 6:00 p.m.— Mariners	17
18 10:30 a.m.— Worship	19 6:00 p.m.— Prayer Meeting	20	21 1:15-3:15 p.m —Session (Youth Room)	22 6:30 p.m.— Choir 7:30 p.m.— Praise Team	23 	24
25 10:30 a.m.— Worship End of Month Potluck after the Worship Service	26 6:00 p.m.— Prayer Meeting	27 	28	29 6:30 p.m.— Choir 7:30 p.m.— Praise Team	30	

September Sunday School Schedule*

September 4—Nursery: Kendall Meyer,
Martha McNamara; K-3rd: Beth Stochl, Judy
Salyer

September 11—Nursery: Kendall Meyer,
Nawatha Reed; K-3rd: Cynthia Cawley, Staci
Edwards

September 18—Nursery: Kendall Meyer, Judy
Salyer; K-3rd: Beth Stochl, Patti Arbizu

September 25—Nursery: Kendall Meyer,
Staci Edwards; K-3rd: Brandy Meyer, Anette
Arias

* This schedule may
change! Check with
Brandy Meyer if you have
any conflicts or



Regular Prayer List

Assisted Living:

Donna McRae— *Golden Age Home
Care, (memory care)*

Health Issues:

Virginia Irons
Roger Morrow
Dorothy Nelson
Margaret Kuglin (eye)
Patti Arbizu (knee)
Alice Visser (English Oaks)



- ♦ Office hours: Mondays: 1:30p.m.-4:30p.m.; Wednesdays: 1:30p.m.-5:30p.m.; Firdays: 11:00a.m.-3:00p.m.
- ♦ Choir Rehearsals will resume

*Friendly
Reminders*



01-Denny and Gayle Goss
04-Neal & Myrna Wilhite
08-Michael & Patricia Cousins



4-Patti Arbizu
4-Art McRae
4-LaVeta Rhoy
17-Michele James
25-Ana Lopez
26-Margaret Kuglin
29-Karen Edwards