The Clarion April 2021

Calvary Presbyterian Church

A community worshiping, growing, and service together



Upcoming Events

Easter Sunday Sunday, April 4th 10:30 am online

Calvary Discussions on the Bible Every Monday in April at 7:00 pm online

B	irthdays & Ann	iversarie	S
	Maxfield Dube	4/6	
	Devon Douglas	4/9	364
	Jeff Bruce	4/10	
	Donna Heselbarth	4/15	
Ren 12	Kelly Douglas	4/16	THE
	Lorenz von Bibra	4/16	
	Cyn <mark>thia Z</mark> ack	4/26	
22	Reiko Furuta	4/26	
		**	

Join us for online worship!

Christ Has Risen

An Easter Sunday Celebration



Sunday, April 4th, 10:30 am https://calvarypres.online.church/

Come and celebrate with us!

Presbyterian Corner Our faith, our practice, and our roots.



Does the Holy Spirit work outside the church?

The Holy Spirit is God present with us. The Spirit gives gifts to the church (1 Cor. 12:7-13). The Spirit is received by faith (Gal. 3:14). Believers are "baptized with the Holy Spirit" to become leaders in the church (Acts 11:16).

But the Spirit of God is also active in creation at large and in ways that go beyond what the spirit does in and through the church. We can see the Spirit's working wherever the Spirit's goals and purposes are being carried out.

For example, when Jesus attended the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth, he read from the prophet Isaiah (6:1-2) and town of Nazareth, and said:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the years of the Lord's favor."

(Luck 4:18-19)

Here Jesus' ministry was being previewed. We find in his words what types of actions the Holy Spirit of God desires to carry out. If so, one way of understanding the wider work of the Holy Spirit in the world is to see the ways and places where the poor receive: "good news," where those who are captive to powers (we could say such as to addictions) are released, where those who are blind (in whatever sense) recover their sight, and where the oppressed go free. Where the Lord's favor is proclaimed, there the Spirit of God is at work.

To see the Spirit's work in this way enables Presbyterians to be alert to God's wider work in the world, and encourages us too join with all peoples in struggles for peace, justice, and freedom. We will sense an awareness of God in the Spirit as we cooperate, even with those who are not Christians, in the work and purposes of God in society and culture. We will watch for the surprising work of God's Spirit, even in times and places and among people we do not expect.

-from Donald K. McKim, Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers

BIBLE READING PLAN

JAMES

FAITH WORKS



FUN FACTS ABOUT THE LETTER OF IAMES.

- -JAMES IS THE BROTHER OF JESUS (MATT. 13:55 & GAL. 1:9)
- -JAMES WAS A LEADER IN THE EARLY CHURCH UNTIL HE WAS MARTYRED.
- -MARTIN LUTHER REJECTED THIS LETTER'S PLACEMENT IN THE BIBLE BECAUSE IT APPEARED TO CONTRADICT PAUL'S MESSAGE OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH.
- IT IS PACKED WITH WISDOM!
- -COMPARED TO PAUL, JAMES IS LESS INTERESTED IN THEOLOGY AND MORE INTERESTED IN WISE LIVING.
- -MY FAVORITE SERMON SERIES ON JAMES IS PREACHED BY MATT CHANDLER OF THE VILLAGE CHURCH.

FAITH WORKS

THIS APRIL I WILL BE READING THE LETTER OF JAMES WITH OUR CALVARY YOUTH GROUP AND I WANT TO INVITE YOU TO READ IT WITH US TOO!

1st Week

All of James James 1: 1-8 James 1: 9-11 James 1:12-18 All of James

2nd Week

All of James James 1:19-27 James 2:1-12 James 2:14-26 All of James

3rd Week

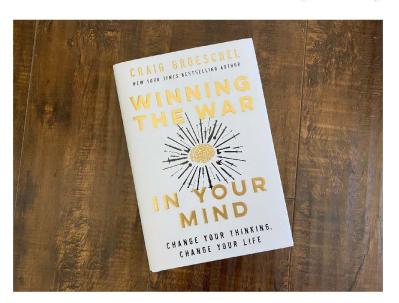
James 3: 1-12 James 3: 13-18 All of James James 4: 1-10 James 4:11-12

4th Week

James 4:13-17 James 5:1-6 All of James James 5: 7-12 James 5: 13-19

ASHLEY'S BOOK CLUB

Books on Growth, Connection and Spirituality



WINNING THE WAR IN YOUR MIND:

CHANGE YOUR THINKING, CHANGE YOUR LIFE

By Craig Groesche

It is so important that we do everything we can to develop a healthy and positive mindset. As Christians, we have been given Scripture and psychology to help us discover how we can think in a healthy, life-giving way. Pastor Craig Groeschel has given us an amazing book on how to combine psychology with Christian truth in efforts to help us change our lives as we change our thinking.

I have been a big fan of Craig Groeschel for quite a while. Groeschel hosts an amazing leadership podcast that I highly recommend. When the pandemic first began, I found a lot of inspiration as I listened to his talks about how to lead in crisis and how to lead at home. His book on winning the war with our minds has been just as helpful to me.





"Our lives are always moving in the direction of our strongest thoughts"

Groeschel believes that "our lives are always moving in the direction of our strongest thoughts" therefore we must keep guard over what our strongest thoughts are. As you read the book, Groeschel will show you how to replace lies with truth, how to rewire our brain by renewing our mind, how to change our perspectives, and how to revive our souls by reclaiming personal responsibility of our minds and of our lives. That might seem like an oversimplification of a very difficult and often complicated experience, but his thoughts on the matter are worth reading and considering.

Trying to change old patterns of thinking can be a very challenging experience, and I believe we can benefit from the bountiful wisdom of others. I found Craig Groeschel's book to be very accessible and helpful and I hope you find his words that way too. I also want to encourage you to listen to his accompanying sermons at Life.Church.

His church is the church that freely provides the platform with which we watch our Sunday service online. Even if you don't prescribe to his evangelical theology, he has so much wisdom on the topic of mental health that I believe every Christian will find helpful. As with everything I recommend, I want to encourage you to take what works for you and leave the rest.

May God grant you a greater sense of peace this Easter season as you seek to change your thinking and change your life.



In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression

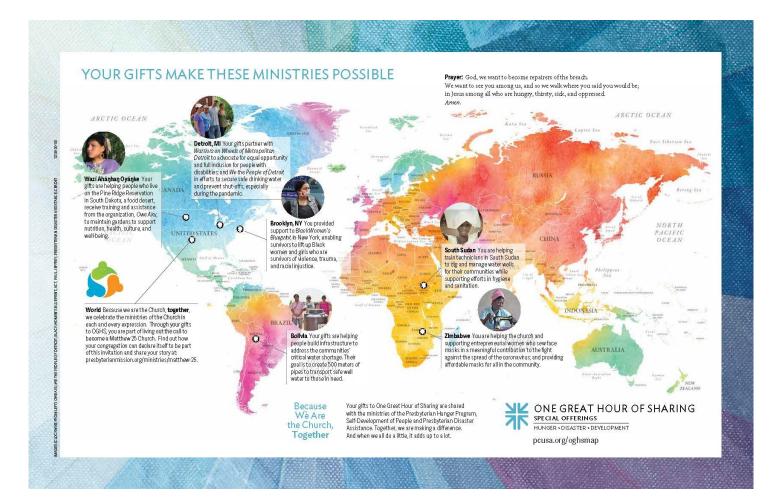
Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

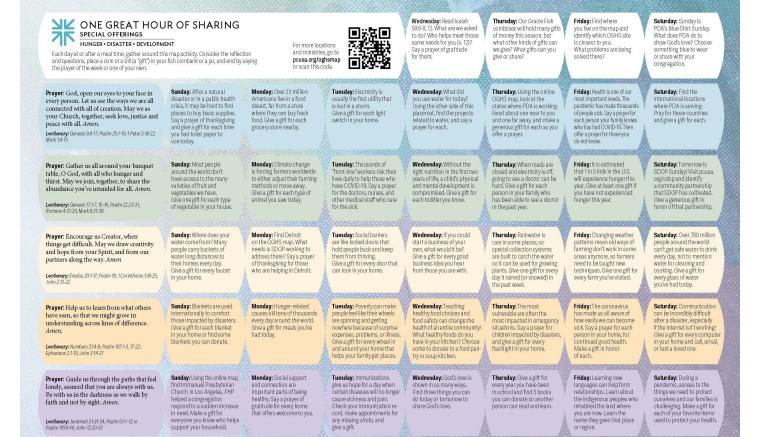
The programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing: **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self- Development of People** - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Request your Fish Bank (or envelope) from the church office and bring it back to church on Palm Sunday during the Palm Parade, filled with coins.

(Checks or online giving also greatly appreciated!)







NOT A BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

No, not a Bible study. Rather conversations about the Bible. That is what I am planning for four Mondays in April. The Bible is essential to Christianity and informs and feeds our faith. Yet at the same time it has too often been used for purposes against the grain of Christian faith. My goal is that as we talk together about this dichotomy and see ways in which we can be enriched by the Scriptures and avoid their misuse.

There will be short videos as introductions to our conversations over Zoom. The videos will be available on the Calvary web site several days before the conversation. The conversations will be held on the four Mondays in April at 7:00 pm.

I'm not using Calvary's Zoom. Ron Schooler is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Calvary Discussions on the Bible Time: Every Monday in April at 7:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82958226431?
pwd=aDVXSWhndEsybzdlaU9pbUJWZytXUT09

Meeting ID: 829 5822 6431 Passcode: 334403



Spring is here, bringing growth and hope. For those enduring hardships that winter brought our way, Spring is a reminder of new beginnings and hope. New beginnings that offer endless possibilities for renewed faith, growth and transformation. What a blessing you are, to all the patients and their families, as your support brings hope through Angel Interfaith Network's mission.

Thank you!

▼ ▼ Special thanks to Holy Family Church in South Pasadena for coming through during the pandemic surge with additional support and donations of food gift cards. This allowed Angel Interfaith Network to continue providing for patients with nowhere to turn. Last month alone, Angel Interfaith provided \$ 2,500 in food gift cards alone. ▼ ▼ ▼

▼ ▼ To our "Anonymous Angel"......Thank you. Know that we have received your gift of plus size shirts, pants, shorts, and shoes. Your thoughtful gesture of kindness in responding to our "Urgent Needs" request is appreciated.



▼ ▼ Mrs. Nancy Morgan and Mrs. Marilyn Newton for taking the time to drive out to Angel Interfaith's Gatehouse" with donations of baby items and children's books from our friends at East Whittier Presbyterian Church.



▼ ▼ And speaking of blooms & flowers, look at these beautiful infant sweaters knitted by Mrs. Marilyn Newton. They will be given to Mothers with infants getting discharged from LAC+USC Medical Center and need some extra help with baby items.



Those We Serve!

- Rosie is a 78 year old who suffers from Cancer and other chronic health conditions. She has no family or friends, rents a small room and fully takes care of herself. She is not eligible for government assistance and returns bottles and cans from the street for money to live. She recently became ill causing her to fall behind with her rent. Referred by her Social Worker for assistance, Angel Interfaith was able to provide her with food cards and rental assistance to avoid being displaced.
- Ray arrived not feeling well to the Emergency room, unaware of a 670 sugar level and testing positive for Covid19. Unable to work and not eligible for assistance, his social worker referred him to Angel Interfaith and was provided with food cards and rental assistance.

Urgent Needs:

Ralphs

(O)

Although we begin to see a light at the end of the tunnel, we also continue to see the critical need for funds to help with rent, utilities, and grocery store gift cards for food. Your financial support will help us to meet and provide for the urgent needs of patients like Rosie and Ray.

Donations can be mailed to: AIN c/o St. Camillus Center: 1911 Zonal Ave. L A, CA 90033 Please make checks payable to St. Camillus, with **AIN** on the memo line.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, you can give or enroll online to become a Sustaining Angel: http://angelinterfaith.net/sustainers.html

Reflections With Reece

Over the course of the past year, the challenges that our community regularly faces have been amplified and multiplied. Poverty, hunger, inequity, marginalization and desperation have bubbled to the surface of our cultural consciousness and can no longer be ignored. Do you ever look at these problems and feel overwhelmed? Do you long to make a difference, but just don't know where to start? I often feel that way too.

Fast forward to January 2021. I am watching a local news broadcast that highlighted a family that created a "Sharing Table" for their neighborhood. They had no idea what people might need, because everyone is very private, so they put out a plastic folding table with three clear plastic bins on top which were filled with non-perishable foods, household items and toiletries. They also had a poster that said "Sharing Table: Take what you need, leave what you can." Immediately people in their community began stopping to pick things up, as well as drop things off. The most touching aspect of the sharing table was the way that it encouraged and inspired everyone who used it. Even the news anchor was fighting back tears.



(Source: liherald.com)

I decided right then that I had been given an answer for how I could help my community. I could create a space for my neighborhood to share in having their needs met and in meeting the needs of others. So over the course of a weekend, using some reclaimed wood, I built a little community sharing table.







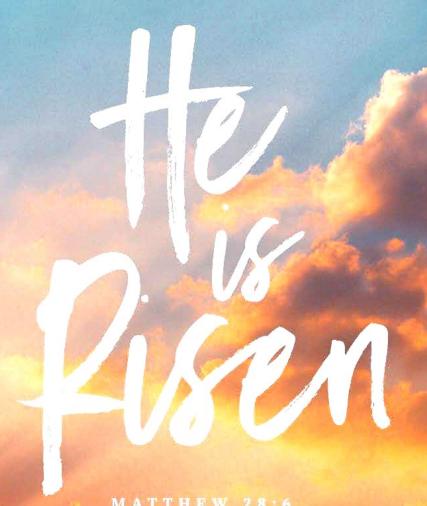


When it was completed, I put it out in front of my house. Cars began to stop immediately. Some took pictures to post online and share the idea with their friends. Others began taking things that they needed. I felt a little nervous about people taking everything on the first day and having to purchase more items to put out on the table. My worries were unnecessary, because people have been regularly leaving supplies. The table has never been empty! It is also important to note that everyone has treated the table with respect. There has been no vandalism, not trash left behind and no used items offered as donations.

I am not sharing this with you to brag about how generous I am. I am sharing this with the hope that some of you will be inspired to put a sharing table out in your own neighborhood and take the next step in becoming more "hands on" in Calvary's mission to engage with the community and help those in need. All you need is a table, it does not have to be fancy. If you cannot put a table out in front of your residence, maybe you can coordinate with others who can and donate supplies for their table. Together, we can take the good news that "God's Kingdom has come near" to our own neighborhoods.

I would love to talk more with you if you have questions about creating a sharing table for your neighbors.

Keep Shining, Reece Lemmon Director of Spiritual Formation and Service (626)429-8412



March Financials

March Budgeted Income \$16,066.67 March Actual Income \$10,275.67 March Budgeted Expense \$37,293.15 March Actual Expense \$38,570.30 March Food Bank Expenses: \$223.74

*These amounts reflect the operating budget only. Income numbers are purely from Sunday offering. Investment and property numbers are not included. We received a first round of the Payroll Protection loan in May 2020 and received a second round in February 2021. We have submitted the paperwork to have the first round loan forgiven and are awaiting notice. We are also looking into other credits from the government to help with payroll costs.



Join your church family online each Sunday at 10:30 am here: http://calvarypres.online.church/

To see more of Rev. Millason Dailey's sermons check out on our Messages page.

You can also subscribe to our

YouTube page for all of the latest from our church.

Calvary Presbyterian Church

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Maribel Valadez
Office Administrator
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Office hours are remote only



Praise The LORD with us!
Join us for Worship! Online,
of course. Visit us at
www.cpcsouthpas.org/
messages

Every Sunday to see a new service!

Calvary Presbyterian Church

At Calvary Presbyterian Church, Christ meets community: Welcomes Everyone, Deepens Faith, Sends All ... to love and serve as Jesus did.

STAFF

The Reverend Millason Dailey, Pastor Beau Wammack, Worship Leader Luis Rivas, Sexton Mike Wilson, Director of Music Meredith Stoner, Bookkeeper Maribel Valadez, Office Administrator

Reece Lemmon, Director of Spiritual Life & Service Ashley Lynn Hengst, Director of Children & Youth The Reverend Dr. P.A. Castellano, Pastor Emeritus

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