

Community Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 788
7854 Pearblossom Highway
Littlerock, CA 93543

Return Service Requested



GRACE IN THE DESERT
Our Bi-Monthly Newsletter!

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Littlerock, CA
Permit No. 10005

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday April 5th 10:00am

Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner April 9th 6:30pm

Good Friday Service 6:30pm

Easter Sunrise Service Juniper Hills 6:00am, Continental Breakfast at the church at 8:30am, Easter Celebration Service 10:00am

Our Purpose Statement

To know Jesus Christ as Savior and make Him known through: Spirit-filled worship, passionate evangelism, loving fellowship, obedience to scripture, support of worldwide missions, and service to our community

Church Office 661-944-3231 Fax 661-944-3894
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Pastor K.C.'s email: revkcwahe@sbcglobal.net
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Grace In The Desert

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of
Community Presbyterian Church of Littlerock

April/May 2009

"To Know Christ and to make him known"

www.cpclr.org

What do Christ followers look like?

As we walk together the walk Jesus made to the cross during this season of Lent I can't help but think about the journey that we all walk together as Christians. We are people who claim to be followers of Jesus. We show up every Sunday for church. We participate in the work of the church. We give back in our time and talents. We serve in various leadership positions. We even do our part in helping support the church financially. I wonder if there are times though that we think that all we need to do is just show up? Is showing up enough?



I believe (and I include myself) that we sometimes forget what a follower of Jesus looks like and should look like. What are followers of Jesus? What do they look like and how do they sound? I have often talked in church that followers of Jesus are simply people who have committed their lives to loving and serving Christ. People who love Christ are people who have verbally acknowledged the Lordship of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their lives. This means followers of Jesus completely trust that God is in control and that what matters most is the agenda that God has for us as his children. When we verbally say, "Jesus, I invite you into my heart as Lord and Savior of my life and I confess to you my need for you to forgive me," it means that by faith we begin trusting him to be in charge of our lives. It means that we become people who strive to living and following Christ in everything we say and do as people of God. There are several characteristics to a person who follows Jesus. I have highlighted at least two.

1. **Followers of Jesus care about reconciliation.** When we give Jesus our heart, we accept the reality that Christ followers **care about reconciliation**. Easter is all about the reconciliatory love of God found in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The cross was and is God's sign of redemption and power and by Christ conquering death on the third day, our lives have been reconciled from the burden that sin lays upon our hearts. Because of the work of the cross, we should start caring about making things right with one another as Christians. When was the last time you said sorry to someone? When was the last time you asked for someone's forgiveness? And when was the last time you admitted that you were wrong? Part of reconciliation also means that as Christians, we start trusting God to begin the healing process of relationships that have been interrupted by our own agendas and issues. **(Continued on Pg. 2)**

It simply means that we learn how to say, "I forgive you and I'm willing to move forward even if for a short time I need some space." The words **I forgive you** are powerful words that have the ability to change a persons life. If Jesus can forgive us what keeps us from forgiving our family and friends? Our neighbors and our co-workers?

2. Followers of Jesus care about what happens on the third day. The death Jesus endured was painful and there is no way we can ever comprehend the kind of suffering Jesus endured. Although the cross for a moment appeared to be the end for some, for others it was only the beginning. It meant that the Son of God who came to the earth as promised, kept his promise. This promise wouldn't truly be understood until after he finished what he had started. This is why Easter is one of them most important events in the life of the church and this is what I hold to as a follower of Christ and as your pastor.



I find hope in the words of Jesus in John 11:25 where Jesus says, "**I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?**" Part of following Jesus means believing in the promise of the resurrection and what it has to offer all of God's people. The real question for us today as people who profess to follow Christ is, do we believe that God is able? Can we trust that God is in control and has the ability to bring about his love in new ways for our community?

Friends, I believe that as followers of Jesus that God is able to bring about healing. Healing that involves a change of the heart. It means that as followers of Jesus we need to allow God to work and do what God needs to do. It sometimes means letting go and trusting that the God of the resurrection knows what he is doing. It means letting go of our own agendas and trusting in the agenda God has for us. It means listening to God speak and watching him work. It also means we consider ways of getting involved with the agenda God has for us as a church and as his followers. If we care about the mission of God, we are saying that we care about what happens on the third day which is by all means the crux to our faith.

The Good News of the Gospel is this: the stone was removed, the grave clothes were left behind, and He is risen! Do you believe this? Do you believe in the life transforming power of God? This is my agenda as your pastor. It hasn't changed and will not change. My question for us is what can we do to help with the agenda that God has for us as his people here in Littlerock?

He is risen! He has RISEN indeed!

Pastor K.C. Wahe

April Calendar

- April 1st - **Mariners** 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall - Host: Jeff & Willi
- April 5th – Palm Sunday Worship Service at 10:00am, The Passion of the Christ movie showing at 3:30pm in the Sanctuary.
- April 9th – Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner 6:30pm
- April 10th—Good Friday Prayer Service at 6:30pm
- April 12th – Easter Sunrise Service at Juniper Bowl at 6:00am, Continental Breakfast at 8:30am, and Easter Celebration Service at 10:00am.
- No Session Meeting or Deacons Meeting (Session to resume April 19th)**
- April 14th - **Food distribution** 5:00 to 6:30pm Team #2
- April 18th - Annual Church Yard Sale 7am-3pm
- April 28th- **Food distribution** 5:00 to 6:30pm Team #3

May Calendar

- May 3rd - **Sunday Evening Praise Service** 5:00pm
- May 6th - **Mariners** 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall—Host: The Wahe's
- May 10th - **Session Meeting** following the 10am service
- May 12th - **Food distribution** 5:00 to 6:30pm Team #1
- May 25th— Office Closed** for Memorial Day Holiday
- May 26th - **Food distribution** 5:00 to 6:30pm Team #2

EVERY WEEK!

- Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am**
- Korean Fellowship Sunday Worship Service 1:00pm - 4:00pm**
- Weight Watchers: Mondays at 5:00p**
- (New) Narcotics Anonymous Meetings: Mondays at 7:30pm**
- Korean Fellowship Wednesday 8pm & Saturday mornings at 6:30am**
- Choir: First Thursday of every month, then Wednesdays at 6:30pm**
- Adult Bible Study every Thursday at 5:30 pm**

April
03 Mike Vonnegut
15 Diane Fryer
19 Richard Doss
22 Kristen Parsons
22 Lloyd Doster
26 George Hall
26 Justin Ortega
29 Misty Clark

May
07 Joe Ferry
09 James Pruitt
12 Lorraine Ferry
17 Al Cooper
19 Eugene Patterson
30 Gail LaGasse'



If we missed you please contact the office and give us your birth date.

Web Site Update

Eugene still would like your old computers for parts in order to put together a new computer. If you have a computer that has windows 98 or higher please let him know at webmaster@cpclr.org. If you haven't visited our church web site of recent, please do at www.cpclr.org. To hear a recent sermon visit www.sermons.cpclr.org. If there are folks who use social networking tools like "Facebook," make sure to look for Pastor K.C. on Facebook and let him know that you are there. It's another way of staying connected throughout the week and to keep one another in prayer.

Church Cleaning Update

Thanks to those who have recently helped clean our church. If you'd like to continue helping with this very important ministry please contact Pastor K.C. or Gail at the church. You can also sign up in the Narthex. Thanks to those who also helped with the recent all church work day. Special thanks to Michael Banfield in helping coordinate the work day.

God Never Changes Dotty Davenport

If you've ever looked at sand dunes,
 From one day to the next one,
 They've changed since you last saw them,
 And you can see what the wind has done.

Just one of the many changes
 In sand dunes is what you see,
 But there is something that never
 Changes for you and for me.

God has promised to help us
 In all that we try to do.
 God, Himself, never changes
 His mind about me and you.

He never stops loving us,
 As He helps us along our way.
 He never stops listening
 As we kneel down to pray.

There are so many changes
 In our lives every day,
 But one thing you can depend on
 - Is -
 God never changes in any way.



If you're interested in joining the choir, please contact Janice Wise for more information. The choir will be meeting on the first Thursday of every month and most Wednesdays for the remainder of the month at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Sunday Evening Prayer and Praise Gathering

Pastor K.C. invites those interested in gathering for a time of prayer and praise to join him starting May 3rd at 5:00pm. The sole purpose in this gathering is to worship and to pray for one another, the church, and the community around us. We will gather together the first Sunday of every month. If you're interested in participating in this time of prayer and praise please come. There are no agendas. The only agenda is to get refreshed and revived to do ministry together as the body of Christ. Talk with Pastor K.C. for more information.



Our schedule for Holy Week Services

April 5th Palm Sunday Service 10:00am
 April 9th Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner 6:30pm
 April 10th Good Friday Prayer Service 6:30 pm
 April 12th Easter Sunrise Service at 6:00am at Juniper Bowl
 sponsored by the AV Pastors Group
 Continental Breakfast at 8:30am, Easter Celebration Service at 10:00am



On April 5th at 3:30pm we will be showing a viewing of the "Passion of the Christ" in our Sanctuary. If you are interested in seeing this movie again or have never seen it we encourage you to come and join us as we begin Holy Week together as a church. Pop-corn will be provided! Bring a friend!

Are you on Facebook? Our church has a Facebook page. Pastor K.C. is also on Facebook. If you would like to see our church Facebook page with some pictures of our recent renovations to the church building or even see some of Pastor K.C.'s pictures from the Holy Lands go to www.facebook.com and join our Facebook page. In order to join you will have to register, which only takes a couple of minutes.



Our **Adult Education Sunday school** class continues to meet on Sunday mornings with Denece and Terry Parsons leading a class on "Heroes of the Faith." The class is for all generations of the church. We will continue to provide child-care and Sunday school for children during the 9:00am Sunday school hour and during the 10:00am service led by Rose Beckwith-Banfield. Our Thursday night Adult Bible study will continue to meet at 5:30pm at Jeff Jeffries home for a study by Max Lucado called 3:16. Don't forget to bring your Bibles!



Hospitality Ministry Team Update

Thanks to all those who've helped in ushering each and every week with our Board of Deacons. It's wonderful to see our elders and deacons together participating in the act of welcoming everyone on Sunday morning before, during, and after our worship service. If you'd like to sign up to be an usher, please contact **Barbara Garcia**. Remember, if you sign up to usher, we need you to be able to come before church starts, to help set up our refreshments and greet as well as stay after church to help clean up for the next fellowship that meets in our sanctuary every Sunday. We also encourage everyone in our church to help participate in keeping our church clean. **Remember to pick up any trash you see and to turn off any lights**



The church photo directories have arrived. Friends this project required several modifications. It's not completely accurate, but we now have a way to update the directory and make changes that can be printed if we need to. Please notify Pastor K.C. for any address changes that need to be made. Thanks to Gail for coordinating this endeavor. The next directory Olan Mills strongly suggests a "committee," of folks to organize our next project. If you had pictures taken please contact the church office to arrange to pick up your new directory.

Vacation Bible School 2009

Special thanks to Rose Banfield and the many who helped volunteer this year to make Spring Vacation Bible School a success. Please continue to pray for our church as we look at more ways of reaching children for Christ in the community around our church.



The church work day was a success! Thanks to all those who participated. Special thanks to Michael Banfield and Dan Yanofchick who worked on some major repairs that were needed.



Building & Ministry Task Force Groups

One of the goals for any church is to gain clarity on what its purpose is as followers of Christ. Over the next few months the Session will be working on determining some attainable goals for our ministry here in Littlerock. The first is to determine what our ministry needs are as a church. We will ask questions like, "What is our vision as a church?" "Is it working?" "How do we minister to longtime friends and members of the church and still care for children, youth, and families at the same time?" "How do we do evangelism and outreach as a church within a community like Littlerock?" "How do we make and equip disciples to do the work of sharing the Gospel message?" "Finally, how do we do mission together locally and world wide?" The second goal is to determine best how to do ministry together with the gifts God has given us here at Community Presbyterian Church? Specifically, how do we do ministry together with the space God has given to us each and every week? What improvements need to be made to the campus of our church? What additions are needed to effectively accomplish our vision for ministry here in Littlerock? As a congregation please pray for your leaders as we gather together in prayer and ask that God would be our guide in determining his will for our church and in our community. Our building task force chairperson is Michael Banfield and our ministry taskforce person is Elder Barbara Morris. Pastor K.C. will be serving as an liaison for both groups with various church members serving along with each taskforce. Once these taskforce groups gather together and meet they will come to the Session of the church with recommendations for the Session to hear, pray about, and either implement or continue discussions. The Session of the church ultimately will make any decisions about vision and ministry.

Treasurers Report January 1, 2009 – March 1, 2009



TOTAL INCOME
Actual 18,760.24 Budget 18,496.26 Difference 263.98

Total Expenses
Actual 18,038.18 Budget 18,495.57 Difference 457.39

Don't forget to keep your giving up to date.