

The CHIMES

April, 2024
Published Every Two Months

A newsletter for and about the First Congregational Church, Oroville, CA

General

Please send me any stories or pictures of your travels or successes to be considered for the next edition of The Chimes at dubkub42@gmail.com, or call me at (805) 636-8505.

Jeannie Maes Ministry in Mexico

Jeannie has recently returned and we are happy to have her back.

Below are some pictures she sent of events from the final days of her 2023-24 Ministry:

Pastor Jorge ordained Pastor John Oakley March 3rd.

The staff was carved with the verse 1 Timothy 1:12. "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength."

It was a moving combined Mexican/International Church service.



The Movie, "Boycott"

On March 22, FCCO and TPC (First Congregational Church of Oroville and Trinity Presbyterian Church) sponsored a free showing of the movie *Boycott*, which was shown at the Oroville State Theater. We had a good showing, and the showing coincided with Pastor Andrew's 6 part series of messages from Martin Luther King's book *Strength to Love*. Copies of the book were purchased and provided to members of both churches. At last check, we still have a few. If you are interested in a free copy of this book, please let us know.

The sermon series was quite impactful for where we find ourselves in the world currently.

Citrus Savers Fruit Collection and Distribution

On February 24th, we had 15 people show up to help pick fruit from various locations from trees around the area.

The volunteers met at the Monday Club and fanned out in various map directions. Over 50 bags of various types of fruits were collected. That's a lot of citrus!

We were able to share our bounty with several organizations, including the Salvation Army North State, and members of local churches.

My wife's school, Palermo K-8, received some of the donations, where the kids learned how to juice fruits and vegetables, which really got them interested in the process.

Helen Mendenhall Organ Concert

On March 10th at 3pm, we sponsored the Helen Mendenhall Organ Concert at FCCO with our magnificent organ, described by some as the true gold of Oroville.

She put on a wonderful show which awed all in attendance, of which there were around 50 people. She played a good mix of classical and praise music.

Good Friday Service

Good Friday Service was held at FCCO, and we had four guest preachers. It's always great to meet other church members at these services and hear from people we don't normally hear from. The four preachers spoke for about 30-minutes each and members of the public could come and go as they pleased.

The following guest preachers spoke:

Rev Bonnie Paxton from Jordan Crossing Ministries

Rev Steven Brownell from Oroville Seventh Day Adventist Church

Rev Bill Rontani from St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Rev Robert Morton from OroVista Baptist Church

Teacher of the Year Award

Pastor Andrew submitted a teacher of the year award to the First United Methodist Church for Alise Kubecki for her over-and above efforts for her school and students. On April 10, 2024,

Alise was notified that she has been awarded the Ross-Harmon Educator of the Year for Palermo Union School District. Keep up the great work, Alise!



Donations

We have an online option for your offerings and donations! It's incredibly easy and safe. Check it out at FCCOroville.org. If you have any questions, please call John Zenor at (530) 521-8177, or, please mail your contribution to: FCCO, 1715 Bird St., Oroville, CA 95965.

If anyone is interested in taking over the Missionary Chair position, please contact Pastor Andrew.

Services

Our live worship service on Sundays begins at 11:00am, with fellowship in the social hall beginning at 12:00 noon. Join us in person if you can.

For those who cannot join us in-person, online ministries will be available as an alternative for those who prefer to stay at home. People can participate either by Zoom or Facebook live. Facebook link: <http://www.facebook.com/fccoroville>.

Bible Study is held in person every Wednesday at 11:00am in the Church, and can be found using the info above, live on Zoom or on www.facebook.com/fccoroville. It will remain on our website for future viewing.

If you have any questions, or need help accessing any of these online events, please don't hesitate to call Pastor Andrew McHenry, 530-360-6030.

Pastor McHenry's Blog:

Check out Pastor Andrew's blog at <http://www.pastormchenry.weebly.com>

Pastor McHenry's People News – April 11, 2024

We had a good memorial service for **Bea Grant** on Thursday, January 25th, out at the Memorial Park Cemetery. We also interred Bea's oldest son, **Willie Grant**, after the service. He died back in 2009. I got to meet all of **Fred Grant**'s remaining siblings. Several of them spoke, including Fred. Of course we're grateful for him and all his family.

Back on February 1st I traveled down into the Sacramento area and paid a visit to a couple of friends: **Rudy Brabanec** (in Carmichael) and **Shirley Quackenbush** (in Rancho Cordova). I enjoyed seeing both of them. Rudy was adjusting to his new location. Shirley really likes being near her family. The community she lives in has lots of activities - from card playing to jazz bands and all kinds of things. I miss seeing both of them in church, but it's good to know that they're in good places.

February 24th was a busy Saturday. Around 15 of us gathered at the Monday Club for our Citrus Savers work day. We dispersed out into the community, and before noon we had accumulated over 50 bags chock full of lemons, oranges, and grapefruits. Donations were then given over the next several weeks to the local Salvation Army, the North State Food Bank, the Hope Center, and the Kingdom Table. These are all good organizations that help feed people in need. Special thanks to **Dean Gurr, Bryan Flicker**, and all the folks from the Rotary Club who helped us out. The project room at the Congregational church smelled all lemony fresh, and it was good food for a good cause.

On March 16th somewhere around 20-30 of us gathered at the Riverbend Park for the annual Cooperating Christian Churches of Oroville (CCCO) hunger walk. **Vicki Silva** later emailed us to report that we raised over \$1,000 - which makes for an impressive effort. This year's walk evolved in stages: There was a first bunch of folks from the Kingdom Table ministry and the Oroville Rescue Mission. They left early, and were just coming back right as **Hillary** and I were taking off. In total I counted five churches and two parachurch ministries represented in the bunch. Along the way I got to have a good chat with **Captain Helden Ainos** of the Salvation Army. He was attending with two of his sons.

Easter Sunday was quite a day! **Lynda Uptegrove**'s egg hunt idea really went well. Word got out, lots of kids came, and they were engaged enthusiastically. Also... **Chuck Tracy** was formally received into the membership of the church. We're so glad to have him on board. And... **Luther Allen** sang with the church music team! They sounded wonderful. It's a blessed thing when we can make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Thanks to everyone who made it out to **Richard Warmack**'s memorial service on April 5th. There were lots of great memories shared from family and others who knew him. It was also the first memorial service I've ever done at a winery! It was a good experience. The folks from the Grey Fox Winery did a great job of hosting the event - which was probably a first for them as well. One special thing I enjoyed: Several of Richard's family members came dressed in suspenders and flannel shirts -- right in the pattern of Richard's style. He was remembered as a great father, a thinker, and a teacher, as well as a World War II veteran and a community leader.

First Congregational Church is blessed to have **Sylvia Lee** as our new person for contracted custodial help. She's doing a great job and is off to a good start. Special thanks to **Bridget**

Magliocca for taking the lead and helping to arrange things. Also, we're blessed now to have **Paul Alvarez** helping us by clearing trash off church grounds. It's a big help! Everything looks a lot better. I appreciate the church trustees for taking initiative on these things.

Our church family extends our condolences to all who remember and love **Marilyn Goodman**, who went home to be with the Lord recently. Long-time church members will remember her and her husband **Gil**, who passed on several years back. In recent years Marilyn been at Country Crest. I would usually stop in to see her after the chapel services there – going down the hall to the memory care unit. She always greeted me with enthusiasm. We're thankful for her, much as we believe in the resurrection.