



April 2025
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.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Our annual Congregational meeting will be held after service on May 18, 2025. Please attend as we will be discussing and voting on church officers. If anyone is interested in serving as an officer, or on the nomination committee for officers, please let Pastor Andrew, Bill Kubecki or Kay Castro know.

Quarterly Fundraiser

Ivories and Strings, featuring John Paris and Dr. Ayke Agus, a world renowned violinist, was held on March 1, 2025 at FCC Oroville, 1715 Bird Street. We raised over \$600, and split it between the musician, our church and the Kingdom Table. Peggy Brollier brought several of her members with her to show her support.

Our third quarterly fundraiser with John Paris, Ayke Agus and Glenn Dawson, ***Jazzy Concerto #3***, will be held on June 1, 2025 at 4pm at First Congregational Church, 1715 Bird St, Oroville. Our recipient organization for this concert will be the AAUW, which Jeannie Maes is dedicated to. Seating is limited and the suggested donation will be \$15 per person.

Please attend and support this event with us. If you aren't able to attend and still desire to donate, please go to our Facebook page and donate your desired amount, and let one of the church officers know and we'll make sure the money goes where it's intended. I will Livestream this event on Facebook.

Annex Rental

Jordan Crossing rental of the annex is going very well. They had a grand opening of their youth center a few weeks ago. My wife and I attended, as did Pastor Andrew. It was refreshing to see so many young people celebrating and communing in a church environment (See photos). The food was also great.



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.

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 most every Wednesday at 2:00pm at Trinity Presbyterian 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 Notes

We're almost to the end of March. March is one of those months this year where there are five Sundays. (The others are June, August, and November.) As usual, we will be worshipping and looking into the word of God together. The normal schedule is...

- + 9:30 a.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2350 Foothill Blvd. in Oroville;
- + 11:00 a.m. at First Congregational Church, 1715 Bird Street in Oroville;
- + 2:00 p.m. at Sycamore Glen, up in Chico at 1199 Diablo Ave., in the 2nd floor chapel/theater room.

Every Sunday there's also a 4:00 p.m. chapel service at Country Crest, in the three-story building at 55 Concordia Lane. There are several of us pastors who take turns leading it. This week it will be Winifred Drymon, one of the pastors at Jordan Crossing Ministries. She's joining the rotation to lead worship on the fifth Sundays of each month through this year. We're certainly glad to have her on board.

The routine at both churches is to have food and fellowship right after the morning services, in both locations.

--> At First Congregational Church, we'll be having our usual potluck. Also, let us know if you have ideas for "themes" for these lunches in the future. Lynda Upthegrove has in mind to do a potato bar, like was done at the Presbyterian church a couple weeks back.

At both churches I've been encouraging the current Lenten book that we're reading: "In the Presence of My Enemies" by Gracia Burnham. There are still a few copies available. If it works like last year, most of the remaining ones will be given out on Good Friday, when First Congregational Church hosts the annual community Good Friday service. For the last few years there has been a good turnout, thanks in part to the wide variety of pastors and churches that have been participating.

There are a few prayer needs to keep in mind:

--> On the regional level, a law enforcement officer was shot and killed in the line of duty down in Marysville. The assailant was also killed. Let's keep that whole situation in our prayers.

--> On the global level, the southeastern Asian nation of Myanmar (formerly Burma) had a massive earthquake a couple days ago. Tens of thousands of people are dead. I've seen communications from a Congregational pastor I've met before over there; he's reported that power has gone out for the whole country. So they certainly could use our prayers - and maybe we can look for creative ways to respond.

On a more positive note: I had a good conversation with Tiffany Nicely Holleck the other day; she's the Pastor of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Yuba City - and she serves on the North Central California Presbytery's Mission Support Commission. We're looking into a grant from them to help our summer Vacation Bible School ministries - done as a collective effort with some other local churches. This could help us out a lot if we can get the details in place enough before the deadline.

Here's the plans for both churches going into April...

+ March 31st (Monday) - Sandy will be back in the office at First Congregational Church. We appreciate Vivian Johnson (from Trinity) for filling in with the church bulletins while Sandy was out.

+ April 2nd (Wednesday) - 2:00 p.m. Bible study at Trinity; this will be the fourth of five studies on scriptures that relate to what we're learning from "In the Presence of My Enemies."

+ April 6th (5th Sunday of Lent) - The Lord's Supper will be observed in all the locations; that's our routine for the first Sunday of each month.

+ April 7th (Monday) - 6:00 PM - Oroville Rescue Mission chapel service. Feel free to join us. Also, I'll be delivering our food donations. Feel free to clear your shelves of anything you don't need and leave them at either church.

+ April 8th (Tuesday)

--> 12:00 p.m. The Cooperating Christian Churches of Oroville meets at First Congregational Church.

--> 4:00 p.m. The Worship & Music team meets at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

+ April 13th (Palm Sunday) - We'll have worship with palms & hosannas in all the locations. Also, it's my turn to lead the Country Crest chapel at 4:00 p.m. I try to stop by and visit with Lew & Marian Seidlitz when I'm there. It's always good to see them - and I like to say hello for everybody.

+ April 14th (Monday) - 10:00 a.m. Trustees meet at First Congregational Church: The regular meeting time is on the second Monday of each month, until further notice.

+ April 15th (Tuesday) - 10:30 a.m. Deacons meet at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

+ April 17th (Maundy Thursday) - 5:30 p.m. Service at Trinity Presbyterian Church; everyone is welcome. We'll have a soup & bread dinner, followed by a song, the word, and the Lord's Supper.

+ April 18th (Good Friday) - 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Worship at First Congregational Church, sponsored by the CCCO. It goes in half-hour increments so folks to come & go as they are able. Featured preachers will be...

--> Chaplain Kris Widmer of Oroville Hospital, a local Adventist clergyman;

--> Pastor Ed Hall of Wynn Memorial Church of God in Christ;

--> Pastor Darlene Franks of OroNaz Church (a.k.a. the Church of the Nazarene);

--> Pastor Mike Bryan of Oroville Christian Church, from up in Thermalito.

+ April 20th (Easter Sunday) - Jesus is risen! It's going to be a busy day...

--> 6:30 a.m. Community sunrise service at Memorial Park Cemetery, sponsored by the Greater Oroville Partnership of Pastors

--> 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary worship at First Congregational Church. Lynda Upthegrove will accompany the service. Also --> bring in your trinkets & treasures for the Easter Egg Hunt. Last year we had a good response to this. An Easter lunch will follow in the social hall. It's a potluck, as always.

--> 2:00 p.m. Easter worship at Sycamore Glen - in the chapel/theater room on 2nd floor, as usual.

+ April 21st (Easter Monday) - 10:00 a.m. Council/Diaconate meeting at First Congregational Church. This is the quarterly, chief governing group for the church, in between the routine congregational meetings. Christ is the head, and we are the body.

+ April 23rd (Wednesday) - 2:00 p.m. A new Bible study begins: "Jesus and the Jewish Festivals" (part 1 of 5) - led by Dr. Stan Henderson. Classes will continue through most of May.

+ April 27th (2nd Sunday of Eastertide) - Ruthie Holland (who is the normal accompanist for the Sycamore Glen chapel ministry) will be helping out with all three ministries this Sunday. She'll be singing with the music team at Trinity; special thanks go out to Greg Coates for offering to help her get to Oroville. Then she'll be accompanying both services at First Congregational Church and at Sycamore Glen. So it will be a busy day for her, but we're grateful for all her help - praise the Lord!

+ April 28th (Monday) - I will be out of town for this week, attending the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) Ministers' Convocation in Racine, Wisconsin. I plan to be back by Thursday night.

A thought to share for this week comes from the Catholic priest Fulton J. Sheen...

"If all mankind needed was a teacher, man would long ago have been holy, for he has had teachers from the Indian sages up to this very hour. But it takes more than the spirit of man to make a man holy, or to know the truth; it requires the Spirit of Truth. Human truths can be known only by living them and Divine truths can be lived only by living in the Spirit."