Open House

First Congregational Church of Fresno
The Big Red Church
September 9, 2018
A warm welcome is extended to all, especially those who are worshiping at First Congregational Church of Fresno for the first time or who have returned after an absence. Your presence both enriches us and enhances this time of celebration together.

(*Congregation may stand | Responses: Liturgist/Congregation/all)

Our Gathering

Prelude

"Praeludium in C" - D. Buxtehude      Scott Horton, organ

Welcome, Direction And Announcements

Please sign and share the red registration pads found on the inside center aisle of each pew.

* Call to Worship

One: Friends in Christ, come apart from the chaos for a while, and linger in the presence of God who is our source of life.

Many: God calls us to renew ourselves, and to find our life’s purpose.

One: The One who has made us would not have us journey alone. We gather as a sacred community of love, together on the quest to know God’s hope for our lives and for this church.

Many: May we truly seek to live more faithfully as Christ’s family, listening for the voice of God in our midst.

* Hymn

"We Worship You, God"      #26, pew hymnal

* Opening Prayer

We come to you, O God of wonder, because you first came to us. We seek once more to experience your truth, to receive your blessing, to ascend above the limitations we have known. Draw us back into the wonder of searching for a deeper connection with you. In our worship and in that searching, may we come to better know ourselves as we truly are, and as you would want us to be. Amen.

* The Peace

To your pew neighbors, say "The Peace of Christ be with you". Respond with “And also with you.”
*Gloria Patri
Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Choral Anthem
"From the Rising to the Setting of the Sun"
Boersma/Lantz

Chancel Choir

God is Still Speaking

A Time for Discovery:
Children are invited to come up to the Chancel steps

Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still;
let this be our song — no one stands alone,
standing side by side. Draw the circle wide.
(Sing twice)

*Hymn
"Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior"

Sermon Text:
James 2:1-17
Mark 7:24-37

Sermon
Open House
A moment of reflective silence

Rev. Raygan Baker

The Beloved Community

Commissioning the Nominating Committee
Rich Hoyt, Chairperson
Char Lund
Hank Delcore

Robbyn Mosley
Church Council Vice Moderator

The Sharing Of Our Prayer Requests

The Sharing Of Our Prayer Requests
Sung Call To Prayer
Lord, listen to your children praying:
Lord send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying:
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Prayers Of Joy And Concern concluding with The Lord’s Prayer
Invocation To Offering
Liturgist: Paul Martzen
Offertory
"A Classic Alleluia" - Cherubini, arr. Moore
Chancel Choir

*Doxology*
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host;

*Prayer of Dedication*

*Hymn*
"Sent Forth by God’s Blessing"
#76, pew hymnal

*Blessing*

*Sung Benediction* (We turn toward the center aisle and each other as a sign of mutual blessing.)
Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of ev’ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;
know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world will see
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

Postlude
"Hymn to Joy" - J. Cotter
Scott Horton, piano

Everyone is invited to share in refreshment and conversation in Fellowship Hall following this morning’s service.

Assisting in Today’s Worship
Ushers: Andrew Zaninovich, Mike Gostanian, Kymberly Lindsey
Liturgist: Paul Martzen
Chancel Design: Jason Freeman
Hospitality: The Ministries of First Congregational Church
Welcome table: Linda Halk
Cover Art: Kim Williams

First Congregational Church Board of Directors
Moderator
Scott Baucher sbaucher3@gmail.com
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Worship
Bill May
Church Life
Paula Roberts

Outreach
Judy Oftedal facebook.com/TheBigRedChurchOfFresno @bigredchurch559

Resources
Jason Freeman @bigredchurch

Attendance
September
Week 1
2017: 113
2018: 116

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
About First Congregational Church of Fresno

**MISSION STATEMENT**

God calls the church into being.

In response, we love God and each other.

- We provide a place in a changing world where the constancy of God’s love and compassion is known through the example of Jesus Christ.
- We celebrate our life together through ministries of prayer and worship, music and education, stewardship and outreach.
- We share the stories of our faith and spiritual journeys.
- We connect with the mysteries of God's grace, the miracle of restorative faith, and the power of ritual and myth.
- We live with compassion for all God’s creation.
- We dispel isolation and alienation, witnessing to the joy of an open and affirming Christian life.

Strengthened and transformed by our faith, we go out into the wider community offering the message of hope and reconciliation to all people.

**OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT**

We believe that all people are sacred creations of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion, and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, and physical and mental ability, race, age, and gender.

As Christians, we experience God’s reconciling love.

In response, we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation, and alienation.

We welcome all people to participate fully in our church’s life and ministry.

We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us in ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.
First Congregational Church of Fresno
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, CA 93704 | (559) 227-8489

Office Hours: Monday – Friday
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Church Staff

Pastor
Rev. Raygan Baker
rbaker@bigredchurch.org

Caretaker
Pat Morales
Patmorales40@gmail.com

Music Director/Organist
Scott Horton
shtulare@gmail.com

Superintendent of Facilities and Grounds
Sarkis Kglyan

Director of Facilities, Technology, and Communication
Kim Williams
Office@bigredchurch.org

Accountant
Penny Leas Peterson

Support Staff

Interim Coordinator of Caring Ministries
Gayle Thornton

Coordinator of Nursery
Patsy Finster
patsyfinster26@comcast.net

Covenanted Minister to Hinds Hospice
Rev. Stephanie Doss
Grief Counselor
sdoss@hindshospice.org

Nursery Personnel
Zorayda Darce
Cassie Mytton
Chelsee Armsworthy
Andrew Fennacy

Coordinator of Youth & Children’s Ministries
Scott Hancock
Scott.bigredchurch@gmail.com

Nursery Assistant
Miranda Deis
This Week at the Big Red Church

Sunday, September 9
Homecoming Sunday!
Bible Study
Worship
Fireside Room
Sanctuary
8:30 am
10:00 am

Monday, September 10
Movers and Shakers Yoga
Room 1
5:00 pm

Tuesday, September 11
Ministry of Church Life Meeting
Parlor
6:00 pm

Wednesday, September 12
Ooooby
Living Through Transitions
Movers and Shakers Yoga
Niners
Choir Practice
Grapevine Newsletter Submissions Due
Fellowship Hall
Fireside Room
Room 1
Parlor
Sanctuary
3:00–6:00 pm
4:00 pm
5:00 pm
7:00 pm
7:00 pm

Thursday, September 13
Ministry of Resources Meeting
Parlor
5:30 pm

Saturday, September 15
Big Red Men's Group
Parlor
9:00 am

Sunday, September 16
Bible Study
Worship
Pantry Meeting
Ministry of Worship
Fireside Room
Sanctuary
Parlor
Music Room
8:30 am
10:00 am
11:45 am
11:45 am
Our 18th Annual Christmas visit to Naomi's House will be upon us in no time, and we are asking for the following items which we will be collecting until we assemble the gifts on Dec 23rd.

- Soap
- Tissues
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Lotion
- Socks
- Mittens
- Scarves
- Beanies

Place them in the red bin in the Fellowship Hall or take them to the office. Even the smallest of donations is huge help to a woman in need.

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**RSVP**

**CHERYL GARDNER**

FRESNOMULTIFATHEXCHANGE@GMAIL.ORG

559-312-7866

2nd Annual
"Dinner under the Sukkah" with Fresno's Multi-Faith Exchange and Temple Beth Israel

Thursday
Sept. 27th
6622 N Maroa Ave
5:30 p.m. arrival.
Dinner at 6.
Good food and great entertainment!

Come mix, mingle and meet clergy, community and education leaders as we celebrate the cultural, spiritual and religious communities of the Fresno area.
First Congregational Church of Fresno presents

10th Annual
Keyboard Chamber Concert

Join Us For An Afternoon of Music featuring Masterworks for Piano and for Pipe Organ

Sunday, September 23, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

A free will offering will be collected to benefit the First Congregational Church Casavant Pipe Organ Fund.

First Congregational Church of Fresno
2131 N. Van Ness Blvd. (South of Clinton)
For more information call 227-8489

Poverello Sunday Distribution Drive
Once a month, members of the Outreach committee visit the homeless encampments. We are having a drive to collect the following items through December to give to them:

• Blankets (New or gently used)
• Pillows (New or gently used bed and throw pillows)
• Sleeping Bags (New or gently used)

Your donations are greatly appreciated by people who have next to nothing. Place your donations in the red bin in the Fellowship Hall or take them to the office. Thank you!

Meet With Rev. Raygan Baker

Sign up to meet with Pastor Raygan by visiting

If none of the open spots work for your schedule, find a time that will work by emailing Raygan at rbaker@bigredchurch.org, or call him at the Church Office at 559.227.8489.
We Worship You, God

Ps. 104:2–6, 10–13

Robert Grant, 1833; alt.

1 We worship you, God; your power and your love
2 We tell of your might, we sing of your grace,
3 The earth, with its store of wonders untold,
4 Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
5 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,

are blazoned abroad, around, and above:
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
Almighty, your power has founded of old,
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;

Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Your chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form,
Established it fast by a changeless decree,
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,

pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.
and broad is your path on the wings of the storm.
and round it you cast, like a mantle, the sea.
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

Born in Bengal, India, Robert Grant became a lawyer
in England, a member of Parliament, and for the last
four years of his life was governor of Bombay. This text
was inspired by William Keethe's paraphrase of Psalm 104.

Tune: LYONS 10.10.11.11.
Attrib. to J. Michael Haydn (1737–1806)
Alternate tune: HANOVER
Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Luke 18:35-43

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry;
Let me at your throne of mercy find a sweet relief;
Trust ing only in your merit, would I seek your face;
Be the Spring of all my comfort, more than life to me;

While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.
Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief.
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by your grace.
Not just here on earth beside me, but eternally.

Refrain

Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;

While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.

Fanny Crosby was already a successful writer when she became associated with gospel hymnists Sankey, Sweney, Root, and others. She directed her talent to gospel songs in her early forties, and collaborated with William Doane on many hymns.

Tune: PASS ME NOT 8.5.8.5. with refrain
William H. Doane (1832–1915)
1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the
   tasks of our everyday life we will face. Our faith ever
   people of God from this dwelling take leave. The service is
   sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children of

2. With praise and thanks-giving to God ever living, the
   tasks of our everyday life we will face. Our faith ever
   ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in
   sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children of

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Omer Westendorf, author of numerous hymns, compiler of several hymnals, and founder of World Library Publications, included this hymn in People's Mass Book, 1964, the first vernacular Roman Catholic hymn and service book to implement the decrees of Vatican II.

Tune: THE ASH GROVE  6.6.11.6.6.11.D.  
Welsh folk melody

Harm. Leland Sateren, 1972

Descant, The New Century Hymnal, 1993
each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with all who believe. The seed of the teaching, each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with
your light now lead us, unite us as one in this receptive hearts reaching, shall blossom in action for your light now lead us, unite us as one in this
life that we share. Then may all the living with praise and thanks-God and for all. God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for God's realm and to answer the call.
giving give honor to Christ and that name which we bear. giving give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.