



Who's This?

First Congregational Church of Fresno

The Big Red Church

September 16, 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 "Prelude and Fugue in D minor" - J.S. Bach Scott Horton,
organ
"Praise Him! Praise Him!" - arr. Burroughs Handbells

Welcome, Direction And Announcements

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

* Call to Worship

Liturgist: MaryJane Skjellerup

One: Long ago, God called our ancestors in faith to a new land, a new way of life;

Many: God is calling us into a journey of faith.

One: Jesus called the disciples to carry their cross and to follow Him;

Many: Jesus is calling us into the fullness of life, to live into God's intention.

One: The Spirit called the early church to live deeply into the life of God;

Many: The Spirit is calling us to share our gifts for the glory of God.

One: Come, join in this journey of faith; live deeply into this life God has given you,

Many: And love one another as Christ has loved us. Amen.

* Hymn

"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"

#73, pew hymnal

* Opening Prayer

Holy Wisdom of God, you call to us from the depths of our hearts, where we long for connection with you and with one another. You call to us from busy streets and neighborhoods, where human pain and possibility are most urgent. You call to us from our sacred stories, to create, challenge,

and comfort. Guide us, we pray, on an adventure of hope, and help us see with your eyes the ways which lead to beloved community where Christ Jesus is at the center.

***The Peace**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Many: 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.
Amen. Amen.

Special Music

"Come, Thou Almighty King" - arr. McChesney

Handbells

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)

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***Hymn**

"Before Your Cross, O Jesus"

#191, pew hymnal

Sermon Text :

James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Find This on Pg. 981 in your Pew Bible
Find This on Pg. 820 in your Pew Bible

Sermon

Who's This?

Rev. Raygan Baker

A Moment of Reflective Silence

The Beloved Community

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.

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Prayers Of Joy And Concern concluding with The Lord's Prayer

Invitation To Offering

Liturgist: MaryJane Skjellerup

Offertory

"I Will Keep My Eyes on You" - C. Berry

Chancel Choir

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God, above, ye heavenly host;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist: MaryJane Skjellerup

*Hymn

"We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

#500, 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.
 Amen. Amen. Amen.

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It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

Postlude "Fugue in A minor" - J.S. Bach Scott Horton, organ

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

Assisting in Today's Worship

Ushers:.....Bruce Owdom, Nora Dewitt, Sue Karibian, Bob McParland
Liturgist:MaryJane Skjellerup
Chancel Design:Jason Freeman
Flowers:.....Emily Lawrence
Cover Art:Frank Saxton

First Congregational Church Board of Directors

Moderator Scott Baucher sbaucher3@gmail.com	Vice-Moderator Robbyn Mosley nyelsom@comcast.net	Chief Financial Officer Lester Leas lesterle@yahoo.com	Secretary Peter Wall peterwall@gmail.com
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First Congregational Church Ministry Leadership

Christian Education Catherine Cooper	Worship Bill May	Church Life Paula Roberts
Outreach Judy Oftedal	Resources Jason Freeman	

 facebook.com/
TheBigRedChurchOfFresno

 @bigredchurch559

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www.bigredchurch.org

Attendance
 September
 Week 2

2017: 137
 2018: 152

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

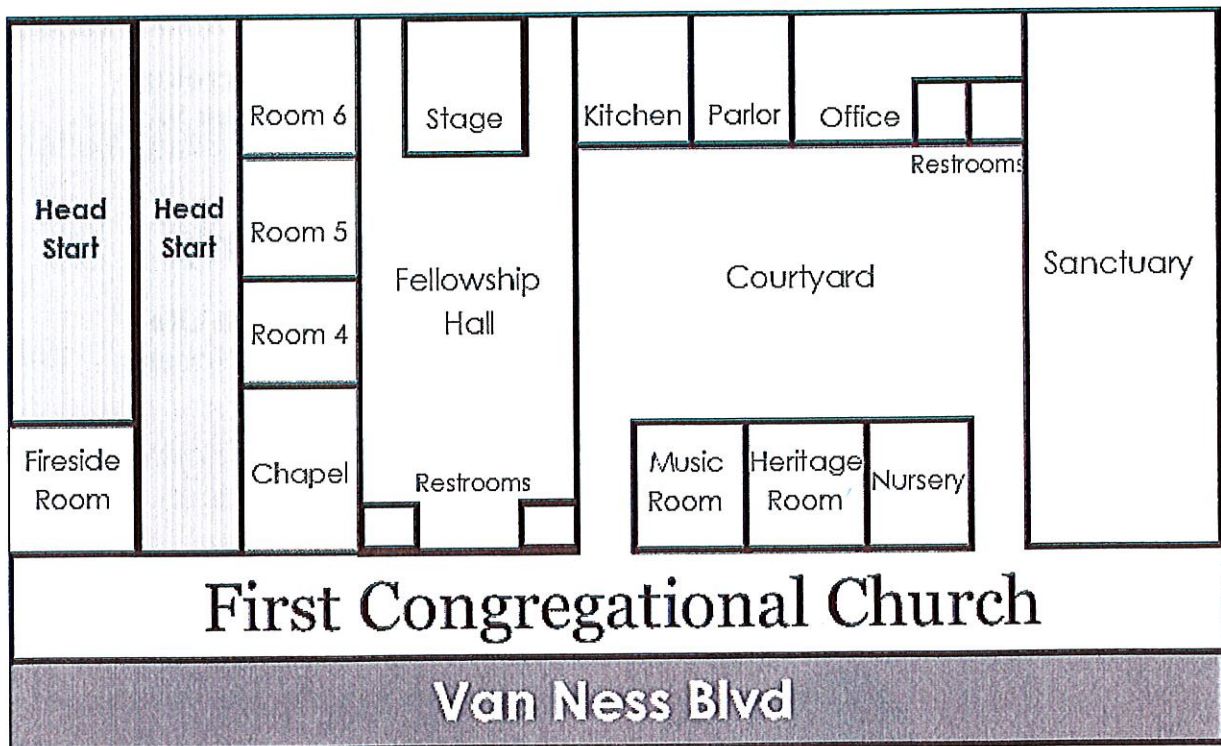
We believe that all people are sacred creations of a loving God. We affirm the diversity that exists among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ by extending his love, compassion, and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual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



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FRESNO
BIG RED CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

This Week at the Big Red Church

Sunday, September 16

Bible Study	Fireside Room	8:30 am
Worship	Sanctuary	10:00 am
Pantry Meeting	Parlor	11:45 am
Ministry of Worship	Music Room	11:45 am

Monday, September 17

Movers and Shakers Yoga	Room 1	5:00 pm
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Tuesday, September 18

Council Meeting	Parlor	6:00 pm
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Wednesday, September 19

Ooooby	Fellowship Hall	3:00-6:00 pm
Living Through Transitions	Fireside Room	4:00 pm
Movers and Shakers Yoga	Room 1	5:00 pm
Niners	Parlor	7:00 pm
Choir Practice	Sanctuary	7:00 pm

Sunday, September 23

Bible Study	Fireside Room	8:30 am
Worship	Sanctuary	10:00 am
CROP Walk Kick Off Luncheon	Fellowship Hall	11:30 am
Visitation Team Meeting	Parlor	11:30 am
Chamber Concert	Sanctuary	3:00 pm

The Big Red Church
FOODIES GROUP

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th

Welcome to

FASIKA

ETHIOPIAN/KENYAN RESTAURANT



The Meaning of Fasika

Fasika (resurrection) is the feast of feasts in Ethiopia and is celebrated with special solemnity. It is also used to describe the happiness Ethiopians feel for Christ resurrecting from the grave.



6:00 PM

SAMBUSA - Vegetarian & Meat

CHICKEN, BEEF & LAMB ENTRÉE Doro Wat, Siga Kay Wat

FISH ENTRÉE - Fish Wat (spicy)

FULL KENYA MENU - Kebabs & Salads

VEGETARIAN & VEGAN

RSVP CHERYL GARDNER

FRESNOMULTIFAITHEXCHANGE@GMAIL.ORG

559-312-7866

Thursday

Sept. 27th

6622 N Maroa

Ave

5:30 p.m. arrival.

Dinner at 6.

Good food and
great entertainment!

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

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

Sp Adobe Spark

Naomi's House

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

A background image of a musical score with various notes and staves, some of which are highlighted in dark blue and red.

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!

Light Snacks Today

Our luncheons after church are a time of joy, fellowship, and connecting with our community--however--this Sunday, September 16th we will be connecting over cookies and coffee rather than a full meal due to work being done in the kitchen this week.

We thank you for your understanding and we will be back on track with the kitchen for the CROP Walk Kick Off luncheon on September 23.

Believers Church Lectures presents

BRIDGING THE RACIAL DIVIDE

CHRISTENA CLEVELAND, Ph.D.

Monday, September 24, 2018

10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. | Butler Church
FREE LECTURES

10:00-11:00 a.m. | Spirituality: Racial Reconciliation

Cleveland explores how the Spirit empowers peacemaking.
Free Eventbrite ticket required for this event only.

1:00-3:00 p.m. | Ministry Forum

**"Pathways for a Healed and Healing Church:
Reaching Across the Racial Divide"**

Cleveland offers church leaders tools to reach
across the racial divide to promote church
vitality and social justice.

6:30-8:30 p.m. | Missiology Forum

**"The Church's Mission: Faith, Justice
and Reconciliation"**

Cleveland proclaims God's call to racial
reconciliation and peace in the church
and the world.



Biblical Seminary

Tickets

christena-cleveland.eventbrite.com

*12:00 p.m. optional informal lunch

Advance reservation only (\$12)

Deadline September 20

Christena Cleveland, Ph.D., is a social psychologist, public theologian, author and professor. She is an associate professor of the practice of organizational studies at Duke University's Divinity School and the author of *Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart*.



SPAGHETTI FEED

— WITH —

CAKE WALK

October 6th

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

\$5 per person • \$20 max per family

**SPAGHETTI • MEATBALLS • SALAD
GARLIC BREAD • DESSERT**

**First Congregational Church of Fresno
2131 N Van Ness Boulevard
(Between Clinton and McKinley)**

PRESENTED BY THE MINISTRY OF CHURCH LIFE



Shu Ye - su no mi - chi o su - su - mi - yu - kan.
 Je - sus, Sav - ior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.
 Je - sus, Teach - er, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.
 Je - sus, Heal - er, bring your balm, for you are the Life.
 Je - sus, Lead - er, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.

This hymn was composed for the fourteenth World Council of Christian Education, 1958. Tokuo Yamaguchi has served many Japanese parishes and since 1979 has been pastor emeritus of Toyohashi Church, Aichi Prefecture. His translation of The Journal of John Wesley won official commendation.

Tune: TOKYO 7.5.7.5.D.
 Japanese gagaku mode
 Arr. Isao Koizumi, 1958

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

73

Louise Ruspini; alt.

Ps. 100

Unison C FM7 C C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C

1 En - ter, re - joi - ce, and come in. En - ter, re - joi - ce, and come in.
 2 O - pen your - self to the song. O - pen your - self to the song.
 3 O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one. O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one.
 4 Don't be a - fraid of some change. Don't be a - fraid of some change.
 5 En - ter, re - joi - ce, and come in. En - ter, re - joi - ce, and come in.

C7 FM7 Dm7 G7 C F Em7 A7 Dm7sus4 Dm7 G7 C

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en - ter, re - joi - ce, and come in.

This song, based on Psalm 100, became popular in the 1970s in the United States. It works equally well with organ, piano, or guitar accompaniment.

Tune: ENTER, REJOICE 7.7.8.7.
 Louise Ruspini
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

Before Your Cross, O Jesus

191

Ferdinand Q. Blanchard, 1929; alt.

Mark 8:34; Gal. 6:14; Phil. 1:27; 3:7-10

- 1 Be-fore your cross, O Je-sus,
our lives are judged to-day;
the mean-ing of our ea-ger strife
is test-ed by your way.
A-cross our rest-less liv-ing
the light streams from your cross,
and by its clear, re-veal-ing beams
we mea-sure gain and loss.
- 2 The hopes that lead us on-ward,
the fears that hold us back,
our will to dare great things for God,
the cour-age that we lack,
The faith we keep in good-ness,
our love, as low or pure,
on all, the judg-ment of the cross
falls stead-y, clear, and sure.
- 3 Yet hum-bly, in our striv-ing,
we rise to face its test.
We crave the power to do your will
as once you did it best.
On us let now the heal-ing
of your great Spir-it fall,
and make us brave and full of joy
to an-swer to your call.

Ferdinand Q. Blanchard, moderator of the General Council of Congregational Churches (1942-1944), was active in missions and was a leading advocate of educational opportunity for African-Americans. This hymn was written for Euclid Avenue Congregational Church in Cleveland, Ohio, which he served for forty years.

Tune: ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6.
Frederick C. Maker, 1881

When Jesus Wept

192

William Billings, 1770

John 11:35

1 When Je - sus wept, the fall - ing tear in mer - cy
flowed be - yond all bound; When Je - sus groaned, a
trem - bling fear seized all the guilt - y world a - round.

William Billings served as choir leader at Old South Church (Congregational) in Boston. A self-taught singing-school teacher and composer, he also worked as a tanner. "When Jesus Wept" is especially beautiful when sung as a canon, with groups entering as indicated by the numbers above.

Tune: WHEN JESUS WEPT L.M.
William Billings, 1770
New England Psalm Singer

500

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

Gen. 28:10-17

African-American spiritual

1 We are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der,
 2 Ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er, ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er,
 3 Rise, shine, give God glo-ry, rise, shine, give God glo-ry,

we are climb-ing Ja-cob's lad-der, bear-ers of the cross.
 ev-ery round goes high-er, high-er, bear-ers of the cross.
 rise, shine, give God glo-ry, bear-ers of the cross.

Like many spirituals, this one uses a story from the Hebrew scriptures as its starting point and the element of the ladder as a creative device to draw us into the narrative. In like manner, the following twentieth-century adaption of the song by Carole Etzler employs the story of Sarah, the matriarch of the Hebrew people, and extends the direction of the pilgrimage from the upward climb of the ladder to the outward embrace of a circle.

Tune: JACOB'S LADDER 8.8.8.5.
 African-American spiritual

501

We Are Dancing Sarah's Circle

Gen. 17:15-19; 18:9-15

Carole A. Etzler, 1975

- 1 We are danc-ing Sar-ah's cir-cle, . . . sis-ters, broth-ers, all.
- 2 Here we seek and find our sto-ry, . . . sis-ters, broth-ers, all.
- 3 We will all do our own nam-ing, . . . sis-ters, broth-ers, all.
- 4 Ev-ery round a gen-er-a-tion, . . . sis-ters, broth-ers, all.
- 5 On and on the cir-cle's mov-ing, . . . sis-ters, broth-ers, all.

Tune: JACOB'S LADDER 8.8.8.5.
 African-American spiritual