



THE SPIRE

Special Dates:

- **Kick Off Sunday**
September 9
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study Begins**
September 15
- **Visiting Peacemaker Monique Misenga Mukana**
September 15
- **Stephen Ministry Training Begins**
September 16
- **High School Phone-Free Friday**
September 20
- **Choir Retreat**
October 5
- **Women's Retreat**
October 11-13
- **Rise Against Hunger Event**
October 26

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*From the Pastor,
Rev. David G.
Watermulder*

Come Alive



There is a popular song on the radio these days by a Christian recording artist named Lauren Daigle called "Come Alive." Some of the lyrics to the song say,

*As we call out to dry bones,
come alive, come alive*

*We call out to dead hearts,
come alive, come alive*

*Up out of the ashes,
let us see an army rise*

*We call out to dry bones,
come alive*

This song clearly draws on the image of dry bones from the Prophet Ezekiel in the Old Testament of the Bible. The question that is asked in that story and by this song is "can these bones live?" Can things that seem to be dead or broken, sad or wounded, hopeless or off-track somehow come alive again?

As we begin this new program year at the church, we are introducing a year-long, churchwide theme called "Come Alive." The idea is that this could be a year for PCLG to

also come alive in a number of new ways. The invitation is for all areas of church life, various ministry groups and committees to talk and pray together about what would

really enliven us this year. We are expecting that a number of new ideas will emerge and that will challenge, strengthen and encourage us in our faith and life.

Each month throughout the year, we will preach on the "Come Alive" stories from scripture, and the Grove Groups will study those stories as well. I am so excited for our church to work, pray, learn, and serve in some new ways this year and I invite you to join in fully with all that is ahead.

We begin the Fall with our Kick-Off Sunday, which is September 8th. During worship we will ordain and install our new church officers, there will be a baptism and we will welcome new members into the church. After worship, there is a catered lunch by the Redwood Grove, as well as bounce houses for kids, and free shaved ice for all.

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

With so much excitement in the air for PCLG in these days, I want to encourage you to consider if there is a friend or family member who you would like to bring along for Kick-Off Sunday. It's an easy way to step into our church and to get a sense of what we're all about. I hope to see you there on that day!

In the pages of this newsletter you can read more about how PCLG is coming alive this year and the ways that you can connect. I will see you soon!

peace,

Pastor Dave



A photo of the PCLG staff at a recent gathering

Get to Know Others at



**Tables
of
Eight**

Our next session of Tables of Eight will run from October 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020. This is a great way to meet other members of the congregation.

Look for the sign-up table every Sunday in September (except 9/8) or contact Mary Jane Humphrey via email - maryjhumphrey@comcast.net.



A renowned women's rights advocate is coming from The Democratic Republic of The Congo to PCLG! You are all invited to a special program after the worship service on *Sunday, September 15*. **Monique Misenga Mukana** will share inspiring stories about her work to end violence against women, particularly sexual violence used as a weapon of war. She will also tell us about her efforts in the DRC to lift women and girls out of extreme poverty through education and income-generating projects.

Monique was selected as one of this year's Presbyterian Peacemakers, an international team that travels the world addressing issues of peace and justice. PCLG is fortunate to be included in her itinerary, and we hope that many of you will come to learn about and show support for her important work. Our program, "Empowering Women and Children," will be in the Social Hall starting at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and childcare will be provided.

Ephesians Bible Study



— WITH PASTOR JACK LONGLEY —

Explore Exciting Ephesians with Pastor Jack Longley! Are you: Wondering about your role in the church? Wanting to make changes in your life? Wishing for a deeper relationship with the Lord? If you answered yes to any of these questions, come to **Sunday Morning Bible Study** this fall, when Pastor Jack will lead us in an exploration of the Book of Ephesians. We'll learn about our own special roles in the church, which are based on our unique gifts from God. Classes will start *Sunday, September 15*, at 9 a.m. in the Fireside Room, and will continue every Sunday through November.. Please bring your Bible; the Adult Ed Committee will bring coffee and pastries.



Children's Ministry

COME ALIVE! You will hear this theme at PCLG throughout the coming year, and it may take on different meanings to you and our church. As we Kickoff in Sunday School and dive back into the Bible hear is an activity for you and your family.

"For the word of God is ALIVE and ACTIVE..." Hebrews 4:12

KIDS...How would you describe something that is alive? Draw pictures or talk about things in your house or around you that are alive.

FAMILY...What do you think it means to say "the Bible is alive?"

Some ideas:

- *The words continue to speak to people today*
- *The words you read teach you to honor God, treat other people, and how to live*

KIDS...Ask your parent(s) if they have a favorite Bible verse and why. Talk about a story that you learned about in Sunday School and see if you can find it together in your Bible.

PRAY...Thank God for the Bible. Tell God one thing the Bible has taught you. Ask for God's help in making the Bible come alive in the way you live your life, and the choices you make.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR FALL

9/1: All Church Worship

9/8: Kickoff Sunday

9/29: 3rd Grade Bible Sunday

10/6: All Church Worship

10/11-13: Women's Retreat

10/13: 4th & 5th Grade SUPER DUPER Dine Out

10/19: Parents Night Out 5:30-8:30PM

10/26: Rise Against Hunger food packing

ACOLYTE SIGN UPS

Acolytes will serve the 1st Sunday of the month, lighting the candles on the communion table. Email Lauren Froman if your child would like to serve.

JOYFUL VOICES

Joyful Voices Children's Choir will begin practices in September (practice times will be posted soon), and the choir will sing during worship sometime in October.

Lauren Froman
Director Children's Ministries
pclgl Lauren@gmail.com

QUESTIONS? NEED TO CONNECT?
Sharlene Thompson
Children's Ministries Coordinator
pclgsharlene@gmail.com



Youth News

Notable Youth Ministry Happenings

- 1. Phone Free Friday** - Once a month, we're hosting a phone free Friday night in the youth center and on campus at PCLG. We all know we need less screen time, it's easier when we do it together. High school students are invited to hang out in the youth center. Structure and outline is minimal, but we are putting the phones down and connecting in the old fashioned analogue style.
- 2. Monday YG on Holidays/three-day weekends** - A great chunk of people go away when there's a three-day weekend. Sometimes folks are home for youth group, sometimes not. Even though it means there will be homework due the next day, I'm trying to hold youth group on Mondays when there are three-day weekends. My family can get away too and the routine remains the same for families...get your homework done and show up.
- 3. Confirmation Class** beginning after worship on Sept. 15. We hold our confirmation class every other year for students in 9th grade and up. If your student is interested or you wonder what it might be like to be a mentor to a student, talk to Steve.
- 4. The Tribe returns...just a little.** A few times this year, our students will lead and host a worship service on the evening of the fifth Sunday. Middle School and High school students will spend an hour worshipping God and learning together.

Any questions, Contact Steve!

SEPTEMBER	
Sept. 8	10:15 a.m. – MSS (Middle School Sunday School) Noon – Church Picnic 5-6:30 p.m. – SNIFF 7:30-9:15 p.m. – HSYG (High School Youth Group)
Sept. 15	10:15 a.m. – MSS 11:30 a.m. – Confirmation 5-6:30 p.m. – SNIFF 7:30-9:15 p.m. – HSYG
Sept. 20	7-10 p.m. – Phone Free Friday (high school hangout in the youth center)
Sept. 22	10:15 a.m. – MSS 5-6:30 p.m. – SNIFF 7:30-9:15 p.m. – HSYG
Sept. 29	No MSS 5-6 p.m. – SNIFF 6 p.m. – All-Youth Dinner 6:30 p.m. – The Tribe Worship Service 7:45-9:15 p.m. – HSYG

OCTOBER	
Oct. 6	No MSS
Oct. 7	5-6:30 p.m. – Monday SNIFF (MNIFF) 7:30-9:15 p.m. – HSYG
Oct. 13	10:15 a.m. – MSS 5-6:30 p.m. – SNIFF 7:30-9:15 p.m. – HSYG
Oct. 20	10:15 a.m. – MSS 11:30 a.m. – Confirmation 5-6:30 p.m. – SNIFF 7:30-9:15 p.m. – HSYG
Oct. 25	7-10 p.m. – Phone Free Friday
Oct. 27	10:15 a.m. – MSS 5-6:30 p.m. – SNIFF 7:30-9:15 p.m. – HSYG



Music Notes



From the Music Director

What a fast summer. I hope you and yours were able to relax and play a bit.

The choir is looking forward to starting up for Sunday services at the kick-off Sunday, "Come Alive" series. On Sunday September 8th, the choir will sing Sacred Waters by Joseph Martin to go along with the baptisms taking place. Margaret Collar will join the choir on the flute.

Looking ahead, we have some wonderful music to look forward to, from Mendelssohn to Rutter, with brass and bells on various Sundays.

The choir will have its yearly retreat on Sunday, October 5th. The retreat gives us a chance to review some of the more challenging music in the coming weeks as well as focus on vocal technique, ensemble singing and of course, fellowship.

If you've been away, you may have noticed we have a new organist. Katherine Ou joined the music staff in August. We are looking forward to making music for worship with her.

Now that our new season is beginning, this might be a great opportunity to join one of our many musical groups.

Norita Hoegel is always looking for new singers and instrumentalists to bring contemporary music with the worship band.

Ruthanne Adams Martinez would also welcome new players for her bell choir. They rehearse on Tuesday evenings.

If you have ever thought about joining the choir, this would be a great time to try it out. When you sing, you pray twice.

We are very excited to get started. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me at Michael.taylor@pclg.org.

Blessings,

Michael Taylor, Music Director

Michael.taylor@pclg.org

PCLG Worship Band

The Worship Band invites all musicians to share their gifts in our Sunday morning worship service! Singers or instrumentalists including guitar, drums, bass, keyboard, ukulele, and strings are welcome! Rehearsals are Thursday evenings, 7-8 p.m.

Contact the Worship Band leader, Norita (Rita) Hoegel for more information: rita.hoegel@pclg.org

"Sing and Make Music in Your Hearts Unto the Lord!"

-Ephesians 5:19

Fanny and Felix: The Sibling Mendelssohns of Berlin

On my last Sunday as Associate Organist at PCLG, I played a piece for the postlude which is one of my favorites, and I received compliments and questions about it. The composer is Fanny Mendelssohn. That's right, not Felix Mendelssohn of "Fingal's Cave", "Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Elijah" fame. Fanny was Felix's older sister by 4 years, and the two were deeply devoted to each other, with the younger brother looking up to his sister for inspiration. Fanny may indeed have been Felix's greatest mentor, particularly in the area of musical accomplishment. However, the social order in which they were reared dictated that girls kept their artistic and professional pursuits in check, in deference to their male counterparts. While Fanny's family recognized her extraordinary gifts as a pianist and composer, she was told to keep her compositions to herself – her father Abraham and brother Felix in particular felt that she should not seek publication (somewhat selfishly, Felix published at the very least 6 of his sister's songs under his own name).



Fanny married a Prussian painter, Wilhelm Hensel, who tried to persuade Fanny to pursue publication of her compositions. But alas, she turned to her family for approval, which she did not receive. Finally, when she was 40 years of age, she took the good advice of her husband and got published. It was almost too late for her to enjoy public recognition, as Fanny died suddenly one year later during a rehearsal of one of her brother's works. Felix may have died of a broken heart, as his demise followed just six months later, after a series of strokes.

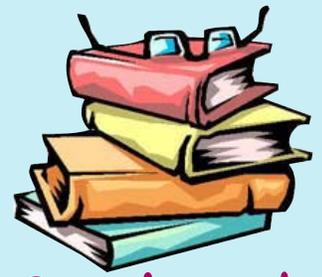
Another fascinating element of the Mendelssohns' story is that of religion. They were born Jewish but after a secular upbringing as young children, they were suddenly baptized Christian, amidst the pogroms in Germany at the start of the 19th century. At various points the family adopted the name "Bartholdy" (which was the name of a property Fanny and Felix's uncle had owned) in an attempt to survive politically and socially. There are many other interesting facets to these siblings' short but musically-fruitful lives, including their promotion of the then largely-forgotten works of J. S. Bach. I recommend reading any of the following to learn more:

Fanny Mendelssohn, by Françoise Tillard (pub. Amadeus Press, 1992)

Gentle Genius: The Story of Felix Mendelssohn, by George Richard Marek (Apollo Editions, 1975)

Wikipedia: Felix Mendelssohn; Wikipedia: Fanny Mendelssohn

-Margaret Kvamme, Organist Emerita



Bookends

PCLG's Book Club meets once a month, and new folks are always welcome!

In the breezeway on the west side of the Social Hall, there is a book cart. You are welcome to take a book or leave a book. We try to keep books that Bookends has read on it. Don't hesitate if you see a book that interests you. We have some voracious summer readers, so there're only a few books left. Like the old adage says: you snooze, you lose

Questions/info?
Contact Sue Hansen at

paigeturner007@hotmail.com.

September
Beneath a Scarlet Sky
by Mark Sullivan

October
Film: On the Basis of Sex
[Ruth Bader Ginsburg]

November
The 5 People You Meet
in Heaven
by Mitch Albom

December
In the Dark Streets Shinet
by David McCullough

January, 2020
Where the Crawdads
Sing
by Delia Owens

Hospitality of Friendship

PCLG Women's
Retreat
October 11-13, 2019

Friendship is a powerful way that God provides hospitality in our lives, which helps us to connect, grow and flourish. Our retreat is prayerfully planned to help you seek deeper connections to God and to one another with time for worship, learning, reflection, conversation and relaxation in the outdoors.

Our speaker, Annabel Leyva, program manager of Servant Partners, creatively and pastorally serves the needs of families in the Washington-Guadalupe neighborhood and the Mayfair neighborhood in San Jose, a community full of many undocumented, low-income neighbors. Annabel has a Master of Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. Annabel and Pastor Erica are friends who have shared life and ministry and they will share their stories to illuminate how God uses us to provide hospitality to each other.

We will gather for dinner on Friday night to begin our weekend and end with breakfast and worship on Sunday. Check in begins at 4 pm Friday night. We gladly welcome women who can join us only for Saturday.

For more information or to sign up, please visit pclg.org/womens-retreat or find a flyer in the church office.

Mission Minute



Rise Against Hunger! Mission Food-Packing Event

October 26, 9 a.m-noon.

Join us as we pack 15,000 meals with Rise Against Hunger. All you have to do is show up! The event leader will walk us through every step of the process. It is easy, fun, and helpful to those in need of nutritional food abroad! Sign up online at the link at pclg.org/signup. Questions? Contact Jeff Thompson (jeffsthompson7@gmail.com)

Grove Groups

Grove Groups will be starting again this fall with the theme of “Coming Alive in Christ.” Grove Groups are small groups set around people in similar age/stage of lives. We get to know new friends as we explore small chunks of scripture chosen by Pastor Dave and Pastor Erica to spark conversation. We talk about the verse, how it relates to our lives at this moment and how it can lead us to think about our life or faith in a different way. There are groups for everyone! They usually meet at a member’s house for about an hour of Bible study and then have a simple potluck meal together and are scheduled by each group. They’re a fun way to experience a small group and build some roots with PCLG members! If you are already in a Grove Group - look for a message in Sept from your group leader- if you are not in a group- it’s TIME to JOIN!

We are looking to start new groups and need some Leaders! No experience is necessary to LEAD or JOIN! If you are interested in leading or joining a group, please email grovegroups@pclg.org. Small Groups Elder, Essie Asher will get back with you shortly. You can also visit www.pclg.org/get-involved/bible-studysmall-groups/ for more information. The first Leadership meeting will be held at Pastor Dave’s home!! COME ALIVE!



stephen MINISTRY®

As we mentioned in the last issue of *The Spire*, PCLG is launching the Stephen Ministry as a new element of our Caring Ministries programs. The Stephen Ministry is based on the scriptural principle found in Galatians 6:20: “Bear one another’s burdens and thus fulfill the law of

Christ.” The Stephen Ministry provides on-going, one-on-one, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting and going through a difficult time in life.

We will be conducting a training program that consists of 50 hours of instruction for people who would like to explore the possibility of becoming a Stephen Minister. The training sessions will be held on Monday nights from 7:00pm until 9:30pm starting on September 16, 2019 and will run for 21 weeks. Although the training is designed primarily to train Stephen Ministers, it would benefit anyone who’d like to become a more loving and compassionate Christian person. The only requirement for attending the training is that people commit to fully participate in all training modules, including all reading assignments and homework.

For more information on the Stephen Ministry, visit the “About” tab on the PCLG website or contact Mark Bodnarczuk at Stephen.ministry@pclg.org.



news

Our 2019-2020 school year is off to a great start and we are fully enrolled! We are blessed to have the following staff to start our school year. I am so thankful for their commitment to the program!

Director - Cory Mullins

Admin Lead/Office Support - Leah Stilts

Staff Lead/Pre K Teacher - Meredith Shelly

Pre K Teacher - Rachel Esquibel

3 Yr. Old Teacher - Stacey Quon-Seaton

3 Yr. Old Teacher - Shannon Cole

Parent Lead/2 Yr. Old Teacher - Vanessa Chavira-Manrique

We will have a new addition to staff as well...A Staff Assistant that will support us in various areas on campus (Classroom, Recess, Nap Room, Substitute, Etc.)

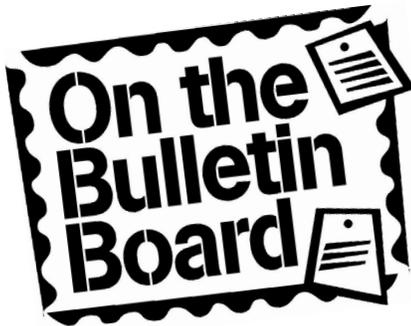
We are thankful for Nikki Hayden who continues to return to substitute periodically during the school year.

Please continue to pray for the PCLG early education outreach program. We appreciate your support.

Blessings,

Cory Mullins, Growing FootPrints Director

growingfootprints@yahoo.com.



Have a short note for the next issue of *The Spire*?

Submit your bulletin board items to carlo@pclg.org



If you are looking for a dog walker or sitter who loves dogs, I'm your person. Dogs love me and I'm sometimes called the "dog whisperer."

Whether you need assistance for the day, for the month, or regularly, I can help you out.

**Call Fariba Samin at
(408) 595-1183**

References available by request.

Bible Study Fellowship | BSF

BSF groups for women begin on Monday, September 9th at 7:00pm. Join us to study Acts & Letters of the Apostles: Acts, 1 Corinthians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, James, Hebrews, 1 Peter.

This study will capture the joys and sorrows in the lives of first generation Christians for 30 years after Jesus ascended to heaven. It describes the Holy Spirit's empowering of their intrepid mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the world.

The Bible Study Fellowship school program is available for ages 6-18 www.bsfindernational.org

PCLG at-a-Glance

WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

Adult Education	9 a.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary	10 a.m.
"God's Place" Sunday School	10:15 a.m.
Fellowship Time	11 a.m.

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Men's Bible Study	Wednesday	6:30 a.m.
Pastor's Bible Study	Wednesday	2:00 p.m.
Theology on Tap	1st Monday	8 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Friends, Food, Fellowship	2nd Saturday	6 p.m.
The Voyagers	3rd Saturday Fellowship & Service	
Buoys & Gulls	Various	Various
Mates	Various	Various
Happy Paint	Thursday	10:00 a.m.
Bookends	Various	Various
CoveKnit Group	Wednesday	7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Home AM Groups	3rd Thursday	9:30 a.m.
PCLG AM ("WoW") Group	Thursday	10 a.m.
PCLG Noon Group	2nd Thursday	12 p.m.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Los Cascabeles	Tuesday	6 p.m.
Chancel Brass	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
Worship Band	Thursday	7 p.m.
Chancel Choir	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Chancel Strings	Friday	7:30 p.m.
Joyful Voices	Sunday	11:30 a.m.
Youth Choir	Sunday	6:30 p.m.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Middle School SNIFF	Sunday	5 p.m.
High School YG	Sunday	7:30 p.m.

*Don't forget—
Deadline for the
October SPIRE
is 2:00 p.m. Tuesday,
September 24*



September Birthdays

1 David Graff	16 Alia Lubliner
2 Stephen Gilbert	Maritza Van der Merwe
Karyn Meadows	17 Ben Horn
3 Mason Keitel	Zain Iqbal
7 Choe Hickman	Zara Iqbal
8 Emily Barrett	18 Editha Avecilla
Abby Bergkamp	19 Alan Baker
9 Dana Parker	20 Holly Gentle
Kira Rohrer	21 Leslie Kennedy
11 Allie Hilliard	Carolyn Rosen
12 Ann Rowland	23 Drew Achabal
14 Jared Williams	Cameron Coates
15 Mark Isfeld	Diane Egli
16 Albert Cerussi	Norma France
Jacob Gamble	25 Pam Coppel



Anniversaries

2 Barbara & Dave Drotar	24 Sharlene & Alan Thompson
3 Alexis & Paul Hoekstra	25 Janette Barrios & Chris Heckler
4 Alan & Gloria Baker	26 Lydia Terrill & Colin Clancy
Howard & Patricia Davis	28 Bill & Joyce Strandberg
8 Colleen & Alan Hattman	
10 Al & Mardie Dailey	
Dennis & Lynn Johnsen	

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LOS GATOS

KICK OFF SUNDAY!

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

BOUNCE HOUSES! FELLOWSHIP!

LUNCH! NEW SERMON SERIES!

MORE!