



# THE SPIRE

## *Special Dates:*

- **Stewardship Pledge Dedication Sunday**  
November 24
- **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Shir Hadash**  
November 26
- **Advent Craft Faire**  
December 1
- **Blue Christmas Service**  
December 4
- **Christmas Tea**  
December 5
- **Love of God High School Retreat**  
December 6-8
- **Children's Pageant**  
December 22
- **Christmas Eve Services:**  
**4 & 10 p.m.** - December 24

## *Inside:*

<i>Men's Breakfast</i> .....	3
<i>New Member Class</i> .....	3
<i>Children's Ministry</i> .....	4
<i>Youth News</i> .....	5
<i>Music Notes</i> .....	6
<i>Stewardship Season</i> .....	7
<i>Bookends</i> .....	7
<i>Mission Minute</i> .....	8
<i>Growing Footprints</i> .....	8
<i>Advent &amp; Christmas</i> .....	9
<i>Poinsettias</i> .....	10
<i>Bulletin Board</i> .....	10
<i>Birthdays &amp; Anniversaries</i> ...	11
<i>Advent Craft Faire</i> .....	12

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

## *What Are You Thankful For?*

In his poem, *In Memoriam*, British poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson writes:

I hold it true, whate'er befall;  
I feel it, when I sorrow most;  
'Tis better to have loved and lost  
Than never to have loved at all.

Have you ever read those words before? He seems to be reflecting on the way that in life, we can choose to lean into relationships and causes and community (people and things that we love), or, we can choose to stay away, stay apart, or stay aloof.

Being a part of a church community like ours means that we are committing to lean in together toward loving God, loving each other and loving our neighbors. But you don't have to live very long to learn that when you decide to love, you open yourself the possibility of hurt. There is risk involved in being a loving person.

The poet seems to take all of this into account and to decide that in the end, it is still better to have "loved and lost, than never to have loved at all." Around PCLG these days there are so many opportunities for you to lean



into the spiritual community of our church. Yes, it may seem easier to stay at home or to opt out, but the benefits of being together in Christ's name are totally worth it!

Since November is a time when we reflect on things we are thankful for, I would just ask you to take a moment and ask yourself that question: what are you thankful for in your life? What relationships are important to you? What are the blessings that you experience as part of PCLG?

In the pages of this newsletter you will read more about all that is going on these days. We are in Stewardship Season and this is a chance for all of us to reflect on God's blessings in our lives and to participate in financially supporting our church. I hope and pray that you will lean into this faithful opportunity. Pledge Dedication Sunday will be on November 24th.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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(Continued from page 1)

This month we will have meaningful worship Sunday by Sunday. We will do a Mission Brainstorming session on November 17 as a way to lift up new ideas for how we can love and serve others in Jesus name. We will hold a Turkey Drive for families in need in our area on November 17.

The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held on Tuesday, November 26 at Shir Hadash (across the street from the church) at 7 p.m. This is another way to get to know our neighbors and thank God together.

Enjoy reading this newsletter and I will see you on a Sunday soon!

peace,

*Pastor Dave*



## **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Saturday, December 14th,

9:00 a.m.

Join us on Saturday, December 14th at 9 a.m. in the Social Hall of the Church. Dr. Edward Momrow, theologian and consulting psychologist will be our guest speaker sharing his faith journey. All men of the church are encouraged to attend.

## **New Member Class**

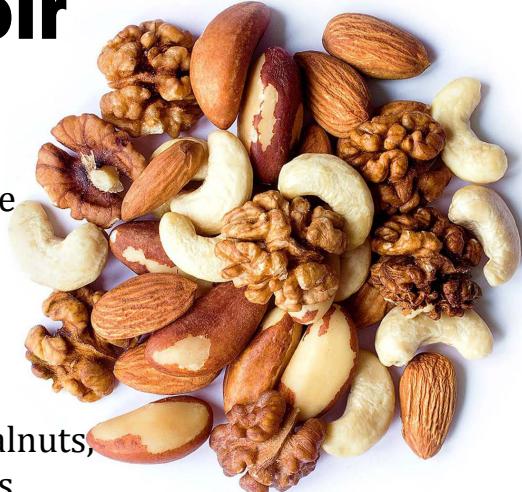
Please join us on Saturday, January 25 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Fireside Room to get to know each other, get to know the church, and share lunch together.

Refreshments, childcare and lunch will be provided.  
RSVP online at [pclg.org/signup](http://pclg.org/signup).

# Annual Handbell Choir Nut Sale

The handbell choir will have nuts available for purchase on Sundays in November.

*Please pay at the time of order.*



*This years selection:*

Almonds (whole, sliced, salted, or smoked), Walnuts,  
Pistachios, Pecans, Cashews, & Mixed Nuts

All nuts are sold in one-pound bags. They're great for holiday cooking and gift-giving!  
Questions? Contact Ruth Fong at [ru.fong@comcast.net](mailto:ru.fong@comcast.net) or (408) 395-9342

Los Gatos Annual Interfaith  
**THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

**Hosted by Shir Hadash**  
**Tuesday, November 26, 2019. 7:00 p.m.**



Join the Interfaith Clergy of Los Gatos and members of a variety of congregations for an annual celebration of Thanksgiving.

This year's service will be hosted by Congregation Shir Hadash (20 Cherry Blossom Ln. Los Gatos, CA 95032).

Donations of canned goods will be given to support St Lukes Food Pantry and Second Harvest Food Bank. A monetary offering will be collected in support of house of Hope.



# Children's Ministry

## November

- Nov. 3      Sunday School for all grades (Preschool - 5th)  
11:30-noon - Joyful Voices practice
- Nov. 10     Sunday School for all grades (Preschool - 5th)  
11:30-noon - Joyful Voices practice  
5:00-6:30PM 4th & 5th Grade  
"Friendsgiving". Meet in Children's Ministries Wing
- Nov. 16     8:00AM Yoga - Social Hall (bring mat/towel)
- Nov. 17     Sunday School for all grades (Preschool - 5th)  
Joyful Voices sings during worship
- Nov. 24     Sunday School for all grades (Preschool - 5th)

## December

- Dec. 1      Sunday School Preschool ONLY  
K- 5th: All Church Worship - children worship with their families  
11:30-Noon - Pageant Practice  
4:30PM - Advent Craft Faire, 6:00PM Dinner
- Dec. 8      Sunday School for all grades (Preschool - 5th)  
11:30-Noon - Pageant Practice
- Dec. 14     12-3:00PM - Parents Night Out
- Dec. 15     Sunday School for all grades (Preschool - 5th)  
11:30 - Noon - Pageant Practice
- Dec. 21     8:00AM Yoga - Social Hall (bring mat/towel)
- Dec. 22     Pageant during Time For Young Disciples  
Pageant during Time For Young Disciples  
Sunday School for all grades (Preschool - 5th)

## ADVENT CRAFT FAIRE

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Crafts begin at 4:30PM and dinner will start at 6:00PM. Fun for the entire family!

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Pageant will be performed during worship on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Speaking parts given to interested 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders and character/dress up parts given to Preschool-1<sup>st</sup> graders. Sign up your child with Lauren Froman by November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

\*Rehearsals for speaking roles: 12/1, 12/8 and 12/15 11:30-noon.

\*Rehearsals for all parts: 12/8 and 12/15 (parents should be present for children 1<sup>st</sup> grade and under)

## QUESTIONS? NEED TO CONNECT?

Lauren Froman – Director of Children's Ministries  
[pclglauren@gmail.com](mailto:pclglauren@gmail.com)

Sharlene Thompson – Children's Ministries Coordinator  
[pclgsharlene@gmail.com](mailto:pclgsharlene@gmail.com)

## NEXT Parents Night Out

Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 12-3:00PM. Please RSVP by December 1<sup>st</sup>.



# Youth News

The first weekend of November, I was scheduled to speak at the yearly Novemberbash for Middle school students at Westminster Woods. We had nine kids signed up and four adults planning to go. But if you didn't know, Westminster Woods is in the heart of the Redwoods in Sonoma County. Early this week, we received word from the camp (while they were still without power), that the weekend would have to be postponed due to the Kincade fire. The evacuation order has been lifted for the area the camp is in and things are improving, but this is the second major fire near the camp in the last two years, and I hope you'll join me in continuing to pray for the many families who have lost homes in the Santa Rosa region and for their rebuilding efforts. We are looking of ways to support the camp as it helps its neighbors as well.

For the students and adults who weren't getting to go to camp this weekend, we've devised a small scale overnight adventure and are making the best of a disappointing situation. Trusting that another retreat will be scheduled by Westminster Woods, we're looking forward to some bonus quality time with a portion of our youth group.

Looking further in November, there are plenty of Sunday school, Confirmation and youth group times ahead. Our High School Love of God retreat is held in early December and our students are preparing to host new friends at the retreat.

On another topic, we're approaching the end of 2019, so we're all going to see a lot of "end of the decade" lists. Best albums, best books, best memes or tweets. I'm sure #6 will shock all of us. You've seen the kinds of lists I'm talking about.

And frankly, with the other options for what's in the news, a "best of" list feels very welcome. There are so many things I am grateful for from the last ten years, my kids, becoming partners in a deeper way with Jane, one master's degree finished, another begun, faithful friends and volunteers and students, a ton of weddings, a wonderful, steady job, a collection of cool coworkers, and on and on. Looking back on the decade makes me grateful and yet, I can't help but feel when we "talk of the good old days" we're walking backwards into the future, denying what we know is ahead.

So, for December, I was thinking about writing up a "Best of" List for 2030 and maybe the thought exercise would inspire you to write your own. Share it with me if you do. What will the world be like in a decade and how will we have served?

What does this have to do with youth ministry??? In the Fall of 2029, my kids will be in 8th and 10th grade. Our burgeoning K-1 class is the core of tomorrow's youth group.

Love,  
Steve

## NOVEMBER

Nov. 10	10:15 a.m. – MS Sunday School
Nov. 11	5-6:30 p.m. – Monday SNiFF (MNiFF) 7:30-9:15 p.m. – HSYG
Nov. 15	7-10 p.m. – HS Phone Free Friday
Nov. 17	10:15 a.m. – MS Sunday School 11:30 a.m. – Confirmation 5-6:30 p.m. – SNiFF 7:30-9:15 p.m. – HSYG
Nov. 24	10:15 a.m. – MS Sunday School 5-6:30 p.m. – SNiFF 7:30-9:15 p.m. – HSYG



## Music Notes



# From the Music Director

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is almost here and the days are getting shorter.

We've got some wonderful music planned for November. On All Saints Day, the brass and clarinet will be joining the choir for When the Saints Go Marching In. This is a rousing version of the classic in an arrangement by the renowned English composer and arranger, John Rutter. We will have you clapping and out of your seats for this one, celebrating Saints of the past, present and future.

On November 17, Joyful Voices are singing during the time for young disciples. If you have a child from 2nd grade to 5th grade who enjoys singing, it would be great to have you join us in rehearsal November 10, 11:30 to noon.

The brass will return for the Sunday before Thanksgiving in celebration of coming together as a family in Christ.

With busy schedules, I know there might be those of you who have thought about joining the choir, but have trouble finding time for it. Come and join us for the Christmas season. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00pm and we have some great music for Advent and Christmas Eve. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, share your music with the congregation at large, and make a difference in your life and the lives of those you might touch with music. We also have a lot of fun.

We have many musical ensembles to make music with, and the Holidays are a great way to get started with all of the groups including the worship band and the bell choir. If you have any questions, get in touch with me at [Michael.taylor@pclg.org](mailto:Michael.taylor@pclg.org).

Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Michael Taylor, Music Director

[Michael.taylor@pclg.org](mailto:Michael.taylor@pclg.org)

## 2020 Flower Calendar Sign-Ups

The 2020 flower calendar are available for sign-ups! Look for the sign-ups during coffee hour on Sundays or in the church office. You may also call the church office during the week to sign up. The fresh flower arrangement may be given in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or any other special occasion. There will be only one arrangement per week, so if you have an important date coming up in 2020, it would be wise to secure that date as soon as possible. You may take the arrangement home after worship, or you may leave it and the Deacons will distribute the flowers to church members unable to attend worship. The cost of each arrangement is \$65.

# STEWARDSHIP SEASON

November is Stewardship season at PCLG. During the season we ask that you reflect on the ways that you contribute to the church with your Time, Talents and Treasure. This is a church that is blessed with an abundance of Time, Talents, and Treasure.

Yes, ultimately we always talk about money and pledges during the stewardship time.

Our elders are creatively reflecting and leading our committees concerning how we will implement PCLG's Coming Alive during the year. The elders review our objectives and purpose and the current programs for effectiveness. Sometimes we modify our approaches because of shifts in our time and talent resources. But I can always rely on the fact that some possible initiatives are not pursued due to the level of predicted giving (pledges).

Our pledge season is critical to assess PCLG's expected budget so that the elders can prioritize the Coming Alive Initiatives based on the Time, Talent, and Treasure resources of the church.

The four Sunday's of November will be Stewardship Season. There will be a brief stewardship time during each worship service. Pledge Sunday will be November 24.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this faith community. And thank you for your 2020 pledge.



## 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](mailto:paigeturner007@hotmail.com).

### **November**

The 5 People You Meet in Heaven  
by Mitch Albom

### **December**

Portrait of Dorian Gray  
by Oscar Wilde

### **January, 2020**

Of Mice & Men  
by John Steinbeck

### **February**

Frankenstein  
by Mary Shelley

### **March**

Bad Blood  
by John Carreyrou

# Mission Minute

**Mission Brainstorming** Do you have a passion for serving others? Perhaps a great idea for a mission project but you'd like some company? The mission committee would like to hear from you! We are hosting a mission brainstorming session today after worship at 11:30. We'll provide snacks; you bring your awesome ideas. Contact mission elder Martha Wills at [mtswills@gmail.com](mailto:mtswills@gmail.com) with questions or comments.



## news

There is a definite chill in the air as we move into November! Thus we said goodbye to our vegetable garden and welcomed fall flowers (thank you Pre K for the planting project).

Our November chapel focus is being thankful (Beatitudes). With that in mind...we collect clothing items from our parents for Sacred Heart. If you have items to donate you are welcome to drop them off on Sunday's (the basket is in the GFP hall). I will be happy to deliver them on my next trip to the donation station in San Jose.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Cory Mullins, Growing FootPrints Director  
[growingfootprints@yahoo.com](mailto:growingfootprints@yahoo.com).

# Advent & Christmas Events

*Mark your calendars for these upcoming events in the seasons of Advent & Christmas.*



# **Time to Order Your Christmas Poinsettias**



It's that time again! Orders for Christmas poinsettias are now being taken. Only \$10 each! You may even take your poinsettia home with you after either Christmas Eve service.

Please return this order form with your check to the church office by Tuesday, December 10 so that your name and dedication may be printed in the bulletin. Checks payable to *Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

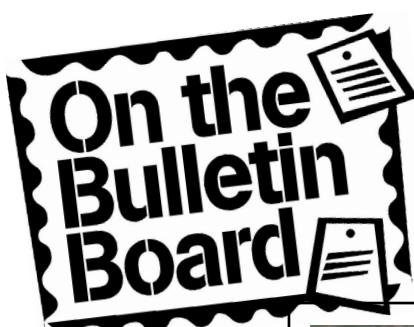
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of : \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_



Have a short note for the  
next issue of *The Spire*?  
Submit your bulletin  
board items to  
[carlo@pclg.org](mailto: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.*

*Don't forget—  
Deadline for the  
December/January SPIRE  
is 2:00 p.m. Wednesday,  
November 27*

## Anniversaries

- 4 Chuck & Emily Bunting
- 7 Rick & Toni Koury
- 11 Damon & Margaret Kvamme
- 15 Mark & Terrie Creamer  
Hank & Maurice Otto

## November Birthdays

- |    |                     |    |                    |
|----|---------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Bob Lawler          | 16 | Chris Gentle       |
|    | Cindy Schultz       |    | Susasn Kim         |
|    | Hellen Song         |    | Dave Rader         |
|    | Kim Thornton        | 17 | Ned Finkle         |
| 2  | Alicia Brodsky      |    | Folake Phillips    |
|    | Rebecca MacRae      | 18 | Angela Moriarty    |
| 3  | Lydia Jiang         |    | Madelyn Perez      |
| 4  | Sherri Auchard      |    | Jeremy Rader       |
|    | Phil Deardorf       |    | Madeleine Stanwood |
| 5  | Florence Buckman    | 19 | John Wills         |
| 6  | Felix Keitel        | 20 | Peggy Heath        |
| 7  | Fletcher Cole       | 21 | Bill Gallmeister   |
| 8  | Janette Barrios     |    | Helen Kuhn         |
|    | Tim Henderson       | 22 | Jackson Bordelon   |
|    | Mark McKinnon       |    | Jan Feathers       |
|    | Steve Raspe         |    | Tom Jenzen         |
| 9  | Mary Xu             | 23 | Gene Caselli       |
| 10 | Terrie Creamer      |    | Colin Clancy       |
|    | Karly Page          |    | Ella Crites        |
|    | Dan Rohrer          | 24 | Amee Jones         |
|    | Jorah Ryken         |    | Jack Longley       |
| 11 | Isabella Castellino |    | Rebecca Nyok       |
|    | Sam Castellino      | 25 | Bill Bynum         |
|    | Sadie Henderson     |    | Natalie Cerussi    |
|    | Maddy Hoekstra      | 26 | Jane Fainer        |
|    | Zoe Kilmer          |    | Kelley Fredericks  |
|    | Ron Raecker         |    | Jeff Page          |
| 12 | Erik Khoobyarian    | 27 | Bart Hobbs         |
|    | Sheila Norton       |    | Bill Hobbs         |
|    | Carlo Panighetti    | 28 | Carole Barrish     |
|    | William Ryken       | 29 | Elin Larson        |
| 14 | Cole Smith          |    | Addison McKibbin   |
| 15 | Emily Bordelon      |    | 30 Jamie Schafer   |
|    | Pat Moore           |    |                    |
|    | Rex Morton          |    |                    |

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[wwwpclg.org](http://wwwpclg.org)



Please join us for our annual event for crafts, dinner, and fellowship!  
This is a fun-filled evening for all ages. The cost is \$10/person (or maximum \$25/family).  
You can RSVP and pre-pay at coffee hour, or just show up.  
Want to help with the event?  
Please signup online at the link at [wwwpclg.org/signup](http://wwwpclg.org/signup).