



THE SPIRE

Special Dates:

- **Advent Craft Faire**
December 1
- **Blue Christmas Service**
December 4
- **Christmas Tea**
December 5
- **Love of God High School Retreat**
December 6-8
- **Ordination Service for Taelor Kim**
December 15, 2 p.m.
- **Children's Pageant**
December 22
- **Christmas Eve Services: 4 & 10 p.m.** - December 24
- **Interfaith Art Event**
January 22
- **New Member Class**
January 25

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



The Three B's

There is an indie-rock band that I have enjoyed listening to over the years called The Decemberists. Their lead singer Colin Meloy once said that the band name was partially chosen to invoke the particular "drama and melancholy" of the month of December.

We are in a season that involves the very end of a year and also a new beginning. I wonder what those two differing experiences bring up for you. For a year to end and for the drama and melancholy to pass. For a year to begin and new challenges and possibilities to come up.

I want to offer you a way to reflect on your own life at the turn of a year and it comes from a quote from C.S. Lewis. He writes, "I am a product of long corridors, empty sunlit rooms, upstairs indoor silences, attics explored in solitude, distant noises of gurgling cisterns and pipes, and the noise of wind under the tiles. Also, of endless books."

For anyone who has read the Narnia series, this description of how C.S. Lewis grew up will sound familiar. And within it, there are three main things

that he credits with his own formation. These are three questions that we can ask ourselves, and find out how

God might use them to form us in our lives.

The first is "solitude" or being alone. Lewis writes about hours being spent on his own, just exploring, thinking, and doing things that he enjoyed. For some people, this alone time might be taking a walk after dinner, or driving in your car on the way to work, or a quiet time for prayer. For some of us, getting alone time is hard to do. After all, there are families and activities, work, school, and so many things going on. Lewis seems to say that there is something good about "being alone" sometimes, even if it just helps you appreciate the times when you are with others.

Where or when is *your* alone time?

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(Continued from page 1)

The second idea is "boredom." In a way, it is getting harder and harder to be bored. Our smart phones are always with us, there are plenty of entertainment options around, and here in the Bay Area, everybody is working hard in order to stay afloat.

But boredom, which is that time for your mind to be unoccupied by "productive things," is actually a cradle of fertile thinking. When you let your mind wander and don't have much "to do," it is an opportunity to reset. Being bored sometimes can be a spiritual practice, because it reminds us that we are more than just what we do or produce. In fact, we are God's beloved children before anything else.

Boredom doesn't have to be boring. It can mean a trip to the coast to walk along the beach. It can mean a hike on a Sunday afternoon. It can mean sitting on the porch and watching the world go by. It can mean an evening at home without the tv on, just talking or playing board games. Making space for boredom is the antidote to the frenzied pace of modern life.

Third, along with "being alone" and "boredom," C.S. Lewis suggests that "books" are a key ingredient for our formation. Some people read physical books, some read on a digital format (like a Kindle), and some listen to books while they drive or workout. Reading a book in one format or another is like being tutored or mentored by someone that you respect. They have ideas, they bring insights, they invite you along, and it is available wherever you are.

Even if you are not a big book reader, maybe this is the year to try out just one or two books that you want to engage with. What is a topic you are interested in? What is a suggestion from a friend? If C.S. Lewis is correct, there is something good for our lives that happens when we discover something new from inside a book.

These are the three B's for your formation as the year turns over. Being alone, boredom, and books. As a church we are seeking to "Come Alive" together in this program year, and these ideas are good places for you to start.

It is easy to hurry and hustle from one season to the next. But the invitation as part of our faith and life together as a church is to make intentional choices about how we live. I look forward to all that God has in store for us in the days ahead.

peace,

Pastor Dave

Church Office Hours

This Christmas season, the PCLG office will have abbreviated hours. The office will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the following days, and closed entirely on Christmas Day and New Year's Day:
December 24, 26, 27, & 31.

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.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, February 2 directly after the worship service.

We will present the budget for 2020, look back at 2019, and look forward to the future!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 14th & January 11,
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.

The guest for January 11 will be announced soon! All men of the church are encouraged to attend.



The Presbytery of San Jose Celebrates the Ordination of

Taelor Tae Kim

to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Sunday, December 15, 2019
2:00 p.m.

Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos
16575 Shannon Rd.
Los Gatos, CA 95032

We are so excited to welcome Taelor Kim as she joins the Pastoral Staff at PCLG. Taelor will be working as a part-time Associate Pastor while she continues her doctoral studies. Taelor will continue to convene and lead the Sermon and Reflection group, which meets after worship every other week for fellowship and to discuss the message of the morning.

In her work with PCLG, Taelor will work directly with some of our Korean members and also will help to build cross-cultural friendships and opportunities for all. Taelor has a heart for connecting people to each other and to God through small groups and relationships. Taelor will preach occasionally, will regularly be up in front for worship leadership, and will work closely with Pastor Dave, Pastor Erica, and Pastor Jack.



Children's Ministry

2019 was a wonderful year in Children's Ministries!

In 2020 we look forward to more fun, more fellowship and more special moments learning about God and growing in our faith together.



QUESTIONS? NEED TO CONNECT?

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

Sharlene Thompson – Children's Ministries Coordinator
pclgsharlene@gmail.com



Youth News

Last month, I proposed we imagine ourselves looking back at the best of the 2020s for this end of the 2010s decade column. Looking back at the future, if you will. Following is the Spire article I imagine and pray to be writing in December 2029...

As you may or may not recall, these 2020s began with infrastructure. Super exciting, of course! Across the country new transportation models developed, the National Park repair backlog was completely funded, and PCLG dug up and replaced every pipe laid down in our campus' original construction. No matter the decade, the Facilities crew is always at it, looking ahead. The national and local projects served as an apt metaphor for other things that were going on around us.

We had to dig up entrenched habits to see what else was possible. Do you remember when we commonly gave children those little bricks we called smartphones well before they entered high school? And even when we did, do you remember how few limits we set on screen time? Thank goodness we collectively as a society realized teenagers and smartphones needed more boundaries. My kids just got their phones and we are still grateful for a few families' ideas that are now over 10 years old – like phones go on the charger in the kitchen at 9 p.m., and I have the passcode til I'm not paying anymore. I know it was tough to set those boundaries at first, but now my kids don't even question it because all their friends have the same rules – and they make me stick to them, too. Thank you for that!

In our youth ministries, we uncovered our voice these last ten years. Our students connected issues of concern for young people like climate change, inequality, care of refugees and so on, to a faithful response to the Gospel in practical and deliberate ways. A few began tracking how much they were paying for gas and decided to start riding their bikes instead - we had to change youth group to a daytime thing. A few former youth groupers came back and taught us how we might in our privilege be better allies for racial minorities and the LGBTQ+ community. Still others recognized in the refugees and immigrants involved at PCLG a loneliness that the teenagers were also feeling and somehow the rudimentary French and Spanish speakers began to befriend area refugees, bringing them into their families as well. All these things were not something I knew how to make happen, but God works on our hearts and transforms us all the same.

It's impossible to summarize a decade of ministry and life together in just a page, of course. The idea that Abby Watermulder and Ian Froman are in college, that the Crites girls are in Medical School, and that our first set of Ministry fellows are parents boggles the mind. Not only that, Nolan, Mark and MacKenzie were ordained before me! Time passes, yet we continue ever on toward our God of Hope, our Prince of Peace. It has been a privilege to love and serve alongside generations of this tiny sliver of God's kingdom. A century ago, our world was entering a dark decade of depression, a time in which my grandparents grew up. A decade ago, many of us were fearful if the same darkness might rise again. Yet, what a joy that our church, town, nation, and planet can see only hope on the horizon. Peace on earth, good will to all...and it begins with us!

Love,
Steve



From the Music Director

December: 'Tis the season to be jolly... We begin Advent right on the heels of a late Thanksgiving this year. For December Sunday services, the brass will be joining us on Dec. 8th for the choir to welcome another Advent season in anticipation of the coming of Christ. This is a season of joyful anticipation and the choir music will ring in the coming of Christmas with energetic anthems.

The worship band will be playing for services throughout Advent and featured especially for the 4:00pm Christmas Eve service. This is always a great service for the whole family. This year the children's pageant will be presented once again on Sunday, Dec. 22nd for the morning service.

The late service for Christmas Eve will be at 10:00pm. The choir, brass and winds will make this service a special event welcoming the Christ child.

January: The bells will kick-off the first Sunday of 2020. The choir returns on January 12th, with rehearsals starting again on January 9th.

As you move into your new year, I would like to invite you to add some joy into your life by considering joining one of the many musical opportunities PCLG offers for giving service in worship through music.

I hear time and again how our busy members take some "me time" when they participate in one of the musical programs. As you might be reflecting on fresh ways to live your life joyfully, in balance with the Holy Spirit, consider bringing music into that equation. With the choir, the worship band and the bells, there are many low impact opportunities to grow in faith and in musical ability.

These musical experiences truly give so much to the community and to those who participate.

If you have any questions about any of the programs at PCLG, don't hesitate to reach out and get in touch with me.

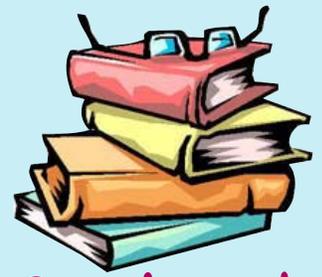
Thanks to all of you for your support of the music at PCLG. It has been another amazing year of joy and worship, moved by the hand of the Spirit in Jesus' name.

Merry Christmas and Happy, safe and joyous Holidays.

Michael Taylor, Music Director

Michael.taylor@pclg.org

Adult Education



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.

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

Sunday Morning Bible Study

December 1, 8 and 15: "Christmas Past, Present and Future."

Join us as Pastors Paul Watermulder and John Koeker lead us in a fascinating series on the birth of Christ during this Advent season. We will consider the meaning and significance of this momentous event through the lens of the past, present and future. We'll also learn some surprising details about the biblical Advent narrative. The series will run Dec. 1, 8 and 15 at 9 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Coffee and refreshments will be available.

January 12 through February 23: "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts." After a holiday break, our Sunday Morning Bible Study will start off the new year on Jan. 12 with Part Two of our "Exploring Exciting Ephesians" series with Pastor Jack Longley. Imagine graduating from college with an undefined degree, uncertain of your abilities, priorities or talents, and then seeking a position in the workforce. Unfortunately, many Christians are equally unaware of their spiritual gifts, so they remain unsure of their role in the church. Under the leadership of Pastor Jack, each of us will discover our own unique spiritual gifts and our own special niche within the Body of Christ. This seven-part series will meet Jan.12 through Feb. 23 at 9 a.m. in the Fireside Room; coffee and refreshments will be served. *(You need not have attended Part One of the Ephesians study to attend Part Two.)*

Mission Minute

The Christmas Spirit has taken hold of PCLG! We are having a wonderful response to our giving tree, a project to bless 64 children and youth whose families belong to Bridge Communities in east San Jose. Thank you for purchasing and wrapping toys and books for these young people. Your generosity has greatly brightened their holiday.



We are also thankful that 22 turkeys were donated to Sacred Heart Community Service for their Thanksgiving baskets. Thank you for thinking of families in need at this busy time of year.

Finally, we appreciate those who took time to join our Mission Brainstorming session in November. We will be following up on some of the ideas, so watch this page (and read the bulletin) for updates on how your mission committee is carrying out PCLG's mission to reach out to our neighbors in Los Gatos, in Santa Clara County and

around the world. We invite you to join us!

Elder Martha Wills
mtswills@gmail.com



Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday, January 26

9 a.m. or after Worship

Come eat pancakes and give your support for our two annual Mexico Mission Trips!

Our High school group will host and serve as they prepare for their trip in February.

Save The Date:

MLK Day of Service,

January 20, 2020

8:30-12:30 at 49 4th St, San Jose
(former First Presbyterian Church)

Join us in service to the Front Door Communities lunch bag & Lifted Spirits programs.

Check www.pclg.org to sign up or for more information.



Our own Nolan Carlen has been elected by our Presbytery to serve as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) to the 224th General Assembly of PC(USA) this summer

in Baltimore. Nolan will participate in the work of the denomination with full voice and vote, and will report on his experiences to the San Jose Presbytery (and PCLG) upon his return. Thank you, Nolan, for serving your church in this new way!



**Los Gatos Interfaith
Community Event:
Religious Traditions
Through Art**

Wednesday January 22nd 6:30-8:30
p.m. at
Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos

Join leaders and members of various local religious communities for hosted art stations, and hands-on experiences for all ages as we learn together about the role of art in religious expression. Appetizers & beverages will be provided. Drop by for a few minutes, or stay the whole time.



Hi everyone, Carlo here!

A number of people have been asking over the last few months about various topics, so I wanted to take a corner of a page in this and future newsletters to give updates, answer questions,

and share my thoughts on what is happening around the church. I will talk about money, but I promise to never *only* talk about money. I will talk about logistics, but also about ministry. I hope this can be a valuable and interesting column.

After spending the summer dodging giant holes in the ground, waiting for the plumbers to finish a large re-pipe project, I am relieved to say that our plumbing output system appears to be in good order heading into the Christmas season! Thanks to our facilities elders, office staff, and especially to Ed Fotion for helping coordinate and navigate that project. These were the original sewer pipes, mostly laid in the 50s and early 60s, and several of them were in very sorry condition. We are blessed with this beautiful campus, and I'm proud and pleased that we are caring for its more unseen systems as well as the more in-your-face things around.

Our wonderful finance elders tell me that as of the end of October, we are a bit more behind in our giving than usual. We have a 10% discrepancy between pledged giving and actual giving. We know that November and December are historically the largest months, giving-wise, and so we hope and trust that the gap will be filled. Thank you for your generosity to this church! If you need to check where you stand with your pledge, you can always contact our accountant Nimi Nagalingam (nimi.nagalingam@pclg.org) and she can help you, or come by the office and she or Lisa can run an up-to-date giving report.

Our recent Stewardship campaign continues to progress. As of Monday, December 9, we have received 138 pledges for a total of \$660,678. This is better than this time last year by 7 pledges and \$36,531.

That's all I have for now. Is there anything you'd like to have me touch on in a future newsletter? Send me an e-mail or call the office and let me know! Thanks for reading!

Carlo Panighetti
Director of Operations
carlo@pclg.org



news

On December 18, we will have our Pre-Kindergarten Christmas Program. You are welcome to join us at 12:30 in the social hall (Refreshments following) as we celebrate the season.

Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year begins in January for new students. Please contact me immediately if you have interest as we do have a waiting list for the PCLG outreach program!

At this time of year I find myself reflecting on what we have accomplished and what is ahead. I am thankful for the supportive families that bless us with their children daily. I am thankful for the staff who have supported me over the years I have been employed at GFP. Each time a past student stops by to say thank you, to give me a hug, to catch up and hang out...I am elated. It reminds me that the commitment, long hours and energy were worth every minute of my 25 years in the program.

Of course I am blessed by my family...Greg who often is in to do repairs, creates music for our programs and listens to my endless shares each night. For Leah who has worked beside me for 20 years and has gifted me with two grandsons who have attended the program. Lastly for Blake who continues to use his talents to keep my technology updated and our website running smoothly and who may gift me with our granddaughter attending in the future. They are my village!

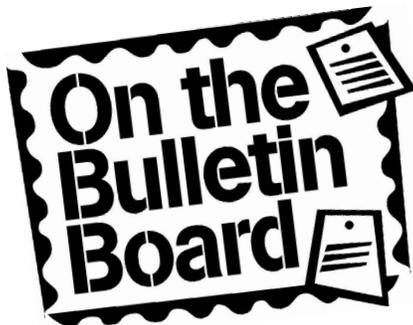
Over the years I have worked with numerous board members and pastors. This year I am thankful for Beth Hobbs, Eleanor Gallmeister, David Heacock, Gayle Grabenkort and Pastor David Waltermulder. Each month (and any time I need encouragement) we meet to discuss the current needs and future of the program. Their support is a blessing as well.

The GFP staff, Board and families thank you for your continued prayers as we move into 2020.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

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.

December Birthdays

1	Margaret Ann Joiner	19	Gail Myers
	Pat Jones		Mary Smith
2	Jo Ann Khoobyarian	20	Olivia Koury
	Jan Mortensen		Vivian Gabel
	Debbi Ricks	21	Amelia Acosta
4	Cameron Logie	22	Dick Garland
	Ron McCormick		Juliana Damore
	Tom Shafer		Kathryn Damore
	Isabelle Watkins		Lucy Fainer
5	Cindy Hilliard	23	Doreen Barger
	Mary Jane Bender	24	Erin Heath
7	Heather Metz		Shirley Byle
8	Mildred Smith		John Caselli
9	Courtney Iqbal		Anthony Caselli
	John Trujillo		Erica Rader
11	Bob Kennedy	25	Bill Strandberg
12	Ed Fotion	26	Steve Fainer
	Rafe Smith	27	Daniel Thompson
14	Ted Bancroft		Jennifer O'Brien
15	Caroline Smith		Joanne Thompson
	Gloria Baker	28	Brian Jones
16	Natalie Lane	29	Chris Field
	Sue Thomas		Collette Lynner
17	Ann Brookhart		Derek vanKlaveren
	Lauren Fredericks		Griffin Sinclair
	Natalie Finkle		Katie Clift
		30	Samuel Nagalingam
			Stewart Berkshire

Anniversaries

	Jon & Linda Bale
2	Choe & Jeri Hickman
6	Craig & Sarah Parks
17	Albert & Natlie Cerussi
26	David & Erica Rader
27	Jay & Tanya Kruse
28	Willis & Joan Brown
	Pam & Ted Bancroft

*Don't forget—
Deadline for the
February SPIRE
is 2:00 p.m. Wednesday,
January 22*

January Birthdays

2	Natanya Cerussi	12	Kathy DeMerit
	Mark Miller		Jason Kim
4	Chad Froman		Mandy Smith
	Joyce Gavino	13	Dave Heacock
	Kevin Michalicek		Toneh Thompson
	Ryan Michalicek	15	Elsie Matt
6	Sue Michalicek	16	Katy Rohrer
	Moustafa Kobanghe	17	Jim Myers
7	Chris Hobbs	18	Sabina Hernandez
8	Skyler McKinnon		Celeste Putnam
	Ian Froman		Mike Moore
	David Michalicek	20	Kristy Cole
	Ying Smith		Ryan Gabel
9	Mark Bodnarczuk		John Johnston
	Ruthanne Martinez	22	Marie Rector
	Judy Thrasher	23	Craig Parks
10	June Buchanan	24	Mei-Lie Swenberg
	Karen Loomis	25	Brenda Costanzo
11	Julia Metz		Mardie Dailey
12	Holly Boller	28	Carina Castellino
		31	Sarah Nelson
			Malcolm Bordelon

Anniversaries

9	Scott & Janet Anvick
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Christmas
Eve Services
December 24, 4 p.m. & 10 p.m.