We Love A Parade

More than 25 members and friends of Piedmont Community Church marched in the Piedmont Fourth of July parade. This year’s theme, ‘Service’, provided an opportunity to celebrate many of the missions our church supports throughout the year. Additional photos on Page 4.

Photos courtesy Dr. Don Ashburn and Beth Covin

Mr. Rogers Might Just Save Us All

All of a sudden, Mr. Rogers is everywhere.

I saw a movie about him last week on Netflix (Mr. Rogers and Me) then realized it’s not the same movie as the one about him currently running in theaters (Won’t You be My Neighbor?)

The next day, David Brooks featured him in his New York Times column. This week, Rolling Stone said “One of the year’s weirdest surprises is seeing a 50-year-old TV kiddie classic blow up into a national obsession. But something about Mr. Rogers speaks right to the heart of our moment.”

Fred Rogers went to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister. Instead of taking a church, he took a job working on an educational children’s TV show and TV became his pulpit. The Presbyterian church gave him a special commission to be an evangelist to children through the media. He took the teachings and values of Jesus and put them into his show.

Once, a six year old named Amy wrote to him. He thanked her for the colorful drawing she sent him and then addressed the matter that most concerned Amy, “You told me that you have accepted Jesus as your Savior. It means a lot to me to know that. And, I am an ordained Presbyterian minister, and I want you to know that Jesus is important to me, too. I hope that God’s love and peace come through in my work on Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood.”

See ‘ROGERS’, Next Page
It came through. Every week he demonstrated and advocated the values of love, kindness, humility and respect. I think his sudden popularity is because those values are the polar opposite of the values we witness from our current national leadership. They have been replaced by aggression, pride, hubris and hostility. We are realizing how much we miss those old values, how precious they are and how hungry we are for their return.

In an Atlantic Monthly article on Mr. Rogers, Johnathan Merritt noted the saying that Mr. Rogers used to close each show. “You’ve made this day a special day by just your being you. There is no person in the whole world like you, and I like you just the way you are.”

Some have suggested that this message sought to instill children with a sense of self-importance, but to believe that is to fundamentally misunderstand Fred Rogers. At the core of Rogers’ mission was the paradoxical Christian belief that the way to gain one’s life is to give it away.

“The underlying message of the Neighborhood,” Rogers once said, “is that if somebody cares about you, it’s possible that you’ll care about others. You are special, and so is your neighbor – that part is essential: that you’re not the only special person in the world. The person you happen to be with at the moment is loved, too.”

We don’t have saints in the Protestant church. But, if we did, I’d nominate Mister Rogers.

Saint Fred – the patron saint of neighborliness.

Kail, Marzolf Headed to Africa

Rev. Scott Kail and Wayne Marzolf will be traveling to Kenya July 26 through August 12.

Their trip is twofold: First, they will be visiting the Taraja Home for Boys in Nairobi that is run by Youth for Christ.

Second, they are teaming up with Amor Ministries on a pilot mission to build a Cultural Center/School within the Maasai tribes at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Amor is the long-time partner of our Student Ministry Mexico Missions trips each spring. For 8 days, they will be embedded with the Maasai in their villages working during the day. They will be invited into tribal leadership activities each night.

Their hope is that this could become another element of our Student Ministry Missions trips to Malawi. Please pray for them as they travel and be on the lookout for a follow-up article upon their return.

Christmas Concert Save The Date(s)

Piedmont Community Church will serve as host to the most anticipated Christmas Concert event of the season - Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9.

Both performances will begin at 7 pm.

Dr. Stephen Main and a small crew of dedicated planners are working to confirm more details, including this year’s theme.

Watch future editions of The Messenger and our weekly email blasts for more information as it becomes available.

Have You Heard?

Our full worship services, including music, sermons and congregational singing, are now available as audio recordings on our website, PiedmontChurch.org.

Listen, download and share the inspirational, timely and important messages from your church.

Instagram

@PiedmontCommunityChurch
‘Harp Sunday’ is August 19

Dr. Stephen Main and Piedmont Community Church welcome world-class harpist Anna Maria Mendieta at the 10:30 am service. Stephen will be performing with Anna Maria in a harp duet and harp-organ performance.

Anna Maria enjoys performing concerts and shows with celebrity entertainers and is often given the spotlight. She has shared the stage with opera singer Frederica von Stade, performed with Josh Groban, Frank Sinatra Jr., Johnny Mathis, Olivia Newton John, Fernando de la Mora, The Moody Blues, and song-writer/entertainer Barry Manilow who calls her his “favorite harpist.”

Sunday School

During the beginning of August we will end our travels through the Bible in One Year. On August 19, we will begin our program year, Digging into Discipleship - Reflecting God’s Heart in Everyday Life!

Our August lessons:

- **August 5** - Acts: God Uses Timothy’s Gifts, “God loves every age”
- **August 12** - Revelation: Jesus Is Coming Back for Us, “Jesus wants to be with us forever”
- **August 19** - God Creates Us in His Image, “God is creative...so we’re creative.”
- **August 26** - Builders Try to Build a Great Tower, “God is the greatest...and we don’t need to be.”

Contact Leslie Quantz with questions at Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org or (510) 547.5700 x109

Tiny Time Commitments

Many of our volunteer activities take minimal time and effort.

**USHER OR GREET** at the 10:30 am service (simple training sessions available). Check your calendar and sign up after church.

**PROVIDE A MEAL** through our Food Angels for a member going through a difficult time. Contact Linda Rice at ljrice@sbcglobal.net

**HELP IN THE KITCHEN** with our volunteer cooking crew, Loaves and Fishes. Contact Steve Wuebbens at sawuebbens@gmail.com

MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Each Sunday, we gather to celebrate our faith and our friendships during worship at 9 and 10:30 am.

- **August 5**
  - *Passing the Smell Test*
  - Dr. Don Ashburn
  - Ephesians 4:25-5:2

- **August 12**
  - Dr. Stephen Main

- **August 19**
  - *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*
  - Dr. Don Ashburn
  - Psalm 139:1-18

- **August 26**
  - *Hesitating to Live*
  - Dr. William McNabb
  - Joshua 1:1-9
Well, we’re right in the middle of summer, some scattered around the world on vacation trips. It’s that wonderful time when life is somewhat relaxed and a person can just simply be and enjoy.

But, it’s also time to look ahead on the calendar and make plans for the fall and Family Camp.

I remember the activities, dinners, retreats that I have enjoyed and think about the two times I went to weekend camps with the church and what wonderful experiences the programs, meals and campfires were.

So, I want to put a “plug” in for the Labor Day Family Camp at Westminster Woods in Occidental, California from after lunch on September 1 through breakfast, September 3.

What a great time to meet, share and enjoy.

Email Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org for more information and make a reservation.

For more information, see Page 5.

Pastors Grateful For Energy, Service

What is engagement? Over the past 9 months or so, we’ve all heard that word a lot at Piedmont Church. We’ve established an Engagement Team. We’ve taken part in a congregational survey.

We’ve had conversations, and brainstorming sessions, and a whole lot more. But, when it comes down to it, what is engagement? Well, at least in part, it’s what we’ve been doing over these past few months. We’ve gathered together to share stories, and meals, and prayers, and ideas – all in an effort to be more than just “involved” in a church.

We’ve been showing commitment and passion for our church, our community, and our calling to mission and ministry together in Christ. We’ve been “engaged” as individuals and as a congregation, and we want to invite others to join us.

As pastors, and members of the Engagement Team, it’s been inspiring and enlightening to be involved with the process so far. There’s a lot more to come too, which you’ll be hearing about in coming weeks and months.

But we’d like to take this opportunity, first, to give thanks to God for guiding us on this path of discernment and commitment.

We thank you, the members of the congregation, for your ideas, your presence and your passion for our church.

We thank those who helped to facilitate the congregational conversations and brainstorming sessions.

And, we thank the dedicated members of Engagement Team itself; Debi Fitzgerrell, Kristine McCabe, Joe Scherer, Maggie Spencer, Robin Asbury, Eric Behrens and Anne Conneely.

We’re grateful for the energy and expertise Liz Becker brought to organizing and analyzing our congregational conversations.

And, we give special thanks to Mary Margaret Sinnema, for her faithfulness and focus and thoughtfulness and stamina in leading our work together.

As we said, there’s a lot more to come in terms of engagement at Piedmont Church.

“God’s not done with us yet,” as a preacher once said. And we look forward to what’s yet to come, as we move forward together.
A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures.

As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, “I’m drawing God.”

The teacher paused and said, “But no one knows what God looks like.”

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, “They will in a minute.”

Conversations and Coffee

A wonderful conversation with fellow seniors awaits. You are invited to participate in casual conversation and a cup of coffee with a small group of seniors. Seniors Sharing Conversations and Coffee takes place at 9:30-11:30 am in the Guild Parlor the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

No agenda, nothing to join, nothing to bring. Just get out of your house and get to know other seniors in the congregation.
‘Just Breathe’ Begins August 21
■ BY SARA HIRSCH
No dogma or agenda and open to everyone in this sweet room in the heart of Piedmont.

Find the silence between the noise in this class designed to guide you through silent meditation. Each class will start with gentle stretches for 15 minutes followed by breathing exercises. Prepared to meditate, either sitting in a chair or on the floor, the next 20 minutes will be silent.

Bring a sticky mat if you plan to be on the floor (there is carpet in the chapel) and a pillow if you plan to sit on a chair. Tuesdays at 5:30 pm beginning August 21.

Dig In, Teach Sunday School
■ BY LESLIE QUANTZ
We are looking for individuals who would like to teach Children’s Sunday School. Our program is fun and easy to teach.

On Sunday, we start our program in the chapel. Games and activities are available so the children can play while they wait for the lesson to begin. The main story of the day is presented in the chapel. We are using Group Publishing’s Dig In curriculum.

This year, we will be Digging into Discipleship, Reflecting God’s Heart in Everyday Life. After the main story, we will break up into two groups. One with younger children – pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade, and one with older children – 3rd grade through 6th grade. We will have activities related to the main story including games, crafts and discussion in the classrooms.

As a teacher, you will be given complete information including the story that will be given in the main chapel. You will arrive at about 10:15 am to help the children sign in and show them the activity. You will then participate in the chapel activities.

When we split into classrooms, you will lead the games and crafts. The information you will receive for the lesson includes all the instructions you need. I will be providing all the materials you will be using. The younger children’s projects and games are different from the older children.

Contact Leslie Quantz to let you know you would love to teach at Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org

Thank you and bless you all for considering teaching Sunday School. This is a wonderful opportunity to help guide our children on their spiritual journeys.

CityTeam Community Service Day
■ BY SELMA CHIN
CityTeam shares God’s love and compassion by providing hot meals, shelter and recovery program to the poor and homeless.

Volunteer by distributing lunch bags, preparing hot meals and sorting donated clothing.

Saturday, August 25, 9 am - 12 Noon.

Additional information and sign-ups will be available in the courtyard after worship services or contact Selma Chin at (510) 290-5732 or selmacb@yahoo.com

Summer Office Hours
The office and switchboard of Piedmont Community Church has summer hours through Labor Day. Monday - Friday, 9 am - 3 pm. Please make a note.
Family Camp Registration Open Until August 12

BY LESLIE QUANTZ

Piedmont Community Church Family Camp - Westminster Woods, Occidental, California

Dates: Saturday September 1 through Monday September 3rd. We will start after lunch on Saturday and end with breakfast on Monday. (Meals: L,D Saturday, B,L,D Sunday, B Monday)

Prices include all meals mentioned above, crafts, swim time, games, and campfires. Dorm-style bunk cabins are $175 each adult, $60 children 3-5 years, children 2 and under are free.

Piedmont Community Church Family Camp is a special time when all ages come together in the beautiful redwoods of Western Sonoma County to enjoy the beautiful outdoors and the gathering of friends. Family camp isn’t just for families. During the weekend we will have planned activities including field games, campfire sing-a-longs, hiking, arts and crafts, swimming in a heated pool, s’mores, and worship among the trees.

There is a real sense of community that develops during the weekend. Everyone gets to know each other. Children play together in groups.

Everyone watches out for each other. There is a place for everyone at camp. All ages welcome.

Please download and complete the registration form at https://bit.ly/2Jqq5De

Include a check for full amount payable to Piedmont Community Church, Attn: Leslie, 400 Highland Ave, Piedmont CA 94611
**AUGUST CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Aug 1</td>
<td>Coffee and Conversation for Seniors</td>
<td>9:30 am – 11:30 am</td>
<td>Guild Parlor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Aug 3</td>
<td>Volunteer to Serve Lunch with CityTeam (ages 12 and over)</td>
<td>11 am – 2 pm</td>
<td>722 Washington St., Oakland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Aug 3</td>
<td>Volunteer to Serve Dinner with CityTeam (ages 14 and over)</td>
<td>5 pm – 7 pm</td>
<td>722 Washington St., Oakland</td>
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<td>Sunday, Aug 5</td>
<td>Communion Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Aug 18</td>
<td>Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group</td>
<td>2-4 pm</td>
<td>Guild Parlor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Aug 18</td>
<td>Coffee and Conversation for Seniors</td>
<td>9:30 am – 11:30 am</td>
<td>Guild Parlor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Aug 20</td>
<td>Board of Christian Education, 6:45 pm</td>
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<td>Guild Parlor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Aug 20</td>
<td>MAT, 7 pm, Staff Workroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, Aug 20</td>
<td>Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group</td>
<td>7 pm</td>
<td>Murdock Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, Aug 25</td>
<td>Berkeley Men’s Shelter, 6:30-8 pm, call</td>
<td>6:30-8 pm</td>
<td>(510) 547-5700 to volunteer</td>
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