

# CHRIST UNITED PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST UNITED  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SAN DIEGO  
LITURGY AND LIBERATION

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## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

*By: Jan Farley, Interim Pastor*

Our family plays a simple game, usually when we have a group over for dinner who may not know each other well. The game is called “I have never.” Note, it must be ‘G’ rated to play. We play three of four rounds around the table, so everyone has a chance to gain or lose points. When you play the game, it is helpful to pick something most people have done that you have not. For example, my mother-in-law almost always wins this game, she normally begins this way, “I have never used a computer” followed by a groan from the entire assembled group. If playing with a gaggle of gals I usually win a point of two, three, four, etc., with the statement “I have never owned a Barbie Doll.” With \$3 billion in sales from the movie and it’s top ranking on the movie charts – perhaps I should go see what the big deal is all about.

Until the end of July I could also say “I have never been to Alaska;” however, Rick and I just returned recently from 10 days on a cruise to Alaska. We went as a belated 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip; and, I was so grateful that we were able to go and see such an incredible place. I believe it is one of the most beautiful places on earth, as well as seeing the glory of God’s creation in the forest, birds, bears and of course whales! Salmon jumping, eagles soaring, ravens looming, and merlin hawks hunting were a few things I had never seen before. We walked on a dozen trails and climbed hills to see beautiful ocean, glaciers and river views.

We planned this trip over a long period of time and had to make plans for home and work to be in place before leaving. We saved and planned (almost backed out) and saved some more! I do not know about you, but sometimes I get so caught up in the challenge of something I have not done, that I am tempted to stop and settle into the “I have never done that, been there, experienced that or could be that”. The “I have never” becomes a mantra rather than a temporary state.

Doing something different or new can be challenging and a little intimidating. I wonder if sometimes we look at the life of the church and think “I have never... ushered, help teach Sunday school, served on a committee, donated to the pantry, sung in a choir.” You get the idea. Our “I have never” becomes the norm rather than the temporary. I encourage each of us to do something new, something that indeed may challenge us, but will also help us experience in a new way in all that God has to offer.

By the way my mother-in-law, Nana, has started using a computer, albeit for Zoom calls with family. Nevertheless, it is a start!

Blessings on a new adventure,  
Pastor Jan

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# 2023 YOUTH RETREAT

This year we held our Youth Retreat since before the pandemic from July 7th-8th. We had about 15 youth participate in the various activities throughout the two days, with 8 kids staying through the whole retreat! There was so much fun packed into 2 days! First, we gathered in Creamer Chapel to sign in and do an ice breaker activity called "Untangle the Spider Web", where we had to pass around a string to get it all tangled up and then use our bodies to untangle it. Then, everyone walked to the 28th St. Park where we played with giant bubbles, limbo, decorated t-shirts, played at the park, and had a blast! We ate a delicious dinner with burgers, hot dogs, mac and cheese, and more. We ended our time at the park making s'mores!

After, we walked back to the Fellowship Hall and Pastor Jan led a Bible Study. We then made cards to send to our CUPC shut-ins as a service project. Finally, we got in our PJ's, watched The Prince of Egypt, and went to sleep in tents set up in the Fellowship Hall. While they were supposed to be sleeping, the girls even pranked the boys and TP'd their tent!

In the morning, we got ready, ate breakfast, and had another Bible Study with Pastor Jan, where we created Prayer Journals to keep. Then we packed up and drove over to Mission Bay Resort, where we had day passes to enjoy their facility. We played in the pool to our heart's content and then went to the restaurant at the resort to eat lunch. We had a final Bible Study on the beach, and when that was over we enjoyed playing in the water and eating ice cream. By the time everyone was picked up and went home, we were tired but blessed by the fellowship and fun!

Thank you to all the people who donated or volunteered to make such an incredible retreat happen. The children were blessed, and so were the adults who were present. We look forward to an even bigger and better retreat next year, and stay tuned for more happenings with our Youth Ministry!



# GREAT TURNOUT FOR THE JULY JAZZ ON THE PLAZA/FISH FRY!



## **UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS**

**CHRIST UNITED** welcomes the Chancel Choir of the Village Community Presbyterian Church on Sunday, August 27th to our worship service.

**OUR NEXT JAZZ ON THE PLAZA** is OCTOBER 7th. THERE WILL NOT BE A CONCERT IN SEPTEMBER.

**NEW MEMBERS CLASS & LUNCH** will be held Saturday, September 2nd from 11:30am-1:30pm. Please contact the church office if you would like to attend.

**DEACON SUNDAY** is Sunday September 10th. The speaker for the day will be our own Kyle DiCamillo. The Deacons will also be hosting a Fellowship Hour following worship.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** of the San Diego Presbytery Fall Gartering is Friday, September 22 from 9:30am-1:00pm at Chula Vista Presbyterian Church. Cost is \$10.00. To register, contact Rose Russo at (619) 600-1302.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** Bible Study is Sunday, September 24th following worship. Pastor Jan will lead.

**CUPC COMMUNITY BAZAAR & BAKE SALE!** Saturday, October 7th from 8:00am -1:00pm-3025 Fir Street, San Diego, 92102. This is a community event where you can sell or buy crafts, antiques, or hidden treasures and delicious home baked goods! Tables are available for your use (for a donation of \$15 each). Call 619-239-2346 to reserve your table. BREAKFAST will be provided by the Boy/Girl Scouts Troup #12 (Donations accepted). PAPER SHREDDING for FREE!!! (10:00am-1:00pm). Don't miss this great community event!

**BACK TO SCHOOL IS HALLOWEEN TIME!** We need your cars and you to attend on October 31. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. Please sign up your car with Tina in the office ([office@cupcsd.org](mailto:office@cupcsd.org)).

Christ United Presbyterian Church  
Jan Farley, Interim Pastor  
William BJ Robinson, Director of Music  
3025 Fir Street, San Diego, CA 92102  
(619) 239-2346  
[Info@cupcsd.org](mailto:Info@cupcsd.org)

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