



November 3, 2019

To those who are dearly loved by God and called to be God's people. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...

The Apostle Paul greeted fellow Christians with words like these as he wrote letters to early churches scattered all over the Roman Empire. Paul wrote to give comfort, support, and guidance in times of trouble to those called to be God's people as they wrestled with how to be "the church" together.

Paul's letters to Christian communities spread far and wide came to mind this past week as nearly 200,000 evacuees from Sonoma County were displaced. Even though our communication now happens at the touch of the screen, learning how to be God's people together in times of trouble is still an important part of our journey as disciples of Christ.

In response to the Kincade Fire, our church took in evacuees (including a veritable menagerie of pets) for several days and nights, providing hospitality and respite. People supported one another, shared meals together, and even had an impromptu hymn-sing.

We are incredibly thankful that the Kincade Fire was overall less devastating than the 2017 North Bay Fires, though for many it was frightening and disruptive. At this time, we are pleased to report that none of our church family lost homes. We pray for our neighbors who have not been so fortunate and those for whom the fires created undue physical or financial hardship.

As we recover from this fire event and head into the holiday season, our prayers naturally turn to those who need a helping hand. There is a list of ways to give and serve printed in last week's newsletter (now available at the Connect Center in the sanctuary entrance).

In gratitude for God's goodness, Paul reminded those who supported him in a time of distress: *"My God will meet your every need out of his riches in the glory that is found in Christ Jesus. Let glory be given to God our Father forever and always (Phil 4:19-20)."*

We are grateful that no disaster can limit the riches that are found in Christ Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirits.

Peace,
Emily

TODAY @ THE CONNECT CENTER

Sign up for:

- ◆ Presbyterian Women Annual Christmas Luncheon (12/7/19)
- ◆ Rhythm of Life workshop rescheduled (1/11/20)
- ◆ Photo session with Lifetouch
- ◆ GriefShare and Caregivers Support Groups
- ◆ Surviving the Holidays workshop (11/14/19)

Pick up:

- ◆ Your Lifetouch Picture
- ◆ Each One Feed One bags
- ◆ Save-the-Date Postcards: Silent Movie & Festival of Lessons and Carols

Bring:

- ◆ Warm clothes for Nomadic Shelter (11/5)

Click QR code to read:

- ◆ Newsletter online
- ◆ 10:30 bulletin online

PW Annual Christmas Luncheon

December 7, 11:00 AM

Enjoy a fun lunch, shopping (homemade crafts and baked goods), caroling and a fashion show! Proceeds benefit local charities. Sign up today at the Connect Center.

Special Music & Film Event

Saturday, Nov. 16, 7PM in Sanctuary
F. W. Murnau's "*Sunrise*," an acclaimed silent film from 1927; John Pavik will be playing the organ.

WE SERVE

Each One Feed One

Now through November 10

Pick up grocery bags and attached shopping list now across from the Connect Center for the annual Redwood Gospel Mission Great Thanksgiving Banquet. Bags are due back to the church by November 10.

WE CARE

We mourn the loss of our church family members:

- ◆ Pat Higgins, the spouse of Cindy Higgins, who passed away at home on October 25. Please keep Cindy and her family in your prayers.
- ◆ Wanda Britton, who passed on Sunday, October 27. Please keep Laura and all her family in your prayers.
- ◆ Toni Faxon, who passed Wednesday, October 30. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Celebration of Life Services

- ◆ A memorial service for Linda Coleman will be held on Friday, November 8 at 11:00 AM with a reception afterwards in Ingram Hall hosted by the Deacons.
- ◆ The family will be rescheduling the memorial service for RobRoy MacLeod.

The rose on the organ celebrates the birth of **Charles Cole Deal**, born October 27 to Rachel and Blake Deal; his grandparents are Stuart and Helen Deal.

We thank God for answered prayers as we join Keller and Marcia McDonald who are celebrating the safe return of their son, Luke McDonald who is home after being deployed overseas.

Military Christmas Card Signing

Sunday, November 10

Join us in Ingram Hall between worship services on November 10 to sign Christmas cards which will be sent to our friends and relatives serving in the military. Let Colleen Soldate know if you have a family member who would appreciate a card (colleen@fpcsantaros.org).