



**CHRIST CHURCH**  
PORTOLA VALLEY & WOODSIDE

# THE WEEKLY E-PISTLE

## news & update



### TODAY'S SERVICE

**Flowers:** Ellie Gardner  
**Greeter:**  
**Altar Guild:** Betsy Alexander  
**Usher:** Betsy Alexander  
**Acolyte:** Louise Delafield  
**The Lesson:** Sherry Lund  
**The Epistle:** Carl Cheney  
**Intercessions:** Louise Delafield  
**Coffee Hour Host:** Norma Cance

### CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

**Birthdays**  
William Mack

### THIS WEEK'S HAPPENINGS

**Sunday, June 26**  
 10 a.m. Service (No Nursery)  
 1 p.m. Memorial Service and Reception for Don Sweet  
**Wednesday, June 29**  
 10 a.m. Women's Spirituality Class  
**Thursday, June 30**  
 9:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study



[Click Here for Bulletin/Order of Service](#)

[CLICK HERE to join on Zoom](#)

[CLICK HERE to watch on YouTube](#)

## A Note From Your Rector

Dear Christ Church Family and Friends:

It seems like our nation is becoming more and more divided. The news seems to get worse and worse. Shootings continue, a new virus is emerging, we are learning from insiders that our democracy was at risk in the last presidential election, the Supreme Court has issued controversial decisions ([click here](#) to read our Presiding Bishop's, Charles Curry, statement), and a recent Gallup poll found that belief in God has reached a new low just when we need God – a savior - more than ever. Despite all of these things, it is through God, through the intentional and difficult work of being a disciple and trying to love every being as we love ourselves that we can see our way forward. I wonder if it can be done without God in our lives.

Things are definitely changing on the religious horizon. I knew that attendance for most churches regardless of denomination has been in decline for years, most recently in the evangelical/ fundamental churches. However, I thought it was simply that people were becoming more universal and seeking a soul connection outside of organized religion. A parent from one of our young families shared with me that most of their friends do not believe in God as all. I was shocked, but the Gallup poll confirmed what she was saying. This presents us with a big challenge. As University of Columbia professor, Dr. Laura Miller's research suggests in the book we provide to every family in our church and preschool *The Spiritual Child*, humans are neurologically wired to have a transcendent connection to the Divine. However, if that is not nurtured in the first two decades of life, and particularly the first decade, then those neuropathways atrophy. We then may

lose our physical neurological ability to have that connection. This one of the reasons to go to church, to take our children to church, and why we have a faith-based preschool because this “connection” to higher benevolent power is the single most determining factor in a person’s thriving according to the most recent psychological studies. So we some work to do and some challenges to overcome.

First of all, a note about our finances. Our new Treasurer, Betsy Alexander, has been working around the clock. She re-instituted our Finance Committee, which Trask Leonard is chairing. They have worked tirelessly to give us a more accurate and transparent budget for both the church ([click here](#)) and the preschool ([click here](#)). Both were approved by the Vestry at our June meeting and are available for you to view on our website. Things are looking bleak as our investments are down, two major donors have died and three have become incapacitated and four have moved away. Additionally, our investments have taken a hit. We are concerned about cash flow in the next six months and the roof needs major repair. We are asking everyone to **please make a contribution immediately – above and beyond your annual pledge - if you are able.**

Second, as was raised at our Annual Meeting at the end of January, our Carillon preschool also faces some financial challenges ahead due to the introduction of free preschool for four-year-olds. Many of you graciously and wonderfully volunteered to help find a way forward for the preschool. THANK YOU! **Here is what we are proposing and how you can help with Carillon.** We are going to participate in a leadership and organizational development program being offered by the Diocese. It is called *Vital + Thriving*. We will begin with a cohort of other churches in 2023 as we determine the future of our church. We are at a crossroads for both the church and school so the more people from our congregation who participate, then the better the outcome will be. One of our many outreach ministries includes the Carillon School. Thus, it will be an important part of the discussion about our future.

Finally, I want to leave you with a reminder that we can overcome and accomplish so much more when we invite God into the equation, then when try to go it alone. I leave you with this prayer from Joyce Rupp’s *Anchors for the Soul*:

#### *More Than Self-Reliance*

When I am in situations that are difficult,  
I often hear God saying to me:  
“Don’t rely only on yourself.  
I will come into you life  
If you will invite and welcome me there.  
The two of us together can do much more  
For this situation than just you, by yourself.  
Trust me to be there for you.

It’s not that I always get what I want  
When I know on that divine door,  
But I can always count on receiving what I need.

Today: I rely on more than just myself.

With love,  
Beth

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## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### SERVICE FOR DON SWEET SUNDAY at 1 P.M.

We will celebrate the life of Don Sweet this Sunday, June 26, at 1 p.m. It was just a month ago that we put to rest his beloved wife of 73 years, Beth

### SF PRIDE PARADE

The annual SF Pride Parade is back after a two-year hiatus! It will take place on Sunday, June 26 starting at 10:30 a.m. As in past years, the Diocese of California has signed up to march with United in Spirit, an interfaith contingent. This is a great option for individuals, as well

Sweet. There will be a reception following the service on the patio. Please wear masks indoors.

## RIDES TO CHURCH FOR SOME OF OUR SENIORS

If you are available to provide a ride either to or from church on Sundays for some of our senior parishioners who are no longer driving please contact nicole [here](#). Betsy Alexander lives in Menlo Park, Anne Dauer lives in Palo Alto at the Vi, and Joan Gray is at the Sequoias. Thank you!

as congregations that are not organizing their own parade contingent. United in Spirit is also hosting a booth on both Saturday and Sunday of Pride Weekend. Our clergy are invited to lend their pastoral presence and to share information about their LGBTQ+-affirming congregations. Wearing religious garb (rainbow-themed, especially!) is encouraged.

To register for the parade and/or volunteer at the booth, go to <https://unitedinspiritsf.org/register/>. For further info on United in Spirit, go to <http://unitedinspiritsf.org/> or phone (510) 527-2663.

Also, please let the Rev. Deacon Gary England know if you'd like to carry a sign in the parade (we have several for the Episcopal Church and DioCal). Email: [garye@diocal.org](mailto:garye@diocal.org).

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## NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH TEAM



**Snack Bags for Homeless Kids Summer Camp:** from **Sunday June 19th to Sunday July 31st** (7 weeks) Christ Church will be providing snack bags to support the Life Moves Summer Adventure Camp program for local homeless kids. We will make 100 bags each week, for the camps at Haven House (23 families) in Menlo Park plus Redwood Family House (10 families) and the Safe Parking camp (for people living in RVs) in Redwood City. We need volunteers to help assemble the bags **after church each Sunday**. Volunteer cookie bakers are also needed. Contact Kathy Kennedy at [kennedyiti@aol.com](mailto:kennedyiti@aol.com) or 650-291-9678. Or just show up. Special thanks to “buyers” Angela Hey and Kathy Kennedy (gold fish, raisins, bags and water) plus cookie bakers Diane Leonard and Carol Wentworth for their help last week along with all the efficient bag stuffers. The camp counselors were all smiles when they saw the snack

bags arrive. Life Moves is also seeking one-on-one “Tap-in tutors”, ages 16+ to tutor homeless kids (6th - 8th grade) in math and language arts. Fill out the application form at <https://www.lifemoves.org/volunteers/summer-adventure-camp/>

**Dinner for Maple Street Shelter:** Seeking sous chefs and bakers. On **Sunday July 3rd** Outreach will be making dinner salads and dessert for 100 homeless adults temporarily housed at Maple Street Shelter in Redwood City. Much of the preparation will be done the day before. Contact Ruth Ann Wrucke at 650-851-8435 to volunteer. Maple Street Shelter is part of Life Moves which provides 1549 beds and a hot meal each night for otherwise homeless adults and families in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. They also provide the counseling needed to rapidly help our unhoused neighbors move into stable homes. In December the Maple Street shelter will expand to provide housing for 300 people, each night.

**Fill the Backpacks for Homeless Kids/Teens:** This year, with your help, Christ Church will be filling backpacks with needed school supplies for local kids, currently living in interim housing in Life Moves shelters. We hope to provide and fill 20 backpacks for 3rd to 5th graders. We also need donations of 20 unfilled backpacks for homeless college kids, many of whom have “graduated” from foster care. Can you help? Signup on the Signup Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f4caca82e5-christ4> then deliver your items to church by **Sunday July 17th**. Questions, contact Tricia Christensen at [triciahc@yahoo.com](mailto:triciahc@yahoo.com) or 650-207-2092.

**Rise Against Hunger Registration is now open:** On **Sunday September 25th** from 11:30 - 1:30 the Christ Church Community will be making 10,000 meals in just two hours. Our food kits will be sent to the hungry worldwide. Registration is now open and yes, you can bring friends. Click here to Register. <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/CCPVW2022> To learn more about Rise Against Hunger watch this 2 1/2 minute video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TI9LOljt1RU&t=4s>. Contact Mary Soubirous at [msoubirou@aol.com](mailto:msoubirou@aol.com) or 650-224-0277 for more information.

**Seeking Toiletries:** Remember travel? If you have any travel size shampoo, conditioner, soap or lotion you picked up during your last hotel stay you can donate them for use by the Maple Street Shelter. Bring them to the box in the breezeway. And if you have a toothbrush or toothpaste your dentist gave you on your last visit that you have no use for, they could use that too. Maple Street Shelter is located in Redwood City and provides housing for 100 homeless adults each night.

**SpiritCare visit:** Thank you Angela Hey, Penny McCulloch and Bowen Wang for singing and reading with senior residents of Silver Oaks Memory Care on Sunday June 19th (Father's Day). In honor of Father's Day and Mother's Day (which we missed last month due to COVID) everyone in the congregation signed cards for the residents and there were very pleased to receive them. We also presented a special slide program created by Kathy Kennedy which told the story from Ascension to Pentecost and had pictures of sites in Jerusalem and great art to help tell that story. SpiritCare provides spiritual and emotional support for "forgotten" elderly and disabled residents at over 60 care centers in the Bay Area. Christ Church has partnered with Silver Oaks Memory Care which supports 46 seniors for this important ministry. Contact Penny McCulloch at 425-713-9002 or [penny.j.mcculloch@gmail.com](mailto:penny.j.mcculloch@gmail.com) for more information or to volunteer **Sunday July 17th.**

**Ukraine:** Outreach does not have a program to help in Ukraine but Spanish-American Chef Jose Andres has set up his "World Central Kitchens" (WCK) in 7 central European countries plus Ukraine. Russia invaded Ukraine in February and WCK started making meals for refugees the next day. This is the worst refugee crisis in Europe since WWII. One quarter of all Ukrainians and two-thirds of all Ukrainian kids are currently refugees. WCK is helping feed the 5.3 million Ukrainian refugees who have left the country (90% are women and kids) plus the 7 million displaced in-country Ukrainians. 4300 WCK "Food Fighters" have served 55+ million meals from 4500 distribution sites in the months since the war began. They are currently serving 710,000 meals per day. WCK has distributed 24+ million pounds of food to chefs in 500+ Ukrainian communities, including on the front lines. They are providing 30 pound food kits (600,000 meals) to families every day especially in newly freed areas. If you want to help, this organization is worth your consideration. [wck.org/benevolentspirits](http://wck.org/benevolentspirits). The Bentivaglio Family Fund is currently matching donations dollar for dollar up to \$1 million.

Christ Church Portola Valley & Woodside | [ccpvw.org](http://ccpvw.org)  
Carillon School | [carillonschool.org](http://carillonschool.org)

