



First Presbyterian  
Church Livermore  
centered • celebrating • serving

# FPCL NEWS

March 2020



Wednesdays

March 4 - April 1

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



**PALM SUNDAY: APRIL 5:** Worship: 8:30, Chapel & 10:00, Sanctuary

**MAUNDY THURSDAY: APRIL 9:** Worship: 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

**GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 10:** Worship: 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

**EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 12**

Worship: 9:00 am, Sanctuary - Children's Program - Upper Room 2D1

Worship: 11:00 am, Sanctuary - Childcare Provided

Further Lenten Details Inside . . .

# WORSHIP TIME

8:30 am Contemplative service: Chapel

10:00 am Traditional service: Sanctuary

# SUNDAY PROGRAMS

## CHILDCARE (Infant - 3yr.)

- Available during both services in C2

## CHILDREN at 10 am Service

- Rocket Room (**3 yr potty-trained - 5 yr old**) in C3
- **BLAST Rotation** Sunday Program (**K-5th grades**) Multiple classrooms

## STUDENTS at 10 am Service

- **1st Sundays:** (Middle/High School). Students invited to sit in the balcony for worship.
- **Student Program:** (Middle/High School). Students meet in youth room (2F4) on Sunday mornings at 10 am.

### Office Hours:

**Monday - Friday - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

(925) 447-2078 | [office@fpcl.us](mailto:office@fpcl.us) | [www.fpcl.us](http://www.fpcl.us)

**Office will close at 12 Noon on Good Friday, April 10**

**Articles due 15th of each month: Email: [newsletter@fpcl.us](mailto:newsletter@fpcl.us)**

# STAFF

**Pastor Steve Wilde:** Senior Pastor, [steve@fpcl.us](mailto:steve@fpcl.us)

**Pastor Denia Segrest:** Associate Pastor: [denia@fpcl.us](mailto:denia@fpcl.us)

**Pastor Josh Jonas:** Associate Pastor: [josh@fpcl.us](mailto:josh@fpcl.us)

**Rev. Bill Nebo:** Pastor Emeritus

**Jane Ackley:** Director of Church Operations: [jane@fpcl.us](mailto:jane@fpcl.us)

**Janet Holmes:** Director of Music: [janet@fpcl.us](mailto:janet@fpcl.us)

**Brie Johnson:** Director of Children & Student Ministry: [brie@fpcl.us](mailto:brie@fpcl.us)

**Kim Salch:** Coordinator of Connections Ministry: [kim@fpcl.us](mailto:kim@fpcl.us)

**Danielle Hayes:** Accounting Specialist: [danielle@fpcl.us](mailto:danielle@fpcl.us)

**Jen Wilde:** Support Coordinator, Children & Student Ministry: [jen@fpcl.us](mailto:jen@fpcl.us)

**Michele O'Hair:** Project Support Coordinator: [michele@fpcl.us](mailto:michele@fpcl.us)

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# THE WILDE SIDE OF THINGS

*"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it." - Hebrews 13:1-2*



Greetings.

We find ourselves in the midst our season of Lent. Lent is a time that is intended to help us focus [or re-focus!] on the call of discipleship and our desire to know God more fully in our lives and in our church.

Throughout this Lenten season we will be focusing on our theme: *"He Gathered..."* Each Sunday during Lent we will be examining passages from Luke's gospel where Jesus is at table with people as we consider hospitality and inclusion in the church [FPCL] and the Kingdom of God.

Then on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent [From 6:30-7:30-pm beginning March 4th] we will expand on that theme as *"We gather"* to delve more deeply into God's call for our church to be a place of welcome.

I cannot tell you how excited I am for this theme and opportunity for our church community to prayerfully consider how we commit ourselves to being a welcoming place that creates space for everyone to feel connected, accepted and loved. I certainly do hope that you will make worship on Sunday's a priority and that you will plan on joining us on Wednesday evenings as we journey together towards Easter.

It is my hope and prayer that this Lenten season will be a time of renewal and insight as you deepen your faith and strengthen your relationship with God.

Blessed to be with you as we follow Jesus,

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# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS!

## SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAMS

**Stars Childcare** (Infant-3 yr. old): At 8:30 & 10:00 am services.

**Rocket Room** (3 yr. old, potty-trained – 5yr. old): Preschool Sunday School Program during the 10:00 am service.

**BLAST (K-5th)**: Rotation model Sunday School Program during the 10:00 am service

### One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks:

Children are invited to contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) through fish banks. OGHS is an organization working to share the love of God with our neighbors in need around the world. Donations to OGHS supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Fish banks were distributed in Blast classes in February. If your child did not receive one, please stop by the check-in stand on Sunday morning to pick one up!

### Kid's Music Time - Beginning in March!

We are going to pilot a Kid's Music Time for K-5th grade after Blast from **11:00-11:30am in the Chapel**. Our plan is to walk the kids straight over to the Chapel from their Blast classes. Kids will have the chance to explore music and worship through various instruments and singing. We will also be teaching the kids some basic musical knowledge (i.e. rhythm, rests, notes). We would love for this to be a fun and creative time for kids. We have a couple of volunteers helping to run and organize the program, but parent help is always welcomed. If you want to be involved on a more regular basis please let us know.

### Lent for Families: Season of Lent: February 26 - April 12

During Lent our church community will be gathering on Wednesday nights, *We Gather*. *We Gather* nights will be 6:30-7:30 pm and each week will have a different focus. We ask that **any childcare needs be requested a week in advance (email [brie@fpcl.us](mailto:brie@fpcl.us))**. On **Wednesday March 25th from 6:30-7:30 pm, we will have a special program for kids in the Blast classrooms** while parents enjoy fellowship time in Fellowship Hall. Lent is such a special time in the life of the church, and we hope you and your family are able to participate!

### Teach BLAST this Spring!

We are looking for a couple of volunteers to help teach in April and May. If you are interested in teaching a 2-week rotation, please email [brie@fpcl.us](mailto:brie@fpcl.us) or [jen@fpcl.us](mailto:jen@fpcl.us)

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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR FAMILY TO CONNECT AND SERVE

- **Mom's Life Groups:** Tuesday morning 9:15-10:30am, New Study begins March 4th, contact [brie@fpcl.us](mailto:brie@fpcl.us)
- **BLAST Theater:** March 22, 10:00 am service
- **All Church Worship:** March 29 @ 10:00 am
- We Gather: Lent Wednesday Night Fellowship 6:30-7:30 pm.
- **SAVE THE DATE! Vacation Bible Camp June 8-11 Registration opens March!**

More information on children/family programs/events found at [www.fpcl.us](http://www.fpcl.us)

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## STUDENT MINISTRY @FPCL

Check out what is happening for students in March!

### SUNDAYS FOR STUDENTS

**Middle School & High School Program:** Sunday mornings @ 10:00am (Students will go directly to the youth room on Sunday Morning as opposed to beginning in the service)

### MEXICO MISSION TRIP JUNE 21-28

Registration for this summer's mission trip is open!

The trip is open to students who have completed 8th-12th or are current college-aged students. We will be returning to work with Amor Ministries and helping to provide housing for families. If you would like to learn more about the trip please email [brie@fpcl.us](mailto:brie@fpcl.us) and visit Amor's website, [www.amor.org](http://www.amor.org)



**We Gather for Students:** On Sunday mornings during Lent, middle school and high school students will go through passages focused on Jesus gathering around the table with others.

### Lent for Families

During Lent our church community will be gathering on **Wednesday nights**, We Gather. **We Gather nights will be from 6:30-7:30 pm** and each week they will have a different focus. Lent is such a special time in the life of the church, and we hope you and your family are able to participate!

### UPCOMING DATES

- **Mexico Mission Trip Meeting:** March 15th @ 11:15 am (Rm. 2F-4)
  - **All Church Worship:** March 29th @ 10:00 am
  - **Mexico Mission Trip:** June 21-28th
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# WE GATHER- WEDNESDAY NIGHT DURING LENT

6:30-7:30 PM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

During Lent...put Jesus on your iCal!

All of our Lenten “We Gather” events on **Wednesday nights** are **family-friendly** and held in **fellowship hall**. Children and students are encouraged to attend with their families. Each Wednesday during Lent we will gather to worship through praise music, food, prayer, and connections.



- **March 4:** Praise Music with a band, scripture and devotion.
- **March 11:** Connecting through prayer: Prayer stations provide an opportunity to enhance your faith in experiential and reflective ways. All ages can participate at their leisure individually, as a family, or with friends.
- **March 18:** Praise Music with a band, scripture and devotion.
- **March 25:** Media Night for the whole family (short video and discussion for adults in Fellowship Hall and children and student program offered in 2F-2 and 2F-4)
- **April 1:** Let's eat together! All are welcome as we conclude We Gather Wednesday nights during Lent with a meal.

**Extended Reflection Time:** Chapel space is open from 7:30-8:00 pm

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**Palm Sunday April 5th: 8:30 am chapel, 10:00 am sanctuary**

**The Holy Week journey begins on Palm Sunday.** On this day, we joyfully remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Humbly riding on a donkey as palm branches are laid before him.

**Maundy Thursday, April 9th: 7:00 pm sanctuary**

**We experience the Last Supper between Jesus and his disciples.** During this service, our journey takes a turn toward uncertainty and fear as we remember Judas' betrayal and Jesus' arrest.

**Good Friday, April 10th: 7:00 pm sanctuary**

**It is a dark and mournful point in our journey through Holy Week.** During this service, we remember the day that Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried.

**Easter Sunday, April 12th: Traditional services, 9:00 & 11:00 am sanctuary**

**Christ is risen... he is risen indeed!** Our voices joyfully join in the celebratory songs of resurrection. The Holy Week journey will strengthen and deepen your relationship with God through Jesus Christ as we walk in the footsteps of his last seven days.

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# REFUGEE SERVICES COMMITTEE NEWS

Living into Christ's words to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark: 12:31) and "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in..." (Matthew 25:25), we are a group that partners with Jewish Family Community Services East Bay to welcome refugee families from Afghanistan. The families we serve are in the U.S. on a Special Immigration Visa, which our government issues to those who have been employed by the U.S. or who assisted our military and whose lives are in danger as a result of that involvement. These families are settled in Concord and Walnut Creek in order to be near the JFCSEB office and the services they receive.

## **There are many ways you can be a part of our team:**

- A Welcoming Team is trained by JFCSEB and assists families with some of the details of settling in a new country, such as applying for Social Security cards, driving to medical appointments, enrolling the children in school, etc. This is one of the more labor intensive things we do, requiring 2-3 daytime hours/week for about 6 weeks. This is also one of the most rewarding things we do, as it allows us to get to know the families well and build close relationships.
- Tutor in English: Families enroll in ESL classes and need help with homework, as well as just enjoying casual conversation to build their English skills. This is an excellent way to build a close relationship and involves a more flexible time commitment.
- Perhaps you are a gifted organizer? We can use help in coordinating donations and delivering them to the JFCSEB office in Walnut Creek.
- Maybe you can participate in a group outing for the families as they get acclimated to their new home?
- If driving or a time commitment is a deterrent, never fear! You can still help by donating grocery cards and Target or Kohl's gift cards.

**Interested in helping? Contact, Fred Bahr 559 909-1080 or [afbahr@att.net](mailto:afbahr@att.net)**

## **Refugees & Immigrants: Compassion in Action**

Guest speaker: Kathryn Winogura

Director Volunteer Services

Jewish Family & Community Service - East Bay



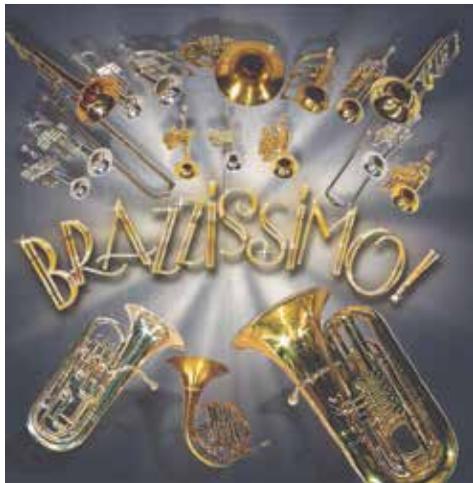
**Sunday, March 15 11:15 am  
Upper Room 2D1**

**Limited space. Reservations recommended  
[email office@fpcl.us](mailto:office@fpcl.us) or call 925-447-2078**

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# MUSIC NEWS



## SAVE THE DATE!!

**Sunday, April 19 at 4 PM in our sanctuary**

You won't want to miss this!

An additional musical treat to look forward to: mark your calendar now for one of the first celebrations honoring our upcoming 150th anniversary. We will be hosting Brazzissimo, the brass group comprised of a few of the players we have heard in our services recently!

We will hear Brass Music that spans the centuries in a myriad of musical styles - from Mouret and Mozart, to jazz and tango, topped with a glorious John Williams movie score. Brazzissimo

delights their audiences with a unique program that appeals to music lovers of all backgrounds. **Suggested donation: \$10 per person and \$20 maximum per family.**

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE PRESBYTERY SPRING GATHERING

**Saturday, March 7th, 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall**

A luncheon will be served at 12:00pm (\$10 donation)

All women (and men) are invited to attend this wonderful event!

Guest speaker is Corinne Quinn who will be sharing 2019 USA is- sion Experience to Finger Lakes Region, New York.

**RSVP's for the luncheon is appreciated.** Contact: Karen Vied 925-445-0133 or kvied@comcast.net.



## Operating Fund Financial Report as of January 31, 2020

	Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
Income	101,561	94,310	7,251
Expenditures	85,225	101,239	(16,014)
Surplus/(Deficit)	16,336	(6,929)	

### Note:

What a great start to the year! Income came in above expectations primarily due to recognizing prepaid pledges, while expenditures were well below which is normal for January.

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# NOV. DEC. JAN. SESSION MEETING SUMMARIES

**FPCL Session met on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, Tuesday, December 17, 2019 and Tuesday, January 21, 2020. Summary**

## **Reports Given:**

- The 2020 dream and draft budgets were reviewed.
- A presentation on Culinary Angels and the work they do in partnership with FPCL was given at the joint Deacon and Session meeting.
- Presbytery of San Francisco Nov. 12, 2019 Meeting Report:
  - 224th General Assembly will be June 20-27, 2020 in Baltimore, MD.
  - 2020 Presbytery budget was approved with a per capita rate of \$38.00.
- The G4 Ministry Retreat will be January 25th.

## **Motions Passed:**

- Authorize a subgroup of Session members to meet with the members of the Dec 1 and 8 Next Step class.
- Increase the Rev. Segrest's pastoral resources budget by \$500.00 as part of her Terms of Call.
- Offer Josh Jonas the position of Interim Associate Pastor (25 hours/week; 1 year term).
- Approve recommending the proposed FPCL bylaws revisions to the congregation for approval at the January 26, 2020 Annual Meeting of the Congregation and the Corporation. The revisions are:
  - Updating the name change from Endowment Fund to Christian Heritage Fund as approved at the July 23, 2019 stated session meeting and simplifying the committee name from Commemorative and Endowment Funds Committee to Funds Committee.
  - Reducing the minimum number of elders by 2 and of deacons by 2.
- Approve an increase in kitchen use for Culinary Angels to weekly for a trial period not to exceed 4 months beginning in February. (In January, it was reported that Culinary Angels would not begin weekly use until March.)
- Reconsider and redirect the Christmas Eve offering to another purpose (not Compassion International).
- Direct the proceeds from the Christmas Eve offerings 1/3 each to: PFLAG, Night to Shine, and Jewish Family & Community Services Refugee Resettlement.
- Approve Personnel's recommendation to the congregation for the terms of call for the Rev. Dr. Wilde.
- Approve the administration of the sacrament of communion at the PW women's retreat in February.
- Approve the baptism of Elizabeth Margaret Ackel, April 19, 2020 by Pastor Wilde.
- Approve the FPCL Session Annual Statistical Report for the Year 2019.
- Approve the 2019 Financial Report.
- Transfer the surplus of \$22,959 to the Session Reserve Fund.
- Transfer \$10,000 from Session Reserves to a restricted Mission fund.
- Approve the 2020 Operating Budget.
- Approve a committee to begin looking at the role and process for hiring a Director of Student Ministries.

**Session minutes** are available in the church office. *Clerk of Session, Christine Weber*

**Session Meetings** are open to members of the congregation. The next regular Stated Session Meetings will be held on March 24, and April 28, and at 7:00 pm.

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# IN MEMORIAM

**Robert Lee McGee**, 92, died November 9th in his home in Livermore. Robert was born February 19, 1928 in Illinois, after graduating from high school, he proudly served in the Navy for two years. When he returned, he had his first son, Randy McGee. Robert then ventured into a new opportunity by becoming a successful salesman for Goodyear Tires. Shortly after, he met the love of his life Marlene Nevel, they married on August 20th, 1958 and had three sons, Ronald, Ricky, and Robert. During their 61 years of marriage, they lived in five states and travelled to at least 12 countries. He started his own company, named after he and his wife, R & M Heavy Equipment. Robert was an inspiration as a father and a hardworking provider. He adored his wife and during his progression of Alzheimer's, she was his only constant memory. His 11 grandkids and 7 great grandkids will miss his silly jokes and tenderheartedness and he will be eternally missed.

**Sally Ann Bystroff** lived in the joy of life-long service as an organizer, activist, teacher and advocate in the community, the justice system, and ministry. After graduating high school in 1949, Sally attended Colorado State University graduating in 1954 with a chemistry degree, accepting a position at Ames Laboratory at Iowa State College (now University), supporting atomic research. Sally married Roman in 1956. She experienced great joy through the '60's with the birth of 4 sons and a daughter. Sally taught at St. Michaels Catholic Church for two years and at preschool for another three. She served as an advisor to high school youth for 7 years and initiated efforts to have sex education in the schools. Sally embraced a disciplined moral activism, engaging with food market groups, local politics, and women's issues. She joined marches in San Francisco and mass protests at the Livermore lab. Sally worked with Boyd "Butch" and Ruth Shattuck to establish the nonprofit organization, the Buenas Vidas Ranch, in 1974. She completed an MDiv degree in the mid- 70's from the San Francisco Theological Seminary. She was appointed to the Alameda County Social Services, as a Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention commissioner for 6 years through 1979. She had a passion for prison ministry and also worked intensely with Restorative Justice. Her role in the last few decades was to study deeply and compose insights from Bible sources, to be shared in Bible study groups. She loved life and people, time with life-long friends, travel, mountains and trees, her family, archeology, bright colors, and Biblical research. Sally was happy finding service, with the love of God ever present. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, her five children-Mark, Chris, Julie, Greg, and John and six beloved grandchildren. Sally's life was celebrated in our Sanctuary Feb. 1st.

**Howard G. Seebach** born 1930 in PA passed away from heart failure in his home at Heritage Estates, Livermore, on January 23. He graduated from Wilmington (DE) Friends School, the University of Delaware and then Cornell University with a M.B.A. in 1960. He served in the Army for six years and was honorably discharged as Captain and Commanding Officer of a Basic Training Unit in Fort Hood, TX. While in Germany, he served as 2nd Lieutenant, Company Commander, 510th Tank Battalion, 5th Corp. He married his first wife and mother of his four children, Alma Stevens Seebach, who was an American teacher on the base. Howard later married Emilee Green in 1988 and enjoyed 24 years of marriage, until her death in 2012. Howard worked with the DuPont Company for over 30 years in sales and marketing leadership roles. After retirement, Howard served as Pleasanton, CA Parks & Rec Commissioner and later Civic Arts Commissioner. He served on Pastor nominating committees and as an Elder at FPCL. He loved a stage, an audience, a good story and a good joke. He loved his family and his friends from all parts of his life. He loved an adventure. One of his favorite quotations was "Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty, well-preserved body, but rather to skid-in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, proclaiming, wow what a ride!" He is survived by his children Steven, Cathy, David and stepson Ron, his 15 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, as well as his rescue dog Gomer. Howard's life was celebrated in our Sanctuary on Feb. 8th.

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# MARCH/APRIL AT A GLANCE

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Most Life Groups will **not** meet during Holy Week (April 6-11th), **please check with your group leader.**

**NOTE: We Gather, Lent on Wednesdays: March 4, 11, 18, 25 & April 1 6:30 - 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall**

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## Every Sunday

**Life Group:** 8:45 - 9:45 am, F5

**Bell Rehearsal:** 4:00 - 8:00 pm, Sanct.

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## Every Monday

**Women's Life Group:** 7:00 - 8:30 pm 2F4

**Boy Scouts:** 7:00 - 8:00 pm, FH

## Second Monday

**Rebecca Circle:** 12 Noon - 2:00 pm, F5,  
Bring a sack lunch!

**Hannah Circle:** 7:00 - 8:30 pm, F5

## Last Monday

**Meet and Eat:** – 11:30 -12:30 pm, FH

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## Every Tuesday

**Men's Life Group:** 6:30 - 7:30 am, F5.

**Mom's Life Group:** 9:15 -10:30 am, 2F4

**Life Group, Heritage Estates:** 10:30 -  
11:30 am, 900 E. Stanley Blvd 2nd Floor  
Activity Room

**Life Group Stoneridge Creek:** 1:00 - 2:00  
pm, 4th floor, Tahoe Bldg, Ridge Rm.

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## Cross Update

**A team is being formed** to brainstorm ideas, designs, locations, etc. for a new cross on our campus. If you are interested and/or have an artistic talent and would like to be part of this team, please email [jane@fpcl.us](mailto:jane@fpcl.us)

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2D1 = Upper Room

FH = Fellowship Hall

F5 = Room across from main office

F1 = Courtyard room (2nd on right)

2F2 & 2F4 = Youth Rooms, upstairs

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## Every Wednesday

**Men's Life Group** (Dad's 20's-40's): 6:45-  
7:45 am, F5

**Handbell Choir, beginning adults:**  
10:15-11:00 am, Sanct.

**Life Group:** 12:00 - 1:30 pm, F1

## Second Wednesday

**Sarah Circle:** 12 Noon - 2:00 pm, 2D1

## Third Wednesday

**Martha Circle:** 1:30 pm, Heritage Es-  
tates, 900 E. Stanley Blvd 2nd Floor  
Activity Room

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## Every Thursday

**Women's Life Group:** 10:00 - 11:00 am, 2D1

**Men's Meditation:** 5:30 - 6:30 pm, F5

**Women's Life Group:** 7:00 - 8:30 pm, 2F4

**Choir Rehearsal:** 7:30 - 9:00 pm, Sanct.

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## Third Friday

**PW Book Club:** 10:00, F5

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## Second Saturday

**Together in Service:** 9:00 - 11:00 am 2D1

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## EASTER FLOWERS

Purchase an Easter Mum plant to display during our Easter services!

Place orders through the office  
([office@fpcl.us](mailto:office@fpcl.us) or 925.447.2078)

Order *and* payment deadline is  
Tuesday, March 31st.

Cost is \$15 each

