



Dear Congregation,

As we find our way through the busyness of summer and continue to seek to be faithful in such a time as this, I offer this blessing by Irish poet, priest, and philosopher John O'Donohue. May it bless you for this new month of July.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Ashley

Beannacht / Blessing - By John O'Donohue

On the day when
the weight deadens
on your shoulders
and you stumble,
may the clay dance
to balance you.

And when your eyes
freeze behind
the grey window
and the ghost of loss
gets into you,
may a flock of colours,
indigo, red, green
and azure blue,
come to awaken in you
a meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays
in the currach of thought
and a stain of ocean
blackens beneath you,
may there come across the waters
a path of yellow moonlight
to bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
may the clarity of light be yours,
may the fluency of the ocean be yours,
may the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow
wind work these words
of love around you,
an invisible cloak
to mind your life.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Gretchen Loudon	July 1
Joy Panzer	July 13
Mara Duffy	July 22
Cecelia Muller	July 29
Gail Herron	July 30

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Richard & Megan McKee	July 2
Earl & Kim Roider	July 24
Chris & Ashley Love Skrabec	July 27

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## WORSHIP ASSISTANT

July 6 - Gretchen Loudon

July 13 - Gail Herron

July 20 - Carol Dietrich

July 27 - Craig Holmes

*If you are interested in serving as a Worship Assistant, please contact the Office.*

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JULY POTLUCK



Sign-up in Westminster Hall or contact the office
Potluck Theme is "All American"

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## LITTLE FREE LIBRARY



Thank you to everyone who has donated books and Bibles to our Little Free Library.

If you are looking for a book to read, be sure to check out our library in the Geneva Room.

Feel free to borrow a book to enjoy! We are in great need of paperback novels, Bibles and spiritual books and children's books for the little library.

## SESSION UPDATE

Session met June 29, 2025. Here are some highlights.

- We all enjoyed the International Potluck and Trivia Contest. Next month's Potluck is an All American BBQ Potluck.
  - Jun Selfaison and Judy Kim will be giving a concert at our church July 12 at 1PM. We are all invited.
  - New steps and a handrail were installed at the back of our Food Pantry entrance. Much safer for everyone!
  - Our new Music Director starts July 6.
- If you have any questions, please ask any member of Session or Pastor Ashley.



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The **Midtown Food Pantry** is jumping! We now average between 90-100 people per week, feeding over 100! Thank you to all the volunteers who help make the Food Pantry happen each week. It really does take a village! To the congregation who packed our food bags for the office, we appreciate your effort and time. We couldn't do it without you. If you like to volunteer some time for our Food Pantry, please contact Pastor Ashley or our office.



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## AUGUST WINDOW

The deadline for submission of articles for the Aug. 2025 Window is **July 23rd**.

## PRIDE FESTIVAL

Stockton Pride was back and bolder than ever for the 14th annual celebration on June 21st at the Stockton Civic Auditorium. This year's theme, Loud & Proud, honored the strength and vibrancy of the LGBTQ+ community here in the Central Valley. First Presbyterian Church had a wonderful time there supporting the community with fans, candy, and information about our welcoming and fully inclusive church."



**PASTOR ASHLEY AND  
HER COOL PRIDE SHIRT**

## MISSION TRIP REPORT with Doug and Cheryl Hunt



On the coming Sundays (July 13 and July 20) we are thrilled to be able to share with you the voices of God's people in the wider church. We will see how congregations are providing safe housing and abundant food for seniors in their community. We will hear how people who have lost everything have been resilient and blessed and joyful in spite of decades of chaos, violence, and injustice.

We will learn how congregations are choosing life over death, gardens over environment destruction.

## Congregational Care Window

**July 1, 2025**

The summer solstice has come, and we are now ready to celebrate our nation's birthday on July 4<sup>th</sup>. We praise God for both but also ask His peace and mercy on this great country and wisdom for our leaders. Lord, we pray that the whole world would stop and look to You for guidance, would love one another and would live together in Your grace and peace.

As we gather with friends and family this holiday and month, we remember our faithful members who cannot be with us on Sunday mornings. We are thankful that we get to visit with Alice Callistro on our potluck Sundays as she joins us on zoom and is always upbeat. We miss you, Alice! We would like others to join us on zoom also. Pastor Ashley will send you a link if you let us know.

In other news, Celia Muller is doing well in French Camp, but is a little lonely, as her son and daughter-in-law are off on vacation, although her son Bill still comes by on Wednesdays to check on her. A call or a card are always appreciated. The same is true of Frances McPherson who is in a Galt Care Facility. You can call the office or Sylvia to get their address and phone number.

Mary Lou Hover is happy to be near her daughter Gail in Salem, OR and is quite involved in activities in her senior facility. She misses us and would also love a call or card.

We were sad and shocked to hear that Marilyn Lloyd was hit in her car on her way to church on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank God Marilyn reports she is ok—just a little sore, but her poor car is pretty banged up. (We agree that she had an angel on her shoulder that morning protecting her from much harm and providing wonderful neighbors and help quickly – and thank you Tola for rushing over to be with her that morning). Prayers for Marilyn's comfort and peace and that they can repair her car so she doesn't have to learn the ins and outs of a new one!!

May God Bless and Keep you all and God Bless America!! Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!!

Sylvia Cavanaugh, Fellowship Committee

## DELTA COLLEGE SPORTS GIVEAWAY



Delta College has several bags of sports equipment that they love to donate to local organizations supporting youth—whether through sports programs, summer camps, or recreational activities. We were able to receive some sports equipment to replace other old equipments as well as for the use of the gym's recreational and educational programs.

Thank you, Bryanna Ari - Student Program Outreach Specialist

## **Welcome to Our New Music Director Diego Bustamante!**



Diego Bustamante, from Paradise, CA has been an active performer throughout Northern California, appearing as a solo artist, chamber musician, collaborative pianist, and concerto soloist. In 2024, Diego received his Master's degree in Piano Pedagogy and Performance from Westminster Choir College in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, where he studied with Dr. James Goldsworthy and held a graduate assistantship as a rehearsal pianist for their opera program. In 2021, Diego received his Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance from University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music in Stockton, where he studied with Professor Frank Wiens and Dr. Sonia Leong. Before beginning his college career, Diego studied with the late and beloved Dr. Robert Bowman in Chico. Currently a Modesto resident, he works as a collaborative pianist for Opera Modesto, Modesto Junior College, multiple high schools, and as a freelancer. Aside from his passion for music, he is also an avid birder and overall nature enthusiast.



*First Presbyterian Church is committed to loving and serving all people, including those from diverse generations, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, and life experiences. Whatever your story, you are welcomed by Jesus Christ and by his church family.*

## WOMEN'S RETREAT 2025

All women from First Pres Stockton are invited to attend a Women's Retreat at the beautiful Zephyr Point Camp and Conference Center in Lake Tahoe. Carmichael Presbyterian Church is hosting the retreat and our very own Pastor Ashley will be the speaker for the weekend. It begins in late afternoon/evening on Friday, September 12th and goes until midday on Sunday, September 14th. The accommodations are hotel style, right alongside the beautiful lake. We will be arranging carpools to drive up together as we get closer. If you are interested in coming along or have any questions, please let Pastor Ashley or Elder Kim Roider know as we are hoping to get an estimate in the next week or so.



Pastor Ashley will be speaking at Carmichael Presbyterian Church's Women's Retreat in Lake Tahoe, and the women of our church have been invited to join!

Dates: September 12-14 (Friday Evening - Sunday Afternoon)  
Cost: \$225 for meals and lodging (hotel style shared rooms)  
To Register: Registration forms are available in the Blue Room and in the Church Office. If you are interested, please let Pastor Ashley or the office know ASAP.

## ANGELICA'S BIRTHDAY

