



Dear Congregation,

This past spring I was contacted by the organizers of the women's retreat at Carmichael Presbyterian Church and asked to speak at the retreat to be held at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center at Lake Tahoe. I was delighted to say yes, especially after their associate pastor Rev. Ivan Herman agreed to come preach in my place during the retreat. As I prayed about the retreat, an idea came to my heart. After checking in with our Spiritual Growth Committee, I asked if some of our women might be able to attend and the response from Carmichael was an emphatic yes! On the weekend of September 12-14, seven of our folks headed up along with me to participate.

The theme for the weekend was "Who You Say I Am". To explore this theme of identity, I led the group in Bible study, discussion, small group sharing, and individual reflection. We discussed the voices which have told us who we are over the course of our lives and tested them alongside the voice of God speaking through Scripture to tell us who we are. I led conversations about identity in the midst of life transitions and changes, and how we affirm our identity in Christ by caring for and speaking about ourselves with love and gentleness. On Sunday morning we worshipped with the beautiful, expansive Lake Tahoe behind us and reflected on what it means for our lives that, like the woman who snuck through the crowd to receive healing by touching Jesus' cloak, our Savior calls us daughter.

Every time I think about the weekend, I give thanks to God- for the beautiful setting, for the hospitality and warmth of fellowship with Carmichael Pres, for the opportunity to spend the time with those who attended from FPCS, and for the Holy Spirit's work in and through us in unexpected ways. Thank you so much to the congregation for the scholarships given to help our ladies go to this retreat and for all who covered in worship on the weekend we were gone.

With love,  
Pastor Ashley



Thank you to everyone who has donated books to our Little Free Library. Be sure to check out our library in the Geneva Room. Feel free to borrow a book to enjoy!



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Richard McKee	October 11
Connor McKee	October 18
Cynthia Allison	October 20
Sydney Buckley	October 21



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

October 5	Bill Alessio
October 12	Craig Holmes
October 19	Gretchen Loudon
October 26	Carol Dietrich

*If you are interested in serving as a Worship Assistant, please contact our office or Pastor Ashley.*



## COFFEE HOUR & POTLUCK SCHEDULE

October 5	Sylvia Cavanaugh/Marilyn Franklin
October 12	Carol Dietrich/Marilyn Franklin
October 19	Jane Knoop/Marilyn Franklin
October 26	/Marilyn Franklin



## SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

October 5	Melanie Zepeda / Autumn Alessio
October 12	Melanie Zepeda / Sylvia Cavanaugh
October 19	Melanie Zepeda
October 26	Melanie Zepeda



## NOVEMBER WINDOW

The deadline for submission of articles for the November 2025 Window is **October 24th**.



## SESSION UPDATE

Session met September 21, 2025. Here are some highlights.

- We are looking forward to our Favorite Dish Potluck on September 28 and playing Trivia afterwards. Our October 12 Potluck will be Veggie Forward.
- The new Stewardship Drive has begun. Gail Herron is chairing.
- We will be hosting a Trunk or Treat event October 25
- Our Advent Study will meet Thursdays at 10AM.

We will be reading *Holy Disruption*, a study of the book of Mark.

If you have any questions, please ask any member of Session or Pastor Ashley.



## Changeist

Changeist is coming back on campus!

This wonderful organization brings together young people outside of school and across neighborhoods to learn a common civic language, engage in dialogue, and build community to investigate local and national challenges ranging from poverty to environmental issues.

Starting in November, 100+ junior and high school students and their leaders will be on the church campus from 7:30 to 5:30 on 2-4 Saturdays each month. Let us pray for these partners and the kids who will participate in this program.

In order to support Changeist's safety protocols as a youth organization, we need help from our members and staff who might be on campus Saturdays.

Please call or text Stephanie Pelayo at (209) 990-7527 if you need to come by for any reason while Changeist is on campus. If you want to check if Changeist will be on campus any given Saturday, please contact the office - (209) 465-2653





We will celebrate World Communion Sunday which is the culmination of the Season of Peace we have been participating in with our denomination.

Everyone is invited to bring a favorite bread from around the world to

celebrate the beautiful diversity of all of God's people drawn around the table of Christ. Taking inspiration from one of our daily devotionals in the Season of Peace, we will also be collecting food for our food pantry to "extend the table".

Please see the image above for requested items and feel free to bring them on Sunday morning or during office hours before our October 8th distribution. May all of these elements of Sunday's worship draw us ever closer to God's heart, encouraging us to work and witness for the peace to which we are called. See you Sunday!



## North Central California Presbytery Comes to First Presbyterian Church of Stockton!

The welcoming smiles at the registration table set the tone for the entire event, creating a sense of belonging and ease. Volunteers (and staff from First Stockton and Trinity Stockton) guided guests through check-in, offered directions, offered food and drink, and ensured newcomers felt included. This intentional kindness did not go unnoticed. Many participants expressed gratitude for the genuine care and attention provided by those at the front lines - your hospitality was a living testament to Christ's love in action.



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

September has gone – to quote the lines of the Everly Brothers song "Every Day", "faster than a roller coaster", and what a busy month that was! It started off with Family Promise on September 1<sup>st</sup> (thank you to all who participated in that meaningful week). This was followed by our church hosting the North Central California Presbytery meeting and lunch on September 6<sup>th</sup> (another successful event serving 90 people!). On September 14<sup>th</sup> Pastor Ashley and several women of our church attended the Presbytery's annual Women's conference at Lake Tahoe (where Pastor Ashley was one of the speakers). There were also the twice monthly Food Pantry days and the month just closed out with our monthly potluck. Whew!!

Several of our members unable to attend have commented on how much they miss us and our activities. Alice Callistro is doing well and says Fall is in full swing in State College, PA as Penn State's football season has started and the place is bustling on the weekends. Mary Lou Hover is recovering from some sort of annoying rash, but is doing well otherwise, and is looking forward to a future visit with her great grandbaby.

News from closer members, Cecelia Muller didn't have much time to talk as she was involved in a rousing game of Scrabble with her son Bill and his wife, and her daughter, Isabell, who is staying with her. Frances McPherson is still recovering in the Nobel Care Facility on California Street.

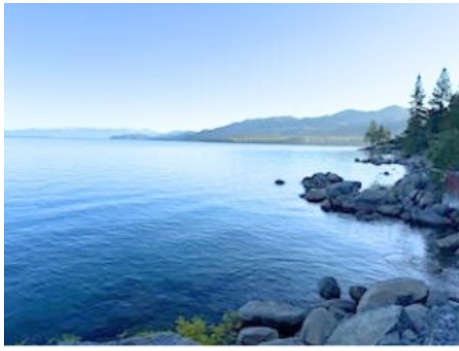
All these women send their love and miss us. If you have a moment, they would love a card or a phone call. I and the office has their addresses and phone numbers if you have a moment to make someone's day!

I am looking forward to a slower October filled with God's everyday blessings. May you all have days filled with love, peace and happiness.

Sylvia Cavanaugh

Fellowship Committee





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## PRESBYTERY WOMEN'S RETREAT (Zephyr Point)

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The weekend Women's Retreat at Zephyr Point was such a blessing and a lovely time of fellowship. Carmichael Presbyterian welcomed us warmly and made our group feel so comfortable. The weekend theme was, "Who You Say I Am". Pastor Ashley led us gracefully in sessions of Bible study, that were thought provoking, engaging and enlightening. Sunday worship and communion were under the pine trees overlooking the lake. We also engaged in relaxing, hiking, journaling, getting to know new friends, singing, laughing, playing games, great food, comfortable hotel like lodging and the exquisite beauty of Lake Tahoe. We've all been invited to join our new friends again next year. I for one definitely look forward to it.

Sincerely,  
Kim Roider



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## JANET SEPIOL'S BDAY CELEBRATION



We would like to invite you to join us for our 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat. Sign-up sheets will be in the office or see Pastor Ashley Skrabec.

*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.*

### Church Meetings in October:

**Sunday - Oct. 12th**

Potluck - "Veggie Forward"

**Every Mondays**

7:00pm - Weekly Prayer Meeting (Zoom)

**Tuesday - Oct. 14th**

12:30pm - Presbyterian Women  
Bible Study in Geneva

**Wednesday - Oct. 15th**

9:30 am - Finance, Building, and Grounds

**Every Thursdays**

10:00am - Bible Study - Geneva Rm

**Tuesday - Oct. 21st**

10:00 am - Hospitality Meeting