



Good News for the Pews

May 2020

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 23

From Pastor Don

So much has happened, it's all a blur. If I think back to the last issue of *Good News for the Pews* it feels like years ago. While, chronologically, it hasn't been so long a lot sure has changed. Back in January one of the major things we were discussing (in our committees) was how to make more use of technology in worship, specifically we were gearing up to project the Order of Worship on the screen instead of handing out ones printed on paper. Remember when you used to come to church and get handed a bulletin and a *Rag Sheet*? Of course we had no idea that by April we would have transitioned to an all-electronic worship service, which each worship participant sitting at home, staring into their computer screens and working their way through a virtual service. I certainly wasn't prepared for that, how about you?

Over the course of the last month I've received a few comments from members of our worshipping community mentioning that as the Interim, I was probably not prepared to deal with all of this change: the Shelter-In-Place Order; the transition from in-person to virtual worship; and the decision making processes that needed to happen to adapt everything we do to the new reality we are all experiencing. In fact, no, I was not prepared for any of this, not at all. But nobody else was either. Nobody. In most cases people are not really ready for dramatic change on the scale we have all

experienced. At times all we can reasonably do is just focus on one thing right in front of us and make the decisions that cry out for the most urgent attention. Each day that we move past the Bay Area Shelter-In-Place order, (which in case you forgot started at midnight on St. Patrick's Day, March 17), our adapted ways of living and being seem to become more familiar. But there certainly was a lot of stress. There was a lot of stress for everyone. While I appreciate people asking me how I am doing, I am usually the one asking that question. I want to know: How are you doing?

Once we made the final decision to move to all remote worship, with no one assembling in the Sanctuary on Sundays, I finally had a sense of turning the corner. Sure there are still adaptations we will need to make, and there are probably still lots of problems (many unknown at this point) that we'll have to confront, but now the process becomes one of long term planning, instead of immediate reaction.

It's not exactly the right moment to reengage some things, but it is the time to start thinking about them. I was hired last year to come along-side the church and help you with the Mission Study process and prepare for search for the next installed pastor. While the COVID-19 pandemic has

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Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

Hoping all is well with you and your families.

As we continue to “shelter in place”, our church in Chinatown continues to do the ministry of Saturday food pantry, live streaming of worship services, emailing & updating communiques regarding our church - ministering, calling & providing support for our members & parishioners, stewardship and praying for the world. The leadership (Elders and Deacons) with Pastor Don Hammond, of the English Worshiping Community continues its day to day work via Zoom platform. We would hope that you would have the time and opportunity to also participate in the ministry of our church.

In addition to ministry work of the church, we continue to support our pastor(s) (their salaries, pensions & benefits) and a common building fund. The common fund goes to hard costs like insurance, maintenance contracts/leases; per capita apportionment, utilities, supplies etc. and there continue to be fixed expenses, in light of the pandemic.

For many of you, please continue to mail in your checks to the church (Presbyterian Church in Chinatown, 925 Stockton Street, San Francisco, 94108 Attention: Winchell Quock). For those looking for an alternative method of donation (pledges), may I suggest and encourage the use of our PCC online donation <https://www.pccsf.org/donate> with your credit card(s). The online giving will be direct deposited into our church account via the Presbyterian Foundation platform. You may wish to set up recurring gifts which will add predictability and regularity to your giving. For those familiar with QR codes, you may also use the QR code at <https://www.pccsf.org/english>

Check your email and join us at our live stream “virtual worship service” this weekend.

Until we meet again, hold fast and pray for the ministry of our church and our members.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at dsoohoos@gmail.com

Peace,

David Soohoo

Treasurer

Presbyterian Church in Chinatown