



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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Pastor Don *(continued from page 1)*

interrupted all of that, that work is still on our collective horizon. When I arrived last June I stated publicly that we would work with an (approximate) timeline of between 18 to 24 months. Looking realistically, I would say that timeline has probably been lengthened. By how much? That is hard to say. I am a contract employee of the church (as opposed to an open-ended, installed pastor like Rev. Elliot or Rev. Chinn), and so at the end of each contract term (in our case 12 months) there must be a clearly discussed and negotiated extension of the contract, between myself, the English Commission, and approved by the presbytery's Committee on Ministry. Some of you know that process is currently underway.

As we move deeper into our new Shelter-In-Place reality, there have been a lot of very consequential adaptations and changes we have had to make as church that were not at all part of our plan. And we are not sure when, how, or even if things will return to the way they were before March. It seems, in my very singular opinion, that there will not be a complete going back. That means that when we are ready to reengage the mission study there will be a lot of new things consider. My promise to the church and the community is rethink the mission study plan and incorporate as much of our new way of being church into the planning process as possible. Ultimately we'll need to start a pastor search that will lead us to the kind of pastor we will need for our future. That was always the case. That has not changed. But now we have some new ideas

of what qualities we might want in a pastor that we had not considered before.

For right now though, I think it's ok to catch our breath, to begin to evaluate where we are and to carefully and creatively begin to speculate on what is next. Some things have changed, but many things have stayed the same. Our goal to worship God and enjoy God forever (you all remember your Westminster Catechism, right? (Book of Confessions 7.111)) remains as it always has. So does our desire and our collective call to serve the larger community and to witness the love and transformative power of Jesus Christ. How we do that is changing, but as I have said more than once, it is the nature of living things to change, and the church is truly a living thing.

So let's rest up a bit, let's look around and take some notes. Then let's get ready to reengage our world and take up again our work of preparing for the future of our ministry. Empowered by God's love through Christ, we welcome, celebrate, and serve our community. The way we do it may be different but what we do remains the same!

With blessings,

Pastor Don

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

We usually get to see you guys coming down for Tea Time, while we wrap up ours...we miss the interchange of the hello's, and good wishes in person with all of you!

What have we been doing? Well, I believe the Mandarin was the first at PCC to not hold worship at church, because we were very much impacted by our members' attendance, either they were too old, and were advised not to come out to the public (by their children), or, many of our members had jobs to take care of the elderly, and were told by them, please do not go to the public! Hence, we've decided during that particular week, not to hold service the following Sunday, March 15, 2020.

The past weeks have been challenging, and yet fruitful! First, we worshipped via WeChat...the worship leader trying to figure out the 'timing' of her Call to Worship, singing "a cappella" into a cell phone. WeChat only allows 60" (seconds) per each voice taping...and it has to be done live, you cannot pre-record...so the prayer needs to be timed, the bible verses, cut at certain passage, before continuing onto the next 'taping' and not to exceed the first taping by too many seconds, otherwise, you have the lapse in time, silence... between tapings, while your audience stare at their cell phones waiting....

Pastor Hao is no stranger to technology...once the leader finished her part in the Call to Worship, we click onto a link to bring us to YouTube! His Sunday sermons are via YouTube. We get to see him live and that is a comfort to many members (versus staring into ones' iPhone prompting you to the next voice recording).

As weeks gone by, we also tried Zoom...what an ordeal, to teach our 85 year olds to download Zoom, via the phone or via text messaging! We had to first try it with our Elders when we had our monthly Commission meeting, as WeChat live (similar to FaceTime) can only take up to 9 people, and we have a total of 10! So, Pastor Hao, was on WeChat with most of us, while also on Zoom with Billy...Billy is our most technical advanced "young person." Challenge to us, not! Now, all of our Elders are "Zoom-ables!"

Our Good Friday evening worship was via Zoom (with some technical difficulties recording to YouTube), and yet, our Easter Sunday, was held via Zoom, and simultaneously on YouTube! Each time, we advance to better serve our community! Thank you, Pastor Hao, for all the research you did!

This shelter-in-place has actually brought us closer together, and more time to focus on God! During Lent, and still continuing, Pastor Hao started a daily devotion that we can listen to via WeChat, and we have a weekly evening Bible study and prayer time with the Commission Elders...which we never were able to "find the time for." It is a great time for all of us to reflect, first on ourselves, our relation with God, as we are now forced to slow our pace. We reflect on the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the true meaning in our lives!

This shelter-in-place forcing us to worship online, has brought more members back to worship with us, or at their convenient time because their work hours did not allow them to before. We continue with our regular programs, such as last Friday of the month prayer night, and we just celebrated first Sunday in April, Birthday Sunday! Programs continue, not being cut down to lesser, but more! Mrs. Hsia just celebrated her 97th birthday yesterday, and Elder KeFeng Lee shared pictures of her. She was showered with well wishes and birthday cakes (pictures of...) to celebrate with her! Just as if we were all present!

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Greetings from the Mandarin Commission! *(continued from page 4)*

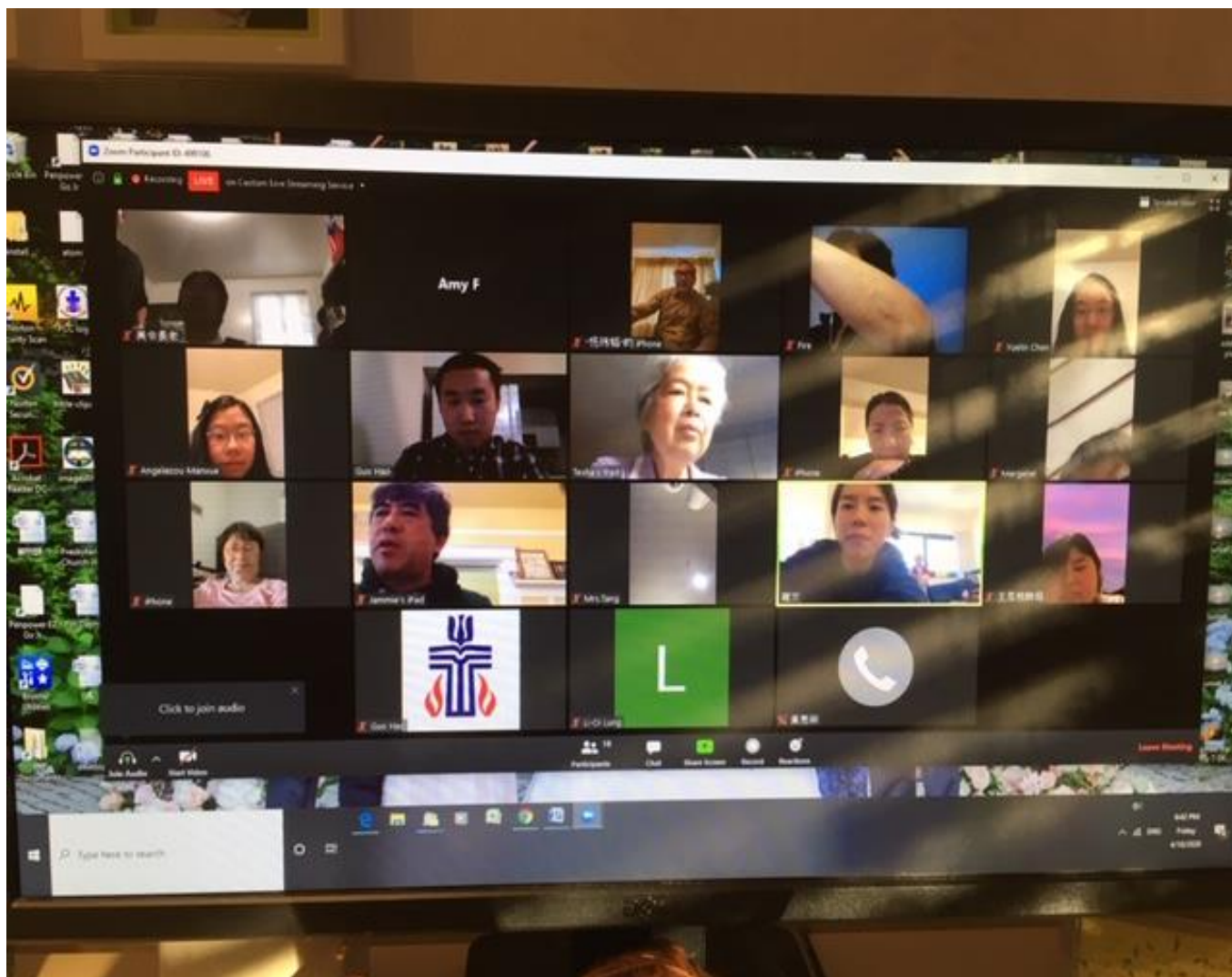
Column 1: with all Pastor Israel with the number of seconds... Sunday morning prayer.

Column 2 & 3: Elder Miao and another church member trying to help her download Zoom.

Column 4: We are live in Zoom while Pastor Hao is directing others to click onto the YouTube link to get simultaneous broadcasting: Zoom and YouTube.



Greetings from the Mandarin Commission! *(continued from page 5)*



Zoom photo of attendees

We are live! **Zoom!**

So, is the cup half empty or is it half full? When God closes a door, He opens a window (full of opportunities) for us to embrace and focus on what we have! Praise Be to the Lord!

Please be safe and stay healthy!

We'll see each other soon!

My mother-in-law told me not long ago that she watches a televised Christian service on Sunday mornings. At the time, I thought, "I don't think I could do that. I enjoy Sunday morning at PCC too much." Fast forward to this week, and here I am, watching Pastor Don Hammond give his message to us from his "pulpit" at his home.

So much has changed with worship since the beginning of Lent. Our Worshipping Community began using screen projections of the Order of Worship on March 8th to try going paperless during Lent. As more cases of the "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2; also known as COVID 19 virus)" were being identified in the Bay Area and as San Francisco began to restrict large group gatherings, we began to livestream our service on March 15th with a healthy 30+ attendees still present. Then, when the shelter in place order was given in 7 of our Bay Area counties, we shifted to live-streaming worship from our beloved church sanctuary with a very talented and devoted skeleton crew at church and remote contributions for readers.

Then came Holy Week and a message from the Co-Moderators of the Presbytery of San Francisco: Live-streamed worship services were strongly discouraged in light of the state wide shelter in place orders. Our Easter Service, beautifully presented and coordinated due to the skills and devoted energies of our Worship Design Team, was presented to our community from the homes of our worship team.

Who would have known? From walking the beautiful green and flowered labyrinth in our church sanctuary on Ash Wednesday and passing the peace during worship on March 8th to sitting on my couch with Stuart on Easter Sunday, watching the TV screen and singing quietly to recorded music (still very worshipful). Wow! Is that adaptive change or what?

But through this all, I must proudly say that our Worship and Nurture Committee and the Worship Planning Team has worked tirelessly with Pastor Hammond to bring worship to everyone every Sunday. Going from clearer, quieter projection front and back of our sanctuary to multiple cameras and well-miked speakers and piano player to Zooming and streaming from multiple homesteads was no small feat (with a special shout out to Dave Chan). And don't forget Communion at home for Palm Sunday/Sabbath Sunday on April 5th!

Our committee has not forgotten its role to nurture. Although groups cannot physically meet, a few committees and groups have been "gathering" via Zoom video conferencing. Our church now has an expanded Zoom account, thanks to the foresight of Pastor Hammond. Other church members have also begun using their personal accounts to help keep others in touch. And, thanks to the Board of Deacons, outreach is being made to participants, past and current, to help keep everyone connected during this challenging period.

Please feel free to give our committee feedback about worship and also contact us if you would like to connect with a group. Here are our team members—

Committee:

Diane Go, Elder Representative

Eddie Kam, Deacon Representative

Dave Miller Nancy Chee

Norma Chan Pastor Don Hammond

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WORSHIP AND NURTURE COMMITTEE *(continued from page 7)*

Planning Team:

Dave Miller

Linda Lee

Norma Chan

Pastor Don Hammond

Dave Chan, Technology

***THINGS THAT WILL CHANGE AFTER COVID 19 (I HOPE)**

By Diane Go

We will enjoy cooking and baking again.

We will enjoy a breath of clean, pollution less air.

We will make an impact on global warming.

We will enjoy greeting each other in person

We will enjoy a hug, light or deep.

We will enjoy a smile.

We will appreciate our mouths.

We will enjoy picking out our veggies and fruits—without gloves.

We will not hesitate to wear a mask as necessary to protect our fellow human beings, stranger or friend. Same for gloves.

We will appreciate the cattle run into a sports arena— and not complain.

We will wait in line for our turn.

We will always thank our first responders—nurses, doctors, fire personnel, police officers.

We will expect our government to uphold its responsibility to us citizens.

We will honor our military personnel who not only serve to defend our country but also to aid in the medical care of our country's citizens.

We will not let justice be overthrown by greed, pride, insolence, power, stupidity.

We will care for the small business person and support that person in the community.

We will care for the homeless so that they will have home, food, medical care.

We will care for our immigrant population, legal or illegal.

We will not ostracize someone for the illness that that person sustained.

We will appreciate dirt.

We will not hoard toilet paper or paper towels or masks or gloves.

We will be glad for the opportunity to go to work, by bus, by feet, by train, by plane, by car.

We will say thank you to the grocery clerk, the restaurant cook, the cashier at 7 Eleven, the stock person at Trader Joe's, the card checker at Costco.

We will say prayers for the dairy farmers, the farm owners, the farm workers, the Chinatown shop keepers, the postal workers, and the truck drivers.

We will treat all of our brothers and sisters, regardless of color or race or disability or age or gender identification, with dignity and respect.

*Add your own



Pictured left to right: Gilbert Lee, Cindy Joe, Mark Vanciel, Jeanette Huie, Kimball Wong, Vivien Wong, Carole Chinn-Morales, Robert Lee on February 27, 2020. Photo by: Stuart Go

We welcomed Mark Vanciel and Robert Lee, Co-Founders of **Living Water World Missions** (LWWM) to PCC on February 27th. They personally thanked us for our recent donation of \$4,650 to sponsor the installation of a water purification system in Guatemala. Unfortunately with the COVID-19 pandemic, travel restrictions have caused LWWM to postpone their installations until further notice.

Five years ago, members of PCC learned about LWWM, an organization that seeks to share the gift of the gospel of Jesus Christ and clean water with communities in need around the world. Eight PCC members – Doreen Der-McLeod, Gilbert Lee, Eunice Bejar-Lee, Cindy Joe, Jeanette Huie, Carole Chinn-Morales, Kimball & Vivien Wong – signed up to volunteer on one of their trips to Guatemala in October 2015. There were also 8 or 10 other volunteers from other parts of the U.S. on the team.

From Guatemala City, we rode in a rented bus for several hours to a rural area dotted with small communities. The source of water for the local residents was mostly from underground wells. Bottled water was available in their stores but few could afford it. At the church where we were working, the water from the well was murky and light brown in color. Installation of the water purification system took three days. It was amazing to witness the transformation of contaminated well water to clear water that was safe to drink. Church members were trained in the operation of the system and they were all set to start bottling five-gallon jugs for sale at an affordable price to their community.

Upon returning home, the team wanted to continue supporting the work of LWWM and Doreen, who was Chair of the Mission & Evangelism Committee at that time, presented the idea of setting aside funds each year until there's enough to sponsor a water system. This goal was accomplished at the end of 2019.

We look forward to the day when we can travel again without worry of contracting or spreading a virus. We will continue to pray and keep informed of LWWM's work and, someday, PCC members may again experience life in Guatemala and make a difference in one of their small communities.

By Jeanette Huie

Deacons Plus

You might have gotten a recent phone call, email or good old fashioned hand written card from one of the Deacons Plus. The team consists of the Deacons: Eddie Kam, Jackie Jew, Jeanine Lim, Irene Ng, Ruth Wu and Pam Jang, plus our wonderful volunteers, most are previous Elders or Deacons, Jojo Woo, Terry & Norma Chan, Pat Chan, Dayton & Mary Leong, Diane Go and Wayne Eng & Marie Chin. It's our way of connecting with you during this difficult time of uncertainty. We are ordered to practice Social Distancing. But we do not have to be Emotionally Distant.

If you are struggling with the current situation and would like to express your feelings or concerns, please send an email message to the Deacon's at englishdeacons@pccsf.org.

Staying Connected

by Pam Jang

I realized within 2 weeks of Shelter in Place that if I really want to I can wear the same sweat pants, t-shirt and sweatshirt everyday working from home. And no need to put on makeup. My observations since Shelter in Place orders - On garbage night all of the recycle bins are overflowing with recycle from people cooking more and decluttering. Shake Shack burger place down the street has 50 people waiting for pick up orders during peak hours. The other day I waited one hour to enter Safeway. Working from home isn't a fun as I thought it would be.



Top: Pam, Norma, Diane; Middle: Marie, Leslie, Nancy;
Bottom: Jojo, Jean Eunice

One thing I miss is meeting with the PCC Jewelry Gals. We normally get together a few times after the new year to make jewelry for CH Carnival. This is the first year the whole group has not been able to do so. We text each other every day with funny photos, humorous comments and what we did that day. But it's not the same we needed to see each other.

We got together via Zoom to catch up and shared ideas for our most recent project - making PPE masks. Toilet paper, disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer aren't the only items in high demand. Purchasing sewing machines online, bandanas and thin elastic are gaining popularity. It was comforting seeing everyone while we are staying at home. Most of these masks will be donated to Eunice's home care workers.

The COVID-19 pandemic will be something we'll look back on and be able to share what a harrowing, scary and major adjustment people around the world had to experience and adapt to. It changed our routine, our social interacting, our freedom to go and do things we planned or unplanned to do. It made us realize so many things we take for granted, like availability of toilet paper, rice, worshipping at church, tea time fellowship, our job, a paycheck, the ability to freely walk the streets without having to wear a protective mask, and the ability to hug and kiss your loved ones or friends. It's on the news every single day and hour that we are so tired of hearing it that we turn the TV off. It's depressing and the loss is akin to us suddenly losing the world-wide web and internet service for 3 months! We'd be lost and our lifestyle would be seriously disrupted and forced to adjust and adapt to a different mode of communication, interaction and lifestyle.

But one thing is constant, and that is our faith that calls us to believe in God, that no matter how bad things get, to have faith that He will always be there for all of us and that we have to manifest his hope, his caring, his laughter, his empathy, his compassion and ultimately his love for one another. Pray, be safe, be healthy, help others, look outwards vs inward and keep the faith.

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Life in the Shadow of Coronavirus

By Jeanine Lim

Daily routine while Sheltering-in-Place: Wake up, shower, eat, exercise, nap, cook, eat, Netflix, sleep. Sleep more. Wash hands. Wash hands. Wash hands.

Connect: Sort out feelings with supportive spouse. Pray and talk to God. Cuddle with cats. Throw icy stares at people who don't honor 6' social distancing. FaceTime with daughter. Go to "The Zoom Where It Happens," for many Happy Hours. Throw self into Deacon responsibilities. Write e-mail messages, texts, and send cards. Appreciate the beauty of nature during solitary walks.

Emotional Routine: Freak Out. Calm self down. Watch TV. Throw remote at TV during Trump press conferences. Tamp down anger. Congratulate self for pre-pandemic installation of Japanese bidet washlets. Stress-eat entire pan of brownies. Practice Yoga pose - lie on floor for half hour with cat on top, close eyes and breathe. Inhale cat hair which induces allergy symptoms and freak out that inability to breathe is due to virus. Talk self into being like the British - "Keep calm and carry on," but feel like the Screamer in Edvard Munch's iconic painting, *The Scream*. There he is, stranded in the midst of a blazing pandemic, gripped by the realization that stores are out of hand sanitizer and pasta and - this is the killer - that, while screaming, he's also touching his face!

Nevertheless, Keep Calm and Carry On.

Tips for Reducing Anxiety and Stress During the COVID-19 Coronavirus Global Pandemic; Public Service Announcement from California Marriage Family Therapists (CAMFT)

Tip 1: Practice Acceptance

A global pandemic is not a usual occurrence. It makes sense that you are feeling uneasy. Allow for your feelings and allow for the reality of the situation. Also allow for the fact that most of us are not in immediate danger, and that we're working together to find solutions.

Tip 2: Make a Plan

Our brains get very overwhelmed in situations that are out of our control and have uncertain outcomes. Comfort yourself by controlling what you can. Be sure to wash your hands. Do what you need to feel safe and secure. Check out the Red Cross Safety and Readiness Guide [here](http://bit.ly/REDCROSSSARG), and share your readiness plan with your family: <http://bit.ly/REDCROSSSARG>

Tip 3: Stay in the Present Moment

When we bring our mind into the present, and stop ruminating about the future or the past (what has gone wrong and what could go wrong) we realize that we're ok. Make sure your mind is where your body is. Use a mantra if that's helpful – "This too shall pass."

Tip 4: Don't Overexpose Yourself to the News

Repeatedly viewing or listening to the same scary story can really push your nervous system into full panic mode. Schedule just a few times a day to turn on the news or look at the internet, for about 20 minutes at a time. Set a timer to keep yourself from fixating on the scary stuff.

Tip 5: Pay Attention to your Body

Our brains and our bodies are intricately connected. We feel better emotionally when we feel physically rested. Make sure you are eating healthy, getting a little exercise, and practicing good sleep hygiene.

Tip 6: Practice Deep, Slow Breathing

When you practice deep, slow breathing, you'll feel less anxious, because your lungs will send a message through your Vagus nerve to your brain that all is well. Practice breathing 'In' for a count of six, and breathing 'Out' for a count of six, for one full minute or more

Tip 7: Stay Connected

We are biologically wired to connect with one another, and there is real healing power in connecting with other people who are struggling in similar ways. Even though you cannot spend time with big groups or see people in person, make sure you're not isolating more than necessary. Consider calling or emailing a friend, neighbor or family member.

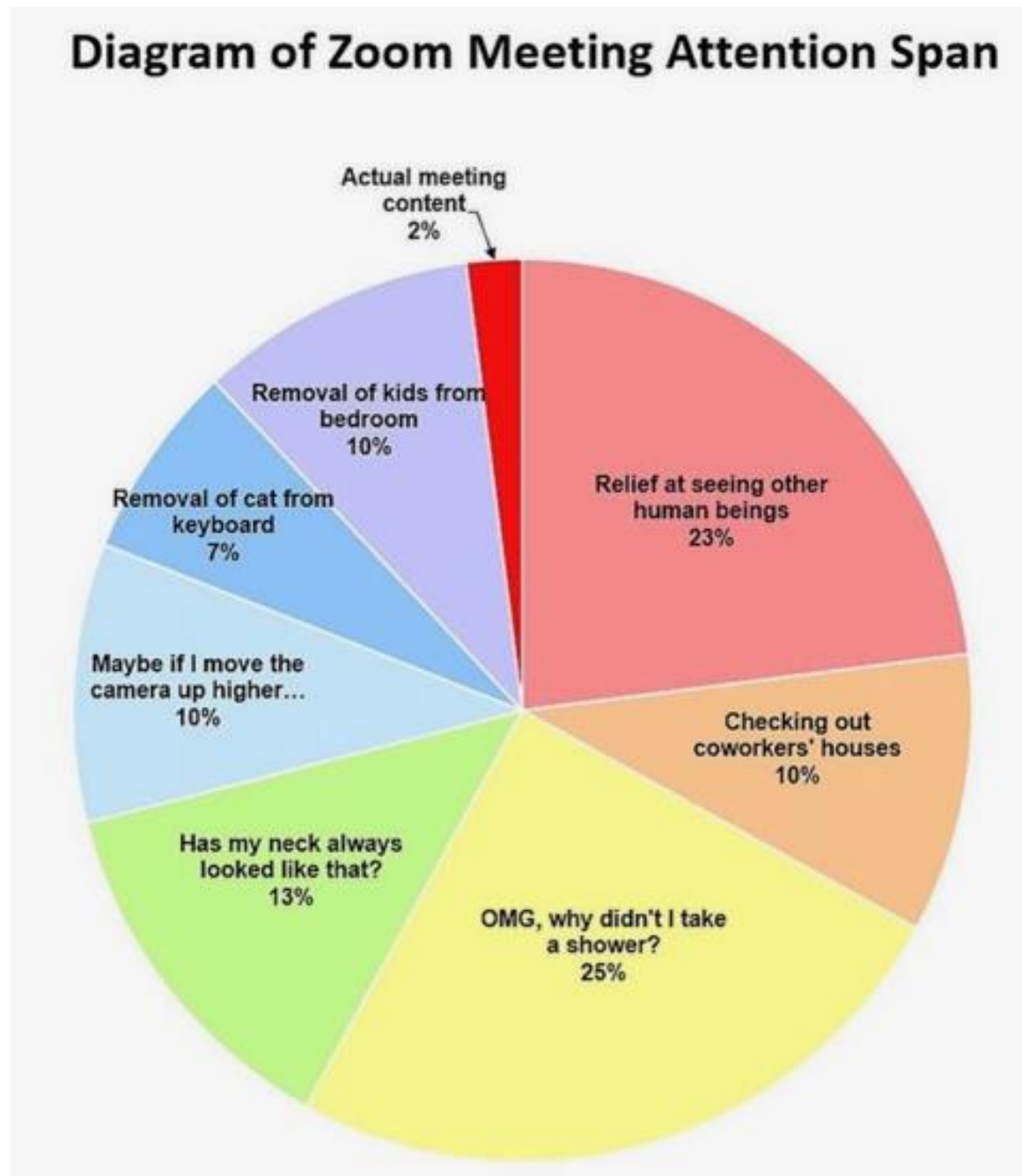
Tip 8: Keep a Balanced Perspective

Even in the most challenging times, we can find a few aspects of our lives that are going well. It is important to focus on the good in times of struggle. If you realize you haven't laughed or smiled in a while, watch a funny TV show or call a friend who makes you laugh, and remember that the world isn't all bad. Sometimes, even in the midst of crisis, we can find silver linings.

Reprinted from *The San Francisco Sequoian*, Irene Ng, editor

Since we have been sheltering-in-place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Deacons have been meeting via Zoom meetings. Zoom is a video communication system. Here's a fun piece!

Submitted by Irene Ng, Deacon



Mission and Evangelism Committee



In February 2020, the Mission & Evangelism Committee prepared a meal to be served at a homeless shelter, using Doreen Der-McLeod's recipes for meatloaf and a broccoli-cheese casserole. Mashed potatoes and gravy were contributed by the kitchen staff at The Sequoias, where several PCC members live. Cupcakes for dessert were prepared by PCC volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helped!

Jeanine Lim

Food Pantry Still Going Strong!

by Susie Wong

Our Food Pantry is in its 4th year of distributing food to senior citizens, most of whom live in Chinatown SROs. We have never been more challenged! Before the COVID-19 virus hit the Bay Area, we were a lively, grocery-store like pantry where our neighborhood seniors could come and peruse the fruits, veggies and staples, interact with our volunteers and each other in a brisk mix of Chinese and English. “Nice to see you!” “How are you?” “What a nice big orange.” “Thank you.” “That’s enough potatoes!” These things were all commonly heard each week. Now with the very real risk of the virus, so much has changed. But the smiles (now under masks) and the “Good Morning! How are you?” and many heartfelt “Thank yous!” are still the same.

We have overcome many obstacles to keep our doors open. Yes, leaving home is a risk, but people also need nourishing food to stay healthy. Food Pantries are designated as an “essential service” by local and state authorities. How do we keep our seniors and ourselves safe? Since early March, we began adapting our distribution process, constantly updating with every new guidance on how to do things more safely. I am very grateful to be able bring what I learn at work, as a Case Manager in senior housing, to our church food pantry. We have adopted very specific procedures to clean and disinfect the areas at church that are touched by participants and volunteers. We follow strict

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Food Pantry Still Going Strong! *(continued from page 14)*

distancing guidelines so that participants stay at a safe distance. Dave Chan has placed markers 6 feet apart all along the path of travel so people know where to stand, and we have monitors at strategic points to make sure our participants are keeping safe distances from each other. All our volunteers are masked and gloved, with vigorous hand washing before doing either!

For 2 weeks now, we have started pre-bagging all the groceries for the participants to pick up, to cut down their exposure to our possible viruses. We divide the groceries into two bags so that they can fit them easier into their own back packs and market bags. The seniors take them off the end of 2 tables, extended out of the 2 doorways of Speer Hall. They may not see as many of us, but we are still there, working to support them. We have been serving over 100 people each week and we still make deliveries to twelve participants who are too frail to come to PCC.

One very bright spot in these troubled times is the overwhelming response of young volunteers! We could not continue doing this without the help of young adults. All of the church volunteers, who served faithfully these 3 ½ years, are seniors. Mrs. Chow is over 90! When the Stay At Home orders came out, we urged our senior volunteers from all our worshipping communities to stay safely at home. Our core group right now is Reverend Kaan (supervisor), Chapman Szeto (coordinator), and 6 PCC “young geriatric” volunteers: me & Scott, Marie & Wayne, and Nancy & Dave. And we are thankful that Alson is well and able to bring his experience back to guide us in an oversight role that he can do with safe distancing. But we need at least 20 to run the pantry now. Where are they coming from?

We put out the call to our younger church members, and to our contacts in the Chinatown YMCA, and the Project by Project volunteer group (connected to us by Jeanette through Chinatown CDC). And, thanks be to God, folks are responding! It’s been great to work with PCC young adults Ryan and Lauren Kam, Caitlin Gong and her friends, and Sherman Gee and his friends. And there are many others week after week, who just see the help request on-line and come. This has been an unexpected blessing of the Spirit.

Many of the long-time food pantries in the city have closed. Thankfully, both Cameron House and the Chinatown YMCA are still open, but 2 other pantries in Chinatown have suspended operations. All the senior nutrition meal sites have closed. Each week we serve seniors with no pantry to go to who need groceries. But there is hope. The Food Bank is seeking to enroll seniors in SROs to their home delivery program. Chinatown CDC has started partnering with Self Help for the Elderly to deliver hot lunches to SRO seniors and have also created other lunch programs for the public housing residents and SRO families. We are gratified to join others who are part of the effort to serve the most vulnerable in our community.

What can you do to help? If you would like to volunteer with our PCC food ministry on Saturday, or know others who would be interested, please contact Jeanette Huie, at Jeanette_huie@yahoo.com. To help with the Chinatown CDC programs, operating daily Monday through Friday, contact Jason.Chommanard@chinatowncdc.org. We can also need cleaning supplies such as bleach, hydrogen peroxide, alcohol, and disinfectant wipes. If you have any you can spare, please also contact Jeanette. Scott and I can pick them up.

News from the Pews by Pat Chan

Jordan Wong, daughter of David, received her Black Belt early March. She studies Kung Fu with the Tat Wong International. I see on Facebook that she is still practicing virtually. Congratulation, Jordan; the youngest Black Belt student that I know.

We have some baby news.

Congratulations to Chelsea and her husband Andrew. Their second daughter, Leah Taylor, was born early March. Her proud Grandparents are Vivien and Kimball Wong. By the time we get to meet her she will be very big.

New parents are Josh Chuck and his wife Jik. They welcomed a son on March 19. His name is Jacob Joshua. Grandparents are Carole and Angel and Harry and Linda. I believe they have not been able to see or hold their new grandson. I have seen a cute picture that Josh posted on Facebook. He's a cutie. I can't tell who baby looks more like. We can't wait to see baby Chuck. Congratulations to all.

I know many people are wondering what I am doing since schools closed. I do love watching TV but that is getting old. I have not made many handmade cards. I did send some notes to people from my boxed cards. I am helping the Deacons telephone or email church members and friends. It's been good keeping up with people.

I am fortunate that my Zumba (dance) teachers are teaching us through Zoom. The YMCA has some virtual classes also. I am able to keep up with my Presbyterian Women Board Committee meetings through Zoom. Yes, I am Zooming a lot; getting to be an expert with it now.

My job has changed the last 18 years. I am no longer the Hearing Test Lady. My job now is making sure students have their vaccination records on file and that they are up to date. I also have 7 elementary schools that I am assigned to. I assist with the school when the students have their hearing and vision screenings. I do like being with the students. Paper work can be boring. We log all the information into the computer. A new project we have been given is to call Kindergarten parents informing them that their child may have cavities that they need to see the dentist. Well... as you know all doctors and dentist offices are closed so it is not the best time to telephone parents on this matter.

The last week of March I had booked a cruise leaving San Francisco for 7 days. It was going to Seattle, Victoria and Vancouver. I found out shortly after I booked this cruise that Elvie and her brother Wally were going too. They planned longer than I. I was so looking forward for lovely dinners on the Grand Princess with them. We hope we can go somewhere next year.

On April 6th my supervisor gave our names to another department with SFUSD. On April 7th we started telephoning parents to remind them that they need to register their child for school. We had a spread sheet of over 3500 names; some with no telephone numbers. Most parents were nice and appreciative for the phone call. I just got word that the deadline got extended til Friday April 17. I now feel that I am earning my pay check. If my job was not a Union one then I would have to collect unemployment.

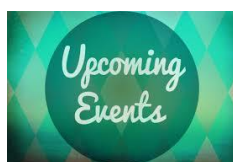
It's going to be weird when this is all over; I will probably be on summer break. I'm not too sure if I will keep or cancel my plans. Stay tune for our next issue and you will find out more of my updates.

While tough times are among us, it is important that we do not lose faith in God. The not-so-recent spread of COVID-19, otherwise known as Corona Virus, has no doubt lowered everyone's morale. With everyone forced to stay indoors and avoid large gatherings, we don't have a chance to meet at church every Sunday like we used to. We can't even say "Hello" to any random stranger on the street without fear that they may carry the virus. Plenty of folks have a rough time with work, especially those who work in the service sector or may even have been laid off.

We aren't entirely in the dark, however. With technology like Zoom and social media, we can still communicate with each other. Although we can't meet in person as we did before, we can still hold virtual meetings and broadcast our sermons as if we really were just holding our usual Sunday worship.

As we continue getting by this pandemic, we should continue placing our faith in God. Thanks to virtual communications, not all hope is lost. We will definitely see the end to this pandemic, as long as we pray to God every day and hold on to hope. Stay safe, everyone.

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Sunday, May 3: Pentecost Sunday

Tuesday, May 5: Worship & Nurture; Mission & Evangelism Committee Meetings by Zoom

Tuesday, May 19: English Commission Meeting by Zoom

Wednesday Night Covenant Group meets every Wednesday night at 7:30 by Zoom.

Every Saturday: Food Pantry - 10am - 2pm

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San Francisco, CA 94108
Website: www.pccsf.org

Irene Young Ng, Editor
David Miller, PDF Assembler/Web Site Posting
Email: ireneyoungng@sonic.net