



Good News for the Pews

February 2023

A Quarterly for the English-Speaking Worshipping Community

Issue No. 34

From Pastor Don

Big news: On Sunday, January 15th we had a worship service. That should be no surprise to anyone. Indeed, we have a service every Sunday, rain or shine, pandemic or no pandemic. So basically this is not news. Nor would most anyone think it's worth writing about. We did have a guest preacher, Commissioned Pastor Mary Jane Gordon of Ingleside Presbyterian Church, so it was a special service, and it was in conjunction with the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and the *Matthew 25: Dismantling Structural Racism Sunday*. But it wasn't, say, Christmas Day or Easter Sunday. It was essentially just Sunday church with a guest preacher. But what happened was actually amazing.

Because I was not preaching I had the opportunity to worship in the pews just like everyone else. But probably unlike most everyone else I was also taking mental notes on a lot of things. You see I was acutely aware of everything that went into that service, and I feel motivated to share with you what I know is involved each week on Sunday. The process starts, each Monday, with me at my desk. I spend time reflecting on the events of the world and then crafting a liturgy, often using the lectionary to determine which two scripture lessons to use from the proposed six on the calendar for each week, and then I craft the words for the service. This has nothing to do with the work I put in for preparing the sermon, this is just the order of worship that we follow each week. It's also on Monday when I confirm the liturgist and readers, whom I have previously invited to participate.

Next the hymns are chosen by worship planners, reflecting the contours of the liturgical elements. Sometimes digital accompaniments are generated. Sometimes a musician begins to practice for live accompaniment. The liturgy is put into slides for projection in the sanctuary and streaming through the Web. The texts on the slides are checked for clarity and typos. Digital elements are woven around spaces for live video and sound capture and streaming. Colors and images are chosen. Pre-and-post-worship music is selected. Thought goes into camera angles and microphone placements. Worship leaders write and prepare their contributions, weaving into the liturgy, and also reflecting something of themselves. A "flow" video is created so we can visualize the whole service. Promos are drafted and notes sent out along with the Ragsheet to prepare people at home and people in-person to engage in our worship and, we always hope and pray, connect with God in a meaningful way.

On Sundays all these elements are stitched together, often with special decorations or changes to the chancel, made on the fly after the Mandarin congregation exit the sanctuary. And then worship
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Pastor Don *(continued from page 2)*

So at our next worship service I hope you will think about the time and talents of a whole score of people who do everything from crafting liturgy to serving tea. And if you thought something was a little off, extend a measure of grace. Don't forget all the other volunteers on our various standing committees either. It's not just the work of a few people, it is the industry of dozens that makes our church function. And since *many hands make light work* there is always room at the table for someone else to pitch in!

To all of you, I want to express my deep thanks and profound appreciation for our astounding volunteers. It is a blessing to serve God with all of you. We made a difference in someone's faith on Sunday...let's do it again!

And may God continue to bless us all!

Pastor Don

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Stewardship and Resource Committee

by David Soohoo

Our **English Resource Committee** provides oversight, support and administration of the budget and finances, communications, membership rolls, and stewardship for our Pastor and English Worshiping Community. Along with the Building and Finance Committee of the Session, we are continually engaged in the facility maintenance, safety, security, and space utilization of our building. Our important resources include volunteers and leadership, working together to support the church's mission and ministry. The business of the church continues sustainability and growth for the ministry of the church and its members.

Speaking of Stewardship, it is a discipline that involves every aspect of our lives and in all the stages of life. In sharing the Good News, seeking peace and justice, employing resources and abilities, it is our response to God's grace and goodness. Stewardship requires consideration and deliberation of how our choices affect others, of how we can be good caretakers of the world and the global community, and of how we can best serve God as Disciples of Christ.

From the Confession of 1967, guidance for the statement of our faith, "The church calls all people to use their abilities, their possessions, and the fruits of technology as gifts entrusted to them by God for the maintenance of their families and the advancement of the common welfare." (The Confession of 1967, 9.46c)

Your donations, gifts, and pledges continue to support our pastor's salary, worship, mission-driven programs, the church building, and the work of the church.

Serving with me on the Resource Committee are Stuart Go, Max Hum, Jackie Jew, Terry Leong, Winchell Quock, Annie Wong and Rev. Don Hammond.

Food Pantry Volunteers in 2022

Listed below are the volunteers who helped operate PCC's food pantry every Saturday in 2022 except for Christmas Eve. Our pantry ended the year with 285 enrollees and 30 people on the waitlist.

Scott Barlow
 Huan Qin Cai
 David Chan
 Jonathan Chan
 Pat Chan
 Nancy Chee
 Ed Chin
 Jean Chin
 Marie Chin
 Diana Chow
 Mark Chung
 Huen Gin Coi
 Wayne Eng
 Kevin Feeley
 Amy Feng
 Sherman Gee
 Yukiko Diane Go
 Caitlin Gong
 Cindy Lee Gong
 Mildred Hall
 Sharlene Hall
 Pastor Guo Hao
 Ashley Hew
 Alisa Ho
 Logan Ho
 Cammi Huang
 Dahou Huang
 Benji Huey
 Clinton Huey
 Peggy Huey
 Jeanette Huie
 Ann Hum
 Carl Jew
 Jackie Jew
 Robbie Jew
 Shellie Jew
 Cynthia Joe
 Rev. Ronnie Kaan
 Eddie Kam
 Lauren Kam
 Ryan Kam
 Ben Kim
 Thomas Kong
 Lesley Kraechan
 Loi La
 Linda Lee
 Mary Wong Leong

Terry Leong
 Debbie Leung
 Matthew Lew
 Chiu Mei Li
 Jeanine Lim
 Jammie Lue
 Jared Lue
 Jeremy Lue
 Justine Lue
 Carole Chinn Morales
 Kai Mei Ng
 David Nguyen
 Kelvin Quan
 David Sakamoto
 Ivy Yee-Sakamoto
 Mei Ling Shih
 Cuzy Solis
 David Soohoo
 Shu Gin Tan
 Helen Thach
 Ivy Truong
 Ella Vo
 Shirley Wing
 Alice Wong
 Annie Wong
 Darin Wong
 Johnny Wong
 Kimball Wong
 Susie Wong
 Sylvia Wong
 Vivian Wong
 Ruth Wu
 Haan Yi
 Julie Yu
 Abigail Zhen
 Lisa Zhen
 Liam Zhen
 Peter Zhen

Groups and Churches:

Chinese Congregational Church
 Church of Latter Day Saints
 Cornerstone Trinity Excelsior
 GKI Presbyterian Church
 Project by Project
 Rotary Club of SF Chinatown



Our Vision (Who We See Ourselves As)

The English Worshiping Community of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown is a community of faith, biblically grounded and acting faithfully in the spirit of Micah 6:8 “to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.”

Our Mission (What We Do)

We are a Matthew 25 worshiping community, committed to lifting up the three priorities identified by the PC(USA): building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. We strive to nurture and support our members through every age and season of life. We are committed to bearing witness to Jesus Christ and sharing his love and justice, starting with the San Francisco Chinatown community and extending out into the world.

Excerpted from 2022 Mission Study

Hi, I am Ed Chin from the Missions and Evangelism Committee. I would like to share with you about the Missions and Evangelism Committee.

First, I want to thank you, the congregation, for your faithful support through donations, prayer, and participation.

The role of the Missions and Evangelism Committee (M&E)

Our role is to empower members to engage in mission (both personally and corporately) and to help the church share the Gospel of Jesus in building God’s beloved community in Chinatown and around the world by responding to human need through loving service and to transform unjust structures of society, M&E is guided by Micah 6:8 – *He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God;* and the three focus areas of the Matthew 25 Initiative

- Building congregational vitality
- Dismantling structural racism
- Eradicating systemic poverty

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities.

Do Justice

- Advocate for solutions on issues such as: homelessness, lack of affordable housing, domestic violence, gun violence, lack of clean water, war, gender inequality, food insecurity, etc.
- Educate on ballot measures that will impact vulnerable communities; issues of conscience; encourage members to participate in elections as a duty of being a Christian and Citizen.
- Participate in marches, demonstrations, pilgrimages, interfaith worship, or letter writing campaigns in support of issues of conscience.

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Minute for Stewardship: Missions and Evangelism Committee *(continued from page 5)*

- Collaborate with community groups such as CCDC, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Cameron House, Safe House, SF Night Ministry, Tsuru for Solidarity, etc.

Demonstrate Loving Kindness

- Preparing and serving dinner for the homeless through the SF Interfaith Coalition's Winter Shelter Program
- Weekly food distribution at our food pantry for about 300 Chinatown SRO participants, including families, with home delivery to frail seniors and disabled.
- Conduct an Annual School Supplies Drive and Christmas Toy Drive for children who live in SROs.
- Encourage participation in Mission Trips and Projects such as Living Waters World Missions

Walking Humbly With God

- Promote the Special Presbyterian Offerings of the One Great Hour of Sharing at Easter; Peace and Global Witness Offering at World Communion; and the Christmas Joy at Christmas.
- Share God's work in the world such as through the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and invite organizations to Tea Time, such as Safe House, SF Night Ministry, IM4HI, CCDC, Tsuru for Solidarity, etc.
- Financial contributions to non-profit organizations and special projects
- In collaboration with the Worship and Nurture Committee, participate in preparing worship around PCUSA special emphases Sundays of Racial Justice; Gifts of Immigrants; and Hunger and Homelessness.

Who are we:

Jeanette Huie	Eunice Bejar-Lee	Cindy Joe
Carole Chinn-Morales	Heidi Wong	Jeanine Lim
Whittney Tom	Clinton Huey	Ed Chin, Chair
Susie Wong	Doreen Der-McLeod	

You are invited to participate and share your ideas with us. Our committee meets on Zoom the first Tuesday of each month. Please feel free to contact or talk with any of us. We welcome you, your support, and your prayers. Thank you.

Annual Treasurer's Report

by Winchell Quock

It has been my privilege to continue to serve as your English Commission treasurer. As you have learned through the “In the Loop” emails, our 2022 budget of \$215,000 for payroll, building operations, and committee expenses continue to be met from your regular and generous offering contributions despite COVID-19. Unlike many churches in our Presbytery, our finances are sound, with on-line and mailed-in contributions equivalent to 2021. Due to several special contributions, a “legacy fund” was started in 2022.

I work with the Resource Committee and the Commission to establish and monitor an operating budget each year that is in line with projected offering income. With the success of utilizing the internet to worship and connect with each other to sustain our faith community these past three years, we are investing in tech equipment to continue our virtual capabilities as we navigate the to the new normal. We find that we have reached those that are home bound, away at college or on vacation, and to worship with Doug Clark, Jean and Franklin Woo in Southern California, Jeannette Wei and Jim Caldwell in San Antonio, and Carol Poong in England.

Making a stewardship pledge and fulfilling that pledge throughout the year, has helped us stay financially sound and to continue our monthly Mission gifts to General Assembly. We have forwarded to Presbytery, offerings collected for One Great Hour of Sharing (\$3170), Peace (\$1225) and Christmas Joy (\$1070). As a Matthew 25 worshipping community, the list of community organizations we also monetarily support includes: Cameron House, SF Night Ministry, Safehouse, Tsuru for Solidarity, Asian Women's Shelter, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Poor People's Campaign, Coleman Advocates, and the Pipit Fund.

A regular plan of giving establishes a personal habit of intentional giving back, as a response in gratitude for God's unconditional love and grace. 2023 offering envelopes are available to those not wishing to make on-line donations. I will be keeping track of your offering contributions, and provide you with a year-end summary for your tax deductions.

Thank you for all the ways that each of you contribute to the PCC community.
Blessing to all.

Winchell Quock - EWC Treasurer

Happy New Year!

Looking back to year 2022, we give thanks to God for all His blessings and grace, especially His extraordinary care to the Cantonese Worshiping Community. There is so much to celebrate! I would like to share with you our last Christmas Day event.

Christmas is the season to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It symbolizes the truth of spiritual life. We had about 50 participants joining the Sunday worship on Christmas Day. With hymn singing, Bible readings, praying, and a sermon, we praised our Lord on this special day of the year.



On this final week of 2022 and Christmas Day, the Cantonese congregation had to say farewell to Pastor Ronnie Kaan, who retired from his church ministry in early 2023. Pastor Kaan has been the co-pastor for the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown and served the Cantonese Worshiping Community for the last eleven years.

To celebrate Pastor Kaan's years of ministry, service, and dedication, a farewell lunch was held at the nearby Hunan House in Chinatown for our congregation after the Sunday service. We were in the upper private reserved room of the restaurant which had a complete karaoke sound system. Fifty people came to the luncheon. The sound system enabled us to have an open mic where members and friends sang and shared their appreciation and memories with Pastor Kaan.

Rev. Kaan gave a very impressive and inspiring speech during the lunch. He started with July of 2011, after moving from his previous ministry in Chicago. He recalled being given the grace of God, succeeding in the minister-interview process, accepting the Call to ministry, relocating his family, and finding his footing living in San Francisco. There were warm memories, prayers, help, and support from elders and members that he never forgot. He encouraged the spirit of church ministry and evangelism in our members, to continue leading and teaching our Chinatown community to learn about God and to attend worship services.

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Lunch entrees were particularly hearty with 10 individual dishes. The entrees started with egg drop beef stew soup. This was followed by orange peel chicken, shredded pork sauteed with jalapenos, walnut prawns, sweet and sour fried pork, ginger lamb stew, sweet and sour fried cod, fried tofu and shimeji mushrooms. In an unexpected turn for everyone, the entrée line saved the best dish last, ending the main meal with double lobster yee mein noodles. Dessert was a celebratory cake for Pastor Kaan: a chestnut and fruit triple decker cake. People were able to cheerfully give their farewells to Pastor Kaan, and to celebrate Christ's birth. We also took home extras from the ample leftovers!



It's kind of sad to say goodbye to Rev. Kaan, but we understand that there's always a plan from God that has been prepared for him. For the next chapter of his life, he is going to serve God as a missionary. He will be joining the Christian short-term mission trip to Southeast Asian countries and other areas of the world. Spreading the Gospel among unreached people is a grand and glorious calling for Rev. Kaan.

For the new year, we ask for your extra prayers and support for the Cantonese Worshiping Community. May God's grace and peace always be with us.



DEACON'S CORNER

By Eddie Kam

First off, Happy New Year, and also a Happy Lunar Year in 2023. As I'm on my last year as a Deacon, there are three things that I've come to realize:

1. I am truly blessed to witness our Deacons and those whom were part of the Deacons-Plus who so naturally and willingly reached out to our worshipping members to check in with how they were doing and adjusting to online worship when in-person worship went on hold. This was a concerted effort by them that manifested Christ's caring and compassionate heart and listening ear to reach out to each and every person on the PCC roster list. Each Deacon had to come out of their comfort zone and take a risk as the person they were connecting to was more important than themselves. Christ never asked his disciples whether they were comfortable or not; but, they had faith and let the Holy Spirit guide them.
2. As a result of that intentional connection, I feel it made an impact on those who were directly called and/or visited, as well as those who made the connections. In 2020, we only had 6 Deacons, in 2021 when we started connecting with persons, we had 7 Deacons. In 2022 and in 2023, we have a full slate of 9 Deacons. I won't be surprised that those who responded to become a Deacon thought: "I feel I want to be a part of that, where I can make a difference in another person's life".
3. I was mildly surprised to be a recipient of a cookie bag in 2021, as a result of my heart procedure (3 stents) in November and how Jackie and Nancy stepped up and relieved me of my chairperson duties of Deacons and Mission Study Team without me asking them. However, I am still involved.

Highlights of 2022 Deacon's coordinated activities were:

- We had another round of Deacons & Deacons-Plus connections with our English Worshipping Community. Rene coordinated the monthly Birthday greeting and get-well e-cards that's automatically sent via Blue Mountain. The physical correspondence hand-written notes were by Shar Hall.
- We identified "Super Seniors" (those 75 years and above) that we felt might benefit from frequent in-person visits and/or phone calls with a time to pray together to lift their spirits, and to help them feel they're loved and cared for. In September, Eunice coordinated, purchased, assembled, and sent out 11 college care-packages filled with snacks and other goodies, along with a letter from PCC and the Deacons. All were very appreciative of the package they received.

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- In September, Jackie reported that the prayer blankets were completed by her and delivered to May Chung, Sam Ho, Mei Yee, and Frances Low.
- On Dec. 17th, we partnered with M&E to purchase oyster sauce as a holiday gift for the 265 Food Pantry participants. Thanks to Annie Wong who ordered the 265 bottles of oyster sauce, and Rev. Kaan for printing labels which were printed in Chinese, and adhered to the bottles, saying this was a holiday gift from the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown.
- Also, in December, we had our annual Christmas Cookie Project. Nancy Chee coordinated the cookie bakers and persons to bag the cookies. She personally hand-made the Christmas card greetings. Jackie worked on the recipient list based on the 2022 prayer list and coordinated the 36 deliveries amongst the volunteers. Cookies were packed on December 17, and were delivered the week of December 18.
- The Deacons responded to the 2nd Compassion Fund request. We are thankful for all of you who sent in contributions to the Deacon's Compassion Fund to support and meet the need of requestors within the PCC worshipping community.
- In being more intentional and focused toward our caring and compassion role we're called to do, we reviewed various 'housekeeping' tasks Deacons have done for years. This made me think of the commercial where two little brothers are given a bowl of Life cereal. They don't know if it will taste good; so, they say "Give it to Mikey." Mikey eats the cereal without complaining. Well, the Deacons are the "Mikeys" because they got a lot of tasks intrinsically delegated to them. Therefore, we reviewed all tasks that really weren't our responsibilities which needed to be reassigned and decided by the English Commission, per the Deacons' suggestions.
- Deacons oversee the prayer list where prayer request of joys and concerns can be sent to the Deacon's email box to englishdeacons@pccsf.org.
 - **Please note:** For reasons of confidentiality, please be sure you have permission to share the information before submitting your prayer request.
- We are thankful for Rene Fong, who served and completed her two year term, and is going off. We welcome back Pat Chan.

Our Deacons for 2023 are:

Eunice Bejar-Lee, Pat Chan, Terry Chan, Carole Chinn-Morales, Shar Hall, Max Hum, Jackie Jew, Eddie Kam, and Jeanine Lim.



On November 5, 2022, five representatives from PCC joined with the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity (IM4HI) on their Pilgrimage to Angel Island, a multi-faith spiritual journey to remember, heal and end ICE detention.

Angel and Carole Chinn-Morales, Diane Go, Carl and I joined with others from different churches, people of different faiths, citizen descendants of formerly incarcerated immigrants, and those who themselves had been detained. We saw familiar faces in the crowd, including Elliot and Rev. Myrna Bernadel-Huey and Alton Chinn. Since Pastor Don was unable to participate in the pilgrimage, our ‘shepherd’ was Rev. Grace Kaori Suzuki of CUPC, on the far right in the photo on the right.



One of the promises made as we returned from the pilgrimage, was to share our own immigrant stories.

Diane: I went to Angel Island to honor my mother and grandmother. My mother recalled that she went to Japan when she was 5 with my grandmother, who was pregnant at the time. Mom couldn’t recall much of her first trip to Japan, except that there were beautiful flowers everywhere. My grandmother ended up delivering my Auntie Tomi while they were there, and Tomi was left behind in Hiroshima while my grandmother and Mom returned home. The two were detained on Angel Island for about a month as Mom recalled. She never said anything about being there. Auntie Tomi was not subjected to the return experience of Angel Island, fortunately, as she came back through Oregon, probably Portland.

Jackie: My grandfather came to America, in 1905, before Angel Island opened as an immigration station. He entered the US using identification papers he had traded with a young man from his village, who was an American citizen. Using the name Tom Jong, my grandfather established himself as a merchant in SF Chinatown. In 1922 he brought his wife and two sons to America. They were detained on Angel Island. A Presbyterian minister from Chinatown (perhaps PCC?) helped get my 2-year old uncle to the hospital. The other son, my Uncle Howard, then 14-years old, was detained on Angel Island for two weeks, even though he was the son of a citizen. The family never knew why. In 1992, 73 years later, my father solved the mystery. There had been a mix up. Someone else’s ID photo was glued to my

uncle's immigration records. Uncle Howard was interviewed many times in the 1970s and 1980s about his experiences on Angel Island but the only record I can find is a NY Times article from 1981.



Carl: On a pilgrimage to the Jew family village in China, I brought home with me ashes from the altar of my grandparents' home (photo on the left). It seemed fitting to bring these ashes to Angel Island and lay them at the altar erected by IM4HI in gratitude for my ancestors who risked everything in search of a better life in the U.S. This was a full circle moment for me that connected Gai Mou Saan in China ("Chicken Feathers" Hill) to the Angel Island Immigration Station to life as an American-born Chinese.

Elliot Bernadel-Huey: Almost every immigrant Chinese home during the Chinese/Lunar New Year and the Chinese cemeteries and funeral services would have the smell of incense burning. So, I lit incense respectfully for all the 160,000+ immigrants who courageously crossed the Pacific and were detained on Angel Island so that we could be here today.

Pilgrimage is an ancient spiritual practice in many traditions. They have evolved into modern journeys that evoke layers of meaning, collective memory, healing, and ongoing commitment to reconciliation, justice, and compassionate service.



Submitted by Jackie Jew

Fencing Out Freedom

Although it is often compared to Ellis Island, Angel Island was not a place of welcome. Instead, it was used to keep immigrants, specifically those from China, out.

The US Immigration Station opened in 1910. Over the next thirty years, it processed nearly a million people from over eighty countries. Most were processed quickly on board their ships. Some European and Japanese immigrants were held a few days. Some Chinese immigrants also moved on quickly; however, many spent up to several months in detention.

While on the island, families were separated. Sometimes women and children could walk around, but men were kept crammed in the barracks or a small fenced area. Conditions were unsafe and unsanitary.

Some who were forced to stay here wrote poems of sorrow, anger, and hope on the walls.



It was a chilly rainy morning as we lined up to wait for the ferry to Angel Island to support the IM4HI Pilgrimage as representatives of the PCC English Worshipping Community at this event. We were also present to personally remember many of our own forebears who were held on the island and endured prolonged interrogations and the agony of being separated from loved ones in a foreign land, with an unfamiliar language, strange customs, or laws, without support or the reassurance of advocates. Jackie and Carl, Diane, Angel, and I met up to begin the hike up the hill to the area where the offices, barracks, museum, and outdoor meeting space were located. We had been joyfully joined by Elliot and Myrna Bernadel-Huey and Alton Chinn from Buena Vista United Methodist Church in Alameda.

It was a solemn ceremony to remember those in previous generations who had suffered hostility and racism culminating in the Exclusion Act of 1882. Angel Island was the place many immigrants were forced to stop, not as a welcome, but to enter an unfriendly environment, in order to prove their identity, relationships to relatives already here, or for quarantine.

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Pilgrimage to Angel Island *(continued from page 14)*

The highlight of the ceremony, for me, was when Rev. Deborah Lee honored the most important pioneers in early immigration issues who had made significant contributions to immigration justice and rescue work. The first person mentioned was Donaldina Cameron, as well as Tien Wu, and Rev. Dr. William Speer. I was amazed and grateful that these committed Presbyterians so dear to us, were recognized for their lifelong commitment. This vital connection to Chinatown, PCC, and Cameron House deepened my wonder and appreciation for the legacy left to us today.

The pilgrimage also underscored the plight of thousands of immigrants camped in tent cities at our border today, waiting for a chance for an asylum hearing. I saw on media the hundreds of migrants dumped on the side of the road in Washington DC in front of the Vice President's home, some wearing only tee shirts to protect them from 17- degree weather. The treatment was horrendous and, in my opinion, a violation of human rights, for those only wanting a chance to be free from tragic violence, poverty, and unjust governments that makes their countries inhumane and unlivable. It makes me ponder, as a Christian, and as a member of a Matthew 25 worshipping community, what is my role? I am not in the trenches at the border. But can I commit to inform myself, advocate to government representatives for a just and coherent immigration policy, or donate to non-profits who are offering direct services to these vulnerable pilgrims?

I am thankful that PCC's EWC contributes to IM4HI and supports their immigration work. I am also keenly aware of the challenge Rev. Deborah left with us the last time she preached. She asked us to consider becoming an accompaniment congregation, to walk alongside of an individual or immigrant family that needs our friendship, help, and guidance to resources. The Mission and Evangelism Committee is weighing this possibility now. How will we answer? Is this a ministry we are being asked to respond to? Please pray for the power of the Holy Spirit and discernment as we seriously consider our calling. May 2023 bring new vision and energy to our ministries!

2022 Cookie Project

by Nancy Chee

How quickly the year flies by and another Christmas has passed! It was heart-warming to see so many of you for Christmas Eve service but it continues to be a struggle for many to venture out. As we slowly return back to a relative new “normal”, some in our community still remain isolated to be safe, some having to deal with illnesses, having to care for aging family or for others the loss of ones we love.

Another year of the Cookie Project was completed in December with the amazing support of those in this community. We had 21 bakers this year of which 4 were new bakers to our project. I never know what to expect and it was certainly a “pot luck” of cookies. We only had duplicates of 3 chocolate chip cookies, a varied assortment of short breads cookies all decorated differently and even a blondie and biscotti made it into the bag. We had planned for 36 bags but a last minute request was made and miraculously there were more than enough for an additional 2 bags. A deep, heart felt thank you to our amazing bakers!

Our Christmas card this year was inspired by simple words of “Joy...Love...Peace...Believe...Christmas” in the shape of a tree with a star above it. I hope that we can all continue to believe in all these things through the good news that came with Christ’s birth. Thank you to Jojo, Marie, Norma and Diane for lending their crafty skills in creating our cards.



A special thanks to Ella Vo and Cindy Gong who helped with decorating and trimming the cookie bags on the day of packing, and to the EWC Food Pantry volunteers who remained later to help with the packing, and to Jackie Jew for organizing pick up and deliveries..



Packing volunteers



21 Varieties of cookies



Organizing Gurus

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2022 Cookie Project *(continued from page 16)*

A heartfelt thank you to the Deacons who have worked tirelessly through the year in caring for our community. They worked to put together the list of recipients, those in our community who have been faced with challenges this year and need of a little support and cheer. Deacons and other members of our community made visits to recipients during the week before Christmas, bringing the message from our community that they are remembered. I cannot say thank you enough to everyone!

As I have said in years past, that it takes a village to care for one another, and this project continues to be a testament to the thoughtfulness and care of so many in our PCC community. I hope that each and every one of us continue to share our gifts and talents as God calls us to do.

Joy...love...peace...believe...in Christ!

Nancy



Frances



JoAnn



Ruth and Shar



Lula



Norma

For our Lenten theme this year, we have chosen “Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places”. Each week we’ll look at a model of love based on the stories of Jesus’ life and ministry, death and resurrection. We’ll explore where love, grace, forgiveness and healing can REALLY be found. We can reassess where we are searching for meaning and purpose.

In the first week, for example, we read the story of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). We can see the futility of looking for love in the things that only provide temporary satisfaction. Jesus demonstrates that in our resistance to evil, we can find true communion with God.

We finish our series with a joyous “Love Wins!” celebration on Easter Sunday.

We hope you’ll join us each week for worship. During in-person Tea Time, we’ll explore the week’s theme in more depth.

Our theme is based on material developed by Marcia McFee in the Worship Design Studio.



Elaine Chan and her husband Karl Scherer are new grandparents to grandson, Henry, born on December 13. First time parents are Sabine and her husband Rennie. Congratulations to all.

This is a sweet story from Sam Ho who is married to Alisa. Sam, his siblings and parents were sponsored to come to the USA by a Michigan couple named the Dodges. The Dodges came for a visit during the Holidays. They all had a nice reunion with Joe Dodge. He shared a lot of stories about Sam as a young boy. It's so nice they all still keep in touch after so many years. Logan, the middle son of Sam and Alisa, has been visiting colleges. They spent a few days in Arizona. Let's wait and see which one Logan will decide to attend. Perhaps Hawaii with his brother Cody?

Pastor Don was tickled pink on Christmas Eve. He went over to Winchell and Jeanne's place to pick up the "jook" for our Christmas Eve "siu yeh". He had a chance to hold baby Wren, the daughter of Lindsey and Zac. Lindsey and Lauren cooked the delicious jook. Thanks so much Lindsey and Lauren. We hope to see you all soon and can't wait to meet Wren.

Fannie Wong celebrated her 98th birthday with her family during the holidays.

David Chan and I were installed on January 8th, Dave as an Elder, and I as a Deacon. Both of us have been installed before, but this time we had to face forward so the people at home on YouTube could see our faces. A different experience for us. We even had the laying of hands.

We had a special Tea Time hosted by the Deacons. We had finger sandwiches and a chocolate bundt cake with cream cheese frosting, Pastor Don's favorite cake. Eunice bought a few dozen delicious chocolate chip cupcakes with cream cheese frosting. It sure was a special day, and a very memorable installation that I will never forget. Thanks, Pastor Don, for sharing your 10th year Ordination Anniversary with us.

