

THE OLIVE BRANCH

West Valley Presbyterian Church



February 2021 Newsletter

Outdoor Ordination & Installation of Deacons & Elders

On January 30, we were able to gather to celebrate our current leadership, and to install and ordain new leadership.

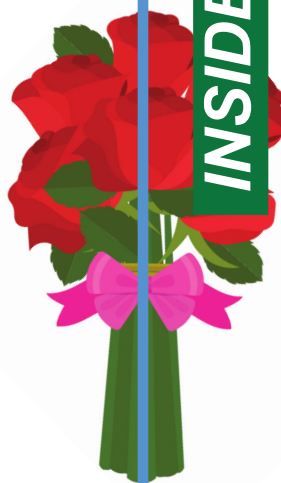
(Can you tell who is who behind the masks?!)



FEBRUARY 6 FROM 2-4:30 PM



WVPC McHattie Hall



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**Outdoor Ordination
& Installation
of Deacons & Elders
January 30, 4:30 pm >>**

Recognition of -

Outgoing Deacons:

Shirley Keller Firestone 2020

Mary Pound 2020

Sandy Todd 2020

Sue Willey 2020

Outgoing Elders:

Dave Blanchard 2020

Donna Perry 2020

Yonas Tesfaye 2020

Dan Yuen 2020

*Assistant Pastor Bob Harrison
2020*

Continuing Deacons:

Moderator Maggie Day 2021

Teresa Ramirez 2021

Bonnie Ngai 2021

Doug Rowe 2021

Continuing Elders:

Brenda Gips 2021

Clerk of Session Doug Gips

Terri Dias 2021

Jeff Stanish 2021

Glenn Inn 2022

Incoming Deacons:

Judy McDowell 2023

Karen Clark 2022

Sharon Steller 2023

Melanie Eslinger 2022

Janet Shaw 2022

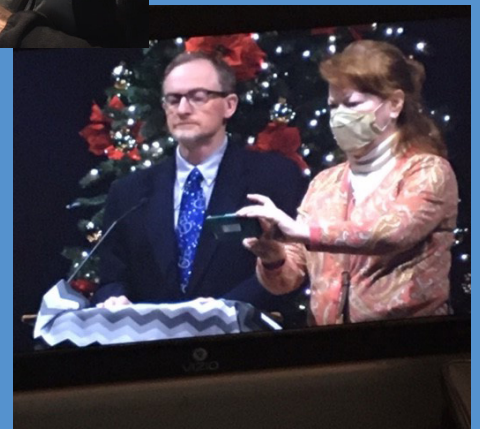
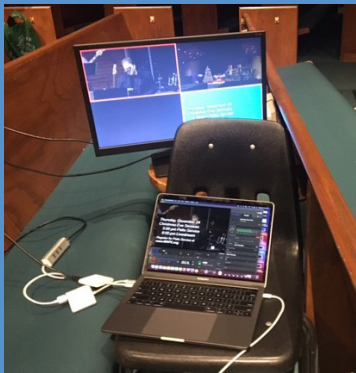
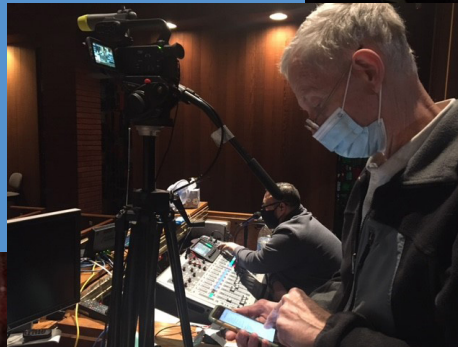
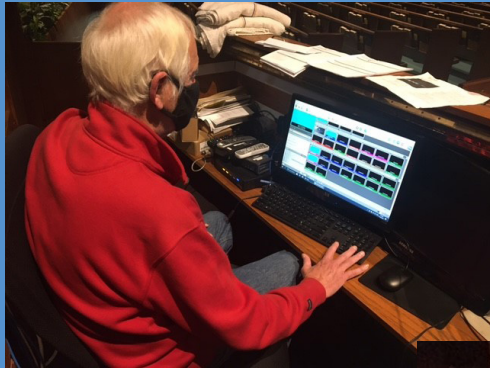
Incoming Elder:

Frank Lemmon 2024



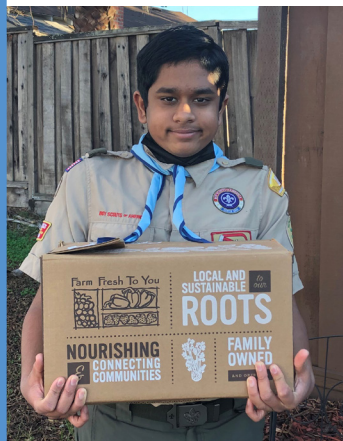
Media Spotlight

Appreciation goes out to our hardworking behind-the-scenes Media Team: Dave, Greg, Yonas, Glenn, Betty, Janet, Teresa, Frank & Evan. (Mostly hidden in the dark, in the back of the sanctuary!)



Audio Relief

After years of accumulating old audio cables we no longer needed, Drummer Stuart and Audio Engineer Frank cleared out the clutter! Now it's easier to find the right cable under the tech console in the sanctuary, and not pull out anything vital by accident. Thank you Stuart and Frank!



Boy Scouts

Thank you to Troop 407 for passing out door-hanger invitations and distributing our book donations, and for Scout Bhargav for organizing both events.

TROOP 407
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Chartered by W.V.P.C. since 1964

Troop 407 begins the year with 20 scouts. Our troop places an emphasis on letting the scouts develop leadership skills. Our troop conducts youth leader training sessions during a Saturday twice a year, and normally sends several scouts to a weeklong youth leader training session each summer.

During the past year our scouts have enjoyed a wide variety of activities. In February 2020, our troop spent a weekend at Fremont Peak for an astronomy outing. Several weeks later we curtailed our in-person troop meetings due to COVID. We resumed our weekly meetings via Zoom in April. Our youth leaders have done a good job in transitioning to the new format, preparing and presenting skills and finding games that could be used in our meetings. Since then, our scouts have enjoyed meeting in person for several local and socially distanced hiking and bicycling day trips. We also met in person in August at Creekside Park for a socially distanced annual planning session. We've continued to make adjustments to that plan in line with state, county, and BSA health guidance to ensure everyone's safety. We're hoping we will be able to spend a week at Camp Hi-Sierra for summer camp, and we look forward to a resumption of our normal monthly overnight outings.

The scouts clean out trash from the playground and church grounds on a monthly basis. They modified our annual Christmas caroling at the Villas at Saratoga Assisted Living Facility, preparing video greetings, and Christmas Cards for those living there.

The troop's primary fund-raiser continues to be collecting and recycling aluminum, glass, and beverage containers. We are very appreciative of the continued support of the Session and congregation towards the scouting program.

Our troop currently meets most Monday nights from 7:15 PM via Zoom. Our troop serves boys who are 11-17 years old and we would be delighted to have youth from the congregation join our troop.

With a strong and supportive leadership team, participation by Scout parents, and the support of West Valley Presbyterian Church, Troop 407 looks forward to many more years of great Scouting experiences.

Pack 433
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Sponsored by W.V.P.C. since June 1988

Our Pack currently has 4 youth members ranging from 4th to 5th grade. Although recruiting in a pandemic has been a challenge, the adult leaders continue to deliver a good program. The Cub Scout program focuses on teaching youth to learn about serving their community and the Cubs enjoyed seeing each other in person as they cleaned debris from the Calabasas Creek creekbed in October and November.

Our Cubs joined with Troop 407 in preparing cards for the residents of the Villas at Saratoga Assisted Living facility. Our Cubs will be receiving Pinewood Derby car kits in preparation for having our Pack and District competitions later this spring

We are currently considering options for a virtual outing in May.

Our pack currently meets via Zoom on the 2nd Monday of each month during the school year. In addition, our Webelos Den is meeting (virtually) every other Saturday.

Maria Yee Turns 90!

Maria was born, March 11, 1931, in Nicaragua, eldest of 12 children, and was greatly influenced by Moravian missionaries who served in Nicaragua. In 1947 at age 16, she was sent to USA to further her education. She arrived alone in Oakland, staying with distant relatives until she procured work as a nanny/household helper near school in Berkeley. She began attending the nearby Presbyterian church and has been a member since. In 1951, she married Stephen Yee and together they served for 6 years as director for a Presbyterian local migrant mission in Tracy, California.

Ensuing years, Maria served within the Presbyterian church both locally and nationally:

- Deacon, Elder, member of First Presbyterian Church, Stockton CA 1967-2017
- Asian Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church USA
- National Council of Women and the Church
- National Justice for Women
- National Committee of Women of Color
- Served on General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church 1994-1997

Maria was able to see that all her siblings and parents emigrated to the US. She and Stephen were married for nearly 65 years. Steve passed away in 2015 after struggling from advanced Alzheimer's disease. Maria also has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Church members interested in joining the Zoom Birthday party the afternoon of March 14, can contact her daughter Becky at perry95006@yahoo.com.

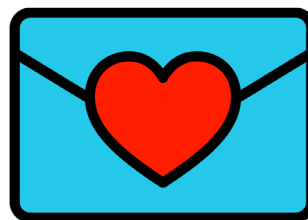


Valentine Boutique February 6 2-4:30 pm

The WVPC Crafts Boutique wants to help you keep up with your greeting cards needs. We have committed to having a card sale approximately every two months.

There will be a Card Sale on Saturday, February 6, before the Saturday Service from 2 pm to 4:30 pm. Come browse the lovely Valentine's Day cards, all occasion cards, jewelry and small gifts as well.

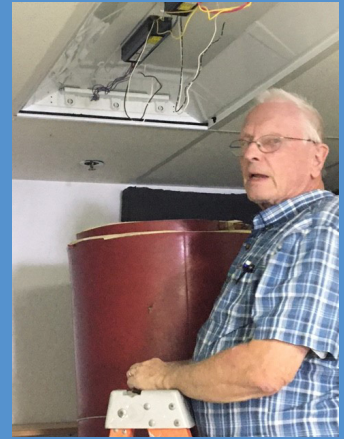
During this time when we are not able to see family and friends as often as we would like to, cards are a wonderful way of sending your love and kindness.



Property Renovations

Kept company by his furry partner Lucy, Parker continues converting all of our overhead lighting to LED lighting. Jeff has replaced the old yellowed lighting panels, so that the classrooms look much brighter! He and his son Sean, also moved furniture and bookcases into Room 7, for a new office for the Mandarin Academy. They painted Rooms 2 and 3, and had Lidia scrub the carpeting and blinds. Bill has made repairs to the bathroom in Room 2, and is meeting with someone soon about roof repairs.

Delight Montessori will begin using Rooms 1 and 3 for their preschool.



Best Regards,
Archana Pandit

New Renter - Delight Montessori

Delight Montessori Preschool has been operating for the past 13 years in the Bay Area. Back in 2008, having earned Montessori credentials and working as a Montessori teacher for six years, I decided to start my own school. With wonderful support from my husband, I was able to enable my dream of starting a preschool. The school motto is: To make learning a delightful experience! We have served parents from Cupertino, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara areas, and would like to continue to do so.

I truly believe that the most important asset of any business is its employees, and hence I have always hired the best teachers. All the teachers have the required teacher units, and most of them have a master's degree and Montessori certification, which makes our program top notch.

Do-It-Yourself Service Worship Projects

January 31, 2021

Janet took photos of some of the self care kits, communication kits and snack packs for the Lords Pantry. She and her husband provided the kits, while Debbi wrote the hand written notes of encouragement.



The Refuge & Santa Marta

The Refuge still faithfully meets the last Saturday of each month to serve food to the homeless. Mike and Sandy were also able to deliver Christmas donations to Santa Marta as well in 2020.



Happy Valentine's Day!

1 John 4:7-12 Dear friends: let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.