

Shared Life

The Monthly Newsletter of Old First Presbyterian Church

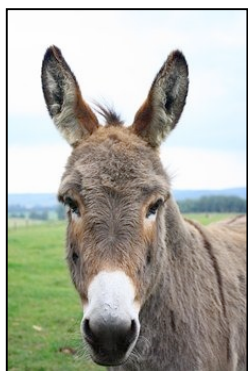
April 2017

Church Website: www.oldfirst.org

Like Us on Facebook

Old First Concerts: www.oldfirstconcerts.org

Holy Week: Christ's Entrance to Jerusalem, Last Supper and Crucifixion



Palm Sunday, April 9

10:30 am Procession of Palms and Worship

Featuring a Live Donkey and Eco-Palms

Gather at the Sacramento Street door to join in a palm procession with a live donkey around two block of our neighborhood. This ancient, but new to us, tradition makes the scripture come alive and is a fun witness to our neighbors to witness that something joyful is happening in the church and in the world.

The Eco-Palms we will use in procession are gathered and sold in a socially and environmentally just way. Harvesters are paid a fair price per palm based on quality, so they take fewer palms out of the forest, which protects important nature reserves. Community members sort, package and sell the palms themselves — not via middlemen — so more of the money paid for the palms stays with the people who worked the hardest to provide them. Because there is a steady market for the palms, locals are motivated to protect the forests (their source of income), ensuring harvests well into the future. For more information, visit ecopalms.org.

Maundy Thursday, April 13

6:00 pm Agape Feast with

Foot Washing and Communion

*Together with St Luke's Episcopal Church,
at 1755 Clay Street at Van Ness Avenue*

Good Friday, April 14

8:00 pm Tenebrae Service

A Service of Readings and Growing
Darkness Recalling the Crucifixion

Christ's Resurrection! Easter Sunday, April 16



9:00 am Pancake Breakfast

The Board of Deacons and the Community Building Committee will sponsor an Easter Pancake Breakfast from 9:00 am until 10:30 am. Juice, fruit, sausage and pancakes will be served.

10:30 am Prelude with Organ and Voice

11:00 am Joyful Easter

Worship with Choir, Organ and Brass

Easter Lilies and Music Donations

We invite you to add to our Easter celebration at Old First Presbyterian Church by making a donation toward Easter lilies for the sanctuary and special music for Easter Sunday worship. Your contributions can honor someone living, remember the dead or give thanks for a blessing.



- The suggested contribution for **each** dedication is Twenty Dollars (\$20.00).
- Submit your contribution and dedication to the church office by E-mail or US Postal Service.
- To be included in the Easter bulletin, all contributions must be received at the church office **no later than Monday, April 3.**
- For each gift of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00), please submit your name, your choice of **either lilies or music**, and **one dedication** to honor the living, to remember the dead, or to give thanks for a blessing.
- Lilies will remain in the sanctuary until after worship on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 23. At worship that day, the lilies may be taken home, shared with a friend, or planted outside.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to our Easter Celebration!

Hsiaochien Chuang, Worship Committee

His Hands



The hands of Christ
Seem very frail
For they were broken
By a nail.

But only they
Reach heaven at last
Whom these frail, broken
Hands hold fast.

John Richard Moreland
(1880–1947)

Devotionals, Fish Boxes, One Great Hour of Sharing

Devotional booklets for Lent “Living the Gospel Life,” and Fish Boxes for collecting coins toward the One Great Hour of Sharing are available in the narthex from the ushers. Our One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received on Easter Sunday, but you can still make your contribution over the following Sundays.

Book Discussion: *Waking up White*, by Debby Irving, April 2

Our discussion of Irving’s book will continue after worship on April 2 in Room A. We meet at 12:30 following coffee hour; the discussion will last about one hour.

Inquirers/New Members Class, April 30 and May 7

Anyone who is interested in learning more about what it means to be a member of Old First and joining this faith community is welcome to participate in an Inquirers Class, which will be held on

April 30 and May 7. Please see Erwin Barron or Lori Yamauchi for information and if you would like to sign up. Please plan to attend both sessions, or make alternative arrangements.

SF Mandolin Orchestra at Old First, April 8

The San Francisco Mandolin Orchestra will perform Giovanni Pergolesi's Stabat Mater (1736) and Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings (1936) at Old First Presbyterian Church at 7:00 pm on Saturday, April 8. The orchestra will be joined by two renowned Bay Area singers: soprano Susan Gundunas and alto Twila Ehmcke.

Pergolesi's life was short. He died at twenty-six, but in his last year he composed his Stabat Mater, the text of which is a 13th-century hymn about and addressed to Mary, Jesus' mother. It portrays her suffering during Jesus' crucifixion. It is often performed as a Good Friday meditation piece. Barber's Adagio for Strings is a work that uses a beautiful, simple melody but develops it with sophistication leading to astounding dramatic tension and release: another theme not distant from Holy Week.

Tickets are \$18 general admission, \$10 for students/seniors. Note: door tickets are cash only. For more information about these performances visit www.sfmandolin.org

Music Notes from Larry Marietta

Without a doubt, the most often requested and expected organ composition for Easter Sunday is the "Toccata" from Charles-Marie Widor's 5th Organ Symphony. The origin of the word "toccata" means "to touch"—usually in a rapid, flourishing style—and "Widor's Toccata", as it is best known, is exactly that: 5 minutes of perpetual running 16th notes in the right hand over relentless staccato chords in the left hand, while the feet play a smooth and noble melody that undergirds the work's ever-changing harmonic structure. So popular did this piece become that Widor often refused to

perform it. Fortunately, towards the end of his career in the 1930s, he agreed to record it for posterity.



An organ symphony is the keyboard counterpart of a regular symphony of instrumentalists. It came about as the French School of organ building evolved from the thin crispness and clarity of baroque organs (such as Bach played) to instruments with a much wider spectrum of sounds in combination with much

broader tone characteristics and extensive dynamic possibilities. This enabled French (and, later, German) composers to write longer organ works of separate movements, capable of equaling the development in orchestral writing of the late 19th century era.

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937) was born into a family of organ builders, and thus was steeped in traditional and new construction techniques. At the age of 24 he was appointed as an assistant to Camille Saint-Saëns at Paris' Church of the Madeleine, and in 1870 became the prestigious "provisional" organist at Paris' St-Sulpice, a position he maintained without the benefit of a signed contract for 64 years. Becoming Paris' most famous organist, he had a special suite built for him behind the massive St-Sulpice instrument; a suite (totally refurbished to its original bright red velvet and gold leaf fixtures) where he would individually receive his many women admirers after a church service.

The Visscher Organ at Old First is a wonderfully-designed and voiced instrument on which to hear this famous “Toccata.” Come on Easter and hear it played during the Prelude.

Renovated Edgewood Center for Children and Families

On Thursday, March 9, I was honored to participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for a renovated residential building at Edgewood Center for Children and Families. Old First Presbyterian Church was praised as a founder of this worthy institution and as having arranged for the lead gift for the renovation program.

In January of 1851, less than two years after Old First’s founding, Mrs. Nathaniel Lane suggested to Albert Williams, our first pastor, that an institution was necessary to rescue orphans and abandoned children in San Francisco. Edgewood was founded on February 11, 1851, as the Protestant Orphanage, with ongoing support by Old First members. This event is commemorated in one of the lower stained glass windows on the North side of our sanctuary.

Edgewood has remained a strong and important resource providing services to children in need since its founding. In the 1920’s, it relocated to a six-acre campus in the Parkside District of San Francisco, where today it provides services to thousands of children in San Mateo and San Francisco counties.

About 20 years ago, Bill Wunsch, a member of Old First and an estate planning attorney, contacted me on behalf of a client who wanted to leave money to an organization providing services to disadvantaged children. He asked if I knew of a good program supported by the Presbyterian Church that did such work and I recommended Edgewood. Ultimately, after his client’s death and the probate of her will, the funds were made available to a trust for this purpose to be administered by Old First. Old First’s Session accepted the trust and its mission committee determined that Edgewood’s building renovation project would be a significant and the most appropriate and effective means by which to assist Edgewood and made the funds available. It is through charitable gifts like this and the involvement of the church in important institutions such as Edgewood that we continue to further Christ’s work in the world.

Steve Taber

Electronic Key Cards: “Olly Olly Oxen Free!”

If you have a lost or misplaced card key from any era, would you please call Brad Peterson at 415-776-5532 or E-mail him at brad@oldfirst.org so the card can be disabled? If you have a card that you were issued for a long finished task or that you don’t use any longer, please return it to Brad. We can always reissue you a key if a need arises in the future. It just takes a moment to do this and would be much appreciated.

What’s New at Old First Concerts

Hi, my name is Matt Wolka and I’ve been the new director of Old First Concerts since January. I am very grateful to Old First Church and its members for the hospitality you have shown towards me and Old First Concerts.

I hope you will check out our upcoming schedule and try to make it to a concert soon – I’m a firm believer that live music has several important roles in society:

1. To add beauty.
2. To express human truths that are common to us all.
3. To express a vision of the future, past or present for an individual artist or composer.
4. To stand up to discrimination in any of its forms.

Live music is collaborative – the musicians and the audience work together. When the concert ends, everyone in the room has been challenged or changed in some way.

Our April concerts are these:

Sunday, April 2 at 4 pm

Friction Quartet playing music by Brahms, Halle and Schoenberg.

Sunday, April 9 at 4 pm

Hillary Nordwell, piano and Justin Ouellet, viola
playing Enescu, Beethoven, Hindemith, and Pärt.

Sunday, April 23 at 4 pm

Matt Renzi and Arm-Sized Legging
playing Classical/Jazz fusion.

Friday, April 28 at 8 pm

Anne Rainwater, piano
playing the Goldberg Variations by J. S. Bach.

Sunday, April 30 at 4 pm

Music Teachers' Association of California
Hear talented students perform a Festival of Russian Music.



For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.oldfirstconcerts.org

Thanks, and see you soon!

Matt Wolka

All Church Retreat, October 20-22

Old First Presbyterian will again hold an all-church retreat at Mt Hermon Conference Center, October 20-22.

If you attended the retreat last year at beautiful Mt. Hermon, snuggled in the glorious wooded area of Santa Cruz, you will remember the dynamic speaker, Dr. Ralph Watkins, faculty member at Columbia Seminary. You will also recall the informative discussion groups, the opportunity to mingle with friends and meet new folks as well as free time! If so, no doubt you will want to come again this year.

If you didn't attend – you have another chance coming up this October! Once again, we will combine with First Presbyterian Church, Burlingame and Calvary Presbyterian Church. This gives us the opportunity to get to know fellow Presbyterians in our area as well as deepen friendships already made.

The speaker this year is Nancy Lammers Gross. She is a professor of practical theology at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey. You can read a short bio of her at the Princeton website: www.ptsem.edu/people/nancy-lammers-gross

Watch for more details in future Shared Life issues.

Jeanne Kirkwood

February Session Meeting

The Session of Old First Presbyterian Church held an informative meeting on February 28. Following are some highlights:

- Elders discussed an Insights article titled, “The New Reformation” by Bill Tammeus and covered inclusion, love, care, spirit friendly behaviors and face to face connection.
- There was discussion of the recent full Presbytery meeting including new offices in El Cerrito, new plan for staffing and new vision. It was noted that part time worked for ordained individuals had been approved.
- The Officers' Retreat for 2017 was announced to be scheduled in May with reading material, “Real Good Church,” by Molly Phinney Baskette. Copies are available from the church office; all elders and deacons need a copy for the retreat.
- There was a discussion about Online Giving featuring a “donate now” button on our website and it was agreed to use the Presbyterian Foundation for this.
- The Worship Committee held a successful Lenten scripture reading and art planning workshop on February 11.
- The 2017 Nominating Committee needs one more person and this committee will be elected at the next congregational meeting.
- The Operations Committee is examining a leak in the north wall. [The leak has been located and repairs are forthcoming.]

- Christian Education announced that work on the children's library is being accomplished with many new donations.
- It was announced that Old First would participate with St. Luke's for a Palm Sunday procession including a donkey.
Tom Culp,
Clerk of Session

Dates to Remember

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| April 2 | Sunday | Book Discussion: "Waking up White," 12:30 pm, Room A Board of Deacons Meeting, 12:30 pm, Munro Room |
| April 9 | Palm Sunday/ Passion Sunday | Palm Sunday Procession and Worship, Note time: 10:30 am Deadline for May issue of Shared Life |
| April 13 | Maundy Thursday | Agape Feast with Foot Washing and Communion, 6:00 pm <i>Together with St Luke's Episcopal Church, 1755 Clay Street at Van Ness Avenue</i> |
| April 14 | Good Friday | Tenebrae Service: A Service of Readings and Growing Darkness Recalling the Crucifixion, 8:00 pm |
| April 16 | Easter Sunday | Pancake Breakfast, 9:00 am 10:30 am Prelude with Organ and Voice 11:00 am Joyful Easter Worship with Choir, Organ and Brass |
| April 23 | 2 nd Sunday of Easter | Confirmation Class, Library, 9:30 am |
| April 25 | Tuesday | Session Meeting, 7:00 p.m. |
| April 29 | Saturday | Saturday Community Dinner, 5:30 p.m. |

Old First Family and Friends

Praying for Healing and Wholeness

- Bart Crosby, healing after a fall
- Riley Kramar
- Glen Potter, recovering from a fall
- Mary Lou Wilson

Remembering the Dead

- Donna Beatty, Old First member
- John Hampel, husband of Old First member
Bob Fleming

OFPC Officers

Class of 2018

Chris Burt
Kristi Hoerauf
Dana Nojima

Session

Class of 2019

Tom Culp, clerk of session
Robin Currier
John Kramar
Lori Yamauchi
Priscilla Yu

Class of 2020

Bill Campbell
Hsiaochien Chuang
Linda Reyder
Daniel Pearch
Virginia Webb-Pekelnicky

Board of Deacons

Class of 2019

Riley Kramar
Mary Russell
Emily Olson

Class of 2018

Nina Berg
Alfred Martin
Randy Smith
Sarah Taber

Class of 2020

Beth Arnaoot
Courtney Blake
Cindy Burt
Glen Potter
Jian Wang