



February 2025

CONNECTION

Sermon Series: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

February 2: How to Deal with Anger, Adultery and Divorce; Matthew 5:21-32; Dan Price

Feb. 9: How to Speak Truth; Matthew 5:33-37; Dan Price

Feb. 16: How to Love Your Enemy; Matthew 5:38-48; Dan Price

Feb. 23: How Not to Be a Hypocrite; Matthew 6:1-8; Dan Price



FIRST KIDS



Every single one of us is created in the image of God. But even as image bearers, we are unique. With the foundation that God made us, knows us, and loves us, we will discover how we have unique potential and worth to make a difference in the world around us.



EPIC (4th-6th Grade)
February 21, 6-8:00 PM

Come join us for fun, food, and conversations about faith.



Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, February 23, 11:45 AM

Please join us as we celebrate highlights of the past year, remember and honor departed members and friends, and review our financial picture. Our 2024 Annual Report will be available soon. A brunch-style lunch will be provided.



Sign up for Dinners of 7 or 8

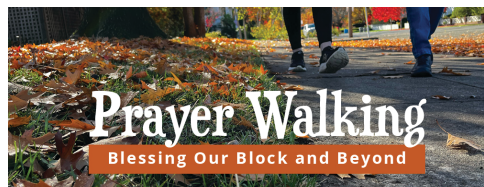
Make Deeper Connections through Fellowship and Food

Dinners of 7 or 8 is a fun and simple way to connect at FPC. Get to know people over a shared meal together —at your home, a restaurant or park. We place you in a group, which will meet three or more times over several months. At the end, you'll have formed personal relationships and made new friends. Sign up at the Connect Center by March 1.



Sunday, February 2
10:05-10:25 AM, Room 114

Pray for the PNC and the ongoing ministry of our church and staff.



Let's Prayer Walk Together!
February 16, 11:45 AM, Room 113

Join us as we go outside and do a Prayer Walk! Afterwards, we will talk about our experience and share how God has been speaking to us. A light lunch will be provided.



Ecuador Mission Crocheted Floral Bouquets

February 9, Ingram Hall, After each worship service

Gang violence and losses from the pandemic has severely impacted the economy and wellbeing of the area around the Ecuador Mission. We can support our Ecuadorian friends by "purchasing" a crocheted floral bouquet, which would make a lovely gift for Valentine's Day. All donations will be returned to the small, rural villages of coastal Ecuador.

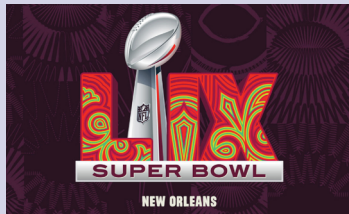


Presbyterian Women
Tuesdays,
10 AM, Rm 113

We are studying the *Epic of Eden: Psalms* with Dr. Sandra Richter.



Youth Ministries



All Youth Super Bowl Party

February 9, 3-7:30 PM, Room 224

Come for the big game, big commercials and adequate food. Bring something to share with the group.

Granite Team Olympics

February 5 - March 12

For seven short weeks, Granite will be transformed into an arena of friendly competition. Each week Youth will earn valuable points for participating in a series of high energy activities + points will be awarded for just showing up! Bring yourself and new friends as we partake in this awesome trial of the Granite Spirit. At the end of the Olympics, one team will walk away with the "Gold" medal and a free trip to Discovery Kingdom on May 14!

Decade Mexico Mission Trip - March 15-20

Weekly meetings held February 26-March 9. Contact Cory for details.



Movie Night:

The Fall Guy

Friday, February 14
6:15 PM, Room 113

Since we will view and discuss this film on Valentine's Day we chose a romantic comedy. But it also provides an entertaining and exciting look at how film stunt people put their life at risk on a regular basis to thrill us. Expect lots of chocolate for snacks!

Please enter through the outside doors on the McDonald Avenue side.



If you would like to send help to fire victims in Los Angeles, make a contribution by check or online and note: "For LA Fires." Our mission support team will make sure your gift goes to reputable organizations, such as Presbyterian Disaster Relief.



Sundays, 10:30 AM, Rm. 113
or via Zoom on Tuesdays, 7-8 PM



February 13, 6:00 PM via Zoom

Caregivers exchange practical information, talk through their challenges, and learn ways to cope.

Info: contact Colleen Soldate at (707) 328-5465 or Colleen@fpcsantarosa.org

From the Pastor's Desk



Three Hard Sayings

In February, I will preach from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount where he touches upon three tender topics.

Anger—6th commandment (Thou shalt not kill)

Lust—7th commandment prohibiting adultery

Divorce—which can also become a violation of the 7th commandment

Sometimes I wish Jesus had not been so direct! His sermons were not destined to be become best sellers with the publishers of prosperity gospel. Why did Jesus say all this hard stuff—especially when he knew that 20 centuries later some American pastors who would preach in his name, would assiduously avoid everything that has to do with the high cost of discipleship? Several reasons come to mind:

First, when Jesus puts the bar high with things like dying to self, picking up the cross and following him—he is not asking us to do anything we cannot do. By doing so, he honors our agency or what some call free will.

Second, in the hard sayings Jesus is not asking us to do anything he has not already done. He is teaching by example.

Third, Jesus also takes on the legalists by pointing out that often, those who build complex legal structures are proud of keeping their rules, but lousy at practicing what they preach at the level of the heart.

Finally, Jesus wants to create a community who not only live by grace but live worthily of grace. To do the latter, we have to remember that in this amazing Sermon on the Mount, Jesus asserts that he has not come to overthrow the law—but rather to fulfill it (Matt. 5: 17-20). Law without grace is punitive, but grace without any connection to law (and prophets) disrupts community by allowing the meanest members to rule the roost.

Warmly in Christ, Pastor Dan Price

A Place to BELONG, BELIEVE
LOVE like Jesus

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