



From the Pastor

I was in the store in December, and I looked up and in my surprise saw boxes of Valentine's Day candy. It wasn't even Christmas yet! More to my surprise were the boxes of Easter candy. In December! Such is the commercial appeal of the holidays. I think it is all just a conspiracy between the candy and flower companies to keep us gaining weight, and the weight loss companies that want us to lose weight!

Have you ever wondered how we ever got Valentine's Day in the first place?

On February 14 around the year 278 A.D., Valentine, a holy priest in Rome in the days of Emperor Claudius II, was executed.

Under the rule of Claudius the Cruel, Rome was involved in many unpopular and bloody campaigns. The emperor had to maintain a strong army, but was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. Claudius believed that Roman men were unwilling to join the army because of their strong attachment to their wives and families.

To get rid of the problem, Claudius banned all marriages and engagements in Rome. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret.

When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Valentine was arrested and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. The sentence was carried out on February 14, on or about the year 278.

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.
(John 15:13)

Legend also has it that while in jail, St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine."

For his great service, Valentine was named a saint after his death.

In truth, the exact origins and identity of St. Valentine are unclear. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "At least three different Saint Valentines, all of them martyrs, are mentioned in the early martyrologies under the date of 14 February." One was a priest in Rome, the second one was a bishop of Interamna (now Terni, Italy) and the third St. Valentine was a martyr in the Roman province of Africa.

Legends vary on how the martyr's name became connected with romance. The date of his death may have become mingled with the Feast of Lupercalia, a pagan festival of love. On these occasions, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed. In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius decided to put an end to the Feast of Lupercalia, and he declared that February 14 be celebrated as St. Valentine's Day.

Gradually, February 14 became a date for exchanging love messages, poems and simple gifts such as flowers. (<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/st-valentine-beheaded>)

May we celebrate God's love this month, and may we be mindful of those who love us, and those we love. Let me encourage you to show your love, especially this month. How?

According to Dr. Gary Chapman, there are five primary love languages. Each of us has a preferred one. And the one we prefer is the way we communicate, but that may not be the one that is most clearly heard by the one we love. Chapman devised this as a tool to help married couples, but I think it works in all relationships. Here are the five love languages.

- 1) **Words of affirmation** – using words to build up the other person. “Thanks for taking out the garbage.” Not – “It’s about time you took the garbage out. The flies were going to carry it out for you.”
- 2) **Gifts** – a gift says, “He was thinking about me. Look what he got for me.”
- 3) **Acts of Service** – Doing something for your spouse that you know they would like. Cooking a meal, washing dishes, vacuuming floors, are all acts of service.
- 4) **Quality time** – by which I mean, giving your spouse your undivided attention. Taking a walk together or sitting on the couch with the TV off – talking and listening.
- 5) **Physical touch** – holding hands, hugging, kissing, sexual intercourse, are all expressions of love.

You go nowhere by accident...



Odds and Ends

- 1) We supported some students to go to Inter Varsity's Urbana Missions Conference in St. Louis in December. The students will be with us on February 17th to thank us and to share their experiences.
- 2) We welcome **Jean-Pierre Moran** as our new administrative assistant, as Kohl James is taking advantage of some exciting job offers in his field at Cal State Stanislaus.
- 3) **Kohl James** will continue to lead the praise team on the third Sunday of each month, and perhaps more often as his time and work schedule allows.
- 4) We welcome back **Devon James**, who will be directing the choir on the first Sunday of each month, and leading rehearsal on the Thursday before that.
- 5) **Youth for Christ Central Valley** is beginning a Campus Life group here at Harvest. Every Friday at 2:30 p.m. we are gathering to welcome students from Mae Hensley onto our campus, playing games, feeding them, and engaging them in conversation. Come join us!

Tech Team Volunteers Needed



We are very thankful to our current Tech Team members, Cyndy Cawley, Darien Edwards, Jacob Holleman and Kohl James for operating the sound system and the PowerPoint slides on Sunday mornings.

Since Kohl has left for his new job at Stanislaus State, and Jacob will be married in two weeks, we are short of people who are knowledgeable and willing to serve. We need of more volunteers!

The tasks are not complicated, and we will train you. You don't have to be a Tech Geek, though it helps! We won't ask you to do more than two Sundays a month. If enough people volunteer, it can be one Sunday a month! If you're interested in this, please talk to Pastor Jim.

2019 Pledge Cards

The Finance Committee is developing a budget for 2019. Pledge cards help us in predicting our annual income. If you feel so led, please submit a pledge card and turn it into the church office.

Mariners Meeting on February 15th



On February 15, 2019, following the Mariner's 6:00 p.m. potluck, Harvest member and enthusiastic and knowledgeable Scotsman Art McRae will make a Power Point presentation revealing details of his Scot's heritage and highlight associated historical events.

Annual Congregational Meeting, February 10th



Our annual congregational meeting will take place on February 10th, right after the worship service. The Annual Report will be received, and the congregation will vote on the pastor's salary package. All are invited to stay after the service for the meeting, though our bylaws allow only Harvest members to vote.

Pastor's 2019 Salary Proposal for Congregational Meeting

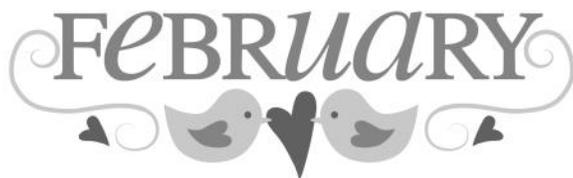


The Finance Committee has met and discussed our financial situation, and has presented the findings to the Session. We wound up in good financial shape in 2018, mostly due to your generosity, but also by not paying for a budgeted Choir Director, and receiving a \$20,000 grant from the Stockton Presbytery.

Because no such grant will be forthcoming this year, we have proposed to cut the pastor's salary to 75% of Presbytery minimum, from 90% of Presbytery minimum. We were reluctant to do this for many reasons. But Pastor Jim has agreed to this, as his Presbytery Treasurer salary more than makes up for the decrease in income. However, we want to grow the church and our finances to return to full time pay. We will vote on this on February 10th.

Harvest Presbyterian Church
1813 Moffet Road
Ceres, CA 95307

POSTAGE



Mission Statement ~ With God in control, the mission of the Harvest Presbyterian Church is to proclaim and bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and nurture the faith of our church family.

Harvest Leadership 2019

Deacons

Virginia Bathe (Moderator) (2021)
Patty Correia (2021)
Kate Hendrix (2020)
Nora McKinsey (2020)
Nawatha Reed (2019)
Judy Salyer (2019)

Elders

Tom Bennett (Finance/Nominating) (2021)
Michael Cousins (Treasurer/Buildings) (2020)
Karen Edwards (Clerk/Mission/Personnel) (2019)
Staci Edwards (Personnel/Worship) (2019)
Brandy Meyer (Youth/Outreach/Nominating)
(2021)
LaVeta Rhoy (Finance) (2020)

Church Information

Church Office Phone: (209) 537-3519
Website: www.harvestpres.org
Pastor Jim Stochl— harvest.pastor.jim@gmail.com
Prayer Requests—prayer@harvestpres.org
Jean-Pierre Moran —secretary@harvestpres.org

Office Hours

Tuesdays: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Thursdays: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>27</p> <p>Worship— 10:30 am</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Praise Team— 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Choir—5:30 pm</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Starbucks Men- 7:00 am</p> <p>Women's Bible Study: 10:00am</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Stockton Presbytery Meeting— 9:00 a.m., (First Pres Turlock)</p>
						
<p>3</p> <p>Communion— 10:30 am</p>	<p>4</p> <p></p> <p>Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm</p> <p>AA—7:00 pm</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Alpha Circle— 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Choir—5:30 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Starbucks Men- 7:00 am</p> <p>Women's Bible Study: 10:00am</p> <p>Deacons 12:00 pm</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Worship— 10:30 am</p> <p>Congregational Meeting following service</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm</p> <p>AA—7:00 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p></p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>National Tortellini Day</i></p> <p></p> <p>Persephone Guild, - 7:00 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p></p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> <p>Choir—5:30 pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Starbucks Men- 7:00 am</p> <p>Women's Bible Study: 10:00 am</p> <p>Mariners 6:00pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Jacob & Bekah Holleman</p> <p></p>
<p>17</p> <p>Worship — 10:30 am</p> <p></p>	<p>18</p> <p>Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm</p> <p>AA—7:00 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Session— 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p> <p></p>	<p>21</p> <p>Presbytery Finance Committee— 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Choir—5:30 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Starbucks Men- 7:00 am</p> <p>Women's Bible Study: 10:00am</p>	<p>23</p> <p></p>
<p>24</p> <p>Worship— 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>End of the Month Potluck</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Prayer Mtg — 6:00 pm</p> <p>AA—7:00 pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p></p>	<p>27</p> <p>HAPPY</p> <p></p> <p>NATIONAL POLAR BEAR DAY</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Choir—5:30 pm</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Starbucks Men- 7:00 am</p> <p>Women's Bible Study: 10:00am</p>	<p>2</p> <p></p>

Sunday School Schedule*

- 2/3** Anette Arias (Judy Salyer)
2/10 Staci Edwards (Nawatha Reed)
2/17 Beth Stochl (Martha McNamara)
2/24 Brandy Meyer (Patti Arbizu)



* This schedule may change! Check with Brandy Meyer or Kohl James if you have any conflicts or questions.

Regular Prayer List

Health Issues:

Betty Baughman
John Baughman
(chemo)
Susan Bennett
Warren Cawley
LaVeta Rhoy
Ruth Strange
Casey van Rys
Bettye Welsh

Other Concerns:



12—Randi Rodgers
19—Staci Edwards
28—Darien Edwards



16—Jacob & Bekah Holleman