

THE NUTS & BOLTS OF OUR LIFE IN MINISTRY



February 2017

Excerpts from

Keeping Lent: A devotional journal

Lent is a forty-day journey. And the nature of any journey is change. Change can come about slowly, or as a scales-falling-from-our-eyes event, or as something subtle we don't notice until all is said and done. But we never arrive at a destination exactly as we were when we started, even when we know where we are going. We are heading toward Easter and, no matter what, we will come to the Feast of feasts changed even from how we began the forty days.

Contrary to what many of us have been taught, Lent is not simply a forty-day journey of saying "no" to certain foods or habits or pleasures. It's more than a season of self-negation. Lent developed in the early centuries of the Christian church as the time of final preparation by the persons who were going to be baptized. Eventually, by the 4th century, baptisms occurred on Easter so this final preparation period occurred in the weeks prior to Holy Week. Lent was the final intensification in one's spiritual journey approaching the moment of baptism, the watery dying and rising with Jesus Christ sealing one's alignment and new identity in Him.

The church continues this practice of Lent. But it is broadened to invite all of us who have already been baptized to come to the waters again. Not for a physical act of rebaptism, but as our annual season of renewal of faith, of what it means to live as follower of Jesus Christ. Accompanying those preparing for Easter baptism, locally and world-wide, we, the already-baptized, enter a season of time where we dig deeper into our own journey of dying and rising, into what it means for us to live as Christ's own in this world. Just as those early Christians were learning what it meant to live as Christ's own in their lifetime, we do the same.

So Lent does include some negation. What in me is not yet conformed to the image of Christ? The early church had staunch things to say to those who were gladiators, astrologers, and public officials. What allegiances do we retain that compete for our allegiance to Christ and the reign of God? Our false allegiances happen inwardly and outwardly.

The Lenten journey to Easter is our annual opportunity to intensely renew what it means to be united with Christ, to be aligned with Christ, to live as Christ's own---in and for the world. Old traditions of the church would have us pray, fast, and give alms more often than we do otherwise. These are practices meant to inculcate our utter dependence on God.

.....

We begin Lent with Ash Wednesday. We embark on the Lenten journey both by hearing scriptures that speak about fasting and ashes and (for many of us) by receiving ashes. Ashes in scripture signify death, mourning, and penitence. And they signify communal penitence as well as personal penitence. In the church, at least since the 9th century, public penitents were marked with ashes. The ashes, eventually used by all the faithful, came from the palms of the preceding year's Palm Sunday procession. Our use of ashes is a tradition from scripture and from this old public act of penitence.

The sign of ashes helps us know that Lent is not as much a forty-day reflection on the passion of Christ as it is a school of repentance for us. Of course Lent is our remembrance of what Christ has done for the life of the world. But our Lenten journey is about our passage to new life in Christ: passage, or journeying, that involves repentance. The readings this day are the stuff of our repentance: we store up false treasures; we show off our piety; we do not live rightly in community; we do harm to the least of these in the world; we do not live publicly as the righteousness of God.

Eastern Christians say that the tone of Great Lent is one of Bright Sadness. For all the ways we forsake God and every aspect of God's creation, we are remorseful and sad. But life is not a meaningless journey to a meaningless end. We travel toward the fullness of the reign of God and God's righteousness. All that we continuously lose and betray is what we were given at baptism: Christ is our new life, now is the day of salvation.

Let us keep the fast so that we may keep the Feast!

Written by Dr. Jennifer L. Lord
The Dorothy B. Vickery Professor of Homiletics and Liturgical Studies
Austin Theological Seminary

~

Minutes for Special Session Meeting Thursday, January 12, 2017 Classroom 1

A Special Meeting of Session to discuss the 2017 budget was called to order by Rob Martin, Moderator at 7:15. Rob Martin offered the opening reflection and prayer.

A quorum was present.

Present: Scott Brenneman, Standley Scott, Greer Ellison, Evan Hughes, Rick Keller, Pat Kinney, David Leith, Susan Phinney-Silver, Karen Wentzel, Evelyn Wong
Staff: Annanda Barclay; Kathy Merkle-Raymond; Rob Martin
Excused: Tom Ellison, Joy Sleizer

Scott Brenneman on behalf of Staff Relations made the following motions:

Motion 1

We move to a staffing structure which makes the following changes to our current structure:

- A. Rob moves to $\frac{3}{4}$ time from full time;
- B. We hire Annanda at $\frac{3}{4}$ time as Stated Supply Associate Pastor, which has a one-year renewable term;
- C. We eliminate the positions of Pastoral Intern and Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry, the duties of the latter being assumed by a combination of Rob, Annanda and volunteers from the church community.

Motion 2

- A. We will transition to the new staffing structure during 2017, with a target date of June 1 for it to take effect.
- B. Ryan's employment by the church will end on or about May 30th, unless he receives a call and departs before that date.
- C. The 2017 budget shall reflect this plan, with the acknowledgement that the necessary Presbytery processes may cause a change in the June 1st date.

Staff Relations recommends a transition period of approximately six months during which the status quo staffing model is maintained and we can get Presbytery approval both for the new configuration and for Annanda's ordination. This will also provide continuity for the current Children, Youth and Family programs through the end of school year with Ryan at the helm.

Staff Relations also recommends that the budget presented to the congregation reflect costs for the first half of 2017 at status quo, and the change during the second half of 2017, as well as a "notional" budget for 2018 that would show the effects of the new staffing plan over a full year.

The proposal is based on a desire to avoid disruption to the current Children, Youth, and Family programs and the need to give Ryan notice of the terms of his interim position, while recognizing we cannot sustain a full-time person in this position given our current demographics. It recognizes the increasing difficulty in finding interns based on changes in seminary programs to no longer require full year internships, resulting in the pool of applicants being primarily post-grads who we risk losing in mid-year as they continue to look for a long term position. It also both honors Rob's request to reduce his time to 75%, and provides an ordination path for Annanda. Because of changes in Presbytery rules, the church would maintain the flexibility to call her to another position should things change in the future. These programmatic changes dovetail with our need to reduce the costs in our budget and the reliance on draws from the Legacy Fund.

Staff Relations believes this is yet another step in our adaptive leadership process, noting that each year has been different from the last in our staffing configuration in response to new needs of the congregation and the community.

Additional discussion took place concerning the Facilities budget, and their amended "ask" of \$70,000, down from the original ask of \$140,000 and up from the bare bones budget of \$45,000.

Susan Phinney-Silver provided preliminary budget numbers for consideration at the January 18 meeting based on the above discussion. The Staff Relations' motions were tabled for further discussion and action at that meeting.

David Leith asked that Session find a time to look together at the good news of our Stewardship program, and also try to understand what the reduced, and the non-pledges from some of our community, might signify. Kathy Merkle-Raymond reported that of the decrease of 10 pledges this year, seven were a result of families moving away. There were also 18 new pledges this year. After clarification that any concerns about staff should be brought up through Staff Relations, it was agreed that this conversation would occur at a future Session meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Wentzel

**Minutes for Stated Session Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2017 (7:15-9:30 pm)
Classroom 1**

The meeting was called to order by Rob Martin, Moderator at 7:15. Evelyn Wong offered the opening reflection and prayer.

A quorum was present.

Present: Scott Brenneman, Greer Ellison, Evan Hughes, Rick Keller, Pat Kinney, David Leith, Susan Phinney-Silver, Standley Scott; Karen Wentzel, Evelyn Wong
Staff: Annanda Barclay; Kathy Merkle-Raymond; Rob Martin
Excused: Tom Ellison, Joy Sleizer

The agenda was approved.

CLERK'S REPORT – Karen Wentzel

- Communion was served to 75 people on January 1, 2017
- Thank you notes were received from CA Council of Churches and Dru Johnson

CONSENT CALENDAR

Ministry Reports were accepted from Social Justice and Finance

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Amendments were suggested for the minutes from December 21, 2016. Items for correction include that 2016 *budget* for facilities was \$111,000 and that the Legacy Fund currently has approximately \$660,000. The moderator determined that the minutes stand as to the characterization of Session's desire for a downward trend in use of the Legacy Fund, and the minutes were accepted with the other two corrections. The clerk agreed to amend the minutes of the January 12, 2017 meeting to reflect a discussion at the end of the meeting relating to the results of the Stewardship campaign and what we might learn from it, and that the proper channels to deal with any issues relating to staff should initially be Staff Relations.
- Annanda shared her discernment on what a call to our church as Stated Supply Associate would mean to her and how her role would change when she was no longer an intern. She stressed the importance to her of transparency as to the joys and concerns she has experienced and observed in our community, and her hopes for the future. These include an increased focus on prayer, Biblical study and spirituality; the importance of worship as the primary draw to young adults joining our congregation; and the need for further consideration of the stewardship of our facilities. She also noted in particular the fact that our staff works so beautifully together translates into better ministry for the community.
- Nominating Committee Report – Evelyn Wong reported that she, Tom Ellison, Susan Chamberlain & Derrick Kikuchi have agreed to be part of the nominating committee. A congregational meeting will be called on February 5 to approve

the committee. Current nominees for elders for next year to be approved at the annual meeting are Evan Hughes and Melissa Epps.

- Continued Discussion of Budget Process and Motions from Staff Relations:

The Staff Relations motions which were deferred from January 12, 2017 were reasserted.

Scott detailed Staff Relations' recommendations as to staff compensation. This included a reduction of Rob's compensation to reflect $\frac{3}{4}$ time mid-year; a 3.6% COLA for everyone except Rob, and no raises for anyone except our sexton, Javier, who will be given a raise to \$28/hour to bring him closer to market rate for his services and reflect his increased skill level. The proposal for Annanda's compensation when she begins as an Associate Pastor is just above Presbytery minimums. All of this will result in a smaller legacy draw for on-going operations.

Rick Keller presented Facilities' proposal for use of \$70,000 in funds for one-time projects to be called out as a separate draw from the Legacy Fund. Safety-related projects will be prioritized along with roof and gutter repair and some landscaping. Items on the list for the manse (dual pane windows; fence/landscaping; termites) will be deferred again.

The \$95,000 draw from the Legacy Fund for 2016 does not reflect one-time special funds pulled from landlord account and restricted funds in balance sheet. Without those funds the draw would have been an additional \$51,000 or approximately \$146,000. Taking these into account, the projected draw of \$104,000 for 2017 does reflect the downward trend in use of the Legacy Fund to which Session is committed.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the budget as presented by Susan with minor changes discussed with a commitment to work toward additional savings in facilities, administration and possibly music throughout the year, recognizing that things may change given this is a transitional year. Motion carried with a vote of 10-1.

Session also discussed going back to the congregation to ask for additional pledges to close the budget gap and avert further cuts.

- Plans for Annual Meeting – Rob, Scott, Susan, Rick and Karen agreed to plan the Annual Meeting at the conclusion of worship on February 12. All elders indicated they would be present except Susan and David.
- Staff Reports were deferred given the lateness of the hour. Rob noted these up-coming important dates:
 - At the request of MRTI (Mission Responsibility Through Investing) of General Assembly, the committee will meet on our campus on February 14 and 15;
 - On March 20, the Janie Spahr Initiative will hold an event here (details to come);
 - Sarah Chivington-Buck will preach on May 5;

- On August 26 we will host a Bay Area-wide conference on Stewardship with Karl Travis;
 - We have been asked to host Presbytery on September 23.
- Greer agreed to write Letters of Acknowledgment sent to her via email.

M/S/C to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.

Evelyn Wong led us in the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Wentzel

~

Finance Ministry Report February 25, 2017

The leading news from our Finance Ministry is that Session approved a Budget for our church for 2017 at the Session meeting on January 18th. This Budget was presented to the full congregation at our Annual Meeting on February 12th. Hard copies of the full church Budget detail are available to any interested congregation members at any time through the church office, or you can get an electronic copy by emailing me at treasurer@fprespa.org. Please let me, or any member of Session, know if you have any questions or concerns that you'd like to understand further or discuss.

This Finance Ministry Report presents the key Budget numbers, trends and ongoing process. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time at the email above with any questions or thoughts.

As a brief thumbnail, the overall financial picture as we enter 2017 can be summarized as follows (with further detail in the report below):

- **Income is projected to increase** by \$24K overall for 2017 compared to 2016, including increases of +\$13K in Pledge Income (thanks to a successful Stewardship effort – thank you to all) and +\$15K in increased Facility Rental Income (thank you to Sarah Clementson for all her efforts in working with our tenants and facility users).
- **Session has worked to reduce expenses**, especially in the staffing and facilities area, and Session expects to continue this work going forward.
- **As a result, the church's operating deficit will be reduced** by \$33K in 2017 than in 2016. ☺
- **While trends are positive, the annual draw from our church's Legacy Fund is currently about \$100K per year** (\$95,000 in 2016 and budgeted \$104,000 for 2017). Our Legacy Fund balance currently stands at about \$690K and the 2017 budgeted Draw represents just over 13% if we use a trailing 3-year balance as in years past. Session will be continuing our discussion to ensure that we are stewarding our Legacy Fund and facilities assets in the years to come.

Increase in Net Income for 2017

Thank you again for everyone's efforts that resulted in a successful stewardship season this year. We have received a total of 96 Pledges for 2017 that total \$414,912, an increase from our pledges last year (2016) of \$397,225. We are pleased that 18 of these are new pledges this year, versus 10 that have been lost (most of them due to deaths and moving away). We are also pleased that of our 78 continuing

Pledges, 33 of them represent increases, versus 9 that represent decreases and 36 unchanged. A huge and heartfelt thank you to all of you who have submitted Pledges to support our church in 2017.

	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	Change
Pledges	\$402,523	\$414,912 (committed)	+ \$ 12 K
Other Contributions	\$ 30,309	\$ 28,000	(\$ 2 K)
Rental Income	\$223,633	\$238,594 (lease increases)	+ \$ 15 K
Other Facilities Usage	\$ 47,671	\$ 47,000 (increase from pre-2016)	(\$ 1K)
Misc	\$ 16,922	\$ 16,500 (one-time contributions)	
TOTAL INCOME	\$721,058	\$745,006	+ \$ 24 K

Expense reductions for 2017

The 2017 Expense Budget is the result of intensive and prayerful discussions by Session, Staff Relations and Facilities Committees over the past few months, with a particular focus on the two key drivers of our Expense Budget, which are staffing and facilities expenses.

- **Staffing Model:** Session, working with and through Staff Relations, has discussed how to most efficiently and cost-effectively staff the needs of our church's evolution for 2017, with an eye towards reducing staffing levels from the past few years to a sustainable new equilibrium, while also ensuring the right focus for our church's needs. Session, in consultation with Staff Relations, is proposing the following change in staffing model targeted to begin sometime in mid-2017: hiring Annanda Barclay as a Stated Supply Associate Pastor on a ¾ time schedule, reducing the role of Rob Martin to ¾ time, and eliminating during 2017 the roles of the Pastoral Intern and the Children, Youth and Young Adult Pastor (to be fulfilled in 2017 jointly by the team of Rob and Annanda). Further detail was presented at the Annual Meeting and any questions or comments can be directed to Scott Brenneman.
- **Facilities Needs:** The multi-year renovation of the church's Westminster House was successfully completed by 2016. However, looking forward to the next 5 years, Session will need to discuss and make some decisions about how to best steward the rest of our main church campus facility, which faces deferred maintenance, and associated needs for repairs and upgrades. Session considered a wide range of options, from a pause to just address more urgent needs, to a more accelerated timeline of facilities projects, to considering a one-time Capital Campaign to bring the campus up to grade. In the end, Session and the Facilities Committee are recommending a middle approach for 2017 – creating an operating budget that ensures that our campus and the manse are relatively well maintained to protect our asset (budgeting one-time projects of \$70,000 in 2017, in addition to routine maintenance) – while continuing the longer term discussion of options. Further detail was presented at the Annual Meeting and any questions or comments can be directed to Rick Keller.

Below are highlights of the resulting 2017 Expense Budget as compared to our 2016 Actual results.

	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2017 Budget
Salaries and Wages	\$ 361 K	\$ 334 K	\$ 313 K
Benefits and Personnel Costs	\$ 217 K	\$ 214 K	\$ 232 K
Facilities Ministry	\$ 218 K	\$ 198 K	\$ 190 K
Church Giving and Social Justice	\$ 43 K	\$ 43 K	\$ 41 K
Other Ministries	\$ 46 K	\$ 42 K	\$ 42 K
Admin and Per Capita	\$ 38 K	\$ 34 K	\$ 38 K
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 923 K	\$ 866 K	\$ 857 K

Decreases in Operating Deficit

The good news is that, as a result of both increased income and reduced expenses, the church's operating deficit will be \$33K less in 2017 than in 2016 (see detail on next page).

	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	Change
Income	\$ 721 k	\$ 745 k	\$ 24 K income increases
Expenses	\$ 866 k	\$ 857 k	\$ 9 k cost reductions
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$ 145 k)	(\$ 112 k)	\$ 33 k reduction in deficit

Legacy Fund Draws

Our church is blessed with a Legacy Fund which has for many years helped ensure stability for our church's community and work. The Legacy Fund provides a source of long-term stability for our church, allowing us to cover operating deficits for as long as the Legacy Fund is in place. This fund currently stands at about \$690K.

- **Prior to 2012, the church had a policy of drawing no more than 5%** of the Legacy Fund to fund cash flow needs in any given year (calculated on a prior 3-year balance).
- **Between 2012 and 2016, Session decided it was appropriate to make larger draws** during the Westminster House renovation and adaptations within the church staffing model. Resulting Legacy Fund Draws during 2012-16 totaled \$775,000 including:
 - \$139K in 2012,
 - \$304K in 2013,
 - \$180K in 2014,
 - \$57K (plus > \$100K transfer of the accumulated Landlord Account balance as well as use of about \$30K in designated donor funds) in 2015, and
 - \$95K draw in 2016.
- **Market/investment growth has mitigated the effects of these 2012-2016 draws.** During this period (from 2012 through year-end 2016), the Legacy Fund balance went from \$1 mm in 2012 to about \$670K as of 12/31/16 (although it is higher now) - a \$330K reduction in balance (despite the \$775K in draws).
- **Session has a goal of preserving our Legacy Fund for future needs,** by continuing the downward trend of Legacy Fund Draws over time to preserve this valuable asset that has ensured our church's viability and stability over time.

Session is now at a pivot point, deliberating on what is the appropriate level of Legacy Fund Draws for 2017 and in this next phase of our church’s evolution over the next few years.

- In 2016 we were able to use the remaining equity from prior years’ drawdowns (through the accumulated Landlord Account balance) as well as certain Donor-Restricted Funds to help defray our \$145K Operating Deficit – keeping our Legacy Fund Draw to \$95,000
- In 2017 we reduced our Operating Deficit to \$112K (through increased income and reduced expenses) to maintain a \$104K budgeted Legacy Fund Drawdown for 2017.

Details of 2016 and 2017 sources to fund our deficit are in the table below (next page).

Sources to Fund Operating Deficit	2016 Actual	2017 Budget
Operating Deficit	\$ 145 K	\$ 112 k
Use of Net Equity (primarily from Landlord Account)	\$ 29 K	No net cash/equity available
Use of Donor Restricted Funds for Facilities & Landscaping	\$ 21 K	\$ 8 k
Remainder = Required Legacy Fund Draw	\$ 95 K	\$ 104 K

At this pivot point in our church’s evolution, Session will be continuing our discussions about best practices that will to enable us to fund our church’s work for this next phase, and how to steward our church’s financial and real estate assets over the next few years.

Thanks be to God for our financial abundance and the gifts with which we have been entrusted.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Phinney Silver, Treasurer and Chair, Finance Ministry

~

**Meet Paul Jones, Nominee for Session,
and New Session Members Melissa Epps and Evan Hughes**

The Nominating Committee would like to present Paul Jones as a candidate for election to Session for one year to complete Tom Ellison’s term of office. Tom has resigned from Session due to other commitments. Below is a short bio of Paul’s involvement with First Presbyterian Church Palo Alto. In addition, we have included short bios of our other two new Session members.

Paul Jones

I have been a member of First Pres since 1964. I have served on all of the standing committees at one time or another, and three terms on Session. I was on the Presbytery Financial Affairs Committee for eight years, and chair for three years. I was on the Immanuel House Board from its inception in 2012 until ten days ago. My goals for the Church are to heal some communal discontent and to help the Church grow to a supportable size.

Melissa Epps

Having been raised in a home that exposed me to a wide variety of religions for cultural and educational purposes, but never limiting me to my choices nor practices, I feel that I was given the space to create a

more personal connection to my spirituality than I might have, otherwise. I am new to First Pres but at my previous church, I served as a Sunday school teacher for third-fifth graders, worked in the nursery with toddlers and infants, played with the handbell choir, the Players for Christ band, the Praise Band, sung with the voice choir, and created a Youth Group for members in Middle School and High School.

I currently work for a social worker non-profit called, Family and Children Services/Caminar under The LGBTQ Youth Space program that specifically works as an afternoon drop in center for queer Santa Clara County youth between the ages of 13-25. While there, I started a workshop based program called Queer Scouts with the intention of creating an educative space for them to learn important and practical basic life skills that will help them be more successful. When I'm not working, I'm studying Sociology and Language Interpretation of French and Spanish at De Anza College.

My hope for service at First Pres is to work in Worship and Music, because I find that is how I connect most with my spirituality.

Evan Hughes

I have been a member of First Pres since 2008. I have served on Session from 2012-2015, and also in 2016. My longest continuing involvement in church activity, other than Sunday morning 10:30 worship services, has been in and through the Cool Planet Working Group, including the two national PC(USA) General Assemblies (Detroit 2014 and Portland 2016) where several of us in Cool Planet joined with Fossil Free PCUSA to advocate that the PC(USA) divest from fossil fuel companies. For several years I have been a regular attendee at 8:30am Early Church and have been one of the regular (once per month) facilitators for almost two years. Other activities here at First Pres have included Adult Study, Worship and Music Ministry Committee, Hotel de Zink (July "breakfast team"), one of the Sacred Gathering Groups in 2015, and, for the past year, Social Justice Ministry. As a member of Session my desire is to work with the staff, my fellow elders and the congregation, in Christian love, grace and wisdom, to preserve and grow the worship, study, fellowship and witness of First Pres.

~

Successful Meal Packing Event on January 29, 2017

A large group of us (about 75) worked with Rise Against Hunger on January 29th to package 10,000 meals. These meals will most likely be sent to Islamic relief in Turkey. Some folks did not know that the Social Justice Ministry paid for this event. The cost was 29 cents/meal which came from their 2017 budget.

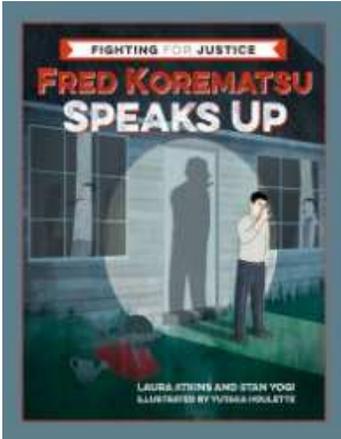
This was a wonderful intergenerational time, complete with a pizza lunch and music to pack or dance by—yep, some people were actually dancing—and sharing a feeling of accomplishment by taking a step to help ease hunger that so many suffer. We accomplished this feat in about two hours because we had lots of help. Attendees included members, friends, kids, friends of kids, young adults, seniors, and family visitors.



Thank you to everyone who participated in this fun and meaningful community service project! We will, hopefully, do this event again in 2018. Stay tuned!

Joy Sleizer
Elder for Social Justice Ministry

Fred Korematsu Speaks Up: A Book Talk and Discussion



Join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 19 at 12:00pm for a talk given by the authors of the new book *Fred Korematsu Speaks Up*.

Fred Korematsu challenged the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans when few others did. *Fred Korematsu Speaks Up* explores this civil rights hero's life and its relevance today. Join authors Laura Atkins and Stan Yogi to learn about Fred's lifelong fight for justice. They will read excerpts from the book, talk about the larger historical context, and lead a discussion about what people can do today to speak up for justice.

The event is free, and is geared towards all ages. Light snacks and beverages will be provided, and books will be available for sale and signing.

~

“Shifts Happen” Lecture: March 20, 2017

Interconnectivity: Where Do We Go from Here?

Exploring the intersectional connections of peace, justice, LGBTQ issues, and environmentalism with the gospel and the witness of the church. Two revolutionary pastors, prophetic and priestly components of the modern church, will be in conversation with a soon-to-be ordained millennial Presbyterian woman minister.

Speakers: Rev. Dr. Jane Spahr (Pioneer for LGBTQ inclusion in the Presbyterian Church)

Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith (Author of 7 books and pioneering inter-city pastor and civil rights icon)

Annanda Barclay (Co-moderator for More Light Presbyterians and Pastoral Intern at First Pres Palo Alto)



Time & Location: 7-8:30pm in the Sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church Palo Alto, or watch the live stream at innovation.sfts.edu.

RSVP: Registration is REQUIRED for this FREE event. Visit innovation.sfts.edu/events/

Lenten Taizé Services

Join us in the Sanctuary every Wednesday at 6:00pm throughout the season of Lent for our Lenten Taizé services. These services will be offered beginning March 8 and will run through April 5. Lara Garner will be accompanying us on the harp and will also be with us for our Maundy Thursday evening service.



Taizé is an ecumenical Christian community in France dedicated to peace and reconciliation in the human family. Our service is based on the style of worship from this community, including sung chants, Scripture reading, and silent meditation.

All are welcome to join us for this contemplative service. If you have any questions, contact [Rob Martin](mailto:rmartin@fprespa.org) (rmartin@fprespa.org), [Annanda Barclay](mailto:abarclay@fprespa.org) (abarclay@fprespa.org), or [Andy Chislett](mailto:achislett@fprespa.org) (achislett@fprespa.org).

