
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Spring 2021

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The future is looking a little brighter. Many of us have received the first dose of the Covid vaccine. The unrest in our country looks to have subsided a bit. However, we still have a mindset that thinks it's ok to preach hate for those people who have a different mindset than ourselves.



It's ok & healthy to disagree with those around us. As Christians, we follow the teachings of Christ. We are to love everyone, not just those who think like ourselves. We are to embrace our brothers and sisters who are different than ourselves. This is a good thing. Diversity helps people grow. Without diversity, we would stagnate & perish.

Those who teach hate are afraid of people who are different. They are the snakes in our lives, ready to bite & poison our minds & souls. We now have these snakes on the Internet & the nightly news, whose sole job it is to get you to hate your family, friend or neighbor because they don't think as you do. They tell you your country or the world itself will end if you do not hate these people. This is all very evil! If you're watching a program & you find hateful feelings stir in your mind, then you have just been bitten by a poisonous snake sent to kill you & worse yet, your soul!

Lucky for us we have an antidote. We are to hold Christ up & His sacrifice on the

cross, His blood spilled for us, so that we will live, even after being bitten. Our hate will turn to love! We can & will embrace & love all God's children, our brothers & sisters, because God so loved the world, each one of us, that He gave us His only Son! - *God's love & mine is with you all,*
Pastor Paul



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

Greetings to all! Since this last Council meeting was my first as President, I've barely gotten my feet wet. I can assure you that we are blessed to have caring & capable people on the Council. When Glenna nominated me to this office, I was very honored, but realized that no one can take her place. No one person can fill those shoes! In any event, I will do my best!

We continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 6PM, with masks & social distancing in place. Do let a



Council member know if you would like to attend & we'll put out a chair for you! All concerns & questions are welcome as well. Send me an e-mail (buffywg@yahoo.com) or call me at home: 445-3571.

Should you feel moved by the Spirit to serve our church, there's always room on a committee. Again, talk with the Council member who heads the committee that most appeals to you & your gifts.

Special services to look forward to:

- ✝ Palm Sunday-March 28th, 10AM
- ✝ Maundy Thursday-April 1st, 7PM
- ✝ Good Friday-April 2nd, 6PM
- ✝ Easter Sunday with Communion-April 4th, 10AM

We hope to see more of you as vaccines are distributed & the pandemic subsides. Stay safe & God Bless! - *Emily Schroeder*



Missions & Benevolence:

Since it's my first newsletter, I would like to thank you all for entrusting this position to me. I would also like to thank Glenna for all her years of service as Benevolence Chair. I will strive to keep up the excellent faithful service of my predecessor.

The Benevolence Fund continues to make a \$25 monthly contribution to the China Food Pantry; we've received no requests for additional assistance related to the pandemic. Please let Pastor Paul or me know of anyone needing emergency assistance.

I'm reminding people to please support the PDF (**P**astor's **D**iscretionary **F**und) offerings on the months that have a 5th Sunday (May 30th), as these & other cash donations enable Pastor Paul to meet the emergency requests that he receives without having to ask the congregation for special donations. Thank you to those who made special cash donations, as well as PDF donations, & for your generous

donations towards the weekly bake sale (Susie's treats).

A very special "thank you" to Susie, who provides delicious baked goods left over from her Saturdays at the Farmer's Market. Our share of the donations is added to Pastor Paul's PDF account & is available when he gets calls. Incidentally, because of the requests for assistance last year, the PDF account would have been over budget if not for the proceeds donated from Susie's food contributions.



Thanks again for your sharing & caring & "God Bless." - *Patrick Vigue, Deacon/ Benevolence Chair*



Finance & Stewardship:

Happy Spring! Our church finances continue to hold their own, thanks to lower than anticipated expenses & higher than anticipated offerings.

Our budgeted actual revenue for the year to date is \$9,668; this is approximately \$1,300 behind what we had projected for revenue as of the end of February & is mainly due to the pro-rated shortfalls in projected fundraising. Our expenses to date total \$9,361 for a **surplus** so far this year of \$307.

Statement Balances February 28, 2021:

Faith Ames Music Fund.....	\$2,094.40
Memorial Funds Savings.....	\$23,803.82
Checkbook Balance.....	\$6,082.59
Total Available Funds.....	\$31,980.81

Delaware Life Annuities March 15, 2021:
 Memorial Fund #1..... \$27,687.86
 Memorial Fund #2..... \$27,687.86
 Meader Family Fund..... \$35,224.66
Total Annuities Value..... \$90,600.38

Total Financial Assets.....\$122,581.19

Thank you all for your continued support & generosity! – *Respectfully, Finance Chair, John Glowa*



Building & Grounds:

Plans for spring are the order of the day. Last year saw the completion of major renovations in Memorial Hall. This year, I have plans for several outside projects.

Any maintenance needed on the Memorial Hall porch & ramp will be followed with painting. Bushes will be trimmed around the perimeter of the building.



In front of the building are two maple trees: one healthy & the other failing. The failing tree is negatively impacting the healthy one & to prevent loss of both, the failing tree will be removed. This will reduce competition stress on the healthy tree. I have also been monitoring the railing on the front stairs & plan replacement/repair.

The only way to offset the need for funds is by using volunteer labor, so whatever way you feel capable or lead to be a part will be very useful in implementing these ideas. - *Regards, Ron Maxwell, Deacon Buildings & Grounds*



Christian Education:

We're still suspending Sunday School & Adult Bible Study & space is limited for regular services until Covid restrictions are lifted. Hopefully, you're finding our website & "Right Now Media" useful & uplifting.

My role in Christian Education has not changed. If you have any new ideas to share, sing out! Don't keep your light under a basket! – *Emily Schroeder, Christian Education*



Communications & Outreach:

Spring is near! I love to watch the ice melt & the mud start. Soon there will be flowers!

We've started to sell our Needhams at Tobey's under the church's kitchen license. So far, they have gone over well. This is a Blessing to us as it advertises our church & also brings in some fundraising revenue to help offset not being able to hold our usual community activities.

As you all know, I don't hesitate to ask for assistance, so if anyone wants to help make Needhams, please let me know! I usually break it down into 2 steps: making the filling, cutting to size & freezing until needed for sales; then dipping pieces into the chocolate & packaging. Many hands make light work 😊



Another way to help is to donate baking items. We use 2 lbs. of confectioner's sugar, 14oz of flaked coconut, & semi-sweet chocolate chips. Any donation of would increase the profit for the church.

I pray that everyone is staying safe & well. - *Yours in Christ, Debbie Stowe*
Communication & Outreach



Worship Committee:

I took over from Cheryl as the Worship Committee Chair for 2021. She has set a high standard which I'm afraid I will never live up to! However, she has given me a very well-organized Council notebook & has handed down some informative & helpful documents. I ask for your patience with me in this new role. Because COVID-19 has limited what we can do, my main tasks at this point are to keep the candles full of fuel & choose a hymn for the service. If you have any hymn/song requests, please let me know.

Worship expenses have been zero so far this year, thanks to Patrick, who bought & donated some mini-muffin cups for communion & to Cheryl, who left me well-supplied. We have received \$20 toward



bulletin expenses. Please consider signing up to remember a loved one in the bulletin; it's a small but wonderful way to honor someone & the \$20 you

donate toward the cost of printing the bulletin moves us toward our budgeted goal of \$200 for 2021. Last year, we collected only 42% of our budgeted income for bulletins. Let's try to improve on that this year!

I'm hoping that by July, we can resume our regular order of service & welcome everyone back on Sundays. Some choir members have begun singing for the introit, choir ministry, & congregational

hymn while sitting in separate rows & wearing masks when not singing. I must say, it is nice to hear more music. Russell plays a dual role as he is busy recording the service in addition to sharing his beautiful voice.

Marge does a fantastic job providing weekly flowers for the service. Thank you so much for your reliable embellishment, Marge!

My goal for the year is to assess the condition of our banners & replace them as needed. Please let me know if you have any other suggestions. - *Respectfully, Janet Preston, Worship Chair*

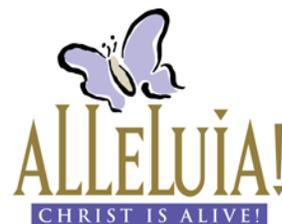


SYMPATHY & CONTINUED PRAYERS for the families & friends of those who have passed into God's hands:

Irma Simon (Emily Poulin's mother & former attendee, 1/30/21)



<http://www.guideposts.org/reflectonlent>
Explore the meaning of sacrifice & fasting during the season of Lent





Quotes from Positive Thinkers

“Your greatest sense of fulfillment will come in the service of others, not yourself.” – Bob Goff, Author of “Dream Big”

“Let go of who you think you’re supposed to be and embrace you who are.” – Brene’ Brown, Author

“A person wrapped up in himself makes a very small bundle.” - Benjamin Franklin



On the Lighter Side...

Q: What happens if you marry on Easter?
A: You live hoppily ever after

Q: What do you call a rabbit with fleas?
A: Bugs Bunny

Q: What's the Easter Bunny's favorite restaurant?
A: IHOP

Q: What do you call an Easter Bunny who gets kicked out of school?
A: Egg-spelled

Q: What's an Easter egg's least favorite day?
A: Fry-day



† **ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

† **SUNDAY SERVICE, 10AM WITH SOCIAL-DISTANCING. MASKS REQUIRED. NO FELLOWSHIP/REFRESHMENTS AT THIS TIME. SERVICES ARE TAPED & AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ON OUR WEB SITE.**

† **COMMUNION: APR 4 - MAY 2 - JUNE 6 - JULY 4**

† **COUNCIL MEETINGS: 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6PM: APR 13 - MAY 11 - JUNE 8 - JULY 13**

† **PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF) DONATION SUNDAY: MAY 30**

† ***RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN RECESSED DUE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS**

† **THURSTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETINGS: 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30PM: APR 20 - MAY 18 - JUNE 15 - JULY 20**

† **MARCH 28: PALM SUNDAY SERVICE, 10AM**

† **APRIL 1: MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE, 7PM**

† **APRIL 2: GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, 6PM**

† **APRIL 3: EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE, 10AM**





Seven Reasons Singing Is Essential to the Christian Life

(From Tom Olson article on UnlockingTheBible.org)

1. When you sing, you obey.

Singing isn't an option in Scripture. It's a command:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16)

...be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart... (Ephesians 5:19)

God's people are more than just invited to sing; we are commanded to sing. When we sing, we're doing what God asks.

2. When you sing, you dig deep roots in the Word.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly...singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs... (Colossians 3:16)

As we observed in the first point, singing is a command. But this command comes with a promise: As we sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs together, we are promised that the Word of Christ will dwell in us richly, which is what we should crave as believers!

Our singing is more than a warm-up for the sermon or a filler in the service. Colossians 3:16 clearly lays out that singing stands alongside preaching as one of the two great ways that God has ordained for his Word to dwell richly in each one of us!

The best songs we sing together serve as a 3-minute, easily memorized, deeply biblical summary of important truths from Scripture.

3. When you sing, you build up others.

...addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs... (Ephesians 5:19)

When we sing together as a church family, we are hearing confessions of faith all around! We're hearing others join with us and singing, "In Christ alone, my hope is found!"

As you sing, you're helping unbelievers. In Psalm 105:1-2, the Lord is calling the Israelites to be a light unto the nations, and to do this he tells them: "Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!"

4. When you sing, you make war.

Chances are you didn't connect singing and warfare together, but it's a theme visible in Scripture. In Colossians 3, Paul is challenging the Colossians to literally put sin to death in their lives, to kill sin. So, all the commands to love and peace and forgiveness and teaching and singing are attitudes and habits of the believer that will kill sin.

When you're "singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart" (Ephesians 5:19), that heart will not easily give in to temptation.

5. When you sing, you are spiritually strengthened for trial.

Often, we think of singing when we're happy and times are good, but singing to bring strength for trial comes out in Acts 16:25. Paul and Silas are unjustly imprisoned for the sake of the Gospel and

what do they do while they're in prison?
Sing!

Singing strengthens you and helps you persevere in the face of trial. If it can strengthen them in the face of these trials, what can it do for you?

6. When you sing, you walk a God-designed pathway to joy.

Here is a sample of what the Psalms say about singing:

Let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you. (Psalms 5:11)

I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. (Psalms 9:2)

...my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. (Psalms 51:14)

I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. (Psalms 59:16)

For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. (Psalms 63:7)

Here's a clincher from James 5:13: "Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise."

As you study Scripture, you'll notice that sometimes singing gives birth to joy and sometimes joy gives birth to singing. But persistently joy and singing are bound together. You can't study one of those two biblical themes without encountering the other.

In God's perfect design and understanding of the human condition, he has bound joy and singing together for his people.

The first six reasons get summed up with this:

7. When you sing, you glorify God.

True obedience, deep roots in the Word, building up others, making war against Satan and sin, persevering, finding joy in God: All these things bring glory to God, which is each person's chief goal and purpose.

Ephesians 5:19 says, "singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart." It is to *him* and about *him* that we sing!

Singing has such a unique way of bringing your heart, soul, mind, and strength together to focus entirely and completely on God. In an age of distraction, singing grabs the attention of all our senses and focuses us on God.

In Revelation 7:9-10, the Apostle John describes a glimpse of eternity with a great multitude of people from every tribe, peoples, and languages singing before the Lamb.

Eternity awaits. On that day, will you be one of the great multitude that no one can number, singing the song of the Lamb, singing his praises?



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*“...just as I have loved you, you
also are to love one another.”*
– John 13:34

