

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

### *Judas ate too*

Hours before the death of Jesus, **Judas ate too.**  
**Jesus fed Judas too.**  
Jesus prayed for Judas too.  
**Jesus washed Judas' feet too.**  
I struggle to fathom **what kind of love this is ...**  
**A love that would feed the mouth that deceived you.**  
**A love that would wash the feet of the traitor.**  
**A love that could forgive even the vilest of betrayals.**  
Honestly I struggle to comprehend it.  
And then, suddenly, **I realize.. that I'm Judas too!**  
And in that moment, *I'm so thankful & altogether overwhelmed that,* Judas ate too.  
The true test of Christianity is not about loving Jesus **but loving Judas.**  
**Showing love to someone like Jesus is so easy,**  
**But loving someone hard to love,**  
a sinner like Judas is difficult  
**That's what 'following Jesus' is all about.**

*@thewomanbythewell*

## *Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed Alleluia!*

**G**race and peace to you, and Happy Easter! I must admit that this year, Easter just didn't have quite the same feeling of excitement and freshness that it sometimes does. As many of you know, I have been dealing with some back pain lately, and on Maundy Thursday during worship, I developed muscle spasms in my back while reading the psalm. This, mixed in with the news of the world and the news of some other medical diagnosis in our community, just had me feeling down and dark more like Lent, than it did bright and cheery like Easter is "supposed" to be.

At first, I felt guilty about this. I felt like I wasn't feeling like I should. Instead of feeling tired, frustrated, and sad, I told myself I should be feeling excited and glad—it is Easter after all. I even found myself comparing my small problems to

the much bigger problems faced by countless people in our own communities and abroad, which, of course, just led to more guilt.

So, as I like to do sometimes when I am feeling down, I found myself scrolling through Facebook. This is not something I suggest doing if you want to lighten your mood, but this one time I found something useful. That useful tidbit is the image at the top of this article. Judas ate, too! The one who betrayed Jesus was fed and loved by Jesus.

In the midst of the clutter that is social media I found the reminder I needed. The reminder that God isn't looking for perfection. God isn't expecting a huge party. God doesn't even expect or require faithfulness to be a recipient of love. God simply loves! That's it. God loves Judas, God loves you, and God loves me. So when times seem gloomy and cloudy let us hold onto that little bit of good news. God loves no questions asked.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Tony

# COUNCIL INSTALLATION

**I**nstallation for the church council took place on March 3. The newly installed church council includes George Isaac-President, Sharon Anderson-Treasurer, Emily Rustad, Carolyn Berry-Congregational Life, Mike Berry-Property, and Susan Alexander-Secretary. Thank you to each of them for serving.

You should have received an email with the information from the Annual Meeting. Here is the link to those reports.

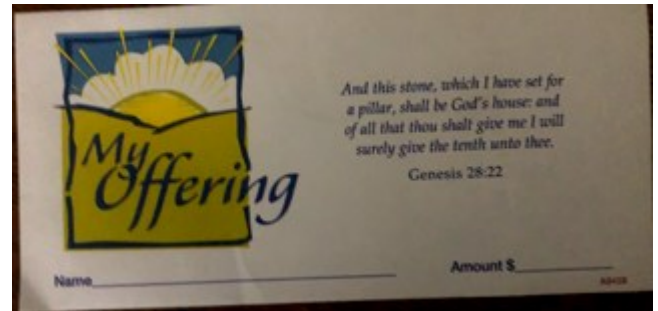
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# Reminder about envelopes

**T**he church is no longer using the individual offering envelopes. You may use the envelopes in the pews or place checks in the offering place. Be sure to write your name on the envelope.

You will also find a colored envelope for “Discretionary Fund”. These are for gifts that will go to a fund that Pastor can use at his discretion to assist members of the community. He has used these funds to help individuals in need of rental assistance, food, gas, medications, and emergency hotel stays.



## I-HELP UPDATE

### NEWS FROM THE I-HELP FORUM ON 3/14:

- There are 19-23 men and 6-7 women a night using the services of I-Help.
- Some of the men have been working with a program Wellspring Church that is teaching them landscaping skills and some have found jobs as a result of that program.
- The total sum of money raised from Monterey County Gives was \$74,129! The donations were matched at 14.7% to reach the total. The monthly expenses for the programs run about \$25,000. The board continues to seek grants from local agencies and cities.
- They are hoping to replace some of the buses with decommissioned vans from Monterey Salinas Transit. Having vans will allow for drivers without commercial license.
- St. Philip's continues to serve a meal and host the men on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. If you would like to assist, contact Carolyn Berry or Mary Kramer.

# Food Bank Volunteers

**T**he next days that are scheduled for volunteering at Food Bank are April 20 and May 18.

We meet at the Food Bank in Salinas at 9am. If you are interested in helping, please contact Mary Kramer.

## Rippling River Collection



**T**hroughout the month of April, we will again collect items for Rippling River, the low-income housing in Carmel Valley Village. Items that are needed are:

- Dish soap – non scratch scrub sponges
- Dove Sensitive skin soap bars – Dove Moisturizing Shampoo
- Facial tissue – paper towels – toilet paper
- Snuggle Fabric Softener Dryer Sheets, laundry detergent pods – bleach
- Quart sized storage bags – X-large garbage bags
- Deodorant – shaving cream – Efferdent cleaning tablets – individually wrapped razors
- Hydrogen peroxide

The previous donations were gratefully appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!



## WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS APRIL/MAY 2024

**B**y the time this newsletter is published, we will have experienced the joyous Easter celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! However, the Easter Season continues until Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, so Alleluias and Praises continue as we worship each Sunday. We began on Palm Sunday and will continue to use the Haugen liturgy throughout the Easter Season.

At our May meeting, we will discuss the possibility of another liturgy to use throughout the summer months. During our last meeting in March, we again selected hymns for April and May, looking to the themes taken from the weekly readings for appropriate music.

We encourage suggestions regarding the liturgy and music, as our goal is to help make the worship experience a positive one for all. During Pentecost, we are hoping to provide special music by music students in the area, to add to our worship on Sundays. Please contact any committee member if you have ideas or would like to assist in any way – participating in the service is meaningful to all.

Committee members are Carolyn Berry, Mary Kramer, Mary Murray, Justice Post, Pastor Tony, and Barb Battcher.

## BIRTHDAYS

### April

2nd	Ursi Eisinger
3rd	Jacob Berry
6th	Matt Trotter
10th	Sharon Anderson
17th	Sherry Chapman
21st	Susan Alexander

### May

12th	Barbara Battcher
29th	Mike Berry



## WOODWORKING AT ST. PHILIP'S –



**A**nother example of St. Philip's member's handiwork. Hal Dahlen made this altar for the Sunday School room. Thank you, Hal!

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

George Isaac	President
Sharon Anderson	Treasurer
Emily Rustad	
Carolyn Berry	Congregational Life
Mike Berry	Property
Susan Alexander	Secretary

# April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	4	5 8:30 am Food Bank	6
7 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee/ Social Hour	8	9 4 pm Men's Dinner	10 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	11	12	13
14 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee/ Social Hour	15	16	17 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	18	19 8:30 am Food Bank	20
21 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee/ Social Hour	22	23	24 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	25	26 Baby Shower	27
28 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee/ Social Hour	29	30				



# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	2	3 8:30 am Food Bank	4
5 10 am Worship 11 am Annual Meeting	6	7	8 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	9	10	11
12 10 am Worship 11 am Annual Meeting	13	14 4 pm Men's Dinner	15 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	16	17 8:30 am Food Bank	18
19 10 am Worship 11 am Annual Meeting	20	21	22 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	23	24	25
26 10 am Worship 11 am Annual Meeting	27	28	29 2 pm Bible Study 5:30 pm AA	30	31	