

## All In God's Time

*Intern Jeremy Kaetzel  
finds best path paved  
with acceptance*

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Story and Photo  
by Michael Barber

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Piedmont Community Church Youth Intern Jeremy Kaetzel, 24, wasn't ready for the sharp turn his life would take during his senior year at UCLA.

"I was facing a bad breakup and had a little bout of depression," Jeremy said. "My whole plan was thrown off a little. When I say 'a little', I mean a lot."

He found himself holding tightly to his well-earned undergrad degree in Cultural Anthropology, but his unplanned life situation presented Jeremy with anxiety toward his main professional goal - youth ministry.

Growing up in Oakland, First Covenant Church was Jeremy's second home. He was actively involved, soaking up their powerful youth programs and the cultural diversity that comes standard with a church positioned in the middle of a the hills. He worked as a set builder, fashioning pirate ships and castles for the church's Kids Camp skits and he occasionally took the lead in their summer programs.

Now, facing personal trauma, none of this history mattered much.

After graduating, Jeremy decided to apply for jobs he was well qualified to perform, but had nothing to do with ministry.

See 'TIME', Page 2



'TIME', Continued from Page 1

*“If we’re always in search of answers, I’m fairly confident we’ll always be disappointed.”*

- Jeremy Kaetzel  
*Youth Intern*

“I thought I would broaden my horizons,” he said. “Six months later, from the middle of winter through the end of summer, I wasn’t hearing back from anyone. I had sent dozens of applications and heard nothing, or employers clearly said ‘no’. I just needed a job.”

Jeremy’s brother, a youth minister in Santa Barbara, encouraged him to consider that the timing did not belong to him, rather God.

Eventually, Jeremy Googled ‘youth ministry jobs’ and found listings from Youth Specialties, an organization that helps connect young people to church work.

“The first two listings were for churches outside of California,” he said. “The third was from Piedmont. I thought, I know Piedmont! It’s right around the corner!”

Jeremy applied and was contacted by Director of Youth Ministries, Rev. Scott Kail, within 24 hours. Scott was on a mission trip in Africa and asked Jeremy for a meeting upon his return. This invitation was in sharp contrast to the months of rejection he had received from other potential employers.

“I was blown away,” Jeremy said.

The two were to meet at Mulberry’s, a local deli tucked away in the middle of Piedmont’s center.

“I didn’t know what Mulberry’s was,” he said. “I was very nervous.”

When Jeremy arrived, he found Scott sitting outside the deli.

“Our conversation consisted of me telling Scott all the reasons why I shouldn’t have the job,” Jeremy said. “I told him all the questions I had and my feelings about faith. He said I would fit in perfectly.”

“The encounter was serendipitous,” Scott said “I was searching all summer long for a candidate. We were both brutally honest and decided we would figure it out together.”

“Scott encouraged me not to get hung up on the questions to the point of dismissing faith and building God’s kingdom,” Jeremy said. “That was powerful to hear.”

Now, two years later, Jeremy has grown nicely into his role, earning the trust of his supervisor, Scott, and the admiration of the students they both serve.

“The first year was the honeymoon,” Scott said. “Jeremy was trying really hard. Last year, I was able to challenge him more. I would preview his student talks, then I gave him a period where he didn’t have to do that anymore. I trusted him.”

Scott’s confidence is well placed. With experience and guidance, Jeremy now finds himself receiving the tough theological questions posed by other young, inquisitive minds.

“Recently, a middle school student asked about the story of Noah,” Jeremy said. “She wanted to know why a loving God would kill all those people, just to make a point. I validated her question and gave her my take. Faith without questioning is stagnant.”

One of Jeremy’s great joys is delving into scripture, a prerequisite to achieve his new goal, a Masters in Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary.

“I expect to find more answers as I get older, Jeremy said. “The more you study, the more things emerge. The deeper you go, the murkier it gets. We think that study offers more clarity, but it doesn’t work that way. For a lot of people, this is a stumbling block. I see gray areas and I love them.”

Last quarter, Jeremy was challenged by his research of the Old Testament book of Job.

“You can tell the book is written by different authors,” he said. “But the whole premise is that each character is trying to explain why bad things are happening to Job. The book builds up to Job questioning God. God’s response never answers Job’s questions.”

“If we’re always in search of answers, I’m fairly confident we’ll always be disappointed,” Jeremy said. “There’s so much more beauty in taking the world around us as it is, and how God created it to be, taking a step back and thinking, ‘oh...I never thought of it that way.’” ■

*Editor’s Note: Jeremy Kaetzel has accepted Rev. Scott Kail’s invitation to remain a Youth Intern at Piedmont Church for a third year.*

## Gratitude For Our Sunday School Teachers

■ BY LESLIE QUANTZ

Thanks to all of you who taught Children’s Sunday School this year.

The program couldn’t happen without you. You will always have a special place in the hearts of the children you teach. Thank you so much.

Jeffrey Asbury, Robin Asbury,  
Lisa Ashton, Alison Clayshulte,  
Tami Collins, Elizabeth DaCosta,  
Bob Farman, Tina Farman,  
Hannah Hanrahan, Ron Heckman,  
Julie Hofer, Marta Horevajova,  
Blaire Jahn, Jan Linden,  
Tomas Melian, Angela Napper,  
Jennifer Napper, Susan Ormond,  
Gwendolyn Osborn, Michael Perkicha,  
Diana Peters, Mia Tindle and  
Stefanie Wong Gottschalk

## In God We Trust



DR. DON  
ASHBURN  
Associate Minister

This morning, I read about a bill in the Minnesota legislature that would require “a durable poster or framed copy” of the motto “In God We Trust” to be posted in every school building in the state.

Of course, the usual suspects are up in arms about this, on yet another front in our nation’s perpetual “culture wars.” As for me, I would oppose the bill for two reasons. First, while I have no problem with the words of the motto itself, I suspect that what posting it is really about is finding a back-door way to, as they say, “put God back into our schools” – as if the God of the whole universe ever left.

As a strong defender of the separation of church and state – mainly for religious reasons – I could never support that.

My second reason for opposing this bill is not so much political, as theological. State Senator Dan Hall, the former principal of a Christian school, says all he wants is for students to be reminded of the special place that religious faith has played in our nation’s history.

As he says, “It’s not ‘In Jesus We Trust,’ or ‘In Muhammed We Trust.’ It’s ‘In God We Trust.’ I think it’s time we do some things to encourage people of

faith.” Of course, as a pastor, I’m all in favor of encouraging people of faith.

But, I find the idea of having the state promote faith “in general” to be problematic - as in Dwight Eisenhower’s famous quip that “America doesn’t make sense without a deeply held faith in God - and I don’t care what it is.”

In that light, is trusting God to be equated with brushing your teeth, or eating your veggies, or studying hard, or any other of a number of “healthy” things students should do? I hope not, as that cheapens any notion of deep, authentic faith.

It also says something about how we view God; that we would need the state to erect public reminders of how “trusting” we are. Do we think God’s impressed? Well, the Bible is pretty clear on that. In Amos 5, God says: “I want nothing to do with your religion projects, your pretentious slogans and goals. Do you know what I want? I want justice. I want fairness. That’s all I want.” And Jesus says in Matthew 6, “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

So, those are some of my thoughts on the bill before the Minnesota Legislature.

What are yours? Let me know. I’d be happy to hear them.

## PARISH REGISTER

### BAPTISMS

*Andrew Dean Miller*, son of Kimberley and Matthew Miller, was baptized April 22.

## MONTH OF SUNDAYS

*Each Sunday, we gather to celebrate our faith and our friendships during worship at 9 and 10:30 am.*

### June 3

Americana Sunday  
NO SUCH THING AS NORMAL  
Part 5, *The Secret of a Loving Heart*  
Luke 7:36-50

### June 10

Choir Sunday

### June 17 & 24

Services held at 9 and 10:30 am

## Sunday School

*We invite you to continue traveling through the Bible in one year.*

**June 3** – Acts: God Helps Stephen Forgive His Enemies, “God helps us to forgive our enemies”

**June 10** - Acts: God Sends Phillip to an Ethiopian, “The Holy Spirit gives us direction”

**June 17** - Acts: God Changes Saul’s Life, “God changes our lives”

**June 24** - Acts: God Uses Timothy’s Gifts, “God loves every age”

**In July we will all be in the Sanctuary.**

Contact Leslie Quantz with questions at [Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org](mailto:Leslie@PiedmontChurch.org) or (510) 547-5700 ext. 109

## Tiny Time Commitments

Many of our volunteer activities take minimal time and effort.

**USHER OR GREET** at the 10:30 am service (simple training sessions available). Check your calendar and sign up after church.

**PROVIDE A MEAL** through our Food Angels for a member going through a difficult time. Contact Linda Rice at [ljrice@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ljrice@sbcglobal.net)



**HELP IN THE KITCHEN** with our volunteer cooking crew, Loaves and Fishes. Contact Steve Wuebbens at [sawuebbens@gmail.com](mailto:sawuebbens@gmail.com)



Volunteer Jan Zovickian offers assistance to a Piedmont Elementary student as part of her service to Faith Network.

## Faith Network Offers Meaningful Volunteer Opportunities

■ BY JEFF MCCLAIN

Faith Network of the East Bay is one of the several non-profit organizations that receive contribution funding from the Piedmont Community Church Board of Deacons Mission Committee. It was founded in 2001 by Randy Roth, a retired minister.

Faith Network's mission is to give hope to at-risk students in East Bay schools with the goal of preparing today's youth for a life of serving others and contributing positively to their communities.

Faith Network directs four programs to accomplish their goal: Succeeding by Reading, Science Horizons, Health4Kids and CareerBridge.

Succeeding by Reading helps second and third-grade students reach grade-level reading proficiency through one-on-one tutoring and library services so that students have the resources they need to become life-long learners.

Science Horizons provides elementary school students with science learning resources and unique hands-on learning experiences that nurture their passion for science, technology, engineering and

math (STEM) as well as providing one-on-one math tutoring.

Health4Kids distributes thousands of nutritious weekend food bags yearly to undernourished children with limited access to food.

CareerBridge helps close the opportunity gap at West Oakland high schools by providing promising students individual mentorship, life skills, academic enrichment and internships with stipends.

To implement these programs, the dedicated staff of Faith Network is tapping and aligning resources from a broad coalition of community partners. Individual volunteer tutors and mentors build one-on-one relationships with at-risk youth. Today, with the assistance of over 200 regular volunteers who work directly with students, 50 occasional volunteers who lend a hand with short-term projects, and nearly 60 diverse community partners, including Piedmont Community Church, Faith Network is serving over 35 schools in Oakland, Alameda, West Contra Costa and Berkeley.

Church members have been volunteering with Faith Network in the Succeeding by Reading program for over 14

years, starting at what was then Webster Academy (now East Oakland Pride). Since then, over 50 of our congregation have participated in Succeeding by Reading, Science Horizons and Health4Kids.

Currently, the congregation has 12 volunteers participating in Reading or Math tutoring at 6 schools and 3 volunteers participating in the food-bagging program.

Faith Network has been included in our Alternative Gift Market Catalogue and has been an active participant in our annual Ministries Fair with representatives on hand to provide information and answer questions about their work in our greater community.

They have also made a number of Moment for Mission presentations in the sanctuary to keep us apprised of their ongoing progress.

If you have been contemplating a way to make a meaningful volunteer or other contribution to the needs of our greater community as addressed by Faith Network, we would encourage you to contact them and join in. Visit [faith-network.com](http://faith-network.com) or call (510) 836-5100 for more information.

## Adult Fellowship BBQ June 1

Summer's on the way. And a great way to get it started is the annual Adult Fellowship BBQ on Friday, June 1.

We'll gather at 6:30 pm at the home of Alison and Guy Avagliano (7 Muir Ave, Piedmont). Main dishes of salmon and beef will be provided. The rest is up to you, including salads, side dishes, desserts and beverages to share.

You can sign up starting on Sunday, May 13 in the courtyard after worship or by contacting Jean Leahy at [Jean@PiedmontChurch.org](mailto:Jean@PiedmontChurch.org) or (510) 547-5700. Cost is \$5

## Engagement Research Insights And Next Step

■ BY THE ENGAGEMENT TEAM

On May 23, the Engagement Team will present the findings from the fall survey and spring conversations, including how we think, feel and experience community, care, spiritual growth and service at our church.

These insights are vital inspiration for how to grow engagement at Piedmont Community Church together, in the upcoming ideation sessions and into the future.

To RSVP, visit <https://bit.ly/2rK7r24>, or contact Jean Leahy at (510) 547-5700 or [jean@piedmontchurch.org](mailto:jean@piedmontchurch.org)

Next, we will work with church leaders to prioritize and implement engagement growth in many ways - by growing community strength through our individual sense of belonging and connectedness, and by expanding our community by attracting and welcoming new members, thus supporting our strategic plan focus areas of sustainability, visibility and communications.

## Annual Meeting Set For June 3

All Piedmont Community Church members are invited and encouraged to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting, which will follow the 10:30 am worship service on June 3.

Lunch will be provided.

In addition to the election of new board members and officers, amendments to the church Bylaws will be proposed by the Board of Trustees and voted upon.

The text of the proposed amendments with short descriptions will be available in the church office at least one week prior to the Annual Meeting.

## Widows, Widowers Support Group

Have you (or has someone you know) experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last few years? Sharing our experiences during this ten-week class is extremely helpful to our healing process.

Find hope, support, and successful ways to process this significant life event. This course is open to all widows and widowers.

Sundays, September 16 - November 18  
Cost is \$15 for materials. For more Information, contact Merrilee Mitchell at (510) 482-5296 or [merrileehm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:merrileehm@sbcglobal.net)

## Annual Report

The 2017-18 Piedmont Community Church Annual Report will be available online after May 20.

Download your copy at [PiedmontChurch.org/report](http://PiedmontChurch.org/report)

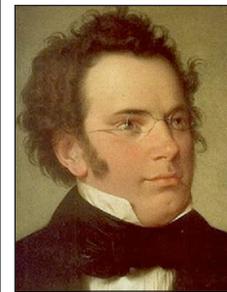
Paper copies will be available at the Annual Meeting, to be held at the church, Sunday, June 3 after the 10:30 am worship service.

## Choir Sunday Is June 10

*Kinder and gentler:  
Schubert's Mass in G*

■ BY SCOTT FITZGERRELL

As we do at this time each year, the choir will head into summer with a splash on Choir Sunday, this time presenting Schubert's Mass in G with full orchestra accompanying.



Schubert

Franz Schubert (1797–1828) created a torrent of music in a 20-year career that ended in his untimely death at age 31. Thus, it seems strange to note that his Mass in G, created when he

was only 18, is almost a mid-career piece—and as befits his youth, it points to a new age of composition.

Dr. Stephen Main notes that “Schubert already shows the influence of a new, brighter, and more serene approach to the old classical text of the Mass—much more cheerful, and generally a bit more ‘secular,’ which made sense for the beginning of the Romantic era.”

One commentator called the Mass in G “an astonishingly great work of the eighteen-year-old Schubert. The gentlest of Masses....”

The music world was changing, and Schubert, acutely aware of the musical trends of the Vienna of his day, became a bridge between his beloved Mozart (and the Salieri of Schubert's training) and the new, more emotional age that would bring us Schumann and Brahms.

We think you will be pleased.

## Busy Spring Gives Way To Lazy Summer



JODY EARLE  
Guest Columnist

We're right at the cusp between the formalized school year with its schedules and classes, and the lazy days of summer.

May 27 is the date of the Annual Report Financial Meeting, the Adult Fellowship BBQ happens on the first of June and the Annual Meeting will meet on June 3.

Celebration of vibrant months of activities ranged from the Treasures Sale in the Church and Courtyard, aiding Malawi Famine Relief to 300 church members building 17 houses in Tijuana Mexico.

For our students, the next weeks will be ones of finals, graduations, final decisions about colleges and universities and then that quiet morning when they wake up and realize that they can just lay there in the quiet morning and remember this past year and all they have seen, heard and done.

What a special time of year this is for reflection and rebirth.

### Thou Shalt Laugh

Six-year old Angie and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church.

Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud.

Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door?"

"They're hushers."

## Back To The Country

*Americana Sunday, June 3*

■ BY SCOTT FITZGERREL

We generally sing some pretty fancy music at Piedmont Community Church, but every spring we like to get back to our roots with a program of "Americana" tunes to enhance worship.

Once again, we've assembled a crack-erjack string band featuring our own home-grown multi-instrument wunder-kind, Mitch Polzak, Grammy-winner Mads Tolling on fiddle, and a vocal ensemble starring our wonderful choir section leaders, plus Sylvia Sudat, Piedmont Church's answer to Allison Kraus. The vocalists will step out of their usual classical niche and channel their inner

Alison, Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris, Vince Gill, and Johnny Cash, all backed by fiddle, mandolin, banjo, guitar, and bass. It's music of deceptive simplicity: great tunes, fabulous singing, terrific instrumentation—and a heart full of soul. It will be a joyful noise, indeed.

This year, we'll begin with a solo guitar prelude by fingerstyle virtuoso, Chris Mani. The anthem slot brings a surprise: Bob Dylan's *Lay Down Your Weary Tune*, as arranged by Sylvia. For the offertory, we'll do *Daniel Prayed*, pure bluegrass gospel full of vocal interplay.

That's not enough for us, however. Stick around for the postlude: Tina's arrangement of the old bluegrass burner, *Cryin' Holy Unto the Lord*. No dust in the rafters after we're done!

See you in church.



## Facing Our Fears



DR. WILLIAM  
MCNABB  
Senior Minister

A man woke up in the middle of the night with the strange feeling that someone was in his bedroom. He was not sure whether something had actually touched him on the face or whether he had dreamed it. He was terrified as he felt more and more alone.

He opened his eyes very slowly, trying not to make any sound. Then he saw it and felt it as something brushed past him. Whatever it was, was beside his bed.

His heart was pounding, but he didn't move a muscle. He waited with fear, knowing that the blow of a hammer, or an ax, or a knife would strike him any minute. He was literally frozen with fear. For some time he watched as the threatening presence in the room continued to move from place to place.

Finally he got the nerve to switch on the light and the nature of the intruder was revealed. It was a balloon - a Mickey Mouse balloon that his son had brought home from the fair the day before. He had released it, and it was on the ceiling when his parents went to bed. Gradually during the night the helium had escaped, and as it lost helium, it descended from the ceiling. Finally, it floated over the bed and moved with the movements of the air in the room. What a night!

It would be a little embarrassing, but otherwise a great relief, to discover that the things that terrify us in the night are so simple and harmless as a deflating Mickey Mouse balloon. But "the ghoulies and ghosties and long-leggity beasties, and things that go bump in the night" are not always so simple, so tangible or so harmless.

The cause of most of our long sleepless nights is seldom there the next morning in tangible form to relieve our fears and cause us to breathe a sigh of relief. The cause of our nocturnal fears seldom turns out to be something we can laugh at, or something we can see or remove

before having to spend another long and sleepless night. There is more substance, and yet less tangible form in our fears than a deflating Mickey Mouse balloon. The things that keep us awake nights are more likely to be floating around inside us than floating around outside us.

While sleeplessness is but one of the symptoms of a troubled heart and mind, it is one of the more painful symptoms. There is an Egyptian proverb that says that the three most painful things in life are:

*"To wait for one who comes not,  
to try to please and please not,  
to be in bed and sleep not."*

I can sure agree with that last one. While I have not suffered from insomnia often, when I have, it has truly been awful.

We live in a fear-promoting society which tends to push us into the zone of paralyzing anxiety about so many things that we often feel we are surrounded by a covey of demons.

We come to fear things about which we can do nothing. There is always some legitimacy in media-induced fears. But when we obsess over crime and hope that the weapons we have bought will protect us; or when we become so afraid of terrorism that we refuse to fly, the enemy has won. As one writer put it: "The home of the brave begins to look like an asylum for anxiety sufferers".

When we give in to fear about things that are beyond our power to control, we tend to ignore the real risks to our welfare over which we do have some power to control.

We forget to be afraid of smoking, over-eating, not fastening seat belts, social injustice and the people we elect to office. Our greatest fears should not only be rational, but also invested in things about which we can do something.

While it is true that we do live in a dangerous world (and always have), there comes a time in which we must bravely face the risks of living in the world in

which we exist. There comes a time in which we must realize that if our goal in life is absolute safety, then being born was a fundamental mistake. People do not like to hear this, but we have less control over what happens in our world than we think. But, we do have some modicum of control over how we respond to what happens in our world.

One of the things I believe helps us deal with the uncertainties of life is our faith. Even though we live in a dangerous and uncertain world, it is comforting to know that God's presence is real in our lives.

I have never tried it, but some people count sheep when they cannot sleep. If counting sheep does not help, try talking to the Shepherd.

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## Project Peace Service Day June 2

■ BY SELMA CHIN

Project Peace brings together local faith-based organizations and non-profits to serve our community. Volunteer on Saturday, June 2, 9 am - 12 Noon.

Opportunities include Berkeley Women's Shelter, Harbor House Oakland and YEAH - Berkeley (homeless shelter serving youth from 18-25 years) and Emerson Elementary School.

Information and sign-ups available in the courtyard after worship or contact Selma Chin at (510) 290-5732 or [selmachin@yahoo.com](mailto:selmachin@yahoo.com)  
Visit [projectpeaceeastbay.org](http://projectpeaceeastbay.org)

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Instagram

@PiedmontCommunityChurch

*The Messenger* (USPS permit # 432-100) is owned, managed, published and circulated on a monthly basis by Piedmont Community Church, 400 Highland Ave., Piedmont, CA 94611, Ph. (510) 547-5700  
Subscriptions: \$25 a year. Periodicals postage pd. at Oakland, CA, 94615

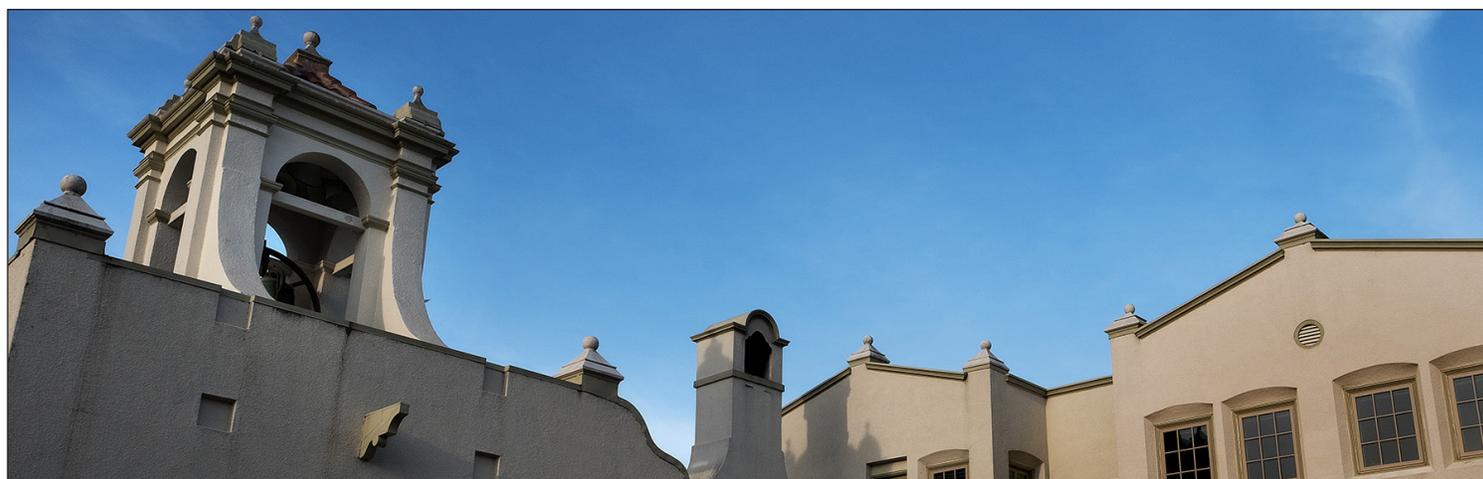
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## JUNE CALENDAR

**Friday, June 1** – Adult Fellowship BBQ, 6:30 pm

**Saturday, June 2** - Project Peace Community Service Day, 9 am -12 noon

**Saturday, June 2** - Volunteer to Serve Lunch with CityTeam (ages 12 and over), 11 am – 2 pm, 722 Washington St., Oakland

Volunteer to Serve Dinner with CityTeam (ages 14 and over), 5 pm - 7 pm, 722 Washington St., Oakland

**Sunday, June 3** - Communion Sunday, Americana Sunday

**Sunday, June 3** - Annual Meeting and Luncheon, 11:30 am

**Monday, June 4** - Board of Deacons, 7 pm, Guild Parlor

**Sunday, June 10** - Choir Sunday

**Monday, June 11** - Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 2-4 pm, Guild Parlor

**Monday, June 11** - Board of Trustees, 7 pm, Guild Parlor

**Wednesday, June 6, 20** - Coffee and Conversation for Seniors, 9:30 am - 11:30 am, Guild Parlor

**Monday, June 18** - Board of Christian Education, 6:45 pm, Guild Parlor

**Monday, June 18** - MAT, 7 pm, Staff Workroom

**Monday, June 18** - Needles and Hooks Shared Interest Group, 7 pm, Murdock Room

**Saturday, June 23** - Berkeley Men's Shelter, 6:30-8 pm, call (510) 547-5700 to volunteer

## RECURRING EVENTS

### **Mondays**

Spiritual Formation Group, 4:30 pm, Guild Parlor

### **Tuesdays**

Small Group Bible Study, 7 pm, home of Bob and Judy Wright, call Judy Wright (510) 325-3083

### **Thursdays**

Women's Bible Study, 10 am, Guild Parlor, call Judy Wright (510) 325-3083 or Dottie Hutch (203) 500-9097

### **Saturdays**

Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am, Founder's Room