



FIRST KIDS



We will look at how God created us to be in community and to practice **Cooperation** — working together to do more than you can do alone. Accomplishing Jesus' mission for the world is a HUGE undertaking. However, when we work together, we can help others and show them Jesus along the way.



EPIC (4th-6th Grade)
March 31, 6-8:00 PM

Come join us for fun, food, and conversations about faith.

Lenten Devotional Available

Pick up your copy at the Connect Center. Readings begin on March 5.



March 2025

CONNECTION

Sermon Series: Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

March 2: How to Pray; Matthew 6:9-15; Colleen Soldate

March 9: How Not to Worry; Matthew 6:25-34; Dan Price

March 16: How Not to Judge; Matthew 7:1-5; Dan Price

March 23: How Not to be Self-Deceived; Matthew 7:21-23;

Guest Preacher: David Weidlich

March 30: How to Be a Missional Church; Tim Stafford

One Church Sunday: Breakfast at 9:30, Worship at 10:30



Friday Night Experience — Join us for this Intergenerational Event

Friday, March 7

5:00 PM: Family Interactive
Experience

5:45 PM: Worship • 6:30 PM: Dinner

We will discover that we all have a part to play in accomplishing Jesus' mission for the world. Bring soup or dessert to share. RSVP to Darcy by March 5, darcy@fpcsantarosa.org.

Sign up to volunteer at the Connect Center.

Women's Retreat at Westminster Woods March 21-23

A former FPC intern, Rev. Cassie Carrol, will be leading a women's retreat focusing on the book of Ruth. To learn more see, the flyer on the Community Bulletin Board.



Prayer Walking is Ongoing

Beginning March 29, we will add *Stations of the Cross* to the route — inviting our congregation and the community into a deeper understanding of Holy Week.



March 5 Ash Wednesday Schedule

7:00 AM — Contemplative Reflection

6:00 PM — Worship Service

How Not to Fast, Matthew 6:16-21,
Rev. Dan Price preaching

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period which represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection. FPC offers two gatherings to help us start this season with reverence.

Small Group Opportunity New Study begins March 18

If you're looking for more fellowship, join a newer small group that meets the first and third Tuesday evenings at church. On March 18, we will begin a new study focus on *The Good and Beautiful Life* by James Bryan Smith. Contact Allie for more information.



Stewards of Eden

Video series with
Dr. Sandra Richter

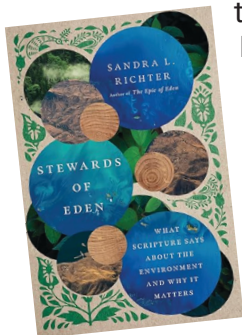
Begins March 16

Sundays, 10:30 AM, Rm. 113

We will discuss the biblical mandate about humanity's responsibility to care for the land, domestic and wild creatures, and people on

the margins.

Richter includes case studies that connect the biblical mandates to current issues.



Youth Ministries



Granite Team Olympics Through March 12

Teams compete for glory and points! The winning team will be invited to a weekend retreat at Lake Shasta in April.

Decade Mexico Mission Trip – March 15-20

Pray for our Youth as they go to Tijuana Mexico to rebuild parts of Sergio Gomez's Orphanage and Missionary compound. On April 6, a report will be shared with the congregation.



Movie Night:

Small Things

Like These (PG-13)

Friday, March 14

6:15 PM, Room 113

This faithful adaptation of

Claire Keegan's novel features an outstanding performance by Cillian Murphy in a quietly compelling story.

Please enter through the outside doors on the McDonald Avenue side.



March 13, 6:00 PM via Zoom

Caregivers exchange practical information, talk through their challenges, and learn ways to cope.

Info: contact Colleen Soldate at (707) 328-5465 or Colleen@fpcsantarosa.org

Spring Parish Gathering

Sunday, March 23,

Ingram Hall

After both services

Meet your Deacon and Parish Neighbors and enjoy coffee and treats with us.

From the Pastor's Desk



Americans' Changing Behavior

Alarm bells first went off when Robert Putnam wrote *Bowling Alone*, published in 2000. Putnam discussed ways in which Americans were increasingly disengaged from attendance at public meetings, community service, and work with political parties. Putnam also cited Americans' growing distrust in government. This extended to other institutions—presumably the church.

Over the past twenty-five years things have mostly gotten worse. Perhaps the most important recent alarm went off with Derek Thompson's cover article in the Atlantic, "The Anti-Social Century." Like Putnam, Thompson places blame for the de-socialization mostly on the increase of new technologies. We could discuss for a long while which technologies are most pernicious, and how to protect ourselves and our offspring. But just as importantly we could acknowledge both a great challenge, and an opportunity, that the anti-social bent brings to the church. First the challenge.

People are not flocking to church like they did in the post war era. After WWII many (mostly men) were thankful to have survived a horrible war, came home, went to school on the GI bill, found a job, joined a service club, married and raised a family. Our Sunday schools swelled, and churches were full. Today it's the opposite. Marriages that produce children are getting scarce. In an era of shrinking population and expectations, clearly, the church needs to become more creative in reaching out to the surrounding community.

But think of the opportunities the current epidemic of loneliness presents. Ah, look at all the lonely people— but do they all want to remain lonely? Not all. That's where the church has a tremendous opportunity. The church can offer genuine fellowship: a non-commercial place to gather where relationship to God and others can flourish. Any church that offers a place where loving friends bear each other's burdens, will find the good news of Christ still offers a powerful remedy for lonely hearts.

Warmly in Christ, Pastor Dan Price

A Place to BELONG, BELIEVE
LOVE like Jesus

First Presbyterian Church
1550 Pacific Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA
www.fpcsantarosa.org