

This mother's day we hold in our hearts and prayers the wives and mothers of Ukraine.



If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
 1 Corinthians 12:26-27

"Trust in The Force...We will each be challenged. Our trust. Our faith. Our friendships. But we must persevere. And in time, a new hope will emerge."



Among many things, May is a time when the Star Wars franchise is celebrated. "May the fourth be with you" is a phrase you might hear on the fourth day of the month recalling a famous greeting/blessing that uses the word "Force." Though May is the month for the duet days of "M"; Mother's Day and Memorial Day, I chose to highlight the above quote by another "M", the (M)aster Jedi named Obi-Wan Kenobi. The quote, given at a time of great challenge, encapsulates the heart and meta-message of the whole franchise, to sustain your faith that "a new hope will emerge." It is this spiritual belief, embodied by a ragtag alliance of insurgents, that powered a rebellion that eventually overcame a galactic empire.

When I mention Kenobi, most people immediately think of the great English actor, Sir Alec Guinness, whose sublime portrayal of the character featured prominently in the original Star Wars film in 1977. Through his lips, we were introduced to "The Force" as "...an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us. It binds the galaxy together."

Near the end of the movie, there was a defiant grace that adorned Kenobi's visage even in the final moments of his material life. Facing Darth Vader in a duel to the death, this wizened Jedi turned to the imposing Sith Lord with his billowing black cape and a menacing red-glowing lightsaber and said, "If you strike me down, I shall become more powerful than you can possibly imagine." Giving up his life, he transcended into a Force-held ethereal existence where he was able to guide the young Luke Skywalker to fulfill his destiny and ultimately save the galaxy.



Trust me, volumes of books have been written on the spirituality of Star Wars. It generously borrows religious themes and centers them "a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away." I mostly love it because it is a great story that has continued to evolve since it made its debut when I was but 2 years old. Now, almost 45 years later, I find myself enthralled with a different story—the story of what First Church of Roseville is now becoming 140 years after its birth.

First Church is a story of how God's grace has girded up generations of those seeking to do good in the midst of a changing world. It is a story of a how faith has been forged through the fire of devotional dedication. It is a story of a people doing their best to live the gospel message of Love knowing that God's Love is the most powerful thing in the universe. In the same way the mystical Jedi wielded the light side of the Force for good, we labor in the tradition of allowing the love of God, which is that which "surrounds and binds the galaxy together," to inform the storytelling of our actions. We are a community committed to offering hope whether it be at worship services on Sundays, the meal ministry on Mondays, the support groups on Tuesdays, or the communal celebration which is our 4TH Fridays at First Church.

Though (to my chagrin) we are not lightsaber wielding space wizards, I find great joy in knowing that we are continuing to write new chapters in the on-going story of God's "new hope" that ever emerges and never ends.



And like Han Solo and Chewbacca in the cockpit of the Millennium Falcon, I truly believe that we are on the verge of entering hyperspace and creating new stories at light-speed—stories of hope that will be like the celebratory songs that filled the skies over the Forest Moon of Endor. In the end, Love wins, and this is what keeps me inspired throughout the month of

May and beyond. I now leave with the immortal words once said by Obi-Wan Kenobi:

"May the Force be with you, always."



Blessings, Pastor Mahsea Evans

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MEMORIAL DAY HISTORICAL GLEANINGS

May 16, 1908 By request memorial services will be held at the M.E. Church, Sunday May 24th. All veterans of the Civil War are cordially invited to be present. Rev. Colin Anderson will preach at 11 a.m.
 May 30, 1908 The Memorial services at the M.E. Church last Sunday did not attract any more attention than the ordinary services. We suppose the G.A.R. veterans of the section are all dead.

These articles were found in the Press Tribune newspaper.

Phoebe Astill, Historian

◆ M.E. is Methodist Episcopal, the name of First Church Roseville in 1908

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army (United States Army, Union Navy (U.S. Navy), and the Marines who served in the American Civil War. It was founded in 1866 in Springfield, Illinois, and grew to include hundreds of "posts" (local community units) across the nation (predominantly in the North, but also a few in the South and West). It was dissolved in 1956 at the death of its last member, Albert Woolson (1850—1956) of Duluth, Minnesota.



Linking men through their experience of the war, the G.A.R. became among the first organized advocacy groups in American politics, supporting voting rights for black veterans, promoting patriotic education, helping to make Memorial Day a national holiday, lobbying the United States Congress to establish regular veterans' pensions, and supporting Republican political candidates. Its peak membership, at 410,000, was in 1890, a high point of various Civil War commemorative and monument dedication ceremonies. It was succeeded by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), composed of male descendants of Union Army and Union Navy veterans.

Above GAR information came from Wikipedia: Grand Army of the Republic there's lots more there to read. Check it out.



My dad and I watch Star Wars often and one character I resonate with is named Ahsoka Tano. She is intelligent, fierce, thoughtful and always tries to solve problems in the best way possible. In episode 17 of season 2 of the animated TV show, The Clone Wars, Ahsoka and her Jedi masters come across a village of farmers who were being raided and harassed by gangs. Ashoka convinced her Jedi masters (Anakin Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi) to help train the farmers to defend themselves. Instead of abandoning the farmers, Ahsoka saw an opportunity to help and better the community. The farmers bonded over their training and they successfully fought off the gangs.

In my day-to-day life, I try to hold Ahsoka's values and morals. When I do this, it influences my perspective and helps me become more aware of myself and others. She always had an optimistic mindset no matter the difficulty of the situation. I use Ahsoka's morals when I am doing challenging algebra homework, or dealing with complicated high school social issues.

I may never go out on space adventures or train to be a Jedi like Ashoka, but I can use her values and morals to become a more understanding person and to help other people in my community.

Reflection On Being a Mother

In the month of April, Niara and I took a 4-day cruise out of Long Beach for her Spring Break. As first-time cruisers, we were thrilled to experience all the fun and entertainment that await on this "mini floating city" that I had heard about from others. The endless opportunities of family-friendly entertainment and delicious food did not disappoint. Besides the precious mother-daughter time we would experience together, there was a more subtle thrill I was looking forward to—the quiet moments of reflection, reading, and writing while staring out into the brilliant open sea. This made my heart leap with anticipation. Like so many with busy full lives, taking the time to pause and reflect without regard for time, commitments, or the things on the to-do list, is a luxury that I needed to incorporate into this short vacation. And I did.

In my quiet alone time, I found myself reflecting on the various roles I play and their significance in my life. In a sobering moment of reality, I remembered that I am many things including a wife, mother, aunt, sister, godmother, best friend, spiritual being, educator, professional, administrator, homeowner, and puppy parent. Though all of these roles are significant in their own way, in this moment I find myself focusing on what it means to be a mother. For me, being a mother is so much more than supplying basic needs for a child or preparing them for the world. These responsibilities are the most visible parts of the job, but they are not the only part of it. Being a mother also invites opportunities to teach, to trust in spirit, to listen to inner knowing, to build capacity for challenges, and to move with love at the center.

As a woman of profound faith, I have the honor and privilege to live into these opportunities with all human beings (more accurately all life forms), but especially my daughter. Every day I can choose to be an expression of unconditional love, forgiveness, bravery, compassion, humility, and mystery. I aim to reinforce Niara's divine inherent worthiness that sometimes gets lost in social media, or is unseen or unappreciated by others who are hurting. In the most tender times, she may even forget her true self. As a mother, I have a duty to acknowledge and celebrate her divinity in my words, actions, and deeds, and to hold up a mirror of who she is so she can always see how God sees her. I hold this as a cherished gift for both her and me.

As I celebrate this Mother's Day, I will continue to bask in an unforgettable first-time cruise experience, incorporate fond reflections of the beauty and power of being a mother, and revel in the wonderful bond I share with my daughter Niara.

Kawami Evans



*A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,*

*It is endless and unselfish
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away . . .*

*It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is breaking . . .*

*It believes beyond believing
when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems . . .*

*It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation . . .*

*A many splendored miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.*

Helen Steiner Rice

At the Worship Service on the first Sunday after Ash Wednesday, the children passed out small denim bags to the members in the congregation as Don Harris invited members to fill the "Judas Bags" with coins to help feed those in need in our neighborhood.

During the Lenten season many bags were returned with coins in them or so we thought. During the Easter service the children rolled in a small wagon with the Judas Bags that had been returned before Easter, collected the ones that were brought in that morning and received a blessing from Pastor Evans.

After the Easter Service the children emptied the contents of the Judas Bags into a large tub in Backman Hall much to the delight of the onlookers. The children's eyes lit up as they saw large dollar coins, \$2.00 dollar bills and folding money. The tub weighed about 30 pounds, had 73 Judas bags, and contained 4,531 items as follows: two checks totaling \$80.00, nine \$20.00 bills, one \$10.00 bill, one \$5.00 bill, nine \$2.00 bills, eight \$1.00 bills, 32 dollar coins, 3 half dollars, 1,456 quarters, 850 dimes,

1,060 nickels, 1,104 pennies, one Mexican 50 centavo, one Canadian nickel and one coin looking charm with a hole in it and inscribed, "A sister is God's way of making sure we never walk alone". No attempt was made to determine the worth nor the cash value of these last three items. The other items totaled \$813.54. This money will be used to help the poor in our neighborhood.

Thanks to all who participated by putting coins in the Judas Bags and bringing them to church and a big thank you to the kids, for their help. We loved what you did to help the poor in our neighborhood.

Don Harris & Judy Solari

Counters and Coin Rollers

It's A Grand Night For Singing

Bodgers and Hammett wrote it and Sacramento Master Singers II did. It's A Grand Night for Singing. Make it right on the town and gather around as they perform Les. Manuel Miranda's hit tune Star Phantasia from Hamilton. Don't miss The Luckiest. Master Singers' choice. My Lord Deliver Us! The church invites will include pieces we are preparing for our upcoming tour in Europe in the summer of 2022.

Saturday, May 21st at 7pm
Sunday, May 22nd at 10am
Westminster Presbyterian Church
1200 N Street
Sacramento, CA
Tickets \$15.00

"Women of Faith" aka UMW invite All Church Women to Celebrate **Cinco de Mayo** at noon on Thursday May 5, 2022. No Cost Taco Bar and Dessert. Please make your reservation at shirley@lifesummons.org or call Nancy Bray at 530-941-8138. This will be a time of good food and a joyful reconnecting after our long Covid closure. Hope to see you there!

*The reservation is needed to determine the amount of food to prepare.

Thank You!

To my church family, thank you on behalf of the family, for all the cards, prayers and phone calls we received on the passing of my son James. He was one of a kind and will never be forgotten. Again, thank you for all you have done for the family.

Phoebe Astill and Family

Easter Morning and the Counting of the Judas Bags

At the Worship Service on the first Sunday after Ash Wednesday, the children passed out small denim bags to the members in the congregation as Don Harris invited members to fill the "Judas Bags" with coins to help feed those in need in our neighborhood.

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Don Harris & Judy Solari
Counters and Coin Rollers



It's A Grand Night For Singing

Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote it and Sacramento Master Singers it so: It's a Grand Night for Singing. Make it a night on the town and gather around as the choir performs Lin-Manuel Miranda's hit tune *Dear Theodosia* from *Hamilton*, Ben Fold's *The Luckiest*, Moses Hogan's *Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?*. The choral favorites will include pieces we are preparing for our upcoming tour to Europe in the summer of 2022.

Saturday, May 21st at 7pm
Sunday, May 22nd at 3pm
Westminster Presbyterian Church
1300 N Street
Sacramento, CA
Tickets \$35.00

To purchase tickets go to: <https://www.mastersingers.org/tickets/>



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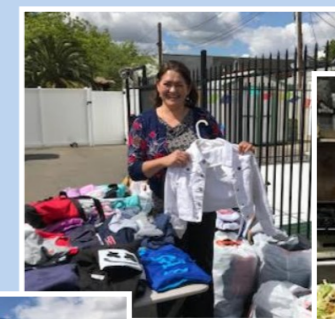
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Phoebe Astill and family

4th Friday at First Church

The April 22nd "4th Friday at First Church" once again brought together several Community Organizations for a fun afternoon at First Church. The theme for April was "Children's Reading Literacy". Over 100 new and used books were distributed to the children. Our own Dennis Bull and Liz Harvey were two of four adults who read stories to the children in our Book Corner. Also in the Book Corner were two Comfort dogs and their Trainers. The children made personalized book markers at the Craft Table. 21 vaccinations were given. The Health Education Counsel gave out various gift cards to the vaccination recipients. Jan Sechrist and her team worked very hard to serve 150 delicious Tostados and Fruit Cups. 25 life vests, 15 bicycle helmets, 10 bags of gently used clothing for Middle School age children were given away. 19 families received information on the Child Tax Credit and 3 families signed up for additional tax assistance. There was fun outside too! A huge blowup bouncy slide, supplied by a donation from FUMC and the Health Education Counsel, provided lots of fun for the children. Two huge blowup wiggle men outside the church welcomed our neighbors. The wiggle men were supplied by PPOFT and Liberty Towers Church who also supplied the bowling game, corn hole game, speakers for the music and the Bubble machine. A good time was had by all! The May "4th Friday at First Church" event will be held on May 27th and the theme will be "Spring Treat: Respite and Recharge" which will focus on Caregivers, especially Mothers. As always, we will have fun activities for children too. You also can be part of these 4th Friday at First Church events by volunteering your time. Contact Elba Aulich at church or call her at 916-560-3390 to volunteer. Article and Photos by Lorri Brady



IN LOVING MEMORY OF PAM WOICKI & JAMES ASTILL



Those we love remain with us for love itself lives on, and cherished memories never fade because a loved one's gone. Those we love can never be more than a thought apart, for as long as there is memory, they will live on in our heart

Pam Woicicki Memorial Service

Friday, June 17, 2022

11:00 am—12:00 pm

First United Methodist Church

109 Washington Blvd.

Roseville, CA 95678

Pamala Woicicki Obituary

Found at: dignitymemorial.com

Please keep the following people in your prayers for healing and comfort.

For Healing and Comfort

Cathie, Connie,
Marie, Hazel,
Jerry, Sheraya
Roberta



For Bereavement

Paul Woicicki & Family
Phoebe Astill & Family
Family of Pat Beers

Please submit request for prayers to prayers@firstumcroseville.org



Saturday May 21st

The Yard Sale is Coming...The Yard Sale is Coming!

Yes, the yard sale you've been hearing about for the last few months is almost here. Time to gather all those things that are clutter to you but may be someone else's treasure, and bring it down to the church starting Wednesday, May 11. Drop-offs will be accepted 9am-noon, May 11 - May 20. The biggest need is for people to help. We need people to help in the two weeks before the event, and then more folks on the day of the yard sale. Dave and Audrey have started circulating the sign-up sheet at coffee hour after church.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED INCLUDE:

BEFORE THE SALE

- People to accept donations, sort, and price items, each day except Sunday, from 9 am - noon, May 11 - May 20. Sign up for one day, or as many days as you can.
- Distribute flyers downtown, Vernon street businesses - Week of May 8
- Door to door flyer distribution - 9am - 11 am Saturday, May 14
- Folks who can assist in picking up donations, at times arranged at their convenience

DAY OF THE SALE

- Set up 6:30am - 8 am
- Event Staff - 8:30-noon
 - Cashiers
 - Table Minders
 - Restroom Patrol
 - Parking Lot attendants

END OF THE SALE 12 NOON—DONE

Assist transporting remaining goods to Goodwill
Clean up Backman Hall, set up tables and chairs for coffee hour
Cashiers - final count, drop in safe

To volunteer, add your name to the sign-up sheet at church, or email Dave at finance@firstumcroseville.org.

Happy Birthday and
Happy Mother's
Day!



Agape Men's Group

For our April meeting the burning question of the day was: What progress are you making on your personal goals for 2022? Do you need a *push* or *pull* to reach achievement? Guess what folks, the discussion of personal goals was postponed. (Does this procrastination sound familiar to you?) Instead, the emphasis was on *pushing* and *pulling*. The "handymen" decided to replace the door and frame on the small shed located by the walkway to Backman Hall. After almost 3 hours of "great fellowship", the project was completed. This accomplished one of the Agape Group's church improvement projects for 2022!!!

Our next gathering will be on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in Heritage Chapel. Since in May we honor our mothers, our *burning question* of the day will be to share a story about your mother, and how she or another significant woman has impacted your life. Any questions please contact any of the Agape Team members (Don Harris, Cliff Williams, Dave Sechrist, Thom King, and Jim Wecker) or Dennis Bull at 630-781-6110. And to all "Our Church Moms" ---Happy Mother's Day!!!
Dennis Bull

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1ST RUTH WARD
- 4TH GARY MCROBERTS
- 5TH IGNAZIO SANTIAGO
- 6TH PHOEBE ASTILL
- 7TH MARY BUSKIRK
- 8 TH TERRI LYLE
- 11TH LINDA TRIGUBETZ
- 12TH DECLAN WILLIAMS
- 17TH KATHLEEN MIRTONI
- 18TH HILDEE GALVIN
- 21ST DONNA HALL
LIZ HARVEY
- 22ND GAIL PROVINE
- 24TH NANCY & JON
BALANZANO
- 25TH GIL HUMPHERY'S
- 26TH JIM BALL
- 27TH ASHLEY RIPLEY
SAVANNAH SCOTT
- 28TH NORMAN EGGERT
- 31ST JULIE ROMIG
DAVE SECHRIST



April Worship Attendance The Monday Feeding Program

Total: 234 Average: 59
In April 236 meals were served to the homeless in our community.



FIRST CHURCH ROSEVILLE TEAM LEADERS

Pastor—Mahsea Evans
Certified Lay Minister—Kathleen Mirtoni
Church Council Chair—Liz Harvey
Lay Leaders—Kathleen Mirtoni
Jan Sechrist
Ruth Ann Baker
Treasurer—Chris Handley
Financial Secretary—Elizabeth Harvey
Finance Team Chair—Dave Sechrist
Trustees President—Don Harris
Staff Parish Chair—Dennis Bull
Mission Outreach—Kathleen Mirtoni
Memorial—Susan Reining
Worship Team Leader—Nancy Bray
Congregational Care—Gail Provine
Music Director—John Handley
Communications—Kristi Kinzel
Lay Leadership Training—Kristi Kinzel

Email Contact Information:

Pastor:

mevans@firstumcroseville.org

Certified Lay Minister:

kmirtoni@firstumcroseville.org

Administrative Assistant:

cwithrow@firstumcroseville.org

Church Email:

firstumc@firstumcroseville.org

Prayer Requests:

prayers@firstumcroseville.org

Chimes Article Submissions:

chimes@firstumcroseville.org

Office Volunteer:

nbray@firstumcroseville.org



On 4/9/2022 the church received \$75.00 from redeemed cans and bottles. Thanks for saving and bringing them to church on the second Saturday each month
Don Harris, Trustee President
**NEXT RECYCLE IS SATURDAY
May 14th, 2022 9-11 AM**

The flower of the month for May is
Lilies of the Valley.