

FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF UPLAND



WHAT A FOOL BELIEVES

Proverbs 14:1 *The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."*

Perhaps you saw the story about the resignation of yet another board member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF). Joining high-profile atheist authors Richard Dawkins and Steven Pinker, evolutionary biologist Jerry Coyne has resigned in disgust after publishing an article, "Biology is not Bigotry." The article is a strong affirmation of the "faith" of scientists—that gender is biologically defined and determined.

Unfortunately for him and the other Atheist luminaries, that doctrine is no longer part of the FFRF *Book of Confessions*. Their anti-Faith faith has *evolved* beyond them, and they are suddenly as vestigial as wisdom teeth.

These popular intellectuals have been dissed by the idealists of progressive sexuality. For the FFRF, science matters less than the new ideology.

So what happens when the core foundation of atheism is no longer science? On what grounds does atheism object to religion when it takes on unscientific doctrines as its truth claims? In short, it becomes a belief system without rational foundations. The Freedom From Religion Foundation becomes a religion—and the irony is glaringly obvious to all except fools wallowing in their own foolishness.

Malcolm Muggeridge (ex-atheist misquoting ex-atheist G.K. Chesterton) said it well:

When men cease to believe in God they do not then believe in nothing, but in anything.

(continued on page 2)

PASTOR NOEL ANDERSON



When atheism proves too weak a concoction for one's spite of all things godly, un-faith quickly morphs into a more aggressive kind of *anti-faith*.



Perhaps you saw the story about a recent fracas in Topeka, Kansas wherein the leader of a small group of self-described satanists and three other people were arrested Friday following a scuffle inside the Kansas Statehouse arising from an effort by the group's leader to start a Black Mass in the rotunda.

The story noted that another non-satanist Kansan (perhaps from FFRF?) jumped up to smack the fake anti-communion wafer out of the hand of the high priest, who in turn landed two punches on the other citizen. The satanist was arrested for assault (Satanists don't *turn the other cheek*).

The Satanists—there and elsewhere—have been allowed to openly practice anti-Catholic “Satanism” under the aegis of the First Amendment. When “Freedom From Religion” fails to slake one's demonic thirst, the next step is an Anti-religion—just as rigid, inflexible, and judgmental as fundamentalist Puritanism.

I don't know what that good Kansas wafer-smacker said to the police during the investigation, but I'd like to imagine it went something like this:

Detective: “Why did you smack the wafer from that man's hand?”

Kansan: “He was attempting to desecrate the Holy Catholic Mass.”

Detective: “Don't you believe in freedom of religion? It is protected by the First Amendment.”

Kansan: “Yeah, but it doesn't count here.”

Detective: “Why not?”

Kansan: “Because *come on!*—they're *Satanists!*”

They're Satanists. There is not a single Founding Father or Mother who wouldn't have delivered a similar smack. They all believed in Freedom of Religion, but did so with basic Christianity in mind. We find they were tolerant, but not particularly keen on any of the non-European religious traditions.

If some fool had been daft enough to have asked James Madison, author of the First Amendment, “Does that include Satan worship?” They would have smacked him as well, because, *come on*, they're *Satanists!*

Some things used to be considered “self-evident,” but such truths are now hard to pin down.

In 1940, Prof. Walter Kotschnig told Holyoke College students to keep their minds open—“but not so open that your brains fall out.”

The author of Proverbs would likely smack his own head if he read the above news stories. I imagine his first draft said something kinder and gentler, like:

Unreasonable people tend to favor their doubts about God's power and presence.

Or
People uncertain about God tend toward poor judgment.



Perhaps the Holy Spirit prompted him with a vision of where humanity was capable and predisposed to go when agnosticism or atheism is encouraged or culturally acceptable. Perhaps he foresaw how doubt tends toward foolishness, and foolishness can compound upon foolishness to the point of ruin. “Keep it simple,” says the Spirit:

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” †

ELEVATE WITH MATT SHOOL



PARENT RESOURCE

Parenting ATHLETES

A PARENT'S PLAYBOOK TO BLESS AND SUPPORT KIDS INVOLVED IN SPORTS



Scan the QR code to download this helpful resource

EmpoweredHomes.org

CUSTODIAN UPDATE

The FPCU Personnel Committee has recommended that we contract with our cleaners, Hygiene Machine, to add set-ups and take-downs in Hart Hall along with the cleaning responsibilities. The trustees and session approved this in February. The Hygiene Machine will generally be cleaned and set up for Sunday on Saturday night. They will return on Sunday to check Hart Hall, bathrooms, and sanctuary, lock up campus, and set up Hart Hall for weekly events.

If your group needs specific setups, please notify the Office Manager at least a week before your event so she can schedule them. All communication should go through the Office Manager, so Jannina is aware of any changes. You can contact Jannina by email at office@fpc-upland.com or (909) 982-8811.

Since the Hygiene Machine is scheduled for specific times, we must take care of some things ourselves as much as possible.

- Opening on Sundays....there will be a schedule, you can sign up
- Cleaning and putting away items used during an event
- Making sure the campus is presentable and locked

Thank you,

Georgia Decker
Personnel Chair

READY TO JOIN PARTY OF 8?

THERE'S STILL TIME TO JOIN A GROUP!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WITH KEVIN CLINTON

As we go through this month of Lent and get closer to Holy Week, it is an excellent opportunity to talk about the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. One fun activity you can do as a family is to paint rocks as decorations for the outside. Instead of dyeing eggs, you can paint rocks with beautiful, vibrant colors that symbolize the promise of God's love and the sacrifice He made for us in His son, Jesus. The beautiful colors are the same as the rainbow God gave Noah after the flood.

Jesus' death on Good Friday and resurrection on Easter Sunday is the fulfillment of the gift of grace that connects us to God, saving us from our sins. The colors of spring remind us of that rebirth we receive from Christ through grace. We should remember Romans 6:11: "In the same way, we should count yourselves dead to sin but alive in Christ." Share with our families that as spring is here and flowers bloom with all the colors of the rainbow, the same rainbow that God gave to Noah as a promise. We, too, are reborn through Jesus to be seen by God as more colorful and vibrant than any rainbow.





First Presbyterian

EASTER

EGG HUNT

Join us on Sunday, April 20, at 11:15 am
for our annual Easter Egg Hunt
following our worship service



TRUSTEES WITH GARY CUSTER

GIVING

Greetings from the Board of Trustees. It will no doubt surprise you that our article will be on giving. If you were at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 23rd, you know that our budget projections exceed our income.

We need your help:

- by giving tithes and offerings.
- by making your pledges
- by providing a one-time love offering to help us through periods of unexpected expenses or reduced income (as occurred last year)
- by contributing if you relocate from the Upland area (as has happened for several years).



*By fulfilling the mission of First Presbyterian Church,
which is
Growing in Christ and making Him known!*

How great would it be to be part of a congregation where every member is deeply committed, ever-growing, deeply connected, and ever-sharing in their walk with Christ?

Support the Gather Team, Worship Team, Serve Team, Grow Team, Deacons, and all other parts of FPCU. Let's grow through Him.

Thank you,
Gary Custer

WORSHIP

Recently, our Worship Services have been greatly enhanced by the participation of our choir, currently led by Matthew Miles.

Our Congregation is truly blessed to have Matthew Miles as its Musical Director. Matt leads our Choir with love and enthusiasm, and, in return, choir members appreciate his efforts and lovingly respond to his direction.

Music is Matt's life. When not leading at FPCU, he is the Major Giving Officer at classical KUSC, 91.5 FM. Matt also adds his incredible tenor voice to the L.A. Master Chorale.

Matt earned his Master's in Vocal Arts from USC and nearly finished his Doctorate program in Conducting and Vocal Arts at USC. Matt and his wife, Alana, co-founded the Los Angeles School of Music. They have three children: Michael, Olivia, and Joshua. Michael and Olivia have been attending Sunday School at First Presbyterian Church of Upland.



GATHER WITH SUE FRAZEE



On March 16th, GATHER hosted our Annual St. Patrick's Day Brunch. The Upland H.S. Highlander Pipe Band piped us from the sanctuary to Hart Hall, where they entertained us as we enjoyed a delicious brunch featuring Irish stew, Irish soda bread, and Irish coffee.



Ladies in Fellowship Together

On Friday, March 14, L.I.F.T. presented a program showcasing songs performed by preschool students, led by Misty Wren.



Get a lift from LIFT

(Ladies in Fellowship Together)

What's Our Mental Health Really All About?

Dr. Maria Amaya Says We CAN Change and Talks about How

Back To Our Regular Time!

Friday, April 11, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, Hart Hall

Doors open 10:45 – Program starts promptly at 11:00

Have you ever thought about wanting to change something about yourself? Maybe be more outgoing or a happier person – or improve your relationships? Have you then told yourself, “Well, that’s just me. I can’t change who I am.” That’s simply not true, says Maria Amaya, therapist at Samaritan Counseling Center in Upland. “Our brains can change,” she says, “and there’s a lot of hope in that.”

Dr. Amaya will be joining us on Friday, April 11, to talk about senior depression and related mental health issues common among the older population. “So many people don’t understand what depression looks like,” she explained. “And if you haven’t had a lot of information, you can be misled. We can retrain our brain.”

Dr. Amaya has been with Samaritan Counseling since 2022. With a doctor of social work from Capella University and a master of social work from the University of Southern California, she brings over two decades of experience to her role at Samaritan. Using a whole person therapeutic approach, Dr. Amaya works with individuals, couples, and families to help them adopt healthier ways of thinking and living. “I enjoy providing the tools of hope to help [my clients] establish a new path to healthier relationships,” she says.

Join us Friday, April 11, to learn what depression is really all about. Bring your questions! Remember we are back to our regular start time of 11:00. After a few worship songs and a devotion, Dr. Amaya will speak. Then we will enjoy a brown bag lunch and fellowship. Beverages are provided – or you can bring your own.

Thank you for your generous donations to support LIFT!

For more information contact Carol Diess, 626-482-8862, or sbbmom@aol.com



Foothill Family Shelter Needs Your Support

Show your love each and any month by bringing your contributions of personal care items. Items needed include **shampoo, bar soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and hand and body lotion.**

APRIL PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1-King	2-Kler	3-Landaker	4-Lutz	5-Masiya
6	7-Mba	8-McClelland	9-McCormack	10-McCrea-Foster	11-McMullen	12-Merryman
13	14-Morgan	15-Mowery	16-Muelchi	17-Mulligan	18-Murdy	19-Ogot
20	21-Oji	22-Olson	23-Pavaella	24-Phillips	25-Pilcher	26-Polchow
27	28-Richardson	29-Righetti	30-Rihs			

Please pray for healing and restoration for:

Jean Vanvieldt, Felicia Foreman, Bill Howie, Lynn McClelland,
Joni Stallings, David Brinkley, Kay Hester, Iris Joiner, Marie Swenson, Bob Summers.
Frank Fogle, Terry King.

Pray for those who are homebound or in convalescent care:

Dolores Karros, John Dooley, Beth Brinkley, Louis Kimes, Florence Lutz
Please call Gael in the office if we need to update any information. Thank you. 909-982-8811.

April Birthdays

01 Christine Frei
01 David Smith
03 Jeff Morgan
03 Mark Polchow
06 Robert Kemngang, Jr.
07 Margaret Williams
09 David Francis
12 Louis Kimes
12 Msa Mba
18 Gweneth Ames
23 Robert Chaffino
23 Sharon Chaffino

24 Julie Emrich
28 Kathy Kler
29 Loreto D'Monte
30 Matt Shool



We would also like to extend birthday greetings to any other **April** babies not on our list. If you know of a member's birthday that needs to be added, please call Gael in the church office @ 982-8811. Thank you, and
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU!

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6pm Serve 7pm Gather	2 9am Coco's Bible Study 5pm Young Disciples and Elevate Praxis 5:30-6:45 pm	3 5:30pm Deacons	4	5 10am Bike Ride
6 10am Worship with Communion	7 5:30pm Bells Personnel	8 9:30am Knitters 5pm Worship 6pm Trustees AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	9 9am Coco's Bible Study 5pm Young Disciples and Elevate Praxis 5:30-6:45 pm	10 6pm OPEN MIC HH	11 11am L.I.F.T.	12
13 10am Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i>	14 5:30pm Bells	15 9:30am Knitters AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	16 9am Coco's Bible Study 5pm Young Disciples and Elevate	17 12:30pm Preschool Board	24 Good Friday Service 6:00pm	5 5:30pm Young Disciples Movie Night
20 10 am Worship 11:15am Egg Hunt <i>Easter</i>	21 5:30pm Bells Office Closed	22 9:30am Knitters 6:30pm Session AA Groups- HH & upstairs	23 9am Coco's Bible Study Last 5pm Young Disciples 5pm Elevate	24 6pm GAME NIGHT HH	25 4-9:30pm Girl Scouts HH	26
27 10 am Worship	28 5:30pm Bells	29 9:30am Knitters AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	30 9am Coco's Bible Study 5pm Elevate			



**GROWING IN CHRIST,
MAKING HIM KNOWN**

Deacons

- Becky Custer
- Heather Decauwer
- Carol Diess
- Sue Fredendall
- Gloria Geiger
- Martha Hebert
- Lisa Murdy
- Margaret Pilcher
- Mark Polchow
- Kim Righetti
- Sue Sindelar

Trustees

- Gary Custer, President
- Sue Frazee, Secretary
- Herb Joiner, Member at Large

Staff

- Noel Anderson, Senior Pastor
- Matt Shool, Youth Ministries
- Kevin Clinton, Children's Ministries
- Jannina Guzman, Office Manager
- Gael Lecce, Receptionist

Elders

- William Anguka
- Gary Custer
- Georgia Decker
- Sue Frazee
- Trevor McMullen
- Pam Polchow
- Randy Righetti
- Van Romine
- Jim Smirl
- Donna Strowger
- Tony Webner

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