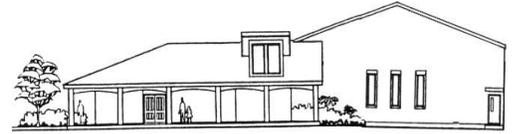


Chinese Presbyterian Church

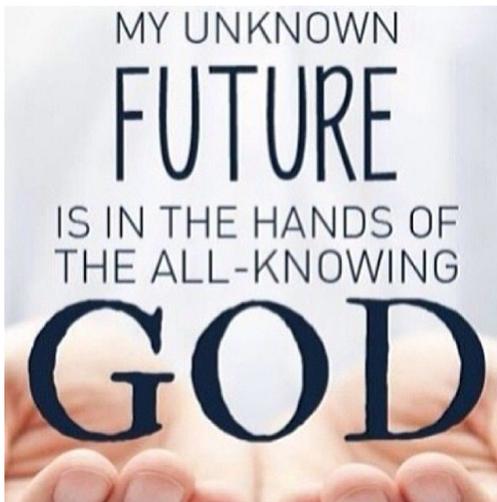
NEWSLETTER

華人長老會 簡訊



(中文翻譯在第六頁和第七頁)

SEPTEMBER 2019



Dear members and friends,

The congregation met with General Presbyter Ron Sutto on August 4 to have a conversation about where our church is and what we see for its future.

We talked about our strengths, our history, why we come to church, things that are important to us.

The eye-opening exercise was one where each participant walked up to a chart and marked an x where on the spectrum of church development we see our church. There was a strong consensus that we are in decline.

More details are provided inside this issue. The conclusion is that we are at a crossroads. If we continue doing what we are doing, our church will continue declining until such

time as we close our doors. The alternative is to take a hard look at what our mission is or can be and reinvent ourselves to become a congregation that serves God and serves the needs of the community in some way. Rev. Sutto and the Presbytery are here to help us find our next steps. Rev. Harry Brown, our moderator, encourages us to dream and consider the possibilities of the future.

Yes, at this point the future is unknown. But if we keep our focus on God and trust Him to show us the way, then we need not fear because Jesus promised, “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Have faith in God; our future, no matter what it may bring, is in His hands.

On behalf of the session, Lila Crotty

Lectionary Scriptures

<u>Sunday, September 1</u> 12th Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14
<u>Sunday, September 8</u> 13th Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33
<u>Sunday, September 15</u> 14th Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10
<u>Sunday, September 22</u> 15th Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 8:18—9:1; Psalm 79:1-9 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
<u>Sunday, September 29</u> 16th Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-16; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 1 Timothy 6:6-15; Luke 16:19-31

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Rally Day	2
Planning for the Future	3
Session Highlights	4
Calendar	5
Translation	6



On Sunday, August 11th we celebrated Sunday School Rally Day at CPC. Linda Lee asked the questions as outlined in the Sunday School Dedication Liturgy. Our Sunday School teachers renewed their commitment to teach our children and adults scriptural lessons. The congregation also committed to bringing up our children to love and praise God.

During the service, Lea Bahra led in the Confession of Sin. Isabella Huang read the Assurance of Pardon. Asia Brown read the Scripture Readings in English. Penny Bahra and Abigail Huang were our ushers, giving out bulletins and collecting offering.



Our children sang the praise song “Thankful” most energetically! We are very excited to see our little ones participating in the worship of God.

Bibles were presented to rising first graders: Penny Bahra, Abigail Huang and Noah Lew. Jillsie Burrows could not be present, but she also received a Bible.

Susan Wilson shared the message from the pulpit.

We thank all who participated in this service. We encourage children and adults as well to take advantage of the opportunities offered to learn more about God’s stories and lessons found in His Holy Word.



Looking to the Future OF THE CPC

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

Members and friends of the CPC met after church on Sunday, August 3rd to discuss the present state, the history and the future of our church. Rev. Ron Sutto, our General Presbyterian led the discussion, assisted by Rev. Harry Brown. The chart on the right showed, in general, the stages of development of a church. Ron explained that the entire process from birth to death takes on average 80 years. Throughout the world, mainstream churches are facing a decline in membership and attendance.

After Ron described the various stages, each person present was given a marker. We each placed an X next to the stage where we thought our congregation was. The consensus was that we are in a decline.

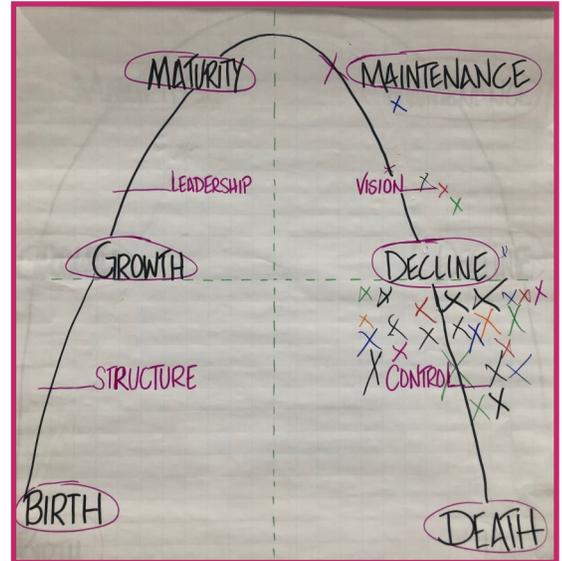
Ron explained how we can learn from Jesus' resurrection and how this model might be applied to a church. We can either continue what we are currently doing and travel down the slope to "Death" or we can die to some of our old ways of doing things, turn around and find new life or "Resurrection" in newer directions. If we focus on ways that we can serve God and be a blessing to our community, then can travel back up the slope.

We are a congregation blessed with faithful members and financial resources. It is up to us to determine our future path.

In a recent sermon, Rev. Martha Robson encouraged us to look at what types of ministries might fit our congregation. She described examples of other of other churches whose ministries revolve around sewing or gardening or feeding the hungry. In our Session meeting, Rev. Harry Brown encouraged us to dream about possible new directions we might take. If we can be energized to take action in new endeavors, we can perhaps turn around the decline.

If we choose the other route, our Presbytery is there to help us to come to a dignified end. Our sister church, Kenner Presbyterian, recently closed its doors and distributed their assets under the guidance and care of the Presbytery. Their donations to numerous charities are a blessing to so many people.

No matter where we go, our God promises, *"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Please continue in prayer as we discern our future. Share your thoughts and dreams with a member of the Session and consider what you will do to contribute your ideas, time and effort.



CIRCLE #3 BIBLE STUDY & PANDA'S SENIOR GROUP

Circle # 3 Bible Study and Prayer Meeting will resume meeting on Tuesday, September 10th at 10:30am at church. This group is expanding their focus and will pray for the concerns of our congregation. All are invited to join!

The **Panda Seniors** group will meet on Thursday, September 19th for exercise, fellowship and lunch. Their meeting begins at 10:0am at church. Come and join the group!

- We continue to collect pop tabs for donation to Ronald McDonald House.
- We are also collecting your empty plastic pill bottles for Doctors Without Borders. Labels should be removed. Linda Lew is our contact person.





Nominating Committee

Your CPC Nominating Committee will be meeting to prepare a list of candidates for the office of Deacon and Elder. Please consider prayerfully whether you will accept or decline. Currently the business of the church is being led by three elders and three deacons. We cannot continue to operate on a shoestring. We need your energy, your new ideas and your leadership to help determine the future direction of our church. How will you answer the call?

An effort is underway to identify all Chinese-Americans who fought in World War II. The intent is to recognize the achievements and contributions of this greatest generation. These veterans would now range in age from 88 to 101 years old. There is a nation wide database to collect the information on all Chinese American WWII veterans. If you have a relative who served, please relay that information to Winston Ho at his email address winstonho0805a@gmail.com



Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project



Who Will Fill Our Pulpit?

Come and join us on Sunday mornings as we sing praises and worship our God.

September 1—Rev. Martha Robson

September 8—Rev. Martha Robson

September 15—Rev. John Spaulding

September 22—Rev. John Spaulding

September 29—Mollie Morris

October 6 —Rev, Martha Robson, Communion Service

Save the Date! Sunday, October 27th is our Fall Worship Service at Lafreniere Park at 10:30am under Shelter #7. The carousel is reserved for us from 11:30am-1:30pm. Bring a picnic lunch and chairs!

Pizza & Games Nights will be held Friday, September 27th from 6pm—8pm. Come and share a meal and enjoy the fellowship.

Session News

Here are the highlights of the Stated Session Meeting on August 20th, 2019:

- The pulpit is filled through October.
- Arrow Pest Control continues to monitor for pests.
- The lines in the parking lot have been repainted by Can-B-Clean. Thanks to Ed Lee for seeking the bids and to Nellie Underwood for being the contact person
- The Deacons are getting estimates from roofers to repair leaks.
- Quong Lee, Jr. and his friend are addressing problems with the ice maker.
- Lila Crotty worked with AT&T over the course of several weeks to ensure the proper working of our Internet service.
- Our next Communion Service is October 6th which is World Communion Sunday.
- Next Session Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24th at 7pm at church.

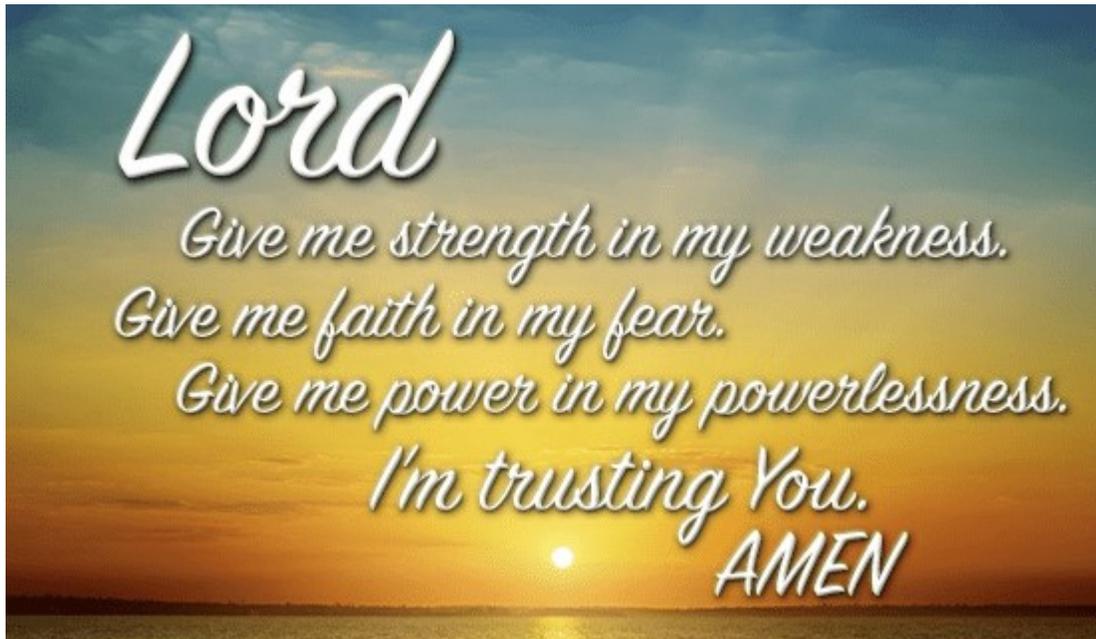
September



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Rev. Martha Robson	2 LABOR DAY Chinese Dance 7:30pm-9:30pm	EVERY SUNDAY 9:45 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Adult Worship 11:15 Children's Worship 12:00 Coffee/Fellowship 12:30 Choir Practice		5	6	7 Line Dance 10am-noon
8 Rev. Martha Robson	9 Chinese Dance 7:30pm-9:30pm	10 Circle #3 Bible Study and Prayer 10:30am	11	12	13	14 Line Dance 10am-noon
15 Rev. John Spaulding	16 Chinese Dance 7:30pm-9:30pm	17	18	19 Panda Group 10am	20	21 Line Dance 10am-noon
22 Rev. John Spaulding	23 Chinese Dance 7:30pm-9:30pm	24 Session Meeting 7:00pm	25	26	27 Pizza & Games Night 6:00-8:00pm	28 Line Dance Fall Party 10am-3pm
29 Molly Morris	30 Chinese Dance 7:30pm-9:30pm					

Volunteers for SEPTEMBER

DATE	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	SCRIPTURE READERS		USHERS	COFFEE HOSTS	A/V OPERATOR
		English	Chinese			
Sep 1	Mayling Hew	Mayling Hew	Theobald Wan	Carolyn & Margaret Chin	Mrs. Yook Sim Yee	Ed Lee
Sep 8	Nellie Underwood	Ming Joe	LeiPin He	Maurice & Jeanette Hew	Dennis and Debbie Jee	Ming Joe
Sep 15	Susan Hom	May Wong	May Lee	Sonny & Mayling Hew	David and Nellie Underwood	LeiPin He
Sep 22	Sonny Hew	Ed Lee	Lena Chow	Dennis & Hannah Jee	Lena Chow	Ming Joe
Sep 29	Lindsay Shin	Susan Hom	Frank Yam	Henry Hom, Alfred Yee	Tim & Lila Crotty	Frank Yam



親愛的會友，

8月4日，本會與長老會羅恩·蘇托牧師開會，討論本教會的行程以及景視教會未來的進行。我們談論到本會的長處，歷史，我們來教堂的原因及對我們非常重要的事情。使人大開眼界的練習是每個會員和會友，行前到一張圖表上顯示出我們認為教會發展光譜上目前的地位。大家強烈認為教會正在是在衰落的時候。此問題在本簡訊中將會提供更多詳細資訊。結論是，我們正處在十字路口。如果我們繼續做我們正在所做的事情，教會將會繼續衰落，直到我們關門為止。另一種選擇是認真審視我們的使命，並重塑自己，成為一個為上帝事奉的教會，以某種方式服務于社區需要的會眾。蘇托牧師和長老會將一起合作來找尋到下一步驟。本會的主持…哈裡·布朗牧師鼓勵我們夢想，考慮未來的可能性。是的，目前本會的未來是未知的。但若我們把注意力集中在神上，並相信他會把道路指引給我們，那麼我們就不必害怕，因為耶穌承諾，「看哪，我永遠與你同在一起，到這個時代的盡頭。」對上帝有信心；我們的未來，無論它可能帶來什麼，都在他的手中。

代會議會寫作，陳麗坤長老

主日學集會崇拜… 8月11日（星期日），本會慶祝主日學校集會主日崇拜。由朱麗儀引導『主日學校奉獻禮儀』概述問題。本會的主日學校教師再次承諾教導兒和成年人的經文課程。會眾也承諾致力於培養我們的兒童去愛和讚美上帝。

在崇拜時間，愛莉·包樺引領閱讀『崇拜宣召』。黃若瑜引領閱讀『赦罪宣告』。愛莎·佈朗閱讀英文聖經。愛萍·包樺和黃若婷作為崇拜的引導，她們分發崇拜程序表並收集奉獻。兒童積極地演唱讚美歌『感謝』！會眾非常興奮看到我們的小朋友參與對神的崇拜。所有升級到一年級的學生，愛愛萍·包樺，黃若婷和Noah Lew都被呈現聖經。Jillsie Burrows雖然不能出席，她也會得到一本聖經。譚碧霞長老是當日的講道者。本會感謝所有參加引領這項崇拜的人員。我們鼓勵兒童和成年人也利用所提供的機會，在他的聖言中能更多地瞭解神的故事和教訓。

婦女第3圈查經班和熊貓前輩小組… 婦女第3圈聖經研究和祈禱會議將於9月10日星期二上午10時半在教堂恢復會議。這個小組正在擴大他們的焦點，並將為我們教會的關注祈禱。各會友都歡迎和邀請加入！熊貓前輩小組將於9月19日（星期四）會面，進行鍛煉，聯誼和午餐。他們的會議是在上午10時在教堂舉行。請來加入這個團契吧！

使命… 1)我們繼續收集汽水鋁合金的開匙給『麥當勞之家』。2)我們也收集你們空的塑膠藥瓶。請刪除去標籤。這些是提供給『無國界醫生』所用。

展望華人長老會的未來… 華人長老會的會員和教友在崇拜後開會，討論我們教會的現狀，歷史和未來。在哈裡·布朗牧師的協助下長老會的羅恩·蘇托牧師領導我們的討論。在英文版的圖表顯示一般教會的發展階段。蘇托牧師解釋說，一個教會從出生到死亡的整個過程，平均需要80年。在全世界，主流教會都面臨著會員人數和出席人數的下降。在蘇托牧師解釋了教會各階段之後，在場的每個人都得到一個機會在各人認為教會目前所在的階段旁邊放置一個X標記。共識是，本會是處於衰退的階段。蘇托牧師繼續解釋我們如何能從耶穌的復活中吸取到教訓，以及如何將這種模式應用於教會裡。一方面我們可以繼續我們目前所做的方式，沿著斜坡直至『死亡』，或我們可改變我們一些古老做事的方式，轉身尋找新的生命或『復活』在較新的方向。如果我們專注于為

神服務的方式，並成為我們社區的祝福，那麼我們就可以回到斜坡之上。我們是一個擁有忠實成員和財政資源的會眾。本會的未來道路是由我們來作決定的。在最近的一次講道中，羅布森牧師鼓勵我們研究什麼樣的事工會適合我們的教會。她描述了其他教會的例子，這些教會的事工圍繞著縫紉，園藝或給饑餓的人提供食物。在本會的會議會中，哈裡·布朗牧師鼓勵我們夢想我們可能採取的新方向。若我們能在新的努力中採取行動，也許我們能扭轉這個衰退。

若我們選擇『死亡』的一條路，長老會能幫助我們達到一個有尊嚴的結局。我們的姐妹教會，肯納長老會，最近關閉了門，在長老會的指導和照顧下分配他們的資產。他們對眾多慈善機構的捐贈給許多人得到很好的祝福。無論我們走到哪裡，我們的神都承諾，「看哪，凡我所吩咐你們的，都教訓他們遵守我就常與你們同在，直到世界的末了。」請為本會未來繼續祈禱。與會議會成員分享你的思想和夢想，並考慮如何貢獻你的想法，時間和精力。

*耶和華說、我知道我向你們所懷的意念、是賜平安的意念、
不是降災禍的意念、要叫你們末後有指望。* 耶利米書29:11

提名委員會…本會提名委員會將召開會議，為執事和長老辦公室準備候選人名單。請為你接受或拒絕作禱告。目前，教會的業務是由三位長老和三名執事領導。我們不能繼續用如鞋帶一樣地操作。本會需要你的精力，新想法和領導來協助決定教會的未來方向。請求你將會如何接納這呼召呢？

確認在第二次世界大戰當軍的美籍華人…一項努力正在確認所有參加過第二次世界大戰的美籍華人。目的是承認這一個偉大一代的成就和貢獻。這些退籍軍人的年齡是從88歲到101歲不等。若你有一個親戚服過，請轉遞這些資訊給何先生，他的電子郵件地址是《winstonho0805a@gmail.com》。美國有一個全國範圍的資料庫來收集所有關於美籍華人退籍軍人的資訊。

誰將填補我們的講壇？ 九月一日及八日…羅布森牧師。九月十五日及二十二日…史保定牧師。九月二十九日…莫莉·莫里斯。十月六日…羅布森牧師。十月二十日…史保定牧師。保存日期！10月27日（星期日）上午10時半本會將在拉弗雷尼埃公園的第7避難所舉行秋季室外崇拜。旋轉木馬從上午11時半至下午1時半為各會友保留使用。請帶上野餐午餐和椅子來一起交誼！

會議會新詢…以下是8月20日舉行的會議會的重點：1)講壇牧師提供至10月。2)箭頭害蟲公司繼續監測本會的害蟲程況。3)停車場的車位線已由 Can-B-Clean 重新粉刷。感謝李顯權尋求投標，也感謝葉月蓮負責連絡。4)執事會正在尋獲屋頂修復洩漏的估算。5)李國榮和他的朋友正在解決與制冰器具的問題。6)陳麗坤在過去數周與 AT&T 合作來確保本會電腦網站的正常服務。7)本會下一個聖餐崇拜是在10月6日舉行，也是世界聖餐星期日。下一個聖餐聖禮是在6月2日舉行。

意大利薄餅和遊戲晚：7月26日和9月27日晚上6時至8時將行意大利薄餅和遊戲夜。請來分享薄餅，享受團契！

主啊，在我的弱點裡給我力量。給我信心，我的恐懼。在無能為力中給我力量。我相信你。





Chinese Presbyterian Church

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Come and see what God is doing!

**We're on the web:
www.cpckenner.org**

CHURCH STAFF & OFFICERS

CHURCH STAFF	ELDERS	DEACONS
Tom Petterson / <i>Choir Master</i>	Nellie Underwood / <i>Clerk of Session</i>	Ed Lee
Tyrone Jackson / <i>Janitor</i>	Lila Crotty / <i>Personnel & Nominating</i>	Michelle Lee
Lila Crotty / <i>Secretary</i>	Susan Hom / <i>Finance & Membership</i>	Linda Lew

VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

Our vision is that the Chinese Church is a growing church family. We are dedicated to worship, Christian education, active witnessing for Jesus Christ and community service.

The mission of the Chinese Presbyterian Church is to proclaim the Good News of God and His love while establishing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by enhancing spiritual growth through worship, teaching the Bible, and fellowship. We desire to show God's compassion through caring and service to the community.