



The Pastor's Ponderings

Light can be magical. The milky way with grasp. Wishing on a star... Fireflies put on a show that is still magical and new

Then there is Ray the firefly in Disney's Princess and the Frog! His character represents true love, constant friendship and absolute Sincerity.

And what about fire works?

I just loved them as a kid. Especially the snakes and sparklers! I doubt I ever saw anything bigger than a 12 foot cone, but they were huge in my eyes and oh, so exciting.

Living in the city of Orance as a student at Chapman University, my apartment balcony looked out on the nightly 9 pm firework display at Disneyland! Every single night!

By that time and after, in Long Beach there was a fire works show every night on the Queen Mary, all thru the summer. It was kind of like hearing the town clock chime! You always knew when 9 pm came.

Then, when I lived in the dorms at my Seminary, Pacific School of Religion, I could watch all of the displays from San Francisco, across the bay, just by looking out my bedroom window or by climbing up on the rooftop balcony

The Feste Italia was really something else. It was the most beautiful show I had ever seen! They had varieties of purples and blues and pinks and reds, not just the primary colors, as I had seen before that. And the shows were so far across the Bay, that there were no booms to take away from the miraculous colors!

Then every year after, the rest of the world seemed to catch up with that show's amazing pyrotechnics!

Then, I moved to Hawaii, and experienced New Years Eve in the islands. You see, the Fourth is a small celebration, no bigger than any other state. But New Years Eve! Now THAT was a heck of a party. It seemed like every family in town spent a month's wages on professional pyrotechnics from China. It was like nothing I had ever seen or heard.

And the firecrackers!! People would compete up and down the long Avenue on which the church and parsonage were set.

The grown men, mostly, set out rows and rows of firecrackers in car wide swaths that went on several houses long. And when they finally ignited them, it was nonstop and unbelievably **loud** popping, which went on and on and on.

Possibly the most interesting and most unusual fireworks display I ever experienced was when I went to stay in the beach city of La Paz, on the inner end of Baja, California in Mexico. I was staying in La Paz for a two month long language immersion class. I lived with a local family and went to class all day.

September 16 fell during my time there, and our class was taken to the center of town, for a celebration called El Grito (the Cry or the Shout) de Dolores, which honors and remembers September 16, 1810, when Roman catholic priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla rang his church bell and gave the call to arms that triggered the Mexican War of Independence.

There were speeches and traditional Mexican handmade fireworks set up to look like Father Hidalgo, the current President and the Mexican flag. When the fireworks went off, suddenly the skies went white with foggy smoke and ash and cinders began to fall from the sky! None of the locals seemed bothered, so we went along with them.

At a certain time, came El Grito - when all those gathered, along with all the folk at home or in shops in town, join together call out "Viva Hidalgo", or "Viva Mexico", or just "Vivian!" in response to the recitation of a list of historic and modern leaders names.

That was really the first time I had ever thought of the fireworks we light as representing the fire fights of actual war. It was shocking, and took away some of the simple thrill of watching the pyrotechnics.

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When Bonnie and I moved to Pasadena just 4 years ago, we lived on a hill very near the city of Los Angeles. Suddenly we could not only hear the fireworks on our street, but echoing from all over the LA Valley and the hills of the city of LA itself.

It was the strangest thing. First of all it sounded like I imagine a battleground would sound, with explosions nearby, and also the constant rumble of the fire fights going on all around and even, at great distances; the noise going on day and night for days on end.

And that is when Bonnie Jean first became terrified of fireworks explosions.

Now here, in Cape it wasn't so bad in preparation for the 4th of July. Just some pop-its and fire crackers and a cherry bomb in a dumpster once or twice a day.

I learned that until recently, there had been a tradition of gathering at church for food and fireworks that has recently slowed down.

This year we had planned to have a Safely Distanced fireworks watch party at church. A bring your own snack and chair and mask affair. Then the City determined that they must cancel the municipal show at Arena Park, due to the upswing in Covid cases of late. So we canceled our gathering, too.

Then I got some calls saying, there's no reason we can't watch the local neighborhood shows. So we passed the word out that it was back on if folk wanted to come out.

The Wells family had the most folk, because they were celebrating a granddaughter's graduation and brought a whole slew of family!

The 6 others of us from church showed up along with some 30+ odd town folk, who had the same idea that the ARCC lot would be a great place to watch from.

I wonder... maybe next year we could offer cold drinks and popcorn and cotton candy as a hospitality gift? We could really welcome folk to our little slice of heaven. Sounds like a grand time to me!

In the meantime, keep your God-Love Lights shining!!

May Blessings come down on you like cooling rain showers.



Your Pastor E

PS

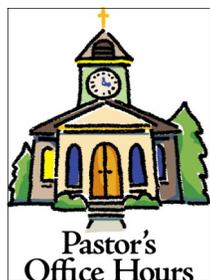
Want to have a Pastoral visit? I am scheduling front porch, masked and safely distanced visits! **Call (562.396.8039), email (pastorelaines@gmail.com), or text me directly!**

PPS

Please Sign up in the church office to be a worship leader reading scripture, celebrating the offering or Communion. Some parts of the service can be done as audio files recorded on the phone. Communion is recorded on Wednesday afternoon to early evening in the sanctuary.

Contact me or sign up by calling Melanie in the office.

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I have **new office hours!** I'll be working at home on Monday and Tuesday, in church on Wednesday and Thursday and off Friday and Saturday. Sunday is worship and fellowship time and visits or calls can be arranged! ~Pastor E



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Movie Night with Jamie By ZOOM!

You know it can be done cause your grandkids have told you about their game and movie nights with friends! So why not us?

If movies with friends with no Covid risk sounds good to you, **contact Jamie (270-5491) or Melanie (335-3422).**

Same if you like the idea of an **Zoom or Facebook Live Book Club.**

Other cool ideas:

◎ **Weekly quiet meditation time** or

◎ **Chatting and weeding in the Gardens.** (your choice) Perhaps Monday mornings?

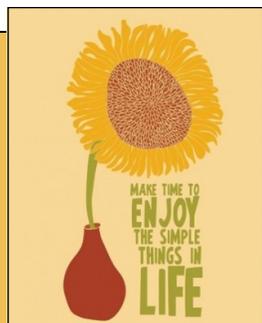
Call Pastor Elaine. (562.396.8039)

◎ **Zoom Facebook Live Prayer gathering** Call Pastor E

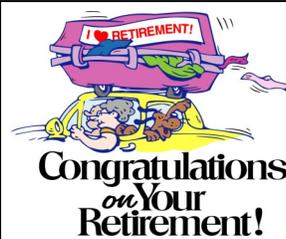


Join Us!

- Our sympathy is extended to Terry & Janie Wright in the passing of Terry's step-father, Thomas J. Buckley.



The intent for the
Meditation/Centering
Prayer group on July
12 is SIMPLICITY.



Congratulations to **David Dickey** on his retirement from the Cape Girardeau Career & Technology Center, where he was Adult Education Supervisor. Dave's last day at the Center was June 30.

We wish you the best in this next chapter of you life!



John & Deborah Browne, Luther Hunt, Maxie McKenzie & family, Mark Faith, Bill Cox, Joe Robb Blattner, Debbie McCormick, Susan Spooler, Carol Gleason, Liz Meyer, Debbie Bradley, Dawn Knoderer, Kim Farrar Frank, George & Helen Amick, Iris Likens, Pat Murray & Wally Allstun, Ed Sheridan & Nita Brackin, Pauline Filla, Martha D., Mary Hendrix, Ken Bohnsack, Wayne Piker, Kim Wells Schott, frontline workers, Felicia Fox, Henry S., relatives & friends serving in the military, all who are hurting, lonely, and afraid.

Do you have someone to add to our prayer list? Please inform the church office or fill out a form found at the back of the sanctuary.