

The Parish VISITOR



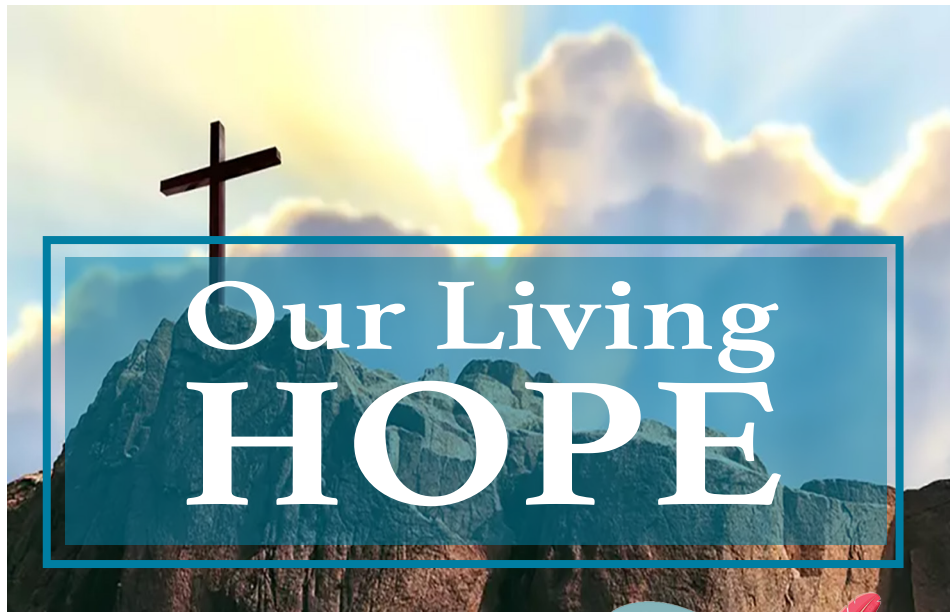
"Be Transformed...By the renewing of your minds."- Romans 12:2 - NIV

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
4011 Clinton St., Los Angeles, CA 90004-2298
The REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY, Pastor

cpchollywood.org

**APRIL
2023**

VOL. LXXV11 NO. 4



Our Living HOPE

your pastor writes

By REV. STEPHEN M. BAROLDY



Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to all our *Parish Visitor* readers. The following is the Resurrection Day message given at CPC. I pray it will give you fresh hope.

Our Living Hope (1 Pet 1:3) Easter April 9, 2023.

Introduction: The title of today's message is "Our Living Hope." 1 Pet 1:3 says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In

his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

This wonderful verse tells us that those who receive, and follow Jesus Christ have been born into a "living hope." And, we all need hope, don't we? Hope for today and hope for tomorrow. I want to briefly reflect this morning on this promise of "living hope."

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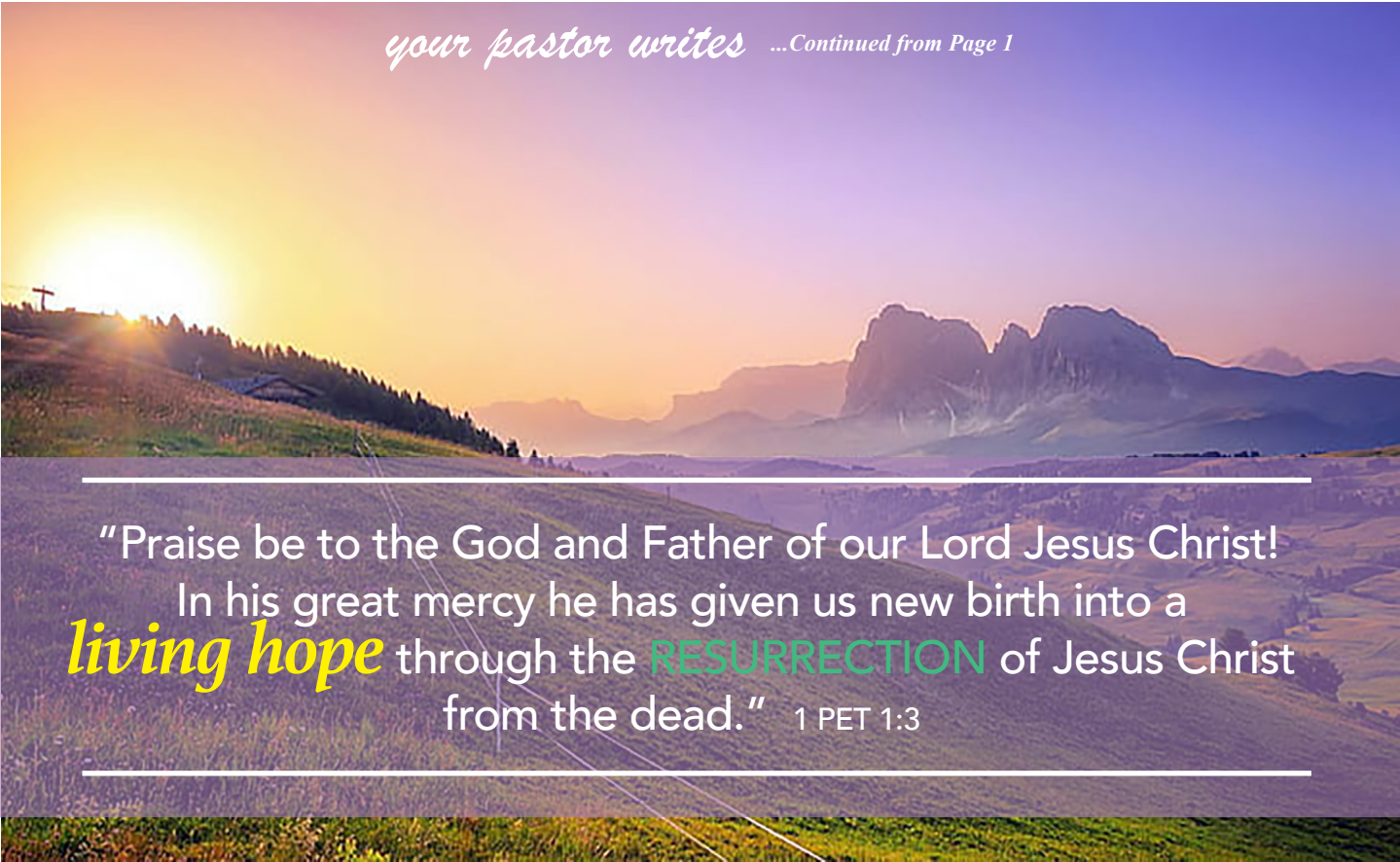
JOIN US AT
CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD

In addition to the in-person worship, we continue to stream the service on Zoom for those unable to attend in-person.

The invitation for joining the service can be found at the events page on our website at cpchollywood.org.

You can send in your prayer requests PRIOR to the service via email to sbaroldy@gmail.com or text at 323-202-5078.

Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood is an intentional, healing community; proclaiming and demonstrating the wholeness of life offered in JESUS CHRIST.



“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a
living hope through the **RESURRECTION** of Jesus Christ
from the dead.” 1 PET 1:3

Our Living Hope Springs from Living Water: The first point I want to make is this. Our living hope springs from living water.

I want to begin with a story. Long ago and far, far away, I attended college at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. It’s amazing to think that was fifty years ago!

One fall day my room-mate and I decided to climb to the top of the San Francisco peaks which are just outside of Flagstaff. These peaks are the six tallest peaks in Arizona with Mt. Humphreys topping out at 12,633 ft.

We decided to hike up the backside of the peaks, through what was called the Inner Basin. The Inner Basin of the peaks was a spectacularly, beautiful valley. We walked through groves of Aspen trees with their white bark and golden yellow leaves shimmering against a deep blue sky.

The Inner Basin was not as steep a hike as going up the front side of the peaks. The downside was it was a much longer hike. In fact, the hike was 7 ½ miles up and 7 ½ miles back down.

I remember the day we hiked the basin. It was a stunning, early fall day. A cool, gentle breeze on our faces in the morning. Then, the warmth of the sun in the afternoon.

And it was quiet. No car sounds; no airplane noise; no people talking to each other. Just the whisper of the wind through the Aspen leaves. And birds chirping, calling out to each other. Glorious. A perfect day for a hike.

I also remember, after completing the 15 mile hike, I was barely able to walk for about two days because I was so sore. And, then, I limped for another couple of weeks. I just wasn’t in shape for that long and hard of a climb.

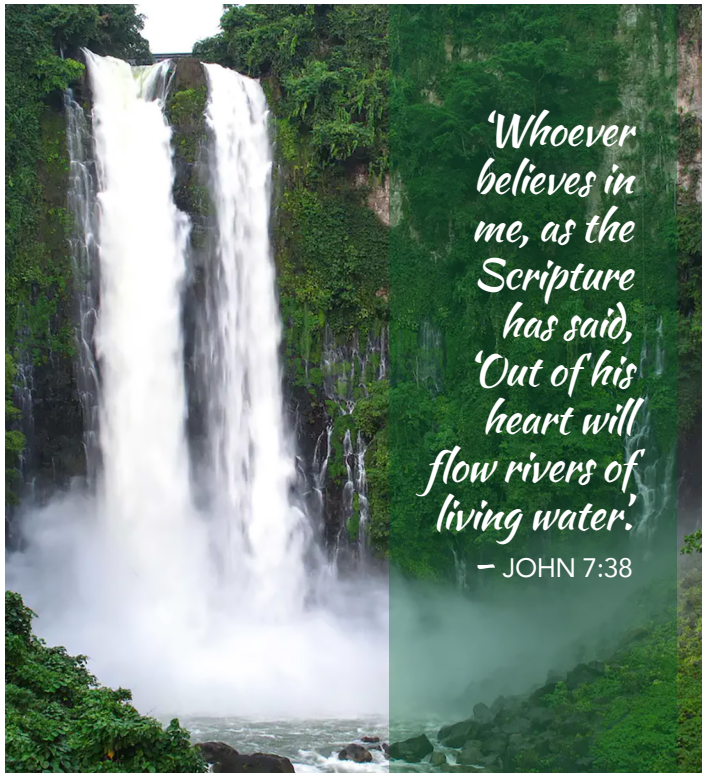
But the thing I remember best is that on the way down the valley, we came to a spring gushing up from the floor of the basin. It had a grate over it to keep out large debris. The bars on the grate were just wide enough that you could get a cup down through it and fill your cup with the **living** water that bubbled up. It’s called living water because it’s always moving, not stagnant.

And I tell you, after 6 hours of climbing up and about an hour of climbing down, I was seriously exhausted. I was already limping badly. Both my body and my spirit were in desperate need of refreshment. The living water from that spring was pure, clear and ice cold. It had just a bit of mineral taste to it. And, the best part, it was available in never ending supply. No matter how much I drank, it just kept bubbling up.

It was the best tasting water I have ever had. I drank, and drank and drank, of the living water from that spring and I was restored. That water gave me the boost I needed to make it back to the car where I promptly collapsed.

Just like that hike, life is a beautiful journey. There is beauty all around us. Yet, life can be exhausting. Amen! It can leave us limping and sore. And, we often need a boost to keep going. We need refreshment. We need hope.

The **living** hope we have in Jesus Christ is just like the



living water from that spring. It is never ending. It just keeps bubbling up. Our living hope refreshes us. It encourages us. It gives us the boost we need to keep going.

This story might remind you of the “living water” spoken of in scripture. In the gospel of John, chapter 7, Jesus talks about living water. John 7:37-39 says, *“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”* (John 7:37–39, ESV)

Here, Jesus talks about his followers receiving the Holy Spirit after he was glorified, meaning after Jesus was crucified, resurrected, and then ascended back into heaven.

Jesus said, if we believe in him as the scripture says. In other words, that we believe he is God come in the flesh; that he is the promised Savior; that he came to give us eternal life; then out of our hearts will flow rivers of “living water,” or rivers of the Holy Spirit.

The rivers of the Holy Spirit are always moving. There is always an abundance of living water available. These rivers of the Spirit contain life, and encouragement, and healing, and hope.

Again, our scripture says, “In his great mercy [God] has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the

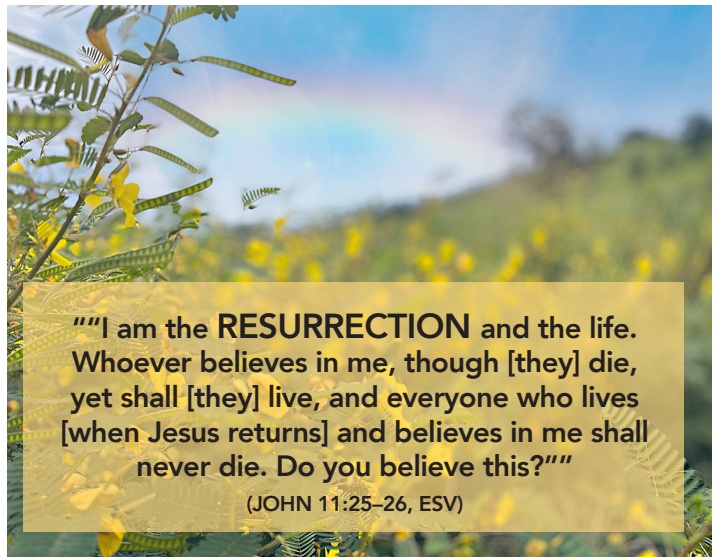
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” These rivers are available to us because our Lord Jesus Christ died and rose again.

Our living hope, continually refreshed by the living waters of the Holy Spirit, is always there to restore us; living hope is always there to refresh us when the trials of life wear us down. Our living hope is always there, especially, when we come to a place of desperate need.

Let’s just take a moment. I want to pray. Father, would you release afresh the living waters of the Holy Spirit inside of us. Would you release afresh living hope for today. Amen!

Our living hope’s foundation is a living Savior: We can count on our living hope because it is based on a solid foundation. Our living hope is based on the historical fact that Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead. Our living hope is based on a living Savior. A Savior who died, in our place, for our sins, and who was then brought back to life by the power of God.

When God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, God brought life out of death. Resurrection is life out of death. Life that never dies again. Jesus’ resurrection is the sure foun-



dation of our living hope.

No matter what mountain of trial we are climbing; no matter what valley of tribulation we are going through, living hope, based on a living Savior, springs up to sustain us.

If God can bring life out of death, then we know God can bring life to every dire situation we find ourselves in. Every situation: including illness; including financial calamity; including broken relationships; and especially including death.

In John 11:25-26, Jesus says, *“I am the resurrection*

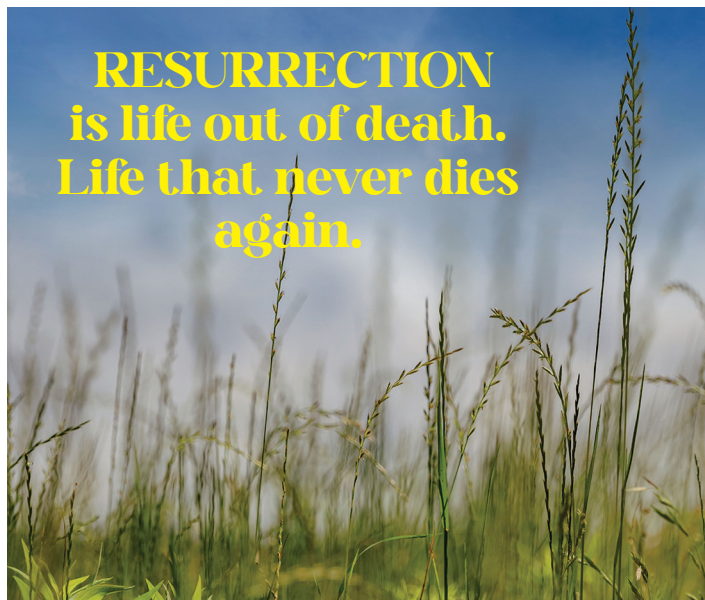
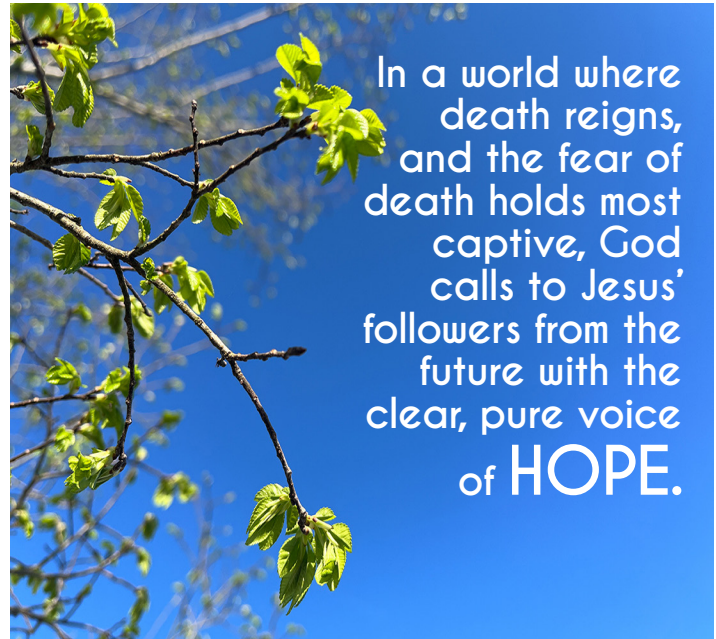
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and the life. Whoever believes in me, though [they] die, yet shall [they] live, and everyone who lives [when Jesus returns] and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25–26, ESV)

Jesus says he is the resurrection and the life. This means resurrection and life is found in his person. Jesus is the source of resurrection. And Jesus is the source of life.

Therefore, when you are in Jesus Christ, you never die. The light of your life always continues to shine in the darkness. Yes, our earthly body may die. But the essential you, the part of you Jesus gives eternal life to, this life never dies. It just goes on into the next phase of life in the everlasting presence of God.

And, when Jesus returns, the essential you will receive a new resurrection body, a body just like Jesus' resurrection body, a body that will never again die. And we will be whole, body and spirit, for all eternity. And that, my friends, is "living



hope."

Our living hope is not wishing: Now, let's talk about hope for a moment. When most people say "hope," what they really mean is "wish."

Here's what I mean. You are in a hospital emergency room. There's been a tragic accident or someone has a terminal disease. And the doctor comes out and tries to prepare you for the worst. And, in response, you or someone else says, "All we can do now is hope for the best." That hope is really a wish.

Oh, you might cling to the wish based on the doctor's expertise, or medical technology, or medical science. But we all know that at some point, doctors and technology and science will fail. They will let us down. And if worse comes to

worse, and your loved one dies, now where is your hope?

The Bible says there is no hope outside of Jesus Christ because hope outside of Christ has no foundation. You see, without God who can bring life out of death, death renders everything futile. It renders everything meaningless. Oh, it might be sunny and beautiful today as you drive down the highway of life. But death is always in the backseat cackling, "Enjoy it now because it won't last. I'm still going to get you in the end."

But God says otherwise. In a world where death reigns, and the fear of death holds most captive, God calls to Jesus' followers from the future with the clear, pure voice of hope.

God says, "hey, it's okay. I'm here. And when you die, you get to be with me and everything will be glorious." That is not a wish. That is living hope. A living hope that comes from a living Savior; a living hope that eternally bubbles up within us through the living waters of the Holy Spirit. A living hope that allows us to fully live and enjoy life today.

The living hope we have through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is available to everyone. It simply requires a response to what Jesus Christ has already done.

Let's pray. "Yes, Jesus, I want this living hope. I'm tired of living in the fear of death. I'm tired of doing life my way. I now want to do it your way. I repent of my sins and ask for your forgiveness through Jesus Christ. I open my heart to you Jesus. Please come in and take over. Please release the living waters of the Holy Spirit within me." Amen!

See you next month,
Pastor Steve

FINANCIAL REPORT

**MARCH
2023**



	<u>MARCH 2023</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Receipts	\$ 9,214	\$ 26,952
Disbursements	\$ 12,356	\$ 43,213
Increase (Deficit)	(\$ 3,142)	(\$ 16,267)

“Per a suggestion from a reader, we are looking into adding a payment link to our newsletter to make it easier to contribute.”

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy Will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom and
the Power and the Glory forever.

Amen

Gifts & Offering



We are grateful for your continued generosity in supporting our ministry.

Please consider sending a gift or donation to:

**Christ Presbyterian Church of Hollywood
4011 Clinton Street, Los Angeles, CA 90004**

The Cheerful Giver

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully[a] will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency[b] in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

- 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-8



Join us in
Worship

SUNDAYS at 11:00 A.M.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/384758031?pwd=ZnEySIBjL1VkuMhiTWRCREdmZVhJZz09>

Meeting ID: 384 758 031

Password: 351955

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,384758031# US (San Jose)

+13462487799,,384758031# US (Houston)

*“With all prayer and petition
pray at all times in the
Spirit,*

*and with this in view, be on the alert with all
perseverance and petition for all the saints...*

(Eph. 6:18)



Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING:

- Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC) as a people of God have entered their 100th year of community. “A people called out to worship our Lord Jesus Christ and to witness to HIS Love for the world.” There has been 100 years of continuous prayer for the saints near and far from CPC. And a crying out for GOD’s grace and mercy for those who are not yet saints.

- We are thankful! that “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence...” (Ephesian 1:7-8)

- Sueko has returned to worship with us at the church building! WooHoo. She looks good as new.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING:

“¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)

- Tom Chinen’s sister, Irene, died the first of March. Out of 11 siblings there are only 3 left of which Tom is one.

FOR SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR HEALING:

- Brian - has done well with his previous rounds of chemotherapy but the symptoms are getting stronger with each round. Praying for complete healing.

- Irene - in caring for her mother Harumi, is vulnerable to twisted back and ankles. Please pray for repair and strength for each day. Harumi, relief from headaches and the strengthening of her legs.

- Alice – her ulcerative colitis is still in flair mode. Praying that the bye weekly injections will kick in and put her in remission mode.

- Phillip Nozaki – healing

- Michiko recovering from a hospital stay.

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE HOME BOUND
OR IN A CARE FACILITY:**

Teresa Peterek (in extended care. Asked for pastoral care.) Leland Hayashi, Joan Janecek, Barbara Kashiwagi, Kimi Fujitani, Karen Koranye, Frank Morimoto, Janet Nozaki, Jean Sakai, Irene Mayeda caring for her mother Harumi. May each one daily know the comfort and care of our Lord Jesus Christ. And may they each be filled with hope and strength needed for each day.

GENERAL:

- Denise, Brian’s wife, please pray for wisdom for how to best to care for advocate for Brian in this season of Chemo. For courage that comes

from trusting in our Father in Heaven. For strength that comes with the hope that Holy Spirit provides.

- Susan – prosper her business
- Please pray that four Muslim boys, Zion, Ryan, Ammar, Kareem would go to Young Life camp this summer.
- Family and friends - hunger for righteousness: David, Frank, Caylee...
- Paty has been through a very difficult year. Please pray for healing, restoration and hope.

MISSION PARTNERSHIP: YOUNG LIFE



Loving on teenage, foster care, moms, communicating that they are GOD's own treasures. Young Life.



Leaving hostile homes, two high school students are living in the living room of a Young Life leader's and roommate's two bedroom apartment. Young Life.

²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20 & 21)

(April 2023)

HOW CAN WE *pray* FOR YOU?

If you have prayer requests, you can send them via email or text PRIOR to our service each Sunday. My email is sbaroldy@gmail.com. You can text me at 323-202-5078.

CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD



**SUNDAYS at 11:00 A.M.
IN-PERSON OR ON ZOOM**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/384758031?pwd=ZnEySIBjL1VkUmhiTWRCREdmZVhJZz09>

Meeting ID: 384 758 031
Password: 351955
One tap mobile
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+13462487799,,384758031# US (Houston)

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DATED MATERIAL

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(323) 665-3581

