



**As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and He said to him, “Follow Me.” And he rose and followed Him.**

**~ Matthew 9:9**

“Follow Me.” These seem easy enough words. Not all the time. Waiting for my doctor’s appointment one morning an impatient nurse came to the waiting room and called my name. I gathered up my stuff, and turned to follow her, but she was gone, the swinging door was swiftly closing on its hydraulic hinges. I hurried through and caught only a glimpse of her sensible shoes as she turned a corner speeding down the hall without me. I quickened my pace and soon was lost in the honeycombed hallways between exam rooms. Finally, when I could not find her, I returned to the receptionist’s desk and told her that I’d lost my guide; and I will tell you that that nurse was not best pleased when she had to come back out to escort me to the right room. Apparently it was not that urgent after all; the doctor took more than an hour and a quarter to come in to see me.

Following is not always easy. Jesus calls us to follow Him, and although His patience is much more than this nurse’s was, He sometimes calls us to difficult places, like a pandemic, or civil unrest in our cities, revisiting and rehashing old ethnic wounds, re-thinking how we are going to do school in the fall, or participating in a presidential election that is the weirdest in recent history. Our isolation has had the bitter side effect of limiting our sources of information mostly to what we can see on screens, and these tend to exacerbate fear and rage, rather than giving resources for help in these

times. But still Jesus calls us to follow Him, and there is great hope in Christ.

I want to say, “Well done” to our Stanford Presbyterian Church family. We have followed Christ in new and unusual ways these past few months. The elders have taken our health and safety seriously, and have spent the time to understand the unique problems we face, and to find resources and spend money on them to keep us safe at home or at church. Lots of volunteers have stepped up to help clean the church, to set up extra needed equipment, and to provide alternatives to our in person activities. Tim McHargue had continued to provide his excellent music, and the choir members have stepped up to keep us singing. When we opened back up all of you were so willing to observe the unusual directives for worship: socially distanced seating and travel in the sanctuary, wearing masks, and tuning in on line when necessary. Sunday school and many of our activities have continued online, Barley Basket distributions have increased and been maintained. And every week worship has been broadcast from our sanctuary.

As we see times change, the command to follow Christ does not change. The good news, the great news is that we are guaranteed are the same things that the first disciples were guaranteed: Jesus will be with us, present in good times and bad; Jesus will guide us and teach us all the time; we need only read the Bible and connect with other disciples; Jesus will show us, even in weird and difficult times, how to love each other, reach out to each other, reach out to others with His extraordinary eternal love. And as He leads, we must follow, follow, follow all the way.

In the bond of Christ, Pastor Beth Stone

## Church News

**Barbara Atwell**, after thirty years of loving and faithful service on the board of Fort Logan Ministries has decided the time has come to resign. All of us who have seen her diligence in organizing our monthly food donations have also seen the bags and bags of food loaded every week into her car, which she then would unload herself at the Fort Logan Ministries building. She has been a blessed fixture there for years, helping folks in need get regular food bags, but also needed clothing and household goods as well as baby supplies. She was also instrumental in the Angel Tree ministry at Christmas, giving SPC a great opportunity to give our community children gifts for the holidays. We appreciate how she has represented our church on the board, as well as the example of Christian service she has been to all of us. God bless you, Barbara, as you continue to find new ways to serve God in your life.

The Session has purchased an ozone machine to cleanse the building regularly. If the machine is on, don't go in. Organ repair is completed and paid for, and the improvements and repairs to the manse are moving forward. Security cameras have been purchased for the back of the church. The PNC is completing our Ministry Information Form and will soon submit it to the Presbytery transitions committee for approval.

Session has prepared a Manual of Operations for the church, that simply outlines our best practices that have been in existence over the years. It includes the number of our elders, how they are elected, church procedures, wedding policies, and how we proceed in the matter of church discipline, all of which follows the principles laid out in the Book of Order. While these practices seem obvious to those of us within the church, this document provides not just guidelines, but also a layer of protection if something should ever go wrong. The session completed and approved it; please read it over (copies are available at the church) and be ready to discuss and vote on it at our congregational meeting in the fall. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask the pastor or your elders.

**Online worship** continues on our Facebook page which you can find at [www.facebook.com/stanfordpresbyterianchurch/](http://www.facebook.com/stanfordpresbyterianchurch/) or through our website: [www.stanfordpresbyterian.org](http://www.stanfordpresbyterian.org)

**Home with the LORD:** Josh Hughes, Scotty Ernst, George East, Michael Harmon.

**Updates to prayer list:** Stephan and Sharon Kern on home assignment preparing to return to Africa as missionaries, college students who are returning to school, first responders, military, healing for those with covid-19 and health care workers.

Coming up:

August 2: Tailgate worship

August 4: 1<sup>st</sup> lesson on Peter study with Pastor

August 9: Communion

*Be the Bridge* by Latasha Morrison, book study begins  
Mary Jo Morrow estate:

Yard sale made over \$2468 for our youth. Women of the church were so helpful at the yard sale and moving many items to the fairgrounds.

August 13: Auction of home on site

August 14,15 Auction of furniture at Fairgrounds

August 19 Choir rehearsals resume

Choir rehearsals will resume on

Save the date: Church picnic October 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Stanford Presbyterian Church**

*Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. - online*

*Worship on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m.*

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**Reverend Elizabeth Stone, pastor**

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