

The Orchard Weekly

*December 13, 2020
Issue 37*

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Worship Survey

In order to celebrate Christmas safely and socially distanced this year, we are considering having two Christmas celebration services: one on Christmas Eve and one on Christmas morning. Please use this link to fill out a brief survey regarding which service you will be more likely to attend. <https://forms.gle/Q8V6EXebwdr57hbn9> If you cannot use the link, forms will be available on the Welcome Center in the narthex.

Mark Your Calendar

For week of Dec. 13

Sunday

9:30am Morning Worship
11:00am Adult Education Class
6:00pm Evening Worship—Doris Anema
Zambia Update

Monday

7pm Deacons Meeting

Tuesday

7pm Elders Meeting

Wednesday

6:30pm Grief Share Meeting—Lesson 9

Sunday

9:30am Morning Worship
11:00am Adult Education Class
6:00pm Evening Worship

Gathering Update for December 2020

As the COVID-19 situation in Ripon becomes more serious, the elders are continuing to discern how we can best care for the spiritual needs of the people of Almond Valley. We desire to do everything in our power to continue offering in-person worship services at AVCRC. With this in mind, the elders decided that face masks will be required throughout the worship services starting this Sunday, December 13. The decision was also made to forego the celebration of Communion this month, with hopes to resume monthly celebration of the sacrament in January. Please remember to judiciously self-screen for any symptoms related to COVID-19 before attending worship, and take note of the physical distancing protocols that have been in place during the past few months (sitting in alternating rows, exiting out the front of the sanctuary after worship, and socializing outdoors).

In your prayer time, please lift the following items before the Lord:

- Wisdom for our elders and ministry leaders as they make difficult decisions that impact our congregation
- Healing for those in our church and community who have contracted COVID19
- Protection from the virus for those who are particularly vulnerable
- Unity, humility, faith, and confidence in the Lord among the membership of AVCRC

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” 1 Peter 5:6-9

Announcements

Tonight you will have the opportunity to hear from Doris Anema as she gives us an update about her experience in Zambia.

World Renew Giving Tree – Change the Story of Poverty! From Dec. 6—25 you will have the opportunity to purchase items to help families in need through World Renew. You can find items available for purchase on the tree in the narthex. You can pay directly to WorldRenew.net/gifts OR you can turn in your tags along with payment to the church office.

Weekly Prayer Guide

Monday - Ps. 65:1 "Praise awaits you, O God. To you our vows will be fulfilled." Pray that we remain faithful to God, as we remember the vows we have made as individuals and as a congregation.

Tuesday - Ps. 65:3 "When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave us." Praise God for his mercy and grace. Pray that we may show that mercy and grace to others also.

Wednesday - Ps. 65:4 "Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts." Praise God that he has called us to live in fellowship with him. Pray that that will be our utmost desire.

Thursday - Ps. 65:9 "You care for the land and water it." God is our provider and sustainer. Thank him today for all his abounding goodness to us. Pray that we may have abundant rain and snow this year to nourish our crops.

Friday - Ps. 66:5 "Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf." Pray that we may share our faith with others. We must tell others how good God is.

Saturday - Ps. 66:10 "You tested us, you refined us like silver." Many in our congregation are being refined right now. Pray that they may see God at work in them, not to bring evil, but to be more like Jesus, who also suffered on our behalf.

Sunday - Ps. 122:1 "I rejoice with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'." Pray for a wonderful day of worship.

Geraldine Ann Hekman

February 17, 1937-November 12, 2020

Geraldine Ann Hekman went to be with her Lord and Savior at the age of 83, surrounded by her loving family.

Geri was born in Modesto to Mike and Stena Van Anandel. She attended Ripon Christian School through the 12th grade, after which she worked as a medical assistant for 7 years. In 1960, she married Bruce Hekman; they enjoyed 60 years of married life together and had 4 children, Greg (Jeanette) Hekman, Brent (Sandra) Hekman, Jana (Dan) Tanis, and Laurie (Chris) Van Groningen. They were also blessed with 14 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, with one on the way.

In addition to those listed above, Geri is survived by her sister, Anita Hasper, and her brother, Michael Van Anandel. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers-in-law Gary Hasper, Sid Hekman, Warren Helgerson, and sister-in-law Meg Helgerson.

Geri loved the Lord dearly, and served Him by serving others. In addition to being a busy wife and mother, she found time to deliver Meals on Wheels, and was available for anyone who needed a helping hand. She was the coordinator for Ripon Interfaith Ministries for 35 years. She also played the organ for local churches for 63 years. She was an excellent seamstress, and also enjoyed working with arts and crafts at Ripon's Senior Center, filling her home with her ceramics and paintings. She also loved tennis, and her weekly playing group.

Bruce and Geri were not world travelers, one cruise was enough! There were many short, 3 to 10 day trips; their plans were to have no plans at all.

Now this wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother sits at the feet of Jesus, worry and pain free - praise the Lord!



Church Family

Thank you for the recent offering for our family and our ministry! We are so thankful and encouraged by your ongoing support. This year has looked very different than we thought, but even in the midst of all the challenges and changes, God has been faithful and lives have been impacted by his gospel. Thank you for standing with us and praying for us as we serve in Montana. We are grateful! Hans and Susan Oines

Birthdays this week: 12/13 Jon De Zwaan 12/17 Art Van Ginkel 12/19 Vanessa Orozco 12/20 Dylan Koolhaas

Anniversaries this week: 12/19 Jack & Sharon Melcher 12/20 Brent & Sandy Hekman