

# Church in the Forest

at Erdman Chapel, Stevenson School • 3152 Forest Lake Road  
P. O. Box 1027 • Pebble Beach, CA 93953 • 831.624.1374  
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Monday morning, July 30, 2018

Dear Friends,

Recently some of you have forwarded to me a provocative [article](#) about declining church attendance. Many churches are dying across the US. [Scholars say](#) that one constant feature of such dying churches is what they call, “liberalism.”

I don’t think that term, “liberalism,” is quite accurate. In fact, many conservative churches have come to embrace what are, in fact, liberal values: diversity, racial justice, women’s leadership, and an intellectual consideration of the Bible. And, among younger religious conservatives, I’ve seen an acceptance of their gay friends, and celebration of their marriages. A 2017 Pew Research poll found that 47 percent of religious conservatives born since 1964 approve gay marriages, compared with 26 percent of their older counterparts.

Inspired by this Sunday’s scripture lessons, I’d like to suggest another reason why some churches struggle: in their gatherings, God doesn’t seem alive and powerful.

As we continue our study of King David, we’ll look at the story of the transport of the Ark of the Covenant to David’s new headquarters, Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6). Some men treat the Ark impersonally, efficiently, as though the Ark were just a piece of old furniture to be moved. They seem indifferent to the powerful presence of God in the Ark. As a result, someone dies.

That seems to be happening in some churches. The power and presence of God are not felt and celebrated and treated with awe. As a result, these churches die.

Indeed, when these or any other churches worry too much about themselves—their growth or decline—they’ve already entered a danger zone. What we need to worry about is not our life, but God’s life. Is the life of God made clear, beautiful and compelling when we gather?

That’s what we try to do at Church in the Forest.

See you Sunday,



The Reverend Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.

## Calendar

**Sunday August 5, 2018 — 11th Sunday after Pentecost**

**8:30 AM** Bible Study in the Multipurpose Room led by the Reverend Ken Feske. Topic: 2 Samuel 6

**9:15 AM Chapel Concertino** **9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION**

**Passages** 2 Samuel 6, Psalm 132; John 4: 19–24

**Lector** John Kessel **Crucifer** Skip Lord

**Flowers** Jack Davis

**Ushers** Bruce Rosnes and Linda Banner

**Fellowship** Bob & Cynthia Perry

**Altar Care** Martha Jordan, Linda Hanel, Sandy Rice

**Prayers of the People** Mia Jarick

**Oblation Bearer** Liz Lord

**Sermon** The Reverend Joanne M. Swenson, Th.D.

**Title** Sermon Series on David: Crises and Crown

**This Sunday:** “Dead or Alive?”

We are grateful to those who each week volunteer to help with ushering, reading, or providing cookies. Might you be able to help? If so, perhaps you could sign up on the bulletin board at church or contact Terri in the office.

*Voices in the Forest*, CitF’s own little choir, has just begun rehearsals, meeting a couple of times a month at Jan Reimers’ home in Carmel. If you like to sing, contact Leslie Mulford for more details: 831-915-7776 or lesliemulford@gmail.com.

**SAVE THE DATE: September 16th—Fall Anniversary Party** at the home of Janet McDaniel. More info to come!

**SMALL GROUPS:** *These are gatherings where CitF members and friends can explore faith and deepen fellowship.*

- The *Small Group Bible Study* is held each **Sunday at 8:30 AM** in the Multipurpose Room where the topic is the sermon Bible lesson of the day.
- *The Men’s Small Group* gathers **August 2, 10–11:30 AM** in the Multipurpose Room, where they will begin a new study about David.
- *Women’s Bible Study Small Group* gathers **August 2, 10:30 AM–12:00**, at the Beach and Tennis Club. Then they will be on break until **September 13** when they begin a new study: “Women of the New Testament.”
- *Sisters in the Forest* gathers **August 9, 12 noon–1:15 PM** at Judy Stayduhar’s home, 2904 Ransford Avenue, Pacific Grove. Join them. All women welcome.
- A new *Small Group for Women* (aka “*Soul Sisters III*”) gathers on **Tuesday, August 7, 1:30–2:30 PM**, at the home of Lettie Bennett, 4076 Sunset Lane, PB. Please contact Pastor Joanne for more information about this new group: joanne@churchintheforest.org

**Music Box**

AUGUST 5, 2018

**Andrea Jordan, soprano**                      **Kevin Jordan, trumpet**  
**Melinda Coffey Armstead, piano & organ**

*CHAPEL CONCERTINO OF AMERICANA*

- Wayfaring Stranger .....arr. Richard Waters
- Wondrous Love .....arr. Richard Waters
- Amazing Grace .....arr. Keith McCutchen
- Walls of Zion.....arr. Aaron Copland
- How Can I Keep from Singing?...R. W. Lowry; arr. Richard Waters
- At the River ..... A. Copland
- Serenity .....Charles Ives
- Prayer of Saint Gregory .....Alan Hovhannes
- Trumpet Voluntary .....William Boyce (1711-1779)

Today, we present Kevin and Andrea Jordan, he on the trumpet, she singing soprano, father and daughter. Kevin and his wife, Ruth, on French Horn, have been playing for our important holiday services for 25 years. The first Christmas I was here, Andrea was in the loft, singing, but as she was only 7, her voice didn't compete with that big brass sound. Things have changed, as you will see. Andrea and Kevin and Ruth live in Carmel, Kevin having recently retired from teaching middle-school math. Andrea likewise, except for the retirement part, as she now teaches second grade at Monterey Bay Charter School. Their home is guarded by two deceptively small and friendly junk-yard guinea pigs, named Simon and Garfunkel, so the family sleeps easily, secure and free of fear.

Dear CitFers,

Bob and I are leaving these cool foggy shores for a trip to the UK, Ireland and Iceland Aug. 9 to Sept. 1. We will visit old friends in York, explore the stone-age and gothic cathedrals in the Salisbury plain, and visit the land of my father's ancestors in Ireland. While I'm away from CitF, Cathryn Wilkinson and Hillet Botha will provide excellent organ and piano music for services. Until we see you all again on September 9: May the road rise to meet you and the wind be always at your back; may the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

*Melinda Coffey Armstead*



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