Centerville Presbyterian Church

The Bell

November 2026

Upcoming at CPC!

Check out our upcoming events and other ways to get involved at CPC! You can always check our website for a full list of events at *cpcfremont.org/events*

- Nov. 7, 9am-3:30pm | Tea & Treasures
- Nov . 17, 7-8pm | Prayer & Worship Night
- Nov . 22 | Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due
- Nov . 28, 9am-12pm | Decorate the Sanctuary
- Dec. 6 | Christmas Card Decorating Event

RCP SPRING WOMEN'S 2027 Abide JOHN 15

Save the Date! April 23-25, 2027

Women's Retreat at Redwood Christian Park. Registration opens in January.



34th Annual

Tea & Treasures

Holiday craft fair, thrifting, and tea room

Saturday, Nov. 7
9 am - 3:30 pm

Tea Room Lunch | 10 am - 2 pm
Adults - $25 Under 10 - $5 Under 5 - free

Join us for our 34th annual Tea & Treasures, one of our favorite traditions and a sale you won't want to miss! Admission is free!

Bring a friend (or two, or three) and browse tables filled with beautifully handmade goods from over 40 local crafters and makers. It's a perfect place to find gifts for the special people in your life before the holidays. Don't forget to stop by our Second Hand Treasures thrift room, where you just might uncover a treasure of your own.

We are looking for VOLUNTEERS to help serve and THRIFT DONATIONS for our Treasure's Room. See the table Sunday morning after service for more information.

Christmas Card Making Event



Sunday, Dec 6th
Before & After Service
Westminster Room



Fill a Shoebox!

Boxes available in the courtyard after service.

Donation Day: Nov. 22

OPERATION Christmas Child Samaritan's Purse

Download the Church Center app for more details or to sign up for upcoming events!

Stay connected with us online!

Centerville Presbyterian Church Fremont

@cpcfremont

From Aspirational to Intentional and Relational

Jesus' strategy was to invest in the few, for the sake of the many. Jesus didn't build His Church simply to gather crowds, run programs, or keep busy. He called us to make disciples (Matthew 28:19–20).

Recently in our Annual Report, we introduced Session's four Ends and Critical Goals, which describe the Kingdom outcomes we believe God is calling CPC to pursue. To make them memorable, I created an acrostic that marries these goals with our vision. Together, they spell **STEP**.

But how do we move these Ends from good intentions to everyday relationships? How can each of us, our families, Life Groups, and ministries help others SEE Jesus and take their next STEP? I invite you to prayerfully consider writing answers to a few questions under each of our four Ends.

S – Strengthen Disciples - *Following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and helping others do the same.*

1. Who is helping me grow as a disciple of Jesus? (Write down their names)
2. Who am I intentionally walking alongside to help them take their next step toward spiritual maturity?
3. How is our ministry helping people become disciple-makers, not simply participants?

T – Tell & Invite - *Building missional relationships that help others SEE Jesus and take a STEP.*

1. Who has God placed in my life who doesn't yet know Jesus? (Write down their names)
2. How am I intentionally building relationships that demonstrate Christ's love and create opportunities to share the Gospel?
3. How can our family, group, or ministry invite someone to take one step closer to Jesus?

E – Embrace Generations - *Growing together as one spiritual intergenerational family.*

1. Am I developing meaningful relationships with people from generations other than my own?
2. What wisdom, encouragement, or spiritual investment can I offer or seek out from another generation?

P – Pursue Unity - *Cultivating healthy relationships centered on Jesus and His mission.*

1. Am I contributing to a culture of grace, trust, and healthy communication?
2. How am I choosing relationships over preferences and Christ's mission over personal agendas?
3. How can our ministry work alongside others to strengthen unity and advance disciple-making?

Let's Take a STEP Together!

I'm inviting you to do more than just read these questions. Write you answers down. Discuss them! Whether you're an individual, family, Life Group leader, or ministry leader, prayerfully consider your answers and share them with one another and our church leadership.

What is one specific step you will take? Who will take it with you?

Our desire is that these Ends become more than aspirational statements. Let's make them intentional commitments expressed through relational discipleship. We want to help others SEE Jesus and Take a STEP of Faith and then help someone else take theirs.

Because Jesus Makes Us Family,

Pastor Sam

Session Update (September 2026)

Submitted by Chris Rojas, Elder

We started our time in prayer. As elders, we remind ourselves to quiet our hearts and minds to invite the Holy Spirit's leading. The first half of the meeting began with a brief overview on the progress of the discipleship pathway for CPC, led by Pastor Ryan and our volunteer Director of Discipleship, Tony Perez. The idea of becoming a disciple-making church did not happen overnight. Around three years ago, a faithful group of CPC leaders began an intensive Vision Implementation effort, and it's led us to increase focus on Life Groups and now the current soft launch of a discipleship curriculum for CPC. The main change to note is simply offering a new set of study materials (tools) for anyone looking to go deeper into an intentional discipleship relationship with others. The Life Group leader huddle on August 30th was the first formal introduction to the discipleship pathway, and around two-thirds of the leaders expressed interest in exploring the material starting in October. We are looking forward to providing updates on how it goes.

We then moved on to business and operation matters. We acknowledged the rising costs of construction goods and services and discussed potential impacts to our capital campaign budget. The discussion will continue in future Session meetings. We approved Pastor Ryan's request for study leave from September 28th through October 4th, where he will attend a conference that equips leaders with skills and strategies to build a church of disciple-makers. Another topic discussed was the current quorum of Pastor + 2/3 ruling elders (the minimum attendance to hold a Session meeting). With a relatively smaller group, some of us have acknowledged that when personal emergencies occur, meeting quorum could become a challenge. No vote on a change was made but will be kept in mind going into the future. A social media policy draft was reviewed for the first time that outlines policies on appropriate social media conduct and how CPC is represented. Since the use of social media is a complicated, sensitive, and nuanced issue, we agreed to continue reviewing it prior to approval.

As a new elder this year who has passed the first midyear mark, I can say that my eyes have been opened to the genuine civility, thoughtfulness, and thoroughness of our elders, particularly in some many of the nuanced matters where there isn't a clear decision. I'm further convinced that we can only lead well through reliance on God's wisdom. We appreciate the grace and understanding from the congregation through this season of growth and we look to better reflect Jesus' core values of love and community.



From left to right: Laura Mares, Stuart Howard, Linette Young, Tim Bergquist, Pastor Sam, Chris Rojas, Rachel Schmit, Pastor Ryan, Leonard Babyak, Al Trimble

Session Update (October 2026)

Submitted by Tim Bergquist, Elder

Our October meeting began with staff and Elders gathering for a meaningful prayer time followed by approval of the consent agenda.

Session held an initial discussion regarding the upcoming Christmas offering, with decisions deferred to a later date.

Pastor Ryan shared a proposal to change the current by-laws to reduce the required quorum for Session from two-thirds to three-fifths of actively serving Elders. Session discussed the issue and voted to send this motion to the congregation for a vote at the next congregational meeting in October.

A draft of a new church Social Media policy was also reviewed and referred to the Personnel Team for further evaluation before returning to Session for vote.

Tammy Sawyer presented many positive updates from Buildings and Grounds. The gym roof is moving forward towards the final permitting process with the City of Fremont. In addition, Tammy Sawyer is working with a grant writer to apply for a large grant to cover the costs to upgrade security measures around the church campus. It would be a great blessing to the church if we received the money for the upgrades. In addition, Tammy shared that the church received a large donation to help cover expenses for reroofing the courtyard roof.

Mike Cook from the Finance Team joined the meeting via Zoom to discuss with the Elders the Capital Campaign. Thanks to the hard work of Mike and Elder Linette Young, Session agreed to approve an updated project list for the Capital Campaign. Details for the exciting new funding opportunities will be shared at the Congregational Meeting. Session also voted to increase the Campaign amount from $1 million to $2.75 million.

Elder Linette Young shared wonderful news that Rotary will be donating $30,000 to Free Dining.

The meeting closed in prayer, giving thanks for God's continued guidance and provision.

At the end of October, the Capital Campaign Steering Team gave an update and re-launched the campaign. In the December/January Bell, there will be an article that shares more details. In the meantime, click or scan the QR code to read the booklet.

Faith Forward

Click or scan to read about the Faith Forward Campaign

God's Planting is Nurturing a Harvest Beyond Our Imagination

Submitted by By Dr. Reeder, CPC mission partner

God has been planting seeds and nurturing them for years among women without hope and those who pray for and serve them. Living overseas, I met Mrs. M, who is from Central Asia, over 20 years ago. I met Mrs. A, who is from Western Asia, more than a decade ago. Both have agreed to contribute to a book (God willing) that will free the voices of Persian women – women living in Asia and beyond who often possess little hope. (Many but not all Afghans are Persians.)

As God leads, I will coordinate this writing – contributing a chapter or two, reading and editing others' contributions. Mrs. A has connected me with a couple of other women who might add a chapter. And at a conference I met a small team that might offer their stories, too. God will see the "harvest" of insights to manage, write and edit a larger project that resulted from the six years I was in graduate school 2018-2024. Centerville was there alongside me – with financial support, with hosting research...and now it seems that God is going to do even more! Your investments, with God's, water seeds of witness and grace.

Why is this so amazing? Because there are over 50 million Persian women globally, over 90 percent of them are yet to know how much grace, honor, mercy and love Jesus longs to offer them. As followers of Christ, hearing their voices help us pray for them, welcome them as neighbors, and send those called to serve them.

Pray for me as I coordinate and have conversations with additional potential contributors – for a chapter, for a forward or review that recommends the book. Ask God to guide and protect the project as there are already distractions (spiritual opposition) impacting several of the contributors to the book and taking attention away from conversations and writing.
Thank you for your on-going support and prayers – they matter as we follow God's guidance to serve and lift up those whom our fallen world silences and for whom God may seem distant. We are witnesses to Immanuel – God-with-us – good news for all peoples.

Deacon Card Making Event



For the last 3 years the Deacons have been supporting WeCare, a skilled nursing facility in our local community here in Fremont. These residents are often alone without any visitation by family or friends.

Join the Deacons on December 6, before or after service, to make Christmas Cards to be sent to those in need at Christmastime. There will be light refreshments and fun to be had. All ages welcome! No craft skills required.

The Deacons are also looking for caring individuals to join the WeCare Team to support this ongoing ministry. On Sunday, Dec 13th at 1:30pm, we will be delivering and distributing handmade Christmas Cards to these residents. Please consider helping! Register by calling the CPC Office.

Buildings & Grounds Annual Ministry Report

Submitted by Tammy Sawyer

When the Lord said in John 16:33, “In this world you will have trouble,” He wasn’t kidding! But then He said, “but take heart! I have overcome the world.” Indeed He has!

With facilities that are used as much as ours, and as it ages, it’s understandable that equipment and other assets need repair, replacement and regular maintenance. Especially with the amount of ministry that goes on on our campus, which is a blessing from the Lord!

These are some of the projects that were worked on in this past year.

- Patchwork on the roof over free dining kitchen
- Continued follow up on the city permitting for the gym roof project.
- Replacement of the lighting in the sanctuary due to many failed fixtures.
- Repairing concrete in uneven walking paths
- Fixed sprinklers and updated some landscaping
- We resurfaced and striped the parking lot
- Replaced the old broken down ice machine in the gym kitchen.

In my job here at CPC, I get the pleasure of seeing people of all ages and ethnicities in ministry on this campus throughout the week through Tai Chi class, Kindred Spirits, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, after school and summer tutoring, ESL, Young Life Club, Parents in Prayer, Centerville Free Dining, Chaplain’s praying with diners, people gathering for Games in the Afternoon, and others I’m sure I have not mentioned.

Our facility continues to be shared with Fuente de Vida Spanish church, First Korean Presbyterian Church of Fremont and now Arise Chapel, an Asian Indian church. Also this last year we opened the facility for a local Alcoholics Anonymous and Al Anon with childcare. The only collaborative family oriented AA/Al-Anon community in the area.

Other occasional facility use events throughout the year include:

- CPC Music kids camp
- Afghan American Church Easter Outreach project, Summer camp, backpack drive and Christmas event.
- Piano recitals, community organization meetings
- Mission Team mobilization
- Memorial services
- Bell, choir, worship & tech team rehearsals
- Life groups
- Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce Thanksgiving Dinner
- Food Drive Assembly
- and more!





What a blessing to have such an active facility! Praise be to God!

Tech Heaven Annual Ministry Report

Submitted by Kathy Babyak

Mission Statement: To serve God by providing the best audio and visual experience in worship to the congregation of Centerville Presbyterian Church, so that all can hear and see the Word of Jesus Christ.

Greetings from Tech Heaven & the Tech Team! The Tech Team exists so that the Congregation of CPC can Share Life, even when they aren't physically present, Equip Disciples by hearing and seeing the Word of God, and Engage Community through worship in the sanctuary and online.

Tech Team Highlights:

- Six new Tech Volunteers – this is AMAZING!!! Everyone is working hard and learning new things.
- New lighting was installed in November, replacing several non-working lights in the sanctuary. This required:
  - Moving pews to make room for lifts and clearing the platform (after church on Sunday)
  - Replacing pews and everything on the platform (the next Friday evening)
  - Learning and teaching a totally new lighting program. Matty Pizzi took ownership of this and has done a fantastic job! Now he's training others.
- We've had several training sessions for each of the stations in Tech Heaven, and we recently had a Safety & Security training with Tim Bergquist. (Training sessions ALWAYS include pizza!)

It takes many volunteers and lots of volunteer hours to make Tech Heaven run smoothly. We are at church on Wednesday evenings to set up for and support the Worship Team and their rehearsal. We arrive early on Sunday morning to get everything set up and ready for Church Service. On any given Sunday, there are at least 4 people in Tech Heaven making sure you can hear and see the church service. And we are there at weddings and celebrations of life during the week or on Saturdays.

We are always looking for more volunteers. You don't need to have any experience. We train from where you are. Talk to our volunteers – we each have a different story as to why we are in Tech Heaven. We do a lot of work, but we have a lot of fun, too. And we have snacks! Do you want to join us? Volunteers can serve on a rotation basis, and you can choose how often you want to help! Come up to Tech Heaven and check us out!

Tech Director: Kathy Babyak
Team Members: Bruno Andrade, Leonard Babyak, Chris Beckett, Tim Bergquist, David Fritz, Susan Fritz, Emily Galimba, Brightson George, Yevgeniya (Jane) Litvinenko, David Mayer, Ian Pagador, Tony Perez, Mo Wu
Tech Scholars: Matthew Pizzi
Stage Managers: Tammy Bergquist, Marta Elliott, Yevgeniya (Jane) Litvinenko, Aaron Macias





CenterKids

At CenterKids, we partner with parents to disciple their kids in the way of Jesus. We believe children are a vital part of the life of the church! Through intentional curriculum, caring community, and lasting friendships, we are equipping the next generation to grow in their walk with Jesus.

Contact Kids Coordinator, Molly Anderson with any questions.

School is in full swing, and so is Family Ministry! We have been having some incredible discussions in Kids Church with our new Gospel Project Curriculum. Our kids have lots of questions as they are learning, so each Sunday brings a new topic to wonder about together.

In October, we also had our annual Fall Festival! Games, prizes, and fun was had by all!











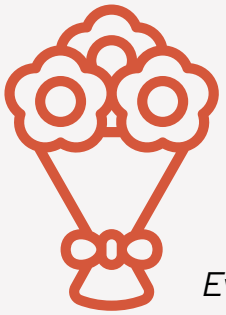
Upcoming CenterKids Events

CenterKids Friendsgiving

Sunday, Nov 22 | during Kids Church

E Building

Are you interested in volunteering in Kids' Ministry? Please contact Josh Morgan.



Our Loss...Heaven's Gain

Jan Small, August 26, 2026

Anne MacLeod, September 15, 2026

Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. - John 11:26



CPC RINGERS & CELEBRATION CHOIR
Rehearsals Thursdays

BELLS - 5:30 PM

CHOIR - 7:00 PM

Email Christy Hitson for more information chitson@cpcfremont.org

Regular CPC Events

Weekly Life Groups, Groups meet weekly, ***cpcfremont.org/life-groups***
Centerville in the Park, 1st Saturday, Dusterberry Neighborhood Park
Kindred Spirits, 2nd & 4th Monday 11:00-12:30, Westminster
Games in the Afternoon, 3rd Tuesday from 1-3pm, E201 *(will resume in January 2027)*
Tai Chi, Mondays 9:30-10:30 am. Gym
Free Dining, Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00-5:45 pm
Men's Life Group, Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm, Rm 18
Creative Hands Craft & Fellowship, Thursdays, 7:00-8:45pm, E202

Call the church office at 510-793-3575 for more information.

Share Life Together

Join a Life Group!

Life Groups are smaller groups that gather together weekly in homes for a time of food, sharing, community, and prayer.

To learn more, visit cpcfremont.org/life-groups, scan the QR code, or email Pastor Ryan.

Download the ChurchCenter App to stay up-to-date on everything going on at CPC.



If you have questions about how to use the app, check out the tutorial video at planningcenter.com/university

Ways to Give

Mobile	Scan QR code
Online	cpcfremont.org/give
In Person	Use envelopes in pews
Mail	4360 Central Ave Fremont, CA 94536

Centerville Presbyterian Church

Share Life - Equip Disciples - Engage Community

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