



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

First Press

November 2022



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Reformation and Consecration Sunday

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. – Romans 12:4-5

That together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. – Romans 15:6



Don't miss your letter celebrating our ministry as "the church together" inside and outside the sanctuary as we continue the ministry of Jesus Christ here in San Bernardino. In the envelope with that letter you should have found a narrative budget showing our hopes for 2023 and an invitation for your financial commitment for the coming year. Please prayerfully consider your decision, and return the commitment cards on or before Sunday, October 30th. We will dedicate those commitments with gratitude as we celebrate Reformation Sunday with pipers, Scottish dancers, shortbread, and joy.

Aftershocks...

We who live in earthquake country understand that a quake can be scary and alarming, but it is only part of the story. After the initial shaking has stopped and losses have been assessed and we return to daily life, there are aftershocks...I think we are living through a season of spiritual aftershocks in the life of our congregation this fall.



- **We are recovering from the Pandemic.** We had to adjust and improvise, revise and endure. We learned to do a number of things we'd never had to before, and we had to navigate a wide range of opinions on safety and gathering. I am proud of us for enduring all this without falling apart, but it took energy, and it was sometimes frustrating and discouraging... so we are weary! It is so good to be able to gather again...but there are aftershocks: relationships that have frayed after years of not seeing each other, an awareness of our vulnerability in the world, our fragile humanity. Who are we now? who is still here and what is next?

- **We are recovering from grief.** We have lost beloved people we cannot bear to live without- they have moved far away, or they have left this life for a brighter shore. We miss their gifts and talents! There are parts of our ministry they have always done- things we're not sure how to do without them! I confess that now that we are regularly in the sanctuary again, I keep 'looking' for them to show up in their places- they almost seem MORE absent now that Sunday worship is back to normal. It is hard to imagine choir or a childcare center, coffee hour or decorations, Session or Deacons or Stater Bro's scrip or food ministry without these faithful friends. It will take a while for us to recover from this.

I say this to you (and to myself) to help explain what is going on. These 'aftershocks' are just as stressful as the geological ones. Sometimes I feel wobbly and inclined to shelter in a doorway or under a chair.

But then I remember that scripture proclaims that **God is near to the brokenhearted**, and in the story of Jesus we see that death is followed by resurrection. I find great hope in this. For example:

I know from experience that **vulnerable places are the places we truly connect** with one another- the places that allow us to truly see each other and love most deeply. I have seen this over and over in memorial services. "Blessed are those who mourn," Jesus says, and I think one reason he says that is that those who have known loss are hollowed out and can receive comfort. Those who have known grief can accompany others along that path. These are places where the Spirit can knit us together, can deepen our love for one another and our compassion for the world. So: if you feel wobbly or weepy, then your heart is open to love.

Vulnerable places- like the foot of the cross, or the tomb of Jesus- are **where God can do a new thing**... It is our plowed-up and disrupted fields that can receive new seeds and grow in new ways. It is our broken hearts that get transformed by Grace! When we are sure we have it all together, we can be resistant or even hard. It is the tender and uncertain places that hold the greatest promise of spiritual growth.

So, let us move gently through this season, mindful that we and others will experience aftershocks and need steadying. Let us watch, attentively, for the movements of Grace.

~Sandy

from Sandy's Minute for Mission on October 16: "Let me tell you about Saturday...!"

When I arrived at 8:20, the sky was misty and already a line of 10 cars had formed in the south end of the parking lot. The Fellowship Hall was stuffed with more than 300 bags of groceries. The place was bustling with volunteers making ready for guests. I was surprised to see a large group of LifeSkillz kids receiving instruction from Rick.

In Fireside Lounge, the kids from Symphonie Jeunesse were tuning up, and a handful of leaders were arriving for our Seeds of Change retreat (see article p. 5).

These buildings we call Home were full of love-made-visible: human need being met, the beauty of service, kids learning about meaningful work and kids making living music- of listening to stories to hear what Jesus might have us do- people willing to sit with tough questions in order for faith to grow.

This place was full of love and justice and joy.

This is one of the reasons I pledge! Because what Tom and I give is transformed into loving the world and lifting up kids, into beauty and freedom and kindness and service – and this changes ME- it lifts my heart to see evidence of God's work in the world. To know I have a stake in that deepens my faith in Jesus.

Notes



The *First Press*, the newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, is edited by Wendy Lamb. Please submit content to Wendy at newsletter@fpcsb.net.
The deadline for the following month's newsletter is the 15th of each month.



Save the Date

**Plan to spend New Years' 2024 at
1900 N D St.!!!**

Here's something you might not know: in a little over a year, in January of 2024, First Pres will turn 150!!

A small team of us are busy planning a fabulous New Year celebration in honor of this milestone. Please plan to be there! New Year's Eve falls on a Sunday at the end of 2023; we hope many students and young adults will be able to be here in person. (New Year's Day will be a Monday, some will also get Tuesday as a holiday)

We are planning a worship service with special surprises:

Some beautiful music,
Some intergenerational activities,
A community mosaic to hang on our chapel,
A video 'slide show' with pictures recent and long ago,
Food,
Silly skits,
And a Family Camp style indoor campfire singalong!

One of the things we are aiming to do is to send paper invitations in about 3 months to folks who now live far away, but who might want to attend. If you know an address we should have, please send it our way by emailing or calling the church office.

You will hear more about this all year long- we ask you to mark your calendar and to let someone else know- we want you and your story to be represented!

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of September 30, 2022.

General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$296,085.92	300,289.50	(4,203.58)
Other Income*	\$ 89,335.51	51,112.79	38,222.72
Expense	\$397,962.79	404,558.80	(6,596.01)
Net Income	\$ (12,541.36)	(53,156.51)	40,615.15

*Other Income includes 26,1827.92 from sale of office building at 1875 N D.

Division Consolidation

	September	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	(65,132.97)	(12,541.36)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	(1,372.94)	(2,647.42)
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	(66,505.91)	(15,188.78)

November Celebrations

Nov 1 Shelley Biddlecombe
Nov 2 Terri & Jorge Carlos
Noah Wierenga
Nov 3 Curtiss Allen
Wendi Bielinski
Steve Nolin
Nov 6 Josie Short
Nov 8 Cliff & Bobbi
Cummings
Nov 10 Kelly Bingham Newton
Nov 11 Dwight & Linda Murray
Nov 13 Susan Zeitler
Nov 15 Alyssa Arellano
Nov 18 Marion Wiens
Ed & Stephani Congdon
Susan & William Zeitler
Nov 19 Earleen Dudley
Linda Murray
Nov 21 Terry & Stephanie Ross
Nov 22 Ken Mantei
Nov 23 Dan Direen
Chase Preciado
Wade Preciado
Joyce Seeger
Nov 24 John-Paul & Stephanie
Fletcher
Larry Kistner
Matthew Garcia
Nov 25 Sandy Tice & Tom
Rennard
William Zeitler
Nov 26 Brad Smith
Chris Wright-Thomas
Nov 27 Dale Showman
Abby Willis
Bethany Rennard
Nov 28 Raymond Olivarez
Nov 29 Norm Wallis
Nov 30 Sanai Wright

Brenda Frederick Fund

This is the third of several articles on endowment funds at the Church. These designated funds pay for specific programs. -- Margaret Doane, Chair, Stewardship Committee

Brenda Frederick lived in the San Bernardino area for more than forty years of her adult life and was a very active member of First Pres for 25 of these years. When she returned to her roots in the Midwest, Brenda gave the Church a very generous gift. The principal of her fund is to remain untouched with the interest split equally between the Deacons and Session to use as each group chooses.

Brenda moved from Illinois to the San Bernardino area in 1966 and worked as a substitute teacher, social worker, campaign strategist, secretary at CSUSB, and Executive Director for Social Services in Bloomington before being employed by San Bernardino County as a Contract Analyst for 27 years -- and she earned an MA in Public Administration from CSUSB when she was 64! She moved into San Bernardino city in 1980 and gives this account of her life in the city and community:

I began looking for a church home and attended several in the area. It was not until a friend, Ruth Buchien, invited me to attend her church, First Presbyterian, that I found a wonderful Church family, and joined in 1982 or 1983. The members were citizens from the surrounding communities: professional people with good ethical values, active in their respective communities, and a welcome mat for all who wanted to worship God and join the Church family. Being a single woman, I became active in the church and the community. For the church, I served as Elder several times, President of the Board, usher and greeter, office receptionist, member of the Mariners, and on other committees. For the community I was active with Kiwanis, Home of Neighborly Services, League of Women Voters, Human Rights Commission, American Red Cross, San Bernardino Symphony Board, and San Bernardino Grand Jury.

Being born in the Midwest, I never forgot my roots and always missed my family. It was a very difficult decision to make and not one made lightly, but in 2007, I decided to retire from San Bernardino County and move back home. I wanted to leave something for the Church to show the love which I had for God and the Church members and for the many blessings and life enrichments I had received, so the endowment fund was where I left annuity funds with annual interest to be shared equally by Session and Deacons.

In the fifteen years since she left First Pres and San Bernardino, Brenda has built a wonderful life for herself in Burlington, Iowa. She settled into her new home and volunteers at Hospice House, a "place near and dear to [her] heart" since it has provided care for several family members. And she has met the "love of [her] life," Richard, a current resident of the Klein Center, a nursing home facility. Brenda visits him twice a day, and they have a "deep love and respect for one another." (See photo, right.)

While Brenda has a very happy life in Burlington, she continues to remember San Bernardino and First Pres fondly; she writes that "no amount of money could pay for the guidance, love, and religious enrichment [she received] from First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino." We are so grateful that Brenda established the Brenda Frederick Fund, which allows us to continue to give guidance, love, and religious enrichment to others.



Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

LCpl Jacob Allen,
US Marine Corps, Cherry Point, North Carolina

PFC Jeremy Allen,
US Marine Corps, Okinawa, Japan

Seaman Mark Munz,
US Navy, San Diego, California

Private Javier Rocha,
US Army, Fort Benning, Georgia

Seaman Robert Sandoval,
US Navy, Virginia

Petty Officer Noah L. Wierenga,
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River

CW3 James Bentley Wilson,
US Army, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington

Cadet Grace Wilson
Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Session Highlights

by Mary Bolaños, Acting Clerk of Session

Pastor Sandy Tice called us together in prayer for the hybrid meeting of Session. We reflected on Psalm 122, a song of ascent and gladness and a repeated prayer for Peace. Reflections included care for those who are experiencing the war in Ukraine and a hope for an end to that conflict. We also noted that this psalm can remind us that God is everywhere and worshipping together in any space should be joyful. We asked ourselves what it means to be responsible for gathering our community to worship and how we might make spaces where everyone feels welcome and comfortable. We reflected on our sojourn in Fellowship Hall these past two months—noting that the congregation was enthusiastic about reflecting upon what we might have learned as we move back into the sanctuary. One concern about the safety of using the lightweight folding chairs on a slippery floor with a mostly aging congregation was addressed. We have gotten a quote from a company which specializes in church furniture for stable, solid wood, upholstered ‘pew’ chairs and the Worship Committee and Buildings and Grounds will have a conversation about ordering some for future use. We approved sending money to help our friends at First Church Redlands and their pastor, Cheryl Raines, and her husband. They were unexpectedly stuck in Florida due to health concerns and then Hurricane Ian! Gratefully, we noted that fire inspectors approved the use of the infant care rooms for our tenant, Oak Tree Learning Center, and progress continues to be made. As we usually do, we closed with reflections on the meeting which included comments about the creativity and bravery of our congregation and how we might work on our worship spaces to help hold onto some of the good things that happened during our Fellowship Hall summer.

Session 2022

Sandy Tice, Moderator; Wendy Lamb, CLP; Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

Class of 2022: Carol Cooper, Margaret Doane, Stephanie Fletcher

Class of 2023: Jeanne Clarke, Susan Skoglund, Alex Smith, Tim Usher

Class of 2024: Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak, Patrick Morris, Martha Pinckney

Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Hope by Pastor Sandy Tice

On the second weekend in October, friend of the congregation Rev. Dr. Nancy Wiens organized a learning opportunity for us about Indigenous People who live in our nation and whose ancestors were here before European settlers arrived.

This can be difficult work, but the invitation was to be introduced to current issues without shame or blame- so that we can hear and understand new things, and listen for what Jesus might have us do going forward.

In the morning we gathered online with 50 people from around the country and experienced this topic in a presentation called “Toward Right Relationship” created by leaders in the Friends church.

In the afternoon, about 25 of us gathered, (6 of whom were zooming in), and we heard first-person accounts from three thoughtful and open-hearted women who are themselves members of native groups. Their testimony was profound and helpful; they were generous with their time and experiences. On Sunday morning we incorporated some themes from our learning into worship.

Nancy encouraged us in the sermon to “find a third way” since neither Pride nor Shame & Blame will heal wounds or bring justice or glorify God. She encouraged us to be good soil, where new things can be planted and flourish.

We offered a prayer of lament for this painful part of our nation’s history, and mourned that similar pain exists around the world. And we sang “Here I Am, Lord,” and offered ourselves again to the One Who makes all things new. We are grateful for the Wiens Fund who made it possible to host this conversation with grace and generosity.



The Presenters left to right: Suanne Ware-Diaz (Kiowa), Sylvia Mendivil Salazar (O’odham & Yoeme), Christina Salazar (Gabrielino-Tongva), and Rev. Dr. Nancy Wiens

Work for the October Food Distribution

by Rick Rodriguez, *Deacon Food Ministry Chair*

Our monthly food distribution requires many hours of preparation. It is not all completed in one day. Following is a list of all of the work that was done to prepare for our October Food Distribution highlighting those who did the work.

Monday, October 10th

Food was moved from South Storage room onto tables in Fellowship Hall.

12 different types of food were taken out of cases or the wrapping was removed from all cases.

All of this food was put into plastic bags. 168 bags were made.

All of this work was done by two interns, Maraie and Ana; 1 former intern, Marlene; and me.

Wednesday, October 12th

168 bags were double bagged for the food we get from Community Action Partnership (CAP) on Friday.

All of these double bags were made by Marlene Olivas, our second Intern Supervisor, and me.

Friday, October 14th

The rental vehicle we use to pick up the food from CAP was picked up by Dave Thomas and me.

Preparations for the food in Fellowship Hall was done by Marilyn Kraft and three of our former interns, Ariana Aceves, Isabel Arroyo, and Jackye Rosete.

The food was unloaded from the rental truck and transported into Fellowship Hall and the Food Closet. It was set up on tables to put into bags and then bagged. This is an enormous amount of work. It was done by Dave Thomas, Neal Williams, Marilyn Kraft, two friends of the church, the former interns who did the prep work, and me. Three of the adults had to leave early because they were not feeling well. We appreciated the fact they came in when they were not feeling well. Ariana also had to leave early to go to work. If it wasn't for Isabel and Jackye, we would have been there for a lot longer completing this work.

Saturday October 15th's Food Distribution

We passed out food to 179 families during our October Food Distribution. This was done by Marilyn Kraft, Kevin Lamb, Mary Bolaños, Chris Thomas, Dan Direen, Steve Smith, Jim Siegmund and 11 young people who are interns, former interns, or LifeSkillz members.

This is just some of the work that goes into preparing for our monthly food distribution. We also have other tasks to do like copying and preparing paperwork to go into the bags.

Our monthly Saturday Food Distribution is only a small part of the Food Ministry. We also have our Tuesday/Thursday Food Giveaway. We have to prepare bags for those days, and we give out hygiene kits on those days which we also have to prepare. We prepare paperwork for these bags, etc, etc. Much of the work we do in the Food Ministry can be done while sitting in a chair.

As you can see from above, a lot of the work is being done by interns. We can always use help from our church members. If you would like to help, you can call or text me (phone number in church directory or via the church office). If you cannot assist in the work, the Food Ministry and the Internship Program can always use your donations.

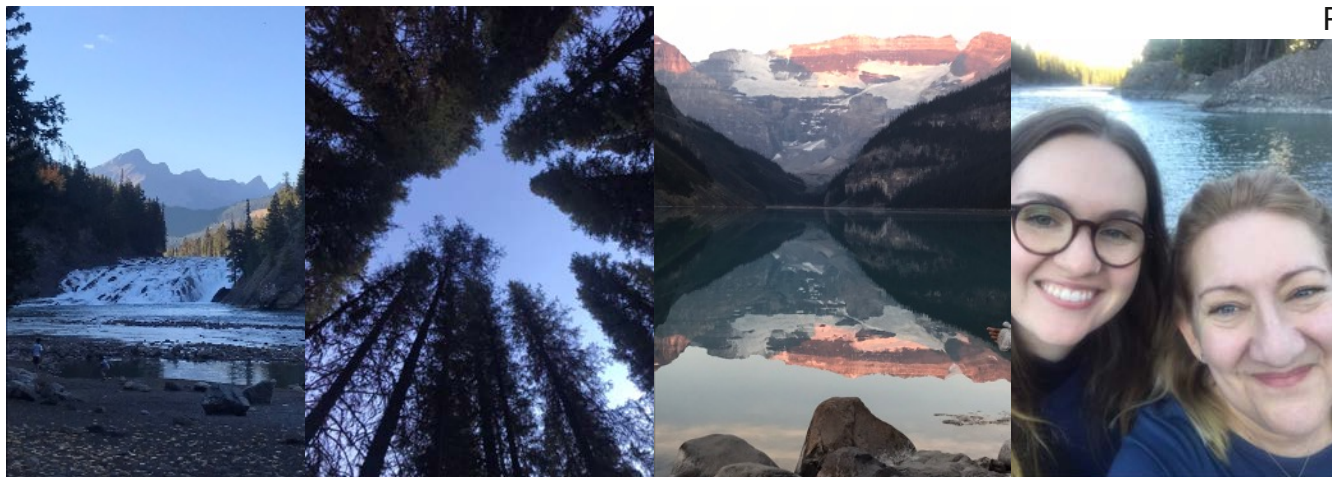
Board of Deacons 2022

Rebecca Allen, Moderator; Steve Smith, Pastoral Support

Congregational Care: Joyce Lyons (chair), Robin Edwards, Sharon Landeros, Katie Smith

Community Ministry: Marianna Fowles (chair), Rebecca Allen, Carmen Avila, Janet McKinster,
Joanna Nord

Food Ministry: Rick Rodriguez (chair), Mark Adelson, Dan Direen, Chris Thomas



from left to right: Bow Falls near our first hotel, the view from a springy bed of moss where I took a rest, sunrise at Lake Louise, a girl and her mom and flowing water,

Sabbatical Trip by Pastor Sandy Tice

It was not the trip I wanted, but it was the trip I needed.

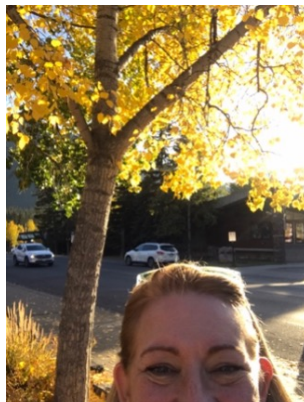
After 3 years of planning, dismantling, grieving, stressing and lobbying for refunds, we made ONE MORE last minute pivot in order to take my final Sabbatical trip during the time Bethany had off work. Japan had still not opened its doors, and so October 1-9 we went to **Canada, to Banff National Park**- on the recommendation of a lovely travel planner at AAA. **Oh my HEART!!** It was spectacularly beautiful- utterly impossible to capture on film or in words.

The word I kept using was “magic”, as over and over things fell into place, doors opened, blessings appeared that we had neither planned nor expected. Friendly strangers and happy accidents and synchronicity. I usually use the word ‘blessed’ to indicate that I know God is the source of all grace & sabbath & delight, but it felt almost surreal in a mysterious, “is-this-really happening?” sort of way. So I am using a word usually reserved for fairy tales and children’s stories.

I have a few takeaways:

It was Fall when we arrived- everywhere aspens were contributing their leaves to what will one day be spring and new life~ and it was stunning to see their luminous, joyous, extravagant color! I think of ‘letting go’ as being wistful- but each one seemed radiant. It was like confetti, like a celebration- full of joy and hope. My heart had no defense against it- I was bowled over by the beauty. Letting go can be gorgeous.

There were lakes, and they were fed by glacier melt- pure and cold and an astonishing color of blue – Lake Louise is a just a jewel. When I try to describe the trees or mountains reflected like a mirror- I realize the inadequacy of words (and the futility of preaching!). The heavens (and earth!) are telling the glory of God- and no words can approach their witness. I woke nearly every morning in time to experience sunrise- sometimes outside and sometimes from a window. I also was enchanted by the moon, which was nearly full our last days- I watched it set mirrored in the lake, in the wee hours one morning (by accident!). Beauty is so consoling.



a happy pastor under an aspen tree

The vastness made me feel small, and somehow free to lay down some of the grief of these last few years. Tom’s cancer and his dad’s death, the loss of people in this community I cannot bear to be without, the broken sabbatical, the notion that the Church has been complicit in some great injustices and I had been blind to it, and all the grief of Covid--trying to do ministry while isolated from people! Set next to a mountain range, these things felt smaller. I am marked by them- but it does not serve me or the World for me to ‘carry’ them. I can set them down, entrust them to the Love which is vast enough to hold and heal.

Our sabbath season together is not entirely finished. I plan to schedule a few more forest bathing walks for folks who are interested. We may also plant a tree or do something to our campus as a remembrance of the extraordinary gift we received. Meanwhile, I am glad to be home, glad to be with you, glad to wonder what the pile of golden leaves at my feet will become, with the Spirit’s help.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30  Reformation Sunday 10:30am Worship Service	31	1 All Saints Day 1:00pm RPEA Board 7:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	2 4:30pm Worship Committee	3	4 9:30am Kerygma	5 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA
6  Daylight-Saving Time Ends 10:30am Worship Service	7	8  6:00am Election Polling 6:30pm Deacons	9	10 4:30pm Nurture Committee	11 Veterans Day 9:30am Kerygma	12 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA
13 10:30am Worship Service	14	15 Deadline for First Press articles 1:00pm Circle of Grace and Hope 7:00pm Mensch Group	16 5:30pm Stewardship Committee	17 9:00am Friendship Circle 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	18 9:00am Food Bagging 9:30am Kerygma	19 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA 1:00pm SJO rehearsal
20 10:30am Worship Service	21	22 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	23 5:30pm SESSION	24  Church Office Closed. Thanksgiving Day	25 Church Office Closed. 9:30am Kerygma	26 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA
27  First Sunday of Advent 10:30am Worship Service	28	29	30	1	2 9:30am Kerygma	3 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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The Rev. Dr. Sandy Tice
Pastor

Dr. Wendy Long Lamb
Commissioned Local Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Steve Smith
Pastoral Support

Laurie Stafford
Ministry of Visitation

The Rev. Jim Huffstutler
Pastor Emeritus

It is the Mission of First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to proclaim the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship and celebration, and teaching and learning, so that lives are transformed and members are encouraged to use their special gifts to care for and value, as God's Beloved, each other and the community in which we live.