### First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino



# First Press

December 2022/January 2023



#### In this issue

Pastor's Page2
Caroling2
Notes3
Yoga Class3
Interns4
Krause/John Fund5
150th Anniversary6
Celebrations6
Advent Devotional7
Longest Night Service.7
Symphonie Jeunesse7
Food Distribution8
Session Highlights9
Presbytery Notes9

## Advent 2022

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in

Advent invites us to welcome the Light, to prepare for God's presence in unexpected places, and to celebrate- to ring the bells that still can ring.

The 'bells' that still can ring:

- The stories we know that may sound different than they once did but still have good news in them
- The songs that speak of a world we long for and dream of that which has not yet arrived in entirety
- Offerings that bring something good into the world for God's sake
- Candles that make concrete the truth that a light shines in the darkness and that it is a living thing- not the electrical grid- a precarious flame- but full of hope
- That the experience of the Presence, of Incarnate Love, can still surprise us
- That gathering for worship can strengthen us for service and widen our hearts

So this season, in spite of whatever grief or apprehension we may carry, we will gather week after week to ring the bells that still can ring.

## Pastor's Page

Dear Friends in Christ.

Recently a member noticed that there were no flags in the sanctuary and asked about it. It turns out that a year ago they were moved out on a workday and had not been replaced. No one-including me- noticed their absence or mentioned it! So it is time for Session to consider our policies. We began this conversation at our November meeting. Here is an excerpt of a letter I sent them the next morning.

I rejoice this morning in my gratitude for the extraordinary conversation we engaged in last night.

We asked for the Spirit to guide us, and indeed, it felt like holy time to me.

I am grateful for so many things: Your patience and gentleness

Your willingness to listen deeply to one another with unfailing respect and care

Your courage made visible in speaking tender truth and sharing stories that have shaped you.

I am also grateful as I remember tears that spoke of trust and passion Memories shared, Complexity acknowledged and articulated And also (against all odds!) a fair amount of laughter.

I am grateful that each of you participated with such authenticity and respect.

I am grateful for the many and far-ranging things we touched on:

The power of this shared symbol, our love for this nation,

The beauty of freedom, the preciousness of choice.

We spoke about freedom to worship, about allegiance and loyalty,

About loss and disappointment.

We recalled a spouse flying missions over Vietnam, An 11-year old watching the towers fall over and over on TV The practice of flying the flag at home with pride and folding it with care, The upwelling of feeling when the flag and the anthem speak to us.

We talked of flags held aloft by newly sworn citizens, flags everywhere after 9/11, About how it is a living symbol, that has changed over time.

We spoke of our hope and prayers for unity, in our congregation and in our nation, And about how the flag is precious not for its own sake
But because it reminds us of people: those who've sacrificed
For this dream of a nation of the people and by the people,
and also those in our own congregation who are concerned.

We have more work to do, and we will do it, together, with God's help. I am grateful that we understand that HOW we engage this process and a shared vision of WHY we will take our next step Will be more important than any outcome

...may the peace of God which passes all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

#### Sandy

## Christmas Caroling!

Calling all cheerful singers!

Would you like to sing familiar Christmas carols during Advent?

Join us after worship on **Sunday, December 18**, to go caroling to the homes of some of our congregation.



## **Notes**





## **Thursday Night Yoga!**

Give yourself the gift of a deep breath during this busy and distracted season.

Beginning December 8th, we will again have a Yoga class at First Pres!

The pandemic forced us to discontinue our class; now we are prepared to begin again. Our teacher will be Cathleen Coombs, a resident of Crestline who also teaches yoga at Cal State here in town. As far as I know, this class and her class at the university are the only yoga classes offered in our city.

Cathleen is an experienced teacher, a Presbyterian, and someone who loves "to share this beautiful practice." You will enjoy meeting her. Invite anyone you know who might be interested- a flyer will be available soon that you might post to your Facebook page- this may be a way that we can be a blessing to our neighbors, so help us get the word out.

Class will meet in Room 10 at 5:15 pm. There is no charge, but donations are welcome. Curious about yoga? All levels of experience are welcome, Cathleen can help you participate in ways that are right for you. A few mats are available to borrow. Come join us!

# Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

Sergeant Jacob Allen, US Marines, Cherry Point, North Carolina

> **PFC Jeremy Allen**, US Marines, Okinawa, Japan

Recruit Ethan Gano
US Marines, San Diego, California

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, WA

**Cadet Grace Wilson** 

Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Annual Reports: If you are a committee chair or group leader, you are responsible for an annual report for our February Congregational meeting. These are due to Amy Smith and Mimi Lange by Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

## **Financial Notes**

Financial Report as of October 31, 2022.

#### **General Fund**

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$340,037.69	333,655.00	6,382.69
Other Income*	\$95,047.15	56,344.86	38,702.29
Expense	\$437,613.76	448,180.61	(10,566.85)
Net Income	\$(2,528.92)	(58,180.75)	55,651.83

<sup>\*</sup>Other Income includes 283,187.92 from sale of office building at 1875 N D.

#### **Division Consolidation**

	October	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	10,005.40	(2,528.92)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	(1,269.77)	(3,917.19)
Net Operating Expense (Expense)	8,735.63	(6,446.11)

#### **Newsletter Deadline**

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.

There is no separate January newsletter. The deadline for the February *First Press* is Thursday, January 19.

#### **Our New Intern Team**

by Rick Rodriguez, Intern Supervisor



The newest team of interns started on October 15, 2022. This was a very hectic day to start the new term because it was the day of our October food distribution. It really is a blessing that all of our intern applicants come from the LifeSkillz program. This means they already know each other when we they start as an intern. When everyone got to the church we had to get right to work. Since their first day, our team has become closer and new friendships have formed. On our team we have our two intern leaders, Ileana Hernandez and Brianna Guzman, neither of whom has ever been a team leader before. We have our four interns, Jazmin Moreira, Gary Romero, Ana Quevedo, and Maraie Soto. The only one of the interns to have been in the Internship Program before is Gary. This is the first time I can remember that we have had so many new interns and that both of our leaders are new at their positions.

Our intern team has really learned how to work as a team since we started. This has been a part of the job that our other intern supervisor, Marlene Olivas, has been making sure is a part of what we teach them each week. The fact that Marlene has previously been both an intern and an intern leader and is now at Cal State San Bernardino working on getting her degree shows our interns that college is not as scary as some of them may think. It also gives them someone much closer to their age to talk to if they need to. This is especially beneficial to the girls on the team.

We have two freshmen girls on this team, Maraie and Ana. This is the first time we have had freshmen on an intern team since I joined the program with our sixth term of interns in 2018. They both work hard each week and have brought a breath of fresh air to the program. They have made friends with our senior girls and it is a good thing for all of them.

This is the nineteenth term of interns since the program started in early 2015. We are blessed to be able to watch these young people grow and move on in their lives. There are several who still come and assist with our food ministry even though they have been out of high school for quite a while. The Internship Program teaches our young members many things like how to use tools they may have never used before, how to work as a team, how to fill out documents required at all jobs, and many other things. One thing the interns learn just by working at our food distributions is how important it is to help



those in your own community who are in need. When asked what was the part of the Internship Program you liked the most, many of our former interns say working on the food distribution. This group will be no different. I am sure of this because the two intern applicants, both freshmen, whom we were unable to hire for this term still come and volunteer on food distribution days.

This is a wonderful program which benefits the church at least as much, if not more, than it does the young people who become First Pres interns.

## John/Krause Camperships Fund

This is the fourth of several articles on endowment funds in the Church. These designated gifts help pay for specific programs. The article below was written by our long-time member Melodee Kistner, now a resident of Santa Cruz, about the campership fund established by her mother, Rosemary Krause, in memory of her two husbands, Cecil John and John Krause. --Margaret Doane, Stewardship Chair

When my mom, Rosemary Krause, was growing up in Kansas, she was very active in the Lutheran church and attended summer camp every year. She felt this was an important experience for her in her faith life. She and my father, Cecil John, joined FPCSB in 1955 so both my brother Steve and I grew up in this church family. We attended church camp every year from fourth grade through high school. I can't speak for my brother, but for me church camp was very important in my faith formation. My father died in 1969 and Mom married John Krause in 1971. When he died Mom decided to start a small fund in memory of both her husbands, thus John/Krause, their last names. Her intention was to have the proceeds from the fund be used to send kids to summer church camp because of the importance of that experience for her and her children. Because not that many of the kids at our church attend church camp anymore, the use of the fund has been extended to any church experience, such as Triennium. Grandma Rose, as my mom was known to many in our church family, was beloved by all and she returned that love tenfold, especially to the children. This fund was one of the ways she expressed that love.

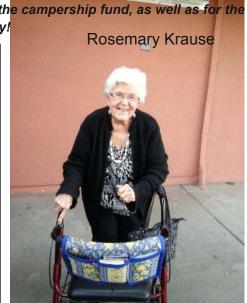
Cecil John was a person with many talents. He was employed by large department stores in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area for many years and came to be an administrator for and personal assistant to Mr. Buttrey who owned a small chain of stores. On one of his trips he met Rosemary Bentson at a large resort where she had a summer job in the dining room. Their relationship continued while Rosemary went to school at the University of Minnesota and after her graduation in 1947 they eloped to California. After landing in San Bernardino, they bought a small variety store at Fourth and Tippecanoe and lived in the back of the store while they built their business, saved their money, and eventually bought a home. Melodee was born in 1951 and a couple of years later they moved to a larger home on Leroy Street as they were expecting their second child. Steve was born in January of 1955, and shortly after that they joined First Presbyterian. Rosemary had received her degree in Medical Technology from the University of Minnesota but was enjoying working with Cecil in their stores. They had opened a second one on 40th and Sierra Way and were fairly successful. Cecil, who was thirty years older than Rosemary, had a heart attack about 1960, and his doctors told him he could no longer work. Rosemary sold the stores and studied to pass the state board examination to become a Medical Technologist in California. She supported our family with her work in this profession, which she loved, and eventually earned her master's degree in the field. She also inspired Melodee to follow in her footsteps and become a Medical Technologist as well.

When Cecil died in 1969, Rosemary was left with two teenagers to raise and was so grateful to our church family for helping love them through some rocky times. She met John Krause at church while participating in the Chancel Players drama group. They were married until John's death in 1991.

The Church is so grateful for the opportunities provided to our youth by the campership fund, as well as for the love and witness provided by all of the members of this remarkable family!



Over Veterans' Day weekend, Brent Nord took Breanna Nord and Kendra Lamb up to Big Bear Lake Christian Conference Center for the fall Tapestry Retreat. They worshipped and talked in small groups, played games and went sledding.



## 150th Anniversary Celebration

#### Buy your 2023 calendar and write this down!

Friends, a year from now we will have reason to celebrate! January 2024 will mark the 150th year that this congregation has existed here in San Bernardino. And we will rejoice!

Mark your paper or digital calendar, and reach out to any young adult you know, and by all means rummage around for photographs of days gone by- we're planning a party!

Dotti & Ernie Garcia, Laurie Stafford, and Dawn Morris are busy planning a joyful day to commemorate the occasion. Here's what's in the works:

- New Year's Eve will fall on a Sunday a year from now- our gathering will be on December 31!
- We will begin with a special worship service with brand new music and special guests.
- We will stay for an afternoon together, beginning with a delicious free lunch!
- We'll engage in intergenerational activities- there will be rowdy games, contests with prizes for kids, table games & puzzles, a skit, a video slideshow, and other fun.
- You will have an opportunity to participate in two permanent art projects: a quilted cloth for our communion table representing our entire church family, and a mosaic dove to hang on the chapel.
- We will have a Family Camp style 'campfire' (indoors) with plenty of singing and laughter.
- There will be time to remember with joy people whose lives intersected with our own, and to celebrate the DNA of this faith-filled, resilient, and playful community.

We're scheduling this for the New Year's weekend in hope that some who now live at a distance might plan to travel and join us in the celebration. You have 12 months' notice- so plan ahead!

Finally: we are collecting photos for the video slideshow, which we will return to you.

Bring us any photo of a church event or from anytime in our history. Be sure to mark the back with your name, and any info you have about what is depicted, so we can add captions or narrative.

O God you are good, your love endures forever, your faithfulness to all generations! Psalm 100:5



"Indoor Campfire" Photo from All Church Family Camp 2019

# December & January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- Dec 1 Elaine Saenz
- Dec 2 Sarah Godby
- Dec 3 Cindi Pringle
- Dec 5 Bobbie Terrell
  - Curtiss & Rebecca Allen
- Dec 6 Bill McIntosh
- Dec 7 Zienna Long
- Dec 9 Maddie Ramirez
- Dec 11 Christi Showman Farrar

  Deagan Belle
- Dec 14 The Biddlecombe Triplets
- Dec 16 Jon Horstmann
- Dec 18 Patrick Garcia
- Dec 19 Jim & Carol Coyne Kristin Arellano
- Dec 20 Melodee Kistner
- Dec 21 Danielle Garza
- Dec 22 John Garten-Shuman
- Dec 23 Ray Nelligan
- Dec 25 Renee Kern
- Dec 28 Lillian Franklin
  Blaine & Renee Kern
- Dec 29 Irene Sandoval

  & David Suverkrup
- Dec 30 Charlotte Pringle
- Jan 1 George Biddlecombe III

  Jeremy Allen
- Jan 2 Carol Wright
- George Biddlecombe IV
- Jan 3 Alex Smith
- Jan 4 Alex Rueda
- Jan 5 Sheila Cimino
- Jan 6 Rachel Garvin
- Jan 10 Dwight Murray
- Jan 11 Jean-Luc Nicks Dawn Morris
- Jan 13 Zane Preciado
- Stephani Congdon
- Jan 14 Patrick Morris
- Jan 16 Esther Olsen
  Deon & Patrick Garcia
- Jan 17 Lynette DuClos-Adelson Mark Munz
- Jan 18 Sonia Martin
- Jan 20 Beverly Kristoffersen
- Jan 23 Dan & Cheryl Direen
- Jan 25 First Presbyterian Church
- Jan 27 Tabitha Enriquez
- Jan 28 Linda McCarl
- Jan 29 Brenda Frederick

## **Deacon Highlights**

## **Meeting the Growing Need**

by Rick Rodriguez, Food Ministry

The number of people your food ministry serves has been increasing all year. While our Saturday participation has increased by 30%, our Tuesday/Thursday distribution has increased by a whopping 140%! Additionally, the percentage of the participants who are coming to both Saturday and Tuesday/Thursday distributions has doubled since the beginning of the year.

As volunteers and donors, we are flexing to meet program challenges as the people we serve struggle with double digit inflation on groceries.

Our primary food source for Tuesday/Thursday food distributions is Feeding America whose availability of food has become more sporadic than previously, requiring the program to order large volumes when food is available. Captain Dave and return interns have helped the program transition using rental trucks and a pallet stacker for these large loads, while volunteer drivers continue to bring back standard loads.

We pay a maintenance fee of \$ 0.19/lb but that translates to \$950 for a 5000 lb load. With costs rising and some types of food being unavailable, we started seeking out more cold food from Feeding America. This meant replacing a second bag of shelf stable goods with a lighter weight (and therefore less costly) bag with eggs, sandwich meat, Lunchables, bacon, or other cold food. This is just one of the many small program shifts to manage costs while providing an increasing number of participants with food that meets their family needs.

Thanks to Margaret Doane and Chris Thomas for increasing the bagging you do. Thank you to each person who has contributed to Deacons, the Internship Program, or donated food or bags. If you would like to discuss how you might help, please contact Rick.

Mark your Calendar:

Friday, December 16: Bagging starts around 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 17: Food Distribution starts at 9am; most volunteers arrive ~8:30 a.m.

Come join the fun!



The Deacons thank you for your continued support. Your generous contributions to the Deacon's Fund continue to make a difference in our community. Along with assisting hundreds of our neighbors with their weekly food and grocery needs, we will offer support to several families from our congregation with a Stater Bros gift card. Thank you.

## **Board of Deacons 2022**

Rebecca Allen, Moderator; Steve Smith, Pastoral Support Class of 2022: Mark Adelson, Carmen Avila, Janet McKinster

Class of 2023: Rebecca Allen, Sharon Landeros, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Chris Wright Thomas Class of 2024: Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Marianna Fowles, Richard Rodriguez, Katie Smith

#### The Season of Advent

Worship with candle lighting, bell playing, and original piano compositions on November 27, December 4, December 11, and December 18. Longest Night service at 6:00 on Thursday, December 1. Christmas Eve Worship on Saturday, December 24, Christmas Day Worship on Sunday, the 25th, and New Year's Day Worship, Sunday, January 1.



## The Season of Waiting (and waiting... and waiting)

From Kate Bowler, "Are you ready for Christmas? I used to hate that question. It usually comes when I am already overwhelmed and on the quick path toward burnout. Christmas can easily become another checklist in my already too-full life. But Christmas should feel different. Shouldn't it? It is the symbol of plenty, of fulfillment, of more-than-enough-ness, and of the expectation that perhaps while we wait for Christ's birth, we might practice being a little more loving, more forgiving, more patient."

We invite you to join us in using Kate Bowler's free Advent Devotional through the upcoming season.

Each day includes a short devotional entry, scripture to read and reflect on, a reflection question to discuss with family or friend or think about on your own, plus: this Advent Devotional includes activities for the 12 days of Christmastide.

To receive this resource on your computer, go to

https://katebowler.com/advent2022/

and enter your email address.

If you need help downloading the devotional, or you would like a printed copy, contact me (Wendy).

## **Longest Night Service**

by Sandy Tice

As the holidays arrive and the days grow shorter, the nights grow long and seem especially dark.

For some of us, the darkness within also seems to grow: family drama, worldwide war, our city's suffering, and other sorrows sometimes threaten to overwhelm us, and the songs of the season sound false.

How does God come to us in times like these?

One tradition that is precious to me is our Longest Night service. This year it takes place on Thursday, December 1 at 6:00 p.m. Each year it is one of my favorite parts of Advent/Christmastide.

This candlelight service is a gentle and peaceful service of hope, for experiencing the Light of Christ in the lonely and unfinished places where there is no tinsel or sparkle. We gather before the God who loves us and seek healing for ourselves, and also for the world's pain and sorrow. We listen to words of comfort and promise in scripture. We pour out our prayers in spoken word and healing music. We light candles of remembrance, and we encourage each other by our presence and prayers.

Most of all, we recall that Jesus is the One who came into the darkness, and continues to come into our present darkness offering a light that no shadow or dread can overcome. It is a holy time: beautiful and wondrous and surprisingly filled with light. It would be wonderful to have you join us.



Symphonie Jeunesse Youth Orchestra for Strings

Invites You to Attend Our 2022 Holiday Concert

## "Shining Brightly"

conducted by Founder/Artistic Director Michèle Tacchia

## Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino Fellowship Hall 1900 North D Street San Bernardino, CA 92405



Admission is one non-perishable food item for the First Presbyterian Community Food Distribution Program. Masks are optional.

Symphonie Jeunesse is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are welcome.

More information available at Symphonie Jeunesse.org

## **Session Highlights**

by Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

Session met on October 26th and November 16th and considered many topics. The October meeting included sadness about transferring membership for Larry and Melodee Kistner due to their move and a recommendation for staff salary increases of 8.7% in concurrence with the Social Security Administration increase, as well as Presbytery and Synod. We are making connections with the church and those leasing our space for Oak Tree Learning Center and Key Essentials. The committee who is planning the 150th Anniversary Celebration is moving forward and is reflecting on the legacy of this church. Session shared their thoughts to be included in future considerations. The November Session meeting focused on the question of flags in the sanctuary. Please read Pastor Sandy Tice's Pastor's Page for a reflection on the conversation.

## Presbytery Assembly, November 5, 2022 by Mary Bolaños, Presbytery Commissioner

Presbytery Assembly was again a hybrid meeting, but there were many more people attending in person than there have been in several assemblies. It was nice to see everyone and our guests included Synod Executive and Stated Clerk Mark Hong (virtual) as well as many members of an Indonesian church which is considering joining our denomination. Their name is an Indonesian word that means "Grace." Magnolia Presbyterian in Riverside hosted and it was noted that we were meeting in the oldest existing church building in that city.

The message of our communion worship was given by our outgoing Moderator, Carol Stanley, from Lake Arrowhead. She spoke of 'connectionality' (her word) in our church (congregations sharing worship, church school, church camp, mission), and she gave several examples of this 'connectionality' throughout her life and the huge impact it has had. The offering will go to the ministry of Noah and Esther Park, our Presbytery's mission co-workers in Egypt.

The new Presbytery moderator, Don Thursby, and Vice-moderator, Julie Hodges, were sworn in.

The Assembly approved 9 of 33 amendments to the Directory for Worship section of our Book of Order. These have been proposed by the General Assembly, and we will be approving them in batches. The text can be found by going to the Presbytery Stated meetings' webpage and clicking on November 5, 2022.

A deficit budget was approved with prayer and hope.

Presbytery Leader Lee Ireland reminded us that there are still changes ahead and asked us to imagine saying, "We get to..." or "We want to..." instead of "We have to..." Our Vital Congregations Initiative coordinator said that churches in our Presbytery continue to have a lot of vitality— noting that the church in Cathedral City actually is home to 4 different congregations and every 5th Sunday they worship together. On the wave of both of those statements, the chair of our New Worshipping Communities Commission, Bill Stanley, asked us all to discern around our churches and communities and ask what God is calling us to see in terms of a New Worshipping Community.

The new Child and Youth Protection Policy was approved. The task force used a template found on the website of the Presbytery's insurance provider and we were reminded that this policy is for the Presbytery and does not take the place of what each Session is doing

Finally, and with prayer and gratefulness, we excused our Temporary Stated Clerk (although it might be argued that a three year term is not temporary). The gracious and kind Tom Rennard has served through the pandemic with calm and compassion and given a model for going forward.

The meeting closed with prayer and attendees were invited to stay for a delicious lunch provided by the hosting church.

## 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



## First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

1900 North D Street San Bernardino, CA 92405

## Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 2729 San Bernardino, CA 92406

Office: 882-3308 email: pres.first@gmail.com www.fpcsb.net

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9 am to 4:30 pm

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.