



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

# First Press

March 2023

## Good Enough

### In this issue

Our Next Steps.....	2
Notes.....	3
Two Familiar Faces.....	4
Session Reflection.....	5
Celebrations.....	5
Food Ministry.....	6
Edie Leonard.....	7

### A Gentle Lent

A pastor friend once told me why he disliked Lent- “it is much too long a season to preach!” he said. It is true: it is almost twice as long as Advent, and it can be hard to sustain a theme or idea over all those weeks, let alone a spiritual practice. (Lent is 40 days, *NOT counting Sundays*- This year February 22 – April 8.

Lent is a season of preparation for Resurrection, for God’s promise to make all things new. It is an invitation to recalibration, a re-set if you will.

**Fasting, Prayer, and Alms** are the classic components of Lent.

An invitation to **fast from things** that do not make us whole, are not in our best interest,

An invitation to take on **practices of prayer that reconnect us with Self and God**,

An invitation to **give in some way** (like those fat fish banks we give the kids)! To share, to make our faith concrete and practical-

continued on next page

### A Gentle Lent, continued from first page

Ancient wisdom teaches us that these things: fasting, and prayer and making faith active does open up space for God in our hearts and lives.

Here are 3 things Lent is NOT:

Lent is not punitive. It is neither punishment for wrongdoing, nor a kind of 'carbon offset' to cancel out sin. It's a Returning to God with all our hearts- (and if there are things to Repent of, then you will experience it as freeing!).

Lent is not a competition sport! Not training in superior spirituality. For you "Doers" who are constantly in motion- silence or stillness might be a good practice. To fast from busy-ness. To fast from our culture's obsession with comparison and 'Perfection', and 'Living Your Best Life Now'.

Finally, Lent is not perfectionism. Perfection is impossible- but transformation is not! Lent is an invitation to be transformed by God's spirit, in the middle of 'the lives we actually HAVE'.

As I continue to recover from practices I adopted in the pandemic, I long for a Gentle Lent- to respond to Jesus' invitation: "come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

~Sandy

**Return to God with all your heart,  
the source of grace and mercy;  
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.  
Now the time of grace has come, the day of salvation;  
Come and learn now the way of our God.  
--Marty Haugen**

## Next Steps

As Sandy announced her retirement a month ago, many have been wondering what happens next?! Sandy has graciously given us 5 months to process her departure which allows us time to reflect and move forward. We will not be hasty in calling a new pastor; history has shown that is not wise. This is a time to reflect on who we are as a congregation and what we want to be going forward. For those who wish to have an outline of what is to come, here is a timeline of the process. Note that we are not putting any specific dates in this process – it evolves as we move through it.

- Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations Commission (HPCC) appoints a liaison from Presbytery. This has been done – The Rev. Dr. William Roozeboom (Bill) has already visited with Session.
- HPCC also appoints a Session Moderator once Sandy leaves – Steve Smith has accepted this role.
- Session will decide if it wants to put an Interim Pastor in place and will form a search committee for that purpose if applicable.
- At some point we will have a Congregational Meeting to dissolve Sandy's relationship with our congregation prior to her retirement.
- Session selects a Mission Assessment Team (MAT) to do a mission study (also called a Mission Assessment Plan or MAP). This will involve input from all members of the congregation and may include written surveys, small group interactions, etc. We encourage you to make sure your voice is heard in this process.
- Once the MAP is completed, a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is formed (and voted upon at a Congregational Meeting). This team reviews the MAP and completes a Ministry Information Form (MIF) which is basically a resume of the church to put out for those who may be seeking a call.
- Once the MIF is published, the PNC reviews applications, interviews and ultimately makes a recommendation for a called pastor (with concurrence of Presbytery).

This process can take anywhere from 1-3 years. We are aware that it shouldn't be rushed and we are thankful for the leadership of Wendy and Steve which is already in place to take us through the time immediately after Sandy leaves. Please reach out to anyone on Session with any questions you may have.

Amy Smith,  
Clerk of Session



# Notes

## 2023 Lenten Quiet Nights

Ash Wednesday ushered in the church season of Lent, a time of reflection and deep awareness of Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week.

We will have two Quiet Nights this year on Thursday, March 9 and Thursday, March 23.

The theme this year is ENOUGH.

Quiet Nights, intended as opportunities for us to walk alongside Jesus in the darkness of Lent, consist of 25 minutes or so of readings and silent contemplation. We meet in the Chapel and begin at 6 PM.

Following the quiet time, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a simple soup and bread supper and a brief time of conversation and gratitude.

Please mark your calendars and join others for opportunities to deepen your Christian experience this season.

## Financial Notes

Financial Report as of January 31, 2023.  
General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$22,335.17	27,802.00	(5,466.83)
Other Income	\$15,426.18	10,386.78	5,039.40
Expense	\$42,031.78	47,239.25	(5,207.47)
Net Income	\$ (6,270.43)	(9,050.47)	2,780.04

Division Consolidation

	January	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	(6,270.43)	(6,270.43)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	1,920.36	1,920.36
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	(4,350.07)	(4,350.07)

## In Memoriam

**January 2023**

**David Arbuthnot**

**March 23, 1966-January 18, 2023**

**February 2023**

**Jeannie Marona**

**September 13, 1938-February 5, 2023**

*"In life and in death we belong to God."*

## Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

**Sgt. Jacob Allen,**

US Marines, MFR Band, New Orleans,  
Louisiana

**LCpl Jeremy Allen,**

US Marines, Okinawa, Japan

**FPC Ethan Gano,**

US Marines, Pensacola, Florida

**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

## Two Familiar Faces

Many of you see Marlene & Ariana every Sunday when they set up snacks, provide nursery care, and then clean up after our fellowship gathering. We first met them when they started in our Lifeskillz Circle, Marlene Olivas in 2018 and Ariana Aceves in 2019.

### Marlene Olivas

Marlene was first hired as an intern in the summer of 2019. She was very shy, but worked hard, and her intelligence was obvious. She was hired three more times in the Internship Program and each time she was an example for other interns. She quietly led our teams to get our tasks done properly and safely.

During her time as an intern, she maintained an excellent GPA while being involved in several extra-curricular activities. She is now pursuing a psychology degree at Cal State San Bernardino, as she works as an AVID tutor at San Bernardino High School, and is a second supervisor in our Internship Program.

Marlene has a very busy schedule, but still comes and helps with the food ministry, after finishing with her morning CSUSB classes. She has become our pallet jack expert and shows our interns the correct way to work by example.

When asked what the Internship Program did for her, this is part of what she wrote, "I used to be very shy before I was in this program. This program has helped me become more confident, supported me through my schooling and gave me advice. It has become my safe place, a place where I know I will always have someone to listen. I have now become an intern supervisor and I try to make the interns feel the way I felt as an intern."



### Ariana Aceves

Ariana was first hired as an intern in the winter/spring term of 2020. She seemed to really enjoy the work from the very first day. She always worked hard no matter what we were doing. Ariana was hired for 5 more terms in the Internship Program, three of those terms she was a team leader. In all 6 of the terms, she was a quiet leader who led by example, but was not afraid to direct the others on her team.

Her work ethic was impressive. While maintaining an excellent GPA, she started working at another job at the end of her junior year of high school. She enjoyed being an intern so she continued to apply and our hiring team was also impressed and continued to hire her.

In addition to her evening job, Ariana works in the food program every week and has become experienced in many different aspects. She is our pallet stacker (Clifford) expert. It is such a joy to train someone on how to use a piece of equipment and then watch her get better at it than you are.

This is what Ariana said about the program, "It helped me grow my work and leadership skills. I have always known I like to help people and keep myself busy and the internship program helped me learn skills that prepared me for my current job. Lastly, it made me realize that what I loved most is helping others to grow like I did because of the internship program."





## Notes from the February Session Meeting

Our February meeting was started with a delicious soup dinner prepared by Sandy, along with salads, bread and desserts provided by other members. After an opening reflection on Joel 2:12-13, we spent a considerable amount of time with Bill Roozeboom, Presbytery representative from Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations Commission (HPCC). Bill will shepherd us through the transition of Sandy's retirement and calling a new pastor. He counseled us not to rush in this process, but to go through the steps and see where God is leading us. We don't want to call a clone of Sandy but want to acknowledge the gifts she brings and the gifts this congregation has to offer. We have many options that Session will explore, which include having Wendy and Steve be in place during this time, as well as calling a part-time or full-time interim. Session is thinking through pulpit supply, pastoral care, and other pastoral needs so that the regular operations of the church will continue and there will be a smooth transition. We were reminded by one elder that this phase can help us find excitement and joy in the process, even in our sadness. See the additional article in the newsletter about the process.

Sandy also discussed the Synod grant request to fund three trips within 18 months for LifeSkillz kids. She and Marilyn Kraft spent many hours writing this proposal which has been approved at the first level. It must go through two more levels of approval, but it looks promising.

Trust that your Session is at work in this time and don't hesitate to reach out to any of us with any questions or concerns.

Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

## March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Mar 2	Kristine French Lynda Savage Kurt Star
Mar 3	Teofila Rosemarie Fletcher Asher Gano
Mar 5	Joyce Lyons
Mar 7	Kathy Showman
Mar 9	Sherman Ballard Brent & Joanna Nord
Mar 12	Richard Rodriguez
Mar 13	Dotti Garcia
Mar 14	Kevin Coyne Breanna Nord
Mar 18	Rebecca Nelligan Todd & Elizabeth Wright
Mar 22	Laura Munz
Mar 23	Ann Aguilera Grant Garcia
Mar 24	Randy French Linda Saenz
Mar 26	Marianna Fowles
Mar 27	Noé Falconi
Mar 29	Reyna Jones Stephanie Ross
Mar 30	Debora & Ron Holk Emma Kern

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](mailto:newsletter@fpcsb.net).

**The deadline for the following month's newsletter is the 15th of each month.**

## Session 2023

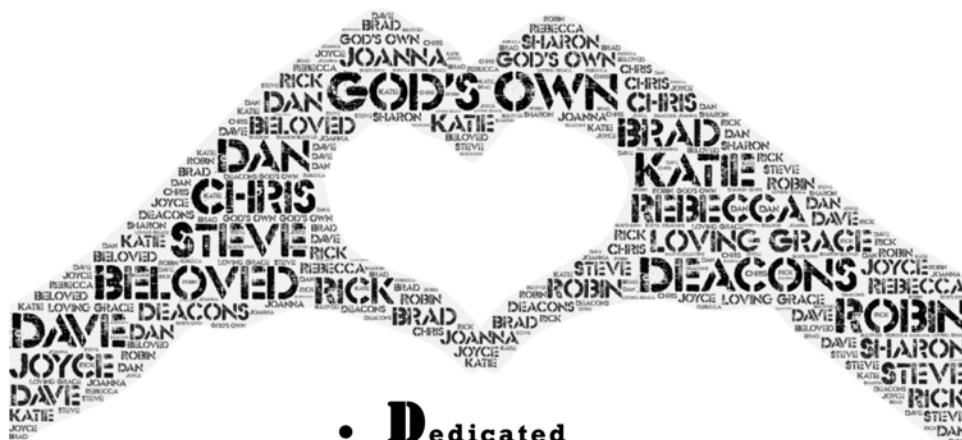
**Sandy Tice, Moderator; Wendy Lamb, CLP; Amy Smith, Clerk of Session**

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

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

**Class of 2025:** Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jonathan Horstmann, Phyllis Hough

## Deacon Highlights



- **D**edicated
- **E**ffective
- **A**ccessible
- **C**onsiderate
- **O**pen-minded
- **N**urturing
- **S**upportive

**Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all. In Your hand is power and might; and it is in Your hands to make great and to give strength to everyone.**  
**1-Chronicles/29/12**

### Food Ministry Growth

The number of families in our neighborhood who come for assistance with groceries has increased by a large amount over the last year. Take a look at the difference in the number of households who came for food during the first two months of this year compared to the first two months of last year:

Saturday Food Distribution January 2022 = **110 Households**

Saturday Food Distribution February 2022 = **130 Households**

Saturday Food Distribution January 2023 = **204 Households**

Saturday Food Distribution February 2023 = **203 Households**

Also, compared with January of 2022, in January 2023

- Our **Tuesday/Thursday** food distributions also **increased 66%**.
- Households attending both Tues/Thurs and Saturday more than doubled, from 28 to 68. An **increasing number and increasing percentage** of our families need to supplement their food more frequently.

We expect continued increases in participation. One immediate reason is that many of our participating families are on the CalFresh (Food Stamps) Program. The Emergency Allotments that were added because of COVID in March of 2020 will end with a final distribution in March of 2023. After that, most families will receive about \$100/month less of CalFresh benefits. We expect that the families who we only see periodically will have to get food from us more often, and that many new families will come to us for food.

We continue to make changes to help us operate the food ministry more efficiently. We are grateful to have seen a few new member volunteers, and for everyone who supports the food ministry. If you can lend a hand, contact us, and we'll match you with tasks that fit you and your schedule.

## Board of Deacons 2023

**Rebecca Allen, Moderator; Steve Smith, Pastoral Support**

**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

**Class of 2024:** Brad Smith, Dave Thomas

## Edie Leonard

*This is the sixth article in a series of articles on endowment funds at the Church. These designated funds help pay for specific programs. -- Margaret Doane, Stewardship*

Edith Leonard led a remarkable life. She was a trailblazing, groundbreaking woman in numerous ways: she was a university professor at a time when women simply weren't hired in such positions; she was the author of five textbooks on education -- three of which are still available, sixty years after they were written; she had a decades-long partnership with a woman at a time when such relationships were taboo; and she had a profound healing experience that caused her to lecture widely on the power of prayer. She was a poet. And she was exceedingly generous to First Pres -- a church she had not attended for sixty years.

Four generations of the Leonard family have attended First Pres, and their membership extends a hundred years. Christene Leonard, Edith's grandniece and a member of First Pres until she moved to Kentucky in 2013 to live near her daughter, Jennifer, tells Edith's story:

"Edith M. Leonard, Professor Emeritus at the University of California Santa Barbara, was born in 1896. She lived to be 101. She was born in San Bernardino and went to First Pres until she moved away. She began her teaching career in San Bernardino City Schools and was instrumental in starting a kindergarten program in city schools.

At some point she moved on to Santa Barbara Teachers College (which eventually became UCSB. When I enrolled there in 1967 she and her longtime companion Dorothy VanDeman were listed as Professors Emeritus in my course catalog.)

While teaching at the college she and Dorothy wrote several books in Early Childhood Education. I'm lucky to have copies of three of them. [Three of the five] are still available on Amazon.

Sometime in the 1940s Edie was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Doctors determined it was inoperable. I can only imagine that she was a very stubborn woman, and she told the doctors that was unacceptable and turned to prayer. Every time she went in for an examination the doctors were amazed to see the tumor shrinking rather than growing larger as it had been. It eventually disappeared. She penned and self-published a pamphlet about the power of prayer and she and Dorothy left to tour the country with her message about the power of prayer.

All this time Edith and Dorothy were living frugally, attending First Presbyterian Church in Santa Barbara and saving and investing her money. She had no idea how much she had saved. In the late 80s or early 90s she turned to my dad with concern that she did not have enough money to last her life. Dad went to her investment guy and discovered she had enough to last several lifetimes. She started spending. These are the entities I know received funds through her generosity:

-- Early 90s wildfire tore through the middle of Santa Barbara. Over 400 homes were lost, several from First Presbyterian families. She gave each of these families substantial sums to restart their lives.


-- Childcare center at her church- still in operation today.

--Generous donation to start the Leonard Scholarship, which became the Leonard Family Scholarship.

She died May 5, 1998."

Christene's dad, Bill Leonard, was the person who talked to various "investment guys" to get the Scholarship in place. Christene notes, "it took him years to admit it, but my dad was instrumental in setting up the scholarship. I think she just wanted to help someone in her hometown and he set it up so that it would continue to help." And indeed it has helped countless college students in the church. The generous scholarships are renewable for four years and have helped so many to fulfill their dream of a college education -- all due to the financial acumen of a loving nephew and the financial generosity of a really extraordinary person.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b>  9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	<b>27</b> 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b> 4:00pm Worship Committee	<b>2</b> 5:15pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 9:30am Kerygma	<b>4</b> 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Jeannie Marona Memorial Service 10:00am Straight Up AA
<b>5</b>  <b>Communion Sunday</b> 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Youth: Pizza with the Pastor	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	<b>8</b> 4:30pm Nurture Committee	<b>9</b> 6:00pm Lenten Quiet Night	<b>10</b> 9:30am Kerygma	<b>11</b> 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA
<b>12</b>  <b>Daylight-Saving Time Begins</b> 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30pm Deacons	<b>15</b> Deadline for First Press articles 5:00pm Stewardship Committee	<b>16</b> 9:00am Friendship Circle 5:15pm Yoga Class 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	<b>17</b> Winter Camp at Big Bear 9:00am Food Bagging 9:30am Kerygma	<b>18</b> Winter Camp at Big Bear 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA 1:00pm SJO rehearsal
<b>19</b>  <b>FOURTH SUNDAY</b> Winter Camp at Big Bear 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 11:30am Retired Public Employees Assn. 1:00pm Circle of Grace and Hope 7:00pm Mensch Group	<b>22</b> 5:30pm SESSION	<b>23</b> 5:15pm Yoga Class 6:00pm Lenten Quiet Night	<b>24</b> 9:30am Kerygma	<b>25</b> 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA
<b>26</b>  <b>Fifth Sunday</b> 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5:15pm Yoga Class	<b>31</b> 9:30am Kerygma	<b>1</b> 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA

## First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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### 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.***