



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

First Press

April 2023



Making palm crosses circa 2012

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Come make palm crosses at 9:00 on Saturday, April 1, and/or help prepare the sanctuary for Palm Sunday at 10:00.

Help prepare the sanctuary for Easter on Saturday, April 8.

Blessing of Palms

by Jan Richardson

This blessing
can be heard coming
from a long way off.

This blessing
is making
its steady way
up the road
toward you.

This blessing
blooms in the throats
of women,
springs from the hearts
of men,
tumbles out of the mouths
of children.

This blessing
is stitched into
the seams
of the cloaks
that line the road,
etched into
the branches
that trace the path,
echoes in
the breathing
of the willing colt,
the click
of the donkey's hoof
against the stones.

Something is rising
beneath this blessing.
Something will try
to drown it out.

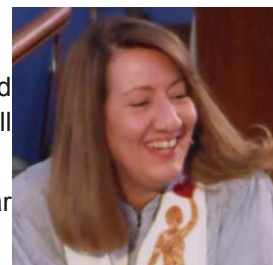
But this blessing
cannot be turned back,
cannot be made
to still its voice,
cannot cease
to sing its praise
of the One who comes
along the way
it makes.

Pastor's Page

“How Can I Help?”

At the recommendation of one of you, Tom and I have been watching a television series called New Amsterdam, about a giant public hospital in New York. The lead character steps into all kinds of chaotic, tragic, cataclysmic situations and offers his signature line, “How can I help?”

As Easter arrives and my retirement is on the horizon, some of you have been asking similar things- so here are a few suggestions-



Pray without ceasing. For 149 years, God has given this congregation what it needed (long before I ever arrived!!). We trust in this Steadfast Love that will not let us go, but we need more in this next chapter: more grace, more leadership, more energy, more creativity, more love. So pray that God would be at work in us and through us! Pray especially for members of your Session who are already beginning the necessary work for transition.

Show up and sing out! First Pres will walk through this transition in the same way we do everything else: together. Showing up is more important than ever. We will need to see each other more; we will need to hear each other singing praise. Even when it is difficult, we show up and we sing together because though we know plenty about death and endings, we are ultimately a people of Resurrection.

Jump In: First Pres needs you! If there's ever been a time that your involvement will make a difference it is now! So, jump in! Help with coffee hour or sing with the choir for a month or two. Prepare to say 'yes' if the nominating committee or Session asks you to lead. Lend a hand in food ministry or KidSpace, offer to usher or reach out to someone who may feel lonely. Look for ways to be helpful and just do it- because this ministry belongs to all of us!

Give: Transitions are always uncertain in many ways- including financially. Now is a great time to contribute or increase your contribution to our work so we can move confidently into the future.

Celebrate: We have had such a great run together- there is so much to remember, so many reasons to rejoice! if you are able to help out with our farewell party June 18, or with the 150th anniversary celebration on Dec 31, 2023, send an email to Laurie and let her know!

Choose Joy! Pastors come and pastors go, but the Steadfast Love of God endures forever! Be strong and courageous for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Much love,

Sandy

Save the Dates

May 14: Youth Sunday

June 4: Honoring LifeSkillz Graduates

June 18: Celebrating Sandy's Service

June 25: Current Pastor's Final Sunday

December 31: FPCSB 150th Anniversary Celebration

Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

Sgt. Jacob Allen,
US Marines, MFR Band,
New Orleans, Louisiana

LCpl Jeremy Allen,
US Marines, Okinawa, Japan

PFC 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



Notes



Save the Date

Symphonie Jeunesse Mother's Day concert at
First Presbyterian Church,
Sunday, May 14 at 3:00 p.m.



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.

Adult Christian Education:

The Bible study class that meets at 9:30 Sunday mornings has moved to Fireside Lounge. Martha Pinckney is facilitating. The discussion-based class is currently studying passages from Luke. Study guides (from Augsburg Press) are available.

Everyone is invited.

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of as of February 28, 2023.
General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$43,897.61	55,604.00	(11,706.39)
Other Income*	\$24,688.59	20,733.52	3,915.07
Expense	\$90,982.18	94,418.81	(3,436.63)
Net Income	\$(22,395.98)	(18,041.29)	(4,354.69)

Division Consolidation

	February	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	(14,302.00)	(22,395.98)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	(523.41)	1,396.95
Net Operating Income (Expense)	(14,825.41)	(20,999.03)

In Memoriam

March 2023

Judy Brewer

July 11, 1949--March 22, 2023

Tommie Ann Freeman

June 3, 1932--March 24, 2023

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

Graduates!

If you are a graduate or have a family member graduating from high school, college, or graduate school this spring, please send her/his name, relationship to congregation members, school and degree (if appropriate), and graduation date to Newsletter@fpcsb.net by Monday, April 17, for recognition in the May newsletter.

If you can **include a photo** of the graduate, that would be terrific. You can email or text it to me, Wendy.

If you would like to include a note about "what's next" for the graduate, I will also include that information.

Youth Group for Youth Sunday

May 14, the Sixth Sunday after Easter (also Mothers' Day), our youth will lead us in a joyful worship service.

The youth will begin preparing on Palm Sunday, April 2, after worship, in Room 11. We will have lunch and spend time reading scripture, choosing a theme, planning the order of worship, and selecting music. *Students, if you wish to make decisions about scripture, liturgy, and music, please be at this meeting.*

Youth group will continue to meet in April and early May (no meeting on Easter) to plan and write and rehearse as they worshipfully prepare to lead with joy.

2022 Youth Sunday Rehearsal



The Andrews Family Gift

This is the seventh of eight articles on endowments and gifts given to the Church. Tommy Jane Roberts and Michael Smith provided almost all of the information included here, and we are very grateful to them.

--Margaret Doane, Stewardship

Herb and Anna Jane Andrews, members of First Pres for more than fifty years, wanted the bulk of their estate to go to their beloved church but also wanted to make sure that their only child, Cyndi, had all the money she needed. The parents set up an unusual trust in which Cyndi would get lifetime use of her parents' funds, and their estate would come to our Church only after Cyndi's death. Cyndi died at 70 in 2019, and the Church received a huge sum, one of the largest gifts we have ever received. This gift is a testament to Herb and Anna Jane's love for their Church as well as to Cyndi's devoted stewardship.

We want to honor the family and their remarkable generosity, but unfortunately not many people in the Church remember them well. This isn't surprising since Herb and Anna Jane each would be over a hundred if they were alive today, and each passed more than twenty years ago. Cyndi moved from the area in the 1970s; and, except for a brief return to San Bernardino in the 1980s, was a resident of Cathedral City for decades. These long-time members have been gone a long time.



**ANDREWS, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert
(Anna Jane), Miss Cyndi**

Several people do have memories and knowledge of the family: Melodee Kistner has the clearest recollections, saying that "Herb and Anna Jane were in [her] life every Sunday for much of [her] young life. They were both kind and funny and generous of heart." Others recall that Herb was more "outgoing" than Anna Jane; they sat in the back on the lectern side; they were in Mariners; he was an usher. Anna Jane was the secretary at the Congregational Church on Sierra Way and is remembered as "helpful," "knowledgeable," and "kind." Cindi Pringle was able to supply that the elder Andrews gave money to other groups besides our Church, most notably Cal State San Bernardino. Jim Huffstutler says that Cyndi was a "fabulous high-end interior designer."

We have much more information about the Andrews family because of the super sleuthing abilities of our friend and former member, Tommy Jane Roberts, who found the obituaries for all three people. Both Herb's and Anna Jane's obituaries focus on their activities and memberships. Herb was born in Colton in 1911 and graduated from Colton High, San Bernardino Valley College, and the University of Arizona. He met Anna Jane there, and they married in 1936. Herb served in the military during both World War II and the Korean War, was a Commander in each, and received both a silver and a bronze star for bravery in combat. Herb and Anna Jane had moved to San Bernardino right after World War II and joined First Pres, where over the years he served as an usher and an Elder. He worked as a banker at Valley National Bank and was a member of the Kiwanis, Elks, and the Arrowhead Country Club. He died May 18, 1996. Anna Jane was born in Indiana in 1915, and the family moved to Arizona a few years later. She graduated from Tucson High School and the University of Arizona, "with high distinction." In San Bernardino, she was a member of the Assistance League, National Charity League, Panhellenic, Community Hospital Auxiliary, and was awarded life membership in the PTA. Anna Jane sold the family home on Bernard Way about 2000 to move to the desert to be near Cyndi but didn't live long after the move. She died May 19, 2002.

While we primarily know only facts about Herb and Anna Jane, we know much more about Cyndi because of the kindness and knowledge of her longtime friend, Michael Smith. The obituary for Cyndi that Tommy Jane found was from the Wedgwood (China) International Seminar, so I wrote to the organization asking if anyone had more information on Cyndi and received a series of e-mails from the correspondent we could only dream of finding, a dear friend with a detailed knowledge of Cyndi's life and interests. Michael Smith met Cyndi at a Wedgwood Society meeting in 1988 and "in talking found out that they both grew up in San Bernardino and had lived in the same area;" they were friends for thirty years, and Michael helped Cyndi's trustee settle her estate. He was able to supply a lot of biographical information about Cyndi, as well as being able to supply the kinds of details that help us know her as a person. During high school, she and five other Pacific students "would drive to LA to film Dick Clark's American Bandstand Show. They

continued on next page

Andrews Family -- continued from last page



Cyndi Andrews

danced on the show and said it had a good beat." After high school, she briefly joined a commune; then came home and entered Chapman College, where she graduated with a degree in Art, with a specialty in fabrics and textiles, in 1971. She and her parents traveled to northern Europe for six weeks in 1972; they purchased a Volvo for the trip, and from this experience she so loved Volvos that she joined the Volvo Car Collector's Association and was secretary of the Southern California Chapter for many years. After living in San Diego for a few years, she moved to Cathedral City and continued her work in interior design. She worked

on several celebrity homes in the desert, "among them Loretta Young. She and Cyndi got along well as Ms. Young was very knowledgeable about textiles." Cyndi collected Wedgwood and was a long-time member of the Wedgwood Society of Southern California and served on the Board of Directors as well as being Secretary, Vice President, and President. She was a life member of the Friends of the Edward Dean Museum in Cherry Valley as well as being a supporter of the Museum of the Living Desert. She died after a long illness on May 11, 2019. A memorial was held at her favorite restaurant, Sammy's, where she was such a regular that a salad, "The Cyndi," -- a very spicy salad since "Cyndi liked hot and spicy flavors" -- was named for her. She gave large gifts to the Living Desert and Chapman University, as well as funds to the Boys and Girls Clubs and to Shelters for Abused Women.

We are so grateful to the Andrews family for their love for our Church and their great benevolence to us. They were a remarkable group, notable for their active commitments to the Church and to the community, people of kindness and humor and generosity of heart.

A Return to Donuts for Coffee Hour



to full service coffee hour, serving and cleaning up, but we can use your help in continuing to pick up donuts prior to the church service. If you are interested in keeping this tradition going, please contact the interns during coffee hour to sign up to pick up donuts. You can also contact Rick or Dave for further information.

After a long absence, the decision was made to return to donuts for coffee hour. However, we no longer have the Mariner's groups to help with this task. Our interns have graciously assisted us with a return



April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Apr 1	Wayne McCarl Ray & Becky Nelligan Irene Sandoval-Suverkrup
Apr 3	John-Paul Fletcher
Apr 4	Howard Le Roy
Apr 5	Laura Olsen Dunn Jacob Allen Kelsey Law
Apr 7	Patricia Parks
Apr 8	Mary Bolaños Don & Earleen Dudley
Apr 10	Debbie Law
Apr 12	Frederick Star
Apr 13	JoAnna Wierenga Cassidy Wright
Apr 15	Kelsey Adelson Jennifer Mantei
Apr 16	Marilyn Karnig Beverly Snell
Apr 18	Michelle Lea Babcock Don Dudley Oliver Andrew Lamb
Apr 20	Cliff Cummings Joseph Ramirez
Apr 24	Harlan Leonard Wright
Apr 27	Carly Earp Jonah Roy Morales
Apr 28	Jim Cimino Jim Coyne Mark Freeman
Apr 29	Jim & Helen Babcock
Apr 30	Tom Rennard

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

Making our Way toward Easter



**What in our lives do we dream
about for tomorrow,
void of sorrow?**

**Time spent regretting decisions of
our yesterdays,
mistakes we made?**

**Sometimes we get what we get,
life disappoints us and yet,
God is still here and somehow,
this faith is good enough.**

As we move through our *Good Enough Lent*, we prepare for Easter. We prepare ourselves through prayer and fasting and through worship services throughout Lent and during Holy Week. We not only prepare ourselves, but we also prepare our space, readying the sanctuary visually for the great festival of Easter. Here are some ways we prepare, and some ways everyone can join in and prepare together.



Palm Saturday: Help us begin Holy Week as we prepare for Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. On Saturday, April 1, we would love your help making

palm crosses for our Palm Sunday service. We'll gather in Fireside Lounge at 9 a.m. for a morning of fellowship and creation. Everyone of all ages is invited and experience is not required, but please bring your own scissors! At 10:00, we plan to prepare the sanctuary for Palm Sunday by building "Palm Trees" and hanging palm fronds. We look forward to creating with you!



Palm Sunday: April 2, We will gather outside and process in together singing "Hosanna." Later, we will experience communion together. We also will be collecting our "Fat Fish" and One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on that day.

Maundy Thursday pays solemn remembrance to the last hours of Jesus, especially the last time our savior shares a meal with his disciples. Please join us Thursday, April 6, at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary for this deeply moving and profoundly spiritual service. Maundy Thursday brings us closer to God through a deeper understanding of and participation in the last hours of our Lord. It also reminds us that we cannot arrive at Easter without first traveling through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.



Easter Saturday Morning, April 8, you're invited to assist the Worship Committee with preparing our sanctuary for Easter morning. You are invited to bring your garden's most beautiful flowers, blooming branches, and greenery. If you bring them in buckets of water, they will stay fresh until arranged! You're also invited to bring pruning shears and garden gloves if you would like to help make arrangements. We will gather at 9 a.m. and welcome everyone's participation--whether you have flowers to bring or not--in this tradition of beauty, creativity, and joyous preparation for Easter!

Easter Worship! Sunday, April 9, our sanctuary will be filled with friends and with color. We will gather in the dim light recalling Easter dawn. We will sing with the joy that only hope reborn can bring, and we will raise up our voices with "the A-word" from which we have been fasting for so many weeks. Choir and organ will help us lift our hearts, and we will once again proclaim the ancient Easter greeting: Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!



A Changing of the Guard

We have four Liquid Amber trees that have guarded our Sanctuary for many years now. Unfortunately, the root systems of these trees have damaged our sidewalk and parking lot and are in

Pink Dawn Tree



danger of damaging the Sanctuary and sewer system. The decision was made to retire and remove these trees before further damage occurs to our property. Several of our Building and Grounds members recently attended a community tree seminar hosted by Master Gardeners from UC Riverside to obtain the best option for replacement. The recommendation was made to replace the four trees with a single Pink Dawn tree planted well away from sidewalks and buildings. This will give optimal health and growing room for our new tree guard. We plan to have this project completed over the next few weeks.

The Liquid Amber Trees



Notes from your Session

by Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

Your Session met on Wednesday, March 22nd for appetizers and dessert followed by the meeting. We revisited the issue of flags in the Sanctuary and everyone expressed what has emerged for them since it was last discussed in November. No final decision was made, but we will revisit again next month. The discussion was thoughtful, and everyone listened carefully to each other using the Kaleidoscope Institute R.E.S.P.E.C.T. guidelines. (If you aren't familiar with these, please reach out to the office for more information.)

Buildings and Grounds brought two proposals to the table. One is to remove the four trees along the north driveway since their roots are impacting the asphalt and sewer system. It has been recommended to replace it with one tree, a Pink Dawn, that will not have the same impact. This tree is native to our climate and we can obtain one for free! (See article and photo on page 7). Session also approved new signage for our Oak Tree Learning Center at the recommendation of the B&G committee.

We also looked at a revised budget which will be revisited again in a few months. Session agreed to host a Presbytery Meeting in either September or November – stay tuned for details – an “all church” effort!

Finally, we want you to know that Session met with Bill Roozeboom, liaison from Presbytery during the transition of Sandy's retirement. Pastoral staff was not present and everyone was able to ask many questions about the process after Sandy's retirement. We agreed that we do not need to be in a hurry, but can rely on Wendy and Steve to lead us through the summer months while we do a Mission Assessment Study and discern the need to have an Interim Pastor during this time. Please reach out to any Session member with any questions.

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

Abby's Art Project Opportunity

Congregation Member and college student Abby Willis is working on a project for her Junior Show as an art major. She is asking for help from the congregation. Katie Willis will have a table set up where you can participate in Abby's project this week. This is what Abby says:

I am notorious for bottling things up, hiding away my true feelings for the sake of others, which in so many ways is detrimental to my mental health. Journaling, as a part of my artwork, has become one of the ways I have learned to express my suppressed emotions, enabling me to unburden and let go. Because I don't believe that I am alone in this, I wanted to create an art installation project for my Junior Exhibition that would create a safe space for others to be able to get out what they're bottling up too so that instead of letting those thoughts and feelings brew and fester, they could similarly let them go, and allow them to be transformed into something beautiful.

So I invite you to choose a piece of paper and write as much as your heart desires. As an artist, the hardest part of beginning is starting on a blank canvas, so I've provided watercolor painted paper from old books in the hope that it will be a little less scary to start writing. Allow your words to tangle into the text and get out what you need. Feel free to use multiple pieces of paper if you would like. Once you have finished, slip your piece of paper into the box here on the table so that it may be transformed into a butterfly, take flight and relieve you of its weight.






Thank you for participating in my project. If you have any questions feel free to email me at awillis@gustavus.edu.



Abby works in the studio

First Presbyterian Church

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26  Fifth Sunday IN LENT 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	27	28	29 10:00am 150th Planning Team	30 5:15pm Yoga Class 6:00pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	31 9:30am Kerygma	1 8:30am SJO rehearsal 9:00am Palm Cross making 10:00am Sanctuary Decoration 10:00am Straight Up AA
2  Communion Sunday Palm Sunday 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 11:45am Youth Sunday Prep	3	4 7:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	5 4:00pm Worship Committee	6  MAUNDY THURSDAY Maundy Thursday 5:15pm Yoga Class 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	7  GOOD FRIDAY Church Office Closed. Good Friday 9:30am Kerygma	8 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA
9  EASTER SUNDAY Easter Sunday 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	10	11 6:30pm Deacons	12 10:00am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Nurture Committee	13 5:15pm Yoga Class	14 8:30am Food Bagging 9:30am Kerygma	15 Deadline for First Press articles 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA 1:00pm SJO rehearsal
16 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 11:45am Youth Sunday Prep	17	18 1:00pm Circle of Grace and Hope 7:00pm Mensch Group	19 5:00pm Stewardship Committee	20 9:00am Friendship Circle 5:15pm Yoga Class 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	21 9:30am Kerygma	22 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA
23  GIVE Blood 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 11:45am Youth Sunday Prep	24 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	25	26 5:30pm SESSION	27 5:15pm Yoga Class	28 9:30am Kerygma	29 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA
30 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 11:45am Youth Sunday Prep	1	2 1:00pm RPEA Board 7:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	3 4:00pm Worship Committee	4 5:15pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	5 9:30am Kerygma	6 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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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.