



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

# First Press

May 2023



Worship committee members, interns, and congregational volunteers spent Holy Saturday morning turning our sanctuary into a beautiful garden for Easter.

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## *The Season of Easter*

Sink your generosity deep into our lives  
that your muchness may expose our false lack  
that endlessly receiving we may endlessly give  
so that the world may be made Easter new,  
without greedy lack, but only wonder,  
without coercive need but only love,  
without destructive greed but only praise  
without aggression and invasiveness.

*all things Easter new*

*all around us,*

*toward us*

*and by us*

*all things Easter new.*

— Walter Brueggemann

## The Winter/Spring 2023 Intern Team by Rick Rodriguez, Intern Supervisor

The Winter/Spring 2023 Internship term is the 20th team of interns we have had at First Pres since this program began in February of 2015. Recently this team worked with many of the members of our church family to help prepare the Sanctuary for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. This was a blessing for both our church members and the interns as our young interns climbed up the tall ladder for the work that some of us know we need to leave to younger people.

The seasonal demands and the rain (and snow!) since this team started in January resulted in more inside work than any previous teams. Having Marlene Olivas as the second intern supervisor continues to be a huge mutual benefit. She brings her own perspective to planning and performing our work and some things are easier for team members to share with her than me. And Marlene being an AVID tutor at San Bernardino High School means she sees them in both a school and work setting. Another way in which this 20th term is unique is that the team is composed of 3 seniors and 3 freshmen, a very interesting dynamic. Our seniors have all been interns before and are very close to graduation. Our freshmen just started high school and are still finding their way. Supervising girls just out of middle school and girls who are about to move on to college is a fun challenge for both Marlene and me.

Once again this term, we have had LifeSkillz kids who are not part of the intern team come in and work for community service hours. This lets us bring in more kids on days we need them, like food distribution days.

The internship program continues to flex and evolve, with each team being a joy and blessing to the members of the First Presbyterian Church family, our neighborhood, and the kids involved in the program.



### Pray for Our Military Members

**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

### Needles and Nurture

**May 27, 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Fireside Lounge**

My mom taught me to knit when I was in college. It was a great way to spend time with her and also lose myself in the repetitive nature of the stitch. My first project was a plain burgundy sweater that I absolutely loved and was so proud of! And my mom helped me connect the sleeves and finish everything off so there were no loose threads.

As my kids get older, I have seen the creative bug in my two girls, Sarah and Teofila. They love to craft and have gotten into knitting really early (They are 9 and 6!). But it seems that time always gets away from me and I end up pushing projects to another day or weekend. And so the yarn, needles, and our super duper knitting machine sit on a shelf collecting dust.

At the Officers Retreat in January, I jotted some ideas down about how we can use some of our Holy Currencies and one of those ideas was a knitting group. I kept it to myself for a few months, just thinking things over and trying to figure out how I could carve out some time each month to spend knitting with my girls.

I brought the idea up to the Nurture Committee and everyone really liked it, especially when I said it was not exclusively a knitting group, but that those who crochet are welcome too!

And so Needles & Nurture was born! We will have our first meeting on May 27th from 9am-11am in the Fireside Lounge.

Bring your needles and yarn and let's enjoy some time together in the company of amazing people.



## 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](mailto:newsletter@fpcsb.net).  
**The June deadline is Wednesday, May 17.**

### Financial Notes

Financial Report as of March 31, 2023.

#### General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$75,516.05	89,410.97	(13,894.92)
Other Income	\$34,915.28	38,170.20	(3,254.92)
Expense	\$133,037.03	141,699.76	(8,662.73)
Net Income	\$(22,605.70)	(14,118.59)	(8,487.11)

#### Division Consolidation

	March	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	127.56	(22,605.70)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	(1,662.79)	(265.84)
Net Operating Income (expense)	(1,535.23)	(22,871.54)

### In Memoriam

**March 2023**

**Dale Showman**

November 27, 1938 - March 31, 2023

**April 2023**

**Ernie Garcia**

July 20, 1929 - April 5, 2023

**Danny Schiavone**

September 3, 1927 - April 8, 2023

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



**Symphonie Jeunesse  
 Mothers' Day Concert  
 May 14, 2023, 3:00 p.m.**

*This is Abby's completed art project. Thank you for participating.*

### **Metamorphosis by Abby Willis**

#### Artist Statement

I am compelled to create by the healing nature of art. For me, the act of creating allows for introspection in ways that make my internal feelings visible so that I can digest my experiences more easily. These supposed "best years of my life" are full of anxiety and worry for my unknown future and so my current body of work is saturated by my life experiences as I grapple with transforming these anxieties into opportunities for resiliency. It is my hope that my visual explorations will foster opportunities of healing for myself and those who view my work.

Metamorphosis is an installation piece where I invited people from my community here at Gustavus, and at home in California, to let go of suppressed emotions by writing about them on painted book pages. The intent of this participatory piece was to enable participants to get out what they are bottling up rather than letting it fester. I then collected the notes, folding them into hundreds of butterflies so that each participant could be relieved of the weight from their negative thoughts, worries or fears and allow them instead to be transformed into something beautiful.



## The Marjorie and Paul Owens Gift

*This is eighth in a series of eight articles on endowments and gifts given to the Church.*

*-- Margaret Doane, Stewardship*

The Church recently received a financial gift from the estate of Marjorie and Paul Owens. Marjorie attended services faithfully, and Paul enthusiastically and generously if only occasionally. The Church clearly was dear to Marj and Paul, and many in the Church remember them as unusually loving, kind, and generous.

Four generations of Marjorie's family were members of First Pres. The Fultons and their children, as well as Marjorie's mother's aunt, were active members, and Marj and Paul's two daughters, Suzan and Sandra, were active as well. The girls attended Sunday school, says Jim Huffstutler, and Melodee Kistner says that the older daughter was in youth group in high school as well as being in a young adult group with her. Marjorie's grandmother, Bess Elkins, joined the Church after she retired from a long career as a schoolteacher. Jim says she was "a bit of a character" and was "interesting and intelligent," and the two of them occasionally went to matinees together. Long-ago member and church secretary Norma Anderson Zimmer exclaims "Bess was wonderful!" in her "lighthearted attitude towards aging and great sense of humor," adding that Bess was "really fun!"



OWENS, Paul & Marjorie

Marj grew up with her parents and siblings in a house on Baseline and attended Lincoln Elementary, Sturges Junior High, and San Bernardino High School, graduating in 1949. Jim Huffstutler says she was named Miss San Bernardino, possibly in 1949. She met Paul Owens either at a car show or when they both began working for the post office, and they married in 1950. Each continued to work for the post office for many decades, Paul rising to becoming postmaster and Marj working as an administrative personal secretary. They had two daughters, Suzan and Sandra, who lived into early adulthood, but each died in a separate tragic event. The deaths of their daughters -- so beloved! -- were devastating for Marj and Paul; but although they "lived with much sadness," said Wendy in her memorial service for Marj, they "never became bitter." Throughout their marriage they had many interests, most especially cars, dancing, boating, taking cruises, and hunting; and had, by numerous reports, a wonderful marriage. When Paul developed memory issues and moved to Brookdale Memory Care, Marj chose to move with him although she had no mental impairments. "The most important thing to her was to be with Paul," Wendy said at Marj's memorial service, "and she missed him deeply" after he died in 2018. Marj died February 16, 2020, the day before what would have been their 70th wedding anniversary.

Many people shared stories of Marj and Paul's interests, as well as being touched by their great generosity and kindness. Paul, said Wendy at his memorial service from a report from his nephew Melvin, "loved cars and speed." Paul belonged to car clubs, had many cars, and loved to race both cars and boats. But when Sandy Tice said that the Church was in "dire straits budgetarily, Paul sold one of his CARS" and gave the Church a check for half the proceeds. "Several times after that, Sandy says, Paul "sought [her] out to hand over a check above and beyond his pledge," and handed it to her personally "to surprise and delight [her]." Amy Smith recalls the presentation of these checks as well, that "whenever Paul would come, he would stop Sandy as she was leaving the Chancel and hand her a check!" Paul retained his interest in cars even after he was unable to drive; Mindy Rueda, who visited him at Brookdale, told Wendy of a game he invented using radiator belts and fan belts. Kathy Showman, who visited Marj and Paul as a deacon, said Paul was extremely proud of a classic car he restored and "gave [her] a tour of the car " when she visited; the Owens were "very gracious" and even served Kathy a snack whenever she visited. Lynette DuClos Adelson recalls Paul and Marj's kindness to her dad: both of Lynette's parents had unexpectedly been on the same cruise with Marj and Paul sometime in the 1990s; and after Lynette's mother died, Paul and Marj "invited Dad to join them on several cruises. What a gift it was to know that Dad was doing something he really enjoyed!"

Marj and Paul Owens were people who had a great love for each other, for their daughters, for others, and for their Church. Kathy says Marj "loved Paul to the moon and back." Nan Shelton says she "loved them fiercely, called on them often, and admired them so much as they lived with the death of both of their daughters and remained devoted to each other, their marriage, and their faith." Lynette also visited Marj regularly after Paul's death and says that "although she missed him terribly, she was always positive and content with life and grateful for the Church." And we are very grateful to Marj and Paul, people remarkable, said Wendy, for their "faithfulness, generosity, and joy."

*At the April meeting, Session approved by consensus a policy for the use of flags in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. As one Session member said, when we display flags, it will be with intention, respect, and love. The policy is presented here followed by background and information regarding the process and discussions that helped form the policy.*

- The Session agreed that the American flag will continue to be displayed in the Fellowship Hall.
- The American flag will be displayed in the Sanctuary at regular worship services only on the weeks of National days of Remembrance: Memorial Day, American Independence Day, and Veteran's Day.
- Our flags can be displayed at memorial services upon request.
- The Presbyterian Church (USA) flag, the Christian flag, and the Scottish flag will be displayed at the discretion of the worship committee.

## A Letter from Your Session

For some months, you may remember Session has been discussing the complex issue of displaying a flag (or flags) in our sanctuary. Last fall a member noticed that there were no flags in the sanctuary and asked about it. It turned out that during the pandemic when services were online only, a work crew was changing paraments, banners, etc. and moved the flags into the vestry (where robes, stoles, and tablecloths are kept). There were four of them: the flag of the United States of America, the Christian Flag, the flag of the PC(USA), and a Scottish flag. The flags were stored for more than a year before someone noticed their absence and asked where they were. It became clear that we as a Session needed to consider our policies. We have spent many hours together doing so, and it has been meaningful.

We began by asking, "What are the reasons for having a flag (or several flags) in a sanctuary? Are there ways this might be misinterpreted?" Here are some themes that emerged:

Our Constitution calls for a **separation of Church and State** as a founding principle of our nation. It is right and proper to have flags in courtrooms, which are a part of our nation's justice system; and in public buildings which are supported by our taxes and laws; likewise in schools and public universities. These institutions are accountable to our government, and the flag reminds us of that connection and that responsibility. The Church, however, is accountable to God alone. It is not funded by the public, nor can national leaders determine who shall lead a particular church. At times the church may even be called to critique a policy if the Spirit calls us to do so. In any case, in our country, all are free to worship as they see fit. The US flag does not belong to one religious group, and the first amendment says "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." We are concerned that a flag in the sanctuary may send an unintended message that we do not understand this separation. "We are inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven," as one prayer puts it.

**What the symbol of our flag means depends on the person viewing it.** All of us agree that our flag represents the best of our nation and its vision of freedom. One elder offered this quote: "you are what you are because of where you were when." This helped us understand that where and when we grew up, what we saw and learned, and what we have experienced in our adult lives shapes what we see and feel. Each of us has had different experiences with our nation's flag. One elder recalled a spouse flying missions over Vietnam, another recalled watching the Twin Towers fall over and over on TV as an 11 year old. We remembered a flag folded with care and presented to a widow; seeing people waving flags while attacking our capitol; flags held aloft with joy by newly sworn citizens. We honor those who serve without counting the cost, willing to put even their lives at risk for the cause of freedom and democracy. We know those who serve in our military hold our flag with fierce devotion and loyalty, and we are grateful for their commitment. We come from many places and decades, and we hope to be a church that is diverse and inclusive and welcoming.

The word "**Sanctuary**" literally means "**safe place**." Our culture is deeply divided and conflicted, and the internet fans the flames of every disagreement. Perhaps the church sanctuary can be a place where we can rest from such conflict and experience something else- Jesus says, "Come to me... I will give you rest". We can move beyond the 'either-or' and welcome a range of political views and theological perspectives. This is a lab where we love one another in Jesus' name. We hope to signal that all are welcome here, and that no one is prioritized nor excluded because of their national affiliation or place of birth. Scripture says that "in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek slave nor free, male nor female- but all are one in Christ Jesus." We do not need to agree on all things in order to belong to God and each other, in order to be made one. We considered that in our sanctuary a cross, a table, a font, and the Bible remind us of who and Whose we are. One elder said, "I honor the flag, I salute the flag, I love my country- but that is not why I come to church. I come to listen for the voice of God." Jesus invites us to "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

*Libby, Mary Bolanos, Jeanne Clark, Margaret Deane, Brooke Dwork, Jon Horstmann, Rachel Neff, Marsha Richney, Susan Skyles, A. Smith, E. Ash, Amy Minion*

## Our Busiest Month Ever in the Food Ministry

by Rick Rodriguez, Food Ministry

More people came to our Tuesday and Thursday food giveaways in April 2023 than in any other month in recent years. At 379 encounters, and one more Thursday to go as of this writing, we've exceeded our previous November 2022 high of 371, and we expect our April total to be well over 400.

Those of us in the food ministry have been expecting an increase in March and April because of changes to CalFresh. Emergency Allotments of \$95 for individuals and as much as \$400 for large families added in early 2020 were eliminated this March. In three years, families have come to rely on receiving this extra amount, especially as food costs continue to increase. The allotments also freed limited incomes for other necessities like utilities, transportation, etc.

To prepare for the increase in the number of people coming for food, we've been giving out cold food from Feeding America that weighs (and therefore costs) less, but still has nutritional value. We never know what will be available, but recent cold bags have included items such as lunch meat, Lunchables for kids, hot dogs, cheese, bacon, and sausage. Since our cost is a \$.19/lb maintenance fee for all the food we get at Feeding America, our cost is lower, and our recipients seem to appreciate these foods.

We also give our recipients a list of other food distribution sites and other resources in the San Bernardino area to access if the need arises.

We expect the number of people we serve to continue to rise over the next several months as families figure out how to handle the loss of the Emergency Allotments they have been receiving for the last 3 years and deal with increasing food and utility costs.

Thank you for your support of food ministry, whether in gifts of time and skill, or Deacon offerings, or specific items of food, bags, or other supplies. Right now, we have a shortage of canned fruit, an item we have been unable to get from Feeding America for some time.

If anyone in our church family ever has any questions about the food ministry, please ask me or Marilyn Kraft.



*Members of choir and our organist donned red noses to honor Dale Showman during his memorial service. They also sang in his honor.*

## May Celebrations

- May 1 Lily Bolaños  
Aidan Morris
- May 4 Erika Mantei
- May 6 Kaiyah Dubois  
Katie Willis
- May 7 Brian Gano  
Maggie Willis
- May 9 Rosalind Mantei  
Phil Savage III
- May 10 Marissa Congdon  
Susan Skoglund
- May 11 Tinka Ponder
- May 12 Wendy Lamb
- May 14 Carol Coyne
- May 15 Lynn Usher
- May 16 Jim Babcock
- May 17 Sharon Louise  
Landeros  
Wanda Skipper  
Tim & Lynn Usher
- May 23 Jim Morris
- May 24 Trinity Conley  
Penny Ramirez
- May 27 Jenna Garza  
Schneider
- May 28 Mark Adelson  
Jon Preciado  
Maria Saenz  
Al & Mindy Rueda

## 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

# Celebrating our Graduates

## **Madelyn "Maddie" Ramirez**

Maddie is graduating from Summit High School in Fontana on May 25th, 2023. She is still deciding if she will study Drama at UC Berkeley or at a college closer to home. She is the daughter of Ramon and Penny Ramirez, the granddaughter of Donna Feit, and the sister of Joseph Ramirez.



## **Jianna Florek**

Jianna, granddaughter of Irene Sandoval, will graduate from Cal State Long Beach on May 17th with her masters in Criminal Justice. Besides her schooling, she has been interning with the Anaheim Police Department's Crime Analyst Department and that's what she hopes to be after graduation. She's a black belt in karate and has worked at Starbucks for 6 years where she is now a Coffee Master. We are very proud of her!

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## 2023-2024 Leonard Scholars

### **Abby Willis, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minnesota**

Abby is pursuing a studio art major and is on track to graduate spring of 2024. She takes psychology classes to help with art therapy. She is very active with the school's gymnastic team and is an active member of the school's organizations.

### **Christian Usher, St. George's University, Grenada, West Indies**

Christian has passed Step 1, the most important test in Medical School. The next half of his studies is core rotation. This is his third year in medical school. He will then complete his residency.

### **Aidan Morris, Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota**

Aidan wants to explore the options for education that Carleton offers. During his first year he thinks his major will be along the lines of environmental science and or political science. He continues his love of soccer and is on the varsity team.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 11:45am Youth Sunday Prep	1	2 1:00pm RPEA Board 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
<b>7</b> <b>Communion Sunday</b> 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 11:45am Deacons 11:45am Youth Sunday Prep	8	9	10 4:30pm Nurture Committee	11 5:15pm Yoga Class	12 9:30am Kerygma	13 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA
14  <b>Youth Sunday</b> Mother's Day 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 1:00pm SJO rehearsal 3:00pm Symphonie Jeunesse concert	15 Deadline for First Press articles	16 12:30pm Circle of Grace and Hope 4:30pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	17 5:00pm Stewardship Committee	18 9:00am Friendship Circle 5:15pm Yoga Class 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	19 9:00am Food Bagging 9:30am Kerygma	20 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA 1:00pm SJO rehearsal
21 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Session	22 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	23	24 5:30pm SESSION	25 5:15pm Yoga Class	26 9:30am Kerygma	27 8:30am SJO rehearsal 9:00am Needles & Nurture 10:00am Straight Up AA
28  <b>Pentecost</b> 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	29  <b>Memorial Day</b> Church Office Closed.	30	31	1 5:15pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	2 9:30am Kerygma	3 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA 12:00pm LifeSkillz Leaders

## 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.***