



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

First Press

Summer 2023



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Among the Trees

In 2020, Pastor Sandy took a sabbatical to spend time "among the trees" and all of us spent time contemplating God's Big Book of Creation. On Sunday, June 18, we wrapped up the sabbatical journey--and our time together as pastor and congregation--with a lunch funded by the Lilly Foundation as part of the sabbatical. On that day, we also dedicated a tree on our grounds, discussed how we have been changed by and what we will take from the last three years, and we celebrated Sandy's seventeen years as our pastor. It was a day of joy with much music (Carol and William at the piano, Symphonie Jeunesse members, Pat and his grandsons with harmonica and guitars), gifts for Sandy and Tom, and spoken words of thanks for all the ways Sandy has ministered with us.

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily...

--Mary Oliver

Commissioned Pastor Corner

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:12-14



These words have been speaking to me this year since the youth group chose to read them on Youth Sunday. We will read them again this week, but I will not preach because it is Hymn Sing Sunday, so I thought I would muse a little here.

We've had a couple big weeks with the celebration for Sandy on the 18th and the final service on the 25th. We have said goodbye well. She was surprised and delighted at the gifts of words and music and presents. She spoke her gratitude at the very beginning of the service last Sunday (June 25). You can find it on our website or YouTube channel if you missed it or would like to revisit it.

Now we move into a time of transition, and that's where the words above become resonant for me. As we move forward, trusting God is with us every step of the way, may we do so with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let us bear with one another. Let us clothe ourselves in love. If we can do these things, we can move forward together faithfully.

Steve and I will both be continuing in the roles we have had. In addition, he will be moderating Session as appointed by HPCC, and I will be overseeing the day to day, week to week functioning and doing much of the preaching until such time as an interim is appointed. Our hope is to keep things steady and bring ourselves to the work while not making Sudden Big Changes! Practically speaking, the next month won't be much different from any July when Sandy has taken an extended vacation. The office staff is steady, and our volunteers are amazing. We have been well-equipped for this time of transition.

This week, as we gather once again to worship, we will "sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God with gratitude in our hearts" (Colossians 3:16b).

~Wendy

LifeSkillz Members at Sandy's Lunch

Our church family had a chance to spend time with Sandy after a special service on Sunday, June 18th. Several LifeSkillz members helped make the day go well.

The front page photo shows Natalie Rojas helping Sandy bless the new tree.

The photo to the left shows Brianna Guzman, Ileana Hernandez, Ariana Aceves & Marlene Olivas serving food on the day of Sandy's lunch.





Notes

The *First Press*, the newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, is edited by Wendy Lamb. Please submit content to Wendy at newsletter@fpcsb.net.

The deadline for the following newsletter is the 20th of each month.

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of May 31, 2023.

General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$138,731.23	149,018.31	(10,287.08)
Other Income*	\$ 63,699.62	59,110.36	4,589.26
Expense	\$220,242.59	232,426.88	(12,184.29)
Net Income	\$(17,811.74)	(24,298.21)	6,486.47

Division Consolidation

	May	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	8,327.52	(17,811.74)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	619.86	450.59
Net Operating Income (Expense)	8,947.38	(17,361.15)

The Garcia Center for the Arts

is having their first annual Benefit Gala

on July 28th from 5:00 till 10:00 PM

Tickets are \$ 125.00 Single, \$225.00 Couple, or \$909.00 for a table.

For tickets call the center at 909-888-6400
Monday – Friday between 10:00 and 4:00.



Worship this Sunday

Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social

Join us as we sing our favorite hymns (we're taking requests) and then enjoy ice cream treats.

We will not be livestreaming this service (due to licensing concerns & the nature of the service).

Outdoor Adventure Grant

On June 7th, we found out that we have been awarded a \$20,520 Synod Partnering grant for a project to continue our investment in leadership and outdoor experiences for San Bernardino High School Students. The project provides funds for graduated LifeSkillz young adults Carmen, Ernie, and Lalli to plan and lead outdoor adventures for current LifeSkillz students. Since part of the design was for the young adults to make the decisions, we don't have details yet. Pat and Jim Morris will be shepherding this project if you have questions.



Photo: Ernie and John-Paul make breakfast on a previous Joshua Tree adventure.

Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

Sgt Jacob Allen,

US Marines, MFR Band, New Orleans, Louisiana

Cpl Jeremy Allen,

US Marines, Okinawa, Japan

FPC Ethan Gano,

US Marines, Pensacola, Florida

Seaman Mark Munz,

US Navy, San Diego, California

Petty Officer First Class 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

Summer Hygiene Kit Drive:

We continuously collect hygiene items but we have an opportunity to get a bit of extra support. If we gather donations and assemble the kits, Thrivent Financial will give us \$250 to finish off our kits. So when you are traveling or shopping, consider bringing back unopened:

- bar soap
- shampoo
- lotion
- toothpaste
- toothbrush
- deodorant
- emery boards
- dental floss picks
- small tissue packs,
- and feminine hygiene products (tampons and various size pads).



These kits are provided through food distribution, mostly to people experiencing homelessness, so travel size items are the norm but we'll use what unopened items you provide. There is a bin behind reception for your donations. Or Amazon can ship to the physical church address. If you'd like to assemble kits, you are welcome. (Although you may have to arm-wrestle Frank Thomas, who is our Tuesday/Thursday volunteer kit maker extraordinaire!) Contact Marilyn with any questions.

Our Youngest Intern Team Ever

by Rick Rodriguez

We have had teams of all kinds during the 8 years of the internship program, but there are several new aspects to our Summer 2023 team. First, every member on this new team except one has just finished their freshman year at San Bernardino High School (SBHS). This includes our two new intern team leaders. We have never had one team leader who is this young, now we have two, Liliana (Lily) Aceves and Natalie Rojas. These two girls were chosen for the leader position because of the excellent work they did in the first term they were interns. Under the guidance of Marlene Olivas, who is our second intern supervisor, both of these girls will grow and learn what it means to lead a group of fellow interns. I also believe since our two leaders have been friends since they were in kindergarten this will be a benefit to our team.

We also have three members on this team who have never been interns before. It is always wonderful when we can welcome new members to the program. Mary and Joshua just finished their freshman year and Clarissa is going to be starting her senior year at SBHS in August. Clarissa is the only member of our team who is over 15 years of age. She has been through three years of high school and everyone else on the team has only finished their freshman year, so I believe she will be a benefit for the younger members on the team. The final member of our team is Patricia (Pati) Aguilar, she also just finished her freshman year at SBHS. She has completed one term of the internship program and does really great work. She will be a joy to have on this team.

This team has worked together one day so far and it was a very busy day. It was a food distribution day and our three new members had never been here to experience the fast pace and many tasks that must happen all at once for our Saturday food distribution to move properly. After food distribution we had to help prepare Fellowship Hall for the lunch for Sandy and our church family on June 18th. We also had lunch together and then Marlene helped our new members fill out the necessary employment documents while other members of the team dug the hole for Sandy's tree. We also had to complete a few other minor tasks on our first day. It made for a busy and productive day.

This may be a young team, but so far they are enthusiastic and hard working. Marlene and I expect to get a lot done this summer with our youngest intern team ever.

Session Highlights

by Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

Session met on Wednesday, June 28th with a lovely dinner and dessert preceding the meeting. Steve Smith has been appointed by the presbytery as Moderator of Session following Sandy's retirement. Several items were decided:

- To name Wendy Lamb as the Acting Head of Staff until an Interim is in place.
- To appoint Dave Thomas, James Welte, and Rick Rodriguez as liaisons with Oak Tree Learning Center and Key Essentials to keep communication open with the church and provide periodic updates.
- To set aside all but \$2,000/month of Sandy's compensation in a custody fund until the time we have an Interim/Called Pastor. The purpose behind this is so the church does not get used to having "extra" money and then do not have the budget to pay an Interim or Called pastor. The \$2,000 will be used for pulp[it supply and to increase compensation to Wendy for her additional hours.'

The main topic of discussion was the formation of a Mission Assessment Team (MAT) to prepare a Mission Assessment Plan (MAP). The purpose of the MAP is to determine where we are currently as a church and vision where we want to be. We have a long list of suggested names that might be good on this team and Session decided to appoint a small group of 4 to make some decisions and reach out to potential members. One of the goals of this team is to receive feedback from ALL members of the church so ALL voices are heard when creating this plan. You will hear about the MAT and MAP over the next several months and will have many opportunities to participate in this process.

We all acknowledged missing Sandy but agreed that the church will go on and thrive! We are so blessed to have Wendy and Steve and Session in this transitional time to lead us forward.



Seated from left: Lily Bolaños, Martha Pinckney, Phyllis Hough, Margaret Doane, Jeanne Clark.

Standing from left: Tim Usher, Jonathan Horstmann, Brooke Dvorak, Pastor Steve Smith, Pastor Wendy Lamb, Susan Skoglund, Alex Smith, Mary Bolaños, Amy Smith, Pat Morris

We took this photo at the end of our meeting this week. As you meet in groups or serve in ministries, we would love to have updated photos for the webpage and other publications. Email photos to Office@fpcsb.net or text them to Wendy.

Session 2023

Steve Smith, 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

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

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino is a member of The Presbytery of Riverside. Ruling Elder Commissioner Mary Bolaños reports on the June meeting.

Report on the Assembly of Riverside Presbytery-- June 17, 2023

The Riverside Presbytery Assembly was held at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Riverside on June 17, 2023. It was moved from the originally scheduled date of June 10 due to the memorial for Kay Gustafson, Curtis Webster's wife and a respected attorney who represented our Synod and all the Presbyteries within the Synod. Curtis Webster is currently the Pastor at Westminster United Presbyterian in Ontario and we remember his service to us as interim pastor before we called Sandy.

We were welcomed by Calvary co-pastors Erin Thomas and Alfred Graise who informed us that the church would have 136 years of service as of the upcoming Monday with some current local missions being their weekly hot meal program, toiletries closet, pet supplies closet, and shower trailer.

Worship was opened with two minutes of silent reflection and led by retiring Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision, Lee Ireland, using the text of Joshua 24 to ask us to reflect on several questions. *Whom does your church serve—the wider community or the membership? Are we serving a building instead of God? In what ways are we evolving to account for the ways the world has changed and is changing? What are we going to need to let go of? Who are we going to serve going forward?*

With remembrances and many (and I do mean many!) words of praise, love, and congratulations, the assembly approved three retiring servants as Honorably Retired: Teaching Elder Claire Schlegel (4/30/23), Teaching Elder Sandy Tice (6/30/23), Teaching Elder Lee Ireland (8/2/23).

Eleven(!) people were elected to terms on various Presbytery committees but chair, Amy Smith (zooming in to the meeting from Hawaii!), reported that there are still spaces on four committees: (from the report) *We still have openings for several commissions/committees. Four are needed for Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations (HPCC), one for Committee on Representation (COR), one for Personnel, and one for Partners in Ministry (PIM). We remind all pastors and congregations that we welcome any potential names for any of our committees and commissions, especially congregants! Committee members do not need to be ordained elders, only those serving on Commissions. All meetings are held on Zoom so no travel time is involved.*

In the major action of the day, our Presbytery elected a new Presbytery Leader for Mission and Vision! Frances Lin (see biography next page) is a Ruling Elder currently serving as Stated Clerk for San Diego Presbytery and is preparing for ordination in August. We welcome her and her family to our presbytery and rejoice in her answer to God's call. A brief bio follows this report.

The Partners in Ministry Committee reported that an International Peacemaker is being invited to come to Riverside Presbytery in September and the committee is asking for volunteers to help with various aspects of this visit. This will also possibly trigger a date and/or time change in the currently scheduled September 9th Assembly. PIM would also like all congregations to be aware that there is now \$210,000 available from our synod for Matthew 25 related projects with a \$15,000 maximum per project.

The Assembly declined at this time to enroll Pastor Stefanus Surjadaja of Anugrah ICC as a Teaching Elder member of the Presbytery of Riverside, referring the action back to the Healthy Pastors & Congregations Commission for further discernment and clarification.

The Assembly was adjourned with prayer and this question: What will you be taking back from this meeting to share with your congregation?

A Brief Biography of Frances Lin

Frances Lin was born in Taiwan, raised as a Buddhist, and immigrated to the United States when she was 14. She decided to dedicate her life to Christ at age 17. Frances holds a degree in Mathematics from Indiana University, Bloomington. She also received a degree of Master in Divinity from Bethel Seminary and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She is working on a Doctorate of Ministry degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Her research focuses on adaptive leadership in the Post Pandemic Missional Movement. Frances was ordained as a Ruling Elder in 2008 and is certified ready to receive a call in 2023. She has served as the Vice Moderator of the Middle East Committee at the General Assembly 2016 in Portland and the Moderator for the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee at the General Assembly 2022 in Louisville. She is also a member of the Unification Commission tasked to unify the Office of General Assembly and Presbyterian Mission Agency. Frances had served as the Executive Director at Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church with 1400 members before COVID. She is currently serving as the Stated Clerk for San Diego Presbytery and a coach for the 1001 New Worshipping Communities initiative of PCUSA. Frances is passionate about connecting with people from different backgrounds and drafting God's story through those interactions. She enjoys playing the harp and hanging out with friends and family in her spare time.

July Celebrations

Jul 1	Nancy Sellas
Jul 3	Mario Bolaños
	Brett Valentine
	Phil & Lynda Savage
Jul 6	Judy Etherton
	Dennis Stafford
Jul 7	Merry Beth Grindahl
	Jim & Dawn Morris
Jul 8	Josie Babcock
Jul 10	Jim Carter
	Doris Nord
	Donna Feit
	Kevin & Wendy Lamb
	Gill Snyder
Jul 12	Trevor Cummings
	Sherman & Joanne Ballard
Jul 14	Margaret Doane
Jul 19	Linda Tiger
Jul 20	Ryan Nord
Jul 21	Donna Garza
	Ezra Joseph Morales
Jul 22	Helen Babcock
	Dennis & Laurie Stafford
Jul 23	Cheryl Direen
	Kevin Lamb
Jul 24	Larry Marona
	Elizabeth Franklin-Morales
	Gary Saenz
Jul 28	Wanda Gernux & Bill McIntosh
	Charlene Peterson
Jul 30	Linda Kaufman

August Celebrations

Aug 1	Amy Gano
Aug 8	Tim Usher
Aug 9	Jackie McKee
Aug 10	Aaron Saenz
Aug 11	Ryan Michael Mantei
	Brent Nord
	Kurt & Lisa Star
Aug 15	Alexia Aguilar
	Ashley Ballard
	Ramon Ramirez
Aug 17	Joanne Ballard
	Rosemarie Evans
	Ethan Gano
Aug 19	Aaron Rueda
Aug 20	Elle Carlos
Aug 22	Gary Bobbitt
Aug 23	Megan Dunn
Aug 25	Gill & Jane Snyder
Aug 26	Beatrice Star
	Valentina Valenzuela
Aug 27	Jessica Edwards
Aug 28	Sarah Alyda Fletcher
Aug 29	Jim & Sheila Cimino
Aug 30	Wanda Gernux
	Shannon Nolin



The bell ringers play for the worship celebration on June 18.



We give thanks for Faithful Partnership. Representing the congregation, individuals thanked Sandy for her ministry as pastor. We spoke of worship, children, education, baptism, communion, preaching, listening, and leading us out into our community and the world. We are grateful for all that Sandy brought to this congregation in 17 years of ministry, and we will miss her deeply even as we move forward, more able to do so because she has led us well.



Curtiss Allen and Norm Wallis on brass and William Zeitler on organ accompany "A Mighty Fortress" for our celebration.

Please check the church website (https://fpcsb.net/events_links/calendar) for up-to-date calendar information for July and August.

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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Dr. Wendy Long Lamb
Commissioned Local Pastor
Acting Head of Staff

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.