



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

First Press

September 2023



Pat Morris and his grandchildren (LtoR Owen, Maggie, Abby, Aidan) serve rootbeer floats to the congregation on National Rootbeer Float Day, a good Ordinary Time non-liturgical holiday. Fun and Delicious!

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We are deep in the middle of Ordinary Time as we worship this summer:

Passing Ordinary Time
Enuma Okoro

It is a hard art to learn,
catching quiet
by palms raised
cupped in
air shifting location
here and there like
trying to guess the pattern of falling
leaves,
and hoping to feel
the soft descent of moments
when silence slips
between sounds.

This ordinary time is
gifted with days,
weeks of mundane grace
routinely following the liturgy
of hours anticipating creation
tuning its prayer and praise to the
rhythms of incarnate love.

I am used to the uproar,
the Holy drama,
the appetite's gnarled discord
of fasting and feasting on borrowed time,
the knocking of angels,
the blubbing piety of waiting,
appointed seasons for guilt and grief,
tears of joy and disbelief,
the birth of miracles, the passion of
virgins,
the mourning of a love so divine.

This ordinary time is
gifted in its quiet, marked passing
Christ slips about
calling and baptizing,
sending and affirming,
pouring his Spirit like water
into broken cisterns,
sealing cracks and filtering our senses,
that we may savor the foolish
simplicity of his grace.

Commissioned Pastor Corner

Ordinary Time

Even during a transition year such as this one, the rhythms built into the church year stand us in good stead. We know that no matter who is in the pulpit we will light candles during Advent; we will sing Silent Night outside with candles on Christmas Eve; we will carry the Alleluia banner out on the last Sunday before Lent; we will stand and sing Alleluia again on Easter. There may be slight tweaks to these moments (what if it rains on Christmas Eve?), but by and large the rhythms carry us through. We know we will have quiet seasons of longing and repentance and we know we will have seasons of joy and celebration, just as we do in our own lives.



This brings me to **Ordinary Time**, the long green season of summer and fall. We like to explain that Ordinary Time doesn't mean it's dull or regular. It means it's Ordered, numbered (ordinal). Some traditions call the Summer/Fall stint of Ordinary Time the Time After Pentecost (we tend to call it that for a few weeks and leave up the Pentecost red and then make a switch to Ordinary Time and green. As Presbyterians we have freedom in how we practice the greater church traditions, and so the Worship Committee makes certain decisions such as when to take down the red paraments.)

During Ordinary Time the Gospel readings show us Jesus' life and work among the people rather than his birth or death. The other readings include texts from Acts showing the working of the Spirit and from the epistles showing moments in the early church. There are two strands of readings from the Hebrew Bible during Ordinary Time, one, the complementary reading, has been chosen to complement the gospel passage. The other set of readings, the semi-continuous readings, progresses through a section of the Old Testament in a semi-continuous manner (not every chapter is included, but what is included is offered in order). I began my preaching with the Summer Series on Acts, but I will continue by following the lectionary, talking about moments in the life of Jesus or stories from the beginning of Israel with bits from the Letters and the Psalms tucked in. Listen for what Jesus is doing day to day, where God shows up since the beginning of the story.

Beyond those moments, I invite us to think of ways we do celebrate during Ordinary Time. It is not a thematic season of celebration like Christmastide or Eastertide or of longing and repentance like Advent or Lent, but it has these particular moments within it, like we might have particular moments in our own lives that we celebrate in the middle of the day to day like a birthday or an annual get-together. Some of these are liturgical, built into the greater church calendar, and some of them are not, but fit the rhythms of our particular congregational life, and we celebrate them. Sometimes we have a new celebration and it might become annual or it might be a one-time thing. **Celebrating Sandy's** years of service was a one-time thing. **Blessing the Backpacks** as kids and grown-ups returned to school for the year might have been a one-time thing, or it could become a regular custom. Same with **National Root Beer Float Day** which was nothing but fun! And then there was **Hurricane Hilary Day!** It was memorable, but I feel no need to repeat it. We also plan to try **Breakfast Church** on September 10 as we move into fall scheduling and KidSpace begins. These are moments that have marked or will mark this particular long green season for me.

There are also our yearly customs. These are some of my favorite days, the ones slipped in among the Ordinary Time Sundays when we can turn our attention to a particular intention. The first week in July we sing our worship and eat ice cream together with our **Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social**. The first week in October we remember all the believers around the world as we share **World Communion Sunday**. This year on World Communion Sunday, we will move back into the sanctuary and our new Presbytery Leader, **Frances Lin**, will be preaching and celebrating with us. The last week in October is a First Pres San Bernardino favorite: Scottish Heritage Sunday, I mean **Reformation Sunday**. We remember the moment over 500 years ago when the Reformers broke from the Roman Catholic Church and began our own way of worship. As Presbyterians, we give a particular nod to John Knox, who founded the Presbyterian Church of Scotland from which many of our American Presbyterian churches are descended. On the first Sunday in November we remember those who have gone before us, particularly those who have died in the last year, on **All Saints Sunday**. The final week of Ordinary Time, the Sunday before Advent, we celebrate **Christ the King** before we begin the story over again thinking about the baby and longing for his coming. I love the rhythms of Ordinary Time as we explore Jesus' life and God's work. And there are things about each of these extra days that I love as well, singing together, thinking about the world and our history and those we have loved. I wonder if any of these days carry special meaning for you? Do you look forward to a particular Sunday in Ordinary Time?

Worship this summer has encouraged me as so many have gathered each week in Fellowship Hall to sing and pray and listen for a Word from God. Thank you for being part of Ordinary Time this year.

~Wendy





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 October newsletter is Wednesday, September 20.

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of July 31, 2023

General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	202,963.61	208,625.65	(5,662.04)
Other Income	82,620.03	80,050.52	2,569.51
Expense	325,656.41	324,802.00	854.41
Net income	(40,072.77)	(36,125.83)	(3,946.94)

Division Consolidation

	July	Year to Date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	278.47	(40,072.77)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	269.32	2,484.09
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	547.79	(37,588.68)



KidSpace begins September 10!

Nancy and Jeanne will continue using *A Joyful Path* curriculum from Progressive Christianity as they teach KidSpace this year.

If you could shepherd the students as a second adult helper on one or more weeks, please speak with Nancy or Jeanne.

KidSpace meets after the Time with the Children all weeks except communion weeks and special festival days.

(If you are in choir, we can arrange the anthem to not conflict with KidSpace.)

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sep 4	Ed Congdon
Sep 5	Hilda Nicks
Sep 6	Norm & Christa Wallis
	Tom & Donna Garza
Sep 7	Sally Inglis
Sep 8	Deon Garcia
Sep 9	Harry Babcock
	Jeanne Clark
	Larry & Melodee Kistner
	Rosalind & Ken Mantei
	Shelby Obershaw
	Ramon & Penny Ramirez
Sep 10	Judy Steppins
	Christian Usher
Sep 11	Jane Snyder
Sep 12	Laurie Stafford
	Kelsey Smith
Sep 15	Jennifer Shenton
Sep 16	Robert Godby
Sep 17	Bonnie Ainsworth
Sep 18	Mindy Rueda
Sep 19	Kimberly Ballard
Sep 22	Al Rueda
Sep 23	Michael Cummings
Sep 24	Kyle Smith
Sep 26	Jim Siegmund
	Kelli Vasquez
Sep 27	Eli Morales
Sep 30	Carmen Paredes

The Rauch Family Foundation Grant at Work by Rick Rodriguez, Food Ministry

As announced in worship in July, the Rauch Family Foundation gave First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino a grant. We received \$10,000 for internship program costs related to helping with our Food Ministry and \$10,000 to purchase fresh food to give out during our weekday and Saturday food distributions. Our interns and the members of our congregation work hard to serve those who need the food we give out on Tuesdays & Thursdays and on the third Saturday of every month. The Food Ministry could not continue to serve the people in our community without both interns and volunteers from our church family. This is easy to see when you look at the increased number of people we are serving each month.

In January 2023 (and for the 2022 year) we averaged giving out food to 33 families and individuals at each of our Tuesday and Thursday Food Giveaways.

In July 2023 we averaged giving out food to 71 families and individuals at each of our Tuesday and Thursday Food Giveaways.

In July 2022 we gave food out to 150 families and individuals at our Saturday Food Distribution.

In July 2023 we gave food out to 221 families and individuals at our Saturday Food Distribution.



I enjoy watching our interns helping during our Food Distribution. They know they are helping people in their own community and while Food Distribution can be hectic and hard work, it is usually the favorite part of the Internship Program for our young people who are hired as interns here at First Pres.

We are now using the money from The Rauch Family Foundation grant to acquire fresh food and to help pay interns who work in the Food Ministry as you can see in the picture of Marlene Olivas bagging potatoes to give out on our Thursday Food Giveaway.

Most recently, during our August Food Distribution on Saturday, August 19, 2023 we gave food out to 219 families or individuals. We completed this in less than 1 hour and 20 minutes. We normally open at 9:00 AM and close at 11:00 AM. We had to close our gates at 10:20 AM because we did not have any more food to give out. The number of people in our community who need food assistance continues to grow. See Hunger Action article on the next page for how you can help meet this growing need.

Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

Sgt Jacob Allen,

US Marines, MFR Band, New Orleans, Louisiana

Cpl Jeremy Allen,

US Marines, Okinawa, Japan

PFC 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

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 2025: Brad Smith, Dave Thomas

Hunger Action by Marilyn Kraft, Food Ministry Volunteer

September is Hunger Action Month—a month dedicated to spreading awareness and taking action to end hunger in America. We are taking action together through your food ministry.

With the support of members, staff, and volunteers, we are adapting to managing more fresh food. Additional members have donated backyard fruit, we have purchased potatoes retail, and we have focused more of our Feeding America on fresh food, including “Costco pallets” (miscellaneous fruits and vegetables). Challenges include managing limited cold storage, an increase in use of plastic bags, and the need to distribute some foods in very short time-frames.

What actions can you take?

1. Provide financial support.

- a. Your general fund donations pay for the electricity (lights, air conditioning, and cold storage), staff support, and provide the space and opportunity to serve.
- b. Donations to Deacons pay the \$0.19/lb maintenance fees at Feeding America, for supplies, repairs and equipment.
- c. You can also donate to the internship program, or to other designated funds for food, equipment, and other food ministry support.

2. Donate materials: Shelf-stable foods, plastic grocery bags, hygiene products. These can be left in the office or near the food closet. Fresh fruits and vegetables are best delivered on Mondays or Wednesdays in coordination with Rick, so we can distribute the next day.

3. Volunteer: Contact Rick about opportunities to inform, drive, unload, bag, restock, register, distribute, and document (reports & photographs).

4. Advocate: Use your voice and vote to support programs that provide economic opportunity and stability to people in need. Food insecurity in our area is highly related to under-employment, and the steep costs of housing, transportation, and other basic needs.



Frank packages potatoes purchased in bulk into smaller bags



Rick uses “Clifford” to move “Costco pallet” of fruits and vegetables.

Breakfast Church

The Nurture Committee invites you to join us on Sunday September 10 at 10:30 a.m. for Breakfast Church. We provide a light continental style breakfast (finger foods) to enjoy while we worship around tables and celebrate the beginning of a new program year. KIdSpace will begin that day!

(You might come a little early to fill your plate with goodies and find your seat.)



August Session Highlights

By Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

Your Session met on August 23rd after taking a July break. While much of the business seemed routine, there are some important things to note taking place in the next few months that will provide many opportunities for congregational participation.

- A Mission Assessment Team (MAT) has been formed to complete a Mission Assessment Plan (MAP) over the next few months. The team consists of Nancy Horstmann, Marilyn Kraft, Irene Sandoval, Mary Bolaños, Jim Morris, Brent Nord and John-Paul Fletcher. They will meet for the first time on August 29th with the support of Rob Stewart, Frances Lin and Bill Roozeboom from Presbytery, and Susan Skoglund and Amy Smith as additional resources. You will have many opportunities to participate in this process and provide input as to what is important to you about this church and what is important to you going forward. Please take advantage of these opportunities – it is essential that we hear from everyone!
- Your Nominating Committee consisting of Brooke Dvorak (Chair), Pat Morris (Vice-Chair), Joanna Nord (Deacons), Wanda Skipper and Laurie Stafford (members at large) will meet on Thursday, August 31st to begin considering who might be willing and gifted to serve as an Elder or Deacon. We ask that you prayerfully consider whether you might be called to serve First Pres in this transition time. If you have any questions about service, feel free to reach out to anyone on the committee, Wendy, Steve, or Amy Smith.
- We had an in-depth discussion about wondering if we need to call an Interim pastor. Things are much different than 20 years ago in that we have Wendy and Steve to fill in the gaps (along with some pulpit supply). Personnel will prepare an Interim position description but will revisit this later this year. If anyone has any thoughts on this, please feel free to contact Amy Smith.
- Finally, First Pres will be hosting the Presbytery Assembly meeting on Saturday, November 4th. We will need many volunteers from the congregation to help with serving food, directing traffic, showing the way to the room, etc. It is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to become more familiar with the works of the Presbytery. It has not been determined if the meeting will be a hybrid or all in-person meeting. If it's hybrid we can expect up to 50 people, if all in-person it could be closer to 70. So, we need all hands-on deck! Please put it on your calendar and plan to assist as you are able. The commitment would most likely be from 8:30 – 2:30 (all or part of that time).

There is wonderful work going on in this church community! Let's rejoice and be glad!

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



Key Essentials held a "Back to School Bash" on our grounds on August 26. Key Essentials rents several of our rooms for their Applied Behavior Analysis services.

Getting to Know Wendy

by Margaret Doane, Stewardship



Photo: Wendy and Sandy at Wendy's commissioning service.

For many of us, life has been marked by consistency: we lived with our family in the same house for decades; went from elementary through high school with the same people, attended a nearby college or trade school or got a nearby job. Many have continued in the same church denomination throughout their lives. Others might have grown up in an additional house or two, gone away to a school or two, or changed church denominations once or twice. But few of us can match Wendy Lamb for the variety of places she has lived, the variety of schools she has attended and the degrees she has attained, and the variety of different kinds of churches she has attended.

Wendy grew up in exotic and distant places because her parents were teachers with the Department of Defense, and the family (her parents and Wendy and her brother) lived and worked on military bases. Wendy was born in Cuba

in the years her parents taught at Guantanamo Bay. Next came Japan; then Missouri; then Taiwan; then Nevada; then Hawaii; and finally -- when Wendy was in high school -- the family moved to Riverside.

Wendy's education and teaching career have taken her to a wide variety of schools in a wide variety of places. Once the family settled in Riverside, Wendy attended La Sierra High School and then attended UC Riverside. She received a degree in English from UCR, a teaching credential from the University of Redlands, and an MA in Teaching English from Cal Baptist. She taught her first college classes at Cal Baptist, and she also taught high school at her alma mater, La Sierra, for eight years. Next came an MA at Purdue in Indiana, where she was a teaching assistant and taught freshman composition while specializing her academic studies in Medieval and Renaissance literatures. She came home for the summer in 2003 and met Kevin! After a long-distance year, Wendy settled into the English PhD program at UCR, where she received her doctorate in 2010 with a dissertation on Shakespeare's Comedies and Film. She taught briefly at Cal State San Bernardino and has been at Crafton Hills College for several years, where she has taught composition, English Literature survey, American Literature survey, and Women Writers.

Wendy's faith journey has taken her to a wide variety of churches. Her parents started going to church when the family lived in Missouri; they attended an independent Christian church where Wendy "got saved." She loved church and attended various functions "three of four times a week." In Taiwan was an independent Christian church; in Nevada, the family was Southern Baptist, in part because it was the only church in town. In Hawaii, the family continued as Baptists. Upon moving to Riverside, Wendy got involved in the Christian Club and attended Harvest Mega Church. Her interest in Medieval and Renaissance literatures at Purdue developed and strengthened her faith. She and Kevin were married at Community Presbyterian Church in Lake Arrowhead, and she and Kevin attended First Pres in Redlands for "a couple of years." Wendy says that "Sandy was a large part of [her] faith journey": Sandy had a blog Wendy enjoyed, and Wendy and her family began attending First Pres during Advent in 2008. Wendy got involved in our church and served on Nurture and on Worship. She became a pastoral intern and then completed a two-year, largely online course to become a Commissioned Local Pastor from Austin Seminary. Her family in San Bernardino includes husband Kevin, so vital to our livestreaming team; children Kendra and Oliver, both active in our youth program; and mother, Deanna Long, who moved to the area a few years ago and attends church here regularly.

Wendy assumed the helm of our Presbyterian ship upon the retirement of Sandy and has guided us ably and capably through these transitional waters. She sees her role as one where she won't "do huge things to shake things up," but rather will keep the "ship afloat" by being supportive and giving the congregation a chance to create our next chapter. We are so grateful to Wendy for her intelligence and commitment as we navigate these unknown times into a wonderful future.

First Presbyterian Church

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	28	29 6:30pm Deacons	30 1:00pm Staff Meeting	31 5:15pm Yoga Class	1 9:30am Kerygma	2 8:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
3 Communion Sunday 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	4 Church Office Closed. Labor Day	5 7:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	6 4:30pm Worship Committee	7 5:15pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	8 9:30am Kerygma	9 8:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
10 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	11 4:30pm Nurture Committee	12	13 1:00pm Staff Meeting	14 5:15pm Yoga Class	15 9:00am Food Bagging 9:30am Kerygma	16 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA 1:00pm Symphonie Jeunesse
17 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	18	19 11:30am Retired Public Employees Assn. 12:30pm Circle of Grace and Hope 7:00pm Mensch Group	20 Deadline for First Press articles 5:00pm Stewardship Committee	21 9:00am Friendship Circle 5:15pm Yoga Class 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	22 9:30am Kerygma	23 8:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
24 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	25 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	26	27 1:00pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm SESSION	28 5:15pm Yoga Class	29 9:30am Kerygma	30 8:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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Monday-Friday
9 am to 4:30 pm

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.