



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

First Press

October 2023



Photo:
Jeremy leads the
procession on
Reformation Sunday
2019.
Join us October 29
for Reformation
Sunday 2023.

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Every year we look forward to Reformation Sunday.
We will hear bagpipes, remember the theology of the Reformation,
eat shortbread, and sing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,
we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure.
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also.
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever.

Mission Assessment Team begins the Work

What is God calling us to be and do at this time, in this place?

Hello all!

In case you did not attend Breakfast Church on September 10th and have not watched the stream, we want to introduce the Mission Assessment Team (MAT). ***Our members are Jim Morris, Mary Bolaños, Brent Nord, Nancy Horstmann, Marilyn Kraft, John-Paul Fletcher, and Irene Sandoval-Suverkrup.***

We are excited and honored to serve you, our church family, in this stage of transition. There will be change—there always is—but we are looking to help us all be active drivers of the change, to spread the energy of the Holy Spirit that fills our congregation and share it with the world.

We may be the Mission Assessment Team, but the work of Mission Assessment is work that God is calling us all to do together. We on the team strive to offer assistance and guidance. The work of Mission Assessment is to ask the following question and search for an answer:

What is God calling us to be and do at this time, in this place?

It is a question that one could, and maybe should, keep asking and attempting to answer at all stages of life. Continually asking it, as we do, will continually renew and rejuvenate the Church in Christ. Life does sometimes seem to get in the way. This stage of transition in the life of our church gives us a unique opportunity to bring the question to the fore and give it deep thought.

To learn more, or find a survey you might have missed, visit <https://fpcsb.net/mission-assessment>, or click Mission Assessment from the church homepage. Surveys and all your feedback to the MAT can be sent to the church office, given to any member of the team, or left in the box at the table in reception.

We look forward to the wonders that may be revealed to us through the Holy Spirit in our work. Please join us.



Symphonie Jeunesse
Youth Orchestra for Strings
Conducted by Founder/Artistic Director
Michèle Tacchia

INVITES YOU TO OUR SEMI-HAUNTED SYMPHONY!

Sunday, October 29, 2023
at 2:00 p.m.

Website: Symphoniejeunesse.org Email: sjostrings.org

Concert will be at First Presbyterian Church in Fellowship Hall
1900 North D Street, San Bernardino, CA 92405. Admission is Free.

 We welcome all attendees to bring a child! 



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 November newsletter is Friday, October 20.

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of May 31, 2023.

General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$236,485.05	238,429.32	(1,944.27)
Other Income*	\$ 95,047.66	90,520.60	4,527.06
Expense	\$374,086.21	372,467.06	1,619.15
Net Income	\$(42,553.50)	(43,517.14)	963.64

Division Consolidation

	May	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	(2,481.96)	(42,553.50)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	(1,837.94)	646.15
Net Operating Income (Expense)	(4,319.90)	(41,907.35)



150th Celebration!

Come for Worship, Lunch, and Activities. We will begin worship with an All Holy Days Procession (what's your favorite banner?), continue worship with several speakers, and then move to the Fellowship Hall for a skit written by our own Dotti and Ernie Garcia, a catered lunch, group art projects, and singing around the "campfire."

Breakfast Church!

Thank you to each person from Nurture and Deacons who contributed to making our KidSpace/Program Year Kick-off a fun and delicious morning worship service.

A big thanks to Robin for coordinating and to Rebecca and Curtiss for bacon and tater tots, table cloths and vases, and Sunday School Songs.

Thank you also to the congregation who participated in breakfast church, eating together, singing Sunday School Songs enthusiastically, and leaning in to the table conversations.



In Memoriam

September 2023

Bill McIntosh

December 6, 1950-September 17, 2023

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

Presbytery Meets Here in November

by Amy Smith



As a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation in the San Bernardino and Riverside county area, we are part of the Presbytery of Riverside. The Presbytery supports all the congregations in the area, including helping guide pastoral transitions. The Presbytery Assembly meets four times a year to worship together and conduct its business.

On Saturday, November 4, First Pres will be hosting the Presbytery Assembly meeting. 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 work of the Presbytery. This meeting is planned to be the first Riverside Presbytery all in-person meeting since 2020. We should expect up to 70 people. 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).

The Popularity of LifeSkillz and the Internship Program

by Rick Rodriguez, Intern Supervisor

The first day of school at San Bernardino High School was on July 31st. Since then we have had 6 Monday morning LifeSkillz Circle meetings. We appear to get new kids coming to LifeSkillz every week. It is such a joy to see all these new young faces join us on Monday mornings to talk about something and for breakfast. Since becoming a LifeSkillz leader several years ago, I have always said, I learn at least as much if not more from these intelligent, wonderful young people as they will learn from me.

The Internship Program here at First Pres gets our applicants from the members of the LifeSkillz Circle Program. We have an Interviewing/Hiring Team who interviews all of our applicants and decides who to hire. This team is Steve Smith, Robin Edwards, and Marlene Olivas. Marlene is our second Intern Supervisor. This team normally has a difficult job when we have 8 to 10 applicants to hire for 6 positions, which is what we usually have. We have 20 applicants for the Fall 2023 Internship Program and they will have to decide which 6 to hire and the 14 young people we have to say “no” to. This is all because of the popularity of the LifeSkillz Circle Program and what the new kids have heard from some of the young people who have been in the Internship Program before.

By the time you see this in the newsletter the interviews and hiring decisions will have been completed. I wanted to let everyone in the church family know that both of these wonderful programs continue to be beneficial to both the young people in our community and the church.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Oct 2	Julie Aguilera Dave Thomas Jean Wierenga
Oct 4	Jennifer (Coyne) Scerra Lisa (Coyne) Star
Oct 5	Caleb Christopher Jones
Oct 7	Carmen Avila Edward Munz
Oct 9	Phyllis Hough Jerry Patterson
Oct 11	Zachary Garcia
Oct 12	Mimi Lange Jeoff Molcan Owen Morris
Oct 17	Jacob Babcock Bobbi Cummings
Oct 20	Robin Edwards
Oct 21	Marilyn Kraft
Oct 22	Adam Nord Neal Williams
Oct 23	Thomas Patrick Dunn Adelaide Shenton
Oct 24	Geri Atkins
Oct 28	Joshua Fletcher
Oct 29	Deanna Long
Oct 30	Mario & Mary Bolaños Rebecca Allen
Oct 31	Brooke Dvorak



Our Generous Steve by Margaret Doane, Stewardship

Steve Smith, who provides pastoral support to many church groups and activities, retired from being a pastor and from a wide variety of important Presbytery positions more than a decade ago. Since then, he has been active as a minister here, guiding the Deacons and assisting with Sunday services. Since Sandy's retirement, he has stepped up even further by serving as Moderator of Session and by being even more involved with Sunday services. For all of this, we pay Steve . . . absolutely nothing. The Church is very grateful for his great generosity in all he does.

Rather than doing a new interview for this month's First Pres, Steve opted to have an article from the June 2022 edition reprinted here. Thank you, Steve, for your devotion to our Church!



2010 was the beginning of what my family has called my "retirement failure." After graduating from seminary in 1970, I served as an assistant pastor, a pastor, and an interim pastor. I served 20 years as a Stated Clerk (an officer in the Presbyterian governmental system) and Associate Presbytery Executive in several levels of the church. 2010 was the year I hit the magical retirement age and had a couple of months of actual retirement. It wasn't long, however, before I was called on to be the interim stated clerk for first one presbytery, and then another, and then another. By 2017 I sorta figured out what retirement means and only agreed to work as a volunteer.

When I started in ministry, I planned to focus on Christian education and youth ministry in churches that could afford to have more than one pastor. It took a few years, but I gradually developed an interest in facets of church life beyond Sunday School and youth activities. A courageous congregation called me as pastor and helped me become a somewhat respectable preacher. Pastoring a church meant I needed to learn much more about how the Presbyterian Church runs and the theology behind its structure. This set me up to be

invited to serve the wider church in areas of church government (often called 'polity') and leadership.

Since this stuff is not widely talked about in the local congregation, what I did in the church isn't that easily described. I was elected to the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission and served as its moderator for two years. This resulted in my being on the writing teams that revised the church's Rules of Discipline, and later that revised the Form of Government (parts of the church's Constitution). Although I enjoyed this work at the broader levels of the church, I have always been grateful that I was connected to local congregations where the majority of people experience the church as the body of Christ at work.

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino is where my family transferred when I stopped being a pastor in a nearby congregation and where my daughters (Tina and Elizabeth) were married and where Jane worked with Adult Education and served a term on the session. My volunteer work now is with the Deacons and the various missions they support. I also help out with worship and the Presbytery's Healthy Pastors and Congregations Commission has named me as Session Moderator during this time of transition.



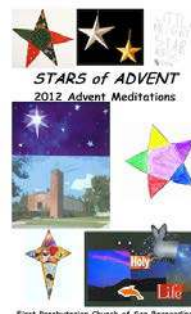
Commissioned Pastor Corner

One of the things that delights me about this church is the creativity of our members. We create banners and artwork for Orders of Worship; we beautify our worship space; youth write liturgy for Youth Sunday and create Christmas Pageant scripts; William writes brilliant original music for our worship; we cook and bake excellent food for church gatherings. We offer our gifts to honor God and beautify our life together.

One of the first creative projects I was invited to bring my gifts to was the creation of Advent devotional guides. Twenty-some people studied scripture, considered a theme, and wrote a reflection for all of us to read throughout Advent. Our Nurture Committee thought this would be a good year to once again create an Advent Devotional book. We will be choosing a theme and scriptures and sending out invitations to write.

If you would like to participate in this creative project, either as a writer or as a visual artist, we encourage you to let me (Wendy) or Mimi in the office know and we will make sure to include you.

~Wendy



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

Retail Rescue Program by Marilyn Kraft, Food Ministry Volunteer

In January of this year, First Pres was approved by Feeding America of Riverside and San Bernardino (FARSB) for the Retail Rescue Program. The goal is to feed more people with consumable foods that otherwise might go into landfills. We get food for no cost. The grocery retailer benefits through reduced disposal costs, a process for meeting new State requirements to reduce food waste, and donation tax advantages while supporting local hunger-fighting programs.

In May, we were assigned a retail partner, Northgate Gonzales Market on Sierra Ave in Fontana. The market needed some time to get their donation system set up and we were told to expect to start receiving donations in the Fall. As part of being a retail partner, FARSB provided us with a scale and a thermal blanket to make sure we were equipped. This also allows us to directly pick up donations from local organizations that hold food drives. So we've done that twice.



July food drive donation from Subaru

At the end of August, we picked up our first Northgate donation, and we now go weekly on Fridays. Normally, the food we get from FARSB comes at a cost of 19 cents per pound (a maintenance fee). When we pick up food directly, whether from our retail partner or from a food drive, we report the weight to FARSB, but we do not pay a per pound fee. In our first month, we've received about 1200 lbs of food from Northgate Market, adding to our bags beans, menudo, chipotle sauce, hominy, and canned peppers, among other culturally appropriate foods.



Donations from Northgate Market

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

September Session Highlights

by Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

Your Session met on September 27th with dinner prepared by Brooke, Margaret, and Jon. You really should join Session for the food!!

We discussed the Introduction and Chapter 1 of the book we are reading, *Following God into a Hopeful Future: Leading Faithful Innovation*. Many offered a sentence or paragraph that touched them, including that we must change from asking "Church" questions to asking "God" questions and needing to look forward instead of backward. One profound quote was: "the Holy Spirit is the primary leader of the church, and the role of human leaders is to help the community listen to and be led by God." Please keep the Mission Assessment Team (MAT) and Session in your prayers in the coming months as they discern the will of God and the Holy Spirit.

Buildings and Grounds had several action items, most notably that in the process of trying to install new LED lights in the sanctuary, four pews needed to be removed to accommodate the equipment needed for installation. In the process, some broke apart and the others had extensive water damage, so they were removed from the Sanctuary. So, you may notice their absence as we return to the Sanctuary.

We are thrilled to hear that Wendy is enjoying preaching every week (although we will be looking for some pulpit supply to give her a break) and that everything seems to be going along well. Lily and Susan gave a report from Presbytery where we heard from a Peacemaker from El Salvador. It made us realize how blessed we are to have freedom (religious and otherwise) in this country. The MAT reported that they received great feedback from our worship service on September 10th.

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

October Worship

October is a fun month for worship at First Pres. We begin with World Communion Sunday and continue with three Stewardship Sundays before ending by consecrating our pledges on Reformation Sunday.

On **World Communion**, October 1, Sunday we have the opportunity to hear our Presbytery Leader, Rev. Frances Lin, preach, and she will celebrate communion with us.

On our **Stewardship Sundays**, October 8, 15, and 22, we will hear members of our community tell us what this church means to them.

On **Reformation Sunday**, October 29, we will consecrate our pledges and celebrate the Reformation. We will hear bagpipes and eat shortbread.

At 2:00 in the afternoon on the 19th, Symphonie Jeunesse will offer a Semi-Haunted Symphony.

KidSpace plans to worship with the congregation on October 1 and 29 and leave after Time with the Children for a KidSpace lesson on October 8, 15, and 22.

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

First Presbyterian Church

October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  Communion Sunday World Communion Sunday 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Mission Assessment Team	2 5:00pm PW Coordinating Team	3 4:30pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	4 5:30pm Worship Committee	5 5:15pm Yoga Class	6 9:30am Kerygma	7 8:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
8 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Deacons	9 4:30pm Nurture Committee	10	11 1:00pm Staff Meeting	12 5:15pm Yoga Class	13 9:30am Kerygma	14 8:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
15 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	16	17 1:00pm Circle of Grace and Hope 7:00pm Mensch Group	18 5:00pm Stewardship Committee	19 9:00am Friendship Circle 5:15pm Yoga Class 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	20 Deadline for First Press articles 9:00am Food Bagging 9:30am Kerygma	21 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA 1:00pm Symphonie Jeunesse
22 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	23 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	24	25 1:00pm Staff Meeting 3:30pm 150th Anniversary Planning Team 5:30pm SESSION	26 5:15pm Yoga Class	27 9:30am Kerygma	28 8:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA 3:00pm Celebration of Life
29  Reformation Sunday 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 2:00pm Symphonie Jeunesse Halloween Concert	30	31	1 All Saints Day 5:30pm Worship Committee	2 5:15pm Yoga Class	3 9:30am Kerygma	4 8:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

1900 North D Street
 San Bernardino, CA 92405

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 2729
 San Bernardino, CA 92406
 Office: 882-3308
 email: pres.first@gmail.com
www.fpcsb.net

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
 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.