



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

First Press

November 2023

All Saints Sunday 2019



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For Those Who Walked With Us

For those
who walked with us,
this is a prayer.

For those
who have gone ahead,
this is a blessing.

For those
who touched and tended us,
who lingered with us
while they lived,
this is a thanksgiving.

For those
who journey still with us
in the shadows of awareness,
in the crevices of memory,
in the landscape of our dreams,
this is a benediction.

~Jan Richardson



Mission Assessment Team

Listen-Act-Share

Over the next months, we will include an update from your Mission Assessment Team in each newsletter.

Mission Assessment Team (MAT) Update

The Mission Assessment Team is engaged in evaluating community and congregational information and gathering input from members, small groups, and community partners. The process, congregation, and community are a bit different than during the previous effort 18 years ago. This work is prerequisite to formation of a Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Mission Action Plan, which will provide insights to the Pastor Nominating Committee and potential pastor candidates.

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, we are grateful for the efforts on which we build:

- For the work of Luther Seminary professors Dwight Zscheile, Michael Binder, and Tessa Pinkstaff who authored *Leading Faithful Innovation: Following God into a Hopeful Future* (Apr 18, 2023). Along with our Session, the MAT is exploring the faithful innovation process: Listen, Act, and Share.

- **Listen** to God, one another, and our neighbors.
- **Act:** Try something new based on God's leading
- **Share:** Reflect on your actions and share your story.

- For our leadership and listening practices such as asking, with time to consider, "Where have we noticed the Spirit of God today?" and other moments of intentional observation, silence, and reflection. We trust that you will draw on these practices as we continue to discern God's call.

- For those with the courage to try something new and share what they have learned, who innovated or flexed, by choice or necessity, in response to new situations or needs. For example, all the many ways we have stayed connected and of service during COVID.

- For each person who has already returned a survey, discussed, or provided input to the Mission Assessment Process, helping discern what God is calling us to do and be in this time and place.

Have you missed a survey? Previous survey questions:

Survey 1: Why We Are Here – What brought you & keeps you here?

Survey 2: Our Call - Who do you think God is calling us to be?



Survey 3: Inviting - What are our hopes, barriers, & opportunities?

You can find survey forms and a box to return them to on the table in reception and on the website at <https://fpcsb.net/mission-assessment> or scan the QR code on the left. Or just chat with any MAT member (Jim, Mary, Brent, John-Paul, Nancy, Irene, & Marilyn--see biographies on next page to learn more about your MAT members).

"Church questions"

&

"God questions"

Especially in times of transition, it's natural for church members to ask questions about how to do or fix church – e.g. "How can we get more people (or young families, or ?) to join the church?"

Leading Faithful Innovation calls those "Church questions" and it advises that church leaders take a different approach and ask "God Questions," e.g. "How might the Spirit be calling us to join God's work in the neighborhood?"

As we work together to discern God's call, the MAT invites you to respond from a place open to God's loving & active presence.

Meet Your Mission Assessment Team compiled by Margaret Doane

The Mission Assessment Team, says our website, is currently "listening to our congregation and community to discern the mission to which God is calling this congregation at this time and in this place." The Team will draft a Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Mission Action Plan. These documents will be useful to the "Pastor Nominating Committee and potential pastor candidates about who we are and what we sense God is calling us to do at this time and in this place." Members of the Team were invited to write short bios of themselves so that we can know them better. Along with chair Jim Morris, the team includes:

Mary Bolaños -- Vice Chair: "I was born and raised in southwestern Ohio and moved to the California Bay Area after high school. Mario and I settled in San Bernardino in early 2004 with our (then) three-year-old daughter Lily. I worked for awhile at a tax preparation company but I've really loved being the librarian at a small private PS-8th school since 2008 and added Reading Resource Specialist to my duties in 2021. I started attending FPCSB in 2004 and the family joined officially in 2006. Since then I've been PWC treasurer, Circle moderator, Ruling Elder, and moderator of Nurture, Worship, and Nominating Committees. I love to help with food distribution and I belong to the Kerygma group which studies together on Friday mornings. I am deeply invested in and committed to our church family and welcome the privilege of working on the Mission Assessment Team."

John-Paul Fletcher -- Publicity and Outreach: "John-Paul grew up in San Bernardino, the fourth of eight children. He attended local public schools, graduating from Cajon High School, where he devoted his time to playing water polo, wrestling, and swimming. In college at Claremont McKenna, his love for physics and the deep inner workings of the world took over.

A few recurring themes have dwelled within him; a love for learning, the imagination, and sharing deep thoughts. He wrote poetry and prose for the writing celebration through eighth grade and took a fictional writing class in college. It was the hardest class he ever took; he was a physics and economics major.

After graduating from college he was a substitute teacher before and after joining Americorps National Civilian Community Corps. His nine months in Americorps was one of the most amazing times of his life. He still keeps in touch with his team mates.

John-Paul started his professional life as a math teacher, though he has been a business banker for the last 19 years. He is ecstatically married to the wonderful Stephanie Fletcher and together they have four marvelous children: Joshua, Rowan, Sarah, and Teo. That is where you will most likely find him after church if you want to say hello: chasing after the kids."

Nancy Horstmann -- Co-Secretary: "I grew up on the south shore of Long Island spending my summers swimming, boating, and digging for clams with my brothers. After high school, I went to State University of New York at Oneonta with hopes of becoming a teacher. After University, I married and accepted a teaching position with the Albany Public School system. After several years, I developed a new career interest and left Albany, New York to attend graduate school at St. Louis University for Speech Pathology and Audiology. I became a clinical Audiologist and worked at several hospitals in Missouri and California. After living in California for 10 years, I returned to school and completed an RN program at Valley College and worked as a Wound Care Nurse at Redlands Community Hospital and was a medical volunteer with my husband for the Flying Samaritans Organization in Mexico.

I have two grown daughters who have blessed and delighted us with five grandchildren. I have been a member of First Pres for 22 years and have served on Session, Deacons, Moderator of Deacons, Presbyterian Women, Moderator of PWC, Nurture Committee, Mission Committee, COVID Safety AdHoc Committee and currently teach in the Children's Ministry Program (Kid Space)."

Marilyn Kraft -- Publicity and Outreach: "Marilyn grew up in Riverside, attending Poly High School, UCR, and Claremont Graduate School. She worked in Hazardous Materials management for San Bernardino County Environmental Health and Fire departments and taught related classes at UCR Extension and Loma Linda University. She was recruited by then then newly called Lutheran pastor (now Bishop) Nagler to work on the CCLM web page. That experience was transformational and brought her to early retirement, contemplative spirituality, and First Pres, where she maintains the web page and passionately serves in the food program. She lives in San Bernardino with her beloved dog Casper."

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Brent Nord -- Co-Secretary: "Brent Nord has been a member all his life and perhaps before, as his parents met and married here. Brent works for Allstate and has been married to Joanna for 21 years; they have three children Ryan, Breanna and Adam. He has been an Elder and a Deacon and is currently on the Stewardship committee. Brent also helps out in the sound booth on Sunday mornings and rings with the bell choir."

Irene Sandoval-Suverkrup -- Chaplain: "I was born in Los Angeles, but my father was a Presbyterian minister so I attended Presbyterian boarding schools in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, New Mexico. I graduated from Menaul High School. I attended SBVC. In my career I was a legal secretary, Administrative assistant, HR Manager and I retired from Kaiser Permanente as an Asst. Dept. Administrator in the Records Dept."

I have a daughter and a son, a granddaughter and grandson and a loving family. My husband also has a daughter and a son.

I have been a member of this church since the early 80s. I've served on the personnel committee and the Presbytery's personnel committee. I've been the chair of the Galleon's group for some years and have been involved with Presbyterian Women, a couple of circles and now with the Grace and Hope Circle, which I certainly enjoy."



Commissioned Pastor Corner

Commissioning

Commissioned pastors are commissioned to particular pastoral service in the Presbytery. I was commissioned by the presbytery to Pastoral Service at First Pres six years ago, though I have been working here longer. The commissioning allowed me to continue to participate in the ways I was, and also to be able to celebrate the sacraments of baptism and communion and to moderate Session meetings. It allowed me to fill whenever Sandy was gone without us having to find an ordained person to fill in. It also allowed me to fill a role I believe I was called to by God and this congregation. Currently, it is allowing me to fill in as pastor and acting head of staff as we begin the process of finding a new Called Pastor.

Commissioned pastors are commissioned for three year terms, and the commission must be renewed every three years. Three years ago, I was re-commissioned. Now is the time for me to be recommissioned again. Session has strongly and heartily endorsed my commission. When they meet this week, the Presbytery Healthy Pastors and Healthy Congregations Commission will vote on me and should things move forward I will be recommissioned at the November Presbytery meeting here at First Pres San Bernardino. In my self-evaluation for the Presbytery, I mentioned how supportive Steve, the Session, and the congregation have been these last three years and especially these last six months. I have loved this commission and look forward to continuing.

Pulpit Supply

Presbyterians ever were and ever will be Presbyterians. In 1909 Lucy Maud Montgomery wrote in *Anne of Avonlea*, about a Presbyterian pastor leaving the local church, "They are going to call Mr. Allan to Charlottetown and of course he'll accept. It's too mean. We'll be vacant all winter, I suppose, and have to listen to a long string of candidates . . . and half of them won't be any good." This is followed up in the next book, *Anne of the Island*, with this description, "Mrs. Lynde had more time than ever to devote to church affairs and had flung herself into them heart and soul. She was at present much worked up over the poor "supplies" they were having in the vacant Avonlea pulpit. 'I don't believe any but fools enter the ministry nowadays,' she wrote bitterly. 'Such candidates as they have sent us, and such stuff as they preach! Half of it ain't true, and, what's worse, it ain't sound doctrine.'"

For right now, I am still working part time at the church and part time at the Crafton Hills college, and I am filling the pulpit most of the time. One of the things Personnel and Session are encouraging me to do is to allow other people to preach from time to time. While I still work on the order of worship and communicate with the person doing pulpit supply, it does give me a bit of a break to not write a sermon, and it will allow me to have a Sunday off if I need it. It also allows us as a congregation to hear other voices and get different perspectives. Both Frances Lin and Sam Roberts, whom we heard in October, come from different places and life experiences than I. I do hope that our experience with pulpit supply will be different than Mrs. Lynde's, that we will be fed and encouraged by their presence and words, and that we will welcome them with enthusiastic hospitality.

~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 December/January newsletter is Monday, November 20.

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of September 30, 2023.

General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$273,920.89	268,232.99	5,687.90
Other Income*	\$108,458.34	100,990.68	7,467.66
Expense	\$417,461.91	419,907.12	(2,445.21)
Net Income	\$(35,082.68)	(50,683.45)	15,600.77

Division Consolidation

	September	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	7,505.68	(35,082.68)
Deacons Net Income (Expense) 1	10,803.33	11,449.48
Net Operating Income (Expense)	18,309.01	(23,633.20)

Deacon Announcements

Blood Drive: The Deacons will again be hosting a blood drive in conjunction the local Blood Bank. The drive will occur on December 3 in Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheets will be available during coffee hour in November.

CCLM November 12 Dinner and "Christmas with the Homeless": We will be providing our second dinner this year for the guys at CCLM (Central City Lutheran Mission). Approximately 50 gentleman will have the opportunity to experience the joy of breaking bread provided by you.

Each year CCLM sponsors a "Christmas with the Homeless" party for the residents of the Men's Emergency Shelter. Part of celebration is creating an opportunity for men to "shop" for new and gently used clothing. The Wish List includes the following: **New** Men's Colored T-shirts (S - 4X), **New** Boxer Briefs (L, XL, 1X, 2X). Also new or gently used Polo Shirts (M-2XL), Jeans (sizes 32 - 52, especially 36-48), Sweat Pants (sizes M - 4XL) and Jackets (sizes M-4XL).

In addition to the above, monetary donations will also be gratefully received and used.

Throughout the month of November, the Deacons will be collecting donations of clothing or money on Sundays for the party. We will drop off our gifts at CCLM by December 5. Let us be generous with our blessings!!!!!!

November Celebrations

- Nov 2 Terri & Jorge Carlos
Noah Wierenga
- Nov 3 Curtiss Allen
Wendi Bielinski
Steve Nolin
- Nov 6 Josie Short
- Nov 8 Cliff & Bobbi Cummings
- Nov 10 Kelly Bingham Newton
- Nov 11 Dwight & Linda Murray
- Nov 13 Susan Zeitler
- Nov 15 Alyssa Arellano
- Nov 18 Marion Wiens
Ed & Stephani Congdon
Susan & William Zeitler
- Nov 19 Earleen Dudley
Linda Murray
- Nov 21 Terry & Stephanie Ross
- Nov 22 Ken Mantei
- Nov 23 Dan Direen
Chase Preciado
Wade Preciado
Joyce Seeger
- Nov 24 John-Paul & Stephanie
Fletcher
Larry Kistner
Matthew Garcia
- Nov 25 William Zeitler
- Nov 26 Brad Smith
Chris Wright-Thomas
- Nov 27 Abby Willis
- Nov 28 Raymond Olivarez
- Nov 29 Norm Wallis
- Nov 30 Sanai Wright

Thanks to the Unsung Heroes of the Food Program

You might initially think of donors of food & funds for food costs, baggers, Deacons, and volunteers – all very important, and very visible direct contributors to our Food Ministry.

But this month, we want to express our appreciation to everyone who pledges and gives towards the general operating budget. Thanks to you, the food ministry has:

- An attractive well-maintained facility, clean buildings and rooms with shelves, air conditioning & heating, electricity for refrigerators & freezers, lights, safety equipment (e.g. fire extinguishers) & its maintenance, cleaning supplies, locks, alarms & their monitoring.
- A photocopier, ink, and paper for the calendar, monthly announcement, and resource list we give out each time we distribute food. At over 800 encounters each month, that is over 2000 pages each month! Also, a website, on which we also provide this information.
- And mostly, our awesome, brilliant, and supportive staff! Staff more than earn their wages, but also need workman's comp, payroll taxes, training, office equipment, computers & software, office supplies, etc.

Among many, many other things,

- Mimi and Laurie manage the budgets, donations & grant paperwork, food expenses, insurances, phone calls, announcements, calendar, and payroll.
- James maintains our grounds, fixes what breaks or leaks, cleans, coordinates pest control and other contractors, and often lends a hand with unloading food.
- Marlene & Rick supervise interns. And the interns who help with the grounds and the food program are staff too! Rick as our liaison also provides tenants and visitors a calm & helpful presence with an eye for safety.
- Wendy & Steve work with the volunteer leadership to make sure we have sound decision-making, practical and spiritual support, and a healthy well-run, Spirit-centered organization.
- And our worship and music staff? We count on them for the renewal of the hearts of volunteers and staff, to provide the inspiration for the dedication and perspiration.

The food ministry couldn't exist outside of this whole beautiful congregation. Us together.

We will be celebrating 150 years in this community next month. Our neighbors trust us to be here, whether for the food ministry, childcare & youth development, a voting place, a meeting place, or just as a good neighbor with a nicely kept yard.

Each of our favorite beloved ministries are dependent on the core operating budget.

We thank you for pledging so we can plan and for giving so we can serve.

~Your Deacons Food Ministry



Thanks to all who made possible the new food freezer - its purchase, installation, and electricity!



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

Session 2023

Steve Smith, Moderator; Wendy Lamb, CP; 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 2025: Brad Smith, Dave Thomas

NEWSLETTER

October, 2023



This is the October Newsletter from our tenants, Oak Tree Learning Center. Take a look to see the kinds of things this school is doing.

September Theme

Last Friday, September 29th we celebrated Community Day. Throughout the month, our young learners embarked on a journey to discover what makes our neighborhood unique and the significance of being engaged and proactive members of our community. They eagerly prepared for the big day, not only creating beautiful decorations but also delving into the stories of our community's heroes – the dedicated individuals who play important roles in making our neighborhood flourish.



Why is Oak Tree the best option for kids and parents?

Enrollment includes year round care from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Our learning day is 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Ensuring flexibility for busy parents like you!

- ✓ Delicious & nutritious breakfast, lunch, and 2 snacks included in tuition

- ✓ Low student to teacher ratios

Our program grows:

- ✓ Skills like dressing and potty training
- ✓ Communication skills
- ✓ Emotional growth that limits tantrums and biting
- ✓ Foundational fine motor skills for writing and using utensils

Book a tour at your preferred location!



1900 D Street, San Bernardino



4416 West Slauson Ave



600 W. 40th St. San Bernardino

ATTENTION PARENTS! OUR THREE SCHOOLS: VIEW PARK, 40TH STREET, AND D STREET WILL BE OPEN FOR NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS ON OCTOBER 10TH IN OBSERVANCE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY/COLUMBUS DAY

Annual Trunk or Treat

Get ready for the spooktacular event of the year: Our Annual Trunk or Treat at Oak Tree! Stay tuned for more information, and be sure to save the date.

Friday, October 27th starting at 4:00 p.m.

It's going to be a night of family-friendly fun!



Our October calendar

View Park Windsor Hills

- Oct. 4th National Taco Day
- Oct. 10th Indigenous Peoples' Day/ Columbus Day
- Oct. 13th National Bring Your Teddy Bear to School Day
- Oct. 27th Trunk or Treat School Event 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 28th National Chocolate Day
- Oct. 31st Happy Halloween!

40th Street

- Oct. 4th National Taco Day
- Oct. 10th Indigenous Peoples' Day/ Columbus Day
- Oct. 27th Trunk or Treat School Event 4PM - 6PM
- Oct. 31st Happy Halloween!

D Street

- Oct. 4th National Taco Day
- Oct. 10th Indigenous Peoples' Day/ Columbus Day
- Oct. 13th National Bring Your Teddy Bear to School Day
- Oct. 27th Trunk or Treat School Event 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 28th National Chocolate Day
- Oct. 31st Happy Halloween!

Save the Date!

Christmas Caroling!

Calling all cheerful singers!

Would you like to sing familiar Christmas carols during Advent?

Join us after worship on **Sunday, December 10**, to go caroling to the homes of some of our congregation.



Christmas Caroling last year at Brightwater.

Advent Approaches

A Liminal Space:
"Fear Not"

This Advent, as we make our way through the now and the not yet, we will be looking at people living in liminal spaces, people who need the word of an angel to guide their next moves.

December 3: Zechariah

December 7: Longest Night Service 6:00 p.m.

December 10: Mary

December 17: Joseph

December 24: The Shepherds

(One Service at 5:00 p.m.)

First Presbyterian Church

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29  REFORMATION Sunday Reformation Sunday 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 2:00pm Symphonie Jeunesse Halloween Concert	30	31	1 All Saints Day 12:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Worship Committee	2 5:15pm Yoga Class 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	3 9:30am Kerygma	4 8:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Presbytery of Riverside Assembly 10:00am Straight Up AA
5  The Communion of Saints Communion Sunday Daylight-Saving Time Ends 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Mission Assessment Team	6 5:00pm PW Coordinating Team	7 12:00pm Circle of Faith 1:00pm RPEA Board 7:00pm Mensch Group	8	9 5:15pm Yoga Class	10 9:30am Kerygma	11 Veterans Day 10:00am Straight Up AA
12 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	13 4:30pm Nurture Committee	14 10:00am Circle of Grace and Hope 6:30pm Deacons	15 12:30pm Staff Meeting 5:00pm Stewardship Committee	16 9:00am Friendship Circle 5:15pm Yoga Class	17 9:00am Food Bagging 9:30am Kerygma	18 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA 1:00pm Symphonie Jeunesse
19  CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	20 Deadline for First Press articles	21 7:00pm Mensch Group	22	23  LET US GIVE THANKS Church Office Closed. Thanksgiving Day	24 Church Office Closed. 9:30am Kerygma	25 10:00am Straight Up AA
26  9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	27 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	28	29 12:30pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm SESSION	30 5:15pm Yoga Class	1 9:30am Kerygma	2 8:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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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.