







“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” – *Isaiah 43.19*

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we near the end of our 150th year and with the June retirement of Sandy, we face a future of some uncertainty. Who will be our new pastor? When will we have a new pastor? What we do not face with uncertainty is who we are and our Mission as First Presbyterian Church San Bernardino, which is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

-  *Proclaiming the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship and celebration* – We are blessed to have Wendy and Steve leading us through this period of transition with thoughtful and inspired liturgy. Our Sanctuary and Bell Choirs, Kevin Blandford Memorial Pipe Band, and the wonderful offerings of William Zeitler allow us to celebrate musically.
-  *Proclaiming the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through teaching and learning* – Adult Bible Study, KidSpace, Youth Group, and Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study Circles continue. Life Skillz and our Intern Programs are mutually beneficial, as we receive as much or more than we contribute.
-  *Transforming lives* – You, our members, have consistently contributed to the four PCUSA Special Offerings. Our Deacons, Water Team, and Pastoral Care Team embody the Christian Mandate of Matthew 25:31-39:
 - Feeding the Hungry through our Food Ministry;
 - Giving Drink to the Thirsty, providing clean water systems to communities that have none;
 - Clothing the Naked and Welcoming the Stranger at Central City Lutheran Mission; and
 - Caring for the Sick and / or Isolated with cards, phone calls, and visits.
-  *Encouraging members to use their special gifts* to care for and value, as God’s Beloved, each other and the community in which we live – Our Deacons, Ruling Elders, Sunday School Leaders, the Sanctuary Choir, Bell Choir and those who prepare the bags for the food ministry are all volunteers, the eyes, hands and feet of Christ.

As you review all we have accomplished this past year, know it would not have been possible without your contribution. Please prayerfully and thoughtfully consider your role. As you contemplate and reimagine the future of First Pres, know that we are loved by God who claims us and we can be confident and optimistic. You are a vital part of our future, and our mission in the community and world is made possible through your gifts of money, time, prayer, and vision.

There is a Pledge Card in this envelope you may use to share in the future of First Pres. We will receive pledges for 2024 at our Reformation Sunday worship service on October 29, 2023. We hope you will celebrate with us.

May the Lord Bless you and Keep you!