

“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



First Presbyterian Church
of San Bernardino

Narrative Budget for 2024

We are in a liminal time:

*A time between what has been
and what will be;*

*A time of change (and no one likes change!),
a time of uncertainty;*

*A time of looking back at the past which has shaped us,
and asking what the future holds for us.*

One thing will stay the same:

*The church, always reformed and always reforming,
and always guided to fulfill God's vision for the world,
will continue to seek God's will
and rest in God's promise.*

*In this budget, we look forward to 2024, and
whatever the future will hold.*

What new thing is God doing here?

Once again, it is time to

Reimagine!

*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 use their special gifts
to care for and value,
as God's Beloved,
each other and the community in which we live.*

The estimated budget expense for 2024 is **\$585,000.00.**

***Proclaim the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
through **Worship and Celebration**
2024 Estimate \$200,000.00***

We have seen many changes in the past few years. Some changes have been welcome (our ability to worship remotely means we can be here even when we can't be *here*; committees and study groups have been able to include more people by meeting online); some have been not-so-welcome (pastors *will* retire, no matter how much we love them).

Through all of the changes, we have been constant. We worship and celebrate our loving and generous God. Whether we do it in our beautiful Sanctuary, our bright and cheerful Fellowship Hall, outside in the Magnolia Courtyard or on the north lawn, or over the internet, we gather our hearts and minds together to offer our praise and thanksgiving.

We celebrate with music – brilliant playing by **William Zeitler** every week, and welcome occasional treats like **Susan Addington** on the flute, beautiful



musical offerings from **Kendra Lamb, Aidan** *Sanctuary Choir* and **Owen Morris**, and **Ethan and Asher Gano**, and, of course, the **Kevin Blandford Memorial Pipe Band** for our Reformation Sunday celebration. Not to mention inspiring harmonic music provided by our **Sanctuary Choir**, directed by **Curtiss Allen, Jr.**, and the lovely tones of our **Bell Choir**, directed by **Amy Gano**.

We celebrate as **Pastor Wendy** and **Pastor Steve** lead us in traditional and non-traditional liturgies and prayers for every Sabbath Day and every occasion for worship. We are blessed with their leadership.

In 2024, we want to continue celebrating as we move into our 151st year, discerning our mission today (What is God's new thing?), and beginning to seek our next pastor.

Teaching and Learning

2024 Estimate \$185,000.00

First Presbyterian Church continues to be dedicated to education in all its forms.

- ✓ **Adult Bible Study** has resumed, and has grown in 2023. Ably led by Martha Pinckney, the group meets every Sunday in the Fireside Lounge to study the Word before worship services.
- ✓ **KidSpace** continues to be led by Jeanne Clark and Nancy Horstmann.
- ✓ Our **Youth Group** is led by Pastor Wendy Lamb.
- ✓ **Presbyterian Women's** Bible studies continue to meet monthly in person and online.
- ✓ The **LifeSkillz Circle** at San Bernardino High School began another new year in August, with one of the largest groups ever.
- ✓ And our **Interns** continue to help us with campus maintenance, hospitality, and the food ministry, as we provide them with first time jobs and mentorship.

In 2024, we want to continue all of this, as well as exploring new programs and ways of learning.



LifeSkillz leaders and graduates

Lives are Transformed

2024 Estimate \$200,000.00

The Christian mandate to **feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned** (*Matthew 25.31-39*) has always been an important part of who we are.

You carry out this mandate directly in many different ways:

- ♥ The Deacons' Food Ministry **feeds the hungry**—more in the past year than ever before! With the help of new grants and new programs from our existing suppliers, more food-insecure people will have sustenance because of your generosity.
- ♥ The Water Team continues to **give drink to the thirsty**, seeking new partners and opportunities to provide clean water systems to communities that don't have them.
- ♥ The Deacons **clothe the naked** and **welcome the stranger** taking food and clothing to Central City Lutheran Mission, and welcoming newcomers on Sunday morning.
- ♥ The Pastoral Care team **cares for the sick** and/or isolated with phone calls, visits, cards, and prayers.

As active participants in the Presbyterian Church (USA) **Special Offerings**, you support mission around the world, educate leaders and pastors for the future, aid in peacemaking efforts, and pay pastor salaries for underserved churches. First Presbyterian Church is recognized as a long-time "Four for Four" congregation that contributes to all four Special Offerings (Pentecost Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace and Global Witness Offering, Christmas Joy Offering) each year. **The hungry are fed, strangers are welcomed, those ill and in prison (in mind or body) are visited and cared for, and God's word and love spread around the world because of your gifts.**

You also transform lives by providing space for missions such as:

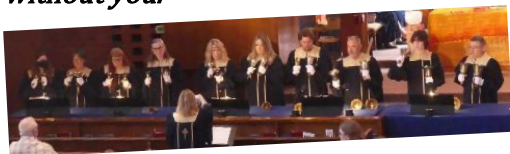
- ♥ **Straight Up AA** meets here weekly;
- ♥ The **Retired Public Employees** meet here quarterly.
- ♥ The **San Bernardino Elections office** provides our neighbors an accessible place to exercise their right to vote right here.
- ♥ We are housing **Oak Tree D Street**, who are providing academics and social and emotional development for preschool children.
- ♥ And **Key Essentials to Behavior Management** helps children and adults learn the social skills required to succeed in school and life!

Members Use Special Gifts

2024 Estimate – Fruit of the Spirit^Ω

Volunteers are a vital part of First Pres' ministry. Volunteers provide **security** and **ushers** for our gatherings, and make sure everyone is safe. **Deacons** use their gifts to care for our congregation and our neighbors. **Ruling Elders** use their gifts to make crucial decisions, to give order to our life as a congregation. **Sunday School leaders** use their gifts to teach our children why we follow Christ. **Presbyterian Women** use their gifts to make breakfast for LifeSkillz kids, and to help our congregation be hospitable. Volunteers sing in the **choir**, and ring bells in the **bell choir**. Volunteers fill **food bags** and help distribute them.

Volunteers are the eyes, hands, and feet of Christ here in our community. Volunteers are you! And none of these things happen without you.



Volunteers help distribute food



Legacy giving, a very real blessing! Their faith continues to bless and heal and delight us all. We remember **Edie Leonard, Bonnie Hansen, Edna Dugger, Rosemary Krause, John & JoAnn Miller, Stewart & Helen Dodds, Marion Sischo, Marian Klefstad, Barbara Maupin, Herb & Anna Jane Andrews, Joan Carpenter, Paul & Marjorie Owen, Bob Wiens, Norma Lunn, Hazel Limric, Sally Morris, and Jeannie Marona.** Gifts left by them and given in their memory bless us every day. **Brenda Frederick** continues to provide for our congregation through a Presbyterian Foundation fund although she lives far away from here.

If you would like to learn more about Legacy giving, please contact the church office.

^Ω *love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance:*

2024 Challenges & Opportunities

There are always challenges.

- In 2023 we replaced the commercial water heater that serves our kitchen and Fellowship Hall. We improved security by installing a new keypad lock on the gate to the Children's Courtyard, and installing smoke alarms around the campus.



We still need to repair the ceiling in Fellowship Hall, which was damaged by water before the roof was replaced. And with our aging buildings, there will always be more things to repair and replace. That is one of our biggest budget items.

- We increased the amount of food we provide each week for many people in our neighborhood. The need continues to grow.

Your vision and your gifts make *everything* possible. When you pledge or volunteer, when you make a special offering, when you pray for another member or for a ministry, you are part of God's purpose in this community. What new thing is God calling you to do?

- Find new ways to make our facility more water and energy wise?
- Teach an adult class?
- Volunteer to help maintain our beautiful campus?
- Plan an outing for our youth?
- Join the choir or the bell choir?
- Help with our 150th anniversary celebration in 2024?

*With God's help, we will move forward
into the second half of our second century,
always seeking what new things God is
calling us all to do.*