



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

First Press

May 2024



Migration of Wild Geese

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May Worship

May worship is fun! We are continuing our series on birds, and there are several additional elements.

May 5: Communion Sunday. We are considering the vultures which is fascinating.

May 12: Mother's Day. While Mother's Day is not a liturgical feast day, we will certainly be considering mothers on this day. This year, it is the final Sunday in the Season of Easter.

May 19: Pentecost and Youth Sunday. Our youth are considering the coming of the Spirit through Trinity. They are considering eagles, hens, and wild geese. We will release doves (pigeons?) at the end of the service, always an awe-inspiring moment.

May 26: Trinity Sunday and LifeSkillz Recognition. We will recognize our LifeSkillz seniors as we worship on Trinity Sunday. This is Memorial Day weekend and the end of the school year.

Kendra, Oliver, Joshua, Owen, Rowan, Brandon, Breanna, and Maddie after Youth Sunday 2023.



Mission Action Plan

If you haven't had a chance to read over the Mission Action Plan, we will be presenting excerpts from it in the newsletter over the next several months. This month's excerpt includes our new Vision Statement and Mission Statement.

Envisioning Our Future. (Part 6 of our Mission Action Plan)

We were inspired by this image as it relates to our values and how we endeavor to share

God's love with all.

"Christ has no body but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world,

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world."

- St. Teresa de Avila (15th century Carmelite nun, Spanish mystic, and religious reformer)

A. Vision Statement.

With open eyes, open minds, open hearts, and open hands, we are becoming God's love in action.

B. Mission Statement.

Moved by the Spirit, we strive to create an open and inclusive community embodying the love, forgiveness, and grace of Christ which we extend to ourselves, each other, our neighbors, and our world through nurturing relationships, creative celebrations, continuous learning, and transformational service.

Read more of the Mission Action Plan at

<https://fpcsb.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Mission-Action-Plan-final.pdf> (copy and paste)

MAP QR Code



We invite you to read the new Vision & Mission Statement contemplatively.

First, read this whole segment.

Then read the Vision & Mission statements again, listening for a word or phrase that stands out.

Hold that word or phrase in your mind, and in your next reading, notice if any emotion surfaces.

As you read it for the last time, ask yourself, "What is the invitation here for me?"

Take a few minutes to write, draw, or respond in verbal prayer to what you heard.

A Verse for the Season

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Matthew 6:26

Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

Sgt Jacob Allen,

US Marines, MFR Band, New Orleans,
Louisiana

Cpl Jeremy Allen,

US Marines, Okinawa, Japan

Lt. Alejandro J. Balandran,

US Navy, Yokosuka, Japan

PFC Ethan Gano,

US Marines, Pensacola, Florida

Seaman Mark Munz,

US Navy, San Diego, California

Lt. Junior Grade Wade Phillip Preciado,

US Navy, Groton, Connecticut

Petty Officer First Class Robert Sandoval,

US Navy, Jacksonville, Florida

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



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 June newsletter is Monday, May 20.

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of March 31, 2023.

General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$73,343.57	89,304.60	(15,961.03)
Other Income*	\$45,249.32	44,380.58	868.74
Expense	\$136,723.49	148,896.86	(12,173.37)
Net Income	\$(18,130.60)	(15,211.67)	(2,918.93)

Division Consolidation

	March	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	(806.27)	(18,130.60)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	(483.22)	1,231.01
Net Operating Income (Expense)	(1,289.49)	(16,899.59)

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- May 1 Lily Bolaños
Aidan Morris
- May 4 Erika Mantei
- May 6 Kaiyah Dubois
Katie Willis
- May 7 Brian Gano
Maggie Willis
- May 9 Chasen Bricker
Rosalind Mantei
Phil Savage III
- May 10 Marissa Congdon
Susan Skoglund
- May 12 Wendy Lamb
- May 14 Carol Coyne
- May 15 Lynn Usher
- May 16 Jim Babcock
- May 17 Sharon Louise Landeros
Wanda Skipper
Tim & Lynn Usher
- May 23 Jim Morris
- May 24 Trinity Conley
Penny Ramirez
- May 27 Jenna Garza Schneider
- May 28 Mark Adelson
Jon Preciado
Maria Saenz
Al & Mindy Rueda

Celebrating our Graduates

Jacob "Jake" Obershaw

Graduates from Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA on May 19 Major: History.



Asher Gano

Graduates from Citrus Valley High School on June 5th.

He will be attending Riverside Community College in the fall.



Abby Willis

Graduates May 25 from Gustavus Adolphus College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Studio Arts with a minor in Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies.

She plans to move home, coach, and become involved in the art community here.

The photo shows Abby in the museum with her art.



The Rauch Family Foundation Continues Generous Support to Food Ministry

by Marilyn Kraft and Rick Rodriguez

Our food ministry participants have greatly benefitted from a \$20,000 grant that we received from The Rauch Family Foundation in 2023. \$10,000 covered intern wages for time spent in food ministry on unloading, sorting, shelving, bagging, registration, and other tasks for both the Tuesday/Thursday and Saturday distributions.

With the other \$10,000, we acquired 23,350 lbs of fresh food distributed to Tuesday/Thursday food participants. Our partnership with Feeding America of Riverside/San Bernardino (FARSB) allowed us to get high volumes at low costs of available foods such as fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. Retail purchases provided our participants with foods not available through FARSB, such as potatoes, bread, tortillas, deli meats, and bananas.

This grant improved the nutritional quality and variety of our food and enabled us to keep up with the increasing labor demands while providing our interns and their families with additional financial support. We also learned more about managing fresh food and intern labor. We will have the opportunity to build on this experience. Because...

On March 16, 2024, the board of The Rauch Family Foundation awarded First Pres 3 more years of support at \$25,000 each year. These funds will continue to provide intern labor for food ministry and supplement our staple foods with a variety of fresh foods. We are beyond grateful.

We also appreciate your essential contributions, whether of time, supplies, or funds.

- Your Deacon offerings provide the shelf-stable staples which comprise the majority of our distributed foods, equipment, supplies, and rental trucks.
- Your support of the internship program continues the important training, development, and supervision of interns, and their work on landscaping and maintenance, hospitality, events, and special projects.
- Your general fund offerings provide the spaces, staff, utilities, and operational expenses that give us the place to do ministry.

Thank you to our partners, volunteers, donors, & staff for their efforts to benefit our community.



Ariana & Marlene distribute fresh food and help Captain Dave transport retail purchases of items like potatoes, bread, & tortillas.

It now is hard to imagine Saturday registration without the enthusiasm and bilingual skills of interns.

Board of Deacons 2024

Katie Smith, Moderator; Steve Smith, Pastoral Support

Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Richard Rodriguez, Katie Smith
Rebecca Allen, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas
Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda



Session Highlights

by Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

Session met on April 24th preceded by a wonderful pizza, salad and dessert dinner provided by Pat Morris, Margaret Doane and Martha Pinckney. Lily Bolaños joined us via Zoom from her new abode in Chicago! It's wonderful that technology allows those to serve from afar. The meeting began with a discussion on the last two chapters of the book we started reading in September, *Following God into a Hopeful Future – Leading Faithful Innovation*. If anyone is interested in reading this, I'm sure Session members will lend their copies. As always, thoughtful comments were shared, many which included: how to prepare for a new pastor, the difficulty of change and tendency to want to go back to the way things "were before," not trying to search for a person just like we've had in the past and being open to new ideas, and most importantly, focusing on what God wants done in this space and time.

Two action items were approved from Buildings and Grounds: Purchase 48 chairs to use in the Chapel (some pews will be left also) and plans to erect a fence from the northeast corner of the Sanctuary, along the sidewalk and across the D Street entrance and exit driveways. The fence is deemed necessary due to the increase in potentially dangerous activities on our grounds and the desire to keep our onsite tenant, Rick Rodriguez, safe. The gates will be open from early morning until the last meeting has ended in the evening.

We are excited for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) members elected at the Special Called Congregational meeting on Sunday, April 28th following worship. Please keep these members in your prayers as they seek to continue discerning where God is calling us next.

Pastor Nominating Committee

Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher, Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris, Shelby Obershaw, Christa Wallis, Neal Williams

Session 2024

Stephen W. Smith, Moderator; Amy Smith, Clerk of Session
 Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak, Patrick Morris, Martha Pinckney
 Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jonathan Horstmann, Phyllis Hough
 Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clarke, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis

Canticle of Creation Companions on the Inner Way Retreat

by Christa Wallis

During the week of April 14-19, 2024 nine of us from our Church Family attended the first in-person Southern Californian Companions Retreat since the pandemic in Malibu, California. Along with approximately 30 other companions, we embarked on a week of spiritual renewal and discovery around the theme of 'Canticle of Creation: Mirror of God' with Reverend Simon de Voil and Dr. Jeanette Banashak. Companions staff members and friends of the congregation studied the life and teachings of St. Francis and many other saints, theologians and mystics in the Celtic Spirituality tradition. The days were spacious and filled with scriptural study, singing, movement, art offerings, meditation, Sabbath time and walks around the beautiful grounds of Serra Retreat all while overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Simon and Jeanette kindly guided us in movement, contemplation, artistic expression, writing opportunities, chants and song throughout the temperate days full of vibrant Spring flowers, birdsong, verdant green hills and

evening croaking frog choruses.

Our daily worship was held both in the chapel overlooking the sea and outdoors under a giant coral tree. We feasted on delicious meals prepared by the Serra staff and enjoyed the company and companionship of other like-minded seekers of how to live out our best lives following Christ's example in our world.

I asked the plant with red blossoms,

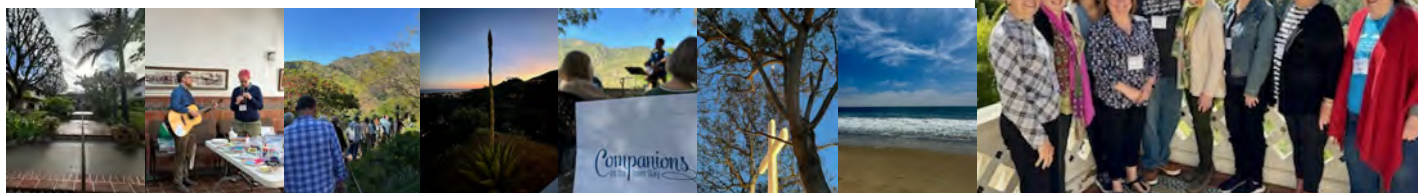
"What is your name?"

"Glory to God--as is yours."

Haiku by Mimi Lange, Companions 2024

Our congregation has a rich tradition of learning about God's wishes for us through experiences that go beyond Sunday worship. Scholarships from the Dodd's Trust encourage members to

attend such opportunities. If this sounds like something you'd like to try, please ask Christa Wallis, Amy Smith, Mimi Lange, Susan Skoglund, Neal Williams, Laurie Stafford or Marion Wiens. Any of us would be glad to share our collective and individual



First Presbyterian Church

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Youth Sunday Preparation	29	30	1 4:30pm Worship Committee	2 5:15pm Yoga Class	3 9:30am Kerygma	4 10:00am Straight Up AA
5 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Youth Sunday Preparation	6 5:00pm PW Coordinating Team	7 12:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	8 12:30pm Staff Meeting	9 5:15pm Yoga Class 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir	10 9:30am Kerygma	11 10:00am Straight Up AA
12 Mother's Day 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	13 4:30pm Nurture Committee	14 6:30pm Deacons	15 5:00pm Stewardship Committee	16 9:00am Friendship Circle 5:15pm Yoga Class 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	17 9:30am Kerygma 10:30am Food Bagging	18 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA 1:00pm Symphonie Jeunesse
19  Pentecost 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service Youth Sunday 4:00pm IEGA Team Banquet	20 Deadline for First Press articles	21 1:00pm Circle of Grace and Hope 7:00pm Mensch Group	22 12:30pm Staff Meeting 5:15pm SESSION Dinner 6:00pm SESSION Meeting	23 5:15pm Yoga Class	24 9:30am Kerygma	25 8:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
26 Celebration of LifeSkillz graduates 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	27  We remember... Church Office Closed. Memorial Day 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	28	29	30 5:15pm Yoga Class	31 9:30am Kerygma	1 8:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA

Please check the calendar on the website for the most up-to-date information. https://fpcsb.net/events_links/calendar

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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Dr. Wendy Long Lamb

Commissioned Pastor
Acting Head of Staff

The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Smith

Pastoral Support

Laurie Stafford

Ministry of Visitation

The Rev. Jim Huffstutler

Pastor Emeritus

Our Mission Statement

Moved by the Spirit, we strive to create an open and inclusive community embodying the love, forgiveness, and grace of Christ which we extend to ourselves, each other, our neighbors, and our world through nurturing relationships, creative celebrations, continuous learning, and transformational service.