



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

# First Press

Summer 2024



*James has been working on renewing the Meditation Garden outside the Chapel. This is a photo of the refurbished fountain.*

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## Ordinary Time

We're beginning Ordinary Time a little late, but as we move into the Fellowship Hall and summer worship, consider what this rhythm of time has to offer us.

So, did you sense the shift when we moved into the new season? Did you hit the after-Pentecost sales and send out your “Merry Ordinary Time” cards? No? It tends to sneak up on us, doesn't it, this new and subtle season of the Christian year... Ordinary Time officially began with the ending of Pentecost, and with Trinity Sunday now behind us, the new season is upon us in earnest. Stretching out for the next six months, Ordinary Time invites and challenges us to move into a mode that is shaped by something other than the “high seasons” that the past half-year has offered us. I sometimes find this new rhythm a little disorienting at first... This season, however, beckons us to find the sacred in its subtlety.

Jan Richardson, *The Painted Prayer Book*

## 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.

### Senior Ministry – Questions for Consideration (excerpt from the Mission Action Plan)

Given our central principle of God's outwardly flowing love as both the source and purpose of our ministries, and the challenges of an aging congregation in an impoverished neighborhood, how can we fully include more people in that flow?

How can we creatively explore & intentionally address the needs of those struggling with the challenges of aging - isolation and loneliness, fear, grief, health problems, financial strain, lack of transportation, lack of meaning, depression & anxiety, technological hurdles to communication, and other barriers to fully engaging with others?

Since these struggles are also realities for young people, people in poverty, and people who have been rejected based on some aspect of their identity, might we develop additional capacity to see, respond, and learn to better manifest God's love with those isolated by circumstances?

*What do our youth and our seniors have in common?*

*How do these age extremes complement each other?*

How can we further learn from those in our community already adept at listening, visiting home, hospital, and care facilities, preparing memorial events, making phone calls, sending notes of encouragement, praying, and performing other caring acts?

Read more of the Mission Action Plan at

<https://fpcsb.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Mission-Action-Plan-final.pdf>



MAP QR Code

## Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

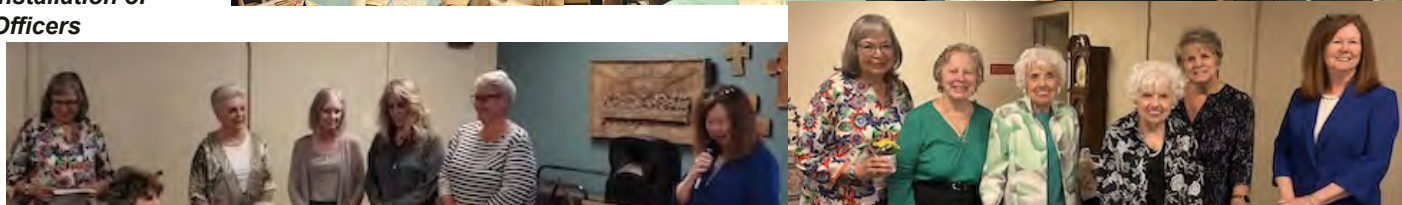
**Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher, Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris, Shelby Obershaw, Christa Wallis, Neal Williams**

Pray for our Pastor Nominating Committee as they begin the process of seeking our new shepherd. And pray for the person God is preparing even now to come and minister to and with us.

## 2024 Presbyterian Women

Circles met together on June 2 for the Birthday Gathering. Jennifer Carter, her husband, and the directors from Oak Tree Learning Center spoke with us about their work and their hopes. We ate cup cakes. We worshiped together and installed new officers for the 2024-2025 year. Photos are those who were present by Circle.

**Clockwise from top left: Friendship Circle, Circle of Kindness, Circle of Faith, Circles of Hope and Grace, Installation of Officers**





## 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](mailto:newsletter@fpcsb.net).

**The deadline for the September newsletter is Tuesday, August 20.**

## Financial Notes

Financial Report as of May 31, 2024.

### General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$136,731.88	148,841.00	(12,109.12)
Other Income*	\$73,617.54	70,959.57	2,657.97
Expense	\$227,479.51	243,541.46	(16,061.95)
Net Income	\$(17,130.09)	(23,740.89)	6,610.80

### Division Consolidation

	May	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	(8,451.68)	(17,130.09)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	48.55	2,968.24
Net Operating Income (Expense)	(8,493.13)	(14,161.85)

### Faith and Politics Wrap-up Discussion

**Sunday, July 14, 11:45**

If you have been viewing the Faith and Politics class, please join us to reflect on what we have learned, what has challenged us, and what we might do.

We'll keep it short (no longer than 45 minutes) and bring some pre-lunch appetizers.

The final session of the class is Tuesday, July 2, at 10:00. All videos are available on the resource page if you would like to catch up before the 14th.

## July and August Celebrations

Jul 1	Nancy Sellas	Jul 21	Donna Garza	Aug 15	Alexia Aguilar
Jul 3	Mario Bolaños		Ezra Joseph Morales		Ashley Ballard
	Phil & Lynda Savage	Jul 22	Helen Babcock		Ramon Ramirez
Jul 6	Judy Etherton		Dennis & Laurie Stafford	Aug 17	Joanne Ballard
	Dennis Stafford	Jul 23	Cheryl Direen		Rosemarie Evans
Jul 7	Jim & Dawn Morris		Kevin Lamb		Ethan Gano
Jul 8	Josie Babcock	Jul 24	Larry Marona	Aug 19	Aaron Rueda
Jul 10	Jim Carter		Elizabeth Franklin-	Aug 20	Elle Carlos
	Doris Nord		Morales	Aug 22	Gary Bobbitt
	Donna Feit		Gary Saenz	Aug 23	Megan Dunn
	Kevin & Wendy Lamb	Jul 28	Charlene Peterson	Aug 25	Gill & Jane Snyder
	Gill Snyder	Jul 30	Linda Kaufman	Aug 26	Beatrice Star
Jul 11	Caden Eckert	Aug 1	Amy Gano		Valentina Valenzuela
Jul 12	Trevor Cummings	Aug 8	Tim Usher	Aug 27	Jessica Edwards
	Sherman & Joanne	Aug 9	Jackie McKee	Aug 28	Sarah Alyda Fletcher
	Ballard	Aug 10	Aaron Saenz	Aug 29	Jim & Sheila Cimino
Jul 14	Margaret Doane	Aug 11	Ryan Michael Mantei	Aug 30	Wanda Gernux
Jul 19	Linda Tiger		Brent Nord		Shannon Nolin
Jul 20	Ryan Nord		Kurt & Lisa Star		

## Meet Our Livestream Camera Operator, Kevin Lamb

by Margaret Doane and Kevin Lamb



*If you watch livestream services from most other churches, you instantly will be aware of how dramatically, well, better, our livestreams are. Most churches use a single camera fixed on the pulpit and minister, and a few add abrupt shifts to the choir. But we get to see our friends who are worshipping, get to experience the awe of being in the Sanctuary, get to see the children and hear William and the Choir -- in addition to listening to the sermon. Our livestreams almost make viewers part of the congregation, a remarkable feat from a remarkable crew.*

*Raymond Olivarez "put in a lot of technology research and pioneered making the process work for the Church" says Kevin Lamb. Raymond basically "covered all the bases," a "one-man operation of audio mixing, camera operation, directing, and editing." The livestreams are now, reports Kevin, "truly a team effort," with Brent or Dan for audio, James and sometimes Oliver for directing and video selection, and Kevin and sometimes Lynn for primary camera operation. The results are outstanding!*

*Camera operator Kevin tells his own story:*

Kevin was born and raised in nearby Bakersfield, an only child of two career-long public school teachers. His extended family includes several other educators plus occasional attorneys, engineers, and artists, but the engineering gene is the one which ultimately took hold. At age seven, his parents began an amazing life change by moving the family to a different house only one mile away, but with 2/3 acre of land so the family could enjoy a "small farm experience". This led to the next 15+ years with a LOT of lawn mowing and other home/yard projects, but also a variety of animals including a mishmash of chickens, ducks, geese, rabbits, a 4H lamb (one forbidden from being given a name), crayfish, snakes, a tortoise, and a playful pair of ferrets. Oh yeah, and dogs. Time on the land not spent with the animals was often spent doing laps across the property in a glorious 2 hp go-kart, bringing great joy and causing the demise of only one sapling pine tree which would have been around 30-40 feet tall, had it survived along with its more fortunate pine tree neighbors. Oops!

Kevin has always been drawn to technology, particularly of the DIY variety. Early hobbies included electronics with soldering irons beginning around 5th grade, significant front-to-rear go-kart maintenance, woodworking and welding beginning around ages 10-12, and on from there. Great satisfaction was also found in disassembling numerous devices around the house due to an overwhelming need to know what was inside--always with the encouragement of parents. This sprouted a willingness to take on fixing (and often succeeding!) nearly anything when possible. This aligns nicely with preferring purchases which require assembly.

The biggest lightbulb event of Kevin's youth was the day a classmate brought a very early home computer to 8th grade science class, years before the world was to see a Mac or "IBM PC". This deeply inspired wanting to own one of these amazing devices himself, and by that summer his parents had subsidized the purchase of one, and his learning to program it began on day one. This parents' "investment" in their son paid off far more than they likely imagined. It led to the next 45 years of related hobbies and a full career, beginning early with various programming jobs around town beginning at age 15-16, and leading to his now 32nd year building software for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools.

In his early 20s, Kevin discovered San Bernardino and moved here to complete his Computer Science degree at Cal State, soon settling into a house, and ultimately building a fine family with Wendy, our outstanding youngsters Kendra and Oliver, a crested gecko named Boing!, and a wonderful church community.

*We are so grateful for Kevin's expertise -- and for the expertise of Raymond, Brent, Dan, James, Oliver, and Lynn!*

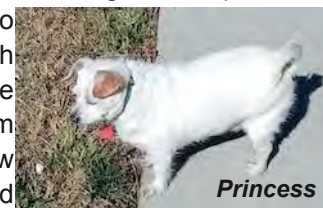
**Kevin and his 4H lamb, 1979**



## The Decision to Fence by Cap'n Dave Thomas, Security



Several months ago your Building and Grounds Committee made the difficult but necessary recommendation to Session for completing the fencing in of our Campus on the D Street entrance. Several years ago Session approved the fencing in of our E Street entrance along with a cable across the D Street entrance that prevented vehicles from driving onto our property at night. This combination worked well for cutting down the vandalism and other unneeded activities on our campus at night; however, this cable didn't prevent individuals from walking onto our church grounds at night. Over the last year we have had an increase in vandalism, trash, and homeless individuals sleeping on our facilities, often in front of our Childcare entrance disrupting the drop off of children in the morning. The most recent vandalism was someone breaking off the tree we planted in Sandy's honor which had been flourishing for the last year. Our biggest concern however was the increase in unstable, disrupting individuals suffering from mental health and/or substance abuse issues yelling and screaming below Rick's apartment, often denying him a restful night's sleep. Rick, although accompanied by his faithful dog Princess, is not safe to interact with these unstable individuals by themselves at night. With their safety being our number one priority, Session approved the remaining fencing of our D street entrance to prevent individuals from walking onto our property at night. You have probably noticed new fence posts being installed the last few weeks with the anticipated completion of this fence in early July.



This project is being constructed by Mark Freeman who has done numerous high quality fencing projects around our Campus. Once completed, these gates will be open during our normal business hours but locked after hours providing a safer environment for our onsite managers Rick and Princess.

## Getting Food to Our Food Ministry by Rick Rodriguez

In 2024, the First Presbyterian Church Food Ministry is distributing ~19,000 lbs of food each month to our neighbors in need. Getting food from Feeding America (FA), Community Action Partnership (CAP) and other places has always used volunteer drivers from our church family. The Food Ministry could not operate without Helen Babcock, Neal Williams, Dave Thomas, Brent Nord, Steve Smith, Ariana Aceves and Marilyn Kraft driving to pick up food. In 2022, in addition to member vehicles, we added the use of rental trucks for large orders.

On June 26th we used a contract driver with his own truck for the first time. His name is David Lim. I went with him to Feeding America to pick up over 6,000 pounds of food. He moved the 5 pallets of food into his truck at Feeding America, unloaded them at the church, and moved the pallets into Fellowship Hall. Using him occasionally when we have a large load of food to pick up will be a big help to the Food Ministry.

We will still need drivers from our church family to help pick up our smaller orders. If you have a pick-up truck or other kind of truck and would like to be added to the team of Food Ministry drivers, please contact Rick Rodriguez or Dave Thomas.



**Photos: Left, David Lim on lift gate. Right, Loading up at Feeding America.**

## Bagging Day in June

by Rick Rodriguez, Food Ministry

The Food Ministry is always looking for volunteers to help with the many tasks it takes to keep the food going out to our neighbors in need. Sometimes this falls heavily on just a few people in our congregation and on current and former interns, and then there are days like our bagging day for our June Saturday Food Distribution. On Friday, June 14th we had 20 people come to help, some as young as Adam Nord, who is 12, and his sister Breanna. We had 12 adult members of our church family, a couple of friends of the church and 4 interns. I want to thank all of those who came and helped unload the food, get it on our tables and bag all the food on June 14th. This is the way things are supposed to work.

Our bagging day in July will be Friday, July 19th and our Saturday Food Distribution Day will be July 20th. These are just two days that we need church member volunteers to help with the Food Ministry. We have some tasks that do not take a lot of physical strength and some that you can do sitting down. If you are interested in helping with the Food Ministry please contact Rick Rodriguez at (909) 567-6421.



*Friday Baggers from left to right - Kristine French, Steve Smith, Rick Rodriguez, Joshua Garcia, Isabelle Ramos, Ariana Aceves, Jessica Flores, Neal Williams, Sam Lange, Breanna Nord, Adam Nord, Mark Kornfield, Kerry Chicoine, Dave Thomas, Katie Smith, Mark Adelson, Joyce Lyons, Brent Nord, Marilyn Kraft (Photo by Chris Thomas)*

### Board of Deacons 2024

**Katie Smith, Moderator; Steve Smith, Pastoral Support**

**Class of 2024:** Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Richard Rodriguez, Katie Smith

**Class of 2025:** Rebecca Allen, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas

**Class of 2026:** Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda

### 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

## Session Highlights

by Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

The past two Session meetings have been “business as usual” as the Session committees and Deacons work efficiently to keep the church in order. We are blessed to have such dedicated and energetic volunteers as well as staff. Buildings and Grounds, in collaboration with Worship, is busy refurbishing the Chapel to make the space usable and accessible. This includes new chairs (in addition to keeping some pews), a new heat pump, and replanting the garden behind the glass at the front of the Chapel. Currently, narrow pews abut the wall on the left and the decorative wall on the right, giving each pew only one entrance along the center aisle, providing no accessible access for wheelchairs or walkers. The chairs will allow the Chapel to be accessible as well as used in multiple ways and they safer as some of the pews are cracked and unstable. The best pews will be retained with extra space added between them.

Mary Bolaños reported on the progress of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). They are completing the Ministry Discernment Form which is the equivalent of the church’s resume. They will work with Stewardship to determine the salary range for a new pastor. There were some questions asked and hopes expressed and it was emphasized that we need to trust the PNC to discern a person called to this church. If you have questions about the process, feel free to reach out to any member of the PNC – their names are listed in this newsletter.

Mary also reported on the Presbytery Assembly held at The Little Church of the Desert in 29 Palms on June 15th. Thanks were given to Lazaro Silva for his ministry at El Buen Pastor Church in San Bernardino. Though the Presbytery is unable to continue to fund this ministry, Lazaro is committed to his work with the people on the streets and intends to continue while seeking other funding sources. Eric Brandenberger, who will be preaching for us on July 21st, was accepted as a Candidate which is the final step before being approved for ordination. He still has classes, exams and internships to complete before being considered for ordination. Sam Roberts and our own Lily Bolaños were commissioned as our representatives to General Assembly which is underway now. Noah Park and Esther Shin, PCUSA missionaries in Egypt, shared highlights of their ministry – they are from this area and consider Riverside Presbytery their home.

Finally, we recognized that this month marks one year since Sandy retired. Praise and thanks were expressed to Wendy for her leadership this past year, making the transition easier than expected and being a steady presence moving the church forward.

## Session 2024

***Stephen W. Smith, Moderator; Amy Smith, Clerk of Session***

**Class of 2024:** Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak, Patrick Morris, Martha Pinckney

**Class of 2025:** Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jonathan Horstmann, Phyllis Hough

**Class of 2026:** Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clarke, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis

## Join us for summer worship by Pastor Wendy

For the next three months we will be worshipping in the Fellowship Hall, saving on air conditioning costs, sitting together, and experiencing some less formal and different worship experiences. There will be sturdy chairs available for those for whom they are helpful.

June 30 we will worship through hymns. Folks have turned in slips naming their favorite hymns. We will pull the slips out of a hat during worship, and sing those hymns. Following worship, we will have ice cream sundaes hosted by our Deacon Board. This is the first year since 2019 that we will make Sundaes.

July 7, 14, 28, and August 4, I will be presenting a series about Worship and Covenant. We will worship around tables and have an opportunity for conversation. July 7, we will celebrate communion by intinction. August 4, we will celebrate communion around our tables and offer a "blessing of the backpacks" as students and teachers prepare to return to school.

Summer worship is an opportunity to meet closely together, interact with friends old and new, and worship God in the beauty of simplicity.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30  9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Pastor Nominating Committee	1	2 7:00pm Mensch Group	3	4  Church Office Closed. Independence Day 5:15pm Yoga Class	5 9:30am Kerygma	6 10:00am Straight Up AA
7  9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	8 4:30pm Nurture Committee	9 6:30pm Deacons	10 12:30pm Staff Meeting	11 5:15pm Yoga Class	12 9:30am Kerygma	13 10:00am Straight Up AA
14 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	15	16 11:30am Circle of Grace and Hope 7:00pm Mensch Group	17 1:00pm Stewardship Committee	18 5:15pm Yoga Class 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	19 9:30am Kerygma 10:30am Food Bagging	20 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA
21 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	22	23	24 12:30pm Staff Meeting 5:15pm SESSION Dinner 6:00pm SESSION Meeting	25 5:15pm Yoga Class	26 9:30am Kerygma	27 10:00am Straight Up AA
28 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	29	30	31	1 5:15pm Yoga Class	2 9:30am Kerygma	3 10:00am Straight Up AA

Please check the calendar on the website for the most up-to-date information and for August.  
[https://fpcsb.net/events\\_links/calendar](https://fpcsb.net/events_links/calendar)

## First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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 email: [pres.first@gmail.com](mailto:pres.first@gmail.com)  
[www.fpcsb.net](http://www.fpcsb.net)

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday  
 9 am to 4:30 pm

**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.*