



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

# First Press

September 2024



Daffodil in Magnolia Courtyard

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## September Worship

September might seem like the ultimate month of Ordinary Time as we continue to worship in Fellowship Hall and await the fall holidays (which are, nevertheless, Ordinary Time). While it might feel like this, there is something special about the opportunity to worship regularly and possibly try some new things during this last month in the Fellowship Hall.

**September 8: Breakfast Church.** To celebrate the beginning of the program year and the start of KidSpace, the Nurture Committee, with help from Deacons and Session, is providing a finger-foods breakfast to enjoy as we worship. **KidSpace begins today!**

**September 15 and 22: Ordinary Time Worship.** We continue to worship together in the Fellowship Hall, considering the life and miracles and teachings of Jesus.

**September 29: Special Guest Preacher, the Rev. Claire Schlegel.** Our last week in Fellowship Hall, retired pastor Claire Schlegel will offer us a word.

**October 6: World Communion Sunday.** We return to the Sanctuary on October 6 as we celebrate the communion of all believers around the world. We will celebrate the world in prayer and in song.

## Mission Action Plan

**Intentional Engagement** - Questions for Consideration  
(Excerpt from the Mission Action Plan)

How can we learn additional concrete practical strategies to be welcoming and invitational?

What forms of invitation are the most inclusive and loving to those isolated by circumstances:

- A. Entice someone to an activity through email or newsletter announcement.
- B. Employ multiple communication channels – email, newsletter, flyers, moment for mission announcements, web page, social media, phone calls, etc.
- C. Bring a person to an activity we enjoy, by picking them up, and doing it together.
- D. Design an activity for and with a specific group and welcome them on campus.
- E. Bring some kind of needed care into someone's home or community.
- F. Support one who plays a role in bringing that care into their own home and community.

How might we:

- Bring more people to experiences on campus (including people with limited transportation)?
- Bring our gifts (quality music, nurturing relationships, inclusive theology) to those who are not able to come on campus due to immobility, health, distance?
- Bring service opportunities to those who are homebound?
- Demonstrate and communicate the love of God more fully, or through more channels, to reach those who do not have a community of love?

Might we start by:

- Inviting people personally to ongoing and new church activities, anticipating that someone who has been invited before might be in a new place in their journey where they will find Christ, love, and purpose in this experience now.
- Predicting those aspects of an activity that might make a newcomer uncomfortable or uncertain if they can participate, and addressing those barriers. One tool might be the Kaleidoscope Institute Gracious Invitation process.
- Engaging in conversations about needs and possibilities with those struggling with isolation.
- Expanding proven simple meaningful acts (notes, calls, prayer) by involving more people in the giving and receiving.

*If you haven't had a chance to read over the Mission Action Plan, we are presenting excerpts from it in the newsletter over the next several months.*

**MAP QR Code**



*Whom might you invite?*

*To what?*

*When?*

*How can you help overcome any barriers to participation?*

*What is the first step?*

### **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)**

Pray for the Pastor Nominating Committee as they begin to seek candidates. And pray for the person God is preparing even now to come and minister to and with us.

***The Pastor Nominating Committee:***

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

# Notes



## Financial Notes

Financial Report as of July 31, 2024.  
General Fund

|               | Actual        | Budgeted    | Over/(Under) |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Pledges       | \$196,831.53  | 208,377.40  | (11,545.87)  |
| Other Income* | \$104,556.35  | 97,538.55   | 7,017.80     |
| Expense       | \$320,171.86  | 337,686.06  | (17,514.20)  |
| Net Income    | \$(18,783.98) | (31,770.11) | 12,986.13    |

### Division Consolidation

|                                   | July        | Year to date |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| General Fund Net Income (Expense) | (10,846.16) | (18,783.98)  |
| Deacons Net Income (Expense)      | 1022.38     | 4113.11      |
| Net Operating Income (Expense)    | (9,823.78)  | (14,670.87)  |

## Newsletter Schedule Change

**The First Press**, the newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, is edited by Wendy Lamb. Using a desktop publisher, I create the newsletter based on articles and information sent to me. I appreciate all those who contribute to the newsletter. Please submit content to Wendy at [newsletter@fpcsb.net](mailto:newsletter@fpcsb.net). Mimi Lange, office administrator, creates and publishes the weekly email announcements. Announcements for the weekly email can be sent to her.

Beginning with the next newsletter, we are moving to a bimonthly newsletter (every other month). This will allow us to have more content in each newsletter, more people will write for each newsletter, and, ideally, more people will read the newsletter because it is not as frequent.

If you are part of a ministry, I encourage you to discuss how you would like to be presented in the newsletter and who might write for you. I'd love to see every ministry do a write-up at least a couple times a year.

The newsletter schedule will be this:

October/November: Fall

December/January: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany

February/March: Lent

April/May: Easter, Easteride, and Pentecost

June/July: Summer

August/September: Summer, Back to School

The deadline for the October/November newsletter is Monday, September 23.

## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- Sep 4 Ed Congdon
- Sep 5 Hilda Nicks
- Sep 6 Norm & Christa Wallis  
Tom & Donna Garza
- Sep 8 Deon Garcia
- Sep 9 Harry Babcock  
Jeanne Clark  
Larry & Melodee Kistner  
Rosalind & Ken Mantei  
Shelby Obershaw  
Ramon & Penny Ramirez
- Sep 10 Judy Steppins  
Christian Usher
- Sep 11 Jane Snyder
- Sep 12 Laurie Stafford  
Kelsey Smith
- Sep 16 Robert Godby
- Sep 17 Bonnie Ainsworth
- Sep 18 Mindy Rueda
- Sep 19 Kimberly Ballard Hansen
- Sep 22 Al Rueda
- Sep 23 Michael Cummings
- Sep 24 Kyle Smith
- Sep 26 Jim Siegmund  
Kelli Vasquez
- Sep 27 Eli Morales
- Sep 30 Carmen Paredes

## In Memoriam

July 2024

Dwight Murray

d. July 28, 2024

*"In life and in death we belong to God."*



## An Inside View of the Internship Program

by Marlene Olivas



About 5 years ago, I became an intern at this church. I remember being very shy, and I did not have the confidence to do a lot of the things around the church like cutting the grass, interacting with people at food distribution, or being a leader. Fast forward 5 years later, I am now an intern supervisor teaching the high school kids a lot of the things I once was

too scared to do. I have seen a lot of shy kids become confident in themselves. I have seen them lead their intern teams, give directions, and become leaders. It is a very good feeling to see these kids grow. One of my favorite parts about being an intern supervisor is being able to help the kids in any way. Since I am close to their age, they ask me questions about college life, advice on their schoolwork, and trust me enough to be able to come to me when they are unsure about something when they are working with Rick, Ariana, and I. A lot of the time, these kids do not have someone older to ask questions to or ask for advice about a lot of things, and I am glad to be that person for them because I remember being in their shoes once wishing I had an older figure to ask questions to.

During this last internship, I had a lot of fun with the team. Every week, I would lead a group to bag food for Tuesday food giveaways. The kids would work hard, and we would always get 90 bags of food bagged every week, which would feed a lot of families. I also worked with a team outside in the 90 degree heat all day. Not once did my team complain about it being too hot, they worked hard and got everything we needed to get done. Although I am their boss, I also like to be their friend. This team always made me laugh, but when it was time to work they worked hard. Being able to goof around with this team has brought me a lot of happiness because whenever I am around them, they make me feel like I am also 14 again. I hope to be able to still work with a lot of the kids in this past team again in this new upcoming term for the internship. I am very excited to be interviewing and selecting the next team. I hope to be able to keep doing what I do for a very long time.

## Commissioned Pastor's Corner

**My Schedule:** Since I teach college classes at Crafton Hills College in Yucaipa, my schedule tends to change every semester. The office staff has kindly supported these changes as we figure things out each semester.

This fall, I'm teaching British Literature I in-person at Crafton on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 - 11:20 a.m. September 9, I begin Literature by Women as an asynchronous online course (I don't meet at specific times, but interact with students online as they complete assignments weekly).

**My in office hours at church are Tuesdays approximately 10-3 and Wednesdays noon-3.** The office staff meets at 12:30 on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Please know, I do my uninterrupted work (sermons, newsletter, reports, etc.) at home on other days. My office time is fairly short, but it is the time for me to interact with people. When people apologize for distracting me, I want you to know that I am there to be distracted, to have conversations and know what's going on. I get lots of undistracted work time at home. I am also open to calls when I am home.

I do try to save Monday for Crafton work (except Nurture).

## 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

## Church Volunteers Make a Difference for Saturday Food Distribution

by Rick Rodriguez

While I often write about the important work interns do for our Food Ministry, today I want to acknowledge the critical work done by many church family members for our Saturday distribution.

For our Saturday food distribution, both Friday and Saturday are very busy. On Friday, we unload the food, set it up on tables, and then fill bags with the items. We need 10-12 volunteers to complete this efficiently. With school back in session, our SBHS interns are unavailable to help. Many of the food cases we handle weigh between 25 and 40 pounds, and each of the 192 bags we prepare weigh upwards of 25 lbs.

Our church members do this volunteer work like they do all work, without complaint and happily visit as they work. This most recent Friday, I know many of them were tired when our Friday work was finished, I know I was.

Thanks to Marilyn Kraft, Dave & Chris Thomas, Brent Nord, Kristine French, Dan Direen, Joyce Lyons, Neal Williams, and Mark Kornfeld for sharing in the Friday work.

The day of our August Saturday Food Distribution we did have help from interns, but quite a few jobs need work or supervision from an adult from the church family. These include the registration of drive-thru participants, operating the walk-up station, overseeing the security and safety of the entire operation, stocking the vehicle and walk-up stations, and answering questions.

Thanks to Kevin & Wendy Lamb, Mark Adelson, John-Paul Fletcher, Sarah Fletcher, Teo Fletcher, Owen Morris, Mary Bolaños, Chris & Dave Thomas, and Marilyn Kraft for coming to help on Saturday.

## Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Christa Wallis and Mary Bolaños, PNC Co-Chairs

The PNC is busy following all of the steps required to call a new Pastor to FPCSB. They completed the Ministry Discernment Profile or MDP which is our 'church resumé' that is used nationwide to match us with Pastors seeking a call. The MDP was written using the information from our Mission Action Plan (MAP) that describes our Church and the surrounding community. The MDP was approved by our Session and then sent to Healthy Pastors and Congregations Committee (HPCC) of the Riverside Presbytery for approval. The HPCC Committee has approved the MDP and the information has been uploaded to the Presbyterian database. The next steps will be to receive pastor profiles from the matches and the PNC will review the profiles and narrow down the candidates to the top two or three. Next, the PNC will interview potential candidates and hear them preach. After that the PNC will recommend a Pastor to be called here to our Church, The timeline is on track to accomplish this by early 2025.



*Fellowship Hall Summer: Sunday, September 1, we worshiped around the Table and shared communion.*

## 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

## 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

## Meet our Chapel Renovator, Norm Wallis

By Norm Wallis and Wendy Lamb, compiled by Margaret Doane

*Articles for the rest of 2024 will feature individuals whose service to the Church is extraordinary; this is third in the series.*

Our chapel is being renovated! It has been shuttered for some time since it lacked heating. Now it is being significantly improved through the volunteer efforts of James and Christa, working on the garden and exterior, and especially by Norm Wallis, a master artisan making significant improvements to the interior. These welcome changes are being funded though the Andrews Family Gift, a very large bequest from Herb and Anna Jane Andrews, who attended the Church for over fifty years, and their daughter, Cyndi (an article on their great generosity appeared in the April 2023 edition of First Pres, available on our website).

Pastor Wendy describes the Chapel plans: Worship committee is sponsoring renovating the chapel so that it can be useable for small services and other purposes. This will also make the chapel more accessible for all. The first step was replacing the HVAC system so there is working air conditioning and heat. Secondly, Norm Wallis has taken out and re-finished a section of the wall where the piano is located so that the pianist can see the worship leaders during a service. He has also washed all the windows and cleaned the space. Norm will replace some pews with chairs which will make it accessible to those who use walkers and wheelchairs and also allow for creative uses. We are currently waiting for the company that will make the chairs, so this step is on hold. Meanwhile, James is working on revitalizing the Meditation Garden and Christa Wallis is revitalizing the area in front of the chapel, the view from the chapel nave.

*And master craftsman Norm was asked to talk about his life and experience in construction:*

I was raised in Reseda in the San Fernando Valley. I graduated from Reseda High School. After graduation I worked in the automotive industry doing engine building. I met Christa right before she graduated from Reseda High. She then went on to UC Irvine. I would go to Newport to visit her periodically. On a particular weekend The Beach Boys were in concert at the University. I figured if this is what college life is about, I think I should be there. So I applied and was accepted. I became a Chemistry major and played trumpet in the orchestra. Christa and I were married while we were there. She graduated a year before me but she stayed another year to obtain her teaching credential. We then finished our studies at the same time.

My first job was at the LA Coroner's office in the laboratory. I analyzed bodily fluids and specimens for drug and alcohol content. Then I applied for and was employed by the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department in the Scientific Investigations Division. My job title was Deputy Sheriff / Criminalist. I analyzed narcotics, firearms and crime scene evidence and testified in court as to the results. Later I was in charge of the Crime Scene Investigations Unit. I retired after 28 years of service. In 2007 I went to Colorado to build a home. It took 3 years but I got it done. I sold it and at the same time began working for Skywest Airlines. They operated as United Express. I worked for them for 10 years earning my second retirement.

A few years ago I built another home in the mountains of Colorado and sold it upon completion. I keep my contractors license valid in California and enjoy doing projects around town. I recently have made a few improvements in our Chapel to make it a more comfortable place to worship.

Christa and I have two wonderful daughters Sharon and Trisha who grew up in our church. We enjoy our two grand daughters Paige and Parker who occasionally worship with us.

Christa and I are currently in escrow on a beautiful home in Hawaii. We plan to use it as our vacation get-away home.

*Please drop by the Chapel to see the changes and improvements already underway!*

***Norm also frequently plays trumpet in our worship services.***

***Norm stands by the newly visible piano***





## September is National Emergency Preparedness Month

National Emergency Preparedness Month helps raise awareness of the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. By nature, emergencies are unpredictable so it is easy to get overwhelmed and then end up doing nothing! So let's just try and do 1 or 2 things this month to increase our safety and peace of mind, even for those more frequent events like power outages (<https://www.sce.com/outage-center/preparing-for-outages>) and unexpected medical events. Some ideas to choose from:

- 🍏 If you haven't yet, contact the church office to file an emergency contact card.
- 🍏 Pick up an extra case or 2 of water for your home.
- 🍏 Check and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- 🍏 Create or update list of emergency contacts, health care providers & current medications.
- 🍏 Post emergency numbers near your phone and ensure your address is clearly visible from the street.
- 🍏 Pack or check your Emergency Kit (more details at <https://www.ready.gov/kit>) with a few first aid essentials, multitool, personal hygiene items, flashlight, gloves, change of clothes.
- 🍏 Pack or check your Car Kit (more at <https://www.chp.ca.gov/programs-services/services-information/roadside-emergency-kit>)
- 🍏 Create or update a pet emergency kit – photo, medication, leash/carrier, vaccination records. (More at <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/emergency-preparedness/preparedness-kit.html>)
- 🍏 Make a “grab list” of items you don't want to forget if you are required to evacuate – e.g. cell phone and charger, wallet/purse, cash/credit cards, emergency kit, pets, pet carrier & kit, current medications, USB data backup, portable electronic device, copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.) Put this list in an empty duffle bag to use for the smaller items you will gather from their normal places. (More at <https://www.everplans.com/articles/all-the-things-you-should-consider-taking-with-you-in-an-emergency-evacuation>)
- 🍏 Stay informed:
  - Have a battery-powered or hand-crank radio for updates. In the San Bernardino Valley, our Emergency Alert System radio broadcast station is 95.1 FM KFRG.
  - San Bernardino County Fire Status website (<https://sbcfire.org/#status>) includes feeds from social media posts and the PulsePoint app summary of incidents. You don't have to hunt around or have direct access to Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.
- 🍏 Sign up for your local emergency alert system. In San Bernardino County, you can receive emergency messages specific to your address. Sign up or update your profile at <https://www.smart911.com/>. No internet? Call (909) 356-3998, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ask for TENS registration support. Through Smart911 you can provide critical information to 911 dispatchers. The information is private and only displayed if you place a call from the numbers you list. Dispatchers can access information such as emergency contacts, medical information (allergies, prescriptions, medical devices, whether the person would require evacuation assistance, and more), utilities, and pets.

Together we can better be prepared to care for each other and our larger community.

For ease of following links, this information is also on our web page at <https://fpcsb.net/emergency-preparedness>, or use this QR code:



First Presbyterian Church

September 2024

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

**First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino**

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**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.*