First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino



First Press

December 2024/January 2025



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This Advent we are using C.S. Lewis's The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe to make our way through the waiting and longing and hoping of Advent. When Lucy first finds her way into Narnia, she discovers that the land is under a curse: it is always winter and never Christmas. Sometimes Advent can feel that way. Must we really wait? When will Christmas come?

C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia are allegorical without being strict allegories. They are an imaginative way to think about faith and God. Each Sunday, we will pair moments in the book with moments from scripture. You do not need to be familiar with the book, but, if it seems like fun, I invite you to read or re-read it--or watch the movie--as we move into this Advent season.

Advent 1, December 1: "A Great Light"

Advent 2, December 8: "Preparing our Hearts"

Advent 3, December 15: "Signs, Angels, and Messenger"

Advent 4, December 22: "Gifts"

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.:

"Joy and Wonder"

First Sunday of Christmas, December 29: "The Winter Is Past!"

Mission Action Plan Excerpt

consistently called us into mission.

December-January

Educational Attainment (From Part 4 of our Mission Action Plan)

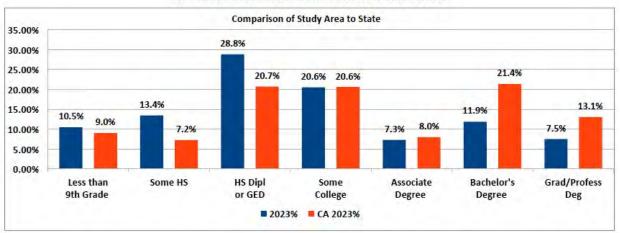
In the polygon defined by where our members live, the highest level of educational attainment for residents is below the state average as shown in the charts below. In the congregational polygon, 23.9% of our neighbors do not have a high school diploma. In the area within 1 mile of the church, that percentage grows to 40.3%. The number of residents who attend or complete college is even more limited. Our congregation values lifelong education, so this is a need that has

Congregation Polygon (neighborhood of 90% of membership)

What do you notice?

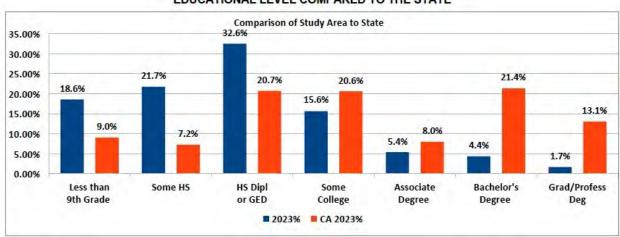
What do you wonder?

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL COMPARED TO THE STATE



Church Neighborhood (1-mile Radius)

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL COMPARED TO THE STATE



Read more of the Mission Action Plan at

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





Notes

The *First Press*, the newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, is published 6 times a year. It is created and edited by Wendy Lamb.

Please submit content to Wendy at newsletter@fpcsb.net.

The deadline for the February/March newsletter is Wednesday, January 22.

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of October 31, 2024.

General Fund

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	Over/(Under)	
Pledges	\$294,428.03	297,682.00	(3,253.97)	
Other Income*	\$154,444.16	137,407.02	17,037.14	
Expense	\$449,923.18	478,902.96	(28,979.78)	
Net Income	\$ (1,050.99)	(43,813.94)	42,762.95	

Division Consolidation

	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	(5,300.57)	(1,050.99)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	(1,075.14)	2,444.37
Net Operating Income (Expense)	(6,375.71)	1,393.38

Reminder: Caroling!

After worship on
Sunday, December 8.
Join us for a light lunch and an
afternoon of caroling
to some of our members.



Winter Service of Prayer and Healing

6:00 p.m. Thursday, January 9, 2024 in the Chapel

Come and join us in the chapel for our service of prayers for the world and prayers and laying on of hands for healing.

Your presence and your prayers would be a great gift.



JOYFUL SHARING

Did you know?

- The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s.
- The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.
- The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families.
- Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

We will collect this offering during Advent.



Symphonie Jeunesse Concert!

Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 22, as the youth string ensemble plays a concert of traditional Christmas music.

Companions on the Inner Way Retreat Opportunity, Spring 2025

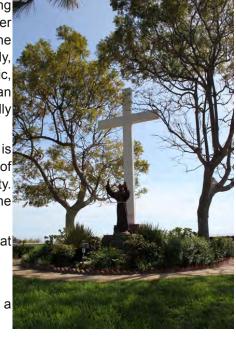
First Pres San Bernardino has a long history of supporting and attending Companions on the Inner Way Retreats. This spring, Companions on the Inner Way will once again offer a safe communal place to explore deep longings for the Holy. Grounded in the Christian tradition, the guided retreats incorporate body, mind, and soul through presentations, dialogue, spiritual practices, art, music, movement, and worship with Eucharist. The retreats strive to create an environment that is theologically curious, radically welcoming, and liturgically vibrant.

This year's retreat speaker will be Diana Butler Bass. Diana Butler Bass, Ph.D., is an award-winning author, popular speaker, inspiring preacher, and one of America's most trusted commentators on religion and contemporary spirituality. She has authored 11 books and Companions is pleased to welcome her for the spring retreat.

The retreat takes place from Sunday, March 23, 2025 to Friday, March 28, 2025 at Serra Retreat Center in Malibu, California.

Registration information can be accessed at www.cotiway.org

Please contact Christa Wallis chriwallis@aol.com if you'd like to apply for a scholarship to help defray the cost of attending.



The Oak Tree Halloween Event

By Rick Rodriguez & Delfina Rios (An Oak Tree Teacher)

On October 25th, the Oak Tree Learning Center, who leases several of our classrooms, transformed Magnolia Court into a hub of spooky fun for their students and for the community. They hosted a "Trunk or Treat" event bringing together laughter, games, and, of course, tons of candy. What made the event truly special was the teamwork that went into it. All the Oak Tree teachers worked together to create unique, fun games many of which were made with the help of the Oak Tree students. This collaboration made each game feel extra special as everyone had a hand in creating the fun.

There was also a taco vendor who served delicious food. Families and friends came together to enjoy the games, treats and food making the evening one full of joy and Halloween magic.

Below are a few pictures from the event.



The Pastor, the Pipe Organ, and a Passion for Music by Marilyn Kraft

The little pipe organ was constructed in 1951 for California Concordia College in Oakland, a Lutheran institution providing four years of high school along with two years of college education. That same year, Hugo Gehrke was invited to create a music department there. Ronald Kraft arrived in Oakland as a sophomore in high school, having been sent to this boarding school shortly after his father's passing.

As a recently orphaned teenager, Ron was captivated by the distinctive Hugo Gehrke and found comfort and inspiration in music. Ron started piano lessons at Concordia, Oakland, but was intrigued by the 3-rank Möeller Artiste pipe organ. Although he wasn't supposed to play the organ until he mastered the piano, he would sneak in at night to practice on it.

Ron graduated from Oakland and was transferred to Concordia Seminary in St Louis. He was ordained as a pastor in 1961. In the same week as graduation from seminary, Ron married Ruby, and they were called to serve several small churches in Wisconsin. Their first home in Wisconsin had very little furniture, but it soon had a house organ, an instrument that had been replaced at Ruby's parents' church. Ron was passionate about finding new homes for discarded pipe organs.

Ron and Ruby were called to California in 1965. During a break from full-time ministry in the mid 1970's, Ron started working part-time in pipe organ work, and eventually started Ron Kraft Organ Service. Ron pursued his calling through a blend of ordained ministry and organ work. When California Concordia College closed in 1973, Ron offered to move the little 3-rank Möeller to its new home, Concordia University, Irvine, which at the time consisted of just a few buildings. As larger instruments were introduced, the Möeller served as a practice organ. However, as the college and music department expanded further, the little Möeller was placed into storage.

In the mid 1980's, the Kraft family met the Ballantynes, when they reached out to Ron about repurposing an organ from Detroit for their home church in Riverside. The family had a deep passion for music and poured their love and effort into the project. At the time, Ryan Ballantyne was just a toddler, but he would later develop his musical and technical skills and eventually enter the pipe organ industry.

In 2010, Concordia University, Irvine agreed that Ron could take the little Möeller organ out of storage and modify it for use in a church. By that time, Ron Kraft Organ Service had ended with Ron's retirement, and its clients (including First

Pres, San Bernardino) transitioned to Ryan Ballantyne. Ron added several ranks, upgraded the electronics, and made various modifications in collaboration with Ryan as he established his own business. In 2021, Concordia University, Irvine officially released its interest in the instrument.

Ron and Ruby Kraft participate in weekly worship at First Pres through online services and have greatly appreciated its prayerful support. They are delighted to donate this instrument to First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, confident that it will continue to educate and inspire others for the glory of God.

Editor's Note: Based on the recommendation of the Worship Committee, in September Session approved the receipt of a small pipe organ donated by Ron and Ruby Kraft to be placed on the stage in Fellowship Hall for use in summer worship, as well as other creative possibilities. More information will be forthcoming, but if you would like to contribute to the estimated \$3500 in moving and installation costs, you may designate that on your check or envelope.

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

Safety and Service with your Membership Directory

In September, this newsletter provided a list of emergency preparedness ideas. That month a new Membership Directory was also prepared and distributed. Here are a couple ways to use your member directory to prepare for emergencies and keep you and others safe and healthy.

In that directory, not only will you find member and staff

contact information, but also a church emergency plan and a brief template for a family emergency plan.

The church emergency plan highlights some safety features that may help you if something unexpected happens on campus. Being informed can help you, your groups, and anyone in a

position to summon or provide help. We encourage you to look around for the fire extinguishers, red emergency phones, and emergency exits. Note the emergency numbers in the plan, some of which may apply to your home as well.

The family plan template provides spaces for you to think about your own situation while you have plenty of time and write in thoughts and look up numbers and other information. No doubt you have people in the directory who you might want to call. Whether you keep this information on the paper directory or enter it into your phone or other device, include the contact and

emergency information in your grab bag, so you can be in touch with other members of our community, before, during, and after an emergency.

On any day, do not underestimate the supportive impact of checking in with other people, whether by phone,

email, text, or note. It can be a boost for you, a safety check on someone living alone, and can provide encouragement during the current epidemic of loneliness and isolation. Let's continue to expand our intentional efforts to care for each other.

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The Thomas Family & the Food Ministry by Rick Rodriguez

There are quite a few members of our church family who help with operations of our Food Ministry, but the Thomas family, Dave, Chris and Frank donate so much of their time and efforts that we would have a hard time keeping the ministry running without them.

Dave Thomas does most of the fresh food purchases we need for our Rauch Family Foundation grant. This means he decides what food we will get, picks up the food, he sets up with another driver, if necessary, and after the food is put in our refrigeraters he puts together paperwork for us on the invoice(s) so we know how much money was spent from the grant. Dave also helps us unload and bag the food we pick up every month for our Saturday food distribution. During the food distribution, he also helps to keep the areas we are working in safe and all of our volunteers and interns feel safe. Dave also meets with me and Marilyn when we are discussing topics about the food ministry. He gives us a perspective we may not have considered. I also know we can get help from Dave with any other things that come up with the food ministry.

Chris Thomas comes every week to bag food for our Thursday food giveaways. This reduces the amount of bags I have to put together by half. This is a huge help because we only have one full day to make the bags for Thursdays. Chris also comes every month to help put all the food we pick up from Community Action Partnership (CAP) onto our tables. She is also the person we ask to make the first bag to see how all the food will fit in the bags and see if we have to make any changes. On the next day each month, Chris helps do the most difficult job of Saturday food distribution, she helps register the people in all the vehicles who have come to get food. If I need help with something else in the food ministry I know that Chris will always be willing to help if she can.

Frank Thomas, at 94 years old comes to the food giveaways on most Tuesdays and Thursdays to help with some of the tasks that we would probably let slip through the cracks until absolutely necessary. He makes our hygiene kits, he keeps all of the plastic bags that are donated organized, he gets all of the paperwork ready we put in each bag of food we give out and he makes the small bags of utensils we put in all of our non-cooking bags. Frank also helps with any other things that come up while he is here.

I know I am forgetting some of the things that each member of the Thomas family does for the food ministry. I want to say "Thank You" to Frank, Chris and Cap't Dave for everything they do to keep the food ministry moving on a day to day, week to week basis. It would be hard to keep this operation running without you.

Our Coffee Hour Workers by Rick Rodriguez



We have two young women from San Bernardino high School who have been assisting with coffee hour after our Sunday services for quite a while now. I thought it was time that everyone got to know a little more about them. Ana Quevedo has been helping with coffee hour for over a year now. She is in her junior year and currently has all A's in her classes this semester. She also plays in varsity tennis, and she is in several clubs at school including LifeSkillz. She has been part of the First Pres internship program three times, once as an intern and twice as a Team Leader. She is a hard worker who stays on task and carries herself well. I have enjoyed watching her grow since I met her at the beginning of her freshman year.

Maria Socop has been helping with coffee hour since April of this year. She is a sophomore and she also currently has all A's in her classes this semester. She

participates in several sports including cross country, wrestling and track. She is also a member of the LifeSkillz Circle and has been in our internship program once. We hope she will apply again because she is

someone who works hard and would make a great Team Leader.



These two young women enjoy coming to First Pres every Sunday to set up for coffee hour and then meet with the members of our church family. They then clean up after everyone has left, washing everything that was used during coffee hour. They do this work efficiently and also have fun working together.

Ana and Maria are always here to make our gathering after our Sunday services operate smoothly, and they are willing to help when needed like during our monthly Saturday Food Distribution. Come by on Sundays after service to the coffee table and say "Hello" to these two wonderful teenagers.

Pastor Search Update

Christa Wallis and Mary Bolaños, PNC Co-chairs

Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) has been meeting regularly to move along in the process of finding our next pastor. The Presbyterian leadership database has matched our church's criteria with potential candidates and PNC is now reviewing the call seekers and evaluating their information to choose candidates to interview in the coming weeks. The process is proceeding but the pace is often slower than anticipated because the committee devotes time and effort to carefully read candidates' profiles, to discuss each one thoroughly and to evaluate their qualifications. The PNC is looking forward to meeting with several candidates via teleconferencing or in-person. After top candidates are chosen, Riverside Presbytery then needs to vet the call seekers to ensure smooth transitions for all.

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 continue 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.

Social Media Presence



by Pastor Wendy Lamb

Love it or loathe it, Social Media has become an intrinsic part of our lives in the Year of our Lord 2024. The screenshot to the left is from the national Presbyterian church's website. All those little boxes are types of social media with which the denoimination is connected. Social Media is a major way that people connect with one another, receive news and announcements, and find information.

We use Social Media at First Pres San Bernardino. Our worship services are posted on YouTube. We email announcements and orders of worship weekly through MailChimp. We post similar items on Facebook and Instagram. While we do use it, our social media presence has been minimal in the last

few years. It takes time and intention to use it well, and that has not been among our pastoral and volunteer priorities. Yet we know that a new pastor coming in will probably check out our online presence before they ever meet us. People who might visit the church will check out our online presence before they venture out for a visit. People who find us on Youtube will look for us other places as well. It is part of our presence in the community. How are we presenting our vision of "becoming God's love in action?"

To this end, Session has created a position and hired member Abby Willis to be our new part-time Social Media Intern. Abby brings tremendous potential to this position.

Abby is a lifelong church member recently returned from college in Minnesota. She has been known and loved by this church her whole life, and is part of a family that has extensive experience with all aspects of this church so she knows what she is promoting from a perspective of a lived truth while also seeing things with a new perspective since she has been away.

Abby is an artist. We will benefit from the contributions of an artist since much of the impact of the work is related to the quality of graphics, presentations, and themes.

Abby is younger than most of us who work at the church. Different ages use the different tools and channels differently, and Abby's age group grew up on video, graphics, and social media and so embrace and navigate it in a more natural way.

Abby is connected in the community and online. Some of social media work is dependent on connections - e.g. networks of friends, participation on different platforms, ways of using media. She will expand our reach.

I am excited about this new intentional use of social media. We have a way to go deciding how we want to use the tools of the 21st century in God's work, but this is a start.

You can help! If you see Abby taking pictures, smile! If she asks to interview you for a post, please consider saying an enthuisiastic "Yes!" Please follow us on the social media platforms we use (right now mostly Facebook and Instagram) and interact with posts--liking, commenting, and re-posting as appropriate.

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

December and January Celebrations

Dec 1	Elaine Saenz	Dec 22	John Garten-Shuman	Jan 11	Jean-Luc Nicks
Dec 2	Sarah Godby	Dec 23	Ray Nelligan		Dawn Morris
Dec 3	Cindi Pringle	Dec 28	Lillian Franklin	Jan 13	Zane Preciado
Dec 5	Bobbie Terrell	Dec 29	Irene Sandoval & David		Stephani Congdon
	Curtiss & Rebecca Allen		Suverkrup	Jan 14	Patrick Morris
Dec 7	Zienna Long	Dec 30	Charlotte Pringle	Jan 16	Esther Olsen
Dec 9	Maddie Ramirez				Deon & Patrick Garcia
Dec 11	Christi Showman Farrar	Jan 1	George Biddlecombe III	Jan 17	Lynette DuClos Adelson
	Deagan Belle		Jeremy Allen		Mark Munz
Dec 16	Jon Horstmann	Jan 2	Carol Wright	Jan 20	Beverly Kristoffersen
Dec 18	Patrick Garcia	Jan 3	Alex Smith	Jan 23	Dan & Cheryl Direen
Dec 19	Jim & Carol Coyne	Jan 4	Alex Rueda	Jan 25	First Presbyterian
	Kristin Arellano	Jan 5	Sheila Cimino		Church
Dec 20	Melodee Kistner	Jan 6	Rachel Garvin	Jan 28	Linda McCarl
Dec 21	Danielle Garza	Jan 9	Cole Charles Jones	Jan 29	Brenda Frederick

First Presbyterian Church

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	2 5:00pm PW Coordinating Team	3 9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	4:00pm Worship Committee	9:00am Food Distribution	6 9:30am Kerygma	7 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
ADVENT Communion Sunday 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 11:00am PW Alternative Christmas Market 12:00pm Christmas Carolling	9 5:00pm Nurture Committee	10 9:00am Food Distribution 6:30pm Deacons	11. 12:30pm Staff Meeting 1:00pm Stewardship Committee 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	12 9-00am Food Distribution 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir	13 9:30am Kerygma	14 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 11:00am PW Alternative Christmas Market	16	17 9:00am Food Distribution 1:00pm Circle of Grace and Hope	18 5:15pm SESSION Dinner 6:00pm SESSION Meeting	19 9:00am Food Distribution 9:00am Friendship Circle	9:30am Kerygma 10:30am Food Bagging	9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA 1:00pm Symphonie Jeunesse
8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 3:00pm Symphonie Jeunesse Concert	23 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	24 Church Office closes at Noon 5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship	Christmas Day Church Office Closed.	26 Church Office Closed. 9:00am Food Distribution	9:30am Kerygma	28 10:00am Straight Up AA
29 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	30	31 Church Office closes at Noon 9:00am Food Distribution	Church Office Closed. New Year's Day 4:00pm Worship Committee	9:00am Food Distribution	3 9:30am Kerygma	4 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	30	31 Church Office closes at Noon 9:00am Food Distribution	Church Office Closed. New Year's Day 4:00pm Worship Committee	9:00am Food Distribution	3 9:30am Kerygma	9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
5 # Communication 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	6 5:00pm PW Coordinating Team	7 9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	8 12:30pm Staff Meeting	9 9:00am Food Distribution 6:00pm Prayer & Healing Service 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir	10 9:30am Kerygma	11 Church Officer Training 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
12 Ordination and Installation of Officers 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	13 5:00pm Nurture Committee	9:00am Food Distribution 6:30pm Deacons	15 1:00pm Stewardship Committee	9:00am Food Distribution 9:00am Friendship Circle 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	9:30am Kerygma 10:30am Food Bagging	18 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA 1:00pm Symphonie Jeunesse
19 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	20 Church Office Closed. Church Office Closed. First Press Deadline Martin L. King, Jr. Day	9:00am Food Distribution 1:00pm Circle of Grace and Hope	22 12:30pm Staff Meeting 5:15pm SESSION Dinner 6:00pm SESSION Meeting	9:00am Food Distribution	24 9:30am Kerygma	25 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up
26 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	27 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	28 9:00am Food Distribution	29	30 9:00am Food Distribution	31 9:30am Kerygma	1 10:00am Straight Up AA

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

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

1900 North D Street San Bernardino, CA 92405

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P.O. Box 2729 San Bernardino, CA 92406

Office: 882-3308 email: pres.first@gmail.com 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.