

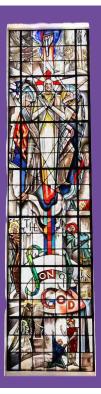


First Press

April/May 2025











In this issue

Eagle Project.....8

Lent

Through Lent we have considered what it means for Jesus to be The Bread of Life... The Light of the World... The Good Shepherd... The Son of God and The Resurrection and the Life... Come Forth in the Father's Name. Jesus provides us sustenance. He lights our way and unveils what is hidden in the darkness. He shelters and protects us as a shepherd does their sheep. His declaration that he is the resurrection and the life helps us face grief and continue living. We respond, "you are the son of God." He shows us what it means to act in God's name and invites us to join him.

On Palm Sunday, we will ask what it means that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. How do we follow?

The services are available online if you have missed any of them.

The windows are in the Sanctuary if you wish to look at them more closely.

Quiet Nights have been considering who Jesus says he is and who we say we are. There are two more Quiet Nights at 6:00 on Thursdays April 3 and April 10. Join us.

POAMN: A Presbyterian Resource for Seniors & Caregivers

By Marilyn Kraft

As part of our Mission Action Plan (MAP), Senior Ministry is identified as one of our five key priorities. The MAP highlights that 66% of our congregation is aged 56 and above, with 39% of us being over 70. It also acknowledges the growing concern of isolation and loneliness among older adults, recognized as a health risk by both national and global health agencies. This need extends beyond our church, as many seniors in the broader community could benefit from the love and support that our congregation offers.

You may be personally involved with the challenges of aging, either as a senior yourself, as a caregiver, or through ministries like our pastoral care, prayer chain, video ministry, Presbyterian Women, or others. In any case, a valuable resource is available through the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in covenant with the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PCUSA). POAMN's mission is to educate, advocate, develop, and share resources while training leaders to better serve older adults.

One notable resource from POAMN is *The Care Partner Tool Kit*, designed to help care partners serve with confidence and remind them that their work is an act of service to God. You can access the tool kit at: https://poamn.org/care-partner-tool-kit/.

The Care Partner Tool Kit includes downloadable QuickSheets on:

- Roles and Responsibilities of Care Partners
- Glossary of Key Terms
- Planning Together: Preparing for Difficult Conversations
- Ten Considerations Worksheet (When to Get More Involved)
- Accompanying a Loved One to the Doctor
- Addressing the Guilt of Caregiving
- Resource Roadmap: A list of helpful links

Additional resources are available to help faith communities better support care partners.

We encourage you to explore these helpful resources to strengthen your caregiving efforts and support our broader community.

Youth Sunday, May 11!

Youth will meet regularly leading up to May 11 as they prepare for Youth Sunday.

Plan to come and support your youth who will work hard to lead in a service of worship.



Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Pray for our Pastor Nominating Committee as they seek our new shepherd. Pray for the person God is preparing even now to come and minister to and with us.

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

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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/July newsletter is Thursday, May 22.

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of February 28, 2025.

General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)	
Pledges	\$47,972.23	54,982.00	(7,009.77)	
Other Income*	\$31,505.74	31,298.13	207.61	
Expense	\$71,613.27	92,994.32	(21,381.05)	
Net Income	\$ 7,864.70	(6,714.19)	14,578.89	

Division Consolidation

	February	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	10,639.75	7,864.70
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	747.42	(566.94)
Net Operating Income (Expense)	11,387.17	7,297.76

In Memoriam February and March 2025

Beverly Snell April 16, 1927 -- February 25, 2025

Wayne McCarl April 1, 1947 -- March 6, 2025

George Biddlecombe III January 1, 1937 -- March 12, 2025

Ann Aguilera March 23, 1934 -- March 17, 2025

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

Graduates!

If you are a graduate or have a family member graduating from high school, college, or graduate school this spring, please send their name, relationship to congregation members, school and degree (if appropriate), and graduation date to Newsletter@fpcsb.net by Thursday, May 22, for recognition in the June/July newsletter.

If you can **include a photo** of the graduate, that would be terrific. You can email or text it to me, Wendy.

If you would like to include a note about "what's next" for the graduate, I will also include that information.

Victims' Rights Week Memorial

You are invited to the Tenth Annual National Crime Victims' Rights Week Memorial, Monday, April 7, 5:30 to 6:30 at Lewis Family Playhouse at Victoria Gardens Cultural Center. There are 50 seats reserved right behind Joanne and Sherman for church members and friends. Come and support the families of Wanda and Mary Beth.

Making Space!

Several people have been reorganizing and cleaning out our kitchen pantry space. We really don't need 7 large punch bowls with accompanying cups.

The excess bowls, dishes, luncheon plates, etc. will be available in Fellowship Hall after worship on Palm Sunday.

There is no charge for these items, although donations will be accepted and appreciated.

Making our Way toward Easter



As we move through this Lent in which we have been listening to Jesus tell us who he is, we begin to prepare for Easter. We prepare ourselves through prayer and fasting through worship throughout Lent and during Holy We not only prepare ourselves, but we also prepare our space. readying the sanctuary visually for the great festival of Easter. Here are some ways we prepare, and some ways everyone can join in and prepare together.

Quiet Nights continue in the Fireside Room at 6:00 on Thursdays, April 3 and 10. You are invited to this space for a time of listening and quiet as we share readings based on the I Am windows and the question, who are we?

Palm Saturday: Help us begin Holy Week as we prepare for Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. On Saturday, April 12, we would love your help making palm crosses for our Palm Sunday service. We'll gather in Fireside Lounge at 9 a.m. for a morning of fellowship and creation. Everyone of all ages is invited and experience is not required, but please bring your own scissors! While some of us

make palm crosses, others will prepare the sanctuary for Palm Sunday with palm fronds and other elements. We look forward to creating with you!



Palm Sunday: April 13, We will gather outside and process in together singing "Hosanna." We also will be collecting our "Fat Fish" and One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on that day.

Maundy Thursday pays solemn

remembrance to the last hours of Jesus, especially the last time our savior shares a meal with his disciples. The choir sings. The



congregation sings. We have candles and readings. We dramatically remember Jesus' last hours with his disciples before he faces the cross. Please join us Thursday, March 28th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for this service.

Easter Saturday, April 19, you're invited to assist the Worship with Committee preparing our sanctuary for Easter morning. You are invited to bring your garden's most beautiful flowers, blooming branches, and greenery. If you bring them in buckets of water, they will stay fresh until arranged! You're also invited to bring pruning shears and garden gloves if you would like to help make arrangements. Because of food distribution in the morning, we will gather at 11 a.m. and welcome everyone's participation, whether you have flowers to bring or not, in this tradition of beauty, creativity, and joyous preparation for Easter!



Easter Worship! Sunday, April 20, our sanctuary will be filled with friends and with color. We will gather in the dim light recalling Easter dawn. We will sing with the joy that only hope reborn can bring, and we will raise up our voices with "the A word" from which we have been fasting for so many weeks. Choir and organ will help us lift our hearts, and we will once again proclaim the ancient Easter greeting: Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!



Good in Our Neighborhood by Marilyn Kraft

Do you know about **Sahaba Initiative**? Our neighborhood is blessed to have this award-winning nonprofit operating their Food and Wellness Center just 2 blocks south of our sanctuary at 1694 N D St. That building was a drug house before Sahaba bought it in 2022. Now it hosts a weekly Saturday afternoon food distribution.

Started in 2009 with food outreach at local parks, Sahaba Initiative has grown tremendously and now offers food, mental health, emergency, and refugee assistance. You can learn more at https://www.sahabainitiative.org/.

Sahaba Initiative representatives have visited the First Pres campus for our food programs to exchange ideas since we are neighbors, and we are both recipients of the generosity of The Rauch Family Foundation. Most recently Sahaba food program folks came here to share 20 cases of sports drink with us. Thank you, Sahaba!

Sahaba Initiative is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit which is partnered with Islamic relief and community organizations, as we are with our Presbyterian ones. And we are both connected to local partners such as Feeding America of Riverside/San Bernardino, and San Bernardino High School. As we are continuing Lent and anticipating Easter, these, our Muslim friends, have just completed Ramadan, a month of fasting and service. Their scope is much larger than ours, and we draw on different faith-based traditions, but we have much in common.

What does this have to do with our food ministry?

First, we are grateful to each person who takes the trouble to share something with our food ministry to improve the lives of our neighbors.

Second, we can't effectively do community work without other organizational partners. Food ministry is a team sport.

Finally, while rushing through our own to-do lists, and doom-scrolling the news, we might fail to notice the many people from different perspectives who are committed to the health and wellness of our community. Those who care for the vulnerable are our spiritual kin. We encourage you to keep an eye open for those kin of any faith, culture, or tradition.

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

- Fred Rogers



Pictured above are the members of the **Symphonie Jeunesse Youth Orchestra**. Director Michèle Brosseau-Tacchia with her husband and accompanist Michael Tacchia give these local, talented string players a chance to study their craft, rehearse together weekly, and perform in various places. **Their next concert at First Pres, their annual Mother's Day Concert, will be held in the Fellowship Hall on the afternoon of May 11, 2025.**

Strengthening Our Internship Program with Deacon Support

by Rick Rodriguez, Intern Supervisor

The Board of Deacons now oversees the Internship Program which has evolved from a small experiment into a vital part of many of our ministries. This is an excellent change for the Internship Program, the Board of Deacons, and our church family.

A monthly report and a place for discussion on the agenda will keep the Deacons informed of any major program changes, completed work, salary expenditures, and other information of interest to church leadership. The internship report is passed to Session with all the other information from the Deacon meeting. This gives church elders more regular information about the internship program and gives everyone a familiar structure for decisions, accountability, program support, and communication.

Internship Program Monthly reports have only been written for January and February of 2025, and we expect the content of these reports to be adjusted to need and interest.

The Salary section of the February Internship report included,

"YTD expenditures from the budget on intern salaries are \$445 under budget. The monthly budget for intern salaries is \$4060. During February, we spent that amount and an additional \$1,031 on salaries. The overage was covered from the R. Parker donation, leaving us \$3,969 in that fund. We should not need R. Parker donation funds once we receive the 2025 allocation of the Rauch Family Foundation grant, which is expected soon."

Brad Smith is the Deacon assigned to oversee the Internship Program, which gives intern supervisors an additional contact person beyond staff.

I believe this kind of transparency and regular communication is very helpful for the Internship Program, our church leadership, and our church family.

Board of Deacons 2024

Mindy Rueda, Moderator; Steve Smith, Pastoral Support

Class of 2025: Rebecca Allen, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas Class of 2026: Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda Class of 2027: Richard Rodriguez, Jim Siegmund, Kyle Smith, Christian Usher

We list our military members every month so that we can pray for them. This is important to this congregation that was begun in an Air Force town. If you are the contact person for your loved one, please keep me (Wendy) updated on their status and location (as many of you do). Thank you.

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

Promising Futures by Rick Rodriguez

Here is a chance for you to learn a little more about some of the teenagers who come to our church campus and help with so many different projects and ministries.



Natalie Rojas Orazco

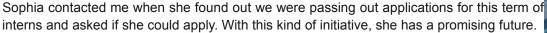
Natalie is a junior at San Bernardino High School (SBHS). She has been part of the LifeSkillz Circle and the internship program since she was a freshman. She spent most of her life here in San Bernardino, including her freshman year at SBHS. Her family then moved to Las Vegas and Natalie spent her sophomore year there. Through the magic of social media she stayed close to her best friend, Liliana Aceves, who is also an intern. Natalie moved back to San Bernardino right before her junior year started and stayed with Liliana's family until her family was able to move and get settled.

Natalie has a GPA of 3.8 and she is hoping to attend either UC San Diego or UC Riverside to study Psychology after high school. This hard working young woman is on track to achieve her goals.

Sophia Williams

Sophia is a sophomore at St. Thomas Aquinas High School. She spent her freshman year at SBHS, but was not getting challenged at all in her classes. Sophia is one of the most academically accomplished students to come through the internship program. Her parents decided to move her to St. Thomas Aquinas where they felt the classes may be more challenging. Sophia is still maintaining a 4.0 GPA and she is in several sports at school and does well in all of them. She has not started picking her dream schools yet and only knows she wants to do something that has to do with sports. She is still only a sophomore and will be narrowing her choices over the next several months.

This is the second time that Sophia has been on an intern team. She was on a team while she was a freshman and still at SBHS.













Last week some members in our congregation gathered at **Companions on the Inner Way** at Serra Retreat in Malibu, California. We heard presentations each day by Dr. Diana Butler Bass, author, inspiring preacher, popular speaker and commentator on religion and contemporary spirituality. She challenged us to consider the question "What are we going to do?" as we pondered our spiritual wellness and public witness as it relates to our Christian faith and the current socio-political environment of our country. We explored the gift of vulnerability, empathy and compassion and studied scripture pertinent to the question. We spent time in nature on the still beautiful grounds of Serra Retreat (even though the burn scars of the Franklin Fire and Palisades Fire are very, very close to the retreat campus), in prayer, in worship, and through varied integration activities. We sang prayer chants and expressed ourselves through art, conversation and the small group practice of Lectio Divina (Divine Reading)-prayerful reflection on scripture and its impact and meaning in our individual and collective lives. It was time of rest, renewal and recreation spent in a beautiful setting overlooking the Pacific Ocean along with many treasured and new companions. Additional information about Companions on the Inner Way can be accessed at www.cotiway.org or you can ask anyone who attended the retreat. Blessings.

Christa Wallis

Our Eagle Scout Project Is Completed

by Dave Thomas

Almost two years ago I was approached by Pastor Sandy to touch bases with Brandon Turner as he was contemplating his Eagle Scout project and was there anything on our campus that might be a good match for Brandon and our church. After discussing this with Brandon, Building & Grounds and Session, it was decided our garden outside of Fellowship Hall could benefit from this program. Most of the plants in this area were the original hodgepodge of different varieties, the Dogwood tree had evidence of disease and the sprinklers were marginally operational. At first I thought Brandon would be conducting a general clean up of this area but after discussing the guidelines of an Eagle Scout project, the area must be improved upon from its existing state. Brandon with the help of his Mother Tanya and his Grandmother Brenda (who just happens to work at a landscaping business) began the process of taking measurements and designing blueprints to incorporate drought resistant and low maintenance landscaping. A new low water drip irrigation system was also included allowing us to continue being faithful stewards of our environment. After months of

various changes and different levels of scout approval the project was scheduled to begin in February and run over three consecutive Saturdays. Brandon had to conduct fundraising for supplies, arrange all the volunteers (about 25 people each Saturday) and provide leadership during the entire work process. Day one consisted of demolishing the existing garden and sprinkler system, day two installing the new drip irrigation system and day three planting, painting our fence, installing mulch and gravel. Brandon supplied a hot dog barbeque each day and even the Interns were invited to join Brandon's crew for lunch. After completion of the project, Brandon held a show and tell for our congregation which everyone was very impressed. During this summer Brandon will have his Eagle Scout award presentation held at church in Fellowship Hall, and we'll be sure to let everyone know so we can witness Brandon receiving his award. Thank you Brandon for considering our church for your Eagle Scout project, job well done!!













Session 2025

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

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

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

Class of 2027: Patrick Morris, Susan Skoglund, Katie Smith, Neal Williams

April and May Celebrations						
Apr 1	Ray & Becky Nelligan	Apr 20	Cliff Cummings	May 10	Marissa Congdon	
	Irene Sandoval-		Joseph Ramirez		Susan Skoglund	
	Suverkrup	Apr 24	Harlan Leonard Wright	May 12	Wendy Lamb	
Apr 3	John-Paul Fletcher	Apr 27	Jonah Roy Morales	May 14	Carol Coyne	
Apr 4	Howard Le Roy	Apr 28	Jim Cimino	May 15	Lynn Usher	
Apr 5	Laura Olsen Dunn		Mark Freeman	May 16	Jim Babcock	
	Jacob Allen	Apr 29	Jim & Helen Babcock	May 17	Sharon Louise Landeros	
Apr 8	Mary Bolaños	May 1	Lily Bolaños		Wanda Skipper	
	Don & Earleen Dudley		Aidan Morris		Tim & Lynn Usher	
Apr 12	Frederick Star	May 4	Erika Mantei	May 23	Jim Morris	
Apr 13	Cassidy Wright	May 6	Kaiyah Dubois	May 24	Trinity Conley	
Apr 15	Kelsey Adelson		Katie Willis		Penny Ramirez	
	Jennifer Mantei	May 7	Brian Gano	May 27	Jenna Garza Schneider	
Apr 16	Marilyn Karnig		Maggie Willis	May 28	Mark Adelson	
Apr 18	Michelle Lea Babcock	May 9	Chasen Bricker		Jon Preciado	
	Don Dudley		Rosalind Mantei		Maria Saenz	
	Oliver Andrew Lamb		Phil Savage III		Al & Mindy Rueda	

First Presbyterian Church

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	31	1 9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	2 4:00pm Worship Committee	3 9:00am Food Distribution 6:00pm Lenten Quiet Night	4 9:30am Kerygma	5 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm CPR-AED Class	7 5:00pm PW Coordinating Team	8 9:00am Food Distribution	9 12:30pm Staff Meeting	10 9:00am Food Distribution 6:00pm Lenten Quiet Night 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir	11 9:30am Kerygma	9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
13 Palm Sunday 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	14 5:00pm Nurture Committee	15 9:00am Food Distribution 1:00pm Buildings & Grounds Committee 1:00pm Circle of Grace and Hope	16 1:00pm Stewardship Committee	17 Maundy Thursday 9:00am Food Distribution 9:00am Friendship Circle 5:30pm Maundy Thursday Service	18 Good Friday 9:30am Kerygma 10:30am Food Bagging	9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA 1:00pm Symphonie Jeunesse
20 Easter Sunday 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Deacons	21	9:00am Food Distribution	23 12:30pm Staff Meeting 5:15pm SESSION Dinner 6:00pm SESSION Meeting	9:00am Food Distribution	25 9:30am Kerygma	26 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
27 Triennium Gathering 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	28 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	9:00am Food Distribution	30	9:00am Food Distribution	2 9:30am Kerygma	3 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Triennium Gathering 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	28 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	9:00am Food Distribution	30	1 9:00am Food Distribution	9:30am Kerygma	3 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
4 Communion Sunday 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	5 5:00pm PW Coordinating Team	6 9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	7 4:00pm Worship Committee	8 9:00am Food Distribution 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir	9 9:30am Kerygma	10 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
11 Mother's Day Youth Sunday 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 3:00pm Symphonie Jeunesse Concert	12 5:00pm Nurture Committee	9:00am Food Distribution	14 12:30pm Staff Meeting	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
18 Triennium Gathering 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Deacons	19	20 First Press Deadline 9:00am Food Distribution 1:00pm Buildings & Grounds Committee 1:00pm Circle of Grace and Hope	21 1:00pm Stewardship Committee	9:00am Food Distribution	9:30am Kerygma	24 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
25 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	26 Church Office Closed. Memorial Day 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	9:00am Food Distribution	28 12:30pm Staff Meeting 5:15pm SESSION Dinner 6:00pm SESSION Meeting	9:00am Food Distribution	30 9:30am Kerygma	31 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA

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

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

1900 North D Street San Bernardino, CA 92405

Mailing Address:

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 LambCommissioned 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.