First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino



First Press

June/July 2025



Triennium Comissiong: The other youth and youth leaders gather around our triennium students and advisors, commissioning them to go to Kentucky in July and return and share with us what the Spirit is doing.

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Triennium Commissioning

On Youth Sunday, May 11, we heard God's word from our youth. Students offered prayers they had written, read scripture, led the children in acting out the scripture, and preached. The service is available online if you missed it.

We also commissioned this year's Triennium Participants: advisors Brent Nord and Katrina Johnston and students Adam Nord, Rowan Fletcher, Joshua Fletcher, Kendra Lamb, and Breanna Nord. Triennium is an every-three-year gathering of Presbyterian youth from all over the country and a few other countries. Thousands of students spend time worshiping and learning together. The 2022 gathering was canceled due to Covid concerns, so this is the first one in six years. Katrina was a student 6 years

ago and is returning as an adult advisor. Brent was an advisor 6 years ago and is returning. The students are all new to the experience, and we are so glad they have this opportunity!

Many thanks to those who have supported our students and advisors through Scrip and the Valentine Brunch Triennium Fundraiser and a special thanks to Alex Smith who gave a large gift to sponsor triennium because it was such a meaningful experience for him.

Kendra and Joshua serve muffins at the Valentine Brunch/Triennium Fundraiser.



Mission Action Plan: What is your Invitation?

Consider the pastor leadership skills identified in our Mission Action Plan (excerpt from page 43).

Leadership Skills – To achieve our mission priorities we will benefit from a pastor who is skilled, or will pursue the skills to:

- Work effectively with leadership to achieve vitality and resilience through adult education programs, stewardship, volunteer engagement, and succession planning.
- Develop, encourage, and utilize the many gifts of members, staff, volunteers, and community members of all ages.
- Help leaders reach consensus and to be creative and maintain a safe and fun environment for experimentation.
- Support program leaders in evaluating and reimagining programs to be sustainable.
- Minister in partnership with seniors, including shared leadership, visits to home, hospital, and care facilities, preparing memorial events, and encouraging members of all ages to be engaged, inviting, hopeful, and of service.
- Collaborate positively with community and interfaith partners.

As the Pastor Nominating Committee works to find the leader God is calling to guide us into the future, we need your involvement to ensure that our church continues to thrive. These leadership skills are not just about the pastor. They are about us all - our collective efforts and gifts that make ministry happen.

This church has always been a place that values each individual's unique sense of call, encouraging participation without guilt or pressure. We rely on each person to engage where they feel called. If you are already involved in a ministry, how are you inviting new people to join? If you're looking for new ways to participate, let us know! Whether through a study group, a service role, or a leadership position, we always need fresh ideas and energy to move forward.

What new thing is God inviting you into? If you're unsure where to begin, our Deacon and Session leaders and our staff can connect you with the right opportunities. Their contact information can be found in this newsletter and on our website.

"Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks
to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he

blesses all the world."
- St. Teresa de Avila

(15th century Carmelite nun)

Let's continue to work together, inviting new people, embracing new experiences and ideas, and building a sustainable future for our ministry.



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 August/September newsletter is Wednesday, August 20.

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of April 30, 2025.

General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$115,100.84	109,964.00	5,136.84
Other Income*	\$72,148.22	60,138.64	12,009.58
Expense	\$143,188.50	183,594.88	(40,406.38)
Net Income	44,060.56	(13,492.24)	57,552.80

Division Consolidation

	April	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	17,135.99	44,060.56
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	1,961.24	(123.12)
Net Operating Income (Expense)	19,097.23	43,937.44)

Photo/Yearbook Project

Thank you to everyone who had photos taken on Easter. They are great photos! Someone in your family should have received a digital copy from Abby.

If you did not have a chance to be photographed on Easter or if you would like a re-do for any reason, **Abby will be taking photos again on Pentecost!** Come back to the sanctuary after the dove release on Pentecost and have an individual or family or friend group photo taken to help complete the project.

If you couldn't do Easter and you can't do Pentecost, you might send a photo to the church office (pres.first@gmail.com).

In Memoriam

April 2025 Rosemarie Evans August 17, 1939 - April 25, 2025

May 2025 Norma Anderson Zimmer September 16, 1939 - May 18, 2025

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

Summer Worship!

The Kraft Organ is being installed in the Fellowship Hall at the end of May. We will be able to use the organ through our end-of June through September Summer Worship.

June 29:

Move to Fellowship Hall
Organ Dedication
Hymn Sing Sunday
Ice Cream Social

Thank you to everyone who gave toward the organ installation!

An Invitation: Brainstorm with the Nurture Committee

Many things have changed in the last five years, and the Nurture Committee is wondering how we move forward with opportunities for Christian education and fellowship.

We invite you to consider the things you miss and imagine what they might look like re-imagined. Are there times and ways to incorporate different kinds of educational classes into our common life? What are ways we can have fun activities that are intergenerational and inclusive that give us time to connect?

Consider whether you might be willing to lead or help lead a class or event.

You are invited to join the Nurture Committee on Zoom on Monday, June 9 at 5:00 p.m. to brainstorm ideas.

(Zoom invitation will follow.)



Ryan William Nord

Graduates from San Bernardino Valley College with an Associate of Science degree in Flight Operations and Management. Ryan is preparing to start his flight training to earn his Private Pilot License and work towards becoming a commercial pilot. Ryan currently plays soccer in multiple adult leagues and soon will also be playing baseball.

Ryan is a congregation member, son of Brent and Joanna Nord, brother of Breanna and Adam, and grandson of Doris Nord.



Breanna Catherine Nord

is not yet sure

and Confirmation Day.

graduates June 5, 2025 from Citrus Valley High School as a scholar athlete, playing soccer and running track (4x100, 100 and 200). Breanna has been a part of Link Crew for two years and ASB for one. Breanna received the Seal of Biliteracy (English and Spanish). Breanna

what she will be studying but plans to attend Crafton Hills Community College in the Fall.

Breanna is a congregation member, daughter of Brent and Joanna Nord, sister of Ryan and Adam, granddaughter of Doris Nord.

House Girl Scout Silver Award Project with Brooke Rodriguez,

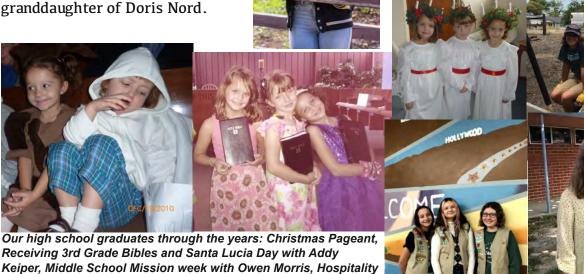
Kendra Elizabeth Lamb

graduates June 5, 2025 from Arroyo Valley High School as part of the International

Baccaleaureate Program. Kendra was active Theater Company and received the Seal of Biliteracy (English and Spanish). Kendra plans to study English at The



Kendra is a congregation member currently serving on the PNC, daughter of Kevin and Wendy Lamb, and sister of Oliver Lamb.



Getting to Know Abby Willis

Introduction by Margaret Doane; Bio by Abby Willis

The most recent addition to our Church staff is Abby Willis, our social media intern. She is a photographer extraordinaire, and her work documents the life of the Church as well as expanding our presence in the community through social media. Abby takes pictures during worship, takes pictures of the Church campus, takes pictures of work being done on the campus – she documents and records the inner workings of FPCSB. Her beautiful photos of individuals and families worshipping on Easter are keepsakes for those photographed and also will form a yearbook so that it will be easier for the new pastor and for others to put names to faces. Her photos have been submitted with grant writing requests for the Food Ministry, have been used to update the website, and have increased our online presence on Facebook and Instagram. Abby grew up in our Church, and we have always been fortunate to have her as a member. And now we are lucky to have her as our photographer!

Abby, asked for a bio, submitted the following:

A little about me...

I was born and raised in San Bernardino. I attended Cajon High School, graduating in 2020. In my time at Cajon, I was deeply involved in our school's club, Best Buddies, an international organization dedicated to building friendships between students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. I was an International Baccalaureate Diploma recipient, did competitive gymnastics from the time I could do a cartwheel and worked as a one on one coach for students with intellectual and physical disabilities all through high school. After graduating from Cajon, I headed to MN to attend Gustavus Adolphus College where I received my BA in Studio Art with a minor in Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies. During my time at Gustavus I continued

with collegiate gymnastics all four years, participated in an on campus club, Gustie Buddies, (what I would consider a local version of Best Buddies with an emphasis on mentorship, as we were paired with students from St. Peter's local elementary school) and is where I was introduced to my new love of ceramics. Going into college I had no idea what I was going to study. I had many interests, painting, teaching, psychology but never once did it cross my mind that I would graduate with a degree for, what I lovingly refer to as... playing in the dirt. My sophomore year I took a handbuilding ceramics class as a requirement for a studio credit, just in case I wanted to be an studio art major, and the class infuriated me. Almost every project I made either broke, couldn't stand on its own or was just downright ugly. I finished the semester with a box filled with fired piles of dirt that were going to outlive me and with a promise to myself that I would never sign up for another ceramics class. But as registration came closer I was itching to get my hands back in the mud. As much as I found the medium so infuriating and unpredictable, I loved the challenge and the feeling when a project actually, by some miracle, worked out. And so I signed back up! Two more classes, a summer internship at the Northern Clay center; teaching ceramics to kids, and a studio assistant position during my junior and senior year later... I was completely in love. The end of my four year journey at Gustavus was marked by my capstone exhibition where I showed my body of work entirely made from clay!

What I find so intriguing about clay as a material is that we leave traces of ourselves in it, as we create from it. Our flaws and imperfections are recorded in the lines our fingertips leave while throwing, the dips in the lip from unevenly applied pressure, the slightly unbalanced foot from a slipped trimming tool. There is no hiding when working with clay; it reveals and captures the most honest version of the maker.

Now having graduated, I have moved back home and I continue to play in the dirt during the day, and then at night I work as a recreational/competitive gymnastics coach. I am really excited to be back home, back in the community I grew up in. Having this internship position at church where I have the opportunity to capture and document the people who make up our church community and the work that they are doing, has been really special. Taking photos on behalf of the church, for me, has felt like an extension of my work with clay. As I said, clay captures the maker and becomes a tangible way to experience their memories and to record who they are in that moment of creation. In many ways it feels like these photos I am taking of our church congregation act in a similar manner, capturing the spirit of who we are as a church community in a tangible way.

Update from Your Food Ministry by Rick Rodriguez

The Food Ministry has asked for your help and so many of you are answering generously. We asked because the number of families coming for assistance continues to increase, while the amount of food we can get from our two food banks has decreased due to dramatic reductions in federal funding. While food programs (local & nation-wide) are scrambling to adjust, there is no apparent immediate resolution on the horizon.

Feeding America of Riverside & San Bernardino (FA) is the main supplier for our Tuesday/Thursday program. Their inventories were low and so ours got low and we decided to not give food out on Thursday, May 8th. We continue to go to FA once or twice per week to leverage their incredible value as a vital partner.

March April

FA Food 9, 644 lbs 7,494 lbs

Tues/Thurs Participants 675 790

Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County (CAP) supplies most of the food for our monthly Saturday food distribution. We are receiving about half the amount of food, from 40 lbs per family in 2024 to 22 lbs in April of 2025. As participants are receiving less food per family, we have also noted an increase in the number of families that are coming to both the Saturday distribution and the Tuesday/Thursday distribution.

See our list of foods we try to keep in inventory. We realize that retail food purchases are expensive, which is why our participants are struggling. We encourage you to bargain shop for items like cereal, to consider items like pasta & rice that can stretch meals, and to look for bargains on pop-top items to help our most vulnerable participants.

Again, many thanks to all who have helped during this difficult time. Your food ministry continues to be appreciated by those who we serve.

Help Your Neighbors by Donating

Shelf-Stable Food Essentials

Bars – Protein, Granola, Snack

Beans – canned or dry

Canned Chicken, Meat, Seafood

Canned Fruits & Vegetables

Cereal

Pasta & Rice – plain or flavored

Peanut Butter

Soup, Stew, Chili, Tomatoes/Tomato Sauce

Special Items for Non-cooking bags

Beverages – Protein drink, Fruit juice, flavored or plain water

Pop-top meal (Soup, Chili, SpaghettiOs)

Pop-top chicken, meat, or seafood

Pop-top fruit, single serve applesauce.

Crackers, nuts & seeds

Board of Deacons 2025

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

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

Indigenous Revitalization Retreat

Saturday July 19, 10 am - 4 pm

Please join the Rev. Nancy Wiens as well as Casey Stachelski, Westminster Woods Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center's Director of School Programs and Naturalist to learn more about the natural world of our region and the ways Indigenous people connect with it. Experience how Indigenous people in history and today, alongside all of us, depend on keystone flora and fauna species for our daily living and how protecting these ecosystems enhances all our lives. Casey's way of teaching is literally hands on Nature and 100% engaging. Get ready to feel inspired and hopeful as well as humbled and awakened.

Starting in 2022, our congregation has been exploring how we, as followers of Jesus, can participate in Indigenous Revitalization. We have focused on learning about the impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery on Indigenous people in what is now the United States and the San Bernardino area. We began to acknowledge the impact of this Doctrine and the Federal Boarding Schools on erasing the culture, language, and relationships to land that make up the vitality of Indigenous ways of life. Last year we began to explore what apology would be like, given what we are learning and hearing Jesus' call to turn around when we miss the mark.

Because the relationship between Indigenous people and the land is so intimate, this year's retreat on July 19 will focus more on Nature. We will learn about the keystone species and watersheds that shape this region both in the past and today. We will learn about the interdependence of the Yuhaaviatam (Serrano), Cahuilla, and Gabrieleno Tongva peoples with these particular aspects of Nature.

A short way to summarize our learning is that we have focused on the Who of this land and now are adding the What. Who was and is here? What was and is here? Together, these help us embrace the history of this place, as we pray to walk the Way of Jesus with humility and grace.

Training for our Safety Team by Cap'n Dave Thomas

In April after Worship, members of our Safety Team attended a CPR and AED training class. This class was taught by Cap'n Dave and Firefighter Paramedic Colby Ketcherside from Rialto Fire Department. We covered a variety of safety topics including accessing our 9-1-1 phone system on campus, practicing hands on CPR with using our Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Our Safety Team, the quiet Shepherds that look over our congregation during worship always stand ready to help with any medical or safety issue that should occur on our campus. Thank you all who attended!! Neal Williams, Brad Smith, Al Rueda, Margaret Doane, John-Paul Fletcher, Rick Rodriguez, Marilyn Kraft, Chris Thomas, Jon Horstmann, Mark Adelson, James Welte, Jim Siegmund and his friend Yvonne.





Winter/Spring 2025 Interns Wrap Up a Joyful Term

Our Winter/Spring 2025 high school internship team completed their 12-week term on May 3. During that time, they worked hard bagging and distributing food, maintaining our church grounds, preparing the Sanctuary for Easter, and tackling many other projects around the campus.

Along the way, they formed strong friendships—both new and old—and enjoyed each other's company. Laughter was a regular sound during lunch breaks in Fireside Lounge.

The team also learned from one another. Sophia Williams, a sophomore at Aquinas High School and former LifeSkillz participant, returned as an intern after serving once during her freshman year at SBHS. Her presence offered our SBHS students a glimpse into a different kind of high school experience.

The joy this group shared—along with the fun Ariana and I had supervising them-is captured perfectly in the photo they chose to take together (see below).

We're now between intern terms, with the summer session starting June 8. Thirteen LifeSkillz members have applied. On May 31, Steve Smith, Kristine French, and Ariana Aceves (our co-supervisor) will interview all applicants and select two team leaders and five interns. While the interviews are always enjoyable, choosing who won't be on the team is the hardest part.

We look forward to another great season with our summer interns!





Please, note if you would like a vegetarian lunch. Registration is \$20 per person - You may RSVP for others Payable at the door with cash or check made payable to PWS

June and July Celebrations Jun 28 Ava June Bodner **Jul 12 Trevor Cummings** Jun 1 Jon & Nancy Horstmann **Nancy Horstmann Sherman & Joanne** Jun 2 **Terri Carlos Shirley Raabe** Ballard Jul 14 Margaret Doane **Amy Rueda Brad & Amy Smith Katie Smith** Jun 30 Rhyland Emery French Jul 19 Linda Tiger Jun 4 Erynne Arellano **Sandy Garza** Jul 20 Ryan Nord Jun 5 Raymond Direen Randy & Jenny Mantei Jul 21 Donna Garza Jun 7 Deb Burgan-Price Jul 1 **Nancy Sellas Ezra Joseph Morales** Jul 3 Bob & Maria Saenz Mario Bolaños Jul 22 Helen Babcock Jun 12 Rowan Fletcher Phil & Lynda Savage **Dennis & Laurie** Jun 16 Joy Burgan-Price Jul 6 **Judy Etherton** Stafford Elizabeth & Joseph **Dennis Stafford** Jul 23 Chervl Direen **Morales** Jim & Dawn Morris Jul 7 **Kevin Lamb** Jun 20 Tom Garza Jul 8 Josie Babcock Jul 24 Larry Marona **Katrina Johnston** Jul 10 Jim Carter Elizabeth Franklin-Jun 23 Jorge Carlos **Doris Nord** Morales Jun 25 Jim Huffstutler **Donna Feit Gary Saenz** Kevin & Wendy Lamb Jul 28 Charlene Peterson Randy & Kristine French Jul 30 Linda Kaufman Gill Snyder

Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

Sgt Jacob Allen,

US Marines, MFR Band, New Orleans, Louisiana

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 First Class Noah L. Wierenga,

U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Diego

CW3 James Bentley Wilson,

US Army, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington

2nd Lt. Grace Wilson

Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado







Photos from Youth Sunday 2025

Please check the calendar on the website for the most upto-date information for June (calendar next page) and for the month of July.

https://fpcsb.net/events links/calendar

June 2025

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	9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	4 4:00pm Worship Committee	5 9:00am Food Distribution	6 9:30am Kerygma	7 10:00am Straight Up AA
Pentecost 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	9 5:00pm Nurture Committee	10 9:00am Food Distribution	11 12:30pm Staff Meeting	9:00am Food Distribution 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir	13 9:30am Kerygma	14 10:00am Straight Up AA
15 Father's Day Trinity Sunday 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Deacons	16	17 9:00am Food Distribution 1:00pm Buildings & Grounds Committee 1:00pm Circle of Grace and Hope	18 1:00pm Stewardship Committee	9:00am Food Distribution 9:00am Friendship Circle	9:30am Kerygma 10:30am Food Bagging	21 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA
22 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	23 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	9:00am Food Distribution	25 12:30pm Staff Meeting 5:15pm SESSION Dinner 6:00pm SESSION Meeting	26 9:00am Food Distribution	27 9:30am Kerygma	28 10:00am Straight Up AA
29 8:45am Choir practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	30	1 9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	2 4:00pm Worship Committee	3 9:00am Food Distribution	Church Office Closed. Independence Day 9:30am Kerygma	5 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 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.