



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

First Press

August/September 2025



In this issue

Notes.....	2
Presbyterian Women...	3
Summer Internship.....	3
July Food and Party!...	4
Campus Preservation.	4
Tributes to Jim.....	5

Summer Social

On August 3 we celebrated mid-summer and the return to school of our students. During worship we blessed our students and educators as they prepared to return to the classroom. A big thank you to all the retired educators who joined us when I spontaneously called you forward.

We also broke bread around tables as we shared communion. Thank you to our Deacons for preparing individual table servigs.

After worship, grill masters Al and Owen and their helpers served us dogs (and chips and cookies). We ate and worked a Pentecost puzzle, visited together, and enjoyed the water slide (sliding or watching) that Captain Dave had brought in.

The blend of old customs (Communion! Hot Dogs!) and newer (Backpack Blessing! Water Slide!) and something in between (Puzzle in the Fellowship Hall!) made for a fun day of worship and friendship.





Notes

The *First Press*, the newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, is created by Wendy Lamb. Please submit content to Wendy at newsletter@fpcsb.net.

The deadline for the October/November newsletter is Monday, September 22.

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of June 30, 2025.

General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$164,803.14	164,946.00	(142.86)
Other Income*	\$107,451.34	88,021.48	19,429.86
Expense	\$222,545.21	272,801.48	(50,256.27)
Net Income	48,624.60	(19,834.00)	69,543.27

Division Consolidation

	June	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	1,698.48	49,709.27
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	(547.83)	(1,084.67)
Net Operating Income (Expense)	1,150.65	48,624.60

Recurring Meetings

All recurring meetings are noted on the calendar for First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino. If there is a temporary or permanent change in schedule or location of your recurring meeting, please let Mimi know.

Call the office or email pres.first@gmail.com



New Member Class

If you would like to know more about what it means to be Presbyterian and to be a part of this congregation, we encourage you to join us for a new member class after worship on Sundays September 7 and 14.

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

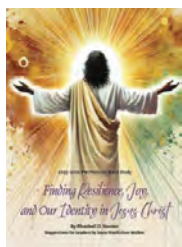
Board of Deacons 2025

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



Horizon Bible Studies Begin in September!

Presbyterian Women (PW) continue as active groups in our denomination and congregation.

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation (PWC) hosts a number of gatherings each year along with the Alternative Christmas Market and the Super Bowl Bake Sale.

This year the PW Officers are Moderator - Bobbi Cummings, Treasurer - Chris Wright Thomas, Secretary - Kathy Smith

PW Circles gather in smaller groups for the Horizon Bible Study. They gather at different times and places. If you are a woman who is interested in joining a circle, reach out to one of the moderator's listed below or to Bobbi Cummings or Laurie Stafford in the office who can help guide you to a group. This year's study is ***Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity in Jesus Christ***.

Circle	Moderator	Date	Place	Time
Circle of Faith	Jeanne Clark	1st Tuesday	Church Library	12:00 noon
Circle of Grace & Hope	Irene Sandoval-Suverkrup	3rd Tuesday	Fireside Lounge	1:00 p.m.
Friendship Circle	Wanda Skipper	3rd Thursday	Fireside Lounge	9:00 a.m.
Circle of Kindness	Bobbi Cummings	4th Monday	Homes	7:00 p.m.

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery (PWP) and Presbyterian Women in the Synod (PWS) both hold occasional events throughout the year. Presbyterian Women Churchwide hold a national gathering every three years. Our own Kelsey Law is currently serving on PW's National Board of Directors, the administrative body responsible for PW between the Churchwide Gatherings.

Nurture Opportunities: Along with our Horizons Bible Studies, there are other education opportunities in the congregation. The **Bible Study** Class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. with leader Martha Pinckney. **Mensch**, our men's group, led by Jon Horstmann, meets via Zoom, usually the first Tuesday of each month. **Kerygma**, a reading group for women, meets on Friday mornings also via Zoom. **Kidspace** meets on Sundays during worship following the Time with the Children. They will start again on September 14. **Youth** grades 6-12 meets occasionally after worship.



The Summer Internship Team by Rick Rodriguez, Intern Supervisor

The summer term for our Internship Program ends on Saturday, August 16, 2025. The summer team consisted of our two team leaders, Maria Socop, who has just started her junior year and Neomi Vargas, who is a senior, and 5 interns Eliana Socop, who is a sophomore and this is her first term as an intern, Daniela Rodriguez and Vivian Rodriguez who are juniors. This is also their first term as interns. Ana Quevedo is a senior and Isabelle Ramos, who graduated in June and will start college later this month.

During this term our interns have had the opportunity to learn several new skills. This is true for everyone on the team, but it was especially true for our three new interns. When we mow the church lawns or trim the bushes around the church campus our new interns may have never used a lawn mower or hedge clippers before or they may have been helping their Dads outside in their yards for years, but we still have to show them the safe and correct way to use these tools. The girls on this team also had to use an extension saw to cut down branches from the trees in the north parking lot. We had to teach all of them how to use this tool. They used ladders to clean out some of our rain gutters. We had to show them the safe way to use a ladder and show some of them that being on a ladder was not as scary as they thought. As always, the summer team also helped with the many tasks required to keep the food ministry operating smoothly.

These are just a few examples of new things the interns had to learn and new tools they had to learn how to use. Each of these things help to build self confidence in our interns. They may never use an extension saw ever again, but the fact that they learned how to use it and use it correctly helped them gain confidence to try new things in the future and have more belief in their own abilities. This is one of the most important parts of the Internship Program.

This team of interns also knew how to have fun. You will see that in the picture they chose for this article. There were other pictures that were more traditional, but this is the one they wanted.



July Food Distribution Day & Pool Party for Interns by Rick Rodriguez

Our Saturday Food Distribution on July 19, 2025 was a long and fun day for the interns who came to help.

During food distribution the interns were spread out doing all kinds of jobs to help make it efficient, friendly and caring to the people we serve in our neighborhood.

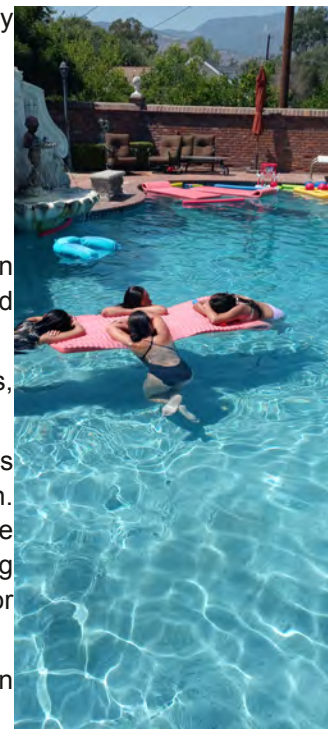
- Two interns register all of the people who are in our walk-up line.
- Two others help register those in vehicles.
- Lily Aceves, with the help of Teo Fletcher, collects the numbers & announces how many sets of food and where to load them in the vehicle.
- Several interns load the food into vehicles & others help at the walk-up line.
- Several interns keep the walk-up and vehicle tables stocked with food.
- Two interns monitor the D St exit gate to direct vehicles to the entrance.
- Two interns prepared bags of food for our Tuesday food giveaway.

Before distribution, interns prepared and filled bags on Friday, bagged cold food earlier on Saturday, and helped Dave set up safety measures. After, they helped put things away and restore order to fellowship hall, the food closet & Room 12.

With the help of church family volunteers & interns we passed out food to 209 households, finishing at about 10am.

On this Saturday, when food distribution was over and all of the clean-up work was completed, many of the interns went to Bobbi Cummings house for a pool party and lunch. They spent several hours having a great time in the pool and had lots of good food. By the end of the afternoon they were all pretty tired. (See photo) Many thanks to Bobbi for letting Ariana Aceves, our second intern supervisor and me bring all the kids to your house and for everything you did to help with the party.

This was a great day for our interns, first helping to serve those in need in their own neighborhood and then having fun at the pool party.



Campus Preservation Fund



Your Session has created a new fund to help us keep up with our beautiful, aging campus.

Your Building & Grounds committee has worked on keeping ahead of repairs so that our campus can continue to function and be a beacon of beauty and usefulness in the city.

Sometimes these repairs are costly. In many places they get put off and then become worse. This fund will allow B&G to be proactive and care for things in a timely manner.

We made a good start on the fund after B&G chair Pat spoke eloquently on August 3. Session will match donations received by October 1 up to a total of \$10,000.

This is a place where we gather and worship. We break bread together in communion and in Summer Socials and spontaneous lunches and we give bread to others with our food distribution. We offer sacred space and surround people with love for memorial services. Oak Tree D Street uses buildings to meet the needs of children in our area. Key Essentials

uses space to work with children who need extra help. An AA group meets on Saturdays. Symphonie Jeunesse, a youth symphony for local string players, rehearses weekly in our space and offers concerts for us. We host school functions, family functions for members and for the neighborhood, and we serve as a polling place. This is not a place that gets used for only 2 hours on a Sunday morning, but a place that is full and busy throughout the week. We believe God is using us in this community, and we want to continue to be able to do all of these things.

If you have a little extra tucked away this month, consider giving to the Campus Preservation Fund. Thank you.

--Pastor Wendy



In Memoriam

July 2025

James Cooke Huffstutler
June 25, 1935-July 16, 2025

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

*The Rev. Jim Huffstutler served First Presbyterian
Church of San Bernardino from 1963-2004.*

We invited people to offer their remembrances.

Friends at First Presbyterian of San Bernardino

We knew the day was coming, but one is never prepared for the loss of someone near and dear to the heart! Jim Huffstutler touched the hearts and lives of many. He leaves us with many memories of his life, his ministry, and his teachings. Our dear and faithful friend is now at peace and is at rest with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He will be dearly missed!

Brenda Frederick

Dear Jim,

You lived your ministry and through your passion for God's Word, you brought me closer to Christ. Thank you
Larry Marona

Jim, my daughter brought me to the church; you kept me there!

in Gratitude, Susan Skoglund

Jim arrived at First Pres as a very young, newly ordained, full-of-radical-ideas Presbyterian pastor. He shaped many of us with his solid theology which, at the same time, questioned old ideas in the style of the 1960's and 70's. The summer revues he wrote for the high school/college age kids solidified my faith and sense of church community in ways that have served me my whole life. I give thanks for the life of James C. Huffstutler and the gifts he shared with all of us.

Melodee

When I heard that Jim Huffstutler had passed away, I thought about my dear friend, Dana Babb, because she was such a big fan of his. I remembered her telling me that she kept copies of every one of Jim's sermons so my first thought was that she must have met him at the pearly gates with a Huge Hug and she probably said, "What took you so long to get here? I have a long list of things to discuss with you." :-)

Irene

Jim gave us excellent guidance when we taught Sunday School classes for 7-year-olds. The course of study written by Jim included lesson plans which gave us directions and suggested activities to achieve the goals. Thanks to Jim's creativity, the biblical lessons were met with enthusiasm and interest by the children and their teachers.

Our Presbyterian Women Circles were fortunate to have Jim lead us in our Bible study lessons each month. He brought insight, knowledge, and humor to our studies. Our faith was definitely nurtured from his teachings.

Donna Feit and Doris Nord

I have a memory “sort of” about a nice young man who came to visit me when he was the associate or assistant pastor. I wasn’t home that day; neighbors met him and said he was extremely nice.

My real memory is celebrating his 50th birthday in Fellowship Hall and realizing that he was born the day my parents were married, so that day would have been their Golden Anniversary

Christi has a couple that I will pass on to you.

Her first one is that she liked to go to church in the sanctuary and hear Jim’s sermons more than going to Sunday School in the second grade. The teachers realized she was doing that and gave her the attendance pin anyway.

The other memory was when she was in high school and college. Jim invited the group to his house for discussions that ran the gamut from problems solving to prayers for the future. He treated them like the adults they were becoming and she really enjoyed it whenever she was home.

Sincerely, Kathy Showman

Jim Huffstutler has had a significant influence on all areas of my life since 1963 when I was 12 years old. He was my pastor, friend, advisor, and support giver. My summers as a teenager were spent doing the revues that he wrote and it was there that he introduced me to Sherman. I will always treasure the article, “The epitome of a Presbyterian”, that he wrote describing my mother. I cherish so many memories of him.

Joanne Ballard

I have numerous fond memories of Jim Huffstutler but what stands out the most are memories of his sharp intellect and his sense of humor. Jim was very accomplished in so many areas of ministry, a true biblical scholar he was able to seamlessly weave scriptural teachings into his sermons and writings. He was a prolific author and researcher who infused the Word with wit and solid academic musings. His creativity was boundless and he created astonishing thematic (sometimes elaborate) experiences of worship for our congregation for many, many years. His sermons were steeped in theology and I often learned much about our faith history as Presbyterians. His sense of humor played a major role in his innovations as evidenced by the creation of Kazoo Sunday and using children’s instruments to create memorable Pentecost worship. He also embodied a true spirit of resilience, grit and determination-he never let his physical limitations deter him from accomplishing something that he set his mind to achieving. I will miss Jim and his presence. He was an integral force in the life and history of First Presbyterian Church San Bernardino!

Christa A. Wallis, August 7, 2025

A remembrance of Jim Huffstutler...

Jim had written a series of short humorous skits and sketches for church youth groups to perform. In the early 1970’s, teenagers and 20-somethings who worshipped at FPC SB, and their friends, put on summer performances of some of these skits. The young adults produced, rehearsed and performed these “Reviews” with Jim’s skillful guidance. The Reviews, staged in Fellowship Hall, were always a big hit.

Those involved in the Reviews, and their siblings, easily coalesced into a social group we called “Young Adults.” Jim was our friend and pastor, and the group’s informal advisor. We met regularly for fun and fellowship, sometimes in a park or some other venue, or in the evening at someone’s home.

One winter evening (perhaps the Christmas season of ‘73, or ‘74), Jim invited the Young Adults to his home for an evening of snacks and refreshments, and just to get together and enjoy each other’s company. Everyone was having a good time, warmed by Jim’s hospitality and humor and stories from his past. Time passed quickly and apparently we had over-stayed our welcome, which Jim signaled by coming into his living room wearing plaid flannel pajamas, walking to his front door, standing by it, and wishing us a good night. We got the message!

Remembered by Mark Adelson

August and September Celebrations

Aug 1 Amy Gano	Aug 27 Jessica Edwards	Sep 10 Judy Steppins
Aug 8 Tim Usher	Aug 28 Sarah Alyda Fletcher	Christian Usher
Aug 9 Jackie McKee	Aug 29 Jim & Sheila Cimino	Sep 11 Jane Snyder
Aug 10 Aaron Saenz	Aug 30 Wanda Gernux	Sep 12 Laurie Stafford
Aug 11 Ryan Michael Mantei	Shannon Nolin	Kelsey Smith
Brent Nord	Sep 4 Ed Congdon	Sep 16 Robert Godby
Kurt & Lisa Star	Sep 5 Hilda Nicks	Sep 17 Bonnie Ainsworth
Aug 12 Yvonne Rios-Kasinger	Sep 6 Norm & Christa Wallis	Sep 18 Mindy Rueda
Aug 15 Alexia Aguilar	Tom & Donna Garza	Sep 19 Kimberly Ballard
Ashley Ballard	Sep 8 Deon Garcia	Hansen
Ramon Ramirez	Sep 9 Harry Babcock	Sep 22 Al Rueda
Aug 17 Joanne Ballard	Jeanne Clark	Sep 23 Michael Cummings
Ethan Gano	Larry & Melodee	Sep 24 Kyle Smith
Aug 19 Aaron Rueda	Kistner	Sep 26 Jim Siegmund
Aug 20 Elle Carlos	Rosalind & Ken Mantei	Kelli Vasquez
Aug 25 Gill & Jane Snyder	Shelby Obershaw	Sep 27 Eli Morales
Aug 26 Beatrice Star	Ramon & Penny	Sep 30 Carmen Paredes
Valentina Valenzuela	Ramirez	

Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

Sgt Jacob Allen,

US Marines, MFR Band, New Orleans, Louisiana

Lt. Alejandro J. Balandran,

US Navy, Yokosuka, Japan

Corporal Ethan Gano,

US Marines, Yuma, Arizona

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

We continue praying for our Pastor Nominating Committee as they continue the work:

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

Christine, a presenter at our retreat, has invited us to attend this festival on Saturday, September 13.

<https://www.aquariumofpacific.org/events/info/moompetam/>

Moompetam American Indian Festival

In celebration of the local American Indian cultures, the Aquarium of the Pacific will host its twentieth annual Moompetam American Indian Festival.

You are invited to join the Aquarium of the Pacific for its twenty-first annual Moompetam American Indian Festival. Moompetam (pronounced 'mohm peh tahm), meaning "People of the Ocean," is derived from the word for 'saltwater' in the Tongva language.

For the California Indigenous coastal peoples, the ocean has always been a sacred entity. The festival celebrates indigenous California maritime cultures, including Tongva, Acjachemen, Chumash, Costanoan, Kumeyaay, and Luiseño. This celebration features traditional cultural craft demonstrations, storytelling, music, and dance, and an award ceremony.

First Presbyterian Church

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	28 Presbyterian Youth Triennium	29 Presbyterian Youth Triennium 9:00am Food Distribution	30 Presbyterian Youth Triennium	31 Presbyterian Youth Triennium 9:00am Food Distribution	1 9:30am Kerygma	2 9:30am SJO Board Meeting 10:00am Straight Up AA
3 Communion Sunday 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Hot Dog Lunch	4	5 9:00am Food Distribution 7:00pm Mensch Group	6 4:00pm Worship Committee	7 9:00am Food Distribution	8 9:30am Kerygma	9 10:00am James C. Huffstutler Memorial Service 10:00am Straight Up AA
10 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	11 5:00pm Nurture Committee	12 9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Staff Meeting	13	14 9:00am Food Distribution	15 9:30am Kerygma 10:30am Food Bagging	16 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA
17 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Deacons	18	19 9:00am Food Distribution 1:00pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	20 1:00pm Stewardship Committee	21 9:00am Food Distribution	22 9:30am Kerygma	23 8:30am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
24 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	25 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	26 9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Staff Meeting	27 5:15pm SESSION Dinner 6:00pm SESSION Meeting	28 9:00am Food Distribution	29 9:30am Kerygma	30 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
31 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	1 Church Office Closed. Labor Day	2 9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	3 4:00pm Worship Committee	4 9:00am Food Distribution	5 9:30am Kerygma	6 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA

Please check the calendar on the website for the most up-to-date information for August (calendar next page) and for the month of September.

https://fpcsb.net/events_links/calendar

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
9 am to 4:00 pm

Dr. Wendy Long Lamb

Commissioned Pastor
Acting Head of Staff

The Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Smith

Pastoral Support

Laurie Stafford

Ministry of Visitation

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.