



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

First Press

October/November 2025



Praise for the Past;

Faith for the Future



Stewardship Starts:
Kick-off lunch after worship
October 5

In this issue

Notes.....	2
Life Skillz 25-26.....	3
Support Group Invite....	3
Session Highlights.....	4
Food Ministry Helpers..	4
New Members.....	5
Update from Christian..	6
CP Corner.....	6
Celebrations.....	7
Calendars.....	7/8

Lunch and More on October 5!

This Sunday we are kicking off an exciting fall at First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino.

Sunday, October 5, some of our folks will begin the day at the annual Believe Walk for breast cancer research. If you plan to walk, we invite you to "come as you are" after. It's always fun to see people join us in worship in their walking outfits, a reminder that we are part of the larger community.

The church day begins with choir practice at 8:30 and our adult education class at 9:30. At 10:30, following our summer in the Fellowship Hall, we re-enter the Sanctuary for World Communion Sunday. We will receive new members and celebrate communion!

Following worship, our Stewardship Committee is providing lunch (from Juan Pollo!) for all. We will kick off our stewardship campaign for next year's giving and we will enjoy a special musical/visual presentation.

Please join us!

October 12: congregational meeting; October 26: Reformation Sunday!



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 December/January newsletter is Thursday, November 20.

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of August 31, 2025.

General Fund

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Pledges	\$224,311.07	219,928.00	4,383.07
Other Income*	\$138,443.87	115,904.32	22,539.55
Expense	\$305,288.09	362,008.00	(56,719.91)
Net Income	57,466.85	(28,175.68)	85,642.53

Division Consolidation

	<u>August</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	3,274.74	57,466.85
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	(1,776.88)	(2,541.62)
Net Operating Income (Expense)	1,497.86	54,925.23

Important Congregational Meeting Sunday October 12, 2025

All church members should have received a letter in the U.S. mail from the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) stating that there will be a congregational meeting directly following 10:30 AM worship on October 12th. The purpose of this meeting is to be introduced to and vote for a nominee for the position of Pastor/Head of Staff, the Rev. Brian Symonds. Pastor Symonds will preach during worship that day. Please note that those who are qualified to vote to approve the PNC's recommendation must be active members on the church rolls.

We continue honoring The Reverend James C. Huffstutler

I worked with Jim for 10 years - as Newsletter Editor, Secretary and Office Administrator. Many of his first comments to me when he arrived at the office were, "I had a great idea this morning!"

All of the beloved worship traditions and more were made possible because Jim's own creativity elicited the gifts that this congregation and staff had to offer. Nothing made Jim happier than discovering your talent and encouraging you to use it in the co-creation of worship and the extended life of the church. He truly believed that liturgy was the work of the people.

He was mentor and friend and will be tremendously missed.

--Tommy Jane Roberts

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 Phillipp 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

The 2025-26 Lifeskillz Circle

By Rick Rodriguez

Our LifeSkillz Circle started again at the beginning of the school year at San Bernardino High School. The leaders from First Pres have been meeting with students every Monday since August 11th. The other LifeSkillz leaders are Bobbi Cummings, Pat Morris, Jim Morris, Brooke Dvorak and Stephanie Congdon. We have also been blessed with the addition of Samuel Roberts as a LifeSkillz leader.

We have had a great group, both kids returning from last year and new members of LifeSkillz. Many of our new members are freshman who have been brought by their older siblings who have been part of LifeSkillz for a long time and know the benefits they have received from being part of the circle. Seeing how reserved and nervous these younger siblings are reminds me of how nervous their older sisters were when they came to LifeSkillz for the first time. It has been a blessing to watch them grow into responsible, remarkable young adults who are always willing to let us know what is on their minds. This leaves no doubt that the freshmen members who were shy and nervous on their first day will grow into the confident members of lifeSkillz that their siblings are. The one thing that will definitely happen is they will become their own person, someone different from anyone else including their older siblings.

A large percentage of them have also participated in the Internship Program at First Presbyterian Church and have continued to grow by being an intern and intern team leaders.

You can see the students in our new LifeSkillz Circle in the picture below this article. There are several missing from the picture due to meetings they had to attend the morning we took the picture.



Comfort Support Group

As the holidays approach, I often have moments of missing my husband. At the time of his passing, I wanted a support group, but couldn't find one. A friend said that I should try to start one. So, if you have lost a loved one or a good friend, even a pet, would you be interested in a group for conversation and comfort?

Come discuss the possibility at a meeting after church October 19 from 11:30 to 12:00 In the Library.

Thank you,
Kathy Showman

Session Highlights

by Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

Your Session has been busy over the summer with meetings in June, August and September along with three Special Called meetings in July, August and September! In addition to the usual business, Session met twice to consider and approve recommendations from the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) for the compensation package for a pastor nominee. They also approved a Congregational Meeting on October 12th to decide if we will call this nominee, which is very exciting!

Another proposal came from the Buildings and Grounds committee who had learned our 15-year-old solar system was no longer working properly. Originally thinking it was just the inverters needing replacement, Session approved that cost from the Solar Reserve Fund. With the new inverters installed, the system still did not work and it was determined the panels needed to be replaced also. That money was approved to be taken from the Leonard Scholarship Fund. A little known fact for many years was when the Leonard Scholarship Fund was established, it had a stipulation that its funds could be used for capital improvements for the campus if there were excess funds. The fund has a surplus above and beyond what is currently needed for scholarships, so this is a true blessing. The foresight of those who have led before us is instrumental to the life of this church.

Stewardship is happy to report that our budget has not shown a deficit for the past several months and is planning their Fall Stewardship Campaign which will kick off with a luncheon on October 5th.

Christa Wallis led us in the Mandated Reporter Training at the June meeting which was a nice change from the usual 2 hour online training!

Session also had the privilege of meeting and approving five new members who will be received during worship on October 5th.

Finally, many have expressed their appreciation for the leadership of Wendy and Steve as this transitional time is coming to a close. Steve has served as the moderator of Session these past two plus years and continued his work with the Deacons among other things. Wendy initially agreed to carry the church forward for 6 months and continued for another 22 months! She has been a stable presence, preaching almost weekly, leading the staff and attending most committee meetings, all while teaching, being with her mom in her final days (including leading her wonderful memorial service) and launching Kendra off to college! The Session is thankful for their faithfulness to the work of this congregation.

Class of 2025 Grads Help the Food Ministry Meet Community Needs

by Rick Rodriguez

Our Food Ministry continues to grow as more families come for help every Tuesday, Thursday, and on the third Saturday of each month. Beginning in October, we are increasing the number of food bags we prepare for both weekday and Saturday distributions to meet this rising need.

This growth is only possible thanks to the extra hands we've been blessed with. Several 2025 high school graduates have joined our team and are making a huge difference.

Kendra Lamb and Breanna Nord assist with Friday food deliveries and preparation for our Saturday distributions. Each Friday, Marilyn picks up food from Northgate Market in Fontana. When it arrives at the church around 7:30–8:00 a.m., we must unload, sort, clean, and weigh the food, a process that can take 90 minutes to 3 hours. On the Friday before our Saturday distribution, I must leave at 8:30 a.m. So while I am away picking up our Saturday food from Community Action Partnership, Kendra and Breanna help with the Northgate food, and help set up tables and bag items for the next day. Their help is invaluable!

Yadi and Yenitza Lugo and Isabelle Ramos, 2025 graduates from San Bernardino High School, have been pitching in during the week. They stock shelves, prepare bags for Tuesday and Thursday distributions, assist with putting away Feeding America food orders, and help during the actual distributions. Their support is especially important now, as we increase the number of bags we prepare each week.

We are so grateful to Kendra, Breanna, Yadi, Yenitza, and Isabelle for their dedication. Their hard work keeps this busy ministry running smoothly and helps us serve our community with care and compassion.

Our Five New Members Compiled by Margaret Doane

Five people will be received into membership this Sunday, October 5. Some have long-standing relationships with this or other churches, some have or had unusually interesting jobs, and all promise to be great assets to the church. If you don't already know them, please greet our newest friends when you see them.



Rachel Corpus: I live in Crestline with my son Jules and our five cats. I grew up in Pomona in a strict Jehovah Witness upbringing, and then as an adult I attended Calvary Chapel. I've been a realtor and loan officer in the past, and later I went on to college and achieved a BS in Criminal Justice. Today, you can possibly see me on Route 66 or on southern California freeways driving a big rig for Amazon. Yes, I am a truck driver!

Rose King: I was born in Rapid City, South Dakota on June 30, 1951. I was named Rosella after grandmother Rose and grandmother Ella. During my formative years I delighted in the vastness and freedom of the prairie. When I was eight years old the grownups in my family decided they were tired of South Dakota winters and moved to San Bernardino. I have been mostly a Southern California girl ever since, with short stays in Utah and Texas. During my middle school years, I attended First Congregational United Church of Christ in San Bernardino with my best friend Jeanne, and her family. We were confirmed and baptized on May 29, 1966. We graduated from Pacific High in 1969. I then moved to the greater LA area in pursuit of adventure and completed my Associate degree at Cerritos Community College. I served as Tutorial Coordinator for fourteen years at San Bernardino Valley College. There I discovered the many joys and facets in the realm of learning and decided that to be a life-long learner was a worthwhile pursuit. I retired from Valley College in 2014. Since, my husband of 34 years, Ed, and I have enjoyed many road trips together. In January of 2017, I wondered if the church of my youth was still there. It was! And my best friend from childhood, too! At the Congregational Church I served as an usher, and with my very limited musical ability sang with the choir and played with the handbell choir. I enjoyed serving on the Fellowship Hour committee, and the annual Rummage Sale event. I also participated in Caring Comforters, knitting prayer shawls. Now I am very happy to join the First Presbyterian family; continuing to worship, learn, and grow in our Lord Jesus Christ.



Yvonne Rios-Kasinger: I was born in Corona and lived there the first few years of life. My parents purchased property in Mira Loma and that is where I spent all of my school years. I graduated from Corona High School, went to RCC, Cal Baptist University, and CSUSB. I finally retired in 2018 and now babysit my great grandbabies a couple of days a week as well as substitute teach.

I have identical twin daughters, seven grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. Olivia works for a non-profit and Lisa Marie is a professor at Valley College.

Out of high school I worked in a doctor's office. I spent fifteen years in the floral industry, ten years teaching at a Christian School, and twenty years in public school.

I enjoy reading and working in my yard as well as traveling and exploring new places.

I was raised Catholic. I attended Harvest Christian Fellowship, Palm Baptist Church, and Calvary Chapel Packinghouse in Redlands.

I started coming to First Presbyterian with Jim Siegmund. We would go back and forth between Packinghouse and FPCSB and decided we should choose one to support.

Michael Snyder: Mike has had a life-long relationship with our church. He is the son of Janie and Gill Snyder, and he was active in youth activities and the Fellowship of the Carpenter. More recently, he worked for several years in Food on Fridays and Saturdays, packing bags and helping to distribute food. He is a graduate of San Bernardino High School, lives in Crestline, and works as a carpenter.



Trisha Wallace: Trisha says she just turned 80. She grew up in Burbank and graduated from Burbank High School. She then attended USC and married her high school boyfriend; although the marriage eventually ended, it gave her her son, a person she describes as "the light of [my] life."

She is interested in reading, took piano lessons, and did adult tutoring.

She was a commercial insurance broker for twenty-five years; one of her tasks was to insure museums and private collections. In 1994, she moved to Sacramento and worked for disability rights. She also joined the Pioneer First Congregational United Church of Christ and was an active member for thirteen years.

She retired in 2014, moved to San Bernardino, and became active in the First Congregational United Church of Christ, which closed a decade later. At First Pres, she "looks forward to getting acquainted with people and discovering how [she] can help."

A Letter from Christian Usher

Back in April I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of blood cancer. I decided to check in with an urgent care to get a chest X-ray and see what was going on. This was after a few weeks of coughing and a few days of night sweats. Eventually I was found to have a mass in my chest and directed to go to the Loma Linda emergency room. A CT scan, which is like a three dimensional X-ray, showed that I had a fairly large mass in my chest. Follow up biopsy, where they cut out a piece of the tumor and look at it under a microscope, confirmed a diagnosis of Hodgkin's lymphoma. If you can believe it, I was actually relieved at that news. Previously I had been told that the likely diagnosis was what is known as "gray zone lymphoma" or GZL. GZL is a much rarer blood cancer whose treatment is entirely experimental and on a case-by-case basis. However something changed from the time the initial interpretation was read by the pathologist, a doctor who specializes in interpreting biopsy results, and the final interpretation of the results. I do not know for certain if there was some intercession on my behalf, but the diagnosis changed overnight. Going from a cancer whose outcome was murky at best to a highly treatable form of lymphoma. Again I do not know for certain whether or not a finger tipped the scales, but I do know something that did happen. There was much prayer, and there was much love, and there was much faith, all directed towards me. I do know that as I laid there in that hospital bed, that the love of God was as plain as the light of day. It was in as many colors as there were voices praying for me, loud and quiet, heard and unheard, spoken and unspoken. This is the shape of God's love which I am familiar with. And I can say for certain that it is a holy intercession. Since then I have received love, and letters and more prayers and I am eternally grateful to every member of our church family. I also have some good news to share. I have finished up my 12 infusion treatment schedule. The next step is a pet scan, a scan to detect cancer activity, in later October. I will let everyone know the results at that time. Thank you all again for your prayers, your letters, and your love.

-Christian

Where's Wendy? Commissioned Pastor Corner

Advent 2008 Kevin and toddler Kendra and I showed up. Oliver was a few months from making his appearance.

In 2009 Oliver was born and we joined this congregation.

In 2010 Kendra and Oliver were baptized.

In 2011 I was ordained a ruling elder.

In 2012 I became a 12:7 intern.

In 2014 I became the Associate for Worship and gave my first sermon (I had done "reflections" prior to that). I also began a Certificate in Ministry program with Austin Theological Seminary.

In 2016, with many thanks to Margaret Doane who recommended me, I began teaching as a part-time professor at Crafton Hills College. This was my original vocational aspiration, and my work as a professor and my work as a pastor continue to complement each other nicely.

In 2018 I was commissioned as a local pastor with the Presbytery of Riverside serving First Pres San Bernardino.

In 2023, Sandy retired and I asked to "bridge the gap" at least through Advent. I was never installed as an interim pastor, but I have been serving as pastor and acting head of staff since that time.

I lay this out to show how organic my ministry has been. Sandy and our Session, congregation, and Presbytery have seen and affirmed my gifts and found ways for me to serve. I came from a tradition where I could not serve in the ways I longed for because of my gender, but also because I was not extraverted and charismatic. You all have allowed me to be myself and find my way.

Now, this iteration is coming to an end. We always knew that it would. It's never been Me OR a New Person. There was always going to be a new person. I think we've done better than anyone could have imagined, and it's time to do the next thing. I don't have a good idea what that will look like for me. People have ideas. There will be discussions. I'm not going to fall off the face of the earth. I will be around, but I will probably make myself fairly scarce for a bit. I have way too many opinions how things should be done. The thing is, as I look back over the last 17 years, I trust God. Things have happened organically, and I have been able to serve beyond my imagination. I don't expect that to end. I look forward to seeing where God takes me, and I am super excited about the possibilities of this congregation with your new pastor. My priority will be to support him.

Thank you for all you have done for me. I won't disappear. We'll just see what the next thing looks like.

Love to you all.

~Pastor Wendy

October and November Celebrations

OCTOBER

Oct 2 Julie Aguilera
Dave Thomas

Oct 4 Jennifer (Coyne)
Scerra
Lisa (Coyne) Star

Oct 5 Caleb Christopher
Jones

Oct 7 Carmen Avila
Edward Munz

Oct 9 Phyllis Hough

Oct 11 Zachary Garcia

Oct 12 Mimi Lange
Jeoff Molcan
Owen Morris

Oct 17 Jacob Babcock
Bobbi Cummings

Oct 20 Robin Edwards

Oct 21 Marilyn Kraft

Oct 22 Adam Nord
Neal Williams

Oct 23 Thomas Patrick Dunn

Adelaide Shenton

Oct 24 Geri Atkins

Oct 28 Joshua Fletcher

Oct 30 Mario & Mary Bolaños
Rebecca Allen

Oct 31 Brooke Dvorak

NOVEMBER

Nov 2 Terri & Jorge Carlos
Noah Wierenga

Nov 3 Curtiss Allen
Steve Nolin

Nov 6 Josie Short

Nov 8 Cliff & Bobbi
Cummings

Nov 10 Martin Luther

Nov 13 Susan Zeitler

Nov 15 Alyssa Arellano

Nov 18 Marion Wiens
Ed & Stephani
Congdon
Susan & William
Zeitler

Nov 19 Earleen Dudley
Linda Murray

Nov 21 Terry & Stephanie
Ross

Nov 22 Ken Mantei

Nov 23 Dan Direen
Wade and Chase
Preciado
Joyce Seeger

Nov 24 John-Paul & Stephanie
Fletcher
Larry Kistner
Matthew Garcia

Nov 25 William Zeitler

Nov 26 Brad Smith
Chris Wright-Thomas

Nov 27 Abigail Grace Willis

Nov 28 Raymond Olivarez

Nov 29 Norm Wallis

Nov 30 Sanai Wright

First Presbyterian Church

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	29	30 9:00am Food Distribution	1 4:00pm Worship Committee	2 9:00am Food Distribution	3 9:30am Kerygma	4 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
5 Reception of New Members World Communion Sunday 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	9 9:00am Food Distribution 9:00am Stewardship Committee	10 9:30am Kerygma	11 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
12 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Congregational Meeting	13 5:00pm Nurture Committee	14 9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Staff Meeting	15	16 9:00am Food Distribution 9:00am Friendship Circle 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir	17 9:30am Kerygma 10:30am Food Bagging	18 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA
19 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Deacons	20	21 9:00am Food Distribution 1:00pm Buildings & Grounds Committee 1:00pm Circle of Grace and Hope	22 5:15pm SESSION Dinner 6:00pm SESSION Meeting	23 9:00am Food Distribution	24 9:30am Kerygma	25 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am PWP Fall Gathering 10:00am Straight Up AA
26 Reformation Sunday 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	27 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	28 9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Staff Meeting	29	30 9:00am Food Distribution	31 9:30am Kerygma	1 All Saints Day 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA

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

First Presbyterian Church

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Reformation Sunday 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	27 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	28 9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Staff Meeting	29	30 9:00am Food Distribution	31 9:30am Kerygma	1 All Saints Day 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
2 All Souls Day Communion Sunday Daylight-Saving Time Ends 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	3 5:00pm PW Coordinating Team	4 6:00am Election polling 9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	5 4:00pm Worship Committee	6 9:00am Food Distribution	7 9:30am Kerygma	8 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
9 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	10 5:00pm Nurture Committee	11 9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Staff Meeting	12	13 9:00am Food Distribution 9:00am Stewardship Committee	14 9:30am Kerygma 10:30am Food Bagging	15 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA 1:00pm Symphonie Jeunesse
16 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Deacons	17	18 9:00am Food Distribution 1:00pm Buildings & Grounds Committee 1:00pm Circle of Grace and Hope	19 5:15pm SESSION Dinner 6:00pm SESSION Meeting	20 First Press Deadline 9:00am Food Distribution 9:00am Friendship Circle 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir	21 9:30am Kerygma	22 9:00am Symphonie Jeunesse 10:00am Straight Up AA
23 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	24 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	25 9:00am Food Distribution 12:00pm Staff Meeting	26	27 Church Office Closed. Thanksgiving Day 9:00am Food Distribution	28 Church Office Closed. 9:30am Kerygma	29 10:00am Straight Up AA
30 Deacons' Blood Drive First Sunday of Advent 8:45am Choir Practice 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10:30am Worship Service	1 5:00pm PW Coordinating Team	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

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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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

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.