



Celebrating Life Skillz Graduates!



*Recipients of Presbyterian Women Scholarships
presented by Brooke Dvorak and Jim Morris:*

**Emily Salyers
Ayaret Soto Vasquez**

Receiving the Sally Morris Memorial Scholarship

Victoria Guerrero

Recipients of Cummings Auto Group scholarships:

**Yolanda Alaniz
Clarissa Arciniega
Gary Romero Reyes
Stephanie Dominguez**

Trinity Sunday
Celebrating Life Skillz Graduates
May 26, 2024 **10:30 a.m. Worship**



By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;
they sing among the branches. *-Psalm 104:12*

First Presbyterian Church

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www.fpcsb.net

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN W. SMITH

MINISTRY OF VISITATION: LAURIE STAFFORD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST;

AMY GANO, BELLS

PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

This service is being livestreamed and can be viewed on our YouTube channel in real time or as a recording. **Large-print copies of this order of service**, as well as **audio enhancement devices** are available **from the ushers**.

We gather on Sunday for 3 reasons:

- **To seek God**- whom we find in sacred text and sacrament, in music and in song, in prayer, in the beauty of this space, in the stillness where we can hear our hearts. We offer God our thanks and praise, our lament and longing, and our resources. We let go of burdens and receive grace and forgiveness. We see the One our hearts love.
- **To practice Community** – rejoice w/those who rejoice, weep w/those who weep. To break bread with those whom we love and those whom we need to love more fully. We practice things our culture does not emphasize: resting, forgiving, sharing. Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us, and we cannot do so without practice.
- **To listen for our Call**- often an invitation to go out and be or do or remember. God is speaking all the time: through conscience, nature, friends, and certainly scripture. We gather to listen for that Call and to recommit ourselves to discipleship.

Information on our common life can be found on our website www.fpcsb.net, along with sermons and newsletters. You can participate in our work by supporting us financially with a one-time or sustaining donation.

Children are welcome in worship. Younger children may go to the Nursery at any time.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, June 2nd.
Our deacons will set the table so all may be made welcome.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Bobbi Cummings

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

“Father, Son, and Holy Spirit mean that the mystery beyond us, the mystery among us, and the mystery within us are all the same mystery. Thus the Trinity is a way of saying something about us and the way we experience God.

-Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

A Memorial Prelude
Susan Addington, Flute

Charles Callahan

Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

*CALL to WORSHIP

O give thanks to our God with your whole heart.

✠ **On the day I called, you answered me.**

Your steadfast love endures forever.

✠ **Thanks be to God!**

*HYMN 637

*O Sing to the Lord*¹

CANTAI OA SENHOR

**Cantad al Señor un cántico nuevo.
Cantad al Señor un cántico nuevo.
Cantad al Señor un cántico nuevo.
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!**

For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.

For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.

For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.

O sing to our God; O sing to our God.

† The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

*** Stand if you are able** **✠ The congregation will read.**

1. Translation, and Music Arrangement by Gerhard M. Cartford. ©1995 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. All rights reserved. Use by permission of ONELICENSE #A706254.

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship. There are activity bags & books in the Narthex. Infants-Pre-K may go to the Nursery at any time.]

SPECIAL MUSIC *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* *Whiting/Dykes* *Susan Addington, Flute*

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave, who bade the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep; O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea. O Savior, whose almighty word the winds and waves submissive heard, who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amid its rage did sleep: O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea. O Holy spirit, who did brood upon the chaos wild and rude, and bade its angry tumult cease, and gave, for fierce confusion, peace: O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea. O Trinity of love and power, all travelers guard in danger's hour; from rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoe'er they go; thus evermore shall rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.

SCRIPTURE

Job 12:7-9

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?”

Psalms 104:1-4, 10-12

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,

you make the clouds your chariot,

you ride on the wings of the wind,

you make the winds your messengers,

fire and flame your ministers.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;

they flow between the hills,

giving drink to every wild animal;

the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;

they sing among the branches.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ Thanks be to God.

RECOGNIZING OUR CARDINALS

Today we recognize graduating seniors from San Bernardino High whom we consider "our own". Many have been interns. They participate in our weekly "Life Skillz" breakfast group.

Our Graduates

*Yolanda Alaniz, Clarissa Arciniega,
Stephanie Dominguez, Gary Romero Reyes*

Our Leaders

*Bobbi Cummings, Pat Morris, Brooke Dvorak, Rick Rodriguez,
Lisa Durham, Stephani Congdon, Jim Morris, Dawn Morris*

WE HEAR from STUDENTS and ALUMNI

*Yolanda Alaniz and Clarissa Arciniega, Class of 2024
Ernie Ocegueda, Class of 2016*

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(We offer our gifts as a response to God's Word, to be part of God's purposes in the world. You may place gifts in the plate during the offertory, or on your way out - or by mail or online.)

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDDTH

- ✘ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
- Praise God all creatures here below;
- Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
- Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost, Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and OUR LORD'S PRAYER

- ✘ Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.

***HYMN 765** *May the God of Hope Go with Us*²

ARGENTINA

✘ May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Improvisation

W. Zeitler

(Please join us for refreshments in the Fireside Lounge.)

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Sandy Garza, Debora Holk, Jim Huffstutler

Elders: Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann

Deacons: Mindy Rueda, Steve Smith, Dan Direen

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher

GREETERS: Jeanne Clark, Robin Edwards

USHERS: Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Dave Thomas, John-Paul Fletcher, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

² Music: Argentine fold melody. Text: Alvin Schutmaat, 1984 ©Presbyterian

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This Weeks' Celebrations

May 27 Jenna Garza Schneider

May 28 Mark Adelson

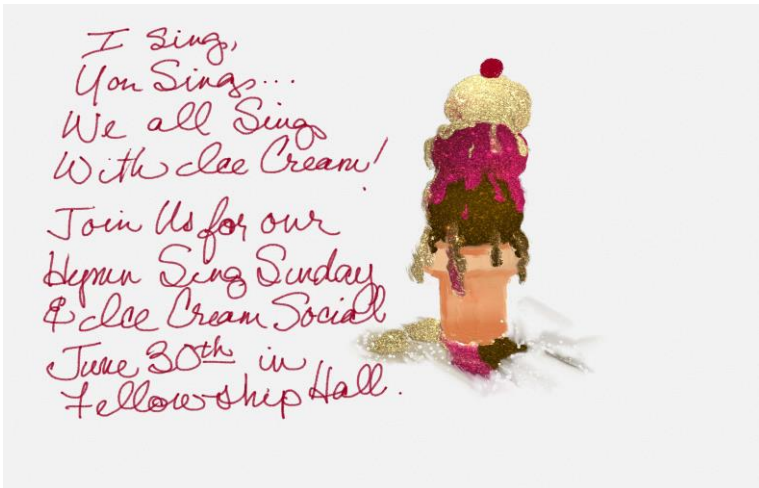
Jon Preciado

Maria Saenz

Al & Mindy Rueda

Jun 1 Jon & Nancy Horstmann

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation will have our **Birthday Gathering on Monday, June 3 at 6:00 p.m.** in **Fireside Lounge**. Jennifer Carter of Oak Tree Learning Centers will be our speaker. Everyone is invited to this event!



More news and announcements are available in your Friday *Keeping in Touch* emails. If you are not receiving these, and you would like to, contact Mimi in the church office.

Music Box

Frequently Jesus seems to me to be like a 'Zen Rabbi,' making crazy-sounding statements that jolt me out of my conventional ways of thinking. His statement "Unless you become as a little child, you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven" would certainly qualify! (Matt 18:2-5)

So, what ARE we to make of this verse? I don't think there's ONE right answer — instead there's many good ones. Here's a proposal...

What exactly makes an 'adult' different from a 'child' anyway? One might suggest "innocence," but children are very capable of being very cruel. "Naivete?" Perhaps, but learning is a lifelong process — I'm hard pressed to say when I "knew" enough to consider myself an adult. Heck, what exactly would be "adult mastery" of the Big Topics that concern us most of all: Love, Death, Eternity, Suffering? Is my lack of real understanding of these issues now, decades later, significantly better than they were when I was a child? These Big Questions don't seem much more answerable today than they were decades ago!

Instead, I've thought about a much more pragmatic approach. Namely: you're an 'adult' when you can 'take care of yourself.' You're an 'adult' when you can support yourself, make your own choices and deal with the consequences — whether those choices turn out to be wise or not-so-much, carrying your own weight in your family and society. Are there folks well past their 20's who can't do these things? Why, of course, and I think we'd agree that it's fair to characterize them as 'not having grown up.'

NOTE: I certainly don't think that 'being an adult' means 'complying with Society's generic norm of "go to college, get a job, get married, have 2.3 kids, etc."' People adopt all sorts of crazy lifestyles — crazy to me, but go for it! If it's not on your parent's dime — or mine — you're an adult in my book.

The thing is, at the end of the day, how self-sufficient are any of us really? Especially here in America, we have the story/myth of the 'Self-Made Man.' To be sure there are individuals of extraordinary ability and drive who soar above the rest of us. Bill Gates would be a modern example. And yet, Bill Gates' parents were well-to-do enough to send Bill to a private school that had a computer-terminal available for their students to use. Unlike any other school in the area. And then, while in high school he wrote a payroll program and was selling that service. Not likely to happen without some sort of computing resources available.

We keep having this false debate of whether it's Nature (genes) or Nurture (upbringing) that predicts success. Hello, it has to be both!

How much of the success of any of us is due to our Nature/genetic endowment — something over which none of us had any control? Versus Nurture — the environment in which we were raised, and the opportunities that we may or may not have presented themselves. Gates was born into a family that was able to put him into a school with a computer terminal. Who could possibly have foreseen the results of that? And he had the Nature (the genetic endowment) to take that opportunity which his Nurture (upbringing and environment) presented, and run with it beyond all imagining.

Which brings me to another verse: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens." Working with that word for 'poor' (PTŌXOS), I think a better translation might be 'beggar'. "Blessed are the beggars in spirit." Whereas 'poor' might suggest a certain passivity, a beggar is out there doing the only thing they can, given their circumstances of first century Palestine. Including a kind of humility that "this is all I can do. I am completely dependent on the largess of others."

Which brings me back to the verse that started this meditation: "Unless you become as a little child...". A child is someone who knows all too well how much they depend on their parents. Meanwhile, although I in no way want to diminish the importance of our individual efforts, there is still a sense in which each of us has been utterly dependent on the generosity of our Heavenly Parent providing us both the Nature (genetic endowment) and Nurture (upbringing and opportunity) to become who we are today.

So how do we become "as a little child"? By being aware of the largess of our Heavenly Parent — to give us both the Nature and Nurture that made us who we are today. And not be so foolish as to think that our current success is only due to our own personal wonderfulness. -- *William Zeitler*

Our Partnership with SBHS

In 2013 we started exploring ways to form a new bond with our high school in their holy work of educating students. Project Updraft was born with the goal of helping Cardinals take flight. It began with 1000 handwritten notes and a carload of snacks to encourage kids during testing. When asked, we hosted banquets for sports teams in Fellowship Hall. In January 2014, we tested our Life Skillz Circle idea with 9 sophomores who met every Monday before school for breakfast. The purpose was to practice two skills: listening and speaking. Students practice respect, mutuality, and encouragement, and receive support from each other and adults. It was Bobbi Cummings' leadership that made this possible. The amazing women of PW have provided breakfast and snacks every week for 10 years!

As students or educators have made suggestions, our program has expanded. In 2015, SBHS asked if we could help with the school's new leadership program, so we did. We taught students to garden. We've supported the Mr. and Miss Cardinal program, assisted with interviews, led a seminar on how to apply for college, and offered PW scholarships. We have cheered kids on at sporting events and theater productions. There have been pool parties, tuxedo fittings, and Christmas celebrations. In an effort to give students a great first job, Session began a paid intern program overseen by Mark Adelson, where kids learn what it takes to be a good employee, partner or team leader. The program now boasts 3 sessions per year, 6 interns in each. Rick Rodriguez succeeded Mark and the impact on us all continues. We've taken kids on trips and written letters to help them enter college or land a job. We baked cookies for neighbors in grief. We've offered prayers at city council, and visited adults from this congregation in the hospital, and helped lead a presbytery workshop. With the help of Riverside Presbytery, we sent kids to leadership training with Eric Law (they were a big hit!!) and took them rock climbing. Donations have meant there has been *very little cost to the church budget for all these things.*

Then students began to surprise us: even when their intern jobs were over, they started showing up to help with food distribution and sanctuary set-up, with hygiene kits and child care. We have been featured in a video, a blog, and a book. When some of us went to a leadership conference, the people we met said, "San Bernardino? Aren't you the church that has that great program with high school students?" "Yes!!" we said, "Yes we are!!"

With great joy we celebrate our Life Skillz seniors today, and all the dreams-come-true that they represent.