

FIRST PRESS

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

Volume 57, Issue 4

May 2020

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San Bernardino, CA
92405

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The Rev. Dr. Sandy Tice
Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Steve Smith
Pastoral Support

Melinda Rueda
Lynette DuClos Adelson
Laurie Stafford
Ministry of Visitation

Dr. Wendy Long Lamb
Commissioned Local Pastor

The Rev. Jim Huffstutler
Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Noé Falconi
Honorary Pastor of Visitation

Sunday Schedule

Worship
10:30 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship
11:30 a.m.

Grace and Peace to you, dear saints-

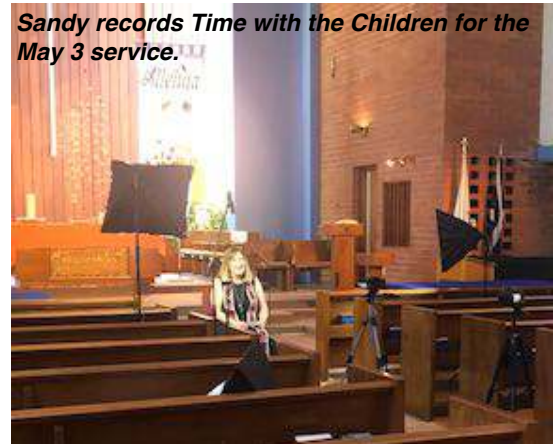
In this season of enforced separation, I am especially grateful for things like this newsletter that allow me to feel connected to you, my community. It is an anchor in a completely disorienting time. Here are a few updates.

Finances- Like all congregations unable to meet in person, there are great financial uncertainties for us in these days. Still: here is some good news-

- We have applied for a Paycheck Protection Program loan/grant from our nation through our financial institution. It will amount to 2.5 months of payroll for our employees, or \$70,000. I am hopeful for this, and grateful to members like Jim Morris, John-Paul Fletcher and Brooke Dvorak who helped point us in this direction, and staff members who found and filled out necessary forms, turned them in, and responded to questions. We want to continue the salaries of all our employees, and this will help us do so for a longer period of time.
- You have responded generously to our request for help in these days- every one of those checks is both a practical help and a spiritual encouragement.
- Please continue your support as you are able.

Our Work Goes on-

Worship- this has been both fun and alarming for me. Until now I've managed never to have a sermon videotaped! It is strange for me to notice how much of worship and preaching are *interactive* for me: how much energy I get from eye contact, how easy it is for me to sense the Spirit's presence when we are gathered in community. (The flip side of this is how difficult it is for me to feel God's presence in isolation!) For weeks now we have been learning to videotape services in an empty sanctuary, edit them, get them posted to our new YouTube channel, and then get a link sent to all of you so you can easily find them. Feedback has been generous and positive. We all owe a great debt to **Wendy** who has created streamlined liturgies every week, and to **Curtiss and William** who have been so creative musically under such strenuous circumstances. **Raymond Olivarez** has been our videographer for the last few services, and our online presence is MUCH better because of him! He has great equipment and is a skilled



Continued on next page.

It is the Mission of First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to proclaim the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship and celebration, and teaching and learning, so that lives are transformed and members are encouraged to use their special gifts to care for and value, as God's Beloved, each other and the community in which we live.

Pastor's Note Continued...

editor with a budding business in videography. This has allowed people in other parts of the country (and even out of the country!) to participate and feel connected.

Tom Rennard has been recording with us, and the link to our worship videos has been sent to members of the Bridges Presbyterian Fellowship of Big Bear. I figured you would be happy to see him, and it seems a Presbyterian thing to do: to support each other. The learning curve is steep, but there have been delights as well: a shared reading of the Easter Story, and a Youth Sunday where kids recorded themselves sharing what they had prepared.



Caring- The pastoral care team and the deacons are regularly reaching out to those who may be in need of support (if you know of someone, please let us know!) In this process Care has been given and received, we have recognized the Shepherd who walks with us through this valley of shadow. Thank you for taking part in this by way of your financial support and also by the calls you make and cards you send- beloved, let us love one another!

Food Ministry- We have scaled down the number of hours, but are distributing food on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11:00. With help of a member who was once a HazMat officer for the County we've established clear protocols for maximum safety. A small miracle is that we have been able to do that with volunteers who are not in the high-risk group, meaning we can protect and love the folks who do the heavy lifting for this ministry. It is good for us in many ways. **Rick Rodriguez** has been crucial to this work, as has **Marilyn Kraft**.

Office Work- Laurie and Mimi and James are at 1900 N. D on Tuesdays and Thursdays, maintaining distance from one another but caring for the plant and doing things like printing newsletters and paying the light bill. We are all working mostly from home, but also getting things done that can only be done on site.

Meeting- Presbyterians decide together, and so we have continued to find ways to 'meet', and to consider next steps. Personnel, Nurture, Buildings & Grounds, Staff, Session, Deacons, Choir, all have figured out how to connect through the platform Zoom. I am proud of us for implementing Creative solutions and maintaining Caring connection.

One surprise for me has been my increased sense of how important the work is that we share- how important it is to be anchored in a Love that will not change 'though the earth should move, or the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.' To have Refuge and Strength in these days is everything. And our connection to one another: the depth of my sense of loss points to how real and sweet are the ties that bind us. And our serving those whom Jesus loved particularly- this *matters*. I am grateful to know this with a new depth, and to feel it in my body as well as my spirit.

Longing for the day when we will gather.

Until then, may God watch between me and thee while we are absent one from another.

With so much love,

Sandy

Graduates!

If you are a graduate or have a family member graduating from high school or college this spring, please send her/his name, relationship to congregation members, school and degree (if appropriate), and graduation date to Newsletter@fpcsb.net by Tuesday, May 26th for recognition in the June newsletter.

We will celebrate our graduates in worship as soon as we are able!!

Remembering Those Who Have Remembered Us

By Brooke Dvorak, Stewardship Committee Chair

Stewart and Helen Dodds were the aunt and uncle of Nancy Sellas. When they passed away, Nancy created the **Dodds Spirituality Trust**, which has helped dozens of people deepen their relationship with God by attending **Companions on the Inner Way retreats, thereby deepening the spiritual life of the whole congregation.**

It's Not About How Much – Any Amount Will Make a Difference!

April Food Distribution

By Rick Rodriguez

Food ministry continued in April with substantial changes to protect guests and volunteers. Many of the volunteers who have been central to this amazing ministry for decades did the hardest thing of all - staying at home on Food Distribution day. New types of help came from Melodee Kistner who made sure we had face masks for our volunteers and Carol Valentine who made face coverings for guests without. As always, Sally Morris provided guidance & labor, defining the bag contents, bringing Katie, Maggie, and Abby Willis to do some bagging, and then leading by example by staying home (but always available by phone).

Our interns and LifeSkillz students, a welcome addition to Food Distribution for the last two years, (and others under 18) were also asked to sit out distribution. However, the interns did help with preparation. Normally accomplished by dozens of volunteers on the Friday before Food Distribution, the work was broken down into tasks for fewer people over many days to maintain social

distance. Sally defined the contents of the bag filled from our food closet. On Tuesday, two interns set up food on the tables. On Wednesday, Sally and her family started bagging, which was finished off including adding bread brought by Pat with two interns on Thursday. On Friday four interns, Rick, and Mark A helped drivers Mario, David Snyder, Helen, and Steve unload boxes from Community Action Partnership.

On the Saturday of Food Distribution, 20 volunteers, most of them not Food Distribution regulars, came to help the church and our community. Thanks to Pastor Sandy & Pastor Tom Rennard, Pastor Wendy & Kevin Lamb, Al, Mindy & Amy Rueda, Mario & Mary Bolanos, Dan Direen, Jim Siegmund, Carmen Avila, Trinity Conley, Sam Lange, Mark Adelson and Marilyn Kraft. We are also grateful for friends of the church, Jay Martinez from the Family Assistance Program and Syvannah Butler, a friend of Sandy's. Both had a good time and intend to help again.

Over 140 families were provided with canned meats & vegetables, canned and fresh fruits, cereal, snacks, and convenience foods.

Food was distributed to our guests in the west parking lot to provide social distancing and other protections for our volunteers and guests. In May, we will apply lessons learned to continue to minimize potential exposure while showing our neighbors our care for them.

We are distributing bagged groceries and hygiene kits on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am – 11 am., also out of the west parking lot supplied by Fellowship Hall. All of the staff have willingly flexed to accommodate the changes.

Food ministry thanks and welcomes feedback from volunteers and encourages new volunteers who are 18+ and not in at-risk groups to join us for the Saturday or Tuesday/Thursday Food Distributions. If you are interested, contact Rick Rodriguez.



Mindy and Amy prepare to load wagons with food while Rick and Al work the background. Carmen and Trinity wheel wagons to and from cars. Sam is ready to disinfect the wagons between trips.

Session Synopsis

By Elder Lynette DuClos Adelson

Because we want to stay current with anything happening at church and because we want to be together, your Session has decided to meet by Zoom every two weeks. So far, so good, thanks to technology wizards Wendy Lamb and Amy Smith! *Whenever two or more are gathered in Your name...*

As imagined, our April 8 and April 22 meetings focused on how to be faithful followers of Christ to our congregation, employees and neighbors while staying at home as much as possible and staying safe. Sandy has postponed her much anticipated sabbatical and will reschedule when it is safe so that she can be here with us during this time.

We spent time looking at the church's financial situation. Having had no Sunday offering for over a month, including Easter, our income has

suffered. The good news is that the letter sent out by Mimi and the Stewardship Committee brought a flurry of checks including some from members who are paying their pledge in advance and some from friends of the congregation who want to help! An application for a Paycheck Protection Plan loan has been submitted.

The Session has voted to continue to pay all staff, including FPCCC staff for an additional month. FPCCC is closed and the church staff is coming in only as needed to keep all safe and to keep utility costs down. We continue to feed those in need two days a week and at the monthly Deacon's food distribution thanks to strong, healthy young people who distribute the bags, dedicated Deacons who pack the bags and a generous congregation who supports this ministry.

The Building and Grounds Committee and James are using this time to do some deferred maintenance on our campus. They are also developing a Facilities Stewardship Plan listing current and future projects.

Both the Deacons and your Pastoral Care Team are keeping in touch with our members. We wondered together, as a Session, how to love our congregation through this crisis that separates us physically from each other. It was a joy to hear how each of us has connected with folks they see regularly in worship and with folks who have been away from our congregation for some time. The Spirit moves among and within this congregation. If you or anyone you know needs us please call the church office. With God's help will all get through this together!

With Gratitude

We Asked, You Answered

A few weeks ago, you received a letter from the Stewardship Committee regarding the uncertain times we are experiencing. How, although we are not holding sanctuary services, we continue to serve our members and our community. We are so grateful for the response we received from you. You signed up for automatic payments of your pledges; you brought your pledges either current or into the future; and you gave generously.

I have found great comfort in our YouTube services, prayers, and scriptures. And I speak for all staff and all committees when I say how much comfort your generosity has provided. We continue to pay staff, keep the lights on, and continue our Food Ministry. Thank you all. We are blessed in the knowledge that together we will continue to serve.

Just to let you know, we applied for the Payroll Protection Program Small Business Loan about two weeks ago. The application is in process, and although we have not received funds, we remain optimistic. As we continue to keep staff on payroll, the loan becomes forgivable and as such, a grant.

"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." --Matthew 21:22 (NRSV)

--Brooke Dvorak for the Stewardship Committee

2020 Session:

Sandy Tice, Moderator; Wendy Lamb, CLP; Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

Class of 2020: David Grindahl, Nancy Horstmann, Alex Smith, Neal Williams

Class of 2021: Lynette DuClos Adelson, Brooke Dvorak, Mark Freeman, Lynda Savage

Class of 2022: Ed Congdon, Carol Cooper, Margaret Doane, Stephanie Fletcher

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation

Studying God's Word While Social Distancing

Zooming Circle of Grace by Brooke Dvorak



Monday, April 19th, around 1:00 in the afternoon, I happened to look at my calendar and realized that I had totally forgotten it was the 3rd Monday of the month, the day Circle of Grace meets regularly @ 10:30 am. How had that slipped my mind? Then, it occurred to me; during this period of isolation, every day seems the same, every day seems like Saturday.

Fortunately, I have been Zooming quite a bit lately and contacted my fellow Sisters of Grace; Sally Morris, Nancy Horstmann, Judy Brewer, and Debbie Law, suggesting we attempt a virtual Bible Study. Everybody enthusiastically agreed we should meet the next day @ 2pm on our electronic devices. What a great decision we made!

Our lesson was on the 8th Commandment, *Thou Shall Not Steal (Exodus 20:15)* How timely and appropriate for these times. The lesson was meant to expand our understanding of stealing beyond the concept of disrespect for personal property. According to our lesson, "When we keep the Eighth Commandment, we create an environment of dignity for all; we consider other's well-being, self-esteem, ability to earn a living, sense of security, place in the community, honor and dignity to be precious and inviolable. When we do not help people in need, we rob people of the dignity of life itself."

Matt. 25: 40 – And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Matt. 25: 45 – Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

We are grateful we are blessed with technology ('though challenging at times) which allows us to meet and share God's blessings and word.



Circle of Kindness



Circle of Grace

Circle of Kindness Via Zoom by Amy Smith and Bobbi Cummings

Our Circle was scheduled to meet on March 23rd and we were anxious to find a way to connect with friends we were missing so much. Zoom was new to most of us and there were a few glitches as we had our first Zoom get together. But it was so worth working through those to see all those smiling faces! We have had a couple "social" virtual get-togethers and have discussed two of the lessons. Wendy told us about the short Presbyterian Women YouTube videos done by the author of the Horizons Bible Study. They have enriched our discussions which have been lively and insightful.

Meeting via Zoom has enabled several women we haven't seen at in-person meetings to join, which has been a joy! Our numbers vary, but at the last meeting we had about twelve zooming in. One blessing has been the ability to invite others who may not be a member (or regular attendee) of our Circle. This has allowed us to share the caring and love further than usual. If you are also meeting this way, think about extending an invitation to someone in the church who hasn't connected through PW for any number of reasons. This is a time we all need connections, perhaps differently than in our past busy lives.

I know some of the PW Circles have experimented with getting together, but if you haven't and want some guidance, please get in touch with me (Amy Smith). I feel fortunate to have experienced a quick transition to virtual platforms before I retired and this is semi-familiar to me. The Zoom platform is very easy to download and get into and as these few days stretch into weeks and months, it's good to have some options to see and hear one another.

Notes from Our Community

In April, I posed this question: Even in this time, ministry is still happening, worship is still happening, caring is still happening. What are you doing? How is your group continuing to meet or serve or minister? Let us know. Please submit stories for the May First Press letting our community know what is happening in these interesting times. Here are responses. Some have been excerpted due to limited space.

Just about every day I do a two mile walk around the neighborhood. Following that, a two mile ride on my 50's Schwinn Spitfire bike. I also get in some riding at the Showcase Training Stables in Redlands around once a week.

I have a few close friends nearby, where we run 16mm TV shows we grew up with, and share a lot of fun conversation.

Most sincerely,

Robert Sides

Our youth group and Pastor Wendy met via Zoom to check in and figure out how to move forward with Youth Sunday. The kids filmed themselves for worship.



What Clara Gresham has going on: The County sent a demanding letter, that I am to "cut the hillside grasses down to inches height" by a deadline of May 10.

I have hired a neighborhood fellow to use his weed whacker to work on this job, to satisfy the County's deadline. This effort is for fire prevention.

We need to AVOID denuding our very steep slope. When Verne and Barbara Potter built this house, they apparently cleared the slope, and planned to secure the slope with a type of netting. The netting was ordered, but didn't arrive. It rained, mud formed, and flowed down the slope, filling the swimming pool in the backyard of the house down below on Edgehill Rd. Quite a few fellows came to help Verne remove the mud from the neighbor's swimming pool! That was a lesson re what can happen if the hillside is cleared off TOO much.

Clara Gresham



Traveling to places I love...virtually!

Joined faith leaders and immigrant's rights activists, including folks from Presbyterian Immigration and Refugee Task Force and CLUE (Clergy and Laity for Economic Justice) for a car procession, prayer and protest at the Adelanto Immigration Detention Center where immigrants are being crowded and untested during this pandemic.

Thank you for helping us stay connected!

Lynette DuClos Adelson





We celebrated Cliff's birthday with social distancing!!!!

Bobbi Cummings

While FPCCC is closed for the time being all of the staff has been keeping in touch and all of the beloved teachers and their families are healthy. We are sending out a few Mother's Day projects via mail for the kids to color and give to their moms on May 10th.

Sally Earp



One of the consistent things I have been doing while we're all staying safe at home is to document my neighborhood walks for our granddaughters, Paige and Parker. I have made ten videos thus far and in each video I try to highlight new and familiar sights and experiences. I share pictures of trees, flowers, animals, wildlife, weather, etc. to include them in my walks. I have found this to be a very rewarding activity and a way to connect with the Ps (and others as I share the videos on Instagram too) during this time we are physically distancing from one another. I am noticing many new sights on these walks because I try to see my neighborhood and surroundings with fresh eyes each time I set out to walk. I am truly walking, praying and connecting with God as I explore the 'Big Book' of creation.

Love,

Christa Wallis



(from Rosalind Mantei's letter) We feel so fortunate to be here in the countryside, near Randy, Jenny & Ryan (7) Mantei. Our neighbors are terrific and interesting! And it's fun to see cows & horses daily. Walking flat paths in a nearby "Redlands Canyon Park" is just enough exercise for us. Rosalind is cooking alot, lately, using her Mom's and Grandmom's Indiana/Germany recipes... Ken spends many hours a day involved in Ancestry and talking on the phone with new-found 3rd cousins around the USA, Canada and Germany... We miss not being able to visit with our only grandson, Ryan, and Randy and Jenny... Lately, we've been driving Erika to and from IRC as she is no longer allowed to car pool. Erika is happy to be working and we get to visit with our daughter talking thru our masks! Rosalind H. Mantei

May Celebrations

May 1 Lily Bolaños
 Aidan Morris
May 4 Erika Mantei
May 6 Kaiyah Dubois
 Katie Willis
May 7 Brian Gano
 Maggie Willis
May 8 George & Shelley
 Biddlecombe
May 9 Chasin Bricker
 Rosalind Mantei
 Phil Savage III
May 10 Marissa Congdon
 Susan Skoglund
May 11 Tinka Ponder
May 12 Blaine Kern
 Wendy Lamb
May 14 Carol Coyne
May 15 Lynn Usher
May 16 Jim Babcock
May 17 Sharon Louise Landeros
 Wanda Skipper
 Tim & Lynn Usher
May 21 Rena Nolin
May 23 Jim Morris
May 24 Trinity Conley
 Penny Ramirez
May 27 Jenna Garza Schneider
May 28 Mark Adelson
 Jon Preciado
 Maria Saenz
 Al & Mindy Rueda
 Dale & Kathy Showman
May 31 Larry & Jeannie Marona

Financial Notes as of March 31, 2020

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Pledges	89,930.07	102,217.97	(12,287.90)
Other Income	22,121.59	12,604.03	9,517.56
Expense	123,393.46	147,918.56	(24,525.10)
Net Income	(11,341.80)	(33,096.56)	21,754.76

Website Photos

Photographs are often taken at church events. These photos may be used in the newsletter and/or posted on the church's public website and social media platforms. If you object to having a photograph that may contain your image (or your child's image) posted on the church website, please notify the office in writing.

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.

**Deadline for the June issue of the
First Press:
 Wednesday, May 20**

Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

LCpl Jacob Allen
 Cherry Point, North Carolina
PFC Ronaldo Fregoso
 US Marine Corps, 29 Palms
Petty Officer Jacob Le Roy
 US Navy, Guam
Colonel Jeff Le Roy
 US Army Reserve
Seaman Mark Munz
 US Navy, San Diego
Private Javier Rocha
 US Army, Fort Benning, Georgia
Seaman Robert Sandoval
 US Navy, Virginia
Petty Officer Noah L. Wierenga
 U.S. Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River
CW3 James Bentley Wilson
 US Army, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA

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