

FIRST PRESS

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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April 2020

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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.

Easter Is Coming

None of us is certain what these next days and weeks will hold, and we do not know when we will gather again. We are monitoring this and will keep you posted.

Here is one thing I know: that when we ARE able once again to safely gather, we will celebrate Resurrection with great delight and unabashed joy! Stay tuned, as soon as we know we will let you know!

Meanwhile, we are here for you- you may reach out to us by phone or email or text, and please know that we continue to pray for you and reach out to folks we know need pastoral care. We continue to care for our neighbors and to remember and proclaim the Love that no pandemic can erase and no isolation destroy.

May the Peace of Christ be with you always-

Sandy

We are an Easter people. Our great hope as Christians is in the resurrection, in the idea that there is always new life, there is always hope, there is always a way to begin again, there is nothing that can't be redeemed. On Easter we usually celebrate that notion with light and trumpets and flowers. We gather in joy and we sing alleluia with gusto.

This year will be different. There is no question about that. And yet Easter will come. We will celebrate. We will celebrate in our homes and on video. We will gather by zoom and by phone. We will see one another on FaceTime and Facebook. We will remain connected because we are connected not by signals in the webs--though they help--but by the Holy Spirit.

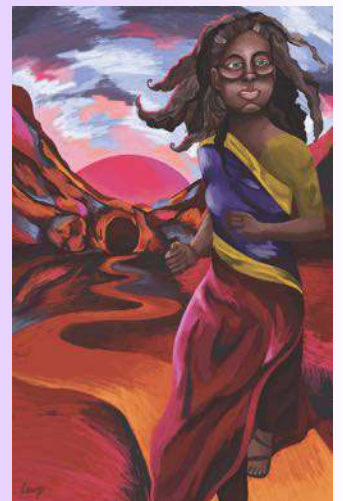
When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. (John 20: 19-22)

As we gather in our living rooms and sing and pray together, may we envision Jesus among his disciples: Peace be with you. Receive the Holy Spirit.

Peace,

Wendy

Watch for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday recorded services. For Maundy Thursday, you may wish to prepare a simple bread and cup as we join together--virtually--for the Lord's Supper.



Fullness of the Tomb
by Lauren Wright Pittman

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...

Season of Renewal on Hold

Just over a year ago your Session endorsed the idea of seeking to engage in a season of renewal. It seemed just the right time to do such a thing- a time for me as the pastor to take a deep breath and recalibrate; a chance for the congregation to remember its strength and identity in Christ (WITHOUT their regular pastor). We received notice last August that our proposal to spend a season "Among the Trees" had been accepted and that we would be granted a tidy sum to pursue the things we had imagined. In October the check arrived and was deposited and our plan to seek God in the 'Big Book' of Creation began to take shape. I went for a week of training as a Forest Therapy Guide, and am coming to the end of a 6 month practicum.



And then came Covid19. With sadness, I need to let you know that **we must postpone our 3 month Renewal Season** that was set to begin on 4/20. We so carefully crafted our plan for this season, including bookends of blessing each other on our way in worship as we begin the journey; and then celebrating with a lunch and stories at the end- but since we are unable to gather at the moment, I am not comfortable 'disappearing' without saying good-bye!

In addition: travel is a bad idea right now- and as much as I long for this time of deep rest and renewal, it does not seem safe or helpful for me as a traveler, nor helpful for those I would interact with. And it does not feel restorative for me to be wondering how YOU are doing in isolation and etc.

I have consulted with folks in our midst who helped me write the application essays, and we all reluctantly agree this is the right course of action. Session has agreed. I've shed some tears over this, but believe it is the right choice. I also believe it will be joy *deferred*, not lost: we will find the right time to be restored, and we will live in to the joy that we have imagined- just not today. Perhaps it will seem even sweeter and more precious because of this wait.



Folks at the grant office indicate that it will be easy to postpone if we feel we can begin later in 2020 (maybe fall?), and that it is also possible to ask for an extension to do our Season Among the Trees in 2021. It's too early to know which of these might be best.

Depending on how things unfold, I may be away for a couple of weeks of vacation/study leave this summer- but I will communicate that to you when things are clearer.

A great deal is precarious and difficult right now. We will get through this together. We know sorrow now, but nothing can steal our joy.

~ much love,
Sandy

Remembering Those Who Have Remembered Us

By Brooke Dvorak,
Stewardship Committee Chair

Barbara Maupin was a member who retired and moved to San Diego. When she passed away some years later, she left a generous bequest to the church. From that bequest have come many things, including the **LifeSkilz seed money and the money that paid our interns salaries** in past years.

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



As we make our way through this quarantine time, you Session continues to serve. Last month, Session met by Zoom. We will continue to do so, meeting more often than usual as we make decisions together. If your First Pres group (committee, Bible Study, Fellowship Group) would like to meet this way, contact Mimi Lange in the office or at home (9-5) for details on how to use the new church Zoom account.

April Celebrations

Apr 1	Wayne McCarl Ray & Becky Nelligan Irene Sandoval-Suverkrup	Apr 16	Marilyn Karnig Beverly Snell
Apr 2	Kyle Knabe	Apr 18	Michelle Lea Babcock Don Dudley
Apr 3	John-Paul Fletcher		Oliver Andrew Lamb
Apr 4	Howard Le Roy Rose Gareau	Apr 20	Cliff Cummings Joseph Ramirez
Apr 5	Laura Olsen Dunn Jacob Allen Kelsey Law	Apr 23	Sally Morris
Apr 7	Patricia Parks	Apr 24	Harlan Leonard Wright
Apr 8	Mary Bolaños Don & Earleen Dudley	Apr 27	Carly Earp Tino & Sandy Garza Jonah Roy Morales
Apr 10	Debbie Law	Apr 28	Jim Cimino Jim Coyne Mark Freeman
Apr 12	Frederick Star	Apr 29	Jim & Helen Babcock
Apr 13	JoAnna Wierenga Cassidy Wright	Apr 30	Noé & Alicia Falconi Tom Rennard
Apr 15	Kelsey Adelson Jennifer Mantei		

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

How to give when there's no offering plate.

Please take time to read the letter the Stewardship Copmmitee has sent to remind us of ways to continue to support the minstires of this congregation. There are things that each of us can do as we serve together in this time--lead a virtual meeting, make a phone call, write a card, help distribute food, say a prayer, and give. ***You may always give by sending a check to the church. Mail is being safely held and collected regularly.*** Stewardship also offers details for setting up an electronic payment through your bank or clicking the donate button on our website (fpcsb.net).

May First Press

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 serve? Let us know. Please submit stories for the May First Press letting our community know what is happening in these interesting times. **Email me (Wendy) at Newsletter@fpcsb.net with stories (and photos) by the end of the day on Wednesday, April 22.**

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of February 29, 2020

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$ 58,717.56	68,145.30	(9,427.74)
Other Income	\$ 15,787.45	8,402.70	7,384.75
Expense	\$ 81,062.28	98,612.28	(17,550.00)
Net Income	\$ (6,557.27)	(22,064.28)	15,507.01

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

2020 Deacons:

Steve Smith, Pastoral Support

Class of 2020: Mario Bolaños, Stephani Congdon, Charlotte Pringle, Brad Smith, Judy Steppins

Class of 2021: Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Marianna Fowles, Martha Pinckney, Jim Siegmund

Class of 2022: Mark Adelson, Carmen Avila, Janet McKinster, Carol Valentine, Sue Zeitler

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Spiritual Director

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mlette117@gmail.com

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