

FIRST PRESS

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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The Rev. Dr. Sandy Tice
Pastor

Dr. Wendy Long Lamb
Commissioned Local Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Steve Smith
Pastoral Support

Melinda Rueda
Lynette DuClos Adelson
Laurie Stafford
Ministry of Visitation

The Rev. Jim Huffstutler
Pastor Emeritus

Office Hours:

Monday 9am to 2 pm
Tues-Thurs 9am to 4:30 pm

If you need to contact the office at other times, you may leave a message (it is checked regularly) or Call Mimi Lange at home during regular office hours (9-4:30 on weekdays).

When Will We Go Back to Church?

Dave Thomas, Safe Reopening of Church Committee Chair

This is a question we ask ourselves every week...when will we gather, when will we worship, when will we have fellowship, when will we see our friends.... when?... when?... when? Several months ago we put together a committee to figure out how do we safely reopen and when do we reopen.

We have Dr. Jon Horstmann as our medical director, Nancy Horstmann, Shannon Nolin, Mary Bolaños, James Welte, Sandy, Wendy and myself as this committee.

Our Committee goals are to monitor the number of infections and deaths weekly in San Bernardino County and base safe reopening on the recommendations of the Governor, the CDC and Public Health Department.

At this time, meeting inside is not permitted. Indoor worship has the highest risk of infection to our congregation, many of which are in high risk groups already.

It is the recommendation of the Committee that when we do meet, we will gather outside in Magnolia Court. We will have social distancing between family units, mandatory mask use, hand sanitizer and other safety precautions in place. We will also have temperature checks and a short health evaluation prior to entering service to make sure things are as safe as possible.

We have been working diligently on a Covid19 Code of Safe Practices for FPCSB which addresses safety for Worship, the office personnel, the food ministry, the interns and other activities. With the help of Marilyn Kraft's computer knowledge, this document has become over 30 pages long. We hope to have this document available to you within the next couple of weeks.

As far as when we will reopen, we are looking for the time when San Bernardino County moves off of California's "Watch List". A variety of factors needs to occur for this to happen such as decrease of infections, hospitalizations and deaths. We are not there yet.

Over the next few weeks the Deacons have agreed to conduct a phone survey with our Congregation to find out how many people would be interested in attending a worship service with safety precautions in Magnolia Court and how many people would feel safer worshipping at home. You can help us tremendously by responding to this critical survey. We also plan on continuing to conduct online services for people who feel safer staying at home.

Many other issues are being worked out such as music with the help of Curtiss and William, sound board operations, videotaping with Raymond as well as worship service particulars with Sandy, Wendy and many other things. I wish to thank everyone that has offered their opinion and recommendations.

Anyone who has a question about anything Covid19 related is free to contact Dr. Jon Horstmann or myself. We are both well versed in the current recommendations and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you to our congregation for your patience and understanding with these difficult issues. We will have more information in the coming weeks.

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.

Clergy Renewal FAQs

What happens to the ministry? *The ministry of this congregation belongs to us all- not just the pastor! So one of us will be away, but the rest of us will continue to try to show in our lives the love and justice of Jesus Christ. We will continue food ministry, online worship, adult ed, and various bible studies. Session committees will continue to move forward projects connected to our buildings, education and nurture, worship, and stewardship. Deacons will continue to help show love in service. We will continue to love one another and love our neighbors and so the light of Christ will continue to shine in this place!*

Who will take care of us? *Pastor Wendy Lamb and Pastor Steve Smith will continue their ministry among us. The pastoral care team and prayer team will continue their work of love and supportive contact. The staff will continue their work and are available to answer questions and assist.*

Who will preach? *We are re-assembling a list of pulpit supply guests who will help us hear the Word each week in worship by means of sermon and reflection. Some will be familiar voices and faces. Others will be new friends. Additionally, Pastor Wendy will continue to preach occasionally throughout the season.*

Can we contact Sandy? *The folks who administer these grants have learned a lot by supervising hundreds of them. One of the things they are clear on is that it is the **sustained** and **uninterrupted** rest that makes it work. The pastor will not be reachable during the renewal leave. This will be difficult, but doable.*

Yes, but what if...? *Unexpected things will surely come up. We will figure them out one at a time, with God's help.*

What's in it for us? *An invitation to seek God in the natural world this fall, and experience afresh our belovedness. An opportunity to remember who we are when the pastor is not around. A chance to hear other preaching voices, and so hear God's voice in a new way. Funding for the pastor's refreshment and renewal. Funding for the congregation's needs during the leave. The possibility of Sabbath Joy.*



Threshold Event as we commenced our Sabbath Season. If you couldn't make the event, you will receive a packet.

*"Clergy Renewal Programs provide an opportunity for pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. **Renewal periods are not vacations but times for intentional exploration and reflection**, for drinking again from God's life-giving waters, for regaining enthusiasm and creativity for ministry."*

In Memoriam

August 2020

Rosemary Krause

June 29, 1925-August 31, 2020

"In life and in death we belong to God"

Worship and Nurture During the Season of Renewal

During the Season of Renewal, we will continue to worship each week. Pastor Wendy will preach about half the time, continuing to follow the Faces of our Faith series we have been using through Ordinary Time.

On the other weeks, we will be hearing from friends of the congregation including Kristi Van Nostran, organizer for the Immigrant Accompaniment Ministry; Sharon Edwards, movement leader with Companions on the Inner Way; Erin Wiens St. John, granddaughter of Marion Wiens and regular attender and choir member while she was a student at the University of Redlands; and Jeff Gaines, Presbyterian Pastor and long-time leader of Companions on the Inner Way.

During this time, we will also be offering opportunities for living into renewal. There will be church-wide events including mindful photography and retreat day with Sharon Edwards (and one more to be determined).

We will be inviting people to join us in spiritual practices in nature, and to reflect together on those practices. Watch for a packet of activities for children and a Zoom invitation for our youth group.

Who Do We Call?

By Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

While Pastor Sandy is on sabbatical, it is important to remember that the Session is “in charge” (though we remember God is really in charge!) In the Presbyterian Church, it is the ruling elders and the teaching elder (pastor), who together oversee the life of the congregation as a Session. At any time, and especially this fall with Sandy on sabbatical, questions, comments, or concerns can be taken to any current Session member (listed below) and she or he will take the message to the appropriate person. You may also call the church office, the pastoral care team, and Pastor Wendy.

In our congregation, Session is organized into four committees that cover various aspects of the life of the congregation: Nurture, Financial Stewardship, Building and Grounds and Worship. Additionally, the Nominating Committee is hard at work and the Personnel Committee is always available is something comes up. Ideas or questions concerning particular areas can be taken to members of the specific committee. Phone numbers and email addresses can be found in our church directory or by calling the church office.

These are the descriptions of the committees as posted on the FPCSB website*:

Nurture Committee: Oversees all aspects of discipleship and spiritual development of our congregation, specifically overseeing the Christian nurture of our children, youth, and adults.

Financial Stewardship Committee: Oversees all aspects of the financial health of our congregation and oversees the fall Stewardship campaign.

Building and Grounds: Addresses the many issues of being good stewards of our property and campus.

Worship Committee: Oversees all aspects of our corporate worship, including Sunday morning worship and special services throughout the year, such as our Advent and Lenten quiet nights, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Christmas Eve services.

2020 Session

Moderator: Sandy Tice

Moderator during Pastor Sandy's Sabbatical: Wendy Lamb

Clerk of Session: Amy Smith

Personnel Committee Chair: Christa Wallis

Nominating Committee Chair: Lynette DuClos Adelson

Current Session information can always be found at www.fpcsb.net/about/session.

*Each committee is made up of both current session members and congregation members. If anyone is interested in a particular aspect of congregational life, speak to the committee chair about joining the committee. We love to have volunteers! (All meetings currently held from the comfort of your home via Zoom.)

2020 Session by Committee:

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

Building and Grounds: Neal Williams (Chair), Ed Congdon, Mark Freeman, David Grindahl

Financial Stewardship: Brooke Dvorak (Chair), Margaret Doane, Alex Smith

Nurture: Nancy Horstmann (Chair), Stephanie Fletcher, Lynda Savage

Worship: Lynette DuClos Adelson, Carol Cooper, (Acting Chair, Amy Smith)

2020 Deacon Board by Committee:

Judy Steppins, Moderator; Steve Smith, Pastoral Support

Congregational Care: Carol Valentine (chair), Robin Edwards, Martha Pinckney, Judy Steppins, Sue Zeitler

Community Ministry: Brad Smith (Chair), Carmen Avila, Mario Bolaños, Stephani Congdon

Food Ministry: Dan Direen (Chair), Mark Adelson, Marianna Fowles, Janet McKinster, Charlotte Pringle, Jim Siegmund

Session Synopsis

By Elder Lynette DuClos Adelson

Your Session has been meeting every two weeks during the pandemic so that we can stay on top of events as things change rapidly and we don't see each other each Sunday. Plus, we love being together at our Zoom meetings! Each meeting begins with prayer and a time to share. When Sandy brought us a Tennyson poem that read, in part, "closer is God than breathing and nearer than our hands and feet" it was easy for members to describe where we had seen God recently - in a meteor shower, a poem of grief for a friend when words wouldn't come, acknowledgement and encouragement during the difficulty of caregiving, gratitude for all in our lives who pick up the slack, a trip to the Sierras, swimming pools and so much more.

With our gratitude in mind we got down to business. The Safely Gathering Committee has developed a protocol for all gatherings at the church including worship and small groups. These guidelines will be available to the congregation soon. Our responsibility in making the House of Welcome a safe and hospitable place has been met with such enthusiasm! Rooms 11 and 12 are almost complete for overnight guests. The space at 1875 D Street has been deep cleaned, examined by the Building and Grounds Committee and power cleaned outside by James. The Sanctuary Reconfiguration Committee has found the perfect seating and is working on how to best make the necessary changes to flooring, etc. The waterproof coating of the classroom roofs has been completed and a date for doing the same to the Chapel has been set. The Nominating Committee has begun the discernment process as we listen for those who might serve as Elders and Deacons for the next term. Sandy will begin her sabbatical soon and she and Wendy have been working to make sabbatical meaningful for the entire congregation as we lean into rest and renewal.

Our meetings close as we express where we have seen, felt or heard the Spirit during our time together. This time sometimes brings tears, sometimes laughter, and, often, nods of agreement. One of the blessings about serving on Session is that there has never been a meeting where God's presence has not been felt.

House of Welcome Update

By Lynette DuClos Adelson

When you want something done...ask teenagers! The House of Welcome got two huge boosts recently from energetic and creative young people.

Under the supervision of Rick Rodriguez and Dan Direen, six interns spent a sweltering morning equipping the HofW to extend hospitality to newly released asylum seekers. One group joined Dan and moved a large refrigerator and small refrigerator, donated by Shelby Obershaw. They had to remove doors and tackle stairways but got the job done. They also moved the sofas from room #11 to the HofW. Rick guided the other four interns as they unpacked bed frames and mattresses, read directions in Swedish, Japanese and English and completely put together three twin beds! Watching this group work together with such enthusiasm, laughter and teasing was a gift.

Another gift was the offer of help making the HofW more welcoming and homelike by three Girl Scouts who are working towards their Silver Award. To earn this award the Cadettes have to identify an issue they care about, design a project, make a plan and put it into motion. The project must be sustainable and must benefit their community. Our Girl Scouts (Kendra Lamb, Breanna Nord and Brooke Rodriguez) have chosen to paint one of the HofW living rooms a fresh welcoming color, perhaps including a mural and to create a space in one of the small rooms where the guests can play games, read or sit in quiet. All of the girls attended the congregation Zoom with the Organizer from the Immigrant Accompaniment Ministry and are excited to get started.

As we think about the youth in our midst may we be reminded -



1 Thessalonians 1:2 *We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly.*



Far Left: interns show off their newly made bed.

Left: Girl Scouts Kendra, Breanna, and Brooke received their Bronze awards after 5th grade for leading a fitness club at their school, teaching students a variety of ways to exercise. They are now working on the Middle School Silver award at the House of Welcome.

COVID-19 FAQ FOR BLOOD DRIVES

 LifeStream Blood Bank

LifeStream is absolutely committed to the safety of our donors, patients, employees, and communities.

Blood donation activities are NOT classified as a gathering, but rather, are an **essential healthcare service**.

Donors are only in collection areas for the duration of the donation process.

For more information about LifeStream's COVID-19 response, visit: [LStream.org/covid-19/](https://lstream.org/covid-19/)

Sign-up and Save a Life: Blood Drive

STEPS WE'RE TAKING



Only healthy people are encouraged to give blood.

Donors must be feeling well and free of respiratory illness symptoms, including fever, to be eligible to donate. People who meet certain travel and other at-risk criteria for COVID-19 are deferred ahead of time from donating.



Pre-Screening Before Donors Come In

We have implemented screening processes including temperature checks **BEFORE** the donor walks into a donor center or mobile drive.



Social Distancing

We are spacing chairs 6 feet apart in waiting and donation areas.

We are limiting the amount of people permitted in the donor centers and mobile drives. We may ask you to leave a mobile phone number and wait in your car until your turn is called.

Our Staff Protocol

- Our staff wear gloves and personal protective gear; they wipe down donor-touched areas often and after every collection using a disinfectant.
- Staff use sterile, single-use collection sets for each donor and scrub the donor's arm for 30 seconds before the collection.
- We are requiring staff to self-monitor, including temperature checks, to ensure they are healthy before arriving to work.
- Staff who don't feel well are required to stay home.

VISIT [LStream.org/COVID-19](https://lstream.org/covid-19) for more info.



During this time of CoVid19 and Quarantine, blood has been in short supply but remains necessary to saving lives. The deacons of First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino with Lifestream are conducting a blood drive from 9 am to 2 pm Sunday, September 13.

Donors will receive a 9/11 T-shirt.

Sign up:

https://giftoflife.lstream.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/83246

If it takes is one hour of your time to save multiple lives. Thank you for being a blood donor.

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

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[LSTREAM.ORG](https://lstream.org)

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 LifeStream Blood Bank

September Celebrations

- Sep 3 Dan Schiavone
 Sep 4 Ed Congdon
 Sep 6 Norm & Christa Wallis
 Tom & Donna Garza
 Sep 7 Sally Inglis
 Sep 8 Deon Garcia
 Sep 9 Harry Babcock
 Jeanne Clark
 Larry & Melodee Kistner
 Rosalind & Ken Mantei
 Shelby Obershaw
 Ramon & Penny Ramirez
 Sep 10 Judy Steppins
 Christian Usher
 Sep 11 Jane Snyder
 Sep 12 Laurie Stafford
 Kelsey Smith
 Sep 13 Jeannie Marona
 Sep 15 Jennifer Shenton
 Sep 16 Robert Godby
 Sep 17 Bonnie Ainsworth
 Sep 18 Mindy Rueda
 Sep 19 Kimberly Ballard
 Sep 22 Al Rueda
 Sep 23 Michael Cummings
 Sep 24 Kyle Smith
 Sep 26 Jim Siegmund
 Kelli Vasquez
 Sep 30 Carmen Paredes

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of July 31, 2020

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Pledges	230,344.36	238,508.65	(8,164.29)
Other Income	42,043.34	28,409.35	13,633.99
Expense	273,054.81	333,527.68	(60,472.87)
Net Income	(667.21)	(66,609.68)	65,942.47

Division Consolidation

General Fund Net Income/(Expense)		(667.21)
Child Care Center Net Income/(Expense)		(81,641.91)
Deacons Net Income/(Expense)	<u>4,594.97</u>	
Net Operating Income/(Expense)		(77,714.15)

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 October issue of the

First Press:

Wednesday, October 23

Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

LCpl Jacob Allen

Cherry Point, North Carolina

PFC Ronaldo Fregoso

US Marine Corps, 29 Palms

Robert Hurley

US Army, Fort Benning, Georgia

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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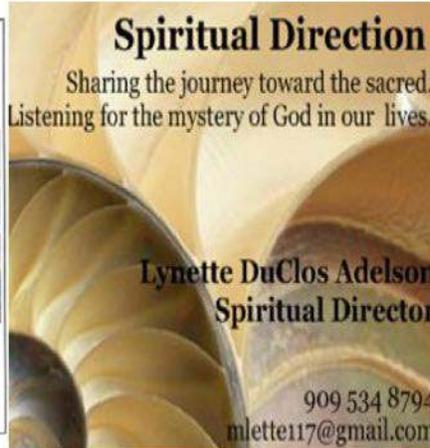


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