

# 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*



*Clockwise from top left: Bagpipes and Drums, people wait for worship to begin, Steve preaches, Brooke invites us to offer our pledges.*

## Thank You for Pledging

by Mimi Lange for the Stewardship Committee

On Reformation Sunday, we dedicated our pledges to support the church in 2021. In spite of threatening rain, the need for social distancing, the uncertain times, and the fact that so many of us had to stay home rather than risk coming to the service, we received 29 pledges for a total of \$149,076! **Thank you.**

This Stewardship season we emphasized Psalm 24, verse 1: "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it . . ." We sent a narrative budget to tell you how we continued to carry out God's mission in San Bernardino this year in spite of all obstacles, and how we plan to continue to do so next year!

If you missed the service, you can still hear it on YouTube. You can also see the pipers and a special blessing there. *You don't need to miss it.*

You also don't need to miss your opportunity to be a part of how we move forward with our mission in 2021. If you have not yet responded with your pledge, mail it in today, or call the church office and we will fill one out for you at your direction. You can help provide food for the hungry, comfort for the lonely, and inspiration for the soul. Remember Whom we serve, and remember that *every gift of any size is a response to the love that God has given so lavishly to us. We belong to God, and God's love for us never changes.*

### Office Hours:

**Monday-Thursday**  
**9am to 4:30 pm**

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*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.*

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## Pastor's Reflection

*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.*  
Galatians 6:9

As I sat down to reflect on the month—which flew by—I realized I was just listing things for which I am grateful. So here goes--

- I am grateful for Steve Smith. Knowing he will help me think through things, look at them from a different perspective, and bring up things I haven't thought of gives me confidence. He is also a terrific worship partner and I always appreciate his humor. I am extra grateful that he preached on Reformation Sunday.
- I continue to be grateful for Raymond. I don't think he—or any of us—had any idea what he was getting in to when he agreed to start filming. He has had a few moments of concern, but he's managed to work through them. We have had a service to post every Sunday.
- I am grateful for Dave Thomas and all the people who made the outdoor services work from the safe-reopening task force to ushers to worship committee members to musicians to all the people who came and followed the guidelines.
- I am grateful for Sharon Edwards and the Retreat, for Kristi Van Nostran coming back and joining us for the first gathering, and for Steve preaching Reformation. After three weeks of not preaching, it was kind of fun to preach again for this week.
- I am grateful for all the work that continues to be done. Listening to Brad on the 18<sup>th</sup> reminded me of all the Deacons are doing (see article). Reading through the Session committees' minutes, I am impressed by all the committee work that has been done and continues to be done, and how hands-on this Session is. Marilyn Kraft and Rick Rodriguez continue to spend many hours keeping various programs running smoothly. I am grateful for each one in the congregation who continues to minister through prayer, gifts, and service.

In this month, as we think in particular ways about gratitude, let us continue to be grateful and find hope in our gratitude.

~Wendy

## Zooming Together During the Season of Renewal

Each Sunday we offer a recorded worship service with prayers and music, scripture and sermon. We hope you have been worshipping with us through these services. Even when we can't be together, we can join in the same worship experience.

Meanwhile, we offer additional opportunities to gather via Zoom on Sundays.

**At 9:45 a.m.** a group begins to gather to chat together and then at **10:00 for a contemplative activity and reflection.** We end around 10:30 so people can view the worship service.

For the next several weeks, we will be offering a **Zoom Fellowship hour at 11:30 a.m.** View the service at 10:30 and then join us to check in with one another and reflect on what we have noticed, where we have seen the presence of God.

The above two opportunities will use our recurring **Season of Renewal Zoom Meeting ID.** A fresh invitation is sent out weekly, but, it's exactly the same ongoing.

**At 2:00 p.m.** the **Bible Study** group meets with Dale Showman leading a lesson or video viewing and discussion on Scripture topics. If you are interested in joining this group, let the church office know (call the office or email [pres.first@gmail.com](mailto:pres.first@gmail.com)), and Mimi Lange will send you an invitation.

If you haven't been Zooming, but you've been missing catching up with congregation members, come, give it a try. We'll see what works and move on from there.

**On Sunday, November 15, at 11:30,** we will hold a **Zoom Congregational Meeting** to elect officers and approve Pastor Sandy Tice's Terms of Call. If you haven't been zooming much, you may wish to give it a try before the Congregational Meeting day.

**A group Zooms together for the Mindful Photography class, one of the opportunities we have enjoyed in this Season of Renewal.**



## Deacon Activities

By Brad Smith

In spite of the challenges associated with the COVID virus your Deacons remain an active and energetic group.

Our moderator Judy Steppins, was in a serious car accident and remains in a rehab facility. She has been supported by Robin Edwards and Mary Beth Grindahl on a daily basis. Our prayers are with her. Martha Pinckney has stepped into the Moderator role and is doing a superb job leading us in these challenging times. She is getting more proficient each month with our Zoom meetings!

**Your Food Closet** continues to provide weekly bags of food in addition to our monthly food giveaway. Under the

leadership of Dan Direen, Marilyn Kraft, Rick Rodriguez and Dave Thomas, we have adapted our program to meet CDC guidelines while providing healthy food to our recipients.

In these times of social distancing and virtual church services **the Congregational Care committee** has been busy. With Carol Valentine's leadership we are increasing our phone calls and card mailings to members of our congregation to ensure no one is feeling disconnected from their church family.

**The Community Outreach committee** also remains vital. We thank those of you who participated in the recent blood

drive. We will be scheduling another one in 2021. We have developed a partnership with the local Salvation Army's Family and Children's program by providing books and a cash donation to assist. We also continue to support the men, and occasionally women, of CCLM by providing a Sunday evening meal on a bi-annual basis. We are hoping for support from our congregation to supply **blankets** to CCLM in December. We are looking for new or gently used blankets for the group. They can be brought to the church office Tuesday through Thursday. Please call ahead to make sure someone is in the office.

Our thanks to each of you for supporting our ministries!!!!!!

### Want to have your group meet safely at church?

The safe reopening of church committee is currently determining several outdoor areas for small groups to meet safely. If your Women's Circle, Bible Study or other group is interested in meeting at person at church, please let Mimi, Jon Horstmann or Dave Thomas know. In addition to the Magnolia Court meeting location we are developing several other safe spots that will include social distancing, masks and disinfection procedures, but we need your input to know how many groups may be interested.

--Dave Thomas, Committee Chair

*On the next page, see photos of the LifeSkillz Group safely meeting in Magnolia Courtyard. In this photo, the church staff met outside Fellowship Hall.*



### 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

### 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)



## LifeSkillz Meets under the Magnolia Trees

by Bobbi Cummings

It has been 7 months since COVID put a temporary end to our weekly Life Skillz Circle meetings at San Bernardino High School. We have missed them so much. Monday mornings just haven't been the same. We have texted them, participated in an outdoor distanced SBHS graduation, and tried a Zoom meeting. Our interns, under the watchful and careful eye of Rick Rodriguez and Mark Adelson, have continued to work at the church, making essential repairs and helping with the food closet. But until Saturday, we haven't been able to hold an in-person meeting.

Thanks to the amazing work of the Church's Safety Committee and set-up and management by Rick and the interns, we had our first outdoor, socially-distanced, masked, in person meeting with 19 of our Life Skillz students under the beautiful magnolia trees. Temperatures were taken, necessary precautions observed, but we ate (of course Cuties were involved), visited and basked in the joy of being together again. It was wonderful to be able to catch up with these resilient young people who are dealing with the COVID era with determination, creativity and optimism. Brooke, Rick, Stephani and I all felt our hearts overflow to be with these students. We will meet again next month and they are all excited that Sandy will be back with us!



### Congregational Meeting on November 15 at 11:30 via Zoom

Sun., Nov. 15 we will hold a Congregational Meeting to elect officers and approve Pastor Sandy Tice's Terms of Call.

### CoVid Safety Updates by Dave Thomas, Committee Chair

#### FPCSB becomes a CoVid Compliant House of Worship.

Several months ago the Safe Reopening of Church Committee explored the possibility of entering into a partnership with the County of San Bernardino as a COVID compliant business. In the past this partnership was limited to actual businesses such as restaurants and stores; however, the County expanded this partnership to include churches. We were required to provide our church's Code of Safe Practices for COVID prevention and other stipulations. I'm proud to announce our Church has been approved as a County Compliant House of Worship. This partnership commits us to being in full compliance with all COVID local and state regulations such as requiring proper facemask wearing, physical distancing and use of hand sanitizers. This partnership has also approved us for a \$2,500.00 grant for the purchase of personal protective equipment to help with the prevention of COVID. Please extend thanks to Dr. Jon and Nancy Horstmann for their diligent work on the application process to allow this to happen.

#### Is Your Cloth Facemask Unbearable to Wear?

Many members have expressed their difficulty in wearing cloth face masks. They can be difficult to breath thru and difficult to keep covered over your nose for the correct fit. The Safe Reopening of Church Committee has received a donation of paper masks from the County of San Bernardino at no cost. These masks have been found by many members to be easier to breathe through and with the adjustable plastic nose bridge is easier to conform to your nose for the proper fit. These masks are available to all members at no cost. If this is something you are interested in obtaining, please contact Dave Thomas or see one of the health screeners the next time we meet in person at church.

## Hygiene & Homeless Kit Drive



*In gallon zipper bag:*

### Hygiene Items:

- ☐ bar soap
- ☐ shampoo/body wash
- ☐ deodorant
- ☐ lotion
- ☐ toothbrush
- ☐ toothpaste
- ☐ dental floss or pic
- ☐ pack of tissues
- ☐ pick/comb
- ☐ razor
- ☐ emery board

### Homeless Comfort Kits:

- ☐ socks
- ☐ washcloth/compressed towels
- ☐ knit hat
- ☐ bandana
- ☐ rain poncho
- ☐ knit or work gloves
- ☐ blanket (as available)
- ☐ sanitizing wipes - 4
- ☐ nail clipper
- ☐ lip balm

*In quart zipper bag:*

### Women's supplement:

- ☐ sanitary pads – 4 various sizes
- ☐ tampons - 4

### Non-cooking bag supplement:

- ☐ Pocket can opener
- ☐ Napkins/compressed towels
- ☐ Plastic utensils

Donate through [Amazon wish list](https://www.amazon.com/wish-list) at <https://www.fpcsb.net/deacons> or bring to reception by Nov 15, 2020.  
Contact Marilyn K, [webadmin@fpcsb.net](mailto:webadmin@fpcsb.net) for questions.

*'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

*"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"*  
-Matthew 25: 37-40.



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(909) 882-3308 [WWW.FPCSB.NET](http://WWW.FPCSB.NET)



## San Bernardino Clergy Association



cordially invites you to join in worship and celebration at the

### 42nd Annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

which in compliance with the Covid-19 restrictions will take place virtually

**Monday - November 23, 2020 at 7:00 pm**  
**on [facebook.com/sanbernardinoclergyassociation](https://facebook.com/sanbernardinoclergyassociation)**

(Facebook account is not required to view the service)

**Reflections on**  
***“Even During These Difficult Times - What We Are Thankful For in 2020”***  
**by religious leaders of the greater San Bernardino area**

**Musical selection by virtual Community Choir**

Those wishing to participate in the Community Choir can email: [music@sbucc.org](mailto:music@sbucc.org)  
 and you will be sent the music and directions for sending in YOUR voice.

**A Drive-By Pre-Thanksgiving Food Collection**  
**will be held at**

**Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church - 6885 Del Rosa Avenue - San Bernardino**  
**Monday - November 23, 2020 - 11:00 am to 1:00 pm - 4:00 to 6:00 pm**

Please drive by and leave a donation of non-perishable food to feed the hungry of our community. Wear a mask. You will be met by volunteers to accept your offerings.

Or - make a monetary contribution which will be distributed to agencies in our community that feed the needy.

Checks can be made payable to San Bernardino Clergy Association and be sent to SBCA c/o First Congregational United Church of Christ, 3041 N. Sierra Way, San Bernardino CA 92404 or you can donate online by going to the San Bernardino Clergy Association for the link.

**LET'S LIGHT UP OUR CITY!!!**

**At exactly 8:00 pm on Monday, November 23rd, stand in front of your house with a flashlight**  
**and point it upwards for 60 seconds**  
**as a symbolic expression of your commitment to bring light to our city!!!**

## November Celebrations

Nov 1 Shelley Biddlecombe  
 Nov 2 Terri & Jorge Carlos  
       Noah Wierenga  
 Nov 3 Curtiss Allen  
       Wendi Bielinski  
       Steve Nolin  
 Nov 6 Josie Short  
 Nov 8 Cliff & Bobbi Cummings  
       Ken Mancha  
 Nov 9 Michael Gareau  
 Nov 10 Kelly Bingham Newton  
       Jerry Olsen  
       Martin Luther  
       Josie & Bob Short  
 Nov 11 Dwight & Linda Murray  
 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  
       Debra & Frank Law  
       Matthew Garcia  
 Nov 25 Sandy Tice & Tom Rennard  
       William Zeitler  
 Nov 26 Brad Smith  
       Chris Wright-Thomas  
 Nov 27 Dale Showman  
       Abigail Grace Willis  
       Bethany Rennard  
 Nov 28 Anne Fairchild  
 Nov 29 Norm Wallis  
 Nov 30 Sanai Wright

### Financial Notes

Financial Report as of September 30, 2020

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Pledges	\$ 294,997.32	306,653.99	(11,656.67)
Other Income	\$ 52,397.99	32,310.68	36,212.01
Expense	\$ 367,212.15	426,332.24	(59,120.09)
Net Income	\$ (19,816.84)	(83,466.24)	63,649.40

Division Consolidation	September	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	(12,585.81)	(19,816.84)
Child Care Center Net Income (Expense)	(1,701.32)	(95,138.74)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	(164.62)	538.90
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	(14,451.75)	(114,416.68)

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](mailto:newsletter@fpcsb.net).

**Deadline for the December/January issue of the  
*First Press*:**

**Monday, November 30**

(The December/January newsletter will be published the first week of December to allow for most updated information and your editor's vacation.)

## Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

**LCpl Jacob Allen**

Cherry Point, North Carolina

**PFC Ronaldo Fregoso**

US Marine Corps, 29 Palms

**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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