



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

First Press

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April 2021

Easter Is Coming



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No Ordinary Easter!

by Pastor Sandy Tice

The pandemic has seemed, liturgically speaking, like the longest Lenten Wilderness in history. It is high time, in my opinion, for some Easter joy, and I am delighted to share mine with you! As the vaccines roll out and the number of infections and deaths decrease, our Safe Reopening Committee has determined it is safe enough to have an outdoor gathering on Easter day!

Staff and volunteers are currently hard at work to make this possible and lovely. Plans are coming together swiftly, and I am very excited.

It will not be 'exactly like' other Easters. In order to do this safely, some things like being inside the sanctuary, hugging one another, and singing the Hallelujah Chorus will have to wait. These are the small sacrifices we make for each other, out of love for those who are not yet eligible for vaccines, and those who are most vulnerable. "Bear one another's burdens" scripture says, "and so fulfill the law of Christ". When we are kind to one another and show tenderness, we make the love of God visible in our midst.

We will meet outdoors in Magnolia Courtyard, and share our Easter Joy, giving voice to the hope that lives in us against all odds and beyond all circumstances. There will be music and beauty and gladness. And we will see each other! I hope you will come and share in this long-awaited day, but if you cannot, we will be livestreaming and recording the service so you might participate at another time or place.

(See Easter details and what to expect on next page)

Gifts from Sabbath Time

I am sitting outdoors on grass, using my trail chair to support my back as I type this. Why? Because this morning I felt overwhelmed (again) with the grief and the improvising and the changes that have been demanded by this pandemic. It is hard to be inspired to write when I feel this way. So I decided to remember what I learned on sabbatical this fall: that no matter what was in the news cycle, and no matter how lonely I felt traveling alone, and no matter how many acres were burning in wildfires- it helped me to get outside.



+just get yourself outside! This is one of my key learnings: that getting fresh air in my face and being outside my four walls really helps me to feel grounded, helps me to feel God's presence, helps shift my mood. It's not magic per se, but a function of my hard-wiring. I remember when Bethany was tiny and would cry inconsolably, (as babies do now and then) the thing that helped her was to carry her out the back door. She would gulp some fresh air into her lungs and instantly begin to settle. I do not understand precisely why it worked, but I know for certain that it did. Over and over again. I have come to believe that getting outside can help me find my voice, access the words to type, receive God's grace. I carry myself out and gulp some fresh air and settle. I recommend it.

+pivot, pivot, pivot! A second thing I learned is that I can shift gears, change course, and begin again. I deeply dislike change, and I dearly love my plans and my lists... but no plans were solid during my time away. Every diligent thing I had prepared had to be thrown out or revised or let go. I had to change reservations because parks I intended to visit were closed. Then things opened briefly- and then closed again. Some reservations had to be changed because of wildfires- parks were closed and whole areas were out of reach. Once I drove home after only one night of a 5-day reservation because the smoke had rolled in so thick while I was sleeping that I could not see across the street, never mind see the forest or hike safely. A dear friend came up with the word 'pivot' for this thing I had to keep doing, and I realize that it was the one constant through my leave: change, and then improvisation, and then another change. I am grateful to have learned that I can pivot better than I thought I could (I still don't like it...), and that I can have joy in the face of disappointment if I can shift my plan.

I am grateful as we approach Easter for having practiced the grace of being outside, and the value of being able to pivot- because that's what we will be doing on Easter morning.

You are deeply loved,

~Sandy

Easter Details

- Please arrive about half an hour early, we will screen everyone with a health check before worship begins
- Please bring and wear your mask (one can be provided for you)
- Ushers will help you find seating that keeps households 6 ft apart
- We will be outside- bring water or a hat if you wish
- Seating for those using a walker or wheelchair are available on walkways
- Restrooms will be available
- There will be an offering basket and we welcome your help- but it will not be passed
- There will be small Easter gift bags for children



What to Expect

We'll avoid high-risk things like handshakes, hugging, and group singing

We will not distribute bibles or hymnals

Except for bathrooms, the buildings are off-limits for now

We won't yet linger for coffee hour or visiting- briefer gatherings are safer just now.

Those who are feeling unwell are asked to stay home

If it's not possible to proceed with adequate safety, this plan is subject to cancellation.

Our tentative plan is to have at least one in-person gathering each month in the near future; stay tuned for details.



Notes

Join the New Tech Team-

We've learned a lot during this pandemic. One of the most important things we've learned is that when we live-stream and record our worship, then we open the table of Jesus wider and more folks can participate. We have had friends join us in worship from Ohio, from the hospital, from Japan, and even from their cars! I would never have imagined such things could be possible! As the danger of Covid-19 begins to recede and it becomes safer to gather in person, we want to continue our work of recording and livestreaming. We have been led this far by the talented Raymond Olivarez and Wendy Lamb; we have purchased essential equipment for recording and uploading (with a grant from our presbytery) and we have worked out most of the kinks. We have extended the Sound Booth to make room for videographers and uploading equipment (With a generous gift from the family of our dear Joan Carpenter). Now we are ready to equip a team to keep this going! Could this be you? Consider being a videographer/camera operator/LiveStream coordinator one Sunday per month. A brief explanatory video has been prepared for you, and Raymond will hold "Master Classes" to teach you what you need to know. No great technical skill or understanding is required, but we do need your heart and your hands. Help us be a church with a wider reach, making worship accessible and welcoming for those who cannot be with us in person.

Watch Raymond's Video: <https://youtu.be/eiSPMo94-JA>



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 May issue of the *First Press*:
Thursday, April 15**

In Memoriam

March 2021

Dorothy Morrison

d. March 7, 2021

"In life and in death we belong to God."

Financial Notes

Financial Report as of February 28, 2021

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges\$	73,621.21	63,333.30	10,287.91
Other Income	\$ 22,911.72	11,513.86	11,397.86
Expense	\$ 93,282.24	88,434.83	4,847.41
Net Income	\$ 3,250.69	(13,587.67)	16,838.39

Division Consolidation

	<u>February</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	(3,443.18)	3,250.69
Child Care Center Net Income (Expense)	(756.80)	(245.29)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	1,864.00	4,587.77
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	(2,335.98)	7,593.17

Directories are ready for you! Come get yours on Easter day!

After several years, we have a new directory of church members that can assist us in finding one another by mail, by phone, by email or by text. We have printed one for each household. If you come on Easter morning, there will be a table set up to distribute them (which saves us money on the postage). After Easter, we will mail the remaining directories to your home. Finding ways to connect has been so important this year, when regular ways of staying in touch (worship, coffee hour) have been unavailable. Please get and use a directory to sustain our sense of community and of belonging to one another. Note: we do not make these directories available to anyone who asks in order to protect your contact information.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, April 4, to elect an elder to complete an unfinished Session term.

Nurture Notes

Exploring the Vision

By Stephanie Fletcher, Nurture Committee Chair

I really struggled in 2020 with many things (working from home, helping my kids learn away from school, not seeing family and friends in person, and not going to church every Sunday) but throughout the whole year, I felt grounded in the love and steadfastness of our church community, and in particular our Nurture Committee. The Nurture Committee has been hard at work behind the scenes, sending out curriculum to our youth, meeting with our adolescents in Fellowship of the Carpenter, facilitating the weekly 9:30am adult education classes, and planning for the future spiritual education of our church!

Here are a few things that Nurture has helped facilitate:

- Advent curriculum was delivered to all families of small children prior to the first Sunday of Advent
- In conjunction with Worship Committee, four votive candles to use during the worship services of the Advent season were gifted to families with children.
- Families with toddlers were gifted a picture book and nativity sticker sets were given to them as well
- Advent curriculum using films was used for adult education series
- Lent curriculum was mailed to all families of small children prior to Ash Wednesday in February
- Caden Eckert, our new intern/apprentice, is excited to work with our Fellowship of the Carpenter youth on a confirmation class



Our committee has been discussing how to be leaders in this time of distancing and how to continue the vision of the Nurture Committee of developing a spiritual fellowship and educational ministry for the whole church. It has truly been a blessing to participate in the Nurture Committee and now to be chairing it. Thank you all for your love of learning and your dedication to our church family!

The Welcome Starts Now! *by Sandy Tice*

Some time ago, you enthusiastically supported a plan to create a House of Welcome, a spot where our immigrant siblings might rest for a day between their release from the Adelanto Detention Facility and connecting with their sponsors or family members. In spite of the pandemic and all the loss and uncertainty it has brought to us, you found a way to be creative and caring. Your creativity and willingness to risk is a sign of your responsiveness to the Spirit, who invites us to 'be strong and courageous'. As the situation has changed, so have the needs of detainees. The Accompaniment Ministry has partnered with St. John's Episcopal Church on Arrowhead to welcome 10 people who need housing for 6 to 9 months. These folks need a place to shower. Did you know we have the capacity to meet that need? We do! The former presbytery office at 1875 N D Street has a bathroom with a shower in it, and so we are making it available. The gas was turned on 2 days ago, and the water heater and thermostats are working. Instead of standing empty, this building will be used for ministry- extending our welcome to those who may feel like strangers. I invite you, whenever you take a shower or wash your face this week, to pray for those who will make use of this new initiative. May they feel bathed in God's love and ready for new beginnings. Our friend Kristi Van Nostran continues to co-ordinate this new ministry. You can email her at PresbyWelcome@gmail.com

Session 2021

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

Class of 2021: Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak,
Mark Freeman, Lynda Savage

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

Class of 2023: Jeanne Clarke, Susan
Skoglund, Alex Smith, Tim Usher

Board of Deacons 2021

**Martha Pinckney, Moderator;
Steve Smith, Pastoral Support**

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

Class of 2023: Rebecca Allen, Sharon Landeros,
Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Chris Thomas

JAMES!

by Margaret Doane, Stewardship

While we have been hunkering down for a year, Facilities Manager James Welte has been keeping our campus beautiful and in excellent repair. Pastor Sandy notes the work ethic and insight of this remarkable man: she says James is "the first person [she has] ever worked with [as Facilities Manager] who understands that the buildings and their beauty and cleanliness are an issue of hospitality: so that all may feel welcomed into God's house and find it an inviting space. He also understands that buildings that are well cared for are not only good stewardship, but speak of the value we place on why we gather here. James knows his work is ministry, knows it gives glory to God, knows that his joy and welcome are valuable assets, knows he is a deeply valued member of the team around here."

James came to First Pres eleven years ago. Prior to this, most of his work was in furniture delivery, in office and warehouse work and in delivery itself, mostly for Ethan Allen. He and wife Victoria have two children, James III who is thirty and works for Sherman-Williams paint in Springfield, Oregon; and Emily, who is 21 and has completed an Associates degree at Azusa Pacific and is about to enter nursing school there. James came from a military family and moved around a lot; he has lived in Oahu, El Toro, Laughlin, Bullhead City, Las Vegas, and now Perris.

James is extremely artistic. He sings and plays the guitar in bands and writes songs, including both music and lyrics. He does woodcarving and wood burning and has created both crosses and cigar-box guitars that can be seen at church, and



he took a pottery class offered here.

James has a "deep faith in Jesus Christ." He "gave himself to Jesus" at the First Baptist Church of Riverside, and he later attended Valley Vineyard Fellowship until it moved to Idaho. He describes his relationship with Christ as a cornerstone of his life.

James says he likes "pretty much everything" about his job, and especially likes working here "because of the great people." We are very lucky to have this hardworking, multi-talented man as our Facilities Manager. As Pastor Sandy says, "simply put, James is the BEST."

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

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

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation



Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership program was established in the Presbyterian Church to honor faithful service to the women's organization and to the church. An Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women honors an individual's faithful service in some area of church work. Women, men, moderators, leaders, teachers, officers, pastors, missionaries and staff receive this honor on or around

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday. Funds derived from Honorary Life Memberships support the PW Leadership Development Grant Program. Grants from this program enable individuals to engage in leadership development opportunities such as the Churchwide Gathering, Ecumenical Advocacy Days and the UN Commission on the Status of Women.



The Honorary Life Membership pin's overall design is of a butterfly, a symbol of newness in Christ. Each part of the butterfly's design represents Presbyterian Women's Purpose. The caring, supportive hands represent those who seek to build an inclusive community of Presbyterian Women. The leaf represents growth of our personal and corporate response to Jesus Christ as we nurture our faith. The dove indicates our work for peace in our own lives and throughout the world, shown in the globe. At the center of the design is the cross, by which our sins are forgiven and we are freed to live in Christ who is at the center of our lives.

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation's 2021 Honorary Life Member Recipients Lynda Savage and Ernie Garcia

Dr. Ernie Garcia (presented by Debbie Law): Recipients of Presbyterian Women's Honorary life membership transcend individualism and into the sacred character of our life together. Life-giving moments are everywhere and life-givers are abundant. Tonight's first honoree is recognized with our Honorary Life Membership in the company of the PC(USA)'s Stated Clerks J. Herbert Nelson and Gradye Parsons. He is a life-giver to the city of San Bernardino and someone who promotes a faithful and dignified life to those around him and in our church family.

As a Chicano man and son of immigrants, his holy and sanctified identity gives a diverse perspective to those who share life and those who seek to live faithfully by our Creator's name. Holy disruption is celebrating equity in our diverse identities and his experiences defined by his Mexican heritage and roots, contributed to his pursuit of education and love for the arts. Growing up in a segregated community and the physical strain of labor, making cement blocks and picking half -sacks of potatoes for 5 cents, he swore that his pursuit of education would destine him for college. Later with shifting demographics and ways for community mitigation of loss of employment, government and community arts programs exposed him to an outlet new to underserved communities. A gratitude and appreciation for the boundaries that education and arts engagement would break for those who have dared to dream created a multitude of spaces and involvement that gives life to our city and all who seek welcome. An arts center that bears his name in all of the heritage that lies within him, art programs that exist where children and young adults can learn and perfect their crafts, and a holy disruption that enriches the city of San Bernardino, are only some of his life-giving moments.

Presbyterian Women in the Congregation presents Honorary Life Membership to Dr. Ernie Garcia. PW thanks you for your story-telling, activism in creating spaces of inclusion through arts and education, and for your re-imagining of systems of faithful service through the ethics of life-giving love. Congratulations Ernie!

Lynda Savage (presented by Carol Valentine): The person I am going to honor has been quite active in our community and in our church. She has been a teacher and has been on the School Board. In our church she has been an Elder, has been moderator of the PWCT, and has been active on the Leonard Scholarship Committee.

She has been married to her husband for over 50 years. They have two children and 5 grandchildren.

It is my honor to present the Honorary Life Membership to Lynda Savage.



Dotti and Ernie Garcia and Phil and Lynda Savage enjoy breakfast together as they support the 2019 Triennium students.

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 in Your Prayers**

LCpl Jacob Allen,
 Cherry Point, North Carolina

Segeant 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, San
 Diego

CW3 James Bentley Wilson,
 US Army, Joint Base Lewis-
 McChord, WA

APRIL 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:30 AM Worship Service (YouTubeLive)	29	30 12:00 PM Lectio Divina (Zoom)	31	1 Maundy Thursday Service	2 Church Office Closed. 9:30 AM Kerygma	3 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
4 10:30 AM Worship Service (In person/Live Stream)	5 5:00 PM PW Coordinating Team	6 7:00 PM Circle of Faith	7 4:30 PM Worship Committee	8 4:00 PM Nurture Committee	9 9:30 AM Kerygma	10 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
11 10:30 AM Worship Service (Zoom)	12	13 6:30 PM Deacon Committees 7:30 PM Deacon Board	14	15 Deadline for First Press articles 9:00 AM Friendship Circle 5:30 PM Buildings & Grounds Committee	16 8:30 AM Food Bagging 9:30 AM Kerygma	17 9:00 AM Deacon Food Distribution 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
18 10:30 AM Worship Service (YouTubeLive)	19 10:00 AM Circle of Grace	20 7:00 PM M.A.L.E.s	21 5:30 PM Stewardship Committee	22	23 9:30 AM Kerygma	24 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
25 10:30 AM Worship Service (YouTubeLive)	26 7:00 PM Circle of Kindness	27 1:00 PM Circle Of Hope	28 5:30 PM SESSION	29	30 9:30 AM Kerygma	1 10:00 AM Straight Up AA

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

1900 North D Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 2729
San Bernardino, CA 92406
Office: 882-3308
email: pres.first@gmail.com
www.fpcsb.net

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
9am to 4:30 pm

The Rev. Dr. Sandy Tice
Pastor

Dr. Wendy Long Lamb
Commissioned Local Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Steve Smith
Pastoral Support

Caden Eckert
Seminary Intern

Melinda Rueda
Laurie Stafford
Ministry of Visitation

The Rev. Jim Huffstutler
Pastor Emeritus

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.