



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

First Press

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March 2021

Permission to Pause

Opportunities in Lent: Permission to Pause

What are your Lenten intentions?

As a congregation we are giving ourselves **Permission to Pause** this Lent.

We are using Marilyn Chandler McEntyre's book, *Where the Eye Alights*.

We have several opportunities to do this together (though still physically separated):

Sunday Worship. We are offering worship services either LiveStreamed or on Zoom. When they are LiveStreamed, you will be given a YouTube link ahead of time that you can click to watch the service in real time as it is being recorded on Sunday Morning. You can use the same link to watch it any time after it has started. On Communion Sundays and for special evening services, we will worship together by Zoom. This lets us break bread together simultaneously even though we are apart physically. For Zoom services you will receive a Zoom invitation on the morning of the service. You can click the link or use the Meeting ID and Password to join the service. You can also watch the service later on YouTube if you are not able to join at the time. **March 7: Zoom; March 14, 21, 28: LiveStream; April 1: Zoom Maundy Thursday.**

Tuesday Lectio. As we take Permission to Pause this Lenten Season, join us to pause and reflect together. On **Tuesdays at noon**, we offer a Zoom Lectio Divina group. We read scripture and meditations together and ask, what is the Spirit saying to me in this moment? Look for a Zoom link Tuesday morning to join this group.

Special Guest Marilyn Chandler McEntyre, author of the book of meditations we are using, plans to join us for an educational hour on March 7. Watch for details in your email.

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Pastor's Page**#SawdustInTheSanctuary!**

This was the caption on a photo texted to me by our skilled woodworker David Grindahl this week! He has continued work on our new tech booth in the back of the sanctuary to house videographers, uploading equipment, and the laptop that helps us to 'Livestream' worship.

He has been aided in his endeavors by many hands: Mark Adelson, Dan Direen, and James Welte to name a few.



First the half-pew was removed, then framing and reinforcing for the new booth were done. Beautiful wood paneling wrapped the structure, and corner reinforcements were added (see photo). Soon it will be stained to match the sound booth with which it is connected. All the while, we have been USING it- taping services and learning to use cameras- figuring out where to stand and where to place equipment so it doesn't fall, and other things you cannot imagine! In other words: we are building the plane while we are flying it!

Am so grateful for folks with gifts of craftsmanship and a love of beauty who use their gifts to honor God and bless the rest of us. I am grateful that as we get better at livestreaming, we will be able to continue to include in our worshipping community those who may be far away geographically. And I am grateful for the courage of our Session, willing to improvise and try new things and learn and build and experiment- even during these wildly uncertain times. In spite of all we are enduring, something is being built, something is growing, provision for a new thing is being made. God's inexhaustible creativity is being made visible as we find new ways of Being Church.

It is an extraordinary gift to journey with a congregation that makes Sawdust in the Sanctuary- both literally and metaphorically. I am so grateful!

~Sandy

**Financial Matters: Sorrow and Hope**

At a special called meeting of the Session to deal with our budget crisis, the Session reluctantly made changes in order to address our projected \$80,000 shortfall in 2021. We want to you to know what we have done to begin to address the problem.

Cost of Living adjustments for all staff salaries were removed.

The position of Saturday groundskeeper that has been faithfully executed by Mark Freeman for more than 10 years, was closed.

We reluctantly determined we cannot reopen our Child Care Center, which closed in March 2020 due to Covid. (more on p. 6)

Other reductions were made to line items in the budget, and all committees were asked to find savings wherever they can.

The good news? We have received some new pledges, which is a source of great hope. We are utilizing monies from grants for things like new doors and fencing upgrades. We are using bequests and memorial gifts where we can (see #Sawdust, above). We are trusting in God's love which has never failed us.

We plan to revisit our budget numbers every quarter this year, and to make adjustments as necessary- so we will have more to report after our March meeting.



Notes

Each year the nominating committee works to discern and ask those who will serve the next year.

The 2020 Nominating Committee was amazing. As a group we prayed to be given hearts to see the gifts of those in our congregation who might serve as elders, deacons and on the 2021 Nominating Committee.

--Lynette DuClos Adelson for the Committee

Financial Notes

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Pledges	\$ 34,939.05	31,666.63	3,272.42
Other Income	\$ 14,241.98	6,756.89	7,485.09
Expense	\$ 41,834.86	44,347.96	(2,513.10)
Net Income	\$ 7,346.17	(5,924.44)	13,270.61

Division Consolidation

	<u>December</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	7,346.17	7,346.17
Child Care Center Net Income (Expense)	511.51	511.51
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	2,723.77	2,723.77
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	10,581.45	10,581.45

Newsletter Schedule Change

Beginning this month, we are shifting the newsletter deadline and publishing schedule slightly. **All articles will be due by the 15th of each month** so that the newsletter can be published the week before the new month.

Particularly in this time where we are not meeting every week, and we are not having conversations each week over coffee and donuts, it is vital to keep one another informed. Publishing the newsletter just a little earlier will allow people to know what is happening ahead of time and plan accordingly.

Meanwhile, there is no need to wait for a deadline to send in a newsletter article. Whatever your ministry or group is doing, write it up and send it to newsletter@fpcsb.net. At the end of a Zoom Committee meeting, ask one another, what would the congregation want to know about what we are doing? Write it up while it is fresh and send it in.

Let us help one another stay in community.

--Wendy

Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

LCpl Jacob Allen,
Cherry Point, North Carolina

Sergeant 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

Our YouTube Channel

You can find our worship services videos each week at our YouTube Channel: First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino. You can search for it each week. You might also subscribe to the channel.

We have always paid for licenses for the music we sing and print. This year we have added a dimension to the license to allow us to post recordings with music to YouTube. The terms of this license allow us to keep the videos posted for a year; therefore, we will be beginning to take down videos from last year. If there is any service from the last 52 weeks you were hoping to catch, you might wish to go ahead and do that.

Getting to Know Caden Eckert

by Margaret Doane, Stewardship

Pastor Sandy wrote a brief introduction to our new Intern, Caden Eckert, in last month's First Pres: that she attends Fuller Seminary, is married to med student Nick and mother of Olive, that she will begin a nine-month apprenticeship in March that will include conducting a confirmation class this Spring, and that she will work with both Wendy and Sandy.

Interns are very dear to our identity as a teaching congregation, and we have almost no opportunity right now to know Caden better in person: no coffee-hour chats, no after-services conversations, no around-campus visits. Below are some things about Caden we normally would find out, if we actually could see Caden.

Caden grew up in Indiana in the "small-ish town" of New Albany. Caden, at 25, is the oldest of three and has two brothers, Malachi (23) and Asher (22). She is the first person in her family to go to college, attending Lee University, a small Christian college supported by the Church of God. Being at a conservative college was "pretty shocking" since Caden had attended a non-denominational mega-church her whole life.

Caden and Nick have been friends since middle school and went to church together. They sat together on a couch one night and felt "instant love" and haven't "spent more than a few days apart since." During their senior year in high school, on a trip to Guatemala, they "separately felt the same call to ministry." They attended Lee together and married after their freshman year. They both majored in Intercultural Studies, and Caden minored in Teaching English as a Second Language. She initially didn't see herself in pastoral leadership but decided to attend Fuller after they moved to California so that Nick could attend medical school.

Caden and Nick will teach a confirmation class in the Spring and hope to "do a retreat or two with those getting confirmed." She "will be preaching some and working on . . . pastoral care under the mentorship of Sandy and Wendy." Pastor Sandy says both she and Wendy "look forward to working with Caden: her sharp mind, open heart, her sense of humor and her desire to learn and explore are a source of joy."

Caden enjoys "being outside, having coffee, drinking wine, being around people, and talking." She loves to "cook and read and write," to interact with Nick and watch Olive grow. Favorite authors include Father Greg Boyle, Amy Peterson, Sarah Theborge, Donald Miller, John Perkins -- and she is "absolutely obsessed with the Harry Potter series."

We welcome Caden and are delighted she will be an Intern with us!

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Mar 2	Kristine French	Mar 18	Rebecca Nelligan
	Lynda Savage		Todd & Elizabeth Wright
	Kurt Star	Mar 20	Jerry Martin
Mar 3	Teofila Rosemarie Fletcher	Mar 22	Laura Munz
	Asher Gano	Mar 23	Ann Aguilera
Mar 5	Joyce Lyons		Grant Garcia
Mar 7	Kathy Showman	Mar 24	Randy French
Mar 9	Sherman Ballard		Linda Saenz
	Brent & Joanna Nord	Mar 26	Marianna Fowles
Mar 12	Richard Rodriguez	Mar 27	Noah Alarcon
Mar 13	Adam Kistner		Noé Falconi
	Dotti Garcia	Mar 29	Reyna Jones
Mar 14	Kevin Coyne		Stephanie Ross
	Breanna Nord	Mar 30	Debora & Ron Holk
	Norma Woodward		Emma Kern

February Session Synopsis

by Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

The Session met on February 24th and Sandy introduced Caden Eckert, seminary student at Fuller Theological Seminary. She will be doing her apprenticeship with First Pres for nine months beginning in March. Caden and her husband, Nick, joined our congregation in 2019. She explained what led them to this church and what kept them coming back. Her husband, Nick, is a medical student at Loma Linda. When they both complete their studies in spring, 2022, they very likely will relocate based on Nick's residency placement. In the meantime, Caden will work with Sandy and Wendy on various aspects of church ministry, including being involved in a youth confirmation class this spring.

Another major topic of discussion was the status of the House of Welcome. In the past 6 months a number of things have changed, and Kristi Van Nostran joined us to explain more fully. The need for short-term overnight stays has diminished while there is a need for long-term housing which is being facilitated by St. John's Episcopal Church on Arrowhead. The primary need at this time is a shower facility which 1875 N. D Street can provide. We will be working with Kristi to determine the logistics of making this happen. We also have laundry facilities which may be of help.

We discussed two articles, one by Maryann McKibbin Dana entitled "Success, Faithfulness and Failure" which explored how to measure the success of a church - is it solely the number of people in worship each week or the impact of the ministries? The second, by Bruce Reyes-Chow, former moderator of General Assembly, posed questions about what church will look like moving forward out of the pandemic. Both articles provided food for thought and if anyone would like to read them, please contact the church office or Amy Smith.

Other agenda items included funding mold/asbestos removal in the restrooms by the classrooms, planning for Lent, and updates from the committee tasked with safe re-opening for worship.

Reflections shared at the end of the meeting included how we are happy to serve whenever and wherever needed and a comment that the fruits of our labor don't always end up being what we expect!

Session 2021

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

Building & Grounds: Alex Smith (chair), Mark Freeman, Tim Usher

Financial Stewardship: Brooke Dvorak (chair), Margaret Doane, Susan Skoglund

Nurture: Stephanie Fletcher (chair), Jeanne Clarke, Lynda Savage

Worship: Mary Bolaños (chair), Carol Cooper

Board of Deacons 2021

Martha Pinckney, Moderator; Steve Smith, Pastoral Support

Congregational Care: Carol Valentine (chair), Robin Edwards, Sharon Landeros, Joyce Lyons, Martha Pinckney, Sue Zeidler

Community Ministry: Marianna Fowles (chair), Rebecca Allen, Carmen Avila, Janet McKinster, Joanna Nord

Food Program: Dan Direen (chair), Mark Adelson, Jim Siegmund, Chris Thomas

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 April issue of the

First Press:

Monday, March 15

Child Care Center – from Personnel Committee

For 30 years the First Presbyterian Child Care Center has been a place where children “learn to love, and love to learn”. It has been an integral part of our ministry and mission, and a source of pride.

In March 2020 we were forced to close the Center temporarily for the sake of the safety of the children, their families and our staff. We were grateful to be able to secure a PPP loan which enabled us to pay teachers for several months. When those funds were gone, we made another difficult decision to furlough all FPCCC staff.

As we have struggled to balance our budget, we realized that ‘life as usual’ would not return any time soon. We determined that we would not be able to re-open the Center in the foreseeable future, and we notified the staff in writing. Many factors went into this difficult decision, and it was not made in haste. In fact, it has been especially poignant because we value and appreciate the love, dedication and effort the Center represents. No one wanted to let it go.

We hope in the near future to find a way to remember, celebrate and honor the staff, all 5 of whom served families in our name for more than 15 years. Perhaps our next newsletter will offer profiles and photographs, and some personal stories of this wonderful work.

We marvel at the kids whose lives have been enhanced by this Center and have a great pride in the initiative First Pres took so many years ago. We have a sense that lives were enriched in this ministry, and we hold out hope even in this difficult and unpredictable time, that the investment in young lives will continue to ripple out.

We are thankful for all the members of the congregation who have supported the Center and its staff in so many ways: donations toward scholarships, Alternative Christmas Market, gifts for families, art supplies, and so much more. This tangible love matters, and love never dies.

Respectfully, the Personnel Committee: Amy Smith, Brooke Dvorak, Susan Skoglund and Christa Wallis

A Word about Covid-19 from the FPCSB Reopen Church Task Force

The Reopen Church Task force wishes to remind the congregation that we must first control the Covid-19 pandemic in order to safely return to in-person worship services on the church campus. To help us to determine when to reopen our church in a safe manner, the Task Force is meeting regularly and monitoring the California and San Bernardino County Covid-19 public health statistics, as well as following the recommendations of the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC). The encouraging news is that we are now moving in the direction of a limited reopening, as people are now increasingly adhering to the CDC recommendations. We review some of the important CDC guidelines here:

- 1.You should wear a face mask covering your mouth and nose when you are with others who are not members of your household. A well fitted surgical mask or a disposable mask covered by a cloth mask are best, but any facial covering is better than none.
- 2.Please maintain at least 6 feet between yourself and others who are not members of your household. Outdoor venues are much safer than indoor venues with less potential spread of the Covid-19 virus. When socializing with others who are not of your household, you are much safer being either out of doors, or communicating by telephone, email, texting, letter or by an internet platform such as Zoom or Facetime.
- 3.Remember to wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, and limit touching your mouth and nose.
- 4.**Get Vaccinated against Covid-19 as soon as vaccination is available to you**

A word about Covid-19 vaccines:

- 1.The presently available and soon to be approved Vaccines in the US are very effective in preventing death and severe Covid-19 illness requiring hospitalization.
- 2.Remember, each person vaccinated for Covid-19 reduces the amount of virus which can circulate in the community. This significant reduction in viral burden in a population leads to much less emergence of new Covid-19 variants. As we are learning, some Covid-19 variants may be both more contagious and more virulent than the Covid-19 virus we are now experiencing.

**Please keep in mind that your personal decision to be vaccinated for Covid-19 will not only help yourself to avoid severe Covid illness, but will also benefit your friends, your loved ones, your community and the entire world.

--from your FPCSB Reopen Church Task Force

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MARCH 2021

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

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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Pastor

Dr. Wendy Long Lamb
Commissioned Local Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Steve Smith
Pastoral Support

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.