



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

# First Press

Volume 58, Issue 7

August 2021



## In this issue

Pastor's Page.....	2
Livestreaming.....	3
Dishes.....	3
Scam Alert.....	3
Financial Notes.....	3
Marion Sischo.....	4
Vaccine Event.....	4
Captain Dave.....	5
Congregational Care Update.....	6
Celebrations.....	6
Calendar.....	8

## "I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!"

We have been saying this each week as we have gathered once again in our sanctuary. We are glad to be together. We are glad to be surrounded by familiar symbols. We are glad to hear the choir sing (though we still long to sing ourselves). We are also glad to be continuing to meet with our community through livestream. We can be together and we can be welcoming to all in whatever way we can gather.

On **Sunday, July 25**, we had our first baptism in 2 years. We gathered around the Morales family as Pastor Sandy baptized Eli. On **Sunday, August 1**, we will celebrate communion in person for the first time since March 2020. We are using pre-packaged elements. We will invite those attending to come forward, take a cup, return to your seats, and receive the elements together. Those who are attending online are invited to prepare elements and join in. We are glad to celebrate the sacraments.



On **Sunday, August 8**, we will focus on education and pray for those--students, teachers, administrators, and others--going back into schools and classrooms, some for the first time since March 2020. We are glad!

## Our Story in a time of Change

My favorite questions are the kind that keep coming back to me, that stir in me things I cannot quite answer. "What do you think the strengths of this church are?" is one of those, posed by elder Margaret Doane as an idea for this newsletter piece. Such a good question. It has been provoking me for weeks! Then I read an article by Diana Butler Bass saying that for the first time in 40 years, mainline churches appear to be growing, while white evangelical churches have been declining. She sees this as a major shift, and says,



*"When a major religious shift is underway, there's nothing more important than to tell your story. The people who are brave enough to walk in your doors or spend time reading your website can't read your mind and don't remember the former pastor or the beloved member who died twenty years ago. They don't want to know when the building was renovated or who donated the windows. Your story isn't a timeline - it is about the spirit of community, what motivates you, where you find meaning, your hopes and fears and gifts."*

**So what is our story, the spirit of our community?** Here are a few thoughts...

**We are people who believe that the Holy One is alive and at work** here and now: in the whispered knowings of our hearts, in the joy we feel working shoulder to shoulder, in the sense of we have of being guided as a community.

**Our faith is active-** our faith is not just something we Believe, but something we Do- we try to live as followers of Jesus. We practice what we preach. We care for each other, certainly, we also aim to love folks who are not members of our community because we believe God loves them and has called us to do the same.

**We understand that all ministry is reciprocal-** When we serve others, we do not believe we are 'helping the less-fortunate', but discovering that, as St. Francis said, "it is in giving that we receive".

**All are welcome here-** we welcome all, just as Jesus has welcomed us. As guests or friends or members, whatever your spiritual background or human condition.

**Willing to try new things-** We have long & cherished traditions (love for the arts, celebration of the liturgical year, lifelong learning). We also trust that sometimes God wants to do "a new thing"! We work to trust God and each other, and to experiment (and even fail!), then pivot and try again. The pandemic has actually strengthened this quality.

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## Make Your Faith Visible

In March of 2020 when everything shut down, we wondered how to continue to be a church. Many of our volunteers were in the most at-risk group for Covid: those over 65.

We improvised, leaning heavily on our high school interns who turned out to be a great resource, we also called on members who were under 65 and we reconfigured and reshaped many of our practices.

Now, as many of us are vaccinated and we are beginning to be gather again, we find we are in real need of volunteers! Would you like to feel more connected to this congregation? Might God be calling you to make a contribution? We will, in the coming weeks, need volunteers for

Assistance in the Office+ Assistance with Fellowship Hour (set up, clean up)+ Assistance with Food Ministry (several different tasks available)+ Choir (if you are fully vaccinated)+ ushering on Sunday mornings+ safety team members + lectors/lay readers for worship+ folks who can provide breakfast items for LifeSkillz+ receptionists in the office+ Tech Crew for worship (once a month or so) take video, learn to run the livestream video set-up, run the sound board.

Some of these tasks are on weekdays, others in the evening or on Sundays. Some can be done periodically (once a month or once a quarter or once a year), others require more regular commitment. Please call the church office if you are interested, we are compiling lists of people who are willing, and then equip them to do their tasks. If there is something you would like to do that is not listed, please contact us!

Saint Teresa of Avila said this "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world." Friends, let us be the people of God!

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## Notes

**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 September issue of the *First Press*: Sunday, August 15**

Wendy formats the newsletter based on space and size. Please simply send me copy (text either in an email or attached in a document) and photos (attached to the email, not embedded in a Word document) so I can use them as they fit in the newsletter design. We hope to hear from a multitude of voices from within the congregation. 1 or 2 photos with each story is wonderful!

### Dishes

As we re-enter our buildings and resume some of our in-person gatherings, we need to make some adjustments. Many of us have become accustomed to leaving dirty dishes in the dishwashing room assuming that someone on staff will wash them.

In order to cut costs last year, we reduced our facilities staffing by 8 hours per week (about 17%), which means there are fewer staff hours available for all sorts of things: cutting grass, sweeping floors, blowing leaves, and... washing dishes. Please do your part by washing your own dishes when you can, and if you are uncertain, check with the office in advance of your event to determine whether we can provide dishwashing services or not.

Generally using real dishes and washing them in a commercial machine saves water and money and keeps things out of the landfill. However, using a commercial machine for just a few items is not so effective- it would be better for Creation if we washed them by hand.

We can figure this out!

### Beware of Scams

There are a number of internet phishing scams that target members of faith communities. Often these come as an email from someone pretending to be the Pastor or other church staff requesting that a member purchase gift cards for a church project of charitable effort. Often the emails instruct the recipient NOT to call the staff person because they are tied up in meetings.

Please know that no member of FPCSB's staff would email or text a church member or friend requesting that they make any kind of financial transaction on behalf of the staff person or the congregation. If you receive an unexpected message from one of us asking you to do this, please delete it and report the incident to the church office. If you are ever unsure if a particular email is actually from a member of our staff, please verify with a phone call to the staff person or to the church office.



**First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino**

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### FPCSB Online: YouTube & Zoom

Though we have now returned to in-person worship in the sanctuary (with precautions), our livestream and other online offerings remain important.

People tune in to livestream services from across the country and the world as well as from nearby as the online option allows for comfort and safety.

If you are livestreaming, consider inviting someone to join you. Watch together in your separate spaces and call each other or text each other during the service or right after.

People meet via Zoom from all over for studies and meetings. We are setting up a hybrid station so people will be able to continue to zoom in to meetings.

Finally, there is this: while there were more than 300 present for Sally Morris's memorial service, there have also been almost 200 views of the livestream.

This is new and important work we are doing. Thank you to all who are making it succeed.

### Financial Notes as of June 30, 2021

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Pledges	\$199,556.71	189,999.98	9,556.73
Other Income	\$ 45,307.86	30,241.74	15,066.12
Expense	\$264,207.28	261,384.59	2,822.69
Net Income	\$ (19,342.71)	(41,142.87)	21,800.16

### Division Consolidation

	<u>June</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	322.78	(19,342.71)
Child Care Center Net Income (Expense)	(1,141.94)	(3,610.50)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	2,138.09	10,045.35
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	1,318.93	(12,907.86)

*What happens when I give to the Endowment Fund?*

## Marion Sischo, Music and Worship go on . . . .

*by Mimi Lange, Stewardship and Endowment*

When someone chooses to make a gift to the Endowment, it enables the church to do things that would not be possible otherwise.

Marion Sischo was a member of First Presbyterian Church. She was also a musician, a writer, and a lover of the arts. She played the cello. She sang alto with the Bloomington Women's Club Choral Section. She was a teacher and Music Director of Colton Public Schools. She was one of seven siblings. She wrote a history of this church from the founding to 1982. (She was born in 1904, and she died in 2003. She spent her life creating and encouraging beauty and giving glory to God.



Sischo, Marion

An endowment fund was created in Marion's name, the Marion Sischo Music and Worship Fund, and it has done so many things through the years:

- It paid for improvements and repairs to our pipe organ.
- It paid for musicians in lean years when we could not otherwise have had the brass musicians at Christmas and Easter.
- It paid for the choir folders that our choir uses today.
- It has financed guest preachers and artists to enhance our worship.
- It built the sound booth at the back of the sanctuary.
- It has purchased sound equipment for our worship services.

It helped to pay for our videography and livestreaming as we have had to learn to do church a little differently—and helped us to include those who cannot attend physically in our worship services!

So when you hear William playing the organ, when you watch worship services you are unable to attend, when you are able to hear the pastor preach and the choir sing, when the music in our services stirs your heart and soul, remember Marion Sischo with thanks for the gifts of a life well-lived, and a legacy that continues giving to our church today.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, . . . encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. – Hebrews 10:24-25*

## Invite someone to our Vaccine Event!

During our next Saturday food distribution, on **August 21, the Lestonnac Free Clinic** will be offering the **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine to anyone 12+ yrs old** (minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian)

On the following Saturday food distribution, Sept 18, the second dose will be offered.

**No appointment required.**

**Walk-In from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

In the **Fireside Lounge & patio**

For more vaccine information or questions, please call 909-881-4800

***Food ministry can use your help with this event.***

1. Bagging groceries on Friday, Aug 20. Help! Our high school interns are back in school!
2. Food distribution & Vaccine event – Extra help needed to direct & assist our guests.

*Contact Rick Rodriguez through the office if you can volunteer for food distribution.*

(If you are busy on weekends, we still need volunteers to help distribute food on Tuesday and Thursday mornings!)



## Captain Dave

During our first Sunday morning worship service back in the sanctuary, we honored Dave Thomas who has been heading our safety measures.

Here is what Pastor Sandy said:

As Dave is coming forward, let me say that you may not know who you are looking at here- You might recognize Dave who is married to Chris (he proposed at Family Camp), who often wears, along with the team he has recruited and trained, an appallingly yellow vest To identify our safety crew.

Dave is a retired firefighter and EMT. He saves lives.

And he has saved my life these last 2 years, over and over

so: a proclamation for you:

*Whereas you have been here week after week,*

*Pulling weeds, mowing grass, and doing unseen acts of service,*

*Whereas you have Met with contractors and door installers and roof repairers and mold abatement guys, and supervised their work,*

*Whereas you have chaired a committee that has kept us safe,*

*and built a team to do the same,*

*Whereas you have brought a positive spirit and good cheer with you – even in a pandemic*



*Whereas You have looked after us as if we were family, and so helped us feel God's love...*

*Therefore! We hereby proclaim you Captain of Our safety team,*

*and a Hero of this congregation!*

The Session wanted to thank you and wanted to do it publicly. So we present you these gifts (yellow safety jacket, gift card).

When you get a chance, do express your appreciation to Captain Dave.

## 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, Melodee Kistner

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

## Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

**LCpl Jacob Allen,**

Cherry Point, North Carolina

**RCT Jeremy Allen,**

San Diego, California

**PFC Ronaldo Fregoso,**

US Marine Corps, 29 Palms

**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



## August Celebrations

- Aug 1 Amy Gano  
Carol Valentine
- Aug 2 Dotti & Ernie Garcia
- Aug 4 Dana Babb
- Aug 8 Tim Usher
- Aug 9 Jackie McKee
- Aug 10 Aaron Saenz
- Aug 11 Ryan Michael Mantei  
Brent Nord  
Kurt & Lisa Star
- Aug 15 Alexia Aguilar  
Ashley Ballard  
Ramon Ramirez
- Aug 17 Joanne Ballard  
Rosemarie Evans  
Ethan Gano
- Aug 19 Aaron Rueda  
Molly Earp
- Aug 20 Elle Carlos
- Aug 22 Gary Bobbitt
- Aug 23 Megan Dunn
- Aug 25 Gill & Jane Snyder
- Aug 26 Beatrice Star  
Valentina Valenzuela
- Aug 27 Jessica Edwards
- Aug 28 Sarah Alyda Fletcher
- Aug 29 Jim & Sheila Cimino
- Aug 30 Wanda Gernux  
Shannon Nolin

## Congregational Care

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY!** Well, not quite July since by the time you read this it will be August. But with the rays of light at the end of a long Covid tunnel, it seems that we will once again be able to do some of the things that we have had to set aside for over a year. And this truly is a reason to celebrate!

Did you know, so one legend goes, that Christmas in July began in 1933 at Keystone summer camp for girls in North Carolina? They set aside July 24th and 25th for their "Christmas." It was a way to think about the cooler days of winter while suffering the sweltering heat of summer. They had fake snow made from cotton balls, a decorated Christmas tree, carols, a Santa, and gift exchange. It's a tradition that is still celebrated at the camp today. It wasn't until the 1950s that retailers jumped on the bandwagon and made it a time for pre-Christmas sales.

Since Carol Valentine is leaving for the wilds of Ohio, I have been asked to lead the deacons' Congregational Care Committee. I've already started thinking about things we can do as a church to celebrate and regain our sense of community. Some of the committee's responsibilities include preparing the elements for communion, organizing receptions for funerals, making and sending cards to our shut-ins, and planning some social events for the church family. The committee consists of Robin Edwards, Joyce Lyons, Sharon Landeros, and myself.

We had the sad privilege of organizing the funeral reception for the Morris family following Sally's passing. Being a part of this was an honor as the family, friends, and community came together to celebrate Sally's life and all that she did and meant to us.

We also had too much fun organizing the Fourth of July Ice-Cream Social. We had to do it a bit differently than in the past. We followed safety protocols so that we had a "safe and sane" ice cream eating time. It didn't seem to matter that all items had to be pre-wrapped. Watching everyone sitting outside, eating their ice cream, and visiting with friends and family was just perfect. I felt like we should have piped in ice-cream truck music. It reminded me of hot summer days long past when I would be out playing with friends, hearing the ice-cream truck music in the distance, and everyone running to quickly gather change in order to purchase a cool treat.

It may have taken a committee to begin the organization, but it was a whole church effort to make these two events happen. Thank you to all who jumped in to help in so many ways. I look forward to the many events we will be enjoying together in the future.

~ Sue Zeitler

## Board of Deacons 2021

**Martha Pinckney, Moderator; Steve Smith, Pastoral Support**  
**Congregational Care:** Sue Zeitler (chair), Robin Edwards, Sharon Landeros, Joyce Lyons, Martha Pinckney, Carol Valentine  
**Community Ministry:** Marianna Fowles (chair), Rebecca Allen, Carmen Avila, Janet McKinster, Joanna Nord  
**Food Ministry:** Dan Direen (chair), Mark Adelson, Jim Siegmund, Chris Thomas





**When did we See you?**  
Matthew 25: 31-45

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**AUGUST 2021**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:30 AM Worship Service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 4:30 PM Worship Committee	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30 AM Kerygma	<b>7</b> 8:30 AM SJO rehearsal 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
<b>8</b> 10:30 AM Worship Service (in person/YouTube Livestream)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM Deacon Committees 7:30 PM Deacon Board	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 4:00 PM Nurture Committee	<b>13</b> 9:30 AM Kerygma	<b>14</b> 8:30 AM SJO rehearsal 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
<b>15</b> 10:30 AM Worship Service (in person/YouTube Livestream)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00 PM M.A.L.E.s	<b>18</b> 5:30 PM Stewardship Committee	<b>19</b> 5:30 PM Buildings & Grounds Committee	<b>20</b> 8:30 AM Food Bagging 9:30 AM Kerygma	<b>21</b> 9:00 AM Deacon Food Distribution 10:00 AM Straight Up AA 1:00 PM SJO rehearsal
<b>22</b> 10:30 AM Worship Service (in person/YouTube Livestream)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:30 PM SESSION	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30 AM Kerygma	<b>28</b> 8:30 AM SJO rehearsal 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
<b>29</b> 10:30 AM Worship Service (in person/YouTube Livestream)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 4:30 PM Worship Committee	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:30 AM Kerygma	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM Straight Up AA

**First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino**

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[www.fpcsb.net](http://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.*