

*Those who go out weeping, bearing their seed for sowing, shall return home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.*

*~Psalm 126:6*



*2021 Confirmation Class & Sponsors*

**First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino  
Narrative Budget for 2022**



# Return Again

*Return again, return again,  
Return to the home of your soul...*

It is a season of returning- gradually and safely- to things we have loved and missed and longed for. As we return to a world in which we can gather and be present to one another, where we can worship in our spiritual home, we reflect On God's abundant and expansive love that has sustained us.

Each year in this season trees release their leaves,  
while fields offer up their harvest.

What are we, as a community, invited to 'let go of',  
and what is bearing fruit that strengthens and astounds us?  
It is tempting to worry, to think in terms of scarcity, to be anxious  
about tomorrow- as the first disciples were!

**But the invitation is to trust and to love and to give.**

Can we be as beautiful as autumn leaves released in hope;  
as generous as a field offering up bounty?

Each fall we ask one another **what the Spirit is calling us to do  
and be in the year ahead**, our answers are informed by reflecting  
on the year that is coming to a close:  
its challenges, changes, & abundant gifts.  
And so here is your narrative budget.

This document has been organized to match what we say we want to be about:

*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 use their special gifts**  
to care for and value, as God's Beloved,  
each other and the community in which we live.*

**Our estimated budget for 2022 is \$582,164.00**

*Proclaim the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through...*  
**Worship & Celebration 2022 Estimate: \$208,727.00**

2021 required a lot of us! **We faced uncertainty, frustration, and setbacks, but you responded with grace, courage and resilience.** When it seemed safe to gather, we met first in Magnolia Courtyard. Later we tried worship indoors in the Fellowship Hall. Finally, we re-entered our beloved Sanctuary. **The Safe Re-Opening Team** provided guidance & wisdom. They **found grants** to purchase **Personal Protective Equipment (including EZ-Ups and heaters)**, and to offset the cost of **improving airflow in Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and Fireside.**

We imagined and celebrated **our first indoor memorial services** in over a year, hosting joyful and tender gatherings to remember former staff member **Ken Tuttle**, and our beloved **Sally Morris**. Both services (and their receptions) required creativity and intention, and both were filled with the unmistakable love of God. We livestreamed them, so more people could participate than can fit in our sanctuary! It was holy work and we did it well.



**Pastors Sandy, Wendy and Steve** continued to lead **worship**, with the help of the Committee, keeping pace with changes and adapting to new demands of livestreaming; then leading in person (while livestreaming at the same time.) Attendance is wildly unpredictable, but all of us feel more 'at home' in front of the cameras than we once did and are able to adapt to what the moment requires each Sunday.



**Curtiss Allen, Jr.** continues to keep the choir connected with weekly Zoom, and they are **now singing again** (with proof of vaccination and special masks!) on Sundays, which brings us all joy.



**William Zeitler** continues to share his brilliant musicianship with humility and occasional playfulness- accompanying our choir and filling worship with beautiful music.



**Weekly orders of worship & announcements** continue to be produced (both paper and digital)-by your office staff who send weekly links to everyone and printed copies to all who ask. **Marilyn** keeps our online presence current and useful.

We've expanded our **digital recording, streaming, and sound equipment** and recruited a new team so that worship is available to everyone, both in-person and online, every week.

Perhaps we are **becoming braver as a congregation** as we listen to the words of Jesus and read news headlines. We've addressed challenging topics in worship while remaining connected, and we are much better at adapting and improvising than we once were.

In other words- in spite of all the setbacks, confusion, and frustration- **the Good News Of Jesus Christ is that the Spirit of God leads us on, and we have not lost our joy or sense of purpose!**



## Teaching and Learning

2022 Estimate: \$167,806.00

In 2021, we continued our **SBHS Internship program** providing jobs and leadership development for students. (This year they learned a lot about flexibility as we adapted again and again!)

Our **Sunday morning Adult Class, Kerygma, and Presbyterian Women Circles** have met and studied on Zoom- (a new benefit is including those who live far away!)

**Guest presenters** enriched our Adult Education while Sandy was on sabbatical- **Marilyn Chandler McEntyre** offered us Permission to Pause, **Rev. Sharon Edwards** led us in an online retreat, a class on **Mindful Photography** was a chance to contemplate God's beauty made visible. Wendy led a **lectio divina group in Lent**.

We delivered **KidSpace** materials to our younger congregation members, some in person (like Advent Candles!) and some by mail- showing love to kids and helping them grow in faith.

Though youth group could not meet, they collaborated on an astonishing recorded **Youth Sunday Service**, complete with a sermon on how **love transforms bullies** into leaders.



We've shepherded a **Seminary Intern! Caden Eckert** has been fulfilling her learning agreement, earning course credit toward her M.Div degree. She and

her husband **Nick** have not just been learning here, they are members and share life with us. In October, we baptized their daughter **Olive**. (she proclaims: "I baptized!")



We were surprised when 7 students (who had not seen us in person for so long) joined a 6-week **Confirmation Class** which Caden helped to lead. At the end, all **7 of them chose to unite with this congregation** in membership, our joy at this was unbounded! In response to their request, we will soon begin a **series of youth gatherings** on prayer and connection to God.



The Nurture committee is hopeful for great things in 2022! With **Triennium on the horizon**, we will be working with families and students to offset travel and housing expenses for this national PCUSA gathering. We hope there will be 9 students attending plus adult chaperones, which we estimate will cost around \$11,000. Triennium has been a life-changing experience for many of our young people and is a worthy investment.

We are planning **in-person activities** for KidSpace **families** and **FOC**; things like hikes, crafts, rock climbing, painting, dinners, and movie nights to learn to be people of faith, invest in spiritual growth, and center on joy. **On 10/10 KidsSpace begins meeting again** on Sunday mornings!



## **Lives Transformed**

**2022 Estimate: \$205,629.00**

We believe God's desire is for all to flourish! We work toward this directly in our congregational ministries, and also **in partnership** with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and local groups.

We continue to **feed neighbors** with groceries, (no small feat, since many volunteers had to step away because of risk, and the office has been shuttered!) We **reinvented the work**, procuring EZ-Ups (paid for by a grant) to make it comfortable to work outside, and creating a way to make **Saturday distribution a drive-through affair**. **Marilyn Kraft** and **Rick Rodriguez** have organized shoppers and baggers, young adult volunteers and interns to continue to distribute weekday bags on Tues. and Thurs. Many hands work together to make sure that vulnerable neighbors get the food they need in these difficult days.



**LifeSkillz** continued through the year (though school was not meeting in person). **Bobbi Cummings** scheduled monthly outdoor pizza lunches, where we provided social support for students through a very difficult year. We celebrated (and gave scholarship assistance to) 14 graduates this year, many who had been with us since they were freshmen!

**Toyota of San Bernardino** helped us give **scholarships to each one- what a joy!** We've been meeting in person again since September, sustained by **PW breakfasts** and **faithful adult volunteers**.



In June, **Alexia Aguilar**, a LifeSkillz grad, church member, and nursery caregiver finished her degree at UCRiverside. Because their graduation was online only, we surprised her with a cap, gown, and stole and gave her a ***Pomp and Circumstance* 'graduation moment'** in worship in Fellowship Hall. She is the first college graduate in her family.





We continue to partner with **Central City Lutheran Mission**, and we look forward to being able to again break bread with the guests there.

Our **Pastoral Care team** continues to make God's steadfast love evident to friends who are **sick, grieving or isolated** with phone calls, visits, cards, and other comforts. There is joy in recognizing the power of compassion, the tenderness of God's presence.

**Rick Rodriguez** accepted a position as caretaker and came to live on the property, and his life is changed! He opens and closes our gates morning and evening, secures the property after meetings, keeps an eye on our Home overnight. He also co-ordinates intern teams. What did we ever do without him?

The **Companions** retreat which has transformed many in our congregation with contemplative prayer offered their retreats online.

We continue to **build new leaders**- we have invited first time elders and deacons who are serving with effectiveness and joy. Their work is transforming their understanding of what God is doing among us.

**Lives are saved by blood transfusions**, so our Deacons organized a safe Blood Drive to support both healthcare workers and patients.

Our **congregation's life is being transformed** by the great generosity of the Lilly grant that sent Sandy out among trees. The last part of her sabbath adventure is still pending (a trip to Japan), but she's eager to share the joy she experienced as forest spaces re-open.

We were forced to close the doors of our beloved **Child Care Center** that **has been transforming lives for 29 years** because of Covid. Your session and staff have been exploring new partnerships that will re-open the rooms and serve more of God's children. We're tending the space with repairs and fresh paint to be ready for a new thing.

**Lives are also transformed** by space we provide:

- ♥ Straight Up AA meets here weekly, sharing **recovery and serenity**;
- ♥ San Bernardino Election office provides **an accessible place to vote**;
- ♥ Symphonie Jeunesse rehearses here, making beautiful music and **shaping the lives of young musicians**.

In **partnership with other Presbyterians**, we support mission around the world, educate leaders and pastors, aid in peacemaking, and pay pastor salaries for struggling churches. God's Word and love reach around the world because of your gifts.

**Many of us are being transformed** by what the pandemic has caused us to see: vulnerability, interconnectedness, the preciousness of community and the power of Love.

## **Members Use Special Gifts 2022 Estimate: Beyond Price!**

*So many more than can be mentioned, this is ONLY a sampling:*

**Dave Grindahl** and **Mark Adelson** built us a new tech/sound booth-new space for videographers and a monitor in the back of the sanctuary. (**Dave** and **Merry Beth** then volunteered to be videographers!) We used memorial funds from **Joan Carpenter**- wouldn't she would be pleased!?



**Ray Olivarez** has been key in helping us learn to record worship well, training others with his tremendous expertise.

**Kevin Lamb** and **Dan Direen** have assisted us in technical aspects of livestreaming and uploading and links.

**William Zeitler** tuned instruments with his own tools, saving the cost of a technician. Flautist **Susan Addington** & others shared musical gifts in the season of no indoor singing.



**Sue Zeitler** (**Joyce Lyons** and **Sharon Landeros**) figured out how to host a memorial reception with 3 tiers of safety!

**Alex Smith** has brought professional expertise to helping us consider real estate matters before us.

**Carol Valentine** moved to Ohio- how will we live without her? Well, task by task we are figuring it out, even as we miss her!

Receptionists recently returned to the office- folks are welcomed with the love of Christ by **Charlotte, Brooke, Nancy, Phyllis & Robin**.

Our Safe Reopening Committee has saved us again and again- the indefatigable **Dave, Nancy & Jon, Mary, Shannon, and Sue** have been extraordinary. Our **Safety Team** improves our welcome and security every week: **Jim, Lynn, Tim & Christian, Shannon, David & Merry Beth, Margaret, Marilyn, Mark, Rick, Al**, with occasional help from interns.



**And speaking of Gifts-** Many have continued the work of Jesus in this place with **legacy giving**. The love and light of Christ that shone in these friends continues to strengthen and brighten God's world. This year we were blessed by saints like **Marion Sischo** whose fund provided equipment and expertise to offer online worship, **Joan Carpenter** made the new tech booth possible, and a friend of the congregation **Annette Williams Charitable Foundation** gave a gift to support LifeSkillz. The memory of **Marj and Paul Owens** lives on with a gift given in their honor, and we were astounded at the number of gifts we received in honor of **Sally Morris** to sustain the food ministry she loved so dearly. Love-made-visible helped us navigate this time of need.

*To learn more about Legacy giving, contact the church office.*

## 2022 Challenges & Opportunities

First Pres is **facing challenges**, but we have not stood still!

Our **physical plant** is one: our buildings continue to age and costs continue to rise- (it was built for a congregation 10 times our size!) But there is hope & good news! **'Captain' Dave has found a new sense of Call** and has spent innumerable hours supervising contractors, painting doors, and restoring classrooms. We've upgraded security: Our **new driveway fencing** and **new security cameras** dramatically reduce problems. We have **16 gorgeous new metal doors** installed on campus (worth about \$40,000!) paid by our homeland security grant.



Another challenge is lower **attendance and giving**. We've made hard choices to trim costs, but it's hard to know what's next. We've never returned from a pandemic before.

The great opportunity before us is to deepen our understanding of **what we are called to be, do, and remember**. The great disruption of Covid is an opportunity to consider **what is essential to us** as a community of faith- **what do we really value** and who are we becoming? The possibilities are exciting and unprecedented.

Thousands of hours of service given by volunteers, and creative use of grant funding mean that **every dollar you pledge has maximum impact**. This is what someone called **"the magic of this place"**- the way that what we offer, broken and shared, becomes more than we imagined!

Will you help us Return Again and continue our work in 2022?



Return  
Again