



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

First Press

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Pipers, drums, and dancers. Photo by Rebecca Allen

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...SEMPER REFORMANDA!

What a day! We did, indeed, rejoice!

On Sunday Oct 31, 100 of us gathered for a concert on the North Lawn. We listened to the pipes and drums, watched the dancers, and were delighted by a new twist on an annual event.

At the outset, it was foggy ("Scottish weather!" remarked William Zeitler.) During the course of the event, the day became brighter, mirroring the bright spirit of the gathering!

For the first time in nearly 2 years, we sang together: A Mighty Fortress is Our God and Amazing Grace. We also heard favorite tunes like Hyfrydol and Highland Cathedral.

Whatever our background, many of us wore plaid or red, and the effect was joyful! (Ernie Garcia says he and Tino Garza used to identify themselves as from "clan O'Gar" on Reformation Sundays!) In that spirit, we all enjoyed stirring music and Scottish shortbread, and the beauty of the Highland dancers. (Pipe Major Martha Hall allowed that she had once taken a class in Highland dancing, and discovered it to be so strenuous that she could hardly walk home afterwards!)

continued on next page

Reformation Sunday continued from first page**Pastor's Page**

Caden Eckert offered a moment for stewardship, expressing her gratitude for this congregation as a place of welcome and acceptance and love- a refuge that has helped her navigate the stress of seminary, the stress of raising a toddler, the stress of supporting a husband in Medical School. She also announced that the stress will increase in May, when another Eckert baby is due! This announcement was met with glee and applause.

Pastor Wendy and I presented bibles to 3rd (and this year 4th) graders, as has been our custom for ages. We had paused this during the pandemic, and so we were astounded to see how tall Kiera French, Adam Nord and Sarah Fletcher have grown. They read the congregation a verse we underlined for them: "Remember, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matt 28:16)

They were reminded that one of the outcomes of the Reformation was to put scripture in the hands of the people of God, written in ordinary language so they might understand it. It is our job to continue to listen to the text and to the Spirit and to learn what it says and also what it means.

Many of you placed pledge cards in the basket, a sign that we are going forward in love and commitment to 2022! (If you were not able to pledge, we would love to hear from you.)

Many thanks to the Congregational Care Committee, the Worship Committee, the Safety Team, the Ushers, the Interns, and especially Curtiss Allen for making this an extraordinary and joyful day!!

A slogan I cherish is *Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda*- the Church is reformed, and must always be reforming. God is continuing to teach us who we are and who we are invited to be, and we must continue to listen. In the midst of cultural change, as issues of injustice and inequality become visible to us, and as we emerge from this pandemic, we choose to be a people who continue to respond to Jesus' call to Come and Follow- even if we do not know precisely where we are going! We find courage, in the Spirit's deep love, to take the next right and faithful step.

And we rejoice!

~Sandy



Adam, Saralei, and Kiera receive their Bibles. Photo by Rebecca Allen.



November Birthdays and Anniversaries

Nov 1 Shelley Biddlecombe	Nov 18 Marion Wiens	Nov 24 John-Paul & Stephanie
Nov 2 Terri & Jorge Carlos	Ed & Stephani	Fletcher
Noah Wierenga	Congdon	Larry Kistner
Nov 3 Curtiss Allen	Susan & William	Debra & Frank Law
Wendi Bielinski	Zeitler	Matthew Garcia
Steve Nolin	Nov 19 Earleen Dudley	Nov 25 Sandy Tice & Tom
Nov 6 Josie Short	Linda Murray	Rennard
Nov 8 Cliff & Bobbi	Nov 21 Terry & Stephanie	William Zeitler
Cummings	Ross	Nov 26 Brad Smith
Nov 9 Michael Gareau	Nov 22 Ken Mantei	Chris Wright-Thomas
Nov 10 Kelly Bingham Newton	Nov 23 Dan Direen	Nov 27 Dale Showman
Jerry Olsen	Wade Preciado	Abby Willis
Nov 11 Dwight & Linda Murray	Chase Preciado	Bethany Rennard
Nov 13 Susan Zeitler	Joyce Seeger	Nov 29 Norm Wallis
Nov 15 Alyssa Arellano		Nov 30 Sanai Wright



Notes

Why LiveStream? (A note we received from Christa Wallis)

Good Morning!

I went to spend the weekend with my Mom in LA and didn't return home until late Sunday. I just wanted to let you know that yesterday was the first time I have watched the livestream since we've been back at church, meeting in person, and I must say I wasn't particularly looking forward to watching the service online; but oh how wrong I was! I had a very positive, uplifting and very personal experience watching and feeling a part of worship with our church family. I was there! It was a lovely and inspiring and let me reiterate, a very personal experience, as I heard the words spoken by leaders that I know and love and hymns sung by people who are my people and seeing my fellow members on camera! The connection was real and to see the little box on the livestream counting myself and 10 others watching together at the same time was comforting, innovative and miraculous!!

So, for anyone who might hesitate or 'poo poo' the idea of the livestream, I say that it is a true gift of love and presence produced in service to others by many hands of people (behind the scenes) I cherish and for all this, I am very appreciative and grateful! Just thought you all might like to know...

Christa

Congregational Meeting on Nov 21

Sunday, November 21, after worship, we will hold a Congregational Meeting to elect officers and approve Pastor Sandy Tice's Terms of Call. Let us continue to support our continuing and new leaders.

Financial Notes

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Pledges	\$305,533.82	284,999.99	20,533.83
Other Income	\$144,343.95	44,212.65	100,131.30
Expense	\$379,541.69	391,096.91	(11,555.22)
Net Income	\$ 70,336.08	(61,884.27)	132,220.35

NOTE: The General Fund income in August included the forgiveness of our \$85,000 Payroll Protection Plan loan. So while we receive that forgiveness as income, we did not receive that \$85,000 in cash this year.

Division Consolidation

	<u>September</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	3,461.00	70,336.08
Child Care Center Net Income (Expense)	468.96	(3,090.36)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	1,284.00	9,653.12
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	5,213.96	76,898.84

Our Reformation Sunday music, The Kevin R. Blandford Memorial Pipe Band was provided this year by

Curtiss & Rebecca Allen in memory of Raymond Walker

Clara Gresham in memory of Allen Gresham

Larry & Melodee Kistner in memory of Rosemary Krause (Grandma Rose) and Olin Madrone Kistner

Shelby Obershaw in memory of Charles Obershaw

Frank & Debbie Law in honor of Kenneth Law on his 98th birthday

Norm & Christa Wallis in memory of Charles Robert MacPherson Beatrice Young MacPherson Sanford Howard Wallis and Thomas Turner Snyder

Steve Smith in Memory of Jane Dundas Smith

Elizabeth Anderson Smith and Marjorie MacPherson Eby

Sandy Tice & Tom Rennard in honor of Alexander John Rintoul

Bobbie Terrell in memory of Chuck Terrell

Carol Cooper in memory of Kevin Blandford

Gratitude and Remembrance--A Concert

It is a source of pride for us that since its inception, the Symphonie Jeunesse string orchestra has rehearsed on our campus with their director Michele Tacchia. We know that music sharpens the human brain, and that it gives young people a lifelong skill and a new capacity for listening. And this would be enough.

But there is also the beauty! Here, in our halls, these young people practice beauty, and make music that lifts and heals and points us to the Holy. What a delight!

The Symphonie has determined that this year they will celebrate a **fall concert to honor the memory of our beloved Sally Morris**. They have long known of our food ministry (they practice on Saturdays, so they see it in action often!) and they know of her central role in that work over the years. They also know that she was one of the volunteers who took instruments to classrooms in our district on behalf of the SB Symphony Orchestra- a way of ensuring that young children might see and hear and understand what instruments can do!

On Sunday November 21 at 3:00 pm, the concert honoring Sally will take place. In lieu of purchasing tickets, guests are invited to bring non-perishable food which will be put on the shelves of our Food Closet to sustain friends in need.

There will be the beautiful music to lift your spirit, sweet memories of Sally, all manner of generosity, and young musicians offering healing gifts to us. Won't you join us?

We will be using best practices re: masking and distancing to make this as safe as possible.

Symphonie Jeunesse plays a memorial concert in December 2016.



Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

LCpl Jacob Allen,
US Marine Corps, Cherry Point, North Carolina

Seaman Robert Sandoval,
US Navy, Virginia

PFC Jeremy Allen,
US Marine Corps, San Diego, CA

Petty Officer Noah L. Wierenga,
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River

Seaman Mark Munz,
US Navy, San Diego

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

Private Javier Rocha,
US Army, Fort Benning, Georgia

Cadet Grace Wilson
Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Session Reflection

Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

The Session met in Fireside Lounge on October 27th for its monthly meeting. We held a very successful hybrid meeting after working out the bugs from our September meeting. The location allowed everyone to be seen on the big screen TV and a separate camera filmed those in the room so those at home could see everyone. Many thanks to Alex Smith and others for figuring out this configuration! We spent time deciding to re-list for sale the building at 1875 N. D Street (across the street from the church) in hopes of selling it in this booming market. The Presbytery office moved out a couple years ago and since the House of Welcome is no longer in need of the space, it seems to be the right time. Sandy also shared some encouraging news about a potential use for our church school rooms that have been used for over 25 years as a child care center. A partnership with an owner of a local child care center who also partners with Head Start looks promising. The center will have to be licensed which takes many months, but we are hoping by next Fall to have some infants and toddlers again! The license application will include licensing for all rooms so it can be expanded in the future. The Nominating Committee reported that things are coming along well and ask people to prayerfully discern if they are being called to the work of elder or deacon. A Congregational Meeting will be held on November 21st to elect new officers. Our Financial Stewardship and Session will be considering a 2022 budget that projects a large deficit and are looking for ways to reduce that shortfall. We always share reflections of the meeting at the end and this month there were a number of people who commented about how well we work together, trust each other, and consider all viewpoints in making decisions.

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

Advent 2021

The Inn: Housing the Holy

The pandemic has laid bare, and widened, economic disparity locally and globally. As we enter the Advent season, how can our churches become houses where the Holy will be born anew—offering respite, sustenance and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

HOUSING THE HOLY

Advent 2021

October Saturday Food Distribution

On Saturday, October 16th we had our monthly Food Distribution. In many ways it was like our recent Food Distributions. As usual, Mary Bolaños signed in the people walking up and Kevin & Wendy Lamb were as helpful and friendly as always when they gave them their food. Marilyn Kraft signed in everyone who came in vehicles, and Jim Siegmund, Steve Smith, Neal Williams and his friends that come from Crestline put the food into the cars. This is also pretty normal.

What made this food distribution a real joy is we had 4 brand new interns who had never worked a food distribution and 3 former interns who came just to help who trained our new interns on how to do the different tasks that needed to get done. They taught them how to set up our overhead tarps, how to move our carts properly when they had a full load of food on them, how to safely move the food into the vehicles and the many other tasks that have to get done during our Saturday Food Distribution. I was so proud of both our interns who have now graduated from high school and moved on to the next steps in their lives and our new interns who learned quickly and worked hard.

These are the kind of things that make it so clear how important the Internship Program is for the young people who are a part of it, for our church family and for the community around us.

--Rick Rodriguez

Board of Deacons 2021

Martha Pinckney, Moderator; Steve Smith, Pastoral Support

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

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

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

Covid Update

by Dave Thomas, Safe Reopening of Church Committee

We continue meeting every two weeks monitoring the current situation in San Bernardino County. The encouraging news is that our new cases continue to drop and we hope to see this trend continue. We still need the numbers to continue to drop a little further before we can safely return to coffee hour and indoor singing for the congregation. There is some uncertainty what if anything will happen this fall as we approach flu season as well as major holidays and how this might affect our cases.

Some positive news to share:

- Over August and September we hosted a Covid Shot clinic thanks to Dr. Horstmann. We vaccinated about 20 individuals in our community as well as several of our interns. As booster shots are now approved for high risk individuals, we are trying to schedule a booster clinic at church for our congregation members. (Covid Vaccination van and clinic pictured.)
- Thanks to Nancy Horstmann, we have reopened the Kidspace Program
- Symphonie Jeunesse has returned to practicing in Fellowship Hall. A memorial concert has been approved in November for Sally Morris.
- With the purchase of two HEPA filters by the Horstmann's we have reopened Fireside Lounge for small group meetings



- The receptionist position in the office has been re-opened to be filled by our dedicated volunteers
- And finally we approved our outdoor Reformation Sunday program including two hymns for congregational singing.



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NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:30 AM Worship Service	1	2 7:00 PM Circle of Faith 7:00 PM Mensch Group	3 1:30 PM RPEA Board 6:30 PM Worship Committee	4	5 9:30 AM Kerygma	6 8:30 AM SJO rehearsal 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
7  10:30 AM Worship Service	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 8:30 AM SJO rehearsal 10:00 AM Presbytery of Riverside Assembly Meeting 10:00 AM Straight Up AA 10:00 AM Tapestry Event
14 10:30 AM Worship Service	15 Deadline for First Press articles 10:00 AM Circle of Grace	16 7:00 PM Mensch Group	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 9:00 AM Deacon Food Distribution 10:00 AM Straight Up AA 1:00 PM SJO rehearsal
21 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Fall Congregational Meeting 3:00 PM Symphonie Jeunesse Concert	22 7:00 PM Circle of Kindness	23 1:00 PM Circle Of Hope 4:00 PM Family Focus Center Thanksgiving Drive Thru Dinner	24 5:30 PM SESSION	25 Church Office Closed.	26 Church Office Closed. 9:30 AM Kerygma	27 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
28 10:30 AM Worship Service	29	30	1 6:30 PM Worship Committee	2	3 9:30 AM Kerygma	4 8:30 AM SJO rehearsal 10:00 AM Straight Up AA

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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9 am 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.