



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

# First Press

Volume 58, Issue 11

December 2021/January 2022



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## Advent and Christmas Worship

**Advent 1: Making Room**, Sunday, November 28, 10:30 a.m.

**Longest Night: A Healing Place**, Thursday, December 2, 6:00 p.m.

**Advent 2: A Place at the Table**, Sunday, December 5, 10:30 a.m.

**Advent 3: How Much Is Enough**, Sunday, December 12, 10:30 a.m.

### *Christmas Caroling after Worship*

**Advent 4: A Room with a View**, Sunday, December 19, 10:30 a.m.

**Christmas Eve: The Inn**, Friday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.

We will be masking and safe, but we will be together, in-person & online.

**Christmas 1: The Dwelling**, Sunday, December 26, 10:30 a.m.

Come for bell ringing and Christmas Joy.

Hope...Peace...Joy...Love

**Pastor's Page****Meet Mrs. C!**

You may have heard the sermon on 11/28 in which I said that for many months we've been clearing out the Child Care Center rooms and cleaning closets and shelves. We've peeled and patched and sanded and painted, removed adhesive and replaced window coverings and light bulbs. These are inherently hopeful acts- they allow us to say to God "what's next?" and to be ready when the Spirit moves.



At the November Session meeting, your session approved a lease to begin Jan 1 of our child care center office. The lessee will be Jennifer Carter (known to kids as "Mrs. C"). She is the owner and operator of two child care centers: the Oak Tree Learning Center on 40th St in San Bernardino and Oak Tree View Park on Slauson Ave in Downtown Los Angeles. She has an educational consulting business and hosts a podcast: "Mrs.C's Podcast for Parents, Teachers and Administrators". She has also authored curriculum that builds social skills, emotional resilience, and academic preparedness.

Part of her vision as an educator is to work to address problems that plague neighborhoods with high rates of poverty and limited resources. She is interested in what high quality Early Childhood Education can do to help students thrive educationally, and is intentional about equipping parents to support schools and appropriately advocate for their children. She is intentional about building partnerships and collaborations. She has more than 25 years experience in classrooms and is smart, engaging, and passionate.



To begin with, she will install a phone line and hire a staff person to work in the office (Rm 7). For several months she will pursue licensing (the office is running about 6 months behind in processing applications at the moment), greet inspectors, advertise for and interview staff, and work at visibility to build enrollment. We hope the new school will open in early fall beginning with an infant room. The need is great according to staff at Head Start- many local center-sized schools have closed in the pandemic and have not re-opened.

The rooms will again be used to nurture children, and expand their lifelong capacity for learning, which surely delights the heart of God! The asset of a great child care center will again exist in our neighborhood. The new Center will pay modest rent to the congregation, which will make our financial outlook brighter. And she hopes to build a relationship with folks at First Pres as appropriate. We are excited to build a new partnership and to be involved again in ministry with small children and their teachers.

~Sandy

## **BYO(W)B Bring Your Own (Water) Bottle**

Do you have a favorite water bottle? The Lambs do. They are pictured on the right. Every school day, while he gets ready, I fill Oliver's water bottle and put it in his backpack. On food distribution Saturdays, I fill Kevin's and my bottles for the morning. When we head out on a trip, we all fill our bottles. We are used to using them, yet we haven't been bringing them to church. We will start now.

For safety reasons, we have been using and offering small water bottles to people at church events. As a congregation with a Green Congregation Certification, we would like to change this. We invite you to bring your own water bottles to church and church events so we can minimize the use of plastic bottles.

Thank you. --Wendy

**In Memoriam**

**November 2021**

**Anne Fairchild**

**November 28, 1929 - November 1, 2021**

**Florentino Garza**

**October 16, 1927 - November 18, 2021**

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



## Notes



### Have Bags?

Food ministry can put to good use your heavy-duty plastic grocery bags (the kind that cost 10 cents). We are now using these not only for cold product, but also for one of the two bags of shelf-stable foods distributed on Saturdays. We also can use any old-style paper bags (full size) as we are needing to purchase these. Contact Rick or drop them off inside fellowship hall and we'll get them where they go. Thanks!

## Financial Notes

Financial Report as of October 31, 2021

### General Fund

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Over/(Under)</u>
Pledges	\$341,997.17	316,666.66	25,330.51
Other Income	\$147,465.63	48,869.62	98,596.01
Expense	\$416,938.16	434,334.35	(17,396.19)
Net Income	\$ 72,524.64	(68,798.07)	141,322.71

NOTE: The General Fund income reflects the forgiveness of our \$85,000 Payroll Protection Plan loan. We receive that forgiveness as income, but we did not receive that \$85,000 in cash this year. Without that amount our Net Income for this report would be (12,475.36).

### Division Consolidation

	<u>December</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	2,188.01	72,524.64
Child Care Center Net Income (Expense)	(468.96)	(3,559.32)
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	(331.96)	9,321.16
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	1,387.09	78,286.48

### Save the Date

Triennium Fundraiser Valentine Brunch, February 13, 2022. Meet and be served by our youth who are hoping to attend Presbyterian Youth Triennium in Indianapolis this summer.

### Special Offering News: Christmas Joy Offering

December is time for the Christmas Joy Offering. This PCUSA Special Offering provides support to:

1. Current and retired church workers in their time of need through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions (BOP).
2. Students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Many of these students are the first in their families to enroll in higher education.

Includes:

Menaul School, in Albuquerque, NM,  
menaulschool.com.

Presbyterian Pan American School,  
Kingsville, TX ppas.org

Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL  
stillman.edu

Thank you for your generosity.

### Leonard Scholarship

Leonard Scholarship applications for fall 2021-2022 are available in the church office and on the church website. All applications must be in the church office no later than Feb. 28, 2022. Any questions can be emailed to Lynda Savage. Lksavage3@gmail.com



## Longest Night Service by Sandy Tice

As the holidays arrive and the days grow shorter, the nights grow long and seem especially dark.

For some of us, the darkness within also seems to grow: family drama, worldwide war, our city's suffering, and other sorrows sometimes threaten to overwhelm us, and the songs of the season sound false.

How does God come to us in times like these?

One tradition that is precious to me is our Longest Night service, this year it takes place on Thursday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. Each year it is one of my favorite parts of Advent/Christmastide.

This candlelight service is a gentle and peaceful service of hope, for experiencing the Light of Christ in the lonely and unfinished places where there is no tinsel or sparkle. We gather before the God who loves us and seek healing for ourselves, and also for the world's pain and sorrow. We listen to words of comfort and promise in scripture. We pour out our prayers in spoken word and healing music. We light candles of remembrance, and we encourage each other by our presence and prayers.

Most of all, we recall that Jesus is the One who came into the darkness, and continues to come into our present darkness offering a light that no shadow or dread can overcome. It is a holy time: beautiful and wondrous and surprisingly filled with light. It would be wonderful to have you join us.



## Appreciation for the First Pres Food Ministry

by Rick Rodriguez

As we give out food every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, the people we serve express their appreciation. Some include specifics of why they are grateful, and so we get a glimpse into their lives and the lives of their families. We invite you to hear the thanks of just a few of the people served by your food ministry.

**The Veteran:** This young man is always so thankful to the church provides. He was severely wounded in Afghanistan and spent many months in a VA hospital and he is still recovering from his psychological wounds. He is not always able to come during the hours our Food Giveaway is normally giving out food because he has started taking college classes and he is in class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. We always make sure he has food when he needs it.

**The Grandfather:** This gentleman's income is usually enough to take care of himself, his wife and their two younger kids. Periodically his son, his son's wife and their small child must move in with them. That's when he needs assistance with food. To him, family is everything. He is always so grateful to the church for being able to get some food his family needs.

**Woman on the Street:** When we first met this woman it was difficult for her to say much more than her name. She has been on the streets for a long time. I can't even imagine the horrors she has had to endure. We have watched her improve over time and she will talk with us now. She knows First Pres is a safe place to come and get the food she needs. It has taken time, but we have earned a small amount of her trust. She says thank you and occasionally we will get a smile out of her.

**One of My Heroes:** We have an older woman who comes to pick up food for herself and for her friend, who is disabled. She is always so thankful the church Food Ministry is here to help her and her friend. Even though she has several medical issues of her own, she will pick up the food in her car, drive to her friend's apartment and carry the food into her apartment and put it away for her. If the bags are too heavy, she will make extra trips from her car to the apartment. She sometimes stays with her friend and they make lunch together and talk during lunch. This is what it means to be a friend.

What a privilege to share in the lives of the people we serve. Even when very sad, these stories reveal that these people are brave enough to ask for help and have the heart to help others. They are children of God.

## Where Two or Three are Gathered

by Marilyn Kraft

Neighbors, friends, and family members often come together for food ministry. That happens with volunteers who use less busy times to catch up. It happens with Saturday participants who carpool together, or come early to chat with each other. It is visible to those who register participants and load food as designated alternates pick up food for a family member, a neighbor, a person they care for professionally, or a home-bound friend.

On the sobering side, these are reminders of common barriers even to receiving free food – lack of transportation, isolation, disability. On the joyful side, the folks who pick up for others extend our ministry of compassion to folks in dire need in ways we could not do by ourselves.

As we enter the Advent season of waiting, expectancy, and hope, we will consider our personal and congregational provision to our neighbors in our Advent worship series, the Inn (summarized in the November newsletter). Our Tuesday/Thursday food distribution brings us one such story.

Grandma picks up food for her family and her daughter's family. Her daughter is staying home with a child because she can't clear more money than childcare costs. So there isn't any extra, but Grandma can help bring the food. This daughter is now anticipating a new baby. This time a boy. ***Baby J's due date is the day of Christmas.***

What will Baby J's life be like? How will we share in the joys and struggles of this amazing gift?

Maybe...

... Baby J, his mom, and his grandma will be nourished by our food pantry.

... Grandma will nurture his kindness and bring him along when she goes to that brick church.

... When Baby J needs a preschool, a new sustainable childcare program will be in place and Mom will be able to add to the household income.

.... Teen J will attend SBHS, practice respectful communication, make deep friendships, and meet caring adults.

.... Maybe Teen J will someday have fun as an intern putting groceries in the car of a neighbor who is picking up for another...

And J will smile.

"The mystery of the poor is this: that they are Jesus, and what you do for them you do for Him." —Dorothy Day

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**New officers** were elected at the congregational meeting on November 21st. They will begin serving in January. (Save the Date: Officers' Retreat on January 8)

New Session members are ***Pat Morris and Martha Pinckney.***

***Mary Bolaños and Brooke Dvorak*** also join the class of 2024, beginning new terms in January.

New to the Deacon Board are ***Rick Rodriguez and Katie Smith.***

***Robin Edwards and Dan Direen*** will continue on the board.

### 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

### 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

## December and January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Dec 1	Elaine Saenz	Jan 1	George Biddlecombe III
Dec 2	Sarah Godby		Jeremy Allen
Dec 3	Cindi Pringle	Jan 2	Carol Wright
Dec 5	Bobbie Terrell		George Biddlecombe IV
	Curtiss & Rebecca Allen	Jan 3	Marilyn Patterson
Dec 6	Bill McIntosh		Alex Smith
Dec 7	Zienna Long	Jan 4	Alex Rueda
Dec 9	Maddie Ramirez	Jan 5	Sheila Cimino
Dec 11	Christi Showman Farrar	Jan 6	Rachel Garvin
	Deagan Belle	Jan 10	Dwight Murray
Dec 14	George, Robert &	Jan 11	Jean-Luc Nicks
	Tiffany Biddlecombe		Dawn Morris
Dec 16	Jon Horstmann	Jan 13	Zane Preciado
Dec 18	Patrick Garcia		Stephani Congdon
Dec 19	Jim & Carol Coyne	Jan 14	Patrick Morris
	Kristin Arellano	Jan 16	Esther Olsen
Dec 20	Melodee Kistner		Deon & Patrick Garcia
Dec 21	Danielle Garza	Jan 17	Lynette DuClos-Adelson
Dec 22	John Garten-Shuman		Mark Munz
Dec 23	Ray Nelligan	Jan 18	Sonia Martin
Dec 25	Renee Kern	Jan 20	Beverly Kristoffersen
Dec 26	Howard & Nancy Le Roy	Jan 23	Dan & Cheryl Direen
Dec 28	Lillian Franklin	Jan 25	First Presbyterian Church
	Blaine & Renee Kern	Jan 27	Tabitha Enriquez
Dec 29	Irene Sandoval	Jan 28	Linda McCarl
	& David Suverkrup	Jan 29	Brenda Frederick
Dec 30	Charlotte Pringle		

## Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

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

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

**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

**Cadet Grace Wilson**  
Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado





**When did we See you?**  
Matthew 28: 20-40

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**DECEMBER 2021**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:30 AM Worship Service	29	30 3:00 PM Anne Fairchild Memorial Service	1	2 6:00 PM Longest Night Healing Service	3 9:30 AM Kerygma	4 8:30 AM SJO rehearsal 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
5 10:30 AM Worship Service	6	7 7:00 PM Circle of Faith 7:00 PM Mensch Group	8 5:30 PM Stewardship Committee	9 4:00 PM Nurture Committee 5:30 PM Buildings & Grounds Committee	10 9:30 AM Kerygma	11 8:30 AM SJO rehearsal 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
12 10:30 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Galleons	13	14 10:30 AM RPEA Luncheon 6:30 PM Deacon Committees 7:30 PM Deacon Board	15 5:30 PM SESSION	16 9:00 AM Friendship Circle	17 8:30 AM Food Bagging 9:30 AM Kerygma	18 9:00 AM Deacon Food Distribution 10:00 AM Straight Up AA 1:00 PM SJO rehearsal
19 10:30 AM Worship Service	20 10:00 AM Circle of Grace	21 7:00 PM Mensch Group	22	23	24 Church Office closes at Noon. 9:30 AM Kerygma 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
26 10:30 AM Worship Service	27 Church Office Closed. 7:00 PM Circle of Kindness	28 Church Office Closed. 1:00 PM Circle Of Hope	29	30	31 Church Office closes at Noon. 9:30 AM Kerygma	1 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.*