First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino



First Press

May 2022



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A Blessing for Easter

The blessing of the morning light to you,
may it find you even in your invisible
appearances, may you be seen to have risen
from some other place you know and have known
in the darkness and that that carries all you need.

May you see what is hidden in you as a place of hospitality and shadowed shelter, may that hidden darkness be your gift to give, may you hold that shadow to the light and the silence of that shelter to the word of the light, may you join all of your previous disappearances with this new appearance, this new morning, this being seen again, new now, and newly alive.

David Whyte: Easter Morning 2015

Pastor's Page

Fond Farewell to a Friend

For the last 7 years Dr. Antoinette Gutierrez has been the principal at SBHS, which we consider "our" high school. She is departing this month, and we will miss her warmth, enthusiasm, passion and commitment. She has been a strong supporter of LifeSkillz, dropping in sometimes on Monday mornings and regularly attending seasonal celebrations. She has been a supportive friend to the adult leaders, and an encourager for the kids who participate.



Shepherding a school through what all educators have endured these last few years has been no picnic, and we are grateful for her tenacious spirit and her determination to pull off what we would have considered impossible a few years ago: leading a school when no one can be on campus!

During these last few years you may remember we celebrated her as she earned her doctoral degree in 2017 – her dissertation was on The Impact of Emotional Intelligence on Superintendent Leadership.

For her last visit with our breakfast group this week, we talked about the term emotional intelligence, and if so: how? They said things like this:

- "If you knew me my freshman year OMG I feel so sorry for you! I was an explosive person! LifeSkillz gives me knowledge of how to open up."
- "Yes, because every week the questions we ask help us think about what we really feel- and when we say it aloud, we understand it."
- "RESPECT guidelines teach Emotional Intelligence and help us practice it."
- "In my sophomore year I was scared, really quiet, and kept to myself. LS helped me to understand myself and others and grow in important ways."

Clearly our students are currently learning some of the skills that make superintendents effective leaders!

One of my prayers is that the church can be a place where we practice Jesus' brand of hospitality, so that all people know they are welcome; and also that all of them is welcome (not just their polished social media image). A place where we, like our student friends, can continue to practice RESPECT and live in trust, inviting one another to grow.

Antoinette, we will remember your willingness to advocate for our school and its needs, and to partner with us in supporting students as they navigate their teenage years with joy and prepare for their adult lives with courage. The investment you have made in young lives will continue to ripple out into the world for years. We will miss you!

~Sandy

Preschool update

Our friend Jennifer Carter is waiting for approval on her new license to operate in this space. During COVID shutdowns, many childcare centers closed and have not reopened, creating great need and also a backlog of applications in licensing. Since January 1, Oak Tree Learning Centers have been paying us monthly rent, which is an enormous asset. Meanwhile the kids and staff at OTLC on 40th and in downtown LA continue to thrive. While the we await the green light from licensing, "Captain Dave" Thomas is working to refurbish two more rooms (8 & 9) so that the whole wing will be ready for a new use. Your Session, as it seeks creative ways to serve God's world, is in conversation w/Key Essentials Behavior Management about renting space from us. This organization serves kids throughout the Inland Empire, providing interventions for students struggling with behavioral issues and classroom integration. These one-on-one sessions would take place here in our neighborhood where the need is great, providing easy access to families with kids who need additional help. Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) works to help kids with things like receptive language, social skills, and behavior skills training, empowering them and their caregivers toward strategies they can use and rely on. We are hopeful that we might imagine a new partnership that would bless children and their families. At the present moment, many children are struggling with the impact of isolation at home on their psycho-social development. An added benefit is that the school and Key Essentials could enhance the services each provides with referrals and partnership. Please keep this project in your prayers.



Notes

Congratulations!

Grant Garcia and Rachel Gillespie were married April 15th in San Marcos. Grant's brothers, Zachary and Matthew were his best men!

Grant is the son of Patrick and Deon, and the Grandson of Ernie and Dotti.

Keeping a Roof Over Our Heads! by Sandy Tice

For many years the roof on our fellowship hall has been showing signs of leakage. This is not a sign of shoddy work but the result of hard wear- many years in the hot sun (no shade at that height!), areas of flat roof (nearest the glass walls), and the fact that nothing lasts forever. Your Building and Grounds committee sought competing bids, were able to negotiate a \$4,000 discount, and confirmed that the company we chose was skilled at removing and replacing our solar panels. Further, the roofers are replacing skylights that have been leaking around the edges for some time. This is your invitation to participate in this project! What happens in our hall? The hungry are fed at food distribution, those who mourn are comforted at receptions, interns prepare for lives of service and meaning. We share small things like coffee and conversation, which lead to deeper things: like the sharing of life and the encouraging of each others' faith. Presbyterian women hold gatherings here, and the only student orchestra in our city makes beautiful music here at their rehearsals every Saturday. Sometimes we've even chosen to worship here to save the cost of air-conditioning our enormous sanctuary!

Several members have given us checks to help accomplish this project. Like a barn-raising, together we can do far more than any of us can do alone! Can you help? The goal is attainable- we are able direct some of the proceeds from the sale of 1875 N. D Street toward this need, and also some memorial funds from our beloved Clerk, Joan Carpenter. We are hoping to raise an additional \$10,000 to complete this \$80,000 task. Your gift will have great impact because of these additional funds. Please help if you can.

The roofers have been up there every day for 2 weeks and are nearly done. We will dedicate the new roof in a few weeks- stay tuned!

In Memoriam

April 2022 Dana Babb August 4, 1933 - April 7, 2022 "In life and in death we belong to God." 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.

The deadline for the following month's newsletter is the 15th of each month.

Financial Notes as of March 31, 2022

	<u>Actual</u>	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$80,970.81	100,096.50	(19,125.69)
Other Income*	\$391,356.40	14,905.37	376,451.03
Expense	\$134,398.14	139,882.14	(5,484.00)
Net Income	\$337,929.07	(24,880.27)	362,809.34

^{*}Other Income includes 371,880.58 from sale of office building at 1875 N D St.

Division Consolidation

	<u>March</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	(6,347.53)	337,929.07
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	28.53	1,980.86
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	(6,319.00)	339,909.93

Scrip Sales Return!

Beginning May 1, First Pres Youth will be selling Stater Brothers' scrip during coffee hour after worship. When you buy scrip, you can use it, dollar for dollar at Stater Brothers. Meanwhile, the youth mission and acitvities fun receives 5% of the dollar amount. If you buy a \$100 scrip card, you have \$100 to spend at Staters and the youth receive \$5.

The youth use the scrip funds for mission experiences like Tapestry's Middle School Mission Week and for retreats, camps, and other activities such as the upcoming Rock Climbing expedition.

The End of the Winter/Spring Internship Program

by Rick Rodriguez, Intern Supervisor

The Winter/Spring 2022 Internship Program ended on Saturday, April 16th. This was a busy day at the church campus. We had the worship team preparing the Sanctuary for our Easter service and we had our monthly Food Distribution. Several of our church members who usually help with Food Distribution were busy in the Sanctuary so we had some of our interns in areas they had not worked before, which is what the Internship Program is all about, learning new things. We also had to ask some of our former interns to come and give us a hand with Food Distribution. This gave our current team, who are as young as 15 and sophomores at San Bernardino High School a chance to work with former interns who are as old as 20 and sophomores in college. It always amazes me that when we need help from our former interns, all I have to do is text them and ask for their help and they come running. One of the San Bernardino High School graduates who came to volunteer has not been an intern since 2019. I think this is clear evidence of how important both the Internship Program and helping people in their community through Food Distribution is for our interns.

It is a tradition that we buy lunch for our interns on the last day of their term and talk about their experiences. We invited the former interns to join us and everyone had an enjoyable time.



Jackye Rosete, Ariana Aceves, Laura Galindo, Brianna Guzman, Gary Romero Not pictured: Itzel Aguilar

May Birthdays and Anniversaries May 4 Lily Bolaños May 12 Blaine Kern May 24 Trinity Conley **Aidan Morris Wendy Lamb Penny Ramirez** May 4 Erika Mantei May 14 Carol Coyne May 27 Jenna Garza May 15 Lynn Usher May 6 Kaiyah Dubois Schneider May 28 Mark Adelson **Katie Willis** May 16 Jim Babcock May 7 **Brian Gano** May 17 Sharon Louise Jon Preciado Maggie Willis Landeros Maria Saenz May 9 **Rosalind Mantei** Wanda Skipper Al & Mindy Rueda Phil Savage III Tim & Lynn Usher Dale & Kathy May 10 Marissa Congdon May 21 Rena Nolin **Showman** May 23 Jim Morris May 31 Larry & Jeannie Susan Skoglund May 11 Tinka Ponder Marona

Reflections from Holy Week

by Mary Bolaños, Worship Committee Chair



Holy Week and Easter have passed and I am still reeling from the joy and celebration. The "Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul" theme of Lent was a gentle pathway to the celebration of Palm Sunday, through the quiet reflection of Maundy Thursday, to the fireworks joy of Easter Sunday. For the first time in three years we were able to gather in large groups for worship AND preparation and I just want to reflect on the beauty of the sanctuary as well as on the number of people and the amount of 'person'-hours it takes to make the beauty happen.

On Palm Saturday, Youth Group and adult volunteers created multiple palm frond arches, giving us an entry into a new season while other

volunteers filled the chancel with palms and made more palm fronds available for the congregation to carry in a truly

triumphant procession.

Leaving Palm Sunday and moving into Maundy Thursday brought a more quiet joy at the first time we've been able to take Communion by intinction together in person. Although we sorely missed those who still feel safer at a distance, it was heartwarming to see the faces of many of our family as they came forward. It was moving to keep our traditional 'darkening of the sanctuary', leaving silently on the way to Easter.

The Worship Committee had decided to hold a modified traditional Easter Saturday preparation day but, when the call for flowers and hands to help went out, we had a bounty of both! Many brought their own flowers and greenery and one member went to the flower wholesalers and brought buckets of them. There were butterflies and butterflies and butterflies and our flowers included two beautiful arrangements from the memorial

of our dear Dana. The teams of flower arrangers and sanctuary arrangers built a garden to lead us into an Alleluia Easter Sunday. Butterflies overhead, butterflies dancing, butterflies hanging from the loft, butterflies alighting all over the sanctuary, a wild flower garden, and the light rising...all reminding us that Hope is present.

It takes a lot of planning and a lot of hands to make the preparations for worship happen: a committee that understands creative and joyful worship, musicians who love sharing their gifts, someone to teach youth how to make a palm frond arch, people to climb ladders, hands to undecorate to make way for new beauty, a group to engineer and lay out the wires for a ceiling full of flying butterflies, a team of flower wranglers and a "flower lady" to guide them. There were far too many people and too many things accomplished to list them all but unsung is not the same as unappreciated. I'd simply like to extend my grateful thanks to everyone who helped make this season beautiful. Alleluia, Amen!



Saving Ourselves from So Much Lifting

by Rick Rodriguez, Food Ministry

We had our Saturday, monthly Food Distribution on April 16th. There are many things that need to get done before the actual day of Food Distribution. On the day before several members of the church take their trucks to Community Action Partnership, CAP, and pick up a large load of food. We unload the food and bring this food into Fellowship Hall, organize it all onto tables and then put it into bags. The hardest part of this process has always been unloading the food from pallets stacked high on the trucks who went to CAP.

This month we decided to try something new. We rented a truck with a hydraulic lift at the back, so we could bring the pallets down to the ground and use the church's pallet jack and take them into Fellowship Hall. This eliminated a large amount and the hardest lifting we had to do.

Dave Thomas and I went to CAP in the rental truck and Dan Direen and Helen Babcock went in their own trucks. All the food fit on the rental truck which gave Dan the chance to help another church transport some of the things they came to pick up at CAP, but did not have room for in their vehicles.

This experiment worked very well so the Food Committee will be discussing the benefits of continuing to pick up the food from CAP this way every month.





The food being loaded at CAP

Unloading the food with our pallet jack

Board of Deacons 2022

Rebecca Allen, Moderator; Steve Smith, Pastoral Support

Class of 2022: Mark Adelson, Carmen Avila, Janet McKinster, Marianna Fowles

Class of 2023: Rebecca Allen, Sharon Landeros, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Chris Thomas

Class of 2024: Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Richard Rodriguez, Katie Smith

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, 29 Palms, CA

Seaman Mark Munz, US Navy, San Diego

Private Javier Rocha. US Army, Fort Benning, Georgia

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

An Act of Hope and Healing by Sandy Tice

Our Lenten Season of Earth and Soul allowed us to seek God's presence in the natural world, and to pray in the Celtic tradition. On Palm Saturday, we made an enduring mark on our campus by planting 3 trees! Trees are wonderful images of the spiritual journey: deeply rooted, reaching up and out; sharing shelter, shade, and fruit; always growing. From seed to sapling to full-grown giant, trees offer home to other creatures. Throughout history they have inspired and delighted us.

Scientists now tell us new reasons to be amazed: that trees communicate with one another and share nutrients, protect each other in time of danger, serve as part of our hope for a warming planet by pulling carbon out of the air and give us oxygen in return-

Planting trees is an act of hope and healing.

Several trees in our back (or East) parking lot had blown over in storms, our arborist determined the problem was how they had been planted- their roots had never spread widely and deeply enough to hold them upright when the winds came. Reluctantly we removed them (having tried for two years to shore them up with stakes and other forms of support). The planters have stood empty for some time.

Our Clergy Renewal grant from the Lilly Foundation included thousands of dollars for enhancing our congregational life-YOUR part of the sabbatical! (paying for preachers while the pastor was away, providing for a retreat, buying ficus trees with rolling platforms for our sanctuary, etc.) There is money remaining in that account as Covid disrupted some of our plans, and so it is from those funds that the trees were purchased- Thank you, Lilly Foundation! Hooray for our season under the trees!

We selected the same trees that have been thriving in our North parking lot (nearest to D St.) They are called Chinese Pistache and do well in our climate, make lovely shade in summer, and turn glorious colors in the fall. Prep work was done by James who created drip watering for each tree, by our interns (headed by Mark and Rick) who dug DEEP holes in anticipation of planting day, and by those of you who came to help create mounds and spread roots over them, to pray and pour vitamin solution to lessen the shock of transplanting. I am delighted to report that already these baby trees are glorifying God by being trees: each little stick shows evidence of leafing out enthusiastically, doing their springtime work of growing and stretching.

I invite you to visit those trees- to stand near them or lay a hand on them and offer them a blessing or thank them for what they will do for us. it seems trees are sentient in their way: that they have intention, recognize their own offspring, and help one another in times of danger! Over and over we recognize that the Creation that sustains us is more complex and miraculous than we knew! This fills my heart with Alleluias.



Youth Sunday by Wendy Lamb

The young people in our congregation are active throughout the year. They serve as lectors and crucifers. They help with food distribution and participate in serving meals at CCLM. They come to prepare the sanctuary for special days. They work in the sound booth and are learning livestreaming skills. They come to worship and hang out in Coffee Hour. They participate in Youth Group (Zoom and in-person) and confirmation classes. They are part of the life and ministry of this congregation.

In addition to the everyday life of the church, each year our 6-12 grade youth do all the prepation and leadership of a worship service on what we call Youth Sunday. This is a long-standing custom in our congregation -- the fathers of this year's preached their own Youth Sunday sermons some time ago -- and it's one that I cherish.

This year John-Paul and Stephanie Fletcher and I have been supporting the youth as they studied scripture, found a theme, chose music, and wrote liturgy. The youth range from sixth grader Joshua Fletcher to seniors Ethan Gano, Aidan Morris, and Ryan Nord. There will be a lot of music: Piano! Guitars! Woodwinds! Brass! Solos! Favorite Hymns! There will be prayers and scripture and sermons. There will be joy!

Youth Sunday this year takes place on May 15 at our regular morning worship. We have one more youth gathering to prepare on May 1 after worship.



2016 Youth Sunday rehearsal. 2nd and 3rd graders Owen and Kendra join 6th graders Ryan and Aidan and the older Katrina, Lily, and Abby to rehearse a combined youth and children's anthem. This year, watch for those 6th graders to offer sermons and those elementary schoolers to play guitar and piano, read scripture, and offer themselves as worship leaders.

A note from Sandy:

I am giving thanks for those who GIVE-

God uses them to get things done!! I am so grateful this year for **Dr. Crane** the orthodontist (and founder of the dental care clinic that serves the children of our city) who gave us 1875 N D Street. It housed the presbytery offices and helped us dream about accompanying refugees and has now provided resources for repairing a roof and strengthening our ministry; for **Joan Y. Carpenter**- who loved mission and Presbyterian Women and order and empowerment- her bequest has blessed us with the new tech booth in worship, and will help us retire the debt on our solar panels (she hated indebtedness!). I am thankful for the **Andrews** family, whom I never knew, who gave us a large bequest which we received during Covid, to undergird our worship life and beauty and music, and to keep us strong as a community (50/50 split!). For years I have given thanks to God for the life and love of **Barbara Maupin**- she has been my most beloved 'ancestor' and saint, empowering every creative thing we have done around here since my arrival! It was her money that sent adults and LifeSkillz kids to leadership training with Kaleidoscope, her funds that allowed us to consult with Eric Law, her vision that made resources available for our LifeSkillz program and Intern program, her gift that helped Water Guys bring fresh clean water where it was needed. Her experience with the Kerygma group so profoundly impacted her that she left us a gift of \$375,00- what a legacy!

Our congregation is so much stronger and so much more joyful because of the generosity of members who leave evidence of their love and faith in our hands. These encourage our hearts and also inspire others to give, they help us meet new challenges as they arise and amplify our joy. Thanks be to God for those with generous lives, which continue to radiate beauty and gladness and delight into the world.

Session 2022

Sandy Tice, Moderator; Wendy Lamb, CLP; Amy Smith, Clerk of Session
 Class of 2022: Carol Cooper, Margaret Doane, Stephanie Fletcher
 Class of 2023: Jeanne Clarke, Susan Skoglund, Alex Smith, Tim Usher
 Class of 2024: Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak, Patrick Morris, Martha Pinckney

Celebrating our Graduates



Lilian Elizabeth Bolaños graduates from Azusa Pacific University on May 7, 2022 with a Humanities BA and Screenwriting BFA. Lily is currently interviewing for

positions in or 'near' her chosen field of study. Lily is a congregation member and the daughter of Mario and Mary Bolaños.



Caden Eckert graduates from Fuller Seminary on June 11, 2022 with a Master of Divinity degree.

Nick Eckert graduates from Loma Linda University of May 28, 2022 with a Medical Doctor degree.

Caden and Nick are congregation members. Caden served as our seminary intern in 2021-2022. Caden and Nick, daughter Olive and yet-to-be-born Baby will move to Chicago, Illinois, next year where Nick will be completing his residency at Lawndale Christian Health Center.



Matthew Garcia graduates May 15, 2022 from the University of Puget Sound with a BS in Chemistry and a BS in Mathematics. He has been part of the honors program for four year and is graduating with honors. He will be working on a

Masters in Food Science at Oregon State University where he has accepted a research assistant position conducting chemistry research on the fermentation process and its affects on the quality and color of wine. Matthew is a congregation member and son of Patrick and Deon Garcia, Grandson of Ernie and Dotti Garcia.



Ethan Gano graduates June 9, 2022 from Citrus Valley High School. Ethan is a congregation member, son of Brian and Amy Gano, brother of Asher, and nephew of Curtiss and Rebecca Allen.



Aidan Morris
graduates June 2,
2022 from Cajon
High School. He
will be attending
and playing soccer
for Carleton
College in

Northfield, Minnesota. (The photo shows Aidan looking out over the Carleton soccer field.) Aidan is a congregation member, son of Jim and Dawn Morris, brother of Owen, Grandson of Pat Morris, and Nephew of Katie Willis.



Ryan Nord graduates June 9, 2022 from Citrus Valley High School as an athletic scholar, playing both soccer and volleyball and serving as a captain of both teams. He competed and placed SkillsUSA technical design competition for the last 3

years. Ryan will be receiving the Seal of Biliteracy (English and Spanish). He plans to go to Cal State University San Bernardino and study cyber security. Ryan is a congregation member, son of Brent and Joanna Nord, brother of Breanna and Adam, grandson of Doris Nord, and nephew of Stephanie and Terry Ross.

MAY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:30 AM Worship Service 11:45 AM Youth Group	2	3 1:00 PM RPEA Board 7:00 PM Circle of Faith 7:00 PM Mensch Group	4 10:00 AM Staf Meeting 6:30 PM Worship Committee	5	6 9:30 AM Kerygma	7 8:30 AM SJO rehearsal 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
8 Mothers' Day 10:30 AM Worship Service	9	6:30 PM Deacons	11	12 4:30 PM Nurture Committee	13 9:30 AM Kerygma	14 8:30 AM SJO rehearsal 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
Deadline for First Press articles 10:30 AM Worship Service	16	17 1:00 PM Circle of Grace and Hope 7:00 PM Mensch Group	18 5:30 PM Stewardship Committee	9:00 AM Friendship Circle 3:00 PM San Bernardino Students' Candidate Forum 5:30 PM Buildings & Grounds Committee	20 8:30 AM Food Bagging 9:30 AM Kerygma	21 9:00 AM Deacon Food Distribution 10:00 AM Straight Up AA 1:00 PM SJO rehearsal
22 10:30 AM Worship Service	23	24 7:00 PM Circle of Kindness	25 5:30 PM SESSION	26	9:30 AM Kerygma	28 8:30 AM SJO rehearsal 10:00 AM Straight Up AA
29 10:30 AM Worship Service	30 Church Office Closed.	31	6:30 PM Worship Committee	2	9:30 AM Kerygma	8:30 AM SJO rehearsal 10:00 AM Straight Up AA

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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The Rev. Dr. Sandy Tice

Pastor

Dr. Wendy Long LambCommissioned Local Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Steve Smith Pastoral Support

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.