First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino



First Press

June 2022



L to R: Breanna, Kendra, Oliver, Joshua, Ethan, Aidan, Asher, Owen, Ryan, Maddie

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Youth Sunday: All Are Welcome

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.
Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Verses 1 and 5 of the song the youth sang as their anthem. Words by Marty Haugen.

Pastor's Page

Youth Sunday, My Friends, Youth Sunday

It has been a looong season of Covid, and change, and we as a congregation have incurred great losses in recent days, and both of these things have broken my heart and made me wonder where God is when I am so sad, (and why being a pastor seemed like a fun idea!)

I believe that 10 years from now, when I describe what it was like to live through a global pandemic, I will point to this Youth Sunday as the day when my spirit felt the arrival of spring after

that long winter. I will remember this as a day that students gave back to me my sense of vocation and Call, a day that God began to heal my heart with their words and love and music.

They did not choose the scripture, we asked them to use the passages assigned by the lectionary- a Psalm of praise (148); Peter's vision from Acts 11 that he need not be afraid of non-kosher things; Jesus' "new commandment" from the gospel of John; and a passage from Revelation: "See, I am making all things new" and "I will wipe every tear from their eyes".

And wow, did they ever use those texts!



Aidan Morris, for his part, proclaimed that the faith of Jesus is about INCLUSION- bringing people in rather than shutting them out. In his view, that pretty much sums up all of Jesus' teaching. "Jesus didn't shun or shut out- he brought them in!" He told us that in this church family "I have been loved and cared for, I learned how to spread the Word of God and worship the Lord". He noted that 'worship' is not contained by the sanctuary (as proof: we are still here - even after Covid!) He bore witness to the impact of the love of Carol Valentine and Rena Nolin in his young life (much of which took place outside the sanctuary!) He told us that as he heads for Minnesota for college, "I take you with me!", and promised to keep practicing what he has learned in our midst even though where he is going we cannot follow. At this point I wished God would "wipe every tear from my eye," because I was openly weeping!

Ethan Gano offered a beautiful prayer- for us and for the whole world. He lifted up harsh realities, tender hopes, and heartbreak, helping us to offer all that is within us to the One whose love never fails. He was so steady, articulate and genuine that it was clear that he is At Home in this sanctuary space, and has grown into his strength as a young leader who could bless us by ushering us into God's presence. (This did not improve my crying situation, by the way.)

Ryan Nord said these were perfect passages for Youth Sunday, about "Being Alive, Making Change, and Breaking Barriers". He pointed out that the disciples were upset and freaked out "and what did Jesus talk

about? Love each other!" Ryan perceptively noted that this "Love" Jesus invites us to is more about ACTIONS than words. He said that we, as a congregation, had invested in him and shared with him a faith that involves "actively caring for those outside this building." My heart was overflowing with amazement and gratitude. And then he charged us all: "DON'T be afraid to GO where you are being LED!" Oh friends, may this prophetic Word come true in us, may we find the courage to follow where the love of Jesus takes us next. May we be not afraid!

They sang to us and with us about being gathered in, about making all welcome in this place, about following the Lord of the dance, and about the true mark of the ministry of Jesus: love made visible in action.

Sometimes, when we are burdened with grief, the Spirit finds a way to console us so powerfully and tenderly that we will never forget it. Youth Sunday, my friends. What a gift.

~Sandy

Notes



PW Gathering

On Monday, June 6th, at 6:00 p.m, Presbyterian Women in the Congregation PRESBYTERIAN will host a gathering in the Fireside Lounge



to install officers for the coming year and dedicate the Birthday Offering. Come and join us as we celebrate this first in person gathering in two years. This year the Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women is 100 years old. Grants funded by this offering have transformed the lives of countless people. From the original funds donated for the entrance gate in Montreat, North Carolina, and Miss Dowd's School for Girls in Kochi, Japan, to a classroom at Stillman College in Alabama in the 1960s, to housing and hunger projects in Maine and Puerto Rico today, the Birthday Offering continues to provide a message of hope in the U.S. and around the world.

Financial Notes

as of April 30, 2022

	<u>Actual</u>	Budgeted	Over/(Under)	
Pledges	\$126,120.68	133,462.00	(7,341.32)	
Other Income*	\$314,379.61	18,532.44	295,847.17	
Expense	\$173,711.65	183,893.72	(10,182.07)	
Net Income	\$266,788.64	(31,899.28)	298,687.92	

Division Consolidation

	<u>April</u>	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	16,718.96	266,788.64
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	(670.06)	1,310.80
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	16,048.90	268,099.44

In Memoriam

May 2022

Marilyn Patterson January 3, 1932 - May 3, 2022 **Carol Valentine** August 1, 1945 - May 12, 2022

Rena Nolin May 21, 1958 - May 13, 2022

"In life and in death we belong to God.





Breanna Lehman,

granddaughter of Joyce Lyons, graduates June 2 from Cajon High School in San Bernardino. She will be attending Crafton Hills College (Yucaipa).

Brett Valentine received a Vocational Certificate as a Diesel Technician from San Bernardino Valley College. He has also been playing guitar and bass guitar

Leonard **Scholars**

Dawn Morris is earning a Master of Science in Counseling and Guidance at California State University, San Bernardino. She will apply for the California Pupil Personnel Services Credential and apply to become a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor.

Christian Usher has finished his first two years of medical school at St. George's University in Grenada. He is working on his two clinical years where he will get hands' on practice and learn practical, real-world medicine.

Abby Willis is a studio art major at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. She is interested in the area of art therapy and is taking art and psychology classes in preparation.

Steve on Steve

We have been writing and running a series of articles to help folks get better acquainted with staff. This month, Stewardship asked Steve Smith to write about himself. As you can see, we have a truly outstanding staff.

2010 was the beginning of what my family has called my "retirement failure." After graduating from seminary in 1970, I served as an assistant pastor, a pastor, and an interim pastor. I served 20 years as a Stated Clerk (an officer in the Presbyterian governmental system) and Associate Presbytery Executive in several levels of the church. 2010 was the year I hit the magical retirement age and had a couple of months of actual retirement. It wasn't long, however, before I was called on to be the interim stated clerk for first one presbytery, and then another, and then another. By 2017 I sorta figured out what retirement means and only agreed to work as a volunteer.



When I started in ministry, I planned to focus on Christian education and youth ministry in churches that could afford to have more than one pastor. It took a few years, but I gradually developed an interest in facets of church life beyond Sunday School and youth activities. A courageous congregation called me as pastor and helped me become a somewhat respectable preacher. Pastoring a church meant I needed to learn much more about how the Presbyterian Church runs and the theology behind its structure. This set me up to be invited to serve the wider church in areas of church government (often called 'polity') and leadership.

Since this stuff is not widely talked about in the local congregation, what I did in the church isn't that easily described. I was elected to the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission and served as its moderator for two years. This resulted in my being on the writing teams that revised the church's Rules of Discipline, and later that revised the Form of Government (parts of the church's Constitution). Although I enjoyed this work at the broader levels of the church, I have always been grateful that I was connected to local congregations where the majority of people experience the church as the body of Christ at work.

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino is where my family transferred when I stopped being a pastor in a nearby congregation and where my daughters (Tina and Elizabeth) were married and where Jane worked with Adult Education and served a term on the session. My volunteer work now is with the Deacons and the various missions they support. I also help out with worship sometimes.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries					
Jun 1	Jon & Nancy	June 16	Joy Burgan-Price	Jun 25	Jim Huffstutler
Horstmann Elizabeth & Jose					Randy & Kristine
Jun 2	Terri Carlos		Morales		French
	Amy Rueda	Jun 18	Zach Kern	Jun 26	Wayne & Linda
	Katie Smith	Jun 19	David & Merry Beth		McCarl
Jun 3	Tommie Ann Freemar	า	Grindahl	Jun 28	Ava June Bodner
Jun 4	Erynne Arellano	Jun 20	Tom Garza		Nancy Horstmann
Jun 5	Raymond Direen		Katrina Johnston		Shirley Raabe
Jun 7	Deb Burgan-Price	Jun 21	Nick Davies		Brad & Amy Smith
	Bob & Maria Saenz		Sara Hibbs DeLeon	Jun 30	Rhyland Emery
Jun 8	David Grindahl	Jun 23	Jorge Carlos		French
Jun 12	Rowan Fletcher		Danny & Doris		Sandy Garza
Jun 13	David Coyne		Schiavone		Randy & Jenny
					Mantei

Session Highlights

by Wendy Lamb, Commissioned Local Pastor

Session had a long and rigorous meeting in April. We began the meeting by talking to our new partners Jennifer Carter and LaKeysha Cobbs-Hayes about the needs of their programs as they rent space on our campus. We are excited to welcome these programs to our campus while being concerned about liability issues. We are being invitational and careful. This is exactly what people who are talking about church in the 21st century are suggesting: are we offering space we are no longer able to use to make a difference in our neighborhood? Oaktree Learning Center (https://www.oaktreelearningcenter.com), a preschool with a mission to advance literacy for under-represented students and Key Essentials (https://www.keyessentialsbm.com), a behavior therapy center (Applied Behavior Analysis), are both doing exactly this kind of work. To be able to come alongside them is a privilege for us.

We also discussed how to use the money we received from the sale of the property on D street and the Andrews Trust. Some of the money will go to our endowments, some to paying off the loan for our solar panels, some for a leadership development fund, some to help pay for the Fellowship Hall roof repairs, and some to restore our cash reserves. We also tithed 10% of the proceeds from the D street property to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, our denominations group that helps when challenges strike.

Session approved a proposal from Building and Grounds to move our current fencing out closer to the street. Members expressed concern for the people who have been sleeping on our property and will be displaced by the new fencing, but the conditions at this time have necessitated this step.

We ended with people noticing where they had seen God in the meeting. Mentions were made of our new tenants, of our care for those who have been using our campus, and our ability to come together and have good discussions even when we don't agree on everything.

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

Debt Free!

by Mimi Lange, Office Administrator

At the April meeting of the Session, several financial proposals were approved, one of which was the early pay-off of the loan we obtained from the Presbyterian Loan and Investment Program to purchase and install our solar panels. The loan was paid off early in May.

Paying off the loan early will allow us to cut our electricity budget even more than the solar panels have already done! And it allows us to save money on taxes, as the rent received on leasing our real property generates tax obligations if the property is "debt-financed". Paying off the mortgage means we are no longer debt-financed.

We have used funds bequeathed to us by or given in memory of Barbara Maupin, Joan Carpenter, Marian Klefstad, Garrett Skipper, Sam Ponder, Faye Callaway, Joanne Wolf, and Paul & Marge Bentley to do this. We have been blessed by the generosity of our members, and we are thankful.

Board of Deacons 2022

Rebecca Allen, Moderator; Steve Smith, Pastoral Support Class of 2022: Mark Adelson, Carmen Avila, Janet McKinster

Class of 2023: Rebecca Allen, Sharon Landeros, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Chris Wright Thomas Class of 2024: Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Marianna Fowles, Richard Rodriguez, Katie Smith

Coincidence? I Don't Think So

by Rick Rodriguez, Deacon, Food Ministry Chair

The Food Ministry gave out bags of food to more people in one weekday than I have ever seen since working with the food ministry. Almost 50 families and individuals came for food on Thursday, May 12th. This is more than twice as many as the average we have been giving out through the first four months of 2022. We were already getting low on several of the items we rely on for all of the bags of food we give out. After Thursday, May 12th we were out of or almost out of a lot items we really need like cereal, cans of beans, cans of fruit and several others. We were discussing if we would have enough food if we continued to have this many households come for food the following week.

We then found out that we could pick up food from two different places for FREE. So with the help of Neal Williams and Helen and Jim Babcock we went and picked up the food. When we got it back to First Pres we saw that a lot of the food were the items we needed the most. There were cases of fruit, cases of cereal, beans and quite a few other things that will hold us over for quite a while. It was about 2000 lbs of food.

I am not a believer in coincidence. I just know the Food Ministry got the help we needed at the time we needed it. This will allow us to continue to serve those in our community who are in need. We are a church family who believe, so I will leave it to each of you to decide how this happened just when it needed to happen.

Headdress Heroes

by Sandy Tice

This month the Assistance League of San Bernardino held their annual Headdress Ball, this year the theme was Hometown Heroesand 6 of those heroes belong to US!!

Herb & Cheryl Fischer were celebrated for their commitment to education as Superintendent of County Schools, Department Chair of Educational Administration – and decades of "making dreams come true". Though they now live at the beach near their grandkids, their impact continues to be felt in our region through scholarships for AVID and the Inland Empire Community Foundation. (They're now members at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church)

Dotti & Ernie Garcia were lauded for their love of the arts made visible in their creation of the Garcia Center, the Ernie Garcia Art Gallery at the Orange Show; for their lifetime of educating students, teachers, and administrators; and for their participation on the County Arts Connection Board. Our lives are brighter and more beautiful because of their commitment & leadership.

Bobbi & Cliff Cummings were honored for 30 years of commitment to our city made visible in their successful Cummings Auto Group. Though the city began its financial troubles shortly after they arrived (in part because of the closure of SF railroad, Kaiser Steel and Norton AFB) they persevered and have lived and worked among us. Cliff is an avid golfer and supports First Tee for youth; together they've provided support for Santa Claus Inc., the Crane Dental Clinic, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Mountain Communities, and of course LifeSkillz and scholarships for SBHS students.

What a legacy of beauty and joy, of business and job creation, of education and leadership! How grateful we are to claim them as part of our extended family as they use their unique gifts to bless the world.

Statistics show that 85% of people come to a church because they were personally invited. Is there someone who would love our church?

Who might you invite this week?

Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

LCpl Jacob Allen, US Marines, Cherry Point, North Carolina

PFC Jeremy Allen, US Marines, 29 Palms, 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

LifeSkillz Sunday Celebration

It's time again to celebrate graduates of our LifeSkillz program at SBHS. This year, the celebration falls on Pentecost Sunday, when we recall the coming of the Spirit of God in fire and flame and wind.

On June 5, we will acknowledge and delight in our students with whom we have met for breakfast and conversation (and during Covid: pizza outside!) and celebrate their success in completing the requirements for graduation. They will wear red regalia. (You are invited to wear something flame-colored as well to honor the energy of the Spirit who gives us life!)

Following worship, students are invited to an end-of-year gathering at the Cummings home for swimming and food and fun.

This ministry has given us life and has resulted in ongoing relationships. We are different because we have come to know these young people, and we are grateful!! Be sure to join us in person or online to join the celebration.



This following article on the history of LifeSkillz Circle and the key role that our Presbyterian Women play in this program appeared recently in the Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery (PWP) newsletter. At our service on June 5th, FPC will celebrate our 6th LifeSkillz graduating class. Last week, Presbyterian Women and Cummings Auto Group presented scholarships to 10 of our graduating seniors. Hope you can join us on the 5th and meet these remarkable young people.

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino's LifeSkillz Circle Partnering with the High School Across the Street

by Bobbi Cummings

In December 2013, members of the First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino's Presbyterian Women went to a Presbytery retreat about innovation. They met Eric Law of the Kaleidoscope Institute and were energized by his idea of engaging young people in schools with at-risk demographics. They thought, is this a God Thing? They thought, if not here, where?

Session, in its continuing effort to find ways for our church to get closer to our neighborhood, commissioned Eric to help us create a renewed friendship with San Bernardino High School. He coached a group of us looking for ways to build bridges. PW began with small gestures of kindness and trust: we wrote a thousand notes of encouragement and sent a carload of snacks for State testing, we hosted an end of season celebration here for two sports teams, we patronized their bakery and flower shop. Project Updraft was born. But, could we do more? How else was God leading us to serve?

We felt called to support kids who, in too many cases, didn't have the support or focus to succeed, were being pulled in too many directions, or just didn't have a voice in their heads telling them they have what it takes.

So, we worked on a curriculum to guide discussions on listening with respect and communicating with clarity, we talked with counselors and administrators about what might work and prayed for guidance.

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Eric Law provided training for the church members who would become our group leaders, counselors and administrators identified and invited a group of students, our Presbyterian Women made breakfast, and on a Monday in January 2014, LifeSkillz Circle was born.

We had ten students that first semester and they have formed the true basis for what LifeSkillz would become. We met every Monday morning and lured them in with amazing breakfasts provided by our Presbyterian Women's Circles. While our curriculum gave us the confidence to interact with these amazing young people, we soon found that they just wanted to talk and they wanted to be heard. They brought their friends and their siblings. We developed a culture of trust where they felt comfortable sharing, knowing it wouldn't leave the room.

At the end of the semester, they said, "Do we have to stop?" So we didn't. The first 10 graduated in June 2016 and have gone on to attend or graduate college, serve in the military and the California Conservation Corps, and play for the Minnesota Vikings. Since then, over 100 students have participated in LifeSkillz, some for all four years of high school. Our leadership group has grown as the program has grown and I believe we would all be lost on Monday morning without our LifeSkillz kids. Often, women from the Circles who bring breakfast stay to participate in the conversation. They bring their insights and wisdom and take away so much more from listening to these students. We celebrate Christmas with cookie baking and the end of the school year with a pool party. There have been mountain retreats, rock climbing adventures and hikes during the super bloom. The church celebrates our seniors with a special service in their honor and Presbyterian Women give scholarships to students who are heading to college. We started an intern program in 2015 where students get work experience at the church, helping with the food ministry and providing much needed maintenance around the campus under the supervision of caring, talented church members. Over 40 students have participated.

We say, "Once a LifeSkillz member, always a LifeSkillz member." We have maintained contact with our alumni with breakfasts at a local diner, emails and texts and a Friendsgiving last Thanksgiving that brought out 20 of our graduates, including 4 of the original 10.

We asked ourselves at the beginning if we had the "right" group of students. They are engaged at school, most have families that love and support them and most have aspirations of graduating and going to college. Every week they surprise us with their insights, their challenges and their resilience. They fill us with their laughter and smiles and touch us with their tears. We see them trying to succeed despite having to face incredible obstacles. Each Monday, as we head home, our hearts are filled with gratitude for these young people who have touched our lives, made us better people and who we have come to truly love. God has brought us exactly the "right" kids.





Bobbi (left photo) and Robin (right photo) give scholarships to the 2016 LifeSkillz students.

Safe Child and Mandatory Reporting by Wendy Lamb, CLP, for the Nurture Committee

California Law AB 506 builds on what our congregation and Nurture Committee have been doing with Child and Youth Protection Policies and Mandated Reporter Training. The training now includes all employees, Session members, and Corporate Officers as well as those who work with minors. The state is offering free online training. We will make the links available for those who need to complete it. While people can certainly complete the training on their own, we would like to offer two opportunities for people to gather in person and/or online to complete the training together. Since Session members need to be trained and Session is usually dark in July, we plan to have a training gathering for Session members and anyone else at **5:30 on Wednesday, July 27**. We will also hold a training session on **Sunday, June 26**, **after worship** for all volunteers (Session and otherwise) who would like to attend.

Individuals need come to only one of the trainings. We look forward to seeing you there to keep our children safe!

Roof Notes

Symphonie Jeunesse

Beauty begets beauty, love begets love. This is part of the hard-wiring that God has built into the world: kindness and beauty and generosity are generative-they tend to create more of the same. Some days ago Sandy found in her mailbox an envelope that contained a note card, which when it was opened looked like this: (photo here)

It was signed by many teenagers and their parents and said, "Thanks for keeping a roof over our heads!" The students and adults were connected with Symphonie Jeunesse, the only student orchestra in our city, which meets to rehearse in our church buildings.

Tucked in to the card was a check for \$500! How sweet it is when neighbors care for one another, and offer to help in times of need. It is significant to both our bottom line and our spirits to be supported and encouraged by these young musicians! Occasionally, when I am on campus on a Saturday, my heart swells as sweet music drifts down a hallway or finds its way around a corner. Who is the giver here, and who the receiver? In God's economy, when we all share what we have to give, it is hard to say- as all of us are blessed and made stronger.

Thanks be to God for these capable students who make living music, bless us with an upcoming concert (see flyer!), and who have helped us pay for our roof!





Joan Carpenter and her children

Ode to Roof

Look! There is a roof above us, and new skylights gleaming bright! Shelter from the rain and summer, open space for love and life. We will all break bread together-We and all our hungry kin! This is no exclusive clubhouse-Everyone's invited in!

Comforting each other after we've lost someone very dear-Sacramental treats and coffee -that is what we shelter here! Can you hear the music playing? Cello, violin and bass! Interns working, deacons serving! Living music, glorious praise!

Look how givers past and present made this leaky thing secure-Dr. Crane and 4 dear members and our own Joan Carpenter! Don't forget the "B & G guys"-Alex, James and Captain Dave-Saints who did God's work together-their best gifts they gladly gave!

What will happen next we wonder, in this space renewed & bright? Help us, God, to use this resource in new ways that bring new Life! Joy and justice, faith and friendship: Help us to imagine more! So this space will speak of Your Love, Wall & window, roof & floor!

Amen!

Written on the occasion of the dedication of a new roof & the replacement of solar panels on the Fellowship Hall at First Pres San Bernardino.

With apologies to Beethoven.

Prayer to dedicate a roof –(offered by Pastor Sandy on Sunday, May 15, 2022)

O God, you dwell in a house not made w/human hands! But this place is a place built by hands and hearts. We thank you for all who have contributed to make us sheltered and safe!

We pray for all that will happen here: conversations over coffee, games and crafts with kids, nourishing food made ready for our siblings, bread broken and laughter shared, and interns doing meaningful work.

Make this a place of light: the light that pours through skylights and windows, and the Light of your presence that makes us one. Make your presence known in this space.

Thank you for saints and friends who have made this possible- Dr. Crane the dentist who gave us the building across the street at the time of his retirement, Joan Carpenter who left us a legacy, kids & parents from Symphonie Jeunesse, and members who gave special gifts for this express purpose. Together we've made a small miracle and completed an \$83,000 project without debt!

Show us how you want to use it next, so that we might shelter many, and in the future break bread w/ folks we have not yet imagined, for Jesus' sake. ~Amen

Rock Climbing and Worship Leading! by Wendy Lamb

The congregational youth of First Pres had a big weekend May 14-15 with a Joshua Tree rock climbing trip on Saturday and Youth Sunday in our sanctuary the next day.

The congregational youth are busy with any number of activities, so it turned out that the weekend of May 14-15 was a window between spring activities and end-of-year celebrations.

At the beginning of the year, we asked the youth what kinds of activities they would like to do. The one definite answer we got was Rock Climbing. Ryan Nord had been part of a group that went rock climbing some years ago, and he really wanted to go again. We were able to plan it for a day that most youth could make it, and so we went.

8 youth, 2 younger brothers, and 5 parents met at 6:00 a.m. (to try to beat the May heat) and headed to Joshua Tree. We met up with Pastor Wayne Morrow and other guides from Uprising Adventures at Joshua Tree, and the kids were off. Everyone who planned to climb did so (Brent and I watched and took photos). Students who wanted to had a chance to climb 5 different paths. Only Ryan and John-Paul had climbed outside before. The climbers did really well as they climbed within their comfort zones and pushed themselves higher and higher. They learned to trust their guide and their ropes and the rock. They found footholds and fingerholds and learned about themselves and the sport. They also learned to trust the ropes and the belayer as they came down the rocks. Owen and Breanna had a chance to learn belaying, the part of the sport as the person on the ground, holding the rope, supporting the climber, keeping them safe. We talked later, as we encouraged Ryan in his sermon writing, about how rock climbing is like the Christian community as we make our way upward and onward even when we're not quite sure where the next foothold might be and support one another doing so. (He didn't end up using our suggestions in his excellent sermon, but he had options.)

After climbing, our guides took the group on a cave adventure in the "Chasm of Doom." They went from the heights of the rocks to the depths of the caves, scrambling through narrow spots and making their way in the cool of the caverns. Even the youth who were less keen on climbing had an opportunity to enjoy the cave exploration.

Our guides went about 20 minutes overtime to make sure we received the whole experience. They were awesome, and we are grateful.

On our way home, we stopped at Steak 'N' Shake for lunch. It might have been a highlight for some of our youth. They thoroughly enjoyed the cardstock and sticker cars as well as burgers and fries, chicken strips and shakes.

After an early morning and exhausting day, Ryan still wrote his sermon, and we re-gathered at 9:00 on Sunday to rehearse our Youth Sunday service.

Six weeks ago we began planning the service using the lectionary texts for the week. The texts spoke to us of new beginnings, being willing to change, and welcoming all people, even those we might not have considered before. With a theme and lots of music ideas, we planned a service. Our Energizer reminded us that Christ came down to being us love, peace, and light. Maddie welcomed us to worship. Kendra played a youth favorite (Lord of the Dance) for the prelude. Asher led a Call to Worship based on "Gather Us In" and we sang that hymn. Ryan and Oliver did a Time with the Children based on the Psalm and Aidan and Owen led the congregation in singing "Let All Things Now Living" with guitar accompaniment. Owen, Ryan, Kendra, Breanna, and Joshua read our scripture. Ryan and Aidan offered sermons from the scripture and their experiences. Ethan offered a meaningful Pastoral Prayer. It was a lovely service and I encouage anyone who didn't get to see it to view it now on our YouTube channel.

It was a good weekend to see our young people involved in the life of the church. They got to experience God's creation and their strengths in Joshua Tree with the rocks and in our sanctuary as they gathered us in.





Save the Pate/

Youth Orchestra for Strings

Michèle Brosseau Tacchia, Founder/Artistic Director, Conductor Michael Tacchia, Executive Director, Pianist Guest Performer Mr. Mark Almy

In Lieu of Mother's Day and Father's Day We are Pleased to Be

Honoring All Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers

On

Sunday, June 12, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church

1900 North D St. San Bernardino, CA 92405

We hope to see you there!

Symphonie Jeunesse is a registered California Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organization. Masks are optional for guests, subject to venue and state requirements. This is a non-ticketed concert. Donations are welcome.

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:30am Worship Service	30 Church Office Closed.	31	1 6:30pm Worship Committee	2	3 9:30am Kerygma	8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA
5 **Personal Transport of the Control of the Contr	6 6:00pm PW Gathering	7 6:00am Election polling 7:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	8 10:00am Carol Valentine Memorial Service	9 4:30pm Nurture Committee	10 9:30am Kerygma	8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA
Come to the Table 10:30am Worship Service with Communion 3:00pm Symphonie Jeunesse Concert	13	14 10:30am Retired Public Employees Assn. 6:30pm Deacons	Deadline for First Press articles 5:30pm Stewardship Committee	9:00am Friendship Circle 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	17 8:30am Food Bagging 9:30am Kerygma	9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA 1:00pm SJO rehearsal
19 10:30am Worship Service	20 11:00am Security Workshop	21 1:00pm Circle of Grace and Hope 7:00pm Mensch Group	22 5:30pm SESSION	23	9:30am Kerygma	25 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA
26 10:30am Worship Service	27	28	29	30	1 9:30am Kerygma	2 10:00am Straight Up AA

First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

1900 North D Street San Bernardino, CA 92405

Mailing Address:

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Office: 882-3308 email: pres.first@gmail.com www.fpcsb.net

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9 am to 4:30 pm

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.