



First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

# First Press

September 2022



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## We Are the Church Together

As we have been meeting in the Fellowship Hall during the heat of August, Pastor Sandy has been leading the children during Time with the Children in learning and singing, "We Are the Church Together." We have learned that the church is all people with all kinds of faces and that the church is always learning. This is a message we can always remember as we move forward, learning and growing and changing.

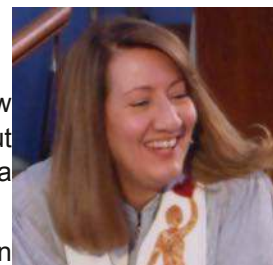
I am the church!  
You are the church!  
We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus,  
all around the world!  
Yes, we're the church together!

We're many kinds of people,  
with many kinds of faces,  
all colors and all ages, too,  
from all times and places.  
(Refrain)

Sometimes the church is marching,  
sometimes it's bravely burning,  
sometimes it's riding, sometimes  
hiding,  
always it's learning.  
(Refrain)

## Change Is Not Optional

Ugh!!! It has the ring of truth to it, but don't you just hate that it's true?? I confess that I do. I know what I like, and I like what I know- and I think that makes me a pretty typical Presbyterian! But here we are, in a world that is changing faster than we can comprehend, and we must figure out a way to adapt.



**-Worship attendance is changing.** We are about half as many folks worshipping in person than we were 2 years ago. On one hand, there are many who are joining us online, which is reason to rejoice! But in-person worship feels different, and I am wondering what God is inviting us to notice or do about that. Are there other ways to meet or celebrate? Are there ways to invite or to include that make us more complete?

-You know we are **meeting for worship in Fellowship Hall** (see article below). I mostly eat at my own dining table, but sometimes I grill and eat on the back patio- or go on a picnic- because there are things to enjoy there, too. Things that don't happen as readily in a more formal or familiar setting. How can we open up to thoroughly enjoy these 'picnic' days?

-This morning was our first LifeSkillz breakfast of the year. **San Bernardino High School has a new principal** (change!) and more than half of the 25 kids in the room were new faces to me (more change!) How can I let go of what I loved about *last year's kids*, to make room to fully delight in this new group?

**-How acts of service get done around here is changing!** Our food ministry completely reinvented itself to be safer and more streamlined during Covid. We continue to meet tremendous need and enthusiasm from guests. Many volunteers on whom we depended are no longer able to help – how shall we continue this work?

-Nominating committee has begun its work to identify leaders to guide us forward- **and they will bring wisdom and grace and creativity that will change us.**

Change is hard work, and unfortunately it's not optional. But we trust in One who does not change with the seasons. When we trust the Love in which we are held, when we breathe it in and speak it to one another and ground ourselves in that Grace, then we can face changes with greater courage and creativity and curiosity. As Jesus said over and over: "Be Not Afraid."

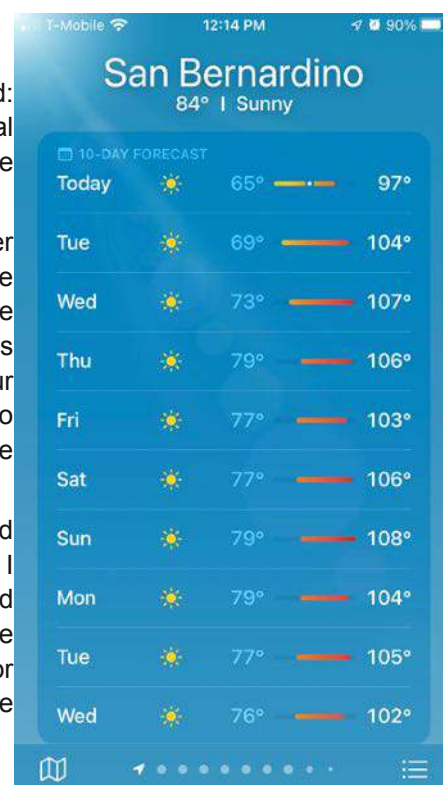
~Sandy

## Household Challenges

At the end of July we received the largest one month utility bill we've ever had: \$5,000! Some of this is a modest rate increase, some of it is we had an unusual afternoon (peak energy cost) event that month, and some of it is that we have space that is expensive to cool!

Here in So Cal the temp outside is generally mild. But during the late summer when the heat is relentless, our cooling bills are enormous. To address this, we are gathering in Fellowship Hall for worship for a few weeks. This allows us to use the 15-ton air conditioning unit for Fellowship Hall, and to not use the TWO 20-ton units that are required to cool the sanctuary in this heat. It is good stewardship of our finances and also a way to care for God's beautiful world. But it is a challenge to work out music, and sound, and livestream, seating, and all the rest of it. Some brave and brilliant folks have made that possible. I am grateful.

Just as we got these Sunday issues in hand, those who work in the office noted that even though the A/C was on, the office was unpleasantly warm. It is 2pm as I write and it is 90 degrees! It turns out the coil on our office A/C unit is damaged and all the refrigerant has leaked out. We do not know when the new parts will be available, so stay tuned for announcements about when the office will be open or closed. Let's be creative, cheerful and flexible as we figure out how to meet these challenges.





## Notes

### Deacons' Blood Drive

There is currently a great need for blood. The Deacons of First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino are helping to fill that need by hosting a mobile blood drive for LifeStream Blood Bank On Sunday, September 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You can schedule an appointment by going to this link:

<https://lsblooddrive.org/rpfu>

or finding the LifeStream website, click on schedule appointment, click on Sponsor Name Search to the left, and type in First Presbyterian Church.

If you cannot donate on the 11th, you can donate to LifeStream using the Club Code CPFU and be counted as part of the church group.

### Financial Notes

Financial Report as of July 31, 2022.  
General Fund

	Actual	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
Pledges	\$227,665.60	233,558.50	(5,892.90)
Other Income*	\$136,308.59	29,413.65	106,894.94
Expense	\$295,279.16	316,148.91	(20,869.75)
Net Income	\$ 68,695.03	(53,176.76)	121,871.79

\*Other Income includes 283,187.92 from sale of office building at 1875 N D.

Division Consolidation

	July	Year to date
General Fund Net Income (Expense)	4,472.66	68,695.03
Deacons Net Income (Expense)	(1,266.06)	234.69
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	3,206.60	68,929.72

### September 11 -- Reunion Worship

Plan to join us as you can for worship on September 11. We will be celebrating gathering together. There will be food and activities and opportunities to discover ministries of the congregation.  
(See article on page 7)

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](mailto:newsletter@fpcsb.net).  
**The deadline for the following month's newsletter is the 15th of each month.**

### Keep Military Members in Your Prayers

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

**Seaman Robert Sandoval,**  
US Navy, Virginia

**LCpl Jeremy Allen,**  
US Marine Corps, Camp Courtney, Okinawa

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

**Seaman Mark Munz,**  
US Navy, San Diego, California

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

**Private Javier Rocha,**  
US Army, Fort Benning, Georgia

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

## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sep 3	Dan Schiavone
Sep 4	Ed Congdon
Sep 6	Norm & Christa Wallis Tom & Donna Garza
Sep 7	Sally Inglis
Sep 8	Deon Garcia
Sep 9	Harry Babcock Jeanne Clark Larry & Melodee Kistner Rosalind & Ken Mantei Shelby Obershaw Ramon & Penny Ramirez
Sep 10	Judy Steppins Christian Usher
Sep 11	Jane Snyder
Sep 12	Laurie Stafford Kelsey Smith
Sep 13	Jeannie Marona
Sep 15	Jennifer Shenton
Sep 16	Robert Godby
Sep 17	Bonnie Ainsworth
Sep 18	Mindy Rueda
Sep 19	Kimberly Ballard
Sep 22	Al Rueda
Sep 23	Michael Cummings
Sep 24	Kyle Smith
Sep 26	Jim Siegmund Kelli Vasquez
Sep 27	Eli Morales
Sep 30	Carmen Paredes

## "Helpful Henry"

Marilyn Kraft, Food Volunteer

From 9 am -11 am on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and the third Saturday of the month, we distribute groceries to our neighbors. "We" is you, as part of this church community, volunteers, staff, donors, and partners. Food Ministry participation and output, especially in the Tuesday/Thursday part of distribution, has increased dramatically in 2022. In 4 hours per week, we distributed in both June and July more food to as many participants as we did in 15 hours per week in 2019. This involves a large variety and number of volunteer tasks, not all of them are well known.

One faithful volunteer we'll call "Helpful Henry". Some of his tasks have been:

- Assembling resource info we put in bags, even taking his box of copies home for homework!
- Sorting "banana box" (foods by category, e.g. proteins) into like items, ready to shelve.
- Doubling up the grocery bags that hold the heavy commodities distributed on Saturdays.
- Packing into "extra" food bags homegrown fruit, refrigerated and frozen items.
- Assembling men & women's hygiene kits & homeless comfort kits.
- Putting masks (many thousands!) into packets of five that we put in bags.
- Assembling utensils & napkins & can openers into kits for homeless bags.
- Sorting & counting out donated plastic bags - 144 each for Saturday bags and refrigerated bags.
- Putting our numbered food cards back in order after Saturday.
- Putting smiles on the faces of everyone who comes to Room 12.

We need people like Helpful Henry.

Henry is 92 years old.

Note: You do not have to be 92 to help in food ministry.

You also won't be stealing Helpful Henry's work if you volunteer. We have much more to do!

By doing what he does (which is a lot!), Henry brings information & comfort to our neighbors and helps keep the program ready to serve.

Other volunteers order food, drive, unload, restock the food closet, bag, register participants, load food into cars & carts, file reports, work with partners, verify & copy information, attend meetings, etc.

If you would like to know the real identity of "Helpful Henry", talk to Rick. And, uh....maybe bring your calendar?



## July Session Moments

Amy Smith, Clerk of Session

Your Session continues to meet both in person and online – thanks to Alex Smith and Wendy Lamb for handling the technical details! The meeting opened with a reflection, and everyone shared their observations. Sandy shared some of her vacation highlights, including catching up with Caden and Nick Eckert, Olive, and baby Adam in Chicago! We continued to learn about our financial reports. Preliminary plans are being made to celebrate the 150th birthday of First Pres, San Bernardino in January, 2024 – stay tuned for more information as it develops! The June Presbytery of Riverside Assembly meeting was recapped as well as some information from General Assembly. Finally, we shared where we had seen the Holy Spirit at work that evening. Your Session members always welcome your input and feedback on any issues or concerns regarding the church. You can find their names in this newsletter and contact information by calling the church office.

## 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

## Bonnie Hansen Fund

This is the first of several articles on endowment funds at the Church. These designated gifts help pay for specific programs.

--Margaret Doane, Stewardship

Bonnie Hansen was, says her daughter Chris Wright-Thomas, "all about kids." She was devoted to the care of babies when she worked as a nurse for many years; and she loved teaching Sunday School, which she did for many decades. After Bonnie died in 1990, her husband Chris set up a fund to honor her and to ensure that money would always be available for children's activities and education in the Church. The Bonnie Hansen Fund, administered by Presbyterian Foundation Funds, was set up to pay for Sunday School expenses for three- and four-year olds, to pay for Sunday nursery teachers' salaries, and to pay for robes for the children's choir as needed. Interest from the Fund continues to offset salaries paid to Sunday nursery attendants.

Chris and Bonnie met in high school. When they later married, he was in the Army and she was in nursing school. They moved from Alaska to San Bernardino in 1956, and had two daughters, Chris and Terri. Bonnie was a Deacon and an Elder over the years, but her love and energy, says daughter Chris, "always went to the kids." Bonnie taught Sunday School for several decades and also was active in assisting with the needs of the younger choirs (there were four choirs at the time). She handmade beautiful stoles worn by the youngest choir.

Bonnie worked for fifteen years as a nurse, mostly at St. Bernardine's. She loved tending and holding the youngest babies and changed jobs only when volunteers got to hold the babies, and her own work turned to charting and paperwork. In the late 1960s, she became the bookkeeper at the Highlander, a high-end women's clothing store owned by her parents. The shop was near Flowerland and near the current Hannah's Restaurant.

Jim Huffstutler says "Bonnie was so gracious and kind, such a hard worker but always a behind-the-scenes person." Daughter Chris echoed exactly Jim's words in calling her mother "gracious and kind," and said "she would do anything for you, but always in the background." The Bonnie Hansen Fund assures that this kindness and devotion comes to our Church's children, even more than thirty years later.



Chris and Bonnie Hansen

# Key Essentials and the Food Ministry

Rick Rodriguez, Food Ministry

A large amount of the food ministry work is done in Room 12. This gives us a chance to interact with the wonderful people who work at Key Essentials, who are doing such amazing work in Rooms 7, 8 and 9. We get to see the children being brought to them for care with their families. We have made sure that Key Essentials is aware that the food ministry is open to both the families who bring children to them for care and to Key Essentials employees. During the last several weeks we have been able to assist several of both.

It brightens my day whenever I see these small children coming with their parent to be dropped off at Key Essentials. This is a wonderful partnership that the church started. It is helping the children that are dropped off at Key Essentials and their families, and it is a benefit to our church in so many ways. We should all look forward to a long partnership with Key Essentials.



## Can You Help?

Pastor Sandy Tice

"The Church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,  
the church is not a resting place- the Church is a People!"

We have been singing this with kids in Fellowship Hall in worship the last 3 weeks- and we mean it!

The Church is a People- a tribe of us seeking to follow Jesus and love the world and make justice and mercy visible. We are an extended family, and a team willing to serve in Jesus' name.

Sometimes, (not least because church buildings look like theaters!) we think that we are just observers, an audience who has gathered to enjoy beauty and connection on Sunday morning- but we are more than that. We are each called by name, we are each given gifts and resources to share, and we are partners with God in blessing the world. I drove by a building recently that proclaimed that 'Active Church' met there, and I smiled. In my opinion, there is no other kind!

As we recover from isolation from one another and all the changes and challenges brought by the pandemic, I wonder if you can help?

We have many needs and we could use volunteers to lend a hand, to make our shared ministry happen.

- Food Ministry needs lots of folks to help! Some of the work is heavy lifting (literally!) much of it involves showing up and helping. Rick can answer questions and help you find a spot.

- Worship! We need ushers, safety (outdoor) ushers, camera and sound folks (we can train you!) and lectors/readers to make in-person and livestream happen. Several times a year we set up or take down things to change the seasons in our sanctuary- maybe you'd like to be on a list to help there?

- How about choir? Would you like to sing? In the past, choir has met to practice on Thursdays. At the moment, the choir is rehearsing on Sunday mornings only- you might love being part of this warm and cheerful crew.

Or call me- or Wendy- or someone else you notice who is doing something and ask questions! We want to find a place for you to Be Loved, Be in Christ, and Be of Use.

## 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

## Why I Teach KidSpace

by Jeanne Clark, KidSpace Teacher, Nurture Committee Member



I first started teaching church school when my kids were young. It seemed like a natural thing to do since I had two children in the church school program. I continued teaching when my granddaughter came along. They are all now grown, but I find myself still involved with KidSpace. I remind myself that every time we have a baptism, we, as a congregation, promise to love and nurture that child in their Christian faith. That seems like an important promise.

For the past year, Nancy Horstmann and I have been teaching KidSpace, but we could really use some help. Both of us can't always be there, and current law requires that there always be two adults present with the children. If you feel like you would like to be involved, we would really appreciate your help. You wouldn't even have to teach unless you want to. We would welcome your presence and an extra set of hands. Our KidSpace class is small, but they are bright and inquisitive kids who are a joy to work with.

If you feel like this is something you could do on occasion, please see me or Nancy Horstmann.

Thank you.

## September 11 Reunion Worship

by Pastor Sandy Tice

I am absolutely confident that the Spirit of God is at work in the world- but HOW the Spirit works is often a mystery to me! Scripture says it blows where it wills! I am sure that wherever we find love and joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, justice, creativity, and courage the Spirit has been at work. Here is one clue: I have learned to attend over the years when something comes up 3 or more times. A topic that shows up in a scripture reading, and then in a conversation, and then later in a book I am reading, or in a dream or a news article for example. When it crops up over and over, I wonder if there is an invitation, whether the Spirit is trying to tell me something.

Yesterday at our staff meeting, that rule of 3 caught my attention. I had just finished writing a newsletter article about areas where **we need volunteers in our shared life**. Much has shifted since March of 2020, and as we return to In-Person gatherings, we need food ministry folks, choir members, people willing to serve as elders or deacons. We need ushers and safety ushers, people willing to learn to use our livestreaming equipment or do sound. So I wrote about all these things. (#1) and I wondered how to make this visible and inviting.

And then I got an email from an elder, expressing a **longing to see familiar faces, to invite folks back to in person worship**. Livestream is a great blessing- allowing some who can't be present to experience our embrace & God's nearness. But there is something joyous and deeply human about gathering, and also something profoundly empty about missing people in worship. What might we do to create a feel of welcome and engagement- maybe encourage folks to bring someone with them? I got to thinking about increasing anxiety and depression in teenagers, challenges facing young adults, and all the loneliness folks have experienced in quarantining or just being careful. I thought this email was so wise and wonderful. (#2)

And then, at staff meeting, Wendy told us that the Nurture Committee had been talking the night before about celebrating a Reunion Day- a festive **come-to-worship/ come reconnect!/come and see** kind of event that might include worship, opportunities to sign up or engage or volunteer, stuff for our youngest members, some refreshments and some gladness. Well- I am pretty sure that was (#3)!!!

And so, friends, since I think this is the Spirit nudging me, here's an invitation: let's get together on September 11 and celebrate that we CAN get together! Is there a kid who might benefit from belonging to an extended family? Is there a person who's been isolated? Is there someone who USED to be here regularly that you miss? Let's have a reunion!! Plans are rapidly coming together for a bright, joyful, spirit filled kind of morning. You will have lots more details soon- but for now: mark your calendar and think of someone you'd love to spend the morning with!

For wherever two or more of you are gathered in my name, there I am in your midst! – Jesus.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:30am Worship Service	29	30	31 9:00am Staff Meeting	1 11:00am SJO Audition	2 9:30am Kerygma	3 10:00am Straight Up AA 11:00am Symphonie Jeunesse audition
4  10:30am Worship Service	5 Church Office Closed. Labor Day	6 7:00pm Circle of Faith 7:00pm Mensch Group	7 4:30pm Worship Committee	8 4:30pm Nurture Committee	9 9:30am Kerygma	10 10:00am Straight Up AA
11 9:00am Deacons' Blood Drive 10:30am Worship Service	12	13 6:30pm Deacons	14	15 Deadline for First Press articles 9:00am Friendship Circle 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds Committee	16 9:00am Food Bagging 9:30am Kerygma	17 9:00am Deacon Food Distribution 10:00am Straight Up AA 1:00pm SJO rehearsal 2:00pm Marilyn Patterson Memorial Service
18 10:30am Worship Service	19	20 11:30am Retired Public Employees Assn. 1:00pm Circle of Grace and Hope 7:00pm Mensch Group	21 12:00pm Santa Claus, Inc. Volunteer Luncheon 5:30pm Stewardship Committee	22	23 9:30am Kerygma	24 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA
25 10:30am Worship Service	26	27 7:00pm Circle of Kindness	28 5:30pm SESSION	29	30 9:30am Kerygma	1 8:30am SJO rehearsal 10:00am Straight Up AA

## First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino

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### Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday  
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

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.*