



FPC Press

SINCE 1909

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Turlock, California

October 2022

Published Monthly



A Message From Our Pastor's Heart

Rev. Dr. Craig J. Wright

Greetings, Church Family!

I am currently teaching through the book of Acts at Covenant living. I really enjoy teaching through a book like Acts because it is so rich with history. It tells the stories of real people in real life situations and how they were able to affect the world with the good news of Christ. From our vantage point as the readers of history, we can see God's hand directing the story, moving people and resources around to accomplish his goal of telling everyone in the world the good news of His love. But let us keep in mind that as easy as it is for us to look back and see what God was doing then, it was likely not very easy for them to see and understand. For instance, there are a number of times when God was moving his disciples to break down cultural walls that separated people from the church, and the church itself became the point of resistance. Their occasional resistance to what God was doing was not driven by a sense of disobedience to the call; rather, it was giving in to fear of the unknown. My favorite case in point was Peter. In Acts 10, he was caught between the proverbial rock and a hard place. It seemed that God was asking him to do something that he had always been taught was the wrong thing to do. Many of you will remember that Peter was Jewish, and a major defining part of the life of a Jew was the strict dietary restrictions placed on them by their religious law. Some foods were allowed, and they were considered clean, or kosher. However, all the others were considered unclean. Hey, think about it, who wants to eat unclean food? While Peter is praying one day, he has a vision in which a large sheet was lowered from the heavens, containing all the foods that Peter is not supposed to eat, all the unclean stuff. You can imagine his response – he must have been thinking, 'Oh, gross!' And then it happens: the voice from heaven instructs Peter to go over and eat this stuff. If you want to imagine his dilemma, just open up a can of dog or cat food and imagine God just told you to eat it.

Peter is stuck between the nauseating and the divine. His reply to God is priceless. He says, "By no means, Lord." This happens two more times, with the same response from Peter, and then the sheet leaves, and God says to Peter, "What I have cleansed do not call unholy."

What would you have done? Probably the same as Peter; who wants to eat stuff that is gross? (You know, like an assortment of cheeses) This whole exercise was designed by God to get Peter thinking non-traditionally, thinking outside the box, and to consider that God wanted to do something new, something extra-ordinary, something that would change the world. The good news of Jesus Christ had to cross the divide between the Jewish community and the rest of the world, and in order for that to happen, faithful Peter and many like him had to go to the people who were considered unclean. Naturally, they were afraid of the unknown. Looking back, we see God's plan, but make no mistake, the early church was understandably nervous about such things. Change can be nerve racking.

It is my continued prayer for First Presbyterian Church that we would be eager to embrace new people, new things, new ideas, and maybe even that which on the surface looks unclean, in order to reach more with the good news of Christ's love. As a church and as individual members of Christ's body, may we take a deep breath, rise up and say **yes** to the vision that comes from above!

Blessings,

Pastor Craig



Announcements

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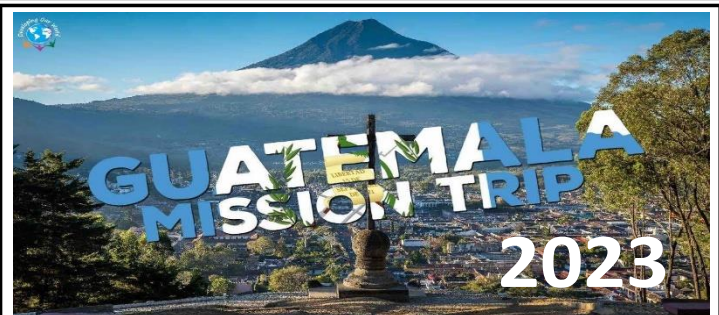
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
CELEBRATES OUR ONENESS
IN CHRIST
WITH ALL OUR
BROTHERS AND SISTERS
AROUND THE WORLD.
JOIN US FOR OUR SINGLE SERVICE
OCTOBER 2ND @ 10:30 AM
FOLLOWED BY
SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP IN
VOIGHT HALL ENJOYING
SOUP & BREAD
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday mornings follow the young nation of Israel as they wander around in the wilderness learning who God is.

Treasure Quest continues! Come hunt for treasure as we learn that God's Word is our greatest treasure. Dinner at 5:30. Program 6:00 - 7:30.

"Superhero Christmas" is underway! Children kindergarten through 6th grade join now! Practices are during Big Wednesday.



We will be returning to Guatemala!
June 28 through July 5, 2023

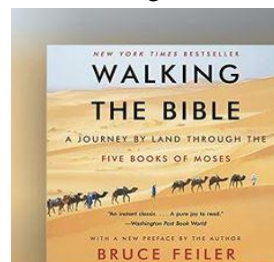
- build houses
- distribute food
- clothing
- seat people in wheelchairs.

If you are interested in experiencing this firsthand, please let Marcy know.



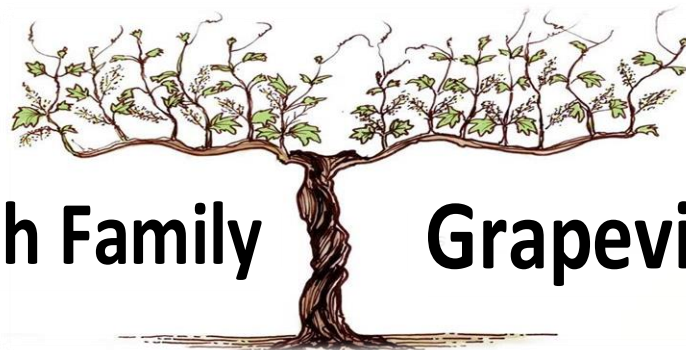
Youth is hosting another lunch honoring our seniors Over 80's Lunch on Sunday, October 9, 2022 in Voight Hall at noon. If you are 80 and above with a young heart, please rsvp by October 5th to the church office or Pat Wallace.

Our Walking the Bible book study is underway, and even if you haven't already participated it's not too late to join. The group meets every other Sunday at 6 p.m. in Voight Hall (with a Zoom option as well) and the leisurely pace—we cover about 70 pages each session—means that the readings are fairly short. Author Bruce Feiler's storytelling is so engaging that you are likely to find yourself both surprised by and enjoying the trek. The first October meeting is scheduled for Oct. 9th. Please join us!



A BI-WEEKLY STUDY GROUP
LED BY PASTOR CRAIG
SEPT. 11TH, 25TH, OCT. 9TH, OCT. 23RD
GEORGEVOIGHT HALL • 6PM

Church Family Grapevine



Ongoing Prayer Needs Key Code:

P-Personal, **F**-Family, **G**-Grief, **H**-Health, **S**-Surgery, **PG**-Pregnancy, **E**-Employment, **ST**-Safe Travel, **A**-Adoption, **SA**-Salvation, **M**-Military



Blixt, Elizabeth (H)
 Brugger, Betty (H)
 Brunton, Bob (H)
 Hartzell, Daniel (H)
 Hope, Laurie (H)
 Josh, Sheila (H)
 Lowe, Marge (H)
 McBride, Neil (H)
 Mizicko, Marlena (H)
 Narita, Leona (H)
 Reeves, Jean (H)
 Sten, Tricia (Darlene's Daughter) (H)
 Smith, Betty (H)
 Taylor, Paul (H)
 Vesperman, Dick (H)
 Wallace, Dan (H)

Continue Prayers for all the victims and individuals affected by the California wildfires, for our nation and global catastrophes...All Civic and National Leaders, Rescue, Recovery, and Relief workers... Please praise God continuously for who He is and what He has done in your life... Blessed is His Holy Name.



Birthdays

Oct 1 Marlena Mizicko
 Oct 2 Zane & Zandria Salyer
 Oct 5 Niki Higdon
 Oct 7 Mitchell Wallace
 Oct 9 Emilio Alvarado
 Oct 12 Nick wright
 Oct 13 Kathy Teisinger
 Oct 16 Veronika Beck
 Oct 19 Jay Mirza
 Oct 19 Owen Wellman
 Oct 21 Joanne Abraham
 Oct 21 Chris Peterson
 Oct 27 Meghan Hennes
 Oct 28 Dani Mae Gonzales
 Oct 31 Michael Yonan

Anniversaries

Oct 1 Martin & Jana Purdy
 Oct 14 Bob & Sally Phillips



If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office.

NEED PRAYER?

We are here to pray for you.



FPC LEARNING ZONE

Thank you all for your support of the Learning Zone program! We are currently serving over 40 students from neighboring schools. We are still looking for 10 tutors on Wednesdays and 3 to 4 tutors on Thursday afternoons if you know anyone who might be available. No experience necessary!



Our work goes on! Bethel Ministries International sent a team back to San Pedro Carcha to install the floor and sidewalk for Alex and the new house for Ana Fernanda and her two daughters. Beds, stoves, and tortilla business supplies were delivered. The needed doctor's visits have also begun. Here is the update for Santiago (Mercedes' husband) and Alex.

"Olga and Dulze have been coordinating the doctor's appointments for everyone. According to them, Alex's parents have been really hesitant in having him stay at the hospital. They took him to his doctor's appointment. The doctor said he wanted Alex to stay in the hospital because his condition was really bad, and Alex's parents said no. Then, after several days of Alex's condition worsening, they finally took him to the hospital and an emergency surgery was performed on his stomach and intestines. I don't have the exact details, but I will get those soon when either Dulze updates me or when we see the family in a few days.

Also, Maria Mercedes' husband, Santiago, went to his doctor's appointment, and they discovered he has a large hernia that would require surgery. If he were to have this surgery, it would cost \$1100 US. This includes surgery, all exams, medicine, and money for his wife to visit him in the hospital, and food to have while he is recovering."

School sponsors for Ana Fernanda's daughters have stepped forward. We are still looking for 2 food sponsors (\$50/mo or \$600/year) and a school sponsor for Bryan (\$50/month or \$600/year). Thank you again for helping these families in need. The Guatemalan people "have seen your good works and given glory to your Father in Heaven."



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERINGS PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

On World Communion Sunday, October 2nd we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. We celebrate that we are all together at the table, in God's house. We celebrate that we are offered what we need to continue the work of building the household of God with active peacemakers here at home and around the world.

We take action today by offering a blessing of our own. Through our participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community—25 percent of the gifts received will stay right here in our community to build God's house. Twenty-five percent will support regional efforts in our mid councils, and 50 percent will go the Presbyterian Mission Agency for its ministries of education and partnership with active peacemakers all around the world.

On October 2nd, we will be having a special offering for the Peace & Global Witness. You can make an offering anytime and drop it off to the church in the secure mail drop or mail to the office throughout the month of October.

Thank you for your generosity.

Extend your peace to us, O Christ, that we might build places of kindness and generosity, reconciliation and compassion. May our gifts join our voices in blessing all of creation with your justice and peace, at all times, in all ways. Amen.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic event.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. The core budget, including staff and administrative costs, is funded through the One Great Hour of Sharing, and its program work is additionally funded through designated gifts.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Focuses on the long-term recovery of disaster impacted communities.

Provides training and disaster preparedness for presbyteries and synods. [Works collaboratively with church partners](#) and members of the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) internationally, and nationally with other faith based responders.

Connects partners locally and internationally with key organizations active in the response — United Nations, NVOAD (National Voluntary Agencies Active in Disaster), World Food Program, Red Cross, FEMA and others.

Give to a disaster/relief effort of your choice by designating the Disaster Response "DR" project you would like to support go to: <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/give/>



Done: curb trim/sweep; big bush trim; bermuda/weeds pulled; garden weed/water; tree suckers cut.

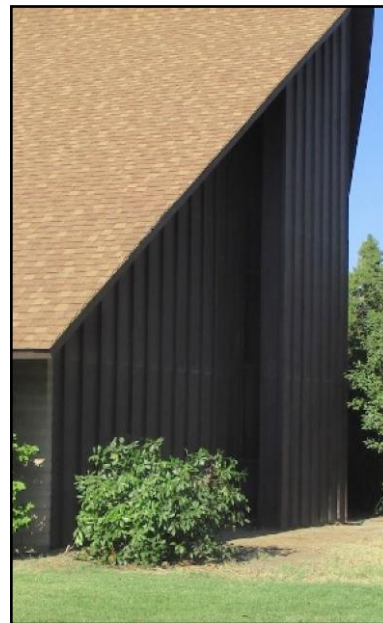
Work Day pulls weeds, whacks bush & sweeps



Top to bottom:
Dave, Kim, Marcy,
Richard, Cindy.
Not pictured Haley.



B&G's work day was mighty big on success. Most obvious was Richard cutting a big bush down and away from the roof. (Left: years-old photo. Right: new photo.) Haley and Marcy yanked bermuda. Kim transported and weeded. Dave zapped curb-invading weeds. Oh! And we helped each other, too!



Veggie news

Several sunflowers blooming. Tomatoes at their peak. But cucumbers are done. Candace helped move fresh wood chips to the garden for mulch. Two new raised beds w/drips need a gardener(s).



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MINISTRY

The 2022-2023 Presbyterian Women's Bible study has begun, and you are invited. The study, entitled Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight, looks at Sabbath from many directions: celebration, creation, rest and renewal, being in community, promoting justice, and a way to honor God, among others.

We meet in Voight Hall and via Zoom link at 10:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. There are no requirements, no fees, no advance preparation required, but there is fellowship, inspiration, shared learning, and mutual support. You are welcome whether or not you have a copy of the study guide (we have extras). For those who have attended in the past, this is a wonderful time to rejoin us, and for those who have been attending through the COVID era, this is a wonderful time to invite someone.

At the October meeting, we will collect the annual Thank Offering, a national PW grant program for mission initiatives in the U.S. and abroad. Since it began in 1888, the Thank Offering has given close to \$27 million to over 1,600 different projects, and PW by-laws require that at least 40% of projects be related to health ministries. To find out more about this year's recipients, go to https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/support-mission/thank-offering/



Thank Offering – Presbyterian Women

Current Recipients | Thank Offering Resources | Applying for a Thank Offering Grant | Promotional videos and more!. The Thank Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives.

www.presbyterianwomen.org

♪♪ Notes from the Music Room ♪♪

*Let the whole creation cry
"Glory to the Lord on High!"*

Triple digits! It is hot. VERY hot! And I am cranky! And as I am thinking this, my dear swallowtail butterfly comes right to my window, as if to remind me that she is my friend and that she is still going to visit me, even when I am cranky! And then I find that I am smiling!

Lord, Make Us More Holy!

I think of a friend who is suffering today. Not just from the heat but from her debilitating illness which, when it strikes, confines her to bed for a day or more. There is little we can do for her until it passes. And so we pray.

Lord, Make Us More Loving!

Plans to go and do have once again fallen through. But as I look out my window, there are still lovely flowers which could brighten a friend's room!

Lord, Make Us More Faithful!

Lord, as I go through each day, make me mindful of those who are around me and could use a smile, a pleasant greeting, a hug.

Help us, Lord, to lighten the loads of those around us! Amen.

Rev. Wendy Warner,
Director of Music

DEACONS TEAM MINISTRY

At our September 12th meeting we continued the discussion about updating the church directory. We spent two Sundays in August between services with Deacons helping people complete a directory information sheet so that we have your most current information to include in our church directory. We are very thankful that Richard Brown has been our 'in-house' photographer, taking pictures of those who need updated pictures and those who are new. Thank you, Richard!

We are not finished. We have many people who still need to complete an updated directory form. Please help us!!! I know many people have moved, deleted home phones, or changed cell phone numbers, so please contact us. These forms are available in the church office or on the name tag table as you walk in the church. If you have not completed a form, please contact your Deacon or Polet in the church office. We want this directory to be complete and as current as possible. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Again, we look forward to the remainder of the 2022 year and working together with you.

In Christ,

Darlene Runsten, Moderator

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session last met on September 19, 2022.

Action Items:

- Approved a single service on October 2, 2022, for Worldwide Communion Sunday.
- Approved Sunday School teachers for 2022-23 including Pat Rubalcava, Kendra Reyes, and Meghan Young as teachers; and Candace Peterson, Mary Peterson, and Susie England as substitutes.
- Approved to accept a bid for the ADA Parking Stall Accessibility Upgrades project. Next step is to procure the building permit from the city.
- Approved Dan Hardesty as the church's representative for the above project.

In His service,

Pat Wallace
Clerk of Session

OCTOBER IS

PASTOR APPRECIATION
MONTH

Take time to let our pastors know how much their ministry means to you.

SPECIAL WORSHIP
SERVICES

WORLD COMMUNION OCT. 2ND 10:30 AM
REFORMATION SERVICE...OCT. 30 10:30 AM

FINANCE UPDATE

Income & Expense Year to Date
Ending August 31, 2022

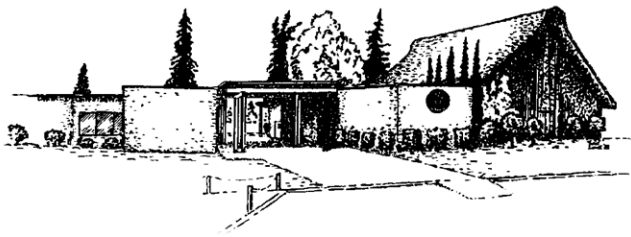
Contributions:	\$161,610
Other Income:	\$37,963
Total Income:	\$199,573
Expenses:	\$248,464
Excess Expense:	(\$48,891)

Our church is very blessed to have generous contributors! We received significant donations in August to reduce our year-to-date excess expense. The finance committee and Session thank you very much and are praying that our congregation's generosity continues through the fall. We are grateful for our First Presbyterian family and wonderful support of our church.

In His Service,

FPC Finance Committee





First Presbyterian Church
2619 N. Berkeley Avenue
Turlock, CA 95382

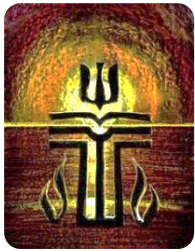
Phone # (209) 632-2324

E-mail: fpcturlock@att.net

Website: www.fpturlock.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch



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Permit #187



Big enough to meet your needs...Small enough to know your name.

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Craig Wright
 Parish Associate: Rev. Wendy Warner
 Children Ministry Director: Marcy Wright
 Youth Ministry Director: Stephanie Anderson
 Director of Music: Rev. Wendy Warner
 Administrative Assistant: Polet Yonan
 Interim Bookkeeper: Rev. Jim Stochl
 Bookkeeper in Training: Kim Sasman
 Accompanist: Dr. Wayne Kidwell
 Organist: Barbara Bort
 Child Care: Rebecca Staley
 Janitor: Michael Morris

ELECTED DEACONS AND SESSION OFFICERS

<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2024</u>
Dan Hardesty Joey Reyes Adria Sanders Patricia Wallace	Michael Betts Donna Harrison Candace Peterson John Sims	Mark Aldax Kathleen Gunn Marilyn Hoobyar Priscilla Peters
<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2024</u>
Diane Arakelian Lynette Betts Valerie Keesey Elaine Neely Pat Rubalcava Darlene Runsten Lisa Wellman	Alison Aldax Niki Higdon Marlena Mizicko Jana Purdy Kendra Reyes Cyndi Sims Jeannie Staley	Bill Bishop Amber Gonzales Donna Lansing Nancy Seaver Meghan Young Brent Harrison