



# FPC Press

SINCE 1909

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Turlock, California

January 2023

Published Monthly



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR'S HEART REV. DR. CRAIG J. WRIGHT

New Year's Greetings Church Family,

It is time to take a deep breath and let 2022 slip into the past. It is also time to take a hopeful and faith-filled look at the coming year.

I have recently read that in light of the pandemic and global economic conditions we all experienced the last couple of years, a “dialed down” list of resolutions for 2023 is quite acceptable. One person I read said it was no longer time for “me” to change, it is the year for circumstances to change. A lot of us are carrying that feeling around. There was a suggestion in one news magazine that we simply pick a very doable resolution this year, like “I will floss one more time a week than I did last year.” The point is to pick easy and accessible resolutions, so we don't place any more weight on our tired shoulders. We all know it does not take a big thing to make a big difference in life. Jesus spoke about a ‘mustard seed’ type of faith. The point is that a mustard seed is so small it is often hard to even notice. But when that same seed grows it produces a mighty big plant. That has me wondering if something small and mustard seed-like might bring some wonderful change to our lives this next year.

Is there one small thing that you could do differently to affect positive change in your heart and the hearts of those around you? Perhaps stopping to say thank you to those who serve us without many thanks be that one easy thing? Perhaps sending a card or a letter to someone you suspect needs human contact, maybe one time every couple of months, or 3 times this year even, or once! Is there a tiny seed of grace you can plant that might grow into a lovely relationship throughout the coming year?

A clinical psychologist and life guru I follow suggests when we want to make a life change, that we should begin by doing embarrassingly small things. Instead of going to the gym and jumping in on all the weight machines only to peter out by February first, perhaps do 10 repetitions of 5lbs once each morning in your room. Now for me, that is embarrassingly small, but it helps to craft the habit and often leads to bigger positive change. Starting small is a time-honored and respected way to start. We all know that the journey of a thousand miles begins with just one small step. (Lao Tzu) So, whoever ‘they’ are, they have given us permission to start small and easy for 2023. Jesus affirms this “Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matt. 17:20) When mountains move all at once, it is catastrophic, scary, and destructive, but when they move gradually, a shovel at a time, there is no fear. So here is your fortune cookie wisdom in a church newsletter- “start small and easy- and by this time next year you may be surprised how much of that mountain you have moved out of your way.”

I pray you all have a magnificent new year and that you at least take baby steps toward a deeper faith- and since I am writing this in the presence of my newest grandchild Eliana Charis Mooney, and in the shadow of four Guatemalan volcanos please join me in praying that these particular mountains don't move all at once!

Many blessings,

*Pastor Craig*

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 29, 2023

11:00 am

Following our Single Worship Service @ 10:00 am

Our business will include the election of officers, evaluation and review of our finances and celebrating the achievements of all our ministries in 2022! We will also take a vote on the Terms of Pastoral call as well as look forward to the 2022 budget and electing a nominating committee for 2023.

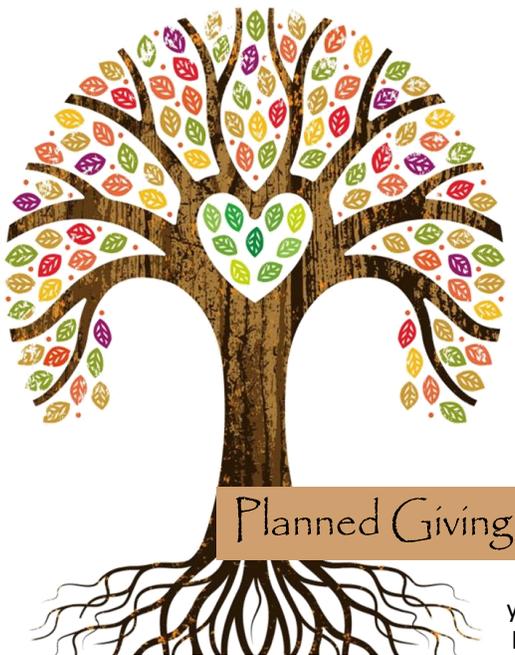
## CHRISTMAS DE-GREENING

Let's have fun together in taking down our Christmas Decorations in the sanctuary and the Narthex! Please join us on **Saturday, January 7th at 10:00 am** immediately following the second worship service.

Lunch will be provided to all the participants by the Fellowship Committee.



# LEGACY GIVING: A Legacy Gift to Your Church



Planned Giving

God has called us to be good stewards of the gifts that He has entrusted to us. Legacy or Planned Giving is a keyway to practice biblical stewardship by designating a gift to be given in the future – usually through a will or a trust. This method of giving allows you to establish a personal legacy with an eternal impact. These gifts, made during the donor's life or through one's estate, strengthen the ability of our church to provide for future generations of members.

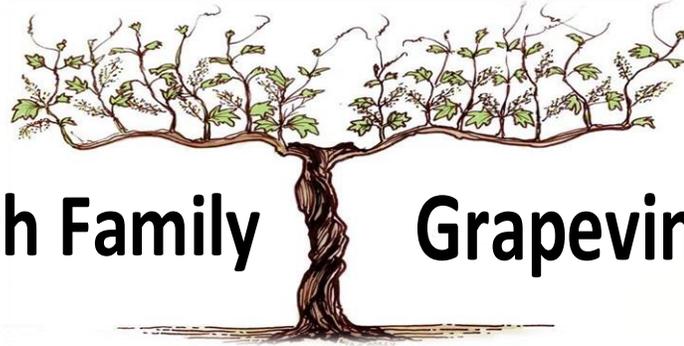
This is simply taking the time to consider the work of Christ in your estate planning. It is a time-honored way of ensuring that the work of FPC will continue for generations to come.

LEGACY GIVING to First Presbyterian church allows you to share the  **blessings**  you have received, by  **investing**  in the mission of our church and making a  **smart**  and  **generous**  financial decision.



## What will your legacy be?

*"And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased"* Hebrews 13:16



## 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)  
Julie Callahan(S,H)  
Hartzell, Daniel (H)  
Lizabeth Jameson (H)  
Josh, Sheila (H)  
Lowe, Marge (H)  
McBride, Neil (H)  
Mizicko, Marlena (H)  
Narita, Leona (H)  
Reeves, Jean (H)  
Runsten, Tricia (Darlene's Daughter) (H)  
Taylor, Paul (H)  
**Ulrich Family (G)**  
Vesperman, Dick (H)  
Wallace, Dan (H)

*Please praise God continuously for who He is and what He has done in your life...  
Blessed is His Holy Name.*



### Birthdays

Jan 1 Betty Brugger  
Jan 6 Bob Brunton  
Jan 7 Heather Gordon  
Jan. 8 Joan Heidt  
Jan 9 Umar Ghuman  
Jan. 9 Delores Haug  
Jan. 10 Darcel Sanders  
Jan 11 Noelle Hazelton  
Jan 14 Caleb Staley  
Jan 18 Lorna Schmidt  
Jan 20 Sheila Josh  
Jan 21 Pat Wallace  
Jan 24 Cyndi Sims  
Jan 31 Martin Purdy

### Anniversaries

Jan 16 John & Cyndi Sims

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

# NEED PRAYER?

*We are here to pray for you.*



First Presbyterian Church is a praying family. Please let the church office know of your prayer needs and we will gladly add your name to our prayer chain.

## MISSION FAIRE UPDATE

A BIG thank you to everyone that participated in our annual Mission Faire! The Mission Faire was very successful again this year, \$4,887 was donated to the many mission causes. Plus the Gifts for Kids where FPC members purchase toys and clothing for 18 children from the two group homes from Sierra Vista and the boys group home next door. In addition, Love Justice, whose mission is to help stop human trafficking of young women in Nepal and Cambodia by providing income raised almost \$1,000 from the sale of their items and cash donations.

Youth Mission Scholarship \$1,207  
Gifts for Kids \$580  
Heifer Project \$395  
Short Term Missions \$515  
Ben & Emily Guatemala \$1,600  
TGM Winter Shelter \$590  
2022 Grand Total \$4,887

Thanks again for all of your generous support of FPC's Mission Faire.



**JUNE 28 - JULY 5  
2023**

### **JOIN THE TEAM NOW!**

And share the love of God with "the least of these."

It is time to start looking at plane tickets to Guatemala! If you are planning on joining the 2023

Guatemala Mission Team,

**June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup> of 2023,**

NOW is the time to contact

**Marcy Wright.**



Thank you from your Bethel family

Thank you for supporting our Children's Ministry!

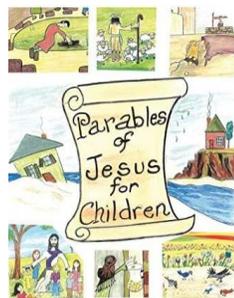


*Happy  
New Year*

## CHILDREN MINISTRY

# STORY TIME

Listen to the stories (parables) Jesus told each Sunday morning during Kid's Worship.



Big Wednesday Kid's Club starts January 18<sup>th</sup>.  
Come talk to God as we learn what prayer is all about.

## TUTORING MINISTRY

### RESUMES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023



With the new year upon us, we are in desperate need of healthy snacks for our students. Kindly drop off your donated items to the church office. And for more information on how to join our tutoring outreach program, please contact Stephanie Anderson.

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY**

PW Women's Bible Study meets on the third Wednesday morning of the month. Our next gathering will take place on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 10:30 am in Voight Hall. There will be a Zoom link available for those that need that option. This month's lesson is titled, "Sabbath and Surrender." The scripture passage is Exodus 16. The "manna" story, with its emphasis on only gathering as much as we need and not gathering on the Sabbath, is a call to trust God to provide for our needs. It is a call to surrender out unhealthy striving for more wealth, more stuff, and more success. It is a call to recognize when it is time to say, "Enough."

Our study comes from the 2022-23 PW/Horizons Bible Study: Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight authored by Carol M. Bechtel. In the nine lessons of this Bible study – with passages from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, and Acts – we'll consider Sabbath: as a celebration, not a day of dreary formality; as God's intent for all of creation that includes busy women too; as one day of the week, perhaps a Sunday; as a time to surrender unhealthy striving and frantic busyness, and instead trust that God will provide; as a reminder that life is precious and working too much is against God's plans for our precious lives; as a day devoted to community and justice and not exclusively to self-care. Ultimately, Sabbath reminds us to honor God who honors us by giving us a day each week to reset our pace, our priorities, and our lives.

*For any questions or more information, please contact Candace Peterson.*

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## ♪♪ Notes from the Music Room ♪♪

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation;  
the old has gone, the new has come!*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

### **Happy New Year!**

Happy NEW Year!

What will be new for YOU in this NEW year?

Will we allow God to speak into our year?

Will we listen to God, no matter what voice is used to communicate with us?

How do we listen to God's voice?

There are a few guidelines to listening to God.

- 1) Be still, and know that I am God. Often this is the beginning, and the most difficult part. The mind tends to wander. It is hard to keep centered on what we are about.
- 2) Ask God what the message to you is, exactly. Repeat what you think you have heard. Then repeat it again, in different words. Think about it again. Turn it over in your mind.
- 3) Write down what you think you have heard God saying to you. Write about more about this idea.
- 4) The next day look over what you have written and ponder what is before you. If there are questions, don't be afraid to ask God for clarification. Do this repeatedly until you are satisfied.
- 5) Begin to formulate a plan for doing what God has in mind for you!

**This is a NEW YEAR! And God would like to be a part of YOUR NEW YEAR!**

*Rev. Wendy Warner,  
Director of Music*

## DEACON TEAM MINISTRY

The month of December is such a very busy time of year for everyone, so we cancelled our December meeting and just received updates by email. We are looking forward to a superb 2023!

**Directory update:** We still have many people who still need to complete an updated directory form. Polet is going to send out an email to those we haven't heard from and ask for their updated information and permission to add them to the directory. If we haven't heard from them by a specific deadline, we will not include them in the directory. We hope to have a new directory in February. Thank you for all of your assistance.

In Christ,

Darlene Runsten, Moderator

## FINANCE UPDATE

Income & Expense Year to Date  
January through November 2022

Contributions:	\$272,649
Other Income:	\$53,370
Total Income:	\$326,019
Expenses:	\$342,428
Excess Expense:	(\$16,409)

The finance committee hopes you had a wonderful Christmas. Based on projected giving in December, it looks like we will finish 2022 with excess expense. Please help us start 2023 by completing a pledge card and continuing to financially support our wonderful church community.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session last met on December 19, 2022.

Session continued its discussion of the 2023 budget. Final decisions on the budget will be made at the January Session meeting after the 2022 financials are closed out.

The month of January is a month of new beginnings. The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 29, 2023, at approximately 11:15 am immediately following the single worship service that will start at 10 am. At this meeting, we will elect a new class of elders and deacons, elect the 2023 Nominating Committee, and approve the Pastoral Terms of Call for 2023.

On behalf of Session, thank you for your continuing support of the mission and ministries of First Presbyterian Church.

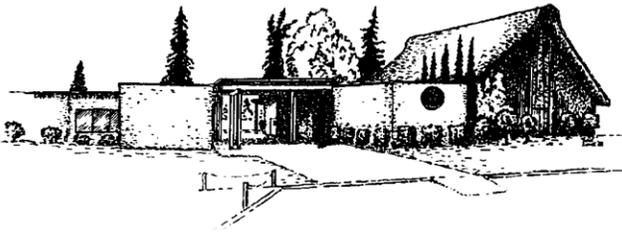
In His service,

Pat Wallace

Clerk of Session

Wishing you a  
Happy New Year  
and blessed year  
ahead. May  
God's light  
guide your way  
in 2023.





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

Phone # (209) 632-2324  
 E-mail: [fpcturlock@att.net](mailto:fpcturlock@att.net)  
 Website: [www.fpturlock.com](http://www.fpturlock.com)

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch](http://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch)



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