



FPC Press

SINCE 1909

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Turlock, California

November 2022

Published Monthly



A Message From Our Pastor's Heart Rev. Dr. Craig J. Wright

Greetings Church Family,

Marcy and I are heading south and have a portside window in our cabin. I am watching the sunrise through the morning clouds and the rays of light as they beam through the distant marine layer. The display is majestic and makes me think about heaven. My mind has traveled back so many times to March of 2020 when we were the lucky recipients of extra cruise days compliments of Covid-19 and Princess Cruise lines. On our way back from Hawaii the world broke out with the novel virus and we had our fifteen minutes of fame locked on a cruise ship. A “first world” problem. The big difference this time is the glorious sunrise I am watching from my stateroom BALCONY!! On our last cruise, to save some money we opted for an inside cabin, with no windows, no natural light, and no fresh ocean breeze. We hoped to spend time on the upper deck soaking all that in. Hindsight. That will not happen again. That was then, back to the present.

I knew I would be writing this article aboard ship and so certain images have been rising and falling in my mind since we embarked a few days ago. I keep coming back to the obvious thing, I can see the sunrise, I can see and hear the ocean from the balcony, and it is so much better than being trapped in a floating walk-in closet. It is much better for my soul and sanity. The beauty, the vastness of the North Atlantic, and the promise of intriguing ports of call bring something like a cleansing bliss. (and without the drinks package) For the last four weeks, my sermons have been centered around the theme of love. God's love for us and our love for one another. Stephanie brought a sermon on the vastness of God's love as well.

Living in the awareness of God's love and practicing that love for others will move your soul from the darkness of an inside stateroom to the beauty of an ocean view with a balcony. The difference is life changing. In her sermon, Stephanie mentioned the Levitical blessing - “May the Lord bless you and keep you and cause His face to shine upon you and turn his face toward you and give you peace.” She mentioned this idea of God turning his face toward you, meaning God is giving you His total attention. What a great thought. Now here is the twist- the irony. Ready? The light of the sun will only reach you when you have a window or can get outside, but the light of God's face, the love radiating from the gaze of Christ can reach you anywhere you are at any time and bring joy to your soul. The Apostle Paul who spent much time on a ship in the Mediterranean lost in a storm, will tell you the sunshine on your face is nice, but the shine of God's face on your soul is the only thing that will bring you joy, especially in the rough seas of life. He wrote - “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8:38,39) Said another way, nothing can separate you from the light of God's love, nothing will ever break God's loving gaze toward you.

May the Son rise in your heart and bring you peace!
See you soon.

Pastor Craig



Honoring FPC Veterans
Special Dinner on

THANK YOU, VETERANS

Wednesday, Nov 9th
5:30 pm



**JOIN US FOR A TRADITIONAL
THANKSGIVING DINNER!**

**November 16th
@ 5:30 pm**

**THIS ALL-TIME FAVORITE FELLOWSHIP IS
CELEBRATED ONLY ONCE A YEAR!
DON'T MISS OUT!!**

**Tidings of
Comfort and Hope**

Join our 10th Remembrance Service
Wednesday, November 16, 2022
Beginning first with our wonderful
Thanksgiving Dinner
@ **5:30 pm**
Followed by a Time of Remembrance &
Honoring Our Loved Ones with a Special
Service in the Sanctuary
@ **6:30 pm.**



*Hands in Concert
Bringing Hope*

BELLS OF BLESSING

Salvation Army
Benefit Concert

Featuring Eight Area Handbell Ensembles

Sunday, November 13

4:00 PM FREE-WILL OFFERING

TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1600 CARVER ROAD MODESTO, CA 95350



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.

FPC 41ST

**HARVEST-ANNUAL
BAKE SALE**

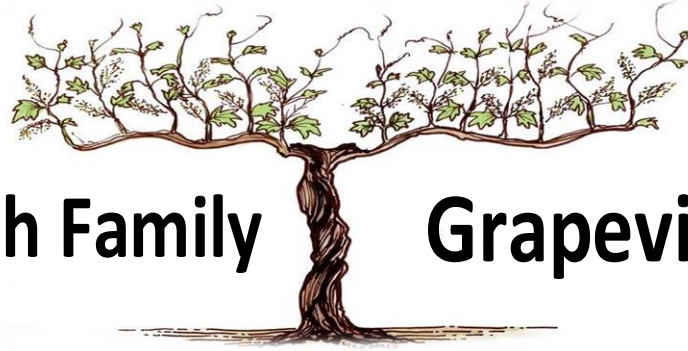
Fudge    **Delicious
Desserts**

Breads & Jams **Homemade Cinnamon
Rolls Fresh** **Pies**

Cookies **Out of The Oven!** **Cakes & Cupcakes**

Voight Hall; After Each Worship Service

11.20.2022



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)
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)

The Smith Family (G)

Taylor, Paul (H)
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

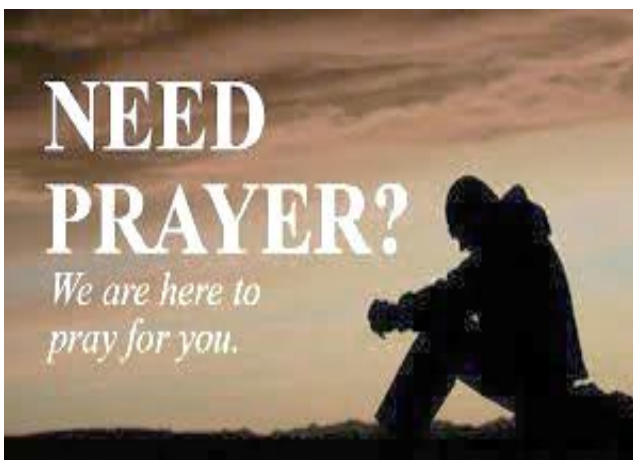
Nov 2 Steve Njock
Nov 7 Polet Yonan
Nov 14 Marilyn Brunton
Nov 19 Carmen Simon
Nov 21 Mary Peterson
Nov 23 Majolie Njock
Nov 25 Ellen Santos
Nov 27 Ethan Hennes
Sept 30 Candace Peterson

Anniversaries

Nov 6 Jarett & Sarah Kane
Nov 10 Steve & Noma Arakelian
Nov 18 Gabriel & Majolie Njock
Nov 22 Donovan & Pat Wallace



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



Thanksgiving Prayer

Heavenly Creator,
In this season of gratitude and abundance, we
give You thanks for our many blessings as we
pray for all who struggle with hunger and want.
Be with them in the dark of night, when all hope
seems lost. Keep their faith strong as they await
relief. Let Your goodness flow throughout our
hearts and hands as we reach out to one another
in the full, true joy of Thanksgiving in Christ.

Amen



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

FPC Turlock's Mission Faire held annually in December has been a longstanding tradition that has helped many people locally and around the world live a better life. Unfortunately, this year we will not be able to hold our Mission Faire in Voight Hall, but that does not mean we still can't help those that need help the most, especially during these troubled times. We will have a list of all the organizations in need in the Narthex. Please stop by and prayerfully give to the ones you'd like to support with your donations.

Please take notice of the Mission Faire insert in this month's newsletter. To donate, simply fill out the bottom section and return it with your checks made payable to "First Presbyterian Church" and all donations will be forwarded to the mission project(s) of your choice along with all other FPC donations. There are three different ways of giving: a) Mail to 2619 N. Berkeley Avenue, Turlock, CA. 95382; b) Drop your donation in the secure mail box outside the church office; or c) Give online on our webpage, www.fpturlock.com.

Thank you for your continued generous support! ~ *FPC Mission Committee*



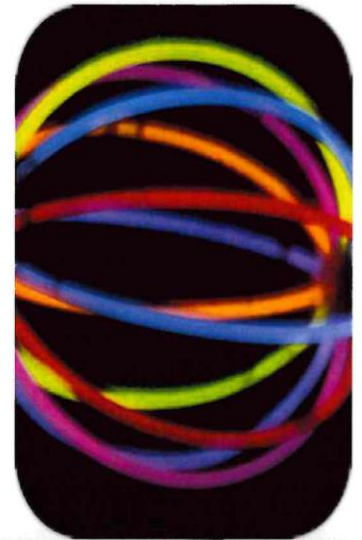
CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

This special annual offering reflects that God is with us and your gifts are a reflection of His love. Through your generous giving we will be able to offer assistance in two areas. 1) For retired and active church leaders in need (through programs of the Presbyterian Board of Pensions), and 2) for needy students at the Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Please consider giving generously....for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! You may give through the church offering, donate by credit card online at peusa.org/christmasjoy or simply text CHRISTMASJOY to 91999 or visit peusa.org/christmasjoy. Thank you!

YOUTH GROUP FALL BACK NIGHT GAMES

**Fire Pit,
Food,
S'mores,
Night
Games,
Glow Sticks,
GROG**



**Sunday, November 6th
6:30-8:30pm
At the Church**

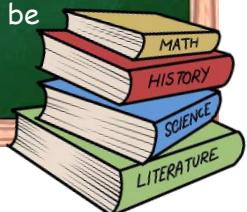
**Wear dark clothing and tennis shoes! Invite a friend!
Questions? Ask Stephanie (209) 345-1137**

CHILDREN'S *Sunday School*

Our Sunday School is active and thriving with students of all ages from Preschool to sixth grade. Please pass the word we meet every Sunday morning at 10:00 am in the rooms 3, 8, and the nursery for the young ones. Please contact Candace Peterson for more details.

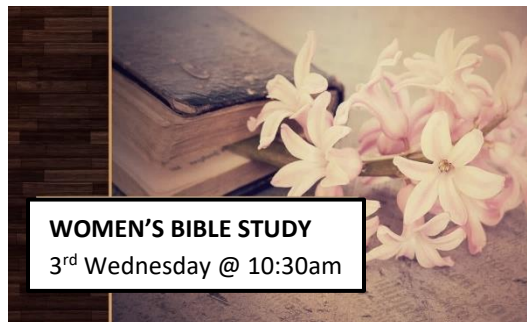
FPC LEARNING ZONE

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



PRESBTERIAN WOMEN MINISTRY

PW Women's Bible Study meets on the third Wednesday morning of the month. Our next gathering will take place on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 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 Sunday." The scripture passages are Luke 4:16-22 and Acts 16:11-15. Over the centuries, Christians begin to celebrate the Sabbath on Sunday, but we still haven't come to an agreement on quite what that means. This uncertainty may be an opportunity.



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.

All women of the church are welcome to attend. We encourage you to bring a friend.

♪♪ Notes from the Music Room ♪♪

*Give thanks with a grateful heart;
Give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.*

November! The season of Thanksgiving! But is not every season the season of Thanksgiving? Think with me about that

Today, what blessings had God given to you? The sun, the flowers, good food to eat? When I begin to think on these things, the list becomes longer and longer! The joy of seeing a good friend! A flower in the peak of its bloom, bursting with its full fragrance! Chocolate, any kind, any time, accompanied with anything! A choir, perfectly in tune, singing in harmony which melts your heart. A child who looks at you with a great big smile. A clap of thunder, followed by a burst of rain to water the parched ground.

But most of all the gift of GRACE, the lovingkindness of God which is promised to each of us, which takes away the sins of our lives! How can we not give thanks to God EACH DAY for that priceless gift!

So let us raise our voices in THANKSGIVING to God, the giver of such generous gifts – every day!

Rev. Wendy Warner,
Director of Music

DEACONS TEAM MINISTRY

We met on October 10th for a dinner meeting with pizza, salads, and treats—YUMMY! After we completed our Deacon business, we continued our discussion of the church directory. We still 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 October 17, 2022.

Action Items:

- Approved purchase of a TV/monitor to replace an existing monitor in the sanctuary. The ports are failing on one of the front monitors.
- Approved the baptism of Mason McDonald (grandson of Charlotte McDonald Cheney) on November 6, 2022.

Session, through prayer, celebrated our dear sister-in-Christ, Elizabeth K. “Betty” Smith, who went home to the Lord on Saturday, October 8, 2022. Betty is one of a handful of our current, most senior members who I remember from our previous location on the corner of Crane and Palm, a block away from downtown Turlock. I was a little girl way back then. Rest in peace Betty. You will be missed.

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

In His service,

Pat Wallace
Clerk of Session



FINANCE UPDATE

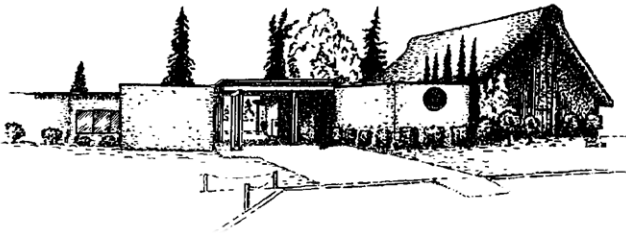
Income & Expense Year to Date
Ending September 30, 2022

Contributions:	\$218,690
Other Income:	\$40,841
Total Income:	\$259,531
Expenses:	\$277,285
Excess Expense:	(\$17,754)

The finance committee would like to take this time to Thank You for the loyalty and financial support that you all continuously provide for our church. Without your support we would not be able to do the missions and ministries that we do. We may struggle at time but all of you step up with your time, talent, and treasures to ensure that we are able to take care of our community and each other with whatever is needed. We are so grateful for the unending giving each and every month from such amazing people.

May God bless each and every one of you,

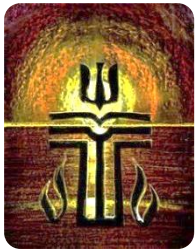
Your Finance Committee



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 Permit #187

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

Phone # (209) 632-2324
 E-mail: fpturlock@att.net
 Website: www.fpturlock.com
 Facebook:
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>Elders</u>	<u>Elders</u>
<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Dan Hardesty	Michael Betts	Mark Aldax
Joey Reyes	Donna Harrison	Kathleen Gunn
Adria Sanders	Candace Peterson	Marilyn Hoobyar
Patricia Wallace	John Sims	Priscilla Peters
<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Deacons</u>
<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Diane Arakelian	Alison Aldax	Bill Bishop
Lynette Betts	Niki Higdon	Amber Gonzales
Valerie Keesey	Marlena Mizicko	Donna Lansing
Elaine Neely	Jana Purdy	Nancy Seaver
Pat Rubalcava	Kendra Reyes	Meghan Young
Darlene Runsten	Cyndi Sims	Brent Harrison
Lisa Wellman	Jeannie Staley	

Reaching » the Nations

Through our Local & Global Support



JOIN US IN OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MISSION FAIRE

Gifts purchased from any of these ministries convey the true spirit of Christmas while helping the growth & life-supporting work of each ministry.

- ... **YOUTH MISSION SCHOLARSHIP FUND** help provide Christian camping or mission trips to the youth of our church family.
- ... **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL** gives hope and dignity to communities around the world through the sharing of livestock and education projects.
- ... **FPC GUATEMALA MISSION** will support the work of the FPC team as they reach out to impoverished families in Guatemala by providing houses, wheelchairs, stoves, bunk-beds, bathrooms, and food.
- ... **MISSIONARIES BEN & EMILY MOONEY** serve full-time in Guatemala bringing Christ's love to the people.
- ... **TGM WINTER HOMELESS SHELTER** helps the Turlock Gospel Mission to provide meals and shelter during winter months.
- ... **"GIFTS FOR KIDS"** shares God's love to very special children in one of three Group Homes. You can donate here or contact Martin Purdy to select a child's name and buy Christmas gifts for him or her.

--- Cut along this line and return the form below with your donation ---

FPC Turlock 2022 - CHRISTMAS MISSION FAIRE

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
YOUTH MISSION SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$ _____	BEN & EMILY MOONEY MISSIONARIES	_____ \$ _____
HEIFER INTERNATIONAL	\$ _____	TGM WINTER HOMELESS SHELTER	\$ _____
FPC GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM	\$ _____	"GIFTS FOR KIDS"	_____ \$ _____
These gifts have been donated by _____			TOTAL \$ _____