

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

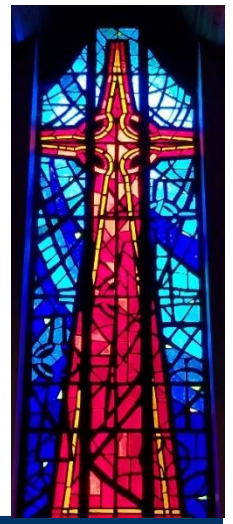
EST. 1909



# First Press

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA

## APRIL 2025



Have *you* seen Jesus, my Lord? He is here! In *this* room!

As we approach the end of our Lenten journey and prepare for Holy Week and Christ's triumph that first Easter Sunday, let us take a moment to pause and realize that we *do* see Jesus. Every day. On the street.

My friends, we know that we are the body of Christ—His hands, His feet; His light, His salt; His voice, His *presence* in **this** world! We know that whenever two or more of us are gathered in *His* name that He is here—right here!—in our midst! Look! Jesus is here! Right here! He is in each of us; He is in all of us!

So, take a look.

Open your eyes!

You might be amazed at just what He will show you.

In His Faithfulness,  
*Niki Higdon*



### *Have you Seen Jesus My Lord?*

Have you seen Jesus my Lord?  
He's here in plain view.  
Take a look, open your eyes.  
He'll show it to you.

Have you ever looked at the sunset,  
With the sky mellow and red,  
And the clouds suspended like feathers?  
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.

Have you ever stood at the ocean,  
With the white foam at your feet,  
Felt the endless thundering motion?  
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.

Have you ever looked at the cross,  
With a man hanging in pain.  
And the look of love in His eyes?  
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.

Have you ever stood in the family,  
With the Lord there in your midst  
Seen the face of Christ on your brother?  
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.

Have you ever prayed for your church,  
With the Lord there in your midst,  
Seen the face of Christ on your sister?  
Then I say you've seen Jesus my Lord.

## Holy Week Schedule



**ALL CHURCH WORKDAY**  
APRIL 12<sup>th</sup>  
**PALM SUNDAY & BAKE SALE**  
APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>  
**HOLY WEEK**  
APRIL 14<sup>th</sup> – APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>  
**TENEBRAE WORSHIP SERVICE**  
GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 am  
**EGGSTRAVAGANZA**  
FOR ALL FAMILIES  
APRIL 19<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am  
**EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE, APRIL 20<sup>th</sup>**  
SINGLE SERVICE @ 10:00 am

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**45<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**

**PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 13<sup>th</sup>**

**IN VOIGHT HALL AFTER SERVICE**

Help us celebrate by bringing your **DONATED** Labeled Baked Goods prior to worship and then return after the service to purchase a delicious baked item.

**ALL** the proceeds will go towards the non-budgeted items to help improve the serving ministries of the church.

**Thank you for your support!**



**Baking in the Kitchen**  
April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6-8pm

**Ten Pin Center**  
April 26<sup>th</sup> @ 6-8pm



## PER CAPITA

As a connectional church, our work is maintained and funded by a financial system called "Per Capita." In this system, each governing body above the local congregation's session determines how much it will cost to do what the Book of Order and the next higher governing council require. Each body also calculates what it will cost to do the ministries we believe God is calling us to do. And the General Assembly determines the cost of maintaining the structures and systems at the national level that support the internal work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its relationships with other faith communities around the world.

As members, we pay per capita, in addition to one's annual gift, recognizing that the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) is a connectional church and we are part of a larger family throughout the country. This connection includes our Presbyteries, Synods, and General Assembly. Our financial support keeps us connected and able to support the work and mission of our Presbytery and our sister churches. Our 2025 per capita apportionment of **\$32.00** per member supports our Presbytery office, Synod, and General Assembly. We ask that you respond by returning your contribution to the church office.

# Special Upcoming Events



## Pre-Easter Work Day

**Sat., April 12 / 8 a.m. to noon**

Coffee, water and DONUTS provided by Buildings & Grounds Committee

**Please participate! Work-out with friends!**

**Check off items on our to-do list:**

- #1 Have Fun! The best exercise is laughter!
- Clean sanctuary, windows, pews, etc.
- Mop Voight Hall floor. Clean in kitchen.
- Line trimmer weeds. Dig up old herb plants.
- Organize items in Classroom building.
- Help Dan, Dave & FPC's Dynamic Deacons.
- Bring towels, tools, trimmers and humor.
- Finish by (typically before) Noon!



Many Thanks to the Building & Grounds Crew who are constantly serving our church family to ensure the safety and the well-being of all our church buildings and our campus for everyone to enjoy.



Old & Broken

New & Replaced



Old & Broken



New & Replaced



**SATURDAY, MAY 3<sup>rd</sup> (9am --- 1pm)**

**DROP OFF DONATED ITEMS  
BY CONTACTING THE  
CHURCH OFFICE**

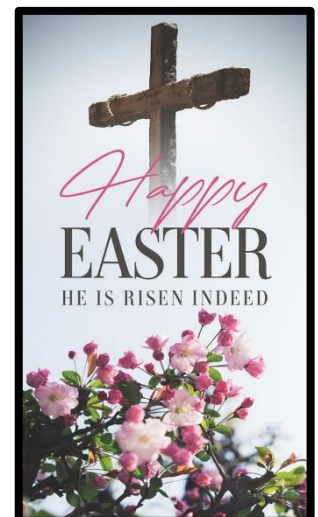
GOOD CONDITION, CLEAN, gently worn clothing, household items, small appliances, toys, jewelry, small furniture, garden supplies, attic treasures in WORKING ORDER gladly accepted!

*All proceeds to support the FPC mission efforts, including TGM Meal Ministry, Short-term Mission Trips, and Youth Scholarships.*

**We NEED your help with the organization, preparing, and setting up. Please call Jana Purdy @ 209.604.0099 OR Kathleen Gunn @ 209.321.9382 to sign up.**

**Questions? Contact 209.202.3977**

We are in need of individuals to help with opening the church doors on **alternate** Sundays @ 8:30 am and help prepare coffee for fellowship time. Please contact the office, if you are willing to help.





# RaiseRight™

Simply the right way to fundraise

## SUPPORT OUR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR CAMP AND MISSION WORK

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**STARBUCKS®**

Earn 4.5%

**Panera**  
BREAD™

Earn 8%



Earn 14%

**Dominos®**

Earn 12%

**SAFeway®**

Earn 5%



Earn 8%

**CVS**  
pharmacy

Earn 6%



Earn 10%

**OLD NAVY**

Earn 14%



**SHOP OVER 750+ BRANDS FROM YOUR OWN PHONE!**

**USE FPC CODE:  
#5C5BEF6L1L839**  
**Bonus earnings to help fund our own youth ministry**

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), one of the special offerings of our denomination, is almost here! For 75 years, Presbyterians have participated in One Great Hour of Sharing, an ecumenical effort that was begun soon after the end of WWII and now involves 9 denominations and Church World Service (CWS). Within the PC(USA), OGHS offerings are divided among three major programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), and the Self-Development of People (SDOP.) This is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

Our gifts will be received on **Easter Sunday**. Please watch for bulletin inserts during April to learn more about beneficiaries of OGHS funds. We are the church together, and when everyone gives a little, it adds up to a lot. Please give generously so that together we can help provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.



## ♪♪ Notes from the Music Room ♪♪



*“Our Lord has written the promises of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in the Springtime.”*

This quote, by Martin Luther, is from my devotional calendar. I enjoy its promise every year as the blossoms are on the trees and the flowers are blooming in my yard. FPC music ensembles are busy rehearsing beautiful music for this season of Lent and Easter. Every Sunday in April will be filled with wonderful, meaningful, meditative, and joyful music.

The April 6<sup>th</sup> anthem will feature a 4-part percussion ensemble. Palm Sunday’s music will feature an enthusiastic handbell introit and a choir anthem which will give the experience of Christ’s triumphal entrance to Jerusalem. On Good Friday, the choir will take you through the somber and dark pathway of the “Via Dolorosa”, the way of the cross. Easter Sunday’s music will explode with the joy of the resurrection and the excitement of trumpet accompaniment for our favorite Easter hymns. And then our April will conclude with a special music service where we will sing all our favorite Easter hymns, and others.

You must come to church every Sunday, and Good Friday, to be a part of this wonderful music experience. Bring your neighbor and your family for worship!

*“Sing oh sing of my Redeemer, with His blood He purchased me.  
On the cross He sealed my pardon, paid the debt and set me free.”*

Serving in song,

Marilyn Fullmer  
Director of Music



### FINANCE UPDATE

#### **Income/Expense Report for February 2025**

February Contributions: \$15,408.00

YTD Contributions: \$31,887.00

February Other Income: \$3610.90

YTD Other Income \$7,129.72

February Expenses: (\$ 26,153.74)

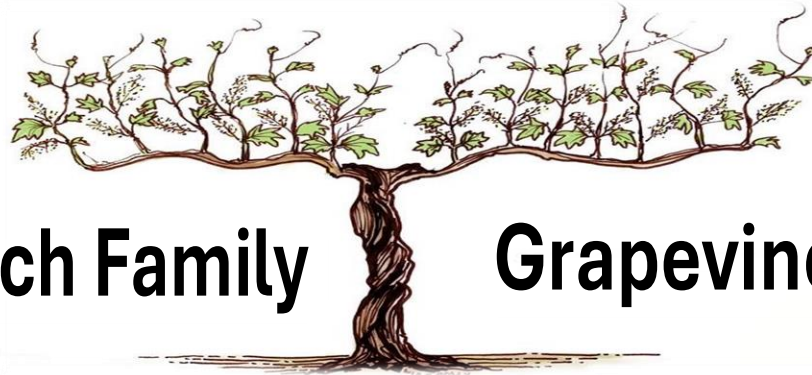
YTD Expenses: (\$ 49,341.65)

Difference: (\$7,134.84) YTD (\$10,324.93)

Spring has sprung, with Easter fast approaching, we are now a quarter of the way through the year. To date, our contributions are lower than we had budgeted. But we are hopeful that this season of Easter, we as a church family will rise to the occasion of supporting the ministries of First Presbyterian Church. Your Board of Session and the Pastor Nominating Committee are working hard to bring you an interim pastor as well as diligently working on bringing on a permanent pastor. We can't do this without you and your continued financial support during this exciting time in the life of our church. As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, let's also celebrate all that we do as a church. May God bless you this Easter.

“He has risen! He has risen indeed!”

## 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

Bishop, Emily (H)  
Blixt, Elizabeth (H)  
Callahan, Julie(H)  
Hickman, Pat (H)  
**Jones, Melba (H)**  
Lanchester, Irene (H)  
Lowe, Marge (H)  
Marsh, Lois (H)  
Posluch, Lynn (H)  
Rubalcava, Pat (H)  
Runsten, Tricia (Darlene's Daughter) (H)  
Smith, Jayne (H)  
Taylor, Paul (H)  
Ulrich, Saralee (H)  
Vesperman, Richard (H)

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



### Birthdays

Apr 5 Joshua Clegg  
Apr 6 Sophie Meiselman  
Apr 7 Irene Lanchester  
Apr 9 Terry Godinez  
Apr 13 Ryan Njock  
Apr 16 Marge Lipe  
Apr 17 Noma Arakelian  
Apr 17 Daniel Gonzales  
Apr 29 Beverly Knutsen

### Anniversaries

Apr 2 Rick & Ruth Gaffney  
Apr 21 Mark & Alison Aldax  
Apr 27 Candace Peterson  
& Tom Holsinger  
Apr 28 Bill & Emily Bishop

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



### APRIL 2025

#### Communion Team – April

Kathleen Gunn, Michael Betts {Elders}  
Nancy Seaver, Kim Sasman {Deacons}  
Lynette Betts, Darlene Runsten Easter Sunday

#### Worship Assistants

April 6<sup>th</sup> Katheen Gunn  
April 13<sup>th</sup> Michael Betts  
April 20<sup>th</sup> Lynette Betts  
April 27<sup>th</sup> Jana Purdy



## greeters

### SUNDAY GREETERS FOR APRIL

April 6<sup>th</sup> Bill Bishop & Nancy Seaver  
April 13<sup>th</sup> Robert & Susie England  
April 20<sup>th</sup> John & Cyndi Sims  
April 27<sup>th</sup> Martin & Jana Purdy

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the Session meeting of March 18, 2025:

- Session approved to “pass the plate” (collect offering) on the second Sunday of each month, Easter Sunday, and Christmas, or the Sunday preceding Christmas.
- The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will receive a three-hour training/orientation from Presbytery reps on Monday, March 31, 2025.

During this season of lent, may we be mindful of the sacrifice our dear Lord Jesus made for us. Please keep the PNC and the Session in your prayers as we discern on your behalf.

In **His** Service,

Pat Wallace  
Clerk of Session

## DEACON MINISTRY

Hello again from your friendly neighborhood Deacons! As Lent continues and Holy Week approaches, we will soon send out our Easter mailing which will include a schedule of all our First Presbyterian Church Turlock goings on.

We do have a favor to ask of you, our church family. If you are willing to occasionally prepare and bring salads or desserts to a memorial reception, please inform your Deacon that we may compile a list. This is definitely an opportunity to show that many hands and joyful hearts share blessings and make light work. Our Deacons gladly serve at our memorials and provide the main course, but anyone willing to help us out is greatly appreciated!

As always, please remember that any needs you, our FPC Turlock Family, have can be brought to your Deacon and we will do everything in our power to support you and cheer you. We just love you all so very much!

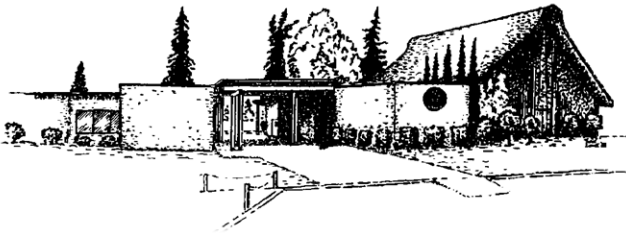
Ok. Let's practice one time...

*HE IS RISEN!*  
*HE IS RISEN, INDEED!!!*

In peace & grace,

Niki Higdon





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

Phone # (209) 202-3977  
 E-mail: [fpcturlock@att.net](mailto:fpcturlock@att.net)  
 Website: [www.fpturlock.com](http://www.fpturlock.com)



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



To Know Christ and  
 Make Him Known



Church Staff
Music Director: Marilyn Fullmer
Administrative Assistant: Polet Yonan
Bookkeeper: Kim Sasman
Youth Director: Alexis Green
Assist. Youth Director: Shasta Gunn
Tutoring Director: Terri Rodger
Organist: Barbara Bort
Pianist: Dr. Wayne Kidwell
Janitor: Michael Morris

ELECTED DEACONS AND SESSION OFFICERS		
<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2025</u> Dan Hardesty Adria Sanders Pat Wallace	<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2026</u> Michael Betts Susie England Donna Harrison David Posluch	<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2027</u> Kathleen Gunn Candace Peterson Dean Sasman
<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2025</u> Diane Arakelian Bill Bishop Niki Higdon Jana Purdy	<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2026</u> Lynn Posluch Kim Sasman Lorna Schmidt	<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2027</u> Jo Coffman Heather Gordon Donna Lansing Darlene Runsten Nancy Seaver Heidi Shearer