



# FPC Press

SINCE 1909

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Turlock, California

July 2022

Published Monthly



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

Greetings Church Family,

Something wonderful has been happening at FPC and much of it has gone unnoticed. Because of the pandemic we were able to provide the service of online worship. This was a lifeline for many during the worst of the pandemic. Since then others are stealthily joining us. Now I don't think they are being stealthy by design, rather it is the nature of the internet. Our numbers of online views are ticking upward and last Saturday, during Mabel Sargis' memorial service, we may have broken a record, both on zoom and video views. I am constantly running into folks who tell me they watch our service online. This means our internet presence is morphing into a vehicle for outreach. I am currently working on a means to get the names and locations of our viewers so we can be even more connected. Some churches are offering a thing called "online membership." I think that is a great idea. In this age of the internet, why shouldn't we be connected to people from all over the country or world for that matter? Just because someone is not physically in the building on Sunday morning does not mean they cannot be a vital part of the mission and ministry of Christ. If you know anyone who falls into this category please let the office know and we will reach out to them.

As you all know, our nation is going through trying times. Most of us get our news from sources that are not local. National and international voices come into our rooms with reports of this or that, and often, suggestions on how we should feel about "this or that." Well, if they can do that, then local churches can do it too. Someone said to me after last Sunday's sermon, "pastor you should preach that sermon to the U.S. Congress, they need to hear it." I agreed, but I am not sure how to get that particular invitation. I said, I believe the Holy Spirit is behind this message and other ministers in other churches around the country would be preaching the same thing.

That is my sincere hope. You know the news media has their job to do and all the political prognosticators have their things to say, but the church has much to say as well. As voices pull us to the left or the right, if you are paying attention, you will hear the voice of the Holy Spirit trying to pull us toward Christ, toward the cross. I am always concerned when faith breaks toward a political party. Christ has called us to Himself. You will never find the Holy Spirit dismissing large swaths of humanity rather you will find the Holy Spirit speaking to believers on how to touch more people with grace openness and love. **Grace, Openness, and Love** was what I called the "ladder" I spoke on last Sunday (6/26). I did not realize until later that it provides the perfect acronym **G.O.A.L** (**Grace, Openness, and Love**) We all know that God desires this world to be a place of grace, openness, and love. When humans from any place on earth, from any time, move toward that "GOAL" we become better, we become more like Christ.

Yes, it is odd to imagine that we are touching people beyond our walls, but we are doing just that. I hope we will continue to grow this opportunity into the fulness of God's will for FPC Turlock. Your help would be great. If you know someone who would benefit from an online worship experience, consider inviting them in ([fpturlock.com](http://fpturlock.com)) If you know of someone who would benefit from a deacon or pastoral care give us their names and we will reach out, even if they live out of the area.

Thank you all for your support. Your prayers, your encouragements, and your gifts are greatly appreciated as we move toward our GOAL of Grace, Openness, and Love!

In Christ's Service  
*Pastor Craig*

# Announcements



**JOIN US FOR OUR  
ALL CHURCH  
ANNUAL POTLUCK  
4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY  
DINNER @ 6:30 PM  
BINGO & GAMES @ 7:30 PM  
FIREWORKS @ 9:00 PM**



Please bring a dish to share:

Feel free to bring Games & Fireworks to share!  
And don't forget your lawn chairs or a blanket!

We also gladly accept any donations to help with the purchase of our fireworks. Kindly mark your donation "fireworks" and place them in the offering plate or drop it off by the church office.

Please keep our 2022 Guatemala Team made up of First Presbyterian Church, La Vina Covenant Church and Sandals Church of Fresno in your prayers as they minister to the Guatemalan people during the week of:

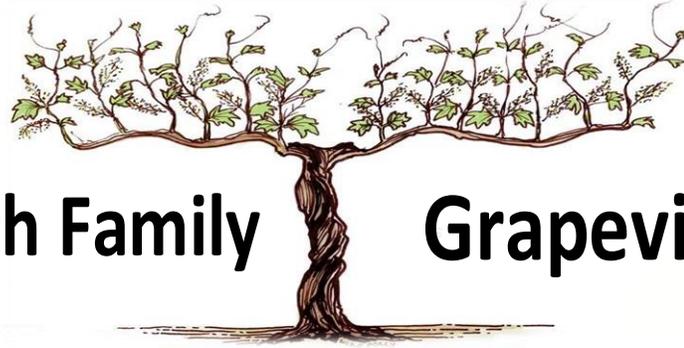
**July 4 – 12, 2022**

Please keep our Guatemala Team in your prayers as they do God's work:

Pastor Craig Wright  
Marcy Wright  
Christian McPherson

Megan Taylor  
Abigail Taylor  
Ryan Oxford  
Garrick Stuhr  
Annie Stuhr  
Justin Authors  
Blanky Estrada





## 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

Avilla, Robby (S,H)

Blixt, Elizabeth (H)

Brugger, Betty (H)

Brunton, Bob (H)

### Barbara McClellan's Family (G)

Peterson Family (G)

Reeves, Jean (H)

Runsten, Tricia (Darlene's Daughter) (H)

### Mabel Sargis' Family (G)

Smith, Betty (H)

**Smith, Jayne (S,H)**

Vesperman, Dick (H)

Wiegman, Joyce (H)



*Please praise God continuously for who He is  
and what He has done in your life...  
as well as for your Church Family and Servants,  
Civic and National Leaders, Families of  
Ukraine,  
Rescue, Recovery, and Relief workers.*



### Birthdays

July 1 Wendy Warner  
July 5 Polly Peterson  
July 6 David Arakelian  
July 7 Bob Phillips  
July 13 Helen Drescher  
July 14 Gabriel Njock  
July 23 Glenda Jameson  
July 24 Paul Anderson  
July 24 Isaac Wright  
July 30 Bran Stigile-Wright  
July 31 Eleanor Huskins  
July 31 Elaine Neely  
July 31 Wilma Wright

### Anniversaries

July 10 Craig & Marcy Wright  
July 25 Wayne & Elizabeth Kidwell



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



# Need prayer?

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.



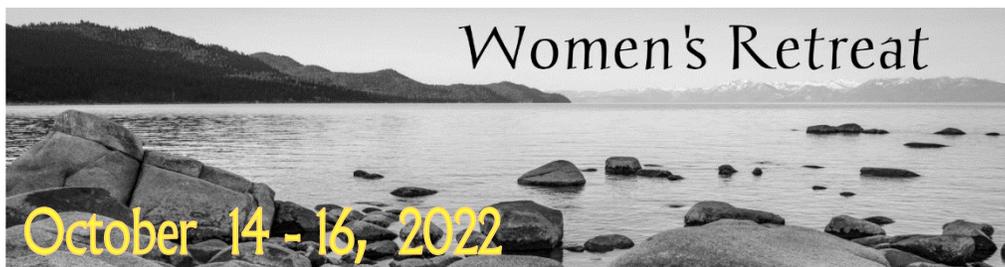
**Turlock Gospel Mission** provides a warm bed and a safe place: The Emergency Overnight Shelter is open 365 days per year and is open to women and their children (boys aged 10 and under) on a first come, first served basis. Sign-in begins at 4:15 pm daily. Women and children join us for a dinner meal at the Restoration Shelter dining room and are assigned to a bed in the dorm, where they are able to stay until 7:00am. Shower passes are available and bins with personal belongings are secured.

**Turlock Gospel Mission** has continued to serve meals and provide services to the homeless community even during the Covid-19 closures and state wide- restrictions. FPC provides 75 meals the second Sunday of each month. Due to the Covid-19 rules, FPC's Missions Committee has been providing 75 take-out prepared meals the **second Sunday of each month**. If you wish to help prepare, serve or donate please contact Martin or Jana Purdy or any member of the Missions Committee. Only about one-two hours per month is all is needed on the second Sunday from 4:30 – 6:00 pm.

## Fundraising Has Never Been Easier



It's easy—and it works. By using gift cards to pay for everyday (and not-so-everyday) expenses, each participant in your program can earn over \$1,000 each year. No selling. No extra time. No extra money. Simply download the Raise Right App on your phone and after entering the church's enrollment number (provided at the office), follow very few steps to register and purchase any amount of gift cards or even deposit money for groceries and a certain percentage goes back to the church to help benefit the ministries of all our youth in their camp and mission work. Don't hesitate. Be part of this wonderful growing team of individuals who continually raise money by using gift cards instead of cash or credit to pay for everyday purchases like groceries, gas, dining out, that morning coffee addiction, even your family's summer vacation.



If you'd like to take time to rest and relax and recharge your emotional battery or possibly have free time on a Saturday afternoon to enjoy Lake Tahoe, join us during the weekend of **October 14-16<sup>th</sup> of 2022** this fall. The featured speaker is Marielle Evans, a mother of two and a non-profit strategist who recently graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2015 with an MDiv focused on Pastoral Care and Counseling and spent the bulk of her pre-pandemic career in nonprofit leadership. Marielle (aka Marz) will speak on "The Sacred Art of Wasting Time". Please feel free to register online or for more information go to Zephyr Point's webpage: <https://www.zephyrpoint.org/programs/adult/womens-retreat/>



ILLUMINATION PRESENTS  
**SING 2**

ALL CHILDREN  
GRADES K-6<sup>TH</sup>

MEET ME AT THE MOVIES  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 13<sup>TH</sup>  
@ 10:45 AM  
FREE



**JOIN US**  
Middle & High School  
**LAKE DAY**  
Thursday,  
July 7<sup>th</sup>



**SUMMER YOUTH CAMP**  
Please keep our youth and leaders in prayer as they grow closer to each other and to Jesus during their stay.

Jr. High July 24 – 29<sup>th</sup>      High School July 31 – August 5<sup>th</sup>



**WATERSLIDE DAY!**

ALL CHILDREN & YOUTH  
COME AND STAY COOL!

**WEDNESDAY,  
JULY 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**YOUTH:  
3:30 – 5:30 PM**

**CHILDREN:  
6:00 – 7:30 PM**

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

You know who Elijah is, but who is Elisha. Come find out! Kid's Worship ever Sunday morning after the passing of the peace.



**SUMMER  
Reading Program**

June 8<sup>th</sup> -- July 13<sup>th</sup>

A sincere thank you to ALL volunteers who have taken time from their busy schedules to help advance the education levels of the children in our community. And many thanks to all your prayers and support, either financially or in bringing snacks .

## **PRESBTERIAN WOMEN MINISTRY**

PW Women's Bible Study is taking a summer break the months of July and August. They will reconvene in September.

Introducing the 2022-23 PW/Horizons Bible Study: Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight authored by Carol M. Bechtel. This study begins in September 2022. 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 ♪♪

“Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,  
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.  
I can hear the brush of angel's wings; I see glory on each face.  
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.”

Dear friends,

I am writing to you from the beautiful shores of Lake Tahoe where I am taking a few days' vacation and finding my soul being refreshed. This is truly a thin place between heaven and earth! I am often here to study music, conducting skills, and read through new music which inspires me as I choose music for our choir and bells for the coming year.

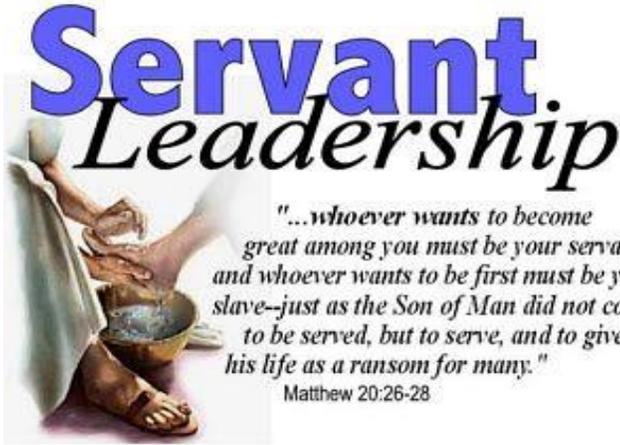
This year I am with family, but the music of my life is also here with me! There is not a piece of music near me, but it plays in my heart and in my ears and excites me for the year of music to come!

If this is the time when you feel drawn to join either our choir or bell choir, please let me know so that we can include you in announcements about rehearsals and times when we will lead the congregation in music.

This is a short article, but rest assured that the music for this coming year will be sung and played to the glory of God every week! Hopefully, it will reach your hearts as you worship with us through the various seasons of the church year. And when we come to a hymn you particularly like, or means something special to you, you will join your voice with those around you as you sing your love for God.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place! May your summer bring you rest and refreshment wherever you find yourself, and I look forward to our gathering together whenever that is possible.

Rev. Wendy Warner,  
Director of Music



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session last met on June 20, 2022.

Of interest:

- For pedestrian safety, Session approved thinning out and cleaning up the flower bed surrounding the church sign at the entry way onto campus.
- At the North Central California Presbytery meeting in May, Candace Peterson was elected to a six-year term, Class of 2027, Permanent Judicial Commissioner. Congrats to Candace.
- General Assembly meets every two years and conducts the business of the PCUSA. It is now in session, June 18-July 9, 2022. It is being live-streamed. Visit <https://ga-pcusa.org/>

As a gentle reminder, giving is often lean during the summer months and can lead to significant cash flow challenges in meeting our monthly obligations. On behalf of Session, thank you for your continuing support to the life and ministries of FPC.

In His service,

Pat Wallace  
Clerk of Session

## DEACONS TEAM MINISTRY

At our June 13<sup>th</sup> we discussed preparations for the Mabel Sargis memorial reception, which was held on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. The memorial reception for Barbara McClellan was announced for Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> with more details coming out in July.

We also discussed some possible details surrounding the upcoming new FPC Directory and looked at a sample FPC Directory. Since we will not meet in July, the FPC Directory will be our focus when we resume meeting again in August.

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

In Christ,

Darlene Runsten, Moderator

## FINANCE UPDATE

Income & Expense Year to Date  
Ending May 31, 2022

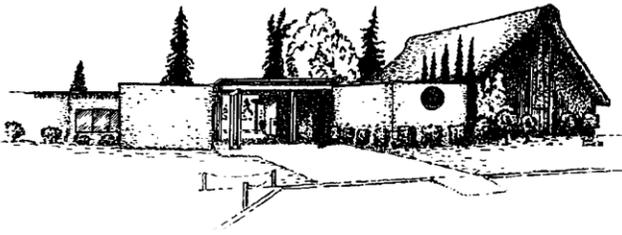
Contributions:	\$104,729
Other Income:	\$ 25,089
Total Income:	\$ 129,818
Expenses:	\$ 154,221
Excess Expense:	(\$24,403)

It's summertime! While many of us are taking vacations and enjoying the long days, church giving may be in the back of our minds. Summertime is a worrisome time for our Finance Committee members and Session because our expenses continue to accrue but our income decreases. Please remember to give to our general fund and allow FPC to continue to support our congregation and community.

In His Service,

FPC Finance Committee



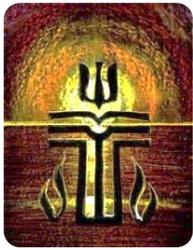


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Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch](http://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch)



*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
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> 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