

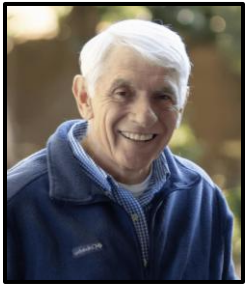
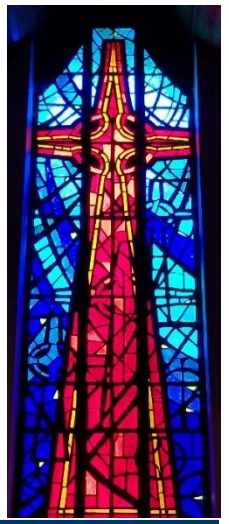
FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

EST. 1909

First Press

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 2025



Karl Barth was one of the most recognized theologians in the 20th century. He was an outstanding scholar. While I was a student in Seminary, I decided to fulfill an Historical Theology class assignment by writing a paper on one of Barth's

books. The book was about his beliefs on the Scripture. I was looking forward to reading it and writing a paper on it. Unfortunately, I couldn't understand what he was saying. The book was over my head. I didn't know what to write. Furthermore, my professor, Dr. Bromiley, had translated the book into English and was an expert of Barth. So, I sheepishly decided to write about one of B.B. Warfield's (a scholar at Princeton) books.

The only book Barth wrote that I could understand was one he wrote on Baptism. I later found out that it was not a scholarly book, but rather, a series of sermons he once gave to a church. Barth's intellect was huge and he completely humbled me.

So, it was with great interest that I read the following quote from Barth understand. During his 1962 lecture tour of the USA, a student asked Barth to summarize his entire theological work in one sentence. After a moment of thought, Barth responded, "Yes, I can. In the words of a song I learned at my mother's knee: 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.'"

At last, here is something that Karl Barth wrote that I can understand, or at least attempt to understand. "Jesus love me" is a profound theological truth. A truth that both scholars and children can grasp. And we know that it is true because the Bible tells us. The veracity of the bible is another great theological truth. This book not only

contains the word of God, but it is the word of God. And it tells us Jesus loves us.

The origins of the song "Jesus loves me," is interesting. The hymn was first written as a poem to comfort a dying child in the novel "Say and Seal." The love of Jesus comforts the believer, announcing a love that transcends even death. As the apostle Paul wrote, "I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, 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."

Karl Barth got it right and he put it in words we can all understand. Jesus loves you. Furthermore, there is nothing that you can do to make Him love you more than he already does, and there is nothing you can do to make Him love you less. All we have to do is live in His love! Now that almost makes me burst forth in song! Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Blessings,

Pastor Rick



Special Events



DON'T MISS OUT!

**Thanks-living
Pie Sunday
November 9th**

in Voight Hall right after service

**2nd FRIDAYS
FELLOWSHIP**

Friday, November 14th @ 6:30 pm

RSVP to Cyndi Sims, of your attending by
Friday November 7th. We will be ordering
off the menu on separate checks.

All Are Welcome!

**Vito's Ristorante
& Pizzeria**

3851 Crowell Rd,
Turlock, California.



*Remembering
Our Loved Ones
in one special weekend*



Our dear loving sister in Christ and long-time member, Saralee Ulrich, was called home to be with the Lord on Thursday, September 25, 2025, and was reunited once again with the love of her life of 65 years, Don Ulrich. Her memorial service will be held at our church on **Saturday, November 22nd at 11am** with a lunch reception following. All contributions in Saralee's memory may be made to Covenant Care Hospice.

Our dearly faithful, friend, and long-time devoted member, Lois Marsh, passed away on Friday, November 7, 2025, and reunited with the love of her life of 48 years, John Marsh. As she was a very devout FPC worship attendant and continued her devotion online, a special worship service will be held honoring Lois' memory on **Sunday, November 23rd at 10:00 am** followed by a lunch reception. All contributions in Lois' memory may be made First Presbyterian Church.

**YOUTH
FRIENDSGIVING**

November 15th 6 PM

Bring your favorite dish to share!

There will be lots of Games, and we will share of all the blessings in our lives

November 30th

**Hanging
of the
Greens**

right after service
LUNCH PROVIDED!



MISSIONS FAIRE CHRISTMAS 2025

On December 7th, we support our mission causes through the heart of our faith in action. Whether feeding the hungry, supporting children at camp, responding to disasters, or shaping Christ's love locally and abroad, every act reflects God's grace.

Gifts purchased from any of these ministries convey the true spirit of Christmas. They're unique and special gifts that help honor the recipients while helping the growth and life-supporting work of each ministry.



Youth Scholarships – Contribute to Calvin Crest campers. Every donation opens the door to faith-building experiences, friendships, and personal growth.



Gifts for Kids – This holiday season, First Presbyterian Church invites you to help brighten the lives of children in our community and beyond through Gifts for Kids. Sponsor a child – provide gifts or gift cards for children placed in local group homes.



Heifer Project – Gives hope and dignity to communities around the world through the sharing of livestock and education projects.



Presbyterian Giving Catalog – Find a gift to provide tools, livestock, agricultural or water resources, education, health & hygiene care, nutrition and much more to the people and communities around the world.



Turlock Gospel Mission (TGM) – Provides services & educates the homeless and hurting by offering three meals a day, emergency shelter, a Restoration Program, and a Day Shelter that offers case management and provides transportation, all with the goal to end homelessness through the restoration of relationships with God, family and the community. Donations help cover our monthly meal ministry expenses.



Short-Term Missions – Support FPC's short-term mission causes, both locally and abroad, to serve communities in need and share Christ's love.



SERRV – Hand-made gifts from around the world available at the Missions Faire. This is a non-profit organization with a mission to eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide.

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

FPC Turlock 2025 - CHRISTMAS MISSIONS FAIRE

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$ _____
"GIFTS FOR KIDS" -----	\$ _____
PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG -----	\$ _____

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
TURLOCK GOSPEL MISSION -----	\$ _____
SHORT TERM MISSIONS -----	\$ _____

These gifts have been donated by _____ TOTAL \$ _____

Outreach Ministries



The Learning Zone Tutoring Program

October was another busy month at The Learning Zone. We were busy with homework, reading and strengthening math skills. Our art project this month was making an autumn wreath. The highlight of the month was celebrating Dawali.

Dawali is the Hindu Festival of Lights. Our Hindu/Punjabi families provided us with traditional food. Everyone enjoyed the food especially the samosas, naan and especially the sweets. We made paper lanterns with battery candles.

October was also special because 4 new students joined us as well as 3 new tutors.



Our new tutors are Glenis Zuhlke, Sally Dickensen, and Jerrie Ogden. Each of them is a retired with over 30 years of teaching experience. We are so excited to have them share their wisdom and experience with our students. Over the next few months I will be introducing you to our other tutors. There will be no tutoring on November 11 and 12 (Veterans Day) as well as November 25 and 26 (Thanksgiving).

Your Tutoring Director,
Terri Rodger

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 pcusa.com/christmasjoy or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy. Thank you!



Music & P.W. Ministries



♪♪ Notes from the Music Room ♪♪

The holiday season is officially here! You can feel it in the air: crisp evenings and chilly mornings. It's time to set the clocks back, light a cinnamon-scented candle, and turn on the twinkle lights. And although I don't begin my Christmas CD's at home until after Thanksgiving, I have begun rehearsing Christmas music with choir and handbells here at our church.

The music department is in "full speed ahead" mode for the next two months. Every weekly rehearsal now is important! Our groups are a collaboration and labor of love to present beautiful and meaningful music for our Sunday worship services together; and I do so appreciate the commitment of these members.

Two extra events to share. Choir will meet on Saturday, November 15th from 3:00-5:00 pm for a Christmas music rehearsal. And a new event for our church family and community: "community Carol Sing!" on Friday, December 12th at 7:00 pm outside at the church parking lot. This will be a fun music from the choir and handbells and audience singing of favorite carols. Put that event on your December calendar now. (And join me in praying for "no rain").

Thanks be to our Lord God for all His good gifts.

Serving in song,

Marilyn Fullmer
Music Director



PW invites you to our monthly Bible study which meets regularly in Voight Hall at 10:30 on the **SECOND** Wednesday. A Zoom link is available on the [fpturlock.com](https://www.fpturlock.com) web site.

This year's study is entitled Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ. We have reached Lesson 3, "Jesus Is Tested," based on Luke 4:1-13. Christ's wilderness experience shows us that when our lives are dangerous, stressful, and frightening, we are not alone. It is a message we all can use as we face all sorts of upheaval as individuals, families, and communities: economic, social, environmental, existential.

We will also collect the annual Thank Offering on behalf of the Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA as a whole. Individual presbyteries submit grant proposals. this year, 10 have been selected for funding, for everything from transitional housing, to providing beds for children who lack them, to a new generator for a daily meal program, to kitchen renovation, to vocational training for low-income parents.

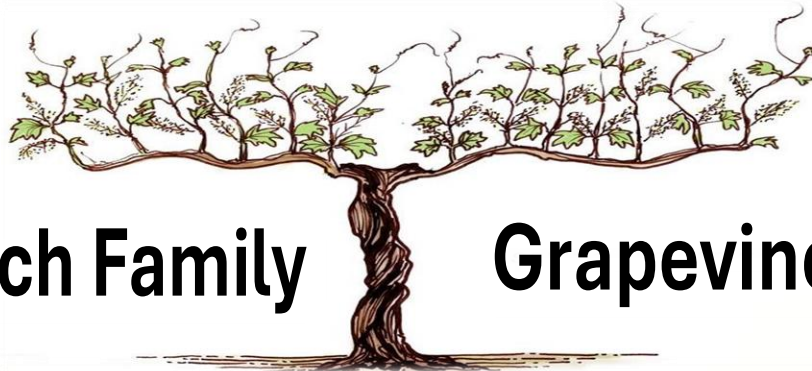
There will be continuing discussion about how we already serve our congregation and the wider community, and what unmet needs we see. Bring your stories and suggestions.

On behalf of PW at FPC Turlock and in the world, welcome! Contact me or the office if you have questions.

Candace Peterson, Bible Study leader (209) 277-2204 or (209) 634-3393

Prayers & Praises

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)

Lanchester, Irene (H)
Lowe, Marge (H)

Marsh Family (G)

Mirza, Julius (Jay) (H)

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

Taylor, Paul (H)

Ulrich Family (G)

Vesperman, Richard (H)

Warfield, Sonia (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

Anniversaries

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

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



NOVEMBER 2025

Communion Team – November

Darlene Runsten, Kim Sasman {Deacons}
Pat Wallace, Donna Harrison {Elders}

Worship Assistants

November 2nd Pat Wallace
November 9th Heather Gordon
November 16th Niki Higdon
November 23rd Candace Peterson
November 30th Kathleen Gunn



SUNDAY GREETERS FOR NOVEMBER

November 2nd Pat Rubalcava & Kim Sasman
November 9th Heidi Shearer & Jo Coffman
November 16th Mark & Alison Aldax
November 23rd Manuel & Margaret Vasquez
November 30th Donna Harrison & Adria Sanders

Finance Ministry

FINANCE UPDATE

Church Family,

As you may have heard United Assyrian Evangelical Church who has been renting our sanctuary for the last twelve years have decided to reunite with their previous church effective November 1st. Without their rental income, it will be hard for us to keep our ministries afloat, but not impossible. Your Finance committee and Board of Session are very diligent in continuing their stewardship of upholding all contributions to further the church's mission and purpose.

As a church family, we must foster a culture where all members are called to be disciples in using our gifts in a way that honors God. We ask you to please continue to pray for our church as we place trust in our Lord, Jesus Christ, to bless all our efforts.

This reminds me of a saying from Paul Harvey, "In times like these it helps to remember that there have always been times like these." Let us anchor our hope in the One who will see us through these times.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

God Bless,
Administration Committee



Income/Expense Report for September 2025

September Contributions:	\$17,995.00	YTD Contributions	\$172,856.49
September Other Income:	\$ 3,223.49	YTD Other Income	\$ 34,386.04
September Expenses:	\$26,854.23	YTD Expenses	\$207,517.01
Difference:	\$(5,635.74)	YTD Difference	\$ (274.48)

Buildings & Grounds Update

The FPC Buildings & Grounds Committee members have been hard at work gardening, repairing, repainting, and refurbishing all the necessary areas around our campus as well as all the wooden posts, wooden picnic tables, and the outside doors and panels surrounding our office and Voight Hall building. Next time you see either Pat Weisel, Robert England, Cindy Peterson, Dan Hardesty, Manuel Vazquez, Wade Fullmer, Robby Avilla, and Dave Posluch, and give them a big thank you for their continued efforts in ensuring the safety and upholding the beauty of our campus for all to enjoy.



BEFORE & AFTER: The Voight Hall West Door & Panels



BEFORE & AFTER: The Choir Door



BEFORE & AFTER: The Kitchen Door & Panels



Robby Avilla finishing the Betty Brugger Garden



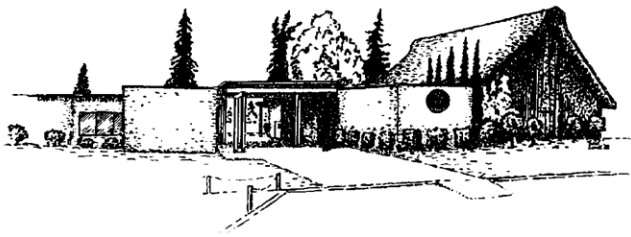
AFTER picture of the Voight Hall Panels



Pat Weisel touching up the paint on one of the 50 posts that need to be done.



Cindy Peterson, Robert England and Pat Weisel finished covering all the picnic tables and preparation table with thick plastic for the winter.



First Presbyterian Church
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Turlock, CA 95382

Phone # (209) 202-3977

E-mail: fpcturlock@att.net

Website: www.fpturlock.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch



To Know Christ and
Make Him Known



Church Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Rick Lemberg

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

Janitor: Michael Morris

ELECTED DEACONS AND SESSION OFFICERS

Elders

Class of 2025

Dan Hardesty
Adria Sanders
Pat Wallace

Elders

Class of 2026

Michael Betts
Susie England
Donna Harrison
David Posluch

Elders

Class of 2027

Kathleen Gunn
Candace Peterson
Dean Sasman

Deacons

Class of 2025

Diane Arakelian
Bill Bishop
Niki Higdon
Jana Purdy

Deacons

Class of 2026

Lynn Posluch
Kim Sasman
Lorna Schmidt

Deacons

Class of 2027

Jo Coffman
Heather Gordon
Donna Lansing
Darlene Runsten
Nancy Seaver
Heidi Shearer