

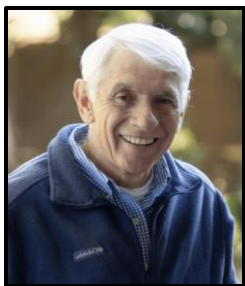
FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

EST. 1909

First Press

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 2025



Since I came to Turlock as the interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church, I have had the privilege of meeting a lot of people. I greatly enjoyed this opportunity. I have particularly enjoyed listening to people tell me their background: where they grew up,

where they went to school, when they met their wife or husband, etc.

Soon after arriving here, I got to meet some church members who are of Assyrian descent. The stories of these individuals really caught my attention. I was surprised by the number of them whose parents sent them to safety in another country. Children and teenagers who were being raised by caring people / relatives, but not their parents. This must have been an incredibly hard decision their parents had to make. They made that choice out of concern and love for their children.

I think about my childhood. It was so much different. I had the blessing of living with my parents and being raised by them until I went to college. It is hard for me to imagine living with someone other than my parents. There is much to learn from my new Assyrian friends. They have deep faith, they have a deep commitment to family, and they are strong people. We should never take family for granted.

Family was important to Jesus and to our faith. After all, one of the ten commandments is to honor our father and mother. But Jesus seemed to redefine family. Once, He shocked His listeners when His mother and brothers were looking for Him. He turned to the group to

whom He was speaking and said, *“Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”* {Matthew 12:48-50}

Jesus is not saying a bad word about families, nor is He trying to dishonor or embarrass His family. He is casting a new vision for family, a new kind of family. A family where our responsibilities and loyalties supersede even those connected with our chromosomes.

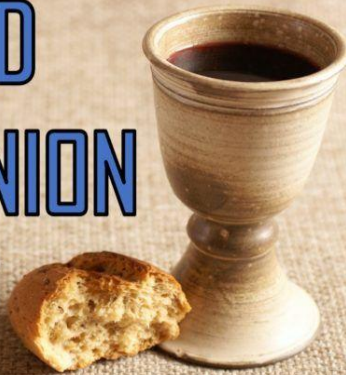
The good news is that Jesus is not telling us to think less of our family, nor is He telling us to ignore our family. No, honoring father and mother is still one of the commandments. But He does tell us that we, by virtue of our faith in Him, have not only been born into a new life, but we have been born into a new family. Hebrews 2:11 states, *“Both the one who makes people holy, and those who are made holy, are of the same family.”* In other words, we are in God’s family. Enjoy God’s family, where all are welcome and hopefully, all feel at home. Thank God for your family of origin and then thank God for your family of faith as well.

Pastor Rick



Special Events

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
CELEBRATES OUR ONENESS **IN CHRIST**
WITH ALL OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS
AROUND THE WORLD.
JOIN US FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICE
OCTOBER 5th @ 10:00 AM
FOLLOWED BY
SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP IN
VOIGHT HALL ENJOYING
SOUP & BREAD
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

2nd FRIDAYS FELLOWSHIP

Friday, October 10th @ 6 pm

RSVP to Pat Weisel, if you're coming
(209)606-0946. The Weisels will
host and provide a surprise.

687 N. Golden State
Blvd (in same
shopping center as
Smart and Final, but a
few shops north of it.)



Saturday October 18th

The Youth will meet at the
Farmers Market
from 9am and end at the
library at noon.

Youth Sleepover Party

October 24, 2025 - October 25, 2025

7pm-10am

@ the Church

Dear First Presbyterian Church of Turlock,

*Thank you, all of you, for all the
cards, gifts, and well-wishes you've given
me. This outpouring of support is unlike
anything I've ever received, but it seems to
fall right in line with how you've treated
me and my family.*

*The faith you've instilled in me will
be inseparable from my psyche. Thank you,
thank you, thank you!!!*

~ Ryan Njock



**REFORMATION
DAY It's Still All About
Jesus**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025
10:00 AM**

Please bring an item or an artifact representing
your heritage during the *Kirkin' O' the Tartans* for
a special blessing. Following our single service, we
will celebrate further with a special fellowship time
in Voight Hall with Scottish shortbread cookies,
scones, and beverages.

COME & BRING A NEIGHBOR OR FRIEND!

Mission Ministry



Have you been wanting to be more hands-on with our meal ministry to the Turlock Gospel Mission (TGM)? We've placed a little red wagon in the Narthex marked "TGM Meal Ministry" and invite anyone who would like to bring either canned green beans or canned sliced peaches to place them in the wagon. Can sizes can be anything from 15 oz. to 106 oz. (the very large can size is available at Smart & Final or at Walmart). The monthly meal is for 75 people, so we need 2 cases of 15 oz. cans or 3 of the very large 106 oz. cans.

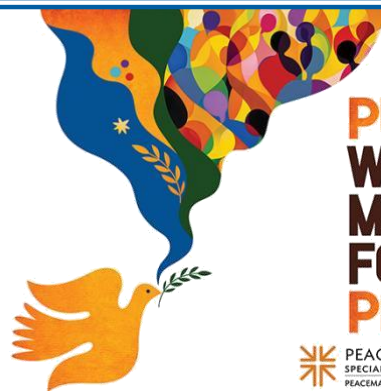
The fundraising we do each year for TGM at the Missions Faire and the rummage sale held last May have replenished our coffers, but we definitely notice that it costs us more today to provide this monthly meal. Your canned good contributions will help us stretch those funds even further!

If you have questions, feel free to contact any member of the Missions Committee (Susie England, Kathleen Gunn, Gabriel Njock, Priscilla Peters, and Martin & Jana Purdy.)

Support the Peace & Global Witness Offering

Support Peacemaking and Reconciliation locally and around the globe.

GIVE TODAY



**PURSUE
WHAT
MAKES
FOR
PEACE.**

 **PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

On World Communion Sunday, October 5th we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. We celebrate that we are all together at the table, in God's house. We celebrate that we are offered what we need to continue the work of building the household of God with active peacemakers here at home and around the world.

We take action today by offering a blessing of our own. Through our participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community—25 percent of the gifts received will stay right here in our community to build God's house. Twenty-five percent will support regional efforts in our mid councils, and 50 percent will go the Presbyterian Mission Agency for its ministries of education and partnership with active peacemakers all around the world.

Throughout this month, we will have the Peace & Global Witness special offering. You can make an offering anytime during worship and drop it off to the church in the secure mail drop or mail to the office throughout the month of October. Thank you for your generosity.

Extend your peace to us, O Christ, that we might build places of kindness and generosity, reconciliation and compassion. May our gifts join our voices in blessing all of creation with your justice and peace, at all times, in all ways. Amen.

Outreach Ministries



The Learning Zone Tutoring Program

It's hard to believe that we are starting our second month of the 2025 – 2026 tutoring year. September was a wonderful month.

We met new friends (8 new students) and welcomed 3 fabulous new tutors. We were busy with getting to know you activities, homework, and trying a few new things. Our engineering project was building towers with index cards and tape. The tower had to be able to hold 3 Oreo cookies. Next month we will add an A to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and make it STEAM (A is for art). The kids LOVE all the snacks that the congregation has provided. They especially like the small, bottled waters. Thank you for your support. It is through you that we can continue this outreach to the community.

Your Tutoring Director,
Terri Rodger



There will be a mission trip back to Paradise California, to help Tiny Pines Foundation with their annual fund raiser as well as helping the community Projects throughout the area after seven years of their devastation. The dates are **November 7-16th**. The trip is divided into two. You have the option of selecting either or both dates. From Nov. 7th-11th, the Turlock Team will assist with community projects and from Nov. 14-16th, we will assist the Staff at the Gala Fundraising. The Oroville Presbyterian Church will once again be opening its doors and hospitality for our lodging purposes. You will be happy to know they do in fact have RV hookups for showering. If led, kindly let Kathleen Gunn or anyone on the mission committee know of your interest in this great local mission cause.



Music Ministry

♪ Notes from the Music Room ♪



"Hallelujah! I give thanks to God with everything I've got...wherever good people gather, and in the congregation. God's works are so great, worth a lifetime of study...endless enjoyment!"

Those verses jump out to me church friends! That is what we do together every Wednesday night in choir practice, every Tuesday in handbell rehearsal, and every Sunday morning in worship. Our God is so awesome. He has done so much for us. He gives us what we need, at just the right time. So we get together to perform music to offer back to Him. And as we spend time together making music happen, we are enjoying fellowship together; we are learning and hearing the gospel message from Pastor Rick's sermons on Sunday mornings, and we are blessed!

Bell ensemble is rehearsing three beautiful pieces to share Sunday, October 5th. The choir is working on a different arrangement of "Blessed Assurance" and a beautiful, reverent piece, "Be Still and Know". And very soon both groups will begin harvest and advent music. So I encourage you church friends to join us on Sunday mornings for worship. It's so much better to be together in person as often as we are able!

*"The good life begins in the fear of God....
do that and you'll know the blessing of God.
His hallelujah lasts forever!" ~ Psalm 111*

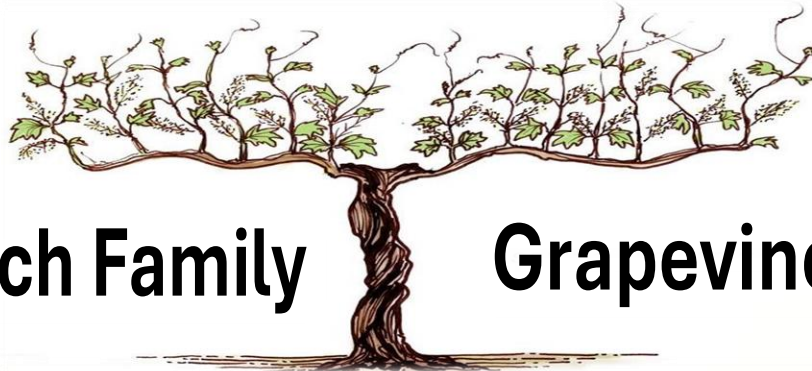
Serving in song,

Marilyn Fullmer
Music Director



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, Lois (H)

Mirza, Julius (Jay) (H)

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

Taylor, Paul (H)

Saralee Ulrich's 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

Oct 1 Marlena Mizicko
Oct 5 Niki Higdon
Oct 16 Veronika Beck
Oct 19 Jay Mirza
Oct 19 Owen Wellman
Oct 21 Joanne Abraham
Oct 31 Michael Yonan

Anniversaries

Oct 1 Martin & Jana Purdy
Oct 14 Bob & Sally Phillips

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



OCTOBER 2025

Communion Team – October

Kathleen Gunn & Donna Harrison {Elders}

Worship Assistants

October 5th Lynette Betts
October 12th Donna Harrison
October 19th Pat Weisel
October 26th Pat Rubalcava



SUNDAY GREETERS FOR OCTOBER

October 5th Bob & Sally Phillips
October 12th Martin & Jana Purdy
October 19th Mark & Alison Aldax
October 26th John & Cyndi Sims

Deacon, Session & Finance Ministries

&



Our First Presbyterian Turlock Deacons would like to thank everyone who assisted and attended the memorial service of Donna Pierce. Saying farewell to family, friends, and community neighbors is bittersweet, and each one of you involved deepened the love and cherished memories of an amazing woman.

October brings the changing seasons and the kicks off the holiday run, and I don't just mean Halloween. World Communion Sunday brings followers of our Risen King together in harmony on the first Sunday. Reformation Sunday at the end of the month celebrates the evolving nature of an informed faith. We Deacons are ever evolving our ability to better you and the needs of our Church Family. From organizing our workroom to putting together an updated directory to being *here* for you and to walk with you in any and every season of your lives. We rejoice with all our Church Family and seek to bring us together in a unified community who's center is the shared love of Christ Jesus and the salvation and grace He so freely gives us.

Hallelujah! Amen.

In Peace & Grace,
Niki Higdon

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session last met on September 15, 2025.

Of interest:

- Approved a Christmas Home Tour fundraiser to benefit FPC.
- Approved the extension of Rev. Rick Lemberg's contract as Interim Pastor on a month-to-month basis.

On behalf of Session, we appreciate your continuing support of the ministries and activities of First Presbyterian Church. Please keep your Pastor Nominating Committee and your Session in your prayers as we discern on your behalf.

In **His** Service,

Pat Wallace
Clerk of Session



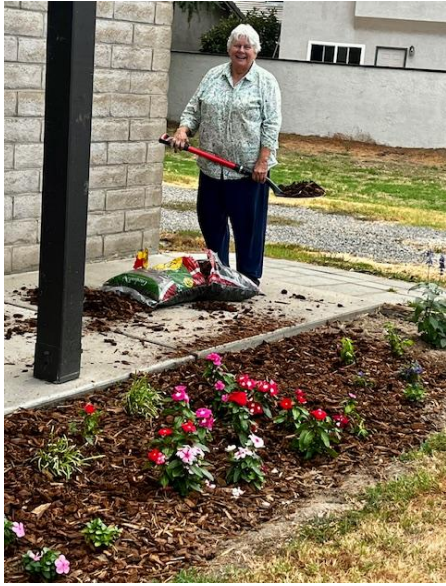
FINANCE UPDATE

Income/Expense Report for August 2025

August contributions:	\$16,451.00
August, other income:	\$3098.00
August expenses.	\$(17,549.72)
Difference:	\$1999.28

YTD contributions.	\$154,861.49
YTD Other income.	\$ 31,162.55
YTD Expenses.	\$(180,662.78)
YTD. Difference	\$ 5361.26

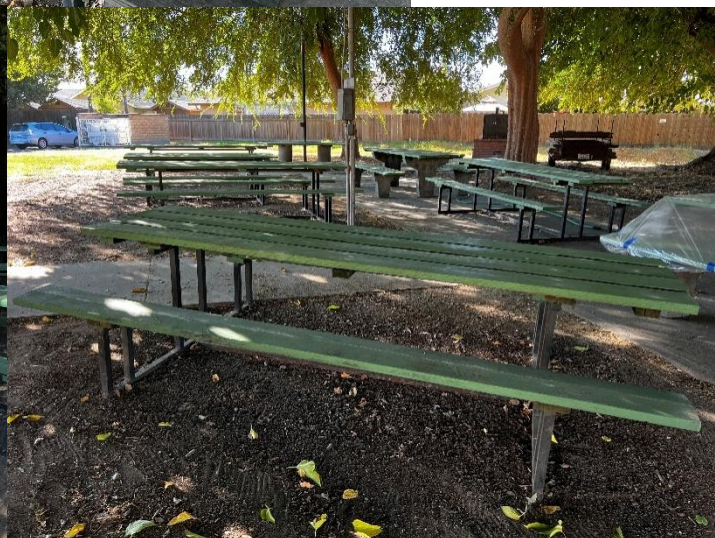
Buildings & Grounds Update

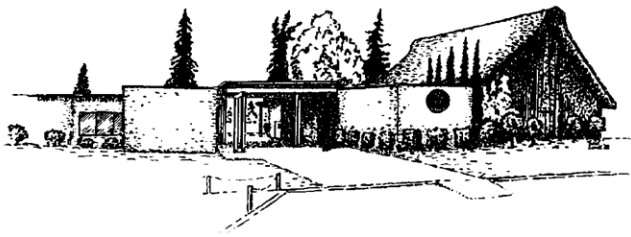


Robby Avilla who has been our greatest volunteer as our garden landscaper for the past 18 years, has recently finished what she has named the “Betty Brugger Garden”. She says, *“For years and years we had big bushes pruned in large box shapes that had fungus growing on the leaves in this location. They were removed in order to restore the wood on the overhang of the roof of our social hall. Last year I planted a section in the pinks and purples that Betty loved in time for her funeral. I personally name the beds because it is how I keep track of them. It is located near the Dale Neely highway which is a gravel road that one of our great church guys had built for us years ago to get to the back grounds....to me, this garden will always be planted in pinks and purples and called the Betty Brugger garden.”*



Pictured to the right is how the picnic tables have looked like for the past five or six years. They have been in desperate need of face lift for some time. With the help of Robert England, Manuel Vasquez, and Pat Weisel, the new and refurbished tables are seen below.





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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