

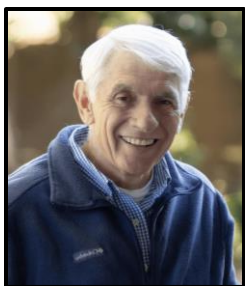
FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

EST. 1909

First Press

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 2025



Poly Perk

When Kathy and I got married, we received some very nice gifts from family and friends. We received silverware, plates, pots, bedding, kitchen utensils, and we received some shares of stock from Kathy's parents. We also received gifts, that well, left me wondering what to do with them. We got four crystal bowls. They were pretty, but I didn't know what to do with them. After three years of sitting in boxes, I decided to put them to use. Because they were clear, and I could see into them from the sides, they were a great place to store nuts and bolts. I am not sure that was their intended purpose, but it worked.

My favorite gift, however, was a coffee pot named Poly Perk. It was made by Regal. It seemed to have a sense of practicality and elegance. I was fascinated by it. It was scratch resistant and made from ply propylene. It automatically brewed rich, full-flavored coffee, and kept it at an ideal serving temperature. It was easy to clean, and completely odor free so that it protects coffee taste and aroma. It would brew 4-8 cups of coffee. And these claims were just the ones they put on the box they packaged it in!

Who wouldn't want this coffee pot?! In fact, a quick glance at eBay will demonstrate how popular this pot was. Today, you can buy a Poly Perk coffee pot for \$9.99 all the way to \$55.00.

You might want to know if it did produce full-flavored coffee and kept it at an ideal serving temperature. I don't know if its coffee was full-flavored. Neither Kathy nor I drink coffee, so we never used Poly Perk. We never even took it out of the box it came in. We have no idea if

its promises were true or just advertisements to get you to buy the appliance. In a way, it's too bad. Poly Perk never got its chance to live up to its promises.

Why in the world, you might be wondering, is he going on about an old coffee pot? It came to me that often we Christians have a similar approach to the Word of God. God gave us the Bible so we might find life in Jesus' name (John 20:30-31). The Word of God was given to us because it is useful for teaching and training us in how to live (II Timothy 3:16). God gave us His Word because it helps us stay on the right path in life and leads us when the path is dark and we need light. (Psalm 119:105).

Are those promises true? Has God proven trustworthy? We will never know unless we take the Bible out of the box and use it. We will never know if the Bible can lead us to life in Jesus, unless we read it, study it and use it.

Corrie ten Boom's life in and out of the Nazi prison camps has inspired people for decades. Here is one thing she wrote about the Bible, "I have experienced His [the Lord's] presence in the deepest hell that man can create, [and] I have tested the promises of the Bible, and believe me, you can count on them."

Let's get our Bibles off the shelf and into our laps. Let's read the Word of God. Let's study it and let it become a part of our lives. Then we will know for ourselves that God's Word is true, and He does keep the promises He made to us. Maybe we can even study the Bible over a cup of coffee brewed by Poly Perk!

Pastor Rick

Special Events & Youth Ministry

All Church Fall Harvest Potluck

You may bring any of your favorite dishes to share. As a suggestion, if you're last name begins with A-J, you may bring a side dish/salad and if it begins with K-Z, please bring a main dish.

Let's come together as a church family, with dear friends and enjoy one another's company as we spend an afternoon of fellowship filled with laughter, connection, and mouthwatering dishes shared by all the congregation.

Sunday, September 14th

Following the worship service

in Voight Fellowship Hall

Youth Ministry

Our Wednesday night program resumes on **September 10th**, starting with dinner, Bible study time and end with a fun game. As always, we would appreciate any snack donations or any volunteer time for events!! If there's any questions feel free to reach out to Shasta Gunn @ shastagunn16@gmail.com. Thank you all for your continued support.

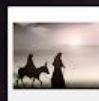
YOUTH PICNIC

SEPTEMBER 7th 12-2pm

Markley Park

corner of Monte Vista & Berkeley

Bible Escape Room



September 20th

6 – 8 pm

TRY to Get out of the Youth Room for a Special Treat!

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](#)

In Romans 14:19, Paul calls us to know our neighbors, both around the corner and around the world, not as "them" but as "us," friends and siblings in Christ. As the hands and feet of Christ, we are called to be peacemakers, bringing hope and light to those in need.

Each year, in conjunction with World Communion Sunday, FPC receives one of the PC(USA)'s four special offerings, the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Through this offering, Presbyterians acknowledge that peace is active, not passive. It means doing, not just waiting for peace to happen. Fifty percent of the funds raised church-wide goes across the globe for denominational efforts, 25% goes to Presbyteries and mid-councils who use the funds for peacemaking efforts in their regions, and the remaining 25% remains with our congregation for peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.



Outreach Ministries



The Learning Zone Tutoring Program

Have you noticed our new banner?

We are very excited about reaching out to all the people who drive by our church. Tutoring will begin on September 2nd and 3rd. We are happy to be welcoming our returning students as well as new students. I anticipate that we will be getting new students throughout the year. On August 23rd every parent of Turlock Elementary student will receive a tutoring flyer in their email.



I am often asked how can I help? Of course, we are always looking for tutors. Did you know that you do not have to commit to weekly tutoring for a year? We are very flexible. Many of our current tutors travel throughout the year. I find subs for them as needed. We also need substitutes.

If tutoring is not your thing. We welcome snacks. Here are some suggestions:

String Cheese

Dried Fruit

Trail Mix

Kind Bars

Kirkland Granola Bars

Skinny Pop Individual Bags

Small Bottled Water

Applesauce Pouches

Go Go Squeeze Applesauce

Annie's Fruit Snacks

Bare Granola Apple Crisps

Baby Bel Gouda Cheese

Cello Parmesan Crisps

WE WELCOME ALL HEALTHY SNACKS!

Thank you for your continued support of our program.

It's hard to believe that we are starting our 18th year.

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 ♪



"Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him! Let the 'amen' sound from His people again; gladly forever adore Him!"

Have I mentioned to you that I love to sing in church? And I love to hear the church body singing in worship and praise on Sunday mornings. How blessed I am that God gave me a melody in my heart and I can "go to work" to program music for my church!

Summer worship music is coming to a close with the turn of the calendar. I want to say a big "Thank You" to all who have participated in sharing music for our summer morning services. You all have been a blessing! Now September brings a return to choir and handbell ensemble rehearsals and Sunday morning worship performance, and I'm sure everyone is rested, relaxed, and ready to get going together again.

Choir will resume rehearsal again on Wednesday, August 27th, 6:30-8:00 pm. If you are thinking about singing in our choir, come join us. There's always room for more singers...especially men! We would enjoy a couple more Basses and Tenors. Handbell group will resume rehearsal on Tuesday, September 2nd, 5:15-6:15 pm. Handbell ensemble is a bit more involved than the choir. Bells require a knowledge of reading music notation and rhythms. If you are interested in that group, please come talk to me.

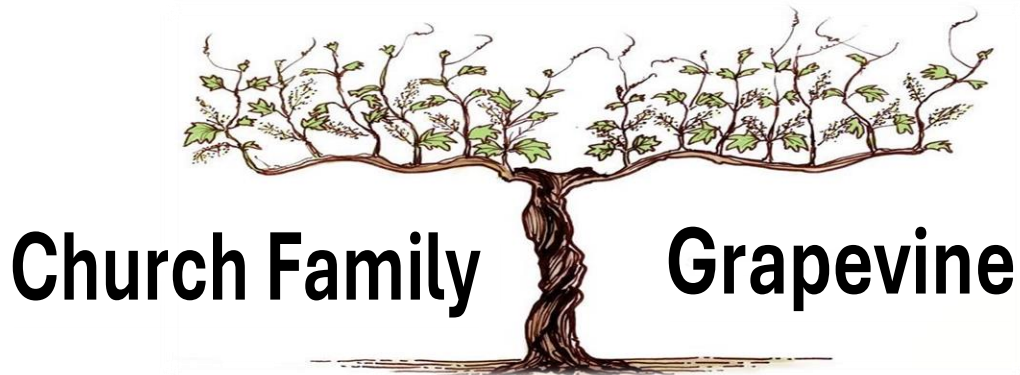
"Praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven." ~ Daniel 4:37

Serving in song,

Marilyn Fullmer
Music Director



Prayers & Praises



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)
 Mirza, Julius (Jay) (H)
 Runsten, Tricia (Darlene's Daughter) (H)
 Taylor, Paul (H)
 Ulrich, Saralee (H)
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

Sept 3 Saralee Ulrich
 Sept 17 Gail Ballas
 Sept 20 Lauren Reid
 Sept 22 Brandon Purdy
 Sept 25 Dwight Hooper
 Sept 26 Nancy Seaver
 Sept 27 Lynn Posluch
 Sept 28 Jayne Smith
 Sept 30 Candace Peterson

Anniversaries

Sept 4 Ken & Pat Weisel

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



SEPTEMBER 2025

Communion Team – September

Candace Peterson & Michael Betts {Elders}
 Bill Bishop & Nancy Seaver {Deacons}

Worship Assistants

September 7th Candace Peterson
 September 14th Heather Gordon
 September 21st Priscilla Peters
 September 28th Pat Rubalcava



SUNDAY GREETERS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 7th Manuel & Margaret Vasquez
 September 14th Gabriel, Majolie & Steve Njock
 September 21st Nancy Seaver & Kim Sasman
 September 28th John Miles & Priscilla Peterson

Deacon, Session & Finance Ministries

&



Sweet summer memories have been made for another year and as our temperatures leave the stratosphere for more acceptable levels, we are called back to the habits of daily life. It may be easy to slip back into the same rhythm, the same actions, the same old same old, but your First Presbyterian Deacons are not satisfied with anything less than welcoming each changing season with joy, wonder, and a servant's love. It is with this joy, love--and the peace of Christ--that we look forward to serving you in this new season. We look forward to serving you in every season, both of the year, of your lives, and of our First Presbyterian Church Family life.

Peace & Grace,
Niki Higdon

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session last met on August 18, 2025.

Of interest:

- Approved the hire of Anokeen Varani as Development Coordinator, part-time, for a period of six months.
- There was consensus to pursue an extension of Pastor Rick Lemberg's contract as Interim Pastor. The matter was referred to the Administrative Committee for follow-up.

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

In **His** Service,

Pat Wallace
Clerk of Session

FINANCE UPDATE

Income/Expense Report for July 2025

July Contributions:	\$ 20,651.00
YTD Contributions:	\$138,410.49
July Other Income:	\$ 1,429.36
YTD Other Income	\$ 52,044.78
July Expenses:	(\$ 18,353.01)
YTD Expenses:	(\$187,093.29)

Difference: (\$ 3,727.35) YTD \$ 3,361.98



Church Family,

Here we are in September already and the days just seem to fly by. With your great faithfulness through the summer months we are looking good. Thank you doesn't seem like enough. We as a church are so blessed by your continued nurturing of God's house to glorify his work in our community. May your fall days be cool and your harvests plentiful.

*"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,
for those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28*

Buildings & Grounds Update



When a neighboring church's plans to irrigate doesn't go as planned, it affects all of us. We received their water as one gate was left mistakenly open to our campus. Not only did the water affect our grounds, it also caused damage to a few of the homes that border alongside our fence. We were fortunate and blessed to have a group of our buildings & grounds crew be present at the right time to help assess the situation and solve the problems that faced everyone involved. **GO TEAM!**

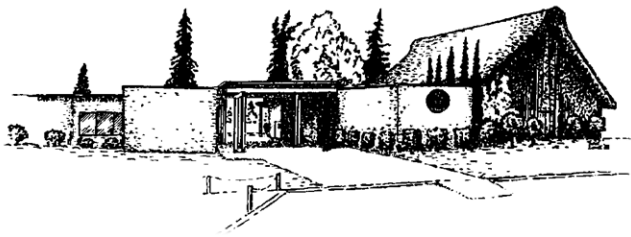


Robert England on his tractor building up the garden berms and clearing out the gully on the southern side of the picnic grounds.



Manuel Vasquez and Robert England have put a lot of work into fixing / repairing the damaged picnic tables and benches.





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Website: www.fpturlock.com



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchur

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