FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

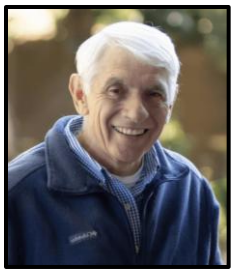
EST. 1909

First Press

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERAIN CHURCH
TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 2026





In the recent several weeks, I will be preaching about giving. I recognize that this is not a very popular subject. Very few people feel comfortable about the amount of money they save, spend or give. A friend of mine once told me that virtually no one is satisfied with the money they earn. They either feel like they don't earn enough or they have too much. About two years ago, Kathy's dad, my father-in-law called Kathy. He made a remarkable statement to her. He said, "Kathy, I just realized that I won't live long enough to spend the money I have. What might you and Rick want or need?" His comments made Kathy and I think. How incredible that he had come to the point where he knew he had enough money for himself and he wanted to give some of it away.

Might we want to come to that same conclusion? I know that I think, "but wait a minute. I might get really sick and need that money, or I might end up in a nursing facility and need that money." I could think, "Maybe I won't have anyone to take care of me, and I will have to have money to pay someone to look after me." Or "I have just always believed in keeping money for a rainy day; who knows, there might be a month's worth of rainy days coming to me."

I suspect if ww sat down and tried to figure out all the possibilities that could happen to us, we might come to the conclusion that we could never have enough money. Perhaps that is true. But the scripture reminds us that we find our security in God, not in money or the things we have. Paul wrote to the Philippians and said, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." {Phil 4:6-7}

Certainly, saving for and spending money on your future, your retirement, your family's security is a good thing. But if that is the only criteria for our money, then we will never have enough money. For most of us we debate with ourselves on how much to keep and how much to give. Let me challenge you with a quote from C.S. Lewis, "I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare." I, like you, a, still wrestling with this debate in my mind. Perhaps we can make a smaller decision; let's give a little more that we currently are. That may be a good place to begin.

My best to each of you,

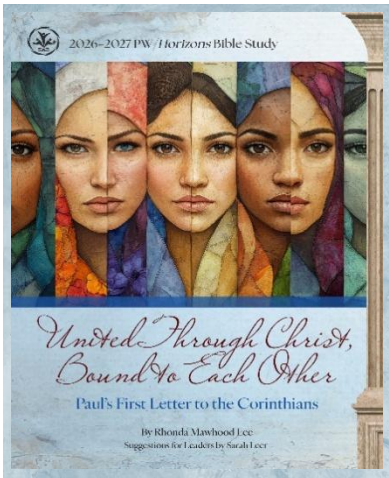
Pastor Rick



Announcements







P.W. Bible Study

The 2026–2027 Presbyterian Women (PW) Bible study is titled ***"United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians"*** Written by the Reverend Dr. Rhonda Mawhood Lee.

We will be exploring Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth over nine engaging lessons. These lessons will better help us understand each letter's setting, community divisions, spiritual gifts given through Christ, and a timeless message of loving unity.

Join us every **2nd Wednesday of the month @ 10:30 am** in Voight Hall. A Zoom link is also available for those who'd like to participate online. Please see Candace Peterson for more information or Elaine Neely on how to obtain a book for this wonderful study.





Mission Ministry

MISSIONS FAIRE
CHRISTMAS 2026

On **December 6th**, we will 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

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

Love Justice International – Fights to prevent human trafficking as it's occurring. They train and place monitors at strategic transit points who vigilantly keep watch to detect and intercept potential victims in real time, BEFORE they are exploited or enslaved. Your donation helps to save lives!

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

FPC Turlock 2026 – CHRISTMAS MISSIONS FAIRE

ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT	ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND	$ _____	"GIFTS FOR KIDS"	$ _____
HEIFER PROJECT	$ _____	PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG	$ _____
TURLOCK GOSPEL MISSION	$ _____	SHORT TERM MISSION	$ _____

These gifts have been donated by _____ **TOTAL $** _____

Outreach Ministries

The Learning Zone Tutoring Program

During the month of Thanksgiving the tutoring program has so much to be thankful for:

- 27 students ranging from 1st – 6th grade
- A waiting list that we should be able to fill by the first of the year.
- Our dedicated church members who have volunteered year after year.
- Turlock High School Key Club members (the best of the best) who love working with our children
- Our new workbooks that have been provided by the generous members of our congregation (they are loved)
- Snack donations

These are just a few of the things we are thankful for:

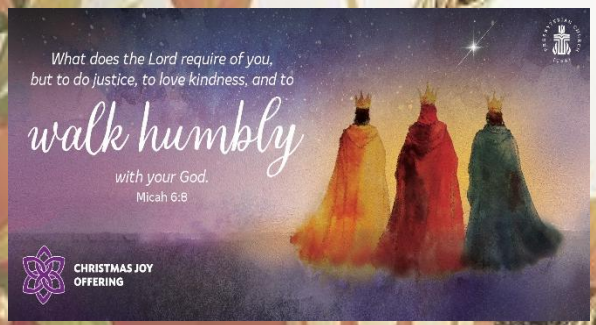
We are having a post Halloween/Fall Celebration this week (November 3rd and 4th) due to Terri's unexpected absence the week before Halloween. We have a lot of fun things planned to celebrate. Science activities, art, food, and games. We will be taking November 10th and 11th off for Veterans Day. We'll get started again November 17th.

We hope you and your families have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Terri Rodger, Tutoring Director

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 Ministry

♫♪ Notes from the Music Room ♫♪



"Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to
God the Creator triumphantly raise."

Let me begin this column by saying a huge Thank You to my choir and handbell sub: Lynn Posluch! She readily accepted this task, and she did a marvelous job to keep the music flowing for the month of October while I was recovering; and I thank my music team who supported Lynn and continued with rehearsals and Sunday performances. Also, I do want to thank all of you friends who sent me cards, gifts, food, and prayers. I am so blessed by your love and care; and I am thankful to be feeling well again.

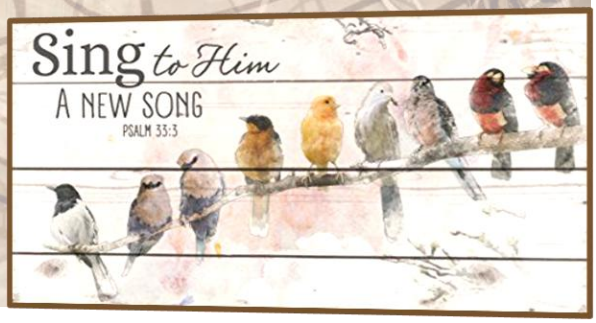
This month the music department is moving into Thanksgiving music and Christmas is quickly approaching. We are already busy rehearsing the holiday music in both choir and bells! On Sunday, November 22nd, the choir will perform a wonderful anthem, "We Gather Together" which is a traditional Thanksgiving hymn; but we will surprise you by using a different tune and the piece will sparkle with an added handbell accompaniment. Then on November 29th, "Advent" arrives. The handbell ensemble will open the Christmas season with three beautiful anthems. So don't stay home that Sunday: bring your family and friends to worship.

Looking ahead to December music at FPC, let me announce the return of "CAROL SING"! This is our community outreach concert outside in the parking lot! Last year we all had a marvelous time in the frosty December air. The choir and bells performed, and our audience had fun singing along with our Christmas carols. So, mark your calendar now to join in this music event. It is our gift to our community. We will give two performances on Sunday evening December 6th at 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Please be ready to volunteer your help to produce this event together. More news regarding December special music will come in next month's newsletter.

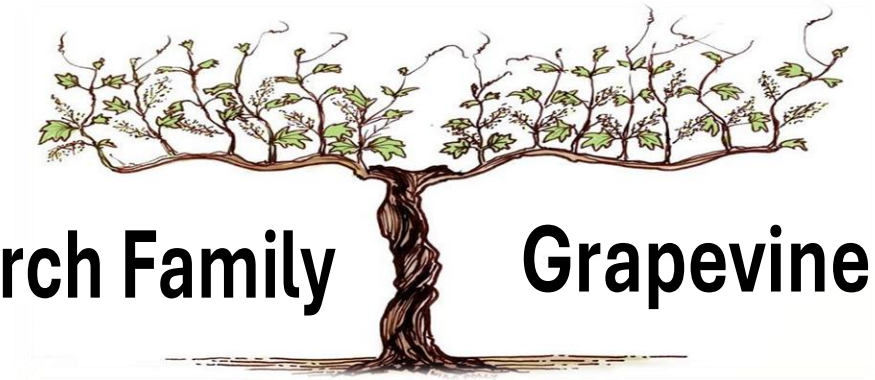
See you all in church on Sunday for Thanksgiving worship!

Serving in song,

Marilyn Fullmer
Director of Music



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

Abraham, Bob (H)
Blixt, Elizabeth (H)
Callahan, Julie (H)
Jacob, David (H)
Lanchester, Irene (H)
Lowe, Marge (H)
Mirza, Julius (Jay) (H)
Roberts, Mary (H)
Runsten, Tricia (Darlene's Daughter) (H)
Sauer, Sheila (Cyndi Sims'sister) (H)
Taylor, Paul (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 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 2026

Communion Team – November

Michael Betts & Marilyn Hoobyar {Elders}
Bill Bishop & Nancy Seaver {Deacons}

Worship Assistants

November 1st	Michael Betts
November 8th	Marilyn Hoobyar
November 15th	Dave Posluch
November 22nd	Martin Purdy
November 29th	Pat Rubalcava



SUNDAY GREETERS FOR NOVEMBER

November 1st	Robby Avilla
November 8th	Bill Bishop & Lynn Posluch
November 15th	Elaine & Julie Neely
November 22nd	Kathleen Gunn & Adria Sanders
November 29th	Susie England & Darlene Runsten

Session & Finance Updates

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session met on September 28 and October 26, 2026.

Of interest:

- Approved passing the offering plate every Sunday beginning the first Sunday in October, 2026.
- The 50-year anniversary of FPC on Berkeley Avenue will be celebrated after the Congregational Meeting in January 2027. More info to come.
- Approved to survey the congregation of their vision for back property use.
- Approved to repair the curbs and gutters that were recently cited by the city.
- Year-to-date, total expenses are higher than income. This is worrisome.

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 September 2026

September Contributions:	$ 26,525.00	YTD Contributions:	$181,512.21
September Other Income:	$ 1,890.05	YTD Other Income	$ 22,979.32
September Expenses:	($ 26,455.81)	YTD Expenses:	($222,546.42)
Difference:	($ 1,959.54)	YTD Difference:	($ 17,054.89)

Dear First Pres Family,

First, we would like to thank you for your generous contributions this year. It is without a doubt the only reason we have been standing for over 115 years is due to the faithfulness and generosity of all our members, past and present, either with your talents, skills, volunteerism, prayers, and financial assistance.

Recently, two very expensive matters were brought to our attention by the City of Turlock. First, unknown to us and the City, the external water meter has not been working properly for the last three years and therefore underestimating our water usage for the lawn areas. When the City caught up with the mistake, they readjusted the billing and cited us the outstanding $10,091 payable in two weeks' time for the water already used. In order to comply with their demand, we used some of our savings in the Bake Sale account as well as some monies out of Memorial Funds to offset the expense to $4,000. This new balance has been negotiated to be paid on monthly basis in the duration of the next two years.

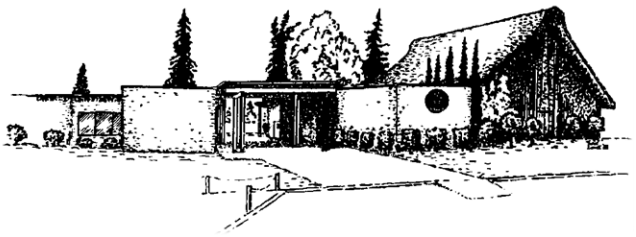
The second citation received from the City is replacing and repairing large portions of the sidewalk along Berkeley Avenue as well as the gutter which has been depleted due to water erosion.

We are presently in the midst of asking for multiple bids and trying to find the best plausible solution to this issue. Meanwhile, we ask for your prayers as we seek wisdom in stewarding our church's financial resources. We also encourage you to remain faithful and dedicated in your giving as, together, we meet the needs of our church and serve others in our community. Thank you again for your continued support in helping the ministries of First Presbyterian Church thrive.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalms 46:1

In His Faithfulness,

Finance Committee



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/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 2026	Elders Class of 2027	Elders Class of 2028
Michael Betts	Kathleen Gunn	Marilyn Hoobyar
Susie England	Candace Peterson	John Miles
Donna Harrison	Dean Sasman	Martin Purdy
David Posluch		

Deacons Class of 2026	Deacons Class of 2027	Deacons Class of 2028
Lynn Posluch	Bill Bishop	Diane Arakelian
Jana Purdy	Jo Coffman	Gail Ballas
Kim Sasman	Donna Lansing	Pat Rubalcava
Lorna Schmidt	Darlene Runsten	Cyndi Sims
Nancy Seaver	Heidi Shearer	