

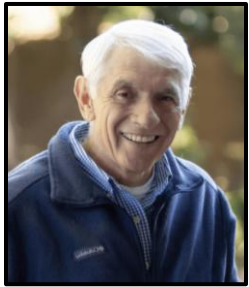
FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

EST. 1909

First Press

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA

JULY 2026



July's newsletter seems like a good time to talk about our country and its heritage. After all, we just celebrated our 250th anniversary. I am indebted to my friend Glenn McDonald for his research and

writings on this topic.

The inaugural session of the Continental Congress (the group that would ultimately call for the drafting of the Declaration of Independence) meet in Philadelphia on September 6, 1774. The meeting began with an attorney from Boston (Thomas Cushing) asking that the meeting begin with prayer. It seemed like a reasonable request. But two of the delegates (John Jay of New York and John Rutledge of South Carolina) objected.

The first disagreement or argument of our Founding Fathers was about prayer. What makes it quite interesting is that neither Jay nor Rutledge were skeptics when it came to faith. Both were active church leaders.

The disagreement was finally resolved when Samuel Adams said he would be glad to hear an honest person read prayers to the assembly. He had heard positive comments about a particular Episcopalian clergyman in Philadelphia and hoped he could help them. Adam's motion was seconded and then approved. The next day the Episcopal pastor read Psalm 35 to the group.

Even more interesting, was that the John Adams (who was not a Christian believer) later wrote that he was stunned and moved by the reading. He wrote, "I never saw a greater effect upon an audience. It seemed as if heaven had ordained that psalm to be read on that morning.

This debate points to an interesting result. Christian conservatives insist that the Revolutionary war was fundamentally a religious event. Secularists look back

on these events and would say that it was the ultimate act of establishing a society where free opinion is valued more highly than religious sentiment.

Well, both are right...but neither is completely right. God was not absent from the Revolutionary era. Yet America was not established as a nation where a particular set of spiritual values were required by law, to be elevated above all others.

The Declaration of Independence is a radical document "that locates sovereignty in the individual and depicts government as an alien force, making rebellion against it a natural act." The Constitution is a conservative document that locates sovereignty in that collective called 'the people,' makes government an essential protector of liberty rather than its enemy, and values social over person liberation." (Glenn MacDonald)

The disagreement over the prayer and the differences between the two great documents, have meant that we are a country in which questions and diverse opinions are welcomed. So far, that conversation has lasted 250 years. There are days in which the existence of America seems almost miraculous. And there are days in which our fondest dreams of national goodness and integrity seem on the verge of being thwarted.

We, as Christians and Americans have the great privilege of living in the United States. We also have the great privilege of engaging in the debates and discussions of how our nation ought to act, believe and behave. Let's do what our founding fathers did. Let's turn to the Bible and see how we ought to treat each other, even those with whom we disagree. Happy birthday America.

God's Blessings,

~ Pastor Rick

Announcements



Vacation Bible School will be held at First Presbyterian Church on July 27 – 31 from 9:00 – 12:00. A HUGE thank you to everyone who has volunteered to work. We want the entire church to be involved in some capacity. You don't have to be a leader; there are many jobs that still need to be filled. For example, preparing classrooms, helping to make decorations, daily check in, preparing snacks, photographer, just to name a few. You can sign up a child or volunteer at www.FPTurlock.com or call me (Terri Rodger) at 209-606-3910.

THANK YOU for all your financial and spiritual support for the youth of our church who consistently participate in the weekly activities and devotion time. The week of July 12th to July 17th, our high schoolers will be attending summer camp at Calvin Crest. Please continue to pray for each one for their safety, guidance, and spiritual growth during their time at camp. These individuals are: Madison Staley, Jackson Reyes, Julianne Ramirez, Ashley Cavigilia, Hannah Edeal, and Braden Rowell.

Thank you for all your generous hearts for we could not do what we do without you!



Join the 50th Anniversary Planning Team



First Presbyterian Church is preparing to celebrate 50 years of faith, fellowship, and service here at our North Berkeley Site! And we would love for YOU to be part of the planning team. This milestone celebration will be a special opportunity to honor our church's story, give thanks for God's faithfulness, and look forward together with hope.

The planning team will help shape the celebration by sharing ideas, organizing details, and coordinating areas such as hospitality, decorations, communications, invitations, historical displays, refreshments, program support, and day-of assistance. Whether you have planning experience, simply a willing heart, your voice and gifts are welcome.

Please contact the church office or contact Polet directly if you are interested in joining the planning team. Together, we can create a meaningful celebration that reflects who we are as a church family and what God has done among us.

Be part of planning a joyful celebration of 50 years together.

Outreach Ministries



The
LEARNING ZONE
.....
First Presbyterian Church of Turlock

The Learning Zone Tutoring Program

Tutoring will be returning September 15th and 16th. We are excited to welcome back most of students as well as those on last year's waiting list and hopefully a few more. As always, we need tutors. If you would like to tutor or know someone who would like to help with this amazing ministry, please contact Terri Rodger (209-606-3910).



Our Daily Bread Ministries®

Have you ever wondered where the money we place in the big basket by the communion table on the third Sunday of each month goes? Turlock's Daily Bread Ministry is the answer. This has been a ministry FPC has supported for so long that some of us have probably forgotten the details, and newcomers may not know at all.

In 1992, Turlock's Sacred Heart Catholic Church started a food ministry in their kitchen that they called Daily Bread to help those in Turlock who lacked sufficient food have at least one healthy meal each day. From its earliest days, the thing that set Daily Bread apart from other food ministries is that the foods are delivered on lunch trucks, with deliveries made at appointed times to several locations throughout town.

Soon after Daily Bread's founding members from FPC started helping. Polly Peterson and Neil McBride, both of whom have passed away, were among the many from FPC who opened cans, made sandwiches and generally helped wherever they could. The ministry initially offered cold sandwiches and fruit and gradually evolved to offer a hot meal 3 days a week, with bag lunches on the other 2 days.

Over time Daily Bread became part of the United Samaritans Foundation, and some of the beneficiaries of the food ministry were trained to help with food preparation. As FPC's volunteer food crew aged out, our involvement has changed from hands-on food preparation to the basket at the front of the sanctuary where we place our contributions on the third Sunday of each month.

Reflecting its history, this ministry has traditionally been listed in our announcements as "Two-Cents-A-Meal for Daily Bread." The Two-Cents-a-Meal concept originated with Presbyterian Women in the 1970s and was subsequently adopted by the wider Presbyterian Church USA as a corporate response to hunger. The concept invites members of congregations to prayerfully contribute a few cents for each meal to be used to support local hunger ministries. While the concept remains the same, we are henceforth going to refer simply to the "Daily Bread Ministry" or 3rd Sunday Giving since that is the local program where we donate our funds.

*By sharing a small portion of the bounty God gives each of us,
we respond to Jesus' command: "You give them something to eat." Mark 6:37*

Music Ministries

♪ Notes from the Music Room



Summer is upon us and the music department is “on vacation”. A big thank you to all our choir members and handbell ringers for their music! Also, much gratitude and thanks to Barbara Bort for all her wonderful, busy accompaniment. And now, you all may take a break! We’ll get together in the Fall.

However, our music program will certainly continue each Sunday for morning worship. Audience participation will be featured on July 12th with a “mini” hymn sing. Which leads me to ask you this question: “Does your soul lift in song when you hear the introduction to a favorite hymn?” For many of us the answer is YES!

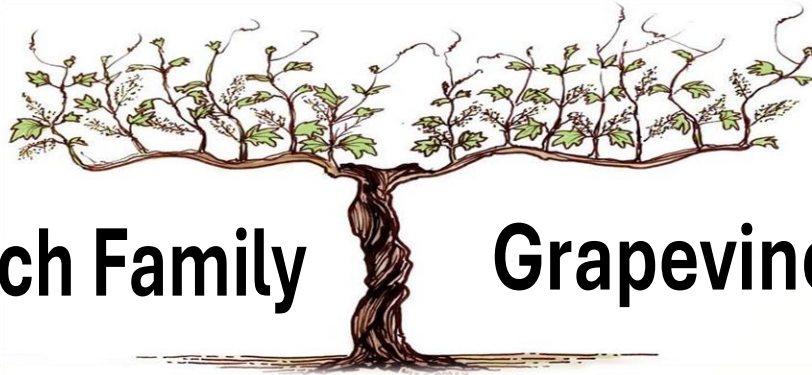
Congregational singing and the keeping of hymns and worship songs is an important part of our worship today. Singing hymns leads us to praise songs. Singing hymns leads us in prayer. Singing hymns connects us to past generations. And singing hymns guides us to love and encourage each other. So come on Sunday July 12th and raise your voice in song!

July morning worship music will also feature our ladies’ trio on the 19th and a special guest soloist on Sunday the 26th. Happy summer friends. See you in church.

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

Blixt, Elizabeth (H)
Callahan, Julie (H)
England Family (G)
Franklin Family (G)
Kidwell, Wayne (H)
Lanchester, Irene (H)
Lowe, Marge (H)

Mirza, Julius (Jay) (H)

Neely, Julie (H)

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

Sauer, Sheila (Cyndi Sims's 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

July 6 David Arakelian
July 6 Michael Betts
July 7 Bob Phillips
July 10 Tom Holsinger
July 14 Gabriel Njock
July 15 Grant Wellman
July 19 Krishawn Sanders
July 23 Glenda Jameson
July 31 Eleanor Huskins
July 31 Elaine Neely

Anniversaries

July 20 Adria & Lyn Sanders
July 27 Michael & Lynette Betts

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



JULY 2026

Communion Team – July 2026

Lynn Posluch; Darlene Runsten {Deacons}
Kathleen Gunn; Martin Purdy {Elders}

Worship Assistants

July 5th Kathleen Gunn
June 12th Heather Gordon
July 19th Martin Purdy
July 26th Pat Wallace



SUNDAY GREETERS FOR JULY

July 5th Robby Avilla
July 12th Donna Lansing & Pat Rubalcava
July 19th Martin & Jana Purdy
July 26th Manuel & Margaret Vasquez

Finance Update

FINANCE UPDATES

Income/Expense Report for May 2026

May Contributions:	\$ 14,100.00	YTD Contributions	\$ 94,878.01
May Other Income	\$ 4,955.48	YTD Other Income	\$ 13,241.77
<u>May Expenses</u>	<u>\$ (30,085.38)</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>	<u>\$(121,559.52)</u>
Difference:	\$ (11,029.90)	Difference	\$ (13,439.74)

Happy 4th of July and Happy 250th Birthday to the Greatest Nation in the World! It amazes me that through all of the ups and downs that this country has been through that we are still the greatest place to live in the world. The same can be said about our church. We have been through many ups and downs but there is no other place that we would call home. We still are going through ups and downs, last month was a down but I have faith in our church family that we will come out on top just as the Christians have for thousands of years. So let us:

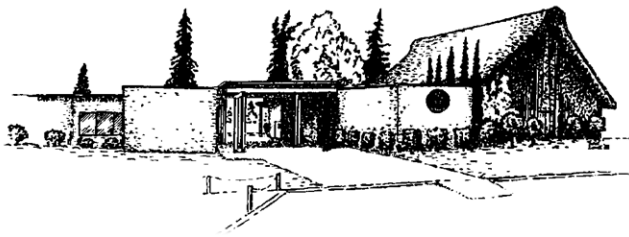
“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things”. Colossians 3:2

And know that He our Lord will get us through as He always does.

In His Mercy & Grace,

FPC Administration Committee





First Presbyterian Church
2619 N. Berkeley Avenue
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. Dr. 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

Michael Betts
Susie England
Donna Harrison
David Posluch

Elders

Class of 2027

Kathleen Gunn
Candace Peterson
Dean Sasman

Elders

Class of 2028

Marilyn Hoobyar
John Miles
Martin Purdy

Deacons

Class of 2026

Lynn Posluch
Jana Purdy
Kim Sasman
Lorna Schmidt
Nancy Seaver

Deacons

Class of 2027

Bill Bishop
Jo Coffman
Donna Lansing
Darlene Runsten
Heidi Shearer

Deacons

Class of 2028

Diane Arakelian
Gail Ballas
Pat Rubalcava
Cyndi Sims