



FPC Press

SINCE 1909

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Turlock, California

August 2021

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A Message From Our Pastor's Heart Rev. Dr. Craig J. Wright

Sweltering August Greetings Church Family,

Here we are at the peak of summer, and I am already looking forward to the arrival of fall. That is what we all do, right? When it gets hot and miserable, we start looking forward to cooler weather. It seems like we are always looking to the future with hope and that is a good thing. I believe Christians should always be people who look forward with both hope and determination to make the world a better place. We who are called to both *share* the good news and *be* the good news have no business being pessimistic. Our future is bright to be sure. And, you know, the past was not so bad itself.

Part of my looking to the fall is an eagerness I have in my spirit to celebrate the past, or more importantly to celebrate some dear friends who have passed. The pandemic interrupted so much of life for so many and it also interrupted some important celebrations of the lives of dear ones who have gone to be with the Lord. As we all trudged through the long monotonous stretch of isolation, some of our brothers and sisters in Christ left us and we did not have the opportunity to gather in person and remember. We did not have space to laugh and to cry, to do what families do when loved ones pass. But we will! The first Sunday of November has been set aside at FPC for a "Family Memorial" service. We will gather for communion, for worship, and to share the life and faith stories of dear friends who left us during the pandemic. When the service is over, we will gather for a real all church potluck meal. This will be a much-needed meaningful day for our church family.

Intentionally remembering was so important in the scripture that memorials were commanded. Altars were built, holidays were declared, and feasts were shared to "remember" what God had done. Our sacrament of communion is also a command to remember. Jesus said, "do this in remembrance of me." We will break the bread of communion on that day, but we will also break the bread of joy around tables during our potluck. It is God's faithfulness in the past that informs our present and gives us hope for the future. Simply because God is the same, yesterday, today and forever - (Heb 13:8) So join with me in anticipating this upcoming sacred assembly on November 7th. Yes, we will be touched by the loss, but we will be reminded of God's faithfulness and some much-needed healing of hearts will take place. Mark your calendars and please plan on gathering with us for our "family memorial."

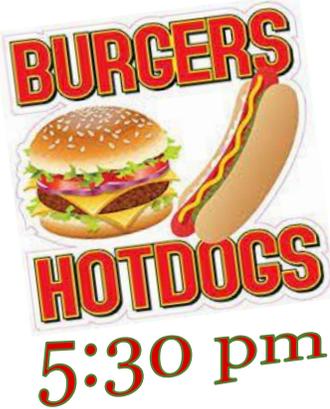
Blessings to you all,

Pastor Craig



Announcements

CARNIVAL



FPC Kid's Club
K - 6th Grade
Wednesday, August 4th
6:00 - 7:30 pm
FREE * FREE * FREE

VOLUNTEERS ARE MUCH APPRECIATED!
PLEASE CONTACT MARCY WRIGHT ON HOW YOU CAN HELP!
THANK YOU!!



CAN YOU GUESS...DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS WALL IS LOCATED? If you guessed the side wall of our brand-new sound booth, you'd be correct. However, as it is right now, it is plain solid white. BUT, now, can you imagine it covered with crosses?
The Worship Committee is inviting those who would like to contribute to this project with crosses that are more than 2 inches high. If you'd like to participate in this project, please see Pastor Wendy Warner.



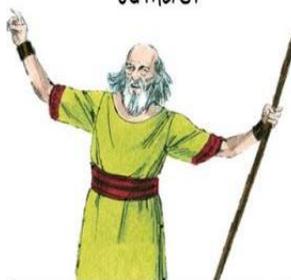
STUDENT MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Come hear about the life of Samuel. What was special about his birth? Why did he live at the temple? What special jobs did Samuel do for God? We will find the answers to all these questions and more on Sunday mornings. Please come directly to Voight Hall and wear a mask.

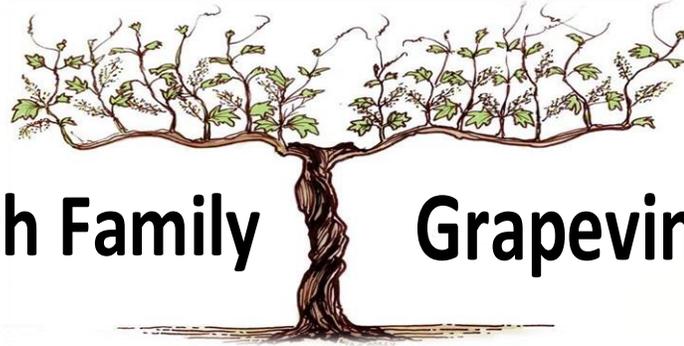
People in The Bible:

Samuel



→ Life Overview Series

An advertisement for a Youth Pool Party. It features a colorful inflatable ring (red, yellow, and blue) floating in a pool of blue water. The text reads "Youth Pool Party!" in large, colorful letters, and "Sunday, August 8th, 6 - 7:30 PM @ The Purdy's" in a smaller font at the bottom.



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



Brugger, Betty (H)
Brunton, Bob (H)
Joanne Craft & Family (S,G)
Drescher Family (G)
Gaffney, Rick (S,H)
Josh, Sheila (H)
Lansing, Del (H)

McClellan, Barbara (H)

Murdoff, Charlotte (H)
Peterson, Mark (H)
Reeves, Jean (H)

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

Sargis, Mabel (H)
Smith, Betty (H)

Springer, Susan (G,H)

Wiegman, Joyce (H)

Residents & Employees of Covenant Living &
Turlock Nursing Rehab
And Victims & Families of Miami



Anniversaries

Aug 2 Bob & Marilyn Brunton
Aug 4 Bob & Joanne Abraham
Aug 4 Don & Saralee Ulrich
Aug 4 David & Diane Arakalian
Aug 10 Dave & Lynn Posluch
Aug 29 Robert Traut & Umar Ghuman

Birthdays

Aug 1 Steve Arakalian
Aug 4 Christian McPherson
Aug 11 Mabel Franklin
Aug 16 Kathleen Gunn
Aug 22 Michael Yonan, Jr.
Aug 23 Elaine Grant
Aug 26 Dale Neely



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



Need prayer?

First Presbyterian Church is a praying family.
Please let the church office know of your prayer
needs so we can pray for you.

2 Cents-A-Meal for United Samaritans Daily Bread Truck

As we begin to get back to our normal church activities, we will start to take our 2 cents a meal offering again. Every **third Sunday** a special offering is taken to support United Samaritans Daily Bread program which runs lunch trucks to local area neighborhoods Monday – Friday. As the name suggests, we encourage people to donate 2 cents for each meal we eat, to give food to those without enough to eat. Some of our church members help prepare sandwiches each week at United Samaritans.

Daily Bread Mobile Lunch Program (Served daily Monday thru Friday)

- 78,354 Lunches Served in 2020 on Lunch Trucks, 1,173 Senior Meals Served, 5,297 Westside Meals Served (Wednesday and Fridays)
- 900 Lunches Served Daily
- 4 Mobile Lunch Trucks, 1 Mobile Lunch Van
- 11 Towns: Hughson, Hickman, Turlock, Keyes, Ceres, Empire, Waterford, Denair, Modesto, Patterson, Grayson
- 55 Stops
- 24% Only Meal they have to eat
- 54% Eat from truck 4-5 days a week
- 76% Agree the fresh fruits and vegetables have helped their health
- 56% Have received our services for over a year
- 75% Housed
- 25% Homeless
- 29% Children
- 17% Seniors (62 or older)
- 8% Disabled adults
- 93% Extremely Low Income (i.e. Family of 4 – Annual income of \$18,200 or less; single person – \$12,750 or less)
- 6% Very Low Income (i.e. Family of 4 – Annual income of \$30,350-\$48,550)
- 1% Low Income (i.e. Family of 4 – Annual income of \$48,550-\$63,900)

“Let Abe Do it” Theological Education Sunday, September 12th

We are pleased to invite you, once again, to celebrate God’s inspiring work in equipping our seminaries to educate and prepare Christian leaders to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8). For centuries, we Presbyterians have prided ourselves on an educated clergy. To continue this tradition of excellence, we have entrusted ten Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seminaries, and two theological institutions related to the denomination by covenant agreement, with providing the educational foundation church leaders need to be able to preach, teach, pray, and lead. With the help of congregations nationwide, our Presbyterian seminaries are “equipping the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12).

On **Sunday, September 12th**, we will be taking a special offering “*Let Abe Do It*” to support our Presbyterian seminaries and theological institution with the hope we can give at least a five-dollar bill (Abraham Lincoln) or more.



Answering God's Call

A huge thank you for all of the support for our summer reading program! We had one on one tutors for our students and filled up the classroom on Wednesdays in July! It was so great to be working with students again and to hear all of the reading happening. We are looking forward to beginning our fall program and expanding on what we accomplished this summer.



We will have our Tutor Training for the fall on Wednesday, Sept. 1st at 4pm. Beginning September 7th, we will move to three days a week; Tues/Thurs 3:30-5pm and Wednesdays 4-5:30pm.

Our goal is to triple our numbers so that we can help more kids! This year is going to be vital getting kids caught up from summer and online learning loss. We would love to have you tutor one day (or more!) a week. If you cannot help tutor, then you can still help by donating healthy snacks and praying for our students, schools, and teachers! Thank you for all your investment in the lives of our kids! Please contact Stephanie Anderson for more information.



GUATEMALA NEEDS UPDATE

Needs are continuing to be met. Clara has the money to start her table and chair rental business. She also has a stove to cook on and beds to sleep on.

Zoila has water. With the washstand we provided for her, she can now take in laundry to help provide for her family.

Angel and Thelma can now pursue their goal of opening a tortilla business in the town square. Donations have been made to help with the monthly sponsors for Carmen (\$50/month) and Vilma (\$25/month) for one year of nursing school and help make their dream a reality.

We are still looking for monthly sponsors for \$250/month to sponsor a tutoring center and help educate these beautiful children break through the cycle of poverty.

Thank you for being God's hands and feet. We pray God for you and may His continued blessings shine in your lives every day.

PRESBTERIAN WOMEN MINISTRY

PW Women's Bible Study is meeting on the third Tuesday morning of the month. Our next gathering will take place on Tuesday, August 17 at 9:30 am in Voight Hall. There will also be a Zoom link available for those that need that option. The focus of this meeting will be an introduction to the new Bible study beginning in the fall, What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus. It's about the women in Jesus' genealogy, and it looks very interesting. The actual Bible study will begin in September. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

For those of you who have not already ordered the 2021-22 PW/Horizons Bible Study: WHAT MY GRANDMOTHERS TAUGHT ME Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus authored by Merryl Blair, you may order the Bible Study online at www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop or call (800) 533-4371, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm EST. The Bible study will be mailed directly to your home. Cost of the Bible study is \$10.00 plus shipping. If ordering the Bible study in August, expect to receive your copy of the study in September. This Bible study provides a unique glimpse into the lives of the women intimately connected with Jesus and his life and ministry. We will study Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. *For any questions or more information, please contact Candace Peterson.*

♪♪ Notes From the Music Room ♪♪

**You go nowhere by accident.
Wherever you go, God is sending you.
Wherever you are, God has put you there.
God has a purpose in your being there!**

I have been watching the Olympics – spellbound as the athletes from around the globe perform feats of incredible agility, tenacity, grace and unbridled enthusiasm. But there were also those moments of frustration, disappointment and even failure. This is life!

But what has that to do with our Music Room? EVERYTHING! These athletes work from very young ages to perfect the sport that they have been drawn to, or perhaps it is to the sport God has drawn them to. And then they give everything, day after day, year after year, to reach the pinnacle of their dream.

And in the Music Room, that is also what we do – work at our craft to perfect the music that God had so generously given to us. We work on producing beautiful tone, accurate rhythm, following the direction of the director, and all the other bits and pieces that make up a piece of music which moves our hearts toward the presence of God.

And this is also how we are called to follow God each day of our lives! We follow God with the purpose that he has given us, the tasks that are before us, the people he has put in our path, until we reach the pinnacle of our day – or of our life!

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind and with all your strength!**

Mark 12:30

**Rev. Wendy Warner
Director of Music**



DEACONS TEAM MINISTRY

Deacons did not meet in July. We will have our next meeting August 16th with some deacons meeting in person and others participating via Zoom.

A memorial service will be held at 3 P.M. here at FPC on July 31st for Reverend Paul Springer, a man who touched many lives serving a number of congregations throughout our country. Deacons will host a reception following the service that day.

The Fellowship Committee and the deacons are making plans for a thorough cleaning and organizing of the church kitchen and Voight Hall. We have many people in the congregation who work from time to time in the kitchen or participate in activities in Voight Hall and we hope to make these spaces more efficient and attractive for all.

We are in the process of creating notecards for deacons to use when corresponding with their flocks. If you have a special hobby, we would love to have you share your interest with the congregation. Simply take a photo representing your hobby (no people in photo, please) and send it to darlenerunsten@sbcglobal.net or posluch@att.net. Our initial focus guidelines were for artwork of any kind, but we'd like to broaden our request to include hobbies that may or may not fit that category. Thank you in advance for taking the time to share something of your interests with our church family!

Blessings,
Darlene Runsten and Lynn Posluch

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session last met on July 26, 2021, in Voight Hall.

Action Items:

- Approved purchase of a new ice machine for the kitchen through Bake Sale Funds.
- Approved commissioning of two artists to provide artwork for the sanctuary. One piece will be Advent themed and the other will be Lenten themed. These will hang in place of the current artwork during the Advent and Lenten seasons of the liturgical calendar. The current piece will hang during "ordinary" time of the liturgical calendar. These pieces will be provided through the Katherine Zollinger Memorial Fund.
- Approved a two-year contract with the United Assyrian Evangelical Church for use of facilities for worship and Bible study.

Presbytery News: On July 1, 2021, the Presbyteries of Stockton and Sacramento merged to become the Presbytery of North Central California.

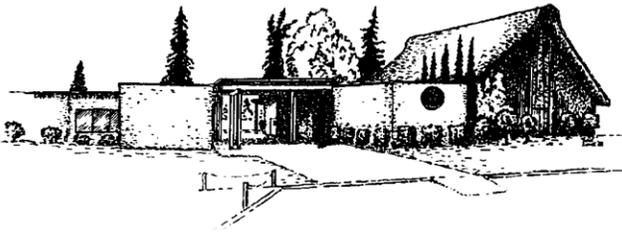
In His service,
Pat Wallace

FINANCE UPDATE

Our Bookkeeper, Russell Limprecht, has been facing health challenges in the recent months due to a surgery in May. Meanwhile, individuals have stepped in trying to fill the gap. Unfortunately, due to these unforeseen circumstances, we must forego a finance report for this month but will update you in the next month's newsletter. Please pray for Russell to gain his strength and recover quickly to good health.

On behalf of Finance, we thank you all for your continued support of our ministries as we continue to open our doors and teach the next generation on what it means to be God's hands and feet to those around us and to those abroad. We could not do the work that we do without you. Thank you.





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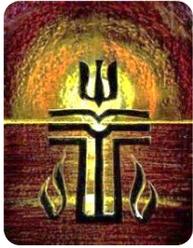
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Website: www.fpturlock.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurch



Big enough to meet your needs...Small enough to know your name.

Church Staff
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Craig Wright
Parish Associate: Rev. Wendy Warner
Children Ministry Director: Marcy Wright
Youth Ministry Director: Stephanie Anderson
Director of Music: Rev. Wendy Warner
Administrative Assistant: Polet Yonan
Bookkeeper: Russell Limprecht
Accompanist: Dr. Wayne Kidwell
Organist: Barbara Bort

ELECTED DEACONS AND SESSION OFFICERS		
<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2021</u> Marilyn Hoobyar Priscilla Peters Pat Wallace Michael Yonan	<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2022</u> Robby Avilla Dan Hardesty Joey Reyes Adria Sanders	<u>Elders</u> <u>Class of 2023</u> Michael Betts Donna Harrison Candace Peterson John Sims
<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2021</u> Susan England Valerie Keesey Lynn Posluch Darlene Runsten Cyndi Sims	<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2022</u> Diane Arakelian Lynette Betts Sheila Josh Mary Peterson	<u>Deacons</u> <u>Class of 2023</u> Alison Aldax Niki Higdon Marlena Mizicko Jana Purdy Arabella Solhkhah