



"The Grapevine" HELLO November

Flower Calendar

November 5
Gladys Smith

November 12
John & Sunday Borges

November 19
Joel Pena

November 26
Open



Church Calendar

All Saint's Day
Wednesday, November 1

Church Works Party
Saturday, November 4 @ 8am – 12pm

Joint Worship/ Luncheon w/ FKEC
Sunday, November 5 @ 11am

Feeding the Hungry
Tuesday, November 7 @ 4:30pm

Veteran's Day
Saturday, November 11

Mission Study Activity
Sunday, November 12 after worship

Men's Breakfast @ Four Corner's
Saturday, November 18 @ 8am

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 19

Church Office Closed – Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 23 & Friday, November 24

Happy Birthday

- 2- Adam Reich Jr.
- 4- Don Bisbee
- 5- Ellen Opie
- 9- Everett Bosch
- 11- Jacob Gahm
- 12- Ann Swenson
- 19- Jessie Riddle
- 28- Hannah Clarke
- 30- Terry Donaldson



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
NOVEMBER 5**

**DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR
CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR!**



Pastor's Page:

Dear FPC,

We are in the season of Thanksgiving and preparing for the season of Advent and the birth of our Lord and Savior. Thanksgiving is time/ period in the Christian year to give our Lord praise and Thanksgiving for all the blessings we have received. The old hymn that tells us to "count our many blessings; name them one by one. Count your many blessings and see what God has done!" Reminds us that we are blessed in many ways and need to give our Lord the praise and thanksgiving for our lives, our families, our friends, our church family, our health, our abilities that God has gifted us with for God's service and the service to others

I believe that the highest form of prayer is **Praise**. Giving our Lord the praise for who God is and always will be is the place for us as God's creation to worship God! The next form of prayer is Thanksgiving! You can have your own list of thanksgiving to God each day. This season helps us to stop and give our Lord the praise and thanksgiving God deserves from us, God's own creation.



Each of us has their own personal lists of Thanksgiving and that is what the season of Thanksgiving is all about. All of our material things ultimately come from God but our relationships to God and to one another are the eternal gifts that we have forever.

I hope you all have a blessed Thanksgiving celebration this month and each day as well!

In Jesus' Love & Peace,

Pastor David

P.S. If you know someone who needs to hear how they are blessed by God, invite them to worship some Sunday. Just a thought to share the blessings of God with that person. See you all in worship!

Deacons

The Thanksgiving baskets are the biggest project of the Deacons. This year we will again go through TIM to donate baskets to 72 families. They are asking \$55 per basket. The Deacons need help from the congregation. You can send a donation to the church office or put it in the Deacon's envelope from the pews. As Christians we are asked to feed the hungry and this is one way, we can do it. Flyers about the Presbyterian Church will be included in the boxes. Hopefully next year we will be able to pack the boxes at church and deliver them. Items for the TIM barrel in November is Soups & Crackers.

Session Updates:

Madisyn Maloney has requested that her name be removed from the roll of active members. Session has accepted her requests with regret. Also, LeElla Nelson was removed from the membership rolls. She died previously in Denver, but her name was not taken off the rolls. With these changes, the active membership stands at 92.

The Session authorized the submission of an application for the church to be included in the lottery for a permit to sell fireworks next Fourth of July.

Earlier in the year Session approved the Men's Circle of Faith for a 6-month trial period. Session has now this group to continue indefinitely.

Cecilia Moran attended the Session meeting representing the Vitality in Ministry Committee of the Presbytery. She was particularly interested in learning about the status of work of the mission study committee.

The repairs to the stained-glass window in the chancel has been completed.

The *per capita* apportionment for 2024 has been announced:

General Assembly	\$ 9.80
Synod of the Pacific	\$ 5.22
Presbytery of North Central California.....	\$14.28
Total	\$29.30

The taxes and fees for the property along MacArthur Boulevard has increased significantly; the tax bill for 2023-2024 will be \$40,774.26, with half of that amount due the first of November and the balance due in February of 2024. The taxes for the last year before the reassessment and loss of the welfare exemption was \$13,261.92. Some of the proceeds from the sale of the childcare center will be withdrawn from a savings account at the Synod to pay this bill.

Active members on the rolls	92
Average in-church attendance during September 2023	32
Communion served in September 2023	29

A Note From our: "Mission Study Committee"

Families of First Presbyterian Church- Tracy;

I wanted to share with the congregation about some of the activities that have been taking place at First Presbyterian Church in Tracy. Many of you who have not attended the church services or watched on Facebook lately may not be aware of our "Mission Study Committee" and its events.

Earlier this year the Session formed a Mission Study Committee to begin a process that will begin the search for a new pastor . Our committee consists of 5 members of the church: Nancy Link, Ellen Opie, Julie Vaishampayan, Roger Winkler, and myself. The purpose of the Mission Study is to assess the state of health of the congregation and the future direction of the church.

We began our process by first reading the booklet by Joan Gray titled "Sailboat Church- Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice". We then reviewed the past Mission studies done over the last 20-25 years, the latest is posted on our website, and decided to take a new approach to our process. Past studies focused on what the congregation wanted to see the church become and what type of pastor we wanted to find. Each of the studies came up with the same conclusions: **we want** a young experienced pastor, hopefully with a family, that would build our Sunday school and youth programs, who would be active and visible in the community, and who would pastor our current aging congregation.

Our committee wanted to engage our congregation in a new way of thinking about this Mission Study by focusing on what **God** has planned for this church! In order to do this, we felt it necessary to focus our information gathering within a process of Discernment – determining what it is God is asking us to do through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thus far we have held 3 activities with the congregation after church. The first was titled "The Church's Purpose", the second "Where Have We Been, Where Are We Going", and the third was "Risk Taking". We still have much work to do and we are still developing the process as we go but we hope you will engage with us in this journey.

Our goal "is not simply to discover the vision of the leaders of the church or even of the 'church' community as a whole, but to discern together God's vision for the church's life and ministry".

God's blessings to all,

Harold Reich and the Mission Study Committee



Mission

On the first Tuesday in October we fed 58. The menu was pasta with ground beef, bread, salad, banana, and a cookie with water. I would like to thank Colleen Colenso and Marie Patterson for providing the pasta and bread. Thank-you Marietta McLellan for providing the cookies. Thank-you John and Sunday Borges, Liz Hanson, Carolyn Gamino, Marie Patterson for helping me with the serving.



I would like to thank all would have contributed to disaster in Hawaii and this month the Peacemaking Offering. We will be taking the offerings until the end of the month.

In Christian Service,
Roy Patterson, Chair of Mission Committee

Financial Summary

DESCRIPTION	MONTHLY	YEAR TO DATE
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>		
DEPOSITED WITH THE BANK OF STOCKTON		
BALANCE FORWARD		\$ 23,443.69
INCOME	9,623.00	110,242.29
EXPENSES	16,019.58	132,593.57
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$ (6,396.58)	\$ 1,092.41
<u>DEDICATED FUNDS BALANCE</u>		
DEPOSITED WITH THE BANK OF STOCKTON		
SPECIAL FUNDS		\$ 12,631.14
IN-AND-OUT FUNDS		10,462.21
DEPOSITED WITH THE SYNOD OF THE PACIFIC		586,853.55
DEDICATED FUNDS BALANCE		\$ 609,946.90