

# FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF UPLAND



## TIME, HOPE, AND HEALING

The title above is meant to start an earworm—the song by Zager & Evans that hit #1 55 years ago in 1969—consider it an apt background theme for the rest of this article.

One of my good friends from high school had a great sense of humor and exceptional intelligence. He and I loved school pranks, but I was more reserved—more fearful of getting into trouble over a laugh. Jonathan (now a Presbyterian pastor) always countered with a grand perspective, “500 years from now, who will care?” He said it many times, and it strikes me today every bit as wise as it did when we were 17. Somehow, intuitively, we know it’s true—our time here in this world is brief, even if we should live to be 110. Five hundred years from now, little of what concerns us today will matter in the slightest.

*Time heals all wounds*, it is said and said rightly, but many live only for the moment and not for history. Do you remember what was eating you in January of 2015? Does it still bother you? *Really?* Of the things that upset you today, how much will you feel bothered in January of 2035? Probably less, and if you should go to be with The Lord before then, *not at all*.

In 2525, I’m sorry to say that your great-great-great-great-great-great-grandchildren will barely know you ever existed, even if you win an Oscar, a Pulitzer, and a Nobel prize, your name will be a footnote in the family history, lost and faded among your 2025 living

*(continued on page 2)*

## PASTOR NOEL ANDERSON



progeny's interest in her more than 256 great-(x 7 or more) grandparents.

In short, whatever's bugging you today won't be around 500 years from now, and neither will you and I. On the contrary, in 2525, we will have been in the presence of God and all of our faithful forefathers and foremothers (not to mention at least 400 years' worth of grandchildren) for more than 400 years. How do you think that might change us?

I expect the first 30 seconds in Heaven to dispel 99% of the most serious questions posed by this life. After ten minutes (so to speak—Heaven is eternity, and there is no time, but *relatively* speaking), we'll have no questions left other than, *How can I continue moving closer toward God?* Then we and our millions of friends, family, and saints from every time, tribe, and nation will be gathered to give God praise, singing songs so sublime that a mere measure—heard here and now—would threaten to unmake us, undo us, and otherwise could turn the most militant atheist into a monk of utmost devotion.

Yes, time will heal all, but this is just another way of saying that God, The Supreme Healer of the world, will finish in us what began on Easter morning. Time heals because God heals all things in His time.

Might Jesus return before 2525? Most definitely, yes. We live in the last days and have been since the first Pentecost. Jesus tells us to *beware* of those ever-popular speculators who disturb believers, and we should avoid them like spam. Either way, you and I have no worries about the year 2525 because,

one way or another, we will already have been side-by-side with Christ for many years by then.

The virtue of hope is as simple as having some perspective on things. Hope is that power by which we can remove ourselves from present anxieties and view them from a distant, peaceable viewpoint. From that place, we have an advantage—we can see it for its smallness and see our own smallness, perhaps even laugh about it all. Hope is born of the knowledge that our God is provident over all things and moreso that His will, His kingdom, and His *timing* are all superior to ours. To have hope is to trust in God to *be* God. And that hope, like Heaven itself, is timeless.

With hope, 2525 is tomorrow, or yesterday, or a million years ago—it doesn't really matter when our hope is fixed into the timelessness of God.

May we all discipline ourselves daily to set our concerns into perspective by hoping in the Lord alone and spending time with Him in that far-removed, peaceable place of His perfect providential healing. †



For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

—Romans 8:18

# GATHER WITH SUE FRAZEE

Gather hosted our annual Christmas Brunch on Sunday, December 15th. The food was delicious, and Santa was the best!



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## TRUSTEES WITH HERB JOINER

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**T**o the Church at Ephesus: God is "able to do immeasurable more than we ask or imagine."

Ephesians 3:30

To the Christians at Philippi: "My God will meet all your needs."

Philippians 4:12

To the Corinthians (and to Us): "Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have."

2 Corinthians 8:12

It's not too late—don't worry! We will be delighted to receive your pledge, even if you can't turn it in in November. The following are some typical questions we are often asked.

**Question:** "Do I still pledge if my financial circumstances might be changing?"

**Answer:** Yes, we understand that your pledge amount might be reduced. After all, your pledge represents your best intentions, not a binding contract. However, we still need it.

**Question:** Do I still need to turn in a pledge if I am giving online?"

**Answer:** Yes, please do.

**Question:** "Do I still need to pledge if I don't physically attend church anymore?"

**Answer:** Yes. Pledging enables planning! This will assist your Trustees and the Session in adequately planning the budget for a healthy, robust 2025.

Several givers have already substantially increased their commitments for the coming year. However, fewer individuals have returned their pledges, and we must move forward.

How to pledge: You can still return a pledge card you may have received in the mail, either in person, by completing it and putting it into the offering plate, or by dropping it off at the church office or mailing it in. If you have more questions or concerns about your pledge, don't hesitate to contact Ken Kaufman at (909) 985-3666. Feel free to ask him any questions or contact any Trustee. Our contact information is in your Church Directory.

May you and your family experience many blessings in this promising New Year!

Herb Joiner - Trustee

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## YOUNG DISCIPLES WITH KEVIN CLINTON

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I grew up in Rancho Cucamonga/ Fontana, Southern California, graduating from Etiwanda High School in 2006. During my childhood, I attended Victoria Community Church and was involved in various ministries. My church also had a Boy Scout Troop, where I earned the rank of Eagle Scout while growing in leadership.

After graduating from high school, I attended Ball State University in Indiana, where I graduated with a degree in Philosophy. After returning to California, I worked different jobs while continuing to work in my church's various ministries. I was the youth director when I accepted the call to go to seminary.

Moving to Fergus Falls, Minnesota, to attend Lutheran Brethren Seminary over a decade ago was God's plan to form and mold me in preparation for ministry. My decade in Minnesota allowed me to attend school off and on but thrust me into different ministries and calls that allowed me to grow and be refined.

Over the past year, I have felt a tug to return home, and God's plan for me was revealed when I moved home this summer to help my family. While home, I have been able to finish my studies, complete a Master's in Theological Studies, and apply to First Presbyterian.

Being hired as the Children's Ministries Director at First Presbyterian Church of Upland excites me to serve God and His kingdom. I am honored to be allowed to invest and pour into the children of First Presbyterian Church and the surrounding community. I want to equip and encourage others to come alongside me and do the same as Jesus taught his disciples in Matthew 19:14. I want to let the children come to Jesus without hindering them from knowing him, empower our kids to grow in God's Grace, and embrace their families in fellowship.

# ELEVATE WITH MATT SHOOL



# PARENT RESOURCE

**THE ONE PAGE**  
CONNECTING CHURCH AND HOME

## NEW YEAR FAMILY PLAN

The beginning of a new year is a great time to pause and reflect on where you've been and where you're going. Use this guide to develop intentional focus and plans as a family for the year ahead!

### Step 1: Our Family Word or Motto

What's your family's word for the year? Maybe it's "kindness" or "serving." Or maybe you can't decide on just one word. You might think of a string of words that form a family motto for the year. As a family, list all your options, let everyone have input, and then decide together.

**Our Word/Motto:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 2: Our Family Verse

Based upon your family word or motto, pray and ask God to reveal a verse that reflects His heart on the topic. As a family, commit to memorizing this verse. Put it in key places in your home this year.

**Our Verse:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 3: Our Fun

How is your family going to have fun this year? The goal is to come up with 5 fun things to do as a family this year. Be creative and realistic. Write them down here. For bonus points attempt to schedule the month you want to do them.

**Number One:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number Two:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number Three:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number Four:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number Five:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WORK IT OUT** **OUR FAMILY PLAN**

**Step 4: Our Service**

What are some ways you want to serve together as a family this year? How can you show love to those around you? As a family, make a list of 5 ways you want to serve your neighbors together this year.

- Number One:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Number Two:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Number Three:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Number Four:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Number Five:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 5: Our Tribe**

The people around our family are important. As a family, pray and ask God to reveal those in your life you could invite into your tribe. Identify one person or one family you want to get to know better this year. As a family, brainstorm ways you can do that!

**Person/Family to pray for this year:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Who could we invite over for dinner?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Ways we can get to know these people better:**

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

For more content: [Empoweredhomes.org](http://Empoweredhomes.org)

# Ready to Join Party of 8?



**FIRST PRES**  
Est. 1887

**Give if you can.**  
We accept all types of vehicles.

Donating your car is easy, and your gift qualifies for a tax deduction!



DONATE YOUR CAR





## *Get a lift from LIFT*

*(Ladies in Fellowship Together)*



# Are You Ready for the New Year?

*Neither Are We!  
Let's Play Some Games!*

**Friday, January 10, 11am -1 pm, Hart Hall**

***Doors open 10:45 - Program starts promptly at 11:00***

Oh no! Look out, it's the new year! Not ready? Great, let's play some games instead! Join us for a few hours' respite from the putting away and the putting back and the getting rid of. Bring a favorite game, if you wish, or choose from the ones available.

Following a short time of worship and a devotion, we will break out the cards and the board games and get serious about having some fun. Prizes will be awarded to the game winners.

Then we end our program with a brown bag lunch and time of fellowship. We will provide beverages – or you can bring your own.

Thank you for  
your generous  
donations  
to support LIFT  
programming!

**For more information,  
contact Carol Diess,  
626-482-8862 or  
sbbmom@aol.com**



# JANUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1-Williams	2-Williamson	3-Wilson, Glenn	4-Wilson, Jerry
5	6-Zahniser	7-Andong	8-Alford	9-Amason	10-Ames	11-Anderson
12	13-Anguka, J.	14-Anguka, W.	15-Argent	16-Azubuike	17-Barker	18-Basile
19	20-Bimber	21-Borger	22-Bragg	23-Bridge	24-Brown	25-Buccheri
26	27-Burns	28-Carder	29-Carpenter	30-Carter	31-Chaffino	

**Please pray for healing and restoration for:**

Jean Vanvieldt, Felicia Foreman, Bill Howie, Lynn McClelland,  
Joni Stallings, David Brinkley, Kay Hester, Iris Joiner, Marie Swenson, Bob Summers.  
Frank Fogle, Terry King, Don Mowery.

**Pray for those who are homebound or in convalescent care:**

Dolores Karros, John Dooley, Beth Brinkley, Louis Kimes, Florence Lutz

## *January Birthdays*

01 Barbara Bimber	19 Pamela Ogot
03 Linda Russell	20 Frank Fogle
04 Calli Frei	20 Joni Stallings
05 Carol Zahniser	23 Sarah Richardson
05 Ken Kaufman	25 Carlos Garcia
08 Diane Schreiber	29 Hilary Renfer
09 Bob Carder	30 Barbara Hansen
16 Don Cook	31 Bernice Holtrust
17 Janet Hunt	
17 Jan McCrea Foster	
19 Karolyn Bragg	

We would also like to extend birthday greetings to any other **January** babies not on our list. If you know of a member's birthday that needs to be added, please call Gael in the church office @ 982-8811. Thank you, and  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU!**

<h1>JANUARY</h1>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  Office Closed Happy New Year	2  5:30pm Deacons	3	4
5 10am Worship with Communion	6 5:30pm Bells  Personnel	7 9:30am Knitters 6pm <b>Serve</b> 7pm <b>Gather</b>  AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	8  9am Coco's Bible Study  5:30pm The Chosen	9  12:30pm Preschool Board	10  11am L.I.F.T.	11
12  10am Worship	13  5:30pm Bells	14  9:30am Knitters 6:pm <b>Trustees</b> AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	15  9am Coco's Bible Study  5:30pm The Chosen	16	17	18
19  10 am Worship	20  5:30pm Bells  Office Closed  MLK Birthday	21  9:30am Knitters 5pm <b>Worship</b> AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	22  9am Coco's Bible Study  5:30pm The Chosen <b>Last Class</b>	23	24	25
26  10 am Worship	27  5:30pm Bells	28  9:30am Knitters 6:30pm <b>Session</b>  AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	29  9am Coco's Bible Study	30	31	



**GROWING IN CHRIST,  
MAKING HIM KNOWN**

**Deacons**

- Becky Custer
- Heather Decauwer
- Carol Diess
- Charlene Finley
- Sue Fredendall
- Gloria Geiger
- Martha Hebert
- Florence Lutz
- Lisa Murdy
- Margaret Pilcher
- Pat Pilcher
- Mark Polchow
- Kim Righetti
- Darlene Russell
- Sue Sindelar
- Kim Williamson
- Michelle Wilson

**Trustees**

- Roy Ames, Vice President
- Gary Custer, President
- Sue Frazee, Secretary
- Herb Joiner, Member at Large
- Glenn Wilson, Treasurer

**Staff**

- Noel Anderson, Senior Pastor
- Matt Shool, Youth Ministries
- Kevin Clinton, Children's Ministries
- Jannina Guzman, Office Manager
- Gael Lecce, Receptionist
- David Hydro, Custodian

**Elders**

- Roy Ames
- William Anguka
- Gary Custer
- Georgia Decker
- Sue Frazee
- Trevor McMullen
- Pam Polchow
- Randy Righetti
- Van Romine
- Jim Smirl
- Donna Strowger
- Tony Webner
- Glenn Wilson

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