

the SPIRE

First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills



August 2026





And You Shall Be Called...

"And you shall be called by a new name which the mouth of the LORD will designate."

Isaiah 62:2

On July 19th, I preached a sermon titled, *"And You Shall Be Called..."*

In preparation for this message, I was fascinated by two facts. First, that changing names is Biblical. And second, that many individuals and locations had more than one name. Neither of these facts were new to me, but in the context of our church looking into a new name, it gave me some sense of assurance. Names in the Bible often represent a person's character, nature or sense of purpose. When an individual has more than one name, each name represents a different aspect of that person's nature. Jesus, of course, is the ultimate example. The Bible contains over 100 names and titles for Jesus, each revealing a different aspect of His identity, character, and mission. To list just a few: Son of God, Son of Man, Son of David, Christ or Messiah, Emmanuel, Lamb of God, Good Shepherd, Savior, Redeemer, Teacher (Rabbi). Over the last 2+ years, the session has considered the "messaging" of our current name and concluded it is not a draw to most "unchurched" or "de-churched" individuals. If asked, the average person on the street doesn't know what a Presbyterian is or what Presbyterians believe. I've even mentioned that I'm a Presbyterian Pastor to some people, and they've responded by saying, "Oh, well... I'm a Christian." As if to say, Presbyterians aren't. For this reason – and many more – the session voted to change the name of our church. Others have looked at the PCUSA website and felt that some of the positions published there do not represent our congregation.

Let's explore the three options that we've narrowed the field down to. I'll speak to the arguments in favor and then the arguments against (like a civic ballot).

The first name option is **Christ First Church**. The arguments in favor say that this name gives honor to the name by which this church has been known for decades: *First* Presbyterian Church. Retaining the word "First" reminds us of our heritage. But more importantly, this name emphasizes our focus on Jesus Christ. As the session brainstormed our core values, Jesus Christ continually came to the forefront. Our former mission statement began with the phrase, "to glorify God by being a dynamic, *Christ-centered* fellowship." The session felt the weight of honoring the idea of being Christ-centered. Going by the name, "Christ First," emphasizes the fact that we seek to put Christ first in our individual lives, in the life of our congregation and in the community surrounding us. He should come first in our decisions and in our motivations and in our hearts.

Those who speak against the name say that it does not roll easily off the tongue. It doesn't sound very welcoming. It may not be easily remembered. It may need a little explaining for people to understand it. It does not draw people in.

The second name option is **Harmony Christian Church**. Those in favor of this name speak to the number of times we are called to unity in the Bible. Jesus prayed that His followers would be one. (John 17:20-23) Paul told the church in Ephesus to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (4:3) Others point to our emphasis on becoming more intercultural and intergenerational. Paul told the Corinthians there are many members, but one body; in the same way, harmony emphasizes different voices singing different melodies that create one beautiful sound.

Those who speak against this name say that it focuses too much attention on the people of the church rather than Jesus. One person said, "What happens when we don't live up to the 'Harmony' ideal? What happens when there's dissonance in the church? What does that say to the people who visit?" Another person said, "It sounds a little too '*Kumbaya*' for me."

Another person raised the concern that it elevates the idea of unity above other characteristics of what the church is called to be. Yes, we are called to be one, but we are also called to be holy. In fact, my New Testament professor, Dr. Robert Gundry, pointed out that the Apostle Paul spoke of unity in an equal amount to purity. Emphasizing one characteristic of the church often diminishes other characteristics.

The third name option is **Christ in the Valley**. This name has a twofold meaning. First, it reminds us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and like the Good Shepherd of Psalm 23, Jesus walks with us in the green pastures, beside the cool waters, and yes, in the valleys. Christ in the Valley reminds us that there is no place we can go where we are separated from God's loving presence. At the end of the Great Commission, Jesus reminds us: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) Christ is here with us in the Valley and we are here with Him!

The second meaning is that the church is meant to be the presence of Jesus in the place where it is called. We have been called by God to be His representatives – His ambassadors – here in The Valley. We live in a densely populated area filled with people who are lonely, depressed and looking for a reason to live. We are called to exhibit Christ's presence in this unique place. We are meant to shine the light of Jesus in this dark world. We are meant to show His love to everyone here. The mission field outside our door is vast. We are meant to be Christ's presence in the Valley!

It's funny. As I've been writing this article, I've thought, "What negative comments have I heard about the name, 'Christ in the Valley?'" And I have to say, I haven't heard any arguments against this name. Perhaps you can bring one to me.

As I've mentioned in worship services in the last few weeks, we are taking this decision very seriously. We are seeking God's guidance for this next chapter in the life of our fellowship. We also believe in our system. We elect people to represent the members of the congregation, but we do not require them to vote one way or another. These representatives gather together to pray, discuss, pray some more, and then seek the Holy Spirit to guide them to the right decision.

Although we are not taking a vote of the congregation, we are seeking to hear from you. If you have not already done so, speak to one of our elders and let them know your thoughts. Let's try to avoid the – “If I don't get my way, I'm going to take my ball and go home” – attitude. Remember that your elders love Jesus Christ very much. They also love this church very much. And they are seeking what's best for our church family. They wouldn't be elders if they weren't. And because of that, they want to see the church not only survive, but to thrive! Know that they will do all they can to help this church grow.

If you would like to share your thoughts with one of our elders, here are their names: Jay Bartus, Michelle Brekke, Larry Hall, Chuck Hampton, Belinda Hebert, Daniel Hernandez, Bev Hershey, Diane Howard, Tom Leo, Jackie Magaña, Sallie Matthews, Michele Morse, Melody Penter, Sharon Rose, Gary Ventimiglia, Michelle Ventimiglia, and Jason Wijesuriya. Talk to one of these individuals and share your thoughts. We are seeking God's will, and sometimes that comes through the voice of someone like you!

One last plug: we celebrate 79 years on August 10th, so we'll highlight that on Sunday, August 9th. We'll honor two new “Golden Members.” And I'll be speaking on the Life Span of the Church. I hope you can be here to hear what I think will be a very interesting message.

I remain yours in Christ's Love & Service,
Lance

Sermon Series

2026.08.02 Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sermon Title: *"Identity Crisis"*

Theme: Our Identity in Jesus

Feature: Sacrament of the Lord's Supper by distribution



In the 18th century, some British churches employed “sloggard-wakers” to watch for parishioners who fell asleep during long sermons. Armed with a long wooden staff, they would give sleeping worshippers a sharp tap on the head to wake them.

2026.08.09 79th Anniversary of FPCGH

Sermon Title: *"The Life Span of the Church"*

Theme: Revitalization

Feature: Celebrate FPCGH Anniversary & “Golden Members”
Promotion Sunday – 3rd Grade Bibles

2026.08.16 Sunday of Ordinary Time

Guest Preacher: Robert Douglas

Theme: God's Mercy

Feature: Director of Congregational Discernment of the Presbytery of San Fernando

2026.08.23 Sunday of Ordinary Time

Preacher: Niki

Theme: Transformation of the mind

2026.08.30 Family Fifth Sunday **Hymn Sing & Praise Songs**

Rev. Robert Douglas

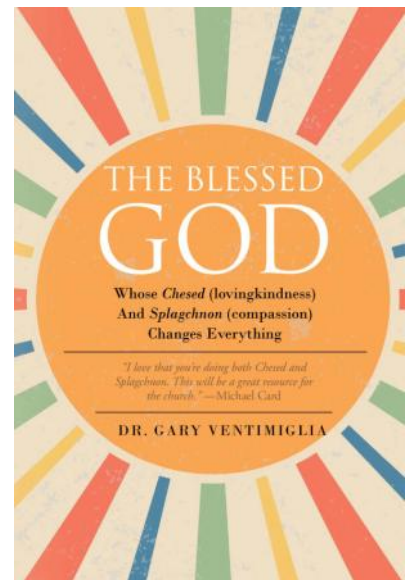


Robert Douglas is the Director of Congregational Discernment of our own Presbytery of San Fernando. Rob earned a MA Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary, is a church starter, PCUSA pastor, developer, coach, author of *The Missional Disciple-Making Handbook* and Founder & Director of Cyclical Full Circle. Rob has taken the lessons learned from starting church planting ecosystems and working with innovative church leaders around the world and applied it to creating frameworks that help churches take faithful next steps toward greater health and vitality.

Dr. Gary Ventimiglia

Earlier this year, our very own Gary Ventimiglia published a book about God's love. Here's my review:

There's a common phrase in our culture today: "Love wins." When I hear this, I ask, "Yes, but how do you define love?" Ask 120 people for the definition of love and you'll get 120 different answers. In this book, Gary Ventimiglia begins with the source of real love: God. He then defines the love of God described in the Old Testament and ties it to the love Jesus exhibited in the New Testament. Gary is well-researched and well-read, bringing his knowledge, experience and expertise to the question of love. He then invites us to experience the love of God and encourages us to show that kind of love to others. I recommend this book to all who long to be loved and to love authentically. I invite you to open yourselves to the love of this Blessed God.



Good reading for the end of the summer!

You can find Gary's book here: covenantbooks.com/the-blessed-god

May God richly bless you even as He blesses others through you!

In Christ's love & service,
Rev. Dr. Lance E. Allen

**DID YOU EVER
STOP TO THINK
THAT GOD IS
GOING TO BE AS
PLEASED TO HAVE
YOU WITH HIM IN
HEAVEN AS YOU
ARE TO BE THERE?**

A. W. TOZER

PICTUREQUOTES.COM

Shared from Dr. Gary Ventimiglia

Who remembers Courtney Ellis? She is the Associate Pastor at the Presbyterian Church of the Master (PCOM) in Mission Viejo, California. She spoke at our all-church retreat over Memorial Day weekend 2024. Pastor Lance received the following email from Courtney requesting help:

Hey Lance!

Greetings from PCOM. I'm writing with a unique request that I think you and your congregation might be particularly suited to help us with.

We have an 18yo rising college freshman at our church. His name is Corwin and he is incredibly kind and responsible. He leads a junior high small group for us, volunteers at VBS, and is in church every Sunday.

He just did a summer in Canada at a baseball summer training camp and struggled with the young people around him drinking and carousing. That's just not who he is. He's earnest and kind and very strait-laced and in it for the sport, not the rowdy accessories.

Corwin will be attending Cal State Northridge (CSUN) on a baseball scholarship this fall. The coach misled him a bit and the offered on-campus housing is double the cost of what they'd told him. So now he's looking for other options.

Do you know of anyone in your congregation who might be willing to rent a room or an ADU or an apartment to this wonderful guy? He is tidy and considerate and could pay rent up to \$700-900 per month. If we lived closer (and didn't have just three bedrooms for our three kids already!) we wouldn't hesitate to offer him space in our own home.

I'm happy to put you in touch with him if you have any ideas for connection.

Thanks so much, Lance! We baptized this sweet teenager just a few years ago and would do just about anything for him. We already miss him!

Best,
Courtney



Women's Retreat

With Rev. Christina Chambers

This year our women's retreat will feature our own Christina Chambers in a lovely park like setting at the Poverello of Assisi Retreat House in San Fernando, October 23rd -October 25th. The theme Christina has chosen to share with us will be "Faith Like a Child" and will tie in 4 delightful children's books with the truths of scripture. We invite you to join us for the entire weekend if you want to take in her full message and honestly feel like you have retreated to a special place. Costs for 2 nights and 5 meals is very economical especially if you share a room. Coming for just the day on Saturday is also available. You own it to yourself to slow down, relax, have some fun and spend some focused time with God. You will go home refreshed and hopefully feeling good about playing and sharing your weekend with other women of God. We will start sign ups on the patio and online Sunday September 6th with a \$50.00 deposit to hold your place, balance is due by October 4th. Spaces are limited so make sure you sign up early. Feel free to bring a friend!

Contact Michelle Ventimiglia for more information at
818.497.8800 or michellevee@earthlink.net.



Week of Prayer

"At the Name of Jesus"

Sunday 9/6 – Saturday 9/12

Throughout the week, scheduled prayer times will be held in the form of in-person gatherings and "pray where you are" opportunities.

Stay tuned for more details

Golf Scramble

The **5th Annual FPCGH Golf Scramble** will be Saturday, October 3rd. This "best ball" tournament will be held at Vista Valencia Executive Course, which provides a nice layout for golfers of all abilities. All are welcome to participate, whether you're a seasoned golfer or simply looking to try it out. Each player on a team of four will hit from the same spot, then the foursome plays the best ball (closest to the pin) until holed. Donations/ sponsorships are greatly appreciated for FPCGH Youth if you have a love for the game and would like to create an opportunity for someone else. Please contact Matt Chipman to sign up or for more information, chippersurf@gmail.com.

Senior Singles

The Senior Singles will be busy in August! We will have coffee in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am on August 5. Nancy Wells will show off her story telling skills and we will decorate lunch bags for the Community Concerns committee. We will have the opportunity to visit and share with each other. I'm sure we will have treats also!

On August 23 at 4:30 pm we will go out to eat at a British Pub called Robin Hood, Bangers and Mash or Fish and chips anyone? (Sandwiches and salads also.) A new experience for us all. Myra Green and Cynthia Sanders have planned this activity. We will get individual checks. Plan to join us! Linda B.

Cub Scout

Cub Scout Pack 307 (K-5th) Wants You!....to join us for the following events!

- CSUN Movie Night this Thursday, July 30th for the Incredibles 2 Movie (Food Trucks and activities start at 6 and movie at 8:15). Event is free, but there is a fee for on campus parking.
- Mock Campout on Saturday, August 1st in the Church Mini-park from 3-7. (Takes place of Tapo Canyon Overnight Campout). Water-play games, crafts, making handmade ice cream and Campout Dinner included!
- Hansen Dam Aquatic Center Swimming Outing, August 22nd, 11-1PM Picnic lunch and snacks provided!
- Back-to-Scouting Ice Cream Social on Monday, August 31st in Fellowship Hall from 6:15- 7:30.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Cubmaster Lauri Sherbon at 818.631.6070 or by email at pack307granadahills@gmail.com. See you at scouting!

Community Concerns

An Early Reminder – The September 2026 CSUN Food Pantry Drive is Coming

Soon it will be time to start looking for those late summer food sales for canned and boxed goods and hygiene products for our semi-annual drive to help fill the CSUN pantry for food insecure CSUN students. **The actual drive will be on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 10-1 and Sunday, Sept. 27, from 9:30-11:30.** There will be a drive-thru drop-off station at the Fellowship Hall door closest to the patio facing the parking lot. More information will be in the September Spire and weekly bulletins. **New Bag Rule: In accordance with state law and CSUN rules, we will no longer collect/donate plastic bags. However, we can collect and donate clean, folded paper bags like the ones you get when you check out at the market.** Let's have a goal of securing over 2,000 pounds of donations as we have done in the past. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Sharon Rose, Community Concerns Ministry Elder, at srose48419@aol.com

More Habitat for Humanity Opportunities for Fall, 2026

Pastor Niki let our Community Concerns Ministry know that the Habitat for Humanity project in Altadena co-sponsored by the San Gabriel Presbytery is going to be having work days in the fall. The dates will be Saturday, October 10 and Saturday, November 14. She represented our church in May at one of the workdays and learned a lot about the various tasks that need to be completed to build houses for those who lost so much in the January fires. She also received inquiries from some of our congregants about these projects. Participants can sign up for half day shifts or full day shifts.

This is an excellent opportunity to pay forward the blessings we have with our wide variety of skills and talents. For more information and the link to learn more and sign up, contact Pastor Niki at niki@fpcgh.org or 818.360.1831.



Community Concerns volunteers gathered to make 100 sack lunches for LAFH. The lunches included our famous PB&J sandwiches, applesauce, and a variety of fruit bars and granola bars.



Music Ministry

It's difficult to know where to begin when reflecting on this year's Jazz in July. Over the course of three Saturday evenings, more than 600 seats hit our lawn—roughly 200 each weekend—to share in music, food, fellowship, and community. Despite the summer heat, our lawn was filled with smiling faces, lawn chairs, and the joyful sounds of music.

This year's performers brought something different each week. Silva & Gold delighted audiences with their intimate combo jazz stylings, the David Wheatley Band explored the rich and colorful sounds of some truly seasoned cats, and Grassroots Initiative LA closed the series with beloved hits from the '60s, '70s, and '80s that had audience members singing right along! There was truly something for everyone. This lovely event couldn't have happened without the help of the generous individuals who have helped make it financially possible and the several volunteers who helped to build the rigging, set up each week, and tear down the equipment. I am so grateful to each of you for your support.

Perhaps even more exciting than the music itself were the conversations happening between songs. I had the privilege of meeting dozens of people from our surrounding community—many of whom had never set foot on our campus before. We welcomed educators from across the Valley, a caricature artist who asked to come paint concert-goers, and several guests who requested to join our church newsletter because they wanted to learn more about the life of First Presbyterian Church. One particularly meaningful conversation was with a woman who shared that she can no longer afford to attend concerts on her fixed income. To have a free concert series in a place where she feels welcomed, comfortable, and safe was a welcome blessing to her this summer. It was a beautiful reminder that what we're building is about so much more than music.

Jazz in July has long been one of my favorite outreach ministries, and I love seeing the smiling faces of so many people on the lawn each year having some time in fellowship. Next year, we're excited to begin a new chapter as we rebrand the series as **Live on the Lawn!** The music will remain just as vibrant and diverse as ever, but with a name that better captures what these evenings have always been—a joyful invitation for congregants and our neighbors to gather together on our lawn and experience community. So begin thinking now about who you'll invite next summer, especially your friends who claim not to like jazz!

Looking ahead, there is much to be excited about in the Music Ministry. Our **Fall Choir Retreat** will take place on **Saturday, September 19th**, beginning at **9:00 AM** at the lovely Hollywood Hills home of Ms. Carolyn Daly. Breakfast and lunch are included, and we'll spend the day singing together, enjoying fellowship on Carolyn's beautiful patio overlooking Hollywood, and preparing music for the season ahead. Whether you've been singing with us for years or have always wondered what choir might be like, the retreat is one of the very best ways to join us. No auditions are required—just bring yourself, your water bottle, and a willingness to sing! This year, I'd like to invite the Christmas Choir to join us for the retreat as well! Keep your eyes peeled for details, because part of the retreat will focus ahead on Christmas Music. Mark your calendars as well for our **Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 13th!**

Music Ministry Continued...

I am thrilled to announce that the **African Children's Choir** will be joining us on **Wednesday, March 10th, 2027** to share their brand-new “Light Your World” production! This is their first new show since returning from Covid lockdown, so you won’t want to miss it. Their concerts are extraordinary celebrations of music, joy, and hope, and the educational opportunities they provide for the children they serve are made possible, in part, through tours such as these.

In preparation for their visit, we are looking for volunteers willing to open their homes for this beautiful cross-cultural experience. Host families will welcome a small group of children and one adult chaperone for two evenings, providing them with a place to rest, a meal together, and a simple sack lunch to take with them the following day. There will be a brief meeting with the touring team after the Wednesday evening concert before everyone departs for the night. The choir will leave Friday morning, March 12th. Several members of our congregation have hosted the African Children's Choir in years past and have spoken warmly of the relationships formed through this experience. If you feel called to offer hospitality in this way, I would love to speak with you. Please email Aaron@fpcgh.org with any questions or to volunteer.

We have also received the full video recording of “AnOceanBetween,” the concert that many of us sang in Carnegie Hall last month, and I will be announcing a screening event soon! Keep an eye out for more details to follow.

As I look back on this summer and forward to all that lies ahead, I am struck by how much of our Music Ministry is really about opening doors—through worship, through music, and through the simple act of welcoming others into our community. Thank you for continuing to make that possible.

—Aaron Rice
Director of Music Ministries



Mission Ministry

For August, Mission Ministry is highlighting INTERSERVE with missionaries PAT and PAUL STOCK. Paul and Pat work in Pakistan partnering with other Christian groups to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the poorest most marginalized people in Pakistan. There are some very special things happening in Pakistan now.

Pat is facilitating a group on Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills teaching Biblical principles for interpersonal relationships. This group has been one of the most responsive she has ever worked with! A woman reconciled with her family who she had not spoken to for five years after a time of private prayer on forgiveness. She felt convicted to deal with her anger and asked the Lord to heal her. Good is Good!

Paul has been hard at work writing, creating and recording 40 Christian songs in Pakistani. Sometimes the songs can speak to village listeners just as much as a sermon. Here is what happened:

A Hindu wife of a friend passed away, and as in their custom, there was worship every night with Hindu and Christian songs. Paul sang Christian songs for 3 nights. On the second night, he heard children singing a song he sang the previous night. On the third night, Paul went to sing and many children came to the front asking him to sing, "If you have a humble heart, Jesus will win and Satan will lose." The children remembered the song and helped Paul sing it again to the hundreds of children and adults attending.



Pat and Paul have a prayer request. One of their male Pakistani team members, Nathaniel, has been receiving chemotherapy for cancer. It has been reduced by 30%, so the doctors want him to begin immunotherapy injections twice a month for a full year which will be easier on his body and help his body fight the cancer. The injections cost \$770 per shot, but his salary is only \$150 a month. PLEASE PRAY for his healing and for donations to help pay for his immunotherapy injections for one year. The team sang together and Nathaniel chose the song, "I'll stay at the feet of the cross (stay faithful to Him), even if I die, I'll stay faithful to Him."

NEW VIDEO ON YOUTUBE!

While working hard during our April 2026 Mission Trip to Luz Y Vida in San Jose del Cabo, Mission Team member Martin Madrigal wore video glasses and produced and edited a video showing the full missionary trip. It's 2 hours long but you can watch it over one or more sessions. Copy the link and come along beside our Missionaries.

To watch go to our YouTube page's playlists at [youtube.com/@fpcgh/playlists](https://www.youtube.com/@fpcgh/playlists) under "Mission Trips" or for those viewing online click the link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lcD-vzvhBw>

Children's Ministry

VBS 2026. And that's a wrap!

Collage the 2 pics you have already and the attached pictures with the following labels:

- Teachers and TA's
- Kitchen Crew
- Wild Games Station – Sponge toss with Coach Bob
- Sticky Scripture Station – Diane's Tree Top Classroom
- Rooted Bible Adventures – David's cave refuge from Saul
- Imagination Station- Professor Forgetful teaches layers with bubbles
 - "Tweets" doing a Day 4 Object Lesson
- Stage Leaders- Dr. Rio Shores and Jenna

August 9th is Kinder and 3rd grade promotion presentation.

If you have a Preschooler moving to Kindergarten or a Second grader moving to Third grade,
PLEASE contact Juliana@fpcgh.org.

Looking Forward: Fall Family Festival October 30th



Youth Ministry

School's back in session! Hard to believe another summer has passed us by and yet it has...

Youth Ministries had a blast in July. We had our Casual Summer Hangout here at church, where we played video games in the Youth room together and Jordan mercilessly played against our students and won most of the time. Charlotte and Peter gave him a run for his money, though.

On July 11 and July 25, we had our fundraiser selling misters at Jazz in July (thanks again to Joe Magana for donating them for us to raise money!) where we raised \$85 the first night!

From July 27 to 31, we attended our first summer camp as ONC! We went to Camp Pondo and had the privilege of hearing Spencer Osborne speak again. and he spoke about moving forward from our past, toward Christ – it was all based on the teachings of Philippians 3.

Some of our students participated in VBS by “Crewing” (leading a crew) and “accrued community service hours (get it?). Then we celebrated the week with an escapade to Menchie’s that Friday afterward with Pastor Lance!

It was a jam-packed month full of fun in the sun and fellowship with each other and with the Lord! What a great way to start the school year off.

If you or someone you know is anywhere between the 6th – 12th grade and would love to make friends and learn about Jesus, we have a place for them! Please join us every Sunday from 11:30am-12:30pm in the Youth Room in Fellowship Hall for a snack, games, worship and Bible study/discussion. We'd love to support you in your walk with Christ!

Looking Ahead

Sunday, August 9/ 11:30am – 12:30.

Promotion Day (our 5th grader joins ONC!)

Sunday, October 18/ 11:00am – 1:00pm.

Escape Room & Lunch

Sunday, December 6 / 11:30 – 2:00pm.

Christmas Party

TBD: Winter Camp



Summer Giving



Finance

QR Code

We have made online giving, per capita payments, and Special Event payments even easier!

Just scan the QR code with your smart phone.

Once scanned, your browser will be directed to our online giving page.

2026 Per Capita

Every year our budget includes money to cover our congregation's share of the administrative costs of being a part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). An individual congregant's share is calculated on its total membership. This is called "Per Capita." This year the per capita is \$37.18 per member, or \$74.36 per couple. There is a blue Per Capita offering envelope located in your box of offering envelopes. The Per Capita assessment covers overhead cost of our Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. You can also make your Per Capita payment through our web page utilizing the Online Giving feature at www.fpcgh.org/donate or use the QR code.



QR Code for



QR Code for the App

**Don't let your
Summer Giving
fall behind!
Get set up on
autopay**

Stewardship

It's never too late to Pledge!!
Help us fill the hole and prepare the
budget for 2026.

We gratefully accept all pledges.

Ways to submit your
2026 pledge commitment:

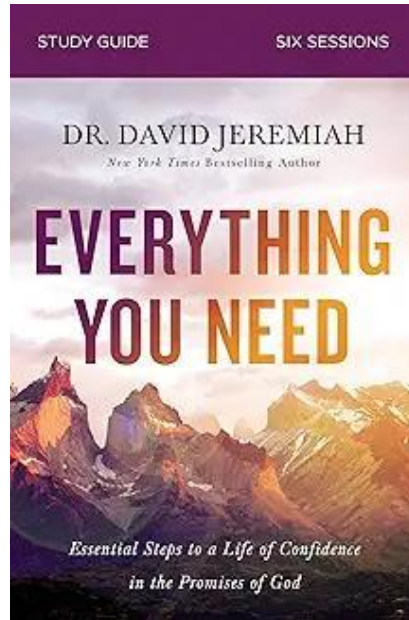
1. Online at fpcgh.org/pledge
2. Mail in a pledge card to the church office
3. Call the church office
4. Drop off a pledge card at the church office
5. Use the QR code:



BIBLE STUDIES

Are you involved in one of the many Bible Studies offered here at First Pres? If not...why not? :)

You are encouraged to join others to understand God's Word and see what He is saying to you today!



Sundays

Co-ed multi-generational from 11:30-12:30 pm

We meet weekly on Sundays and conduct varied studies, based on majority decisions, for topics. Studies range from 1 week to 8 weeks, depending upon the study format and topic. We meet in the church library. Anyone interested is invited to join us at any time to try us out. Please contact Erik Brannon at 310.806.0284 or by email at brannon@apollointeractive.com if you have any questions.

Co-ed multi-generational from 11:30 am-1:00 pm

We are on break for the summer! Contact Sue O'Connor at: taffie1@verizon.net.

Women's Sunday morning from 11:30- 12:30 pm

We meet in Hampton Lounge to discuss the sermon, and how it applies to our lives today. For additional information, or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Cindi Treloar at 661.618.7652 or email her at: cindi6906@gmail.com.

Mondays

Men's Monday night Bible study at 7:00 pm

Meets in the Church Library. We watch a faith-based video and provide an opportunity for discussion afterwards. There is no age limit. For additional information, or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Rick Spence at 818.419.7780 or email him at: rjspence1@msn.com.

BIBLE STUDIES

Monday *Continued*

Professional Adult Small Group & Friends

With Support from Trinity Schoolcraft Classical Academy (BridgesUS) non-profit and Synalima non-profit.

Meets Every Monday| 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM (Virtually on Microsoft Teams)

Study Plan

We will begin our journey with: Over the course of a year read through the New Testament chronologically, covering a few chapters each week and sharing in group discussion.

Our Purpose

This small group exists to help us grow deeper in our walk with Christ together.

Life is busy—between family, work, kids, and responsibilities—but this 1 1/2 hr of fellowship is a chance to pause, study God's Word, and encourage one another as Christians and friends.

Next Steps:

Interested? Email

Diane N Uhri Vashchenko at dnuhri80@gmail.com

Bring your Bible and a heart ready for prayer, conversation and reflection!



Wednesdays *Thursdays*

Co-ed Wednesday evening Bible study at 6:00 pm

Join us Wednesdays at 6pm in Hampton Lounge for our new Bible study! We will be using the Bible study guide, Finding God Faithful, A Study on the Life of Joseph.

Questions? Please email Carol Morain (carolcraze@aol.com)

"Trace the path of Joseph's life in the book of Genesis to observe how God's sovereignty reigns, even in our darkest moments. Learn to recognize when God is working during periods of waiting, trust God's plan when life doesn't make sense, and rest in the sufficiency of His presence in every circumstance. His provision is enough, His presence is constant, and His purpose is unstoppable. (8 sessions) "

Men's Thursday morning Bible study at 7:00 am

We are on break. For additional information, or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Gary Ventimiglia at: harvestgv@earthlink.net.

Women's Thursday morning Bible study from 9:00-11:00 am

On break for the summer! Please contact Pastor Niki if you are interested in attending and for additional details.

Prayer Requests

Mae Stephenson continues to heal nicely and is able to walk in the hallway every day

Please pray for the family of Audrey Clark as they mourn her loss. The memorial will be held here at the church on Saturday, August 1st, at 11am.

Susanna Babayan needs prayers for strength and healing, as she is undergoing cancer treatment.

Ongoing Concerns:

Jill Ralke, Maureen Boyer, Marina Collins,
Alice Yoder, Kenny Thomason, Cathy Wright,
Jean Herweg, Bert Fairbanks,
Michael Diehl, Mae Stephenson, Fran Shankle, Lonnie & John
Thompson, Charlotte Dingue,
Frank Sandoval, Dana Peterman, Juliana Price,
Gloria Horowitz

Gold Members:

Myra Green and Carolyn Whitt.
Both have been members of First
Pres for 50 years!

We will be celebrating them on our
79th Anniversary on

Sunday, August 9 at 10 am!



Coffee with Pastor Lance

Have you heard about Pastor Lance's morning devotional on Facebook? Every weekday morning around 8:15 am Pastor Lance gives a brief, live devotional on a passage in scripture.

That livestream is then posted and available on Facebook.com.

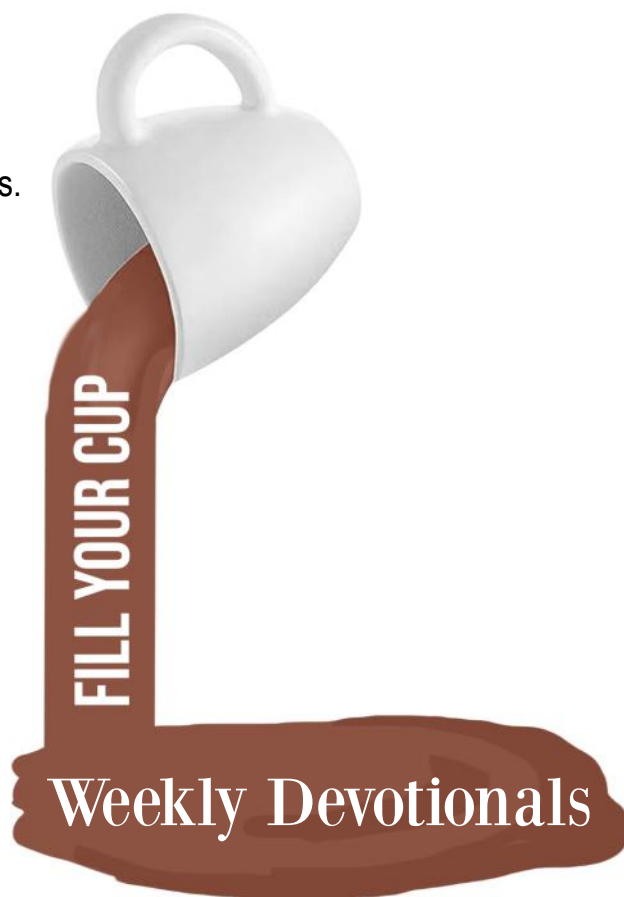
You can also go to fpcgh.org, where a link will be on the homepage.



Words of Inspiration

Our weekly devotional written by Vreni Schiess is available at fpcgh.org/blog, and does appear "live" on Mondays on our Church Community Group Page. Her passion for God's "living" Word is infectious and makes for a "fun and invigorating"

read, as one pastor recently observed. Feel free to reach out to her at vrenischiess@verizon.net for further conversation.



August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00 am Yoga by Karine
2 9:40 am Prelude Worship 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Bible Studies 11:30 am Youth Ministry	3 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	4 7:15 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Monthly Property Meeting	5 5:00 pm Monthly Fellowship Committee Meetings	6 8:00 am Men's Fellowship	7 10:30 am Monthly Community Concerns	8 9:00 am Yoga by Karine
9 9:40 am Prelude Worship 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Bible Studies 11:30 am Youth Ministry	10 79th Anniversary of First Pres! 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Monthly Adult Discipleship Meeting	11 4:00 pm Monthly Personnel Meeting 5:30 pm Women's Ministry Meeting 7:15 pm Boy Scouts	12 10:30 am Community Concerns Meeting 12:00 pm Community Concerns making meals	13 8:00 am Men's Fellowship 2:00 pm Monthly Worship Meeting 3:45 pm Membership Meeting	14	15 9:00 am Yoga by Karine
16 9:40 am Prelude Worship 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Bible Studies 11:30 am Youth Ministry 4:30 pm Senior Singles	17 11:00 am Community Concerns 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	18 7:15 pm Boy Scouts 7:30 pm Session Meeting	19 11:00 am Monthly Mission Meeting	20 8:00 am Men's Fellowship 1:30 pm Knifty Knitters	21	22 9:00 am Yoga by Karine
23 9:40 am Prelude Worship 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Bible Studies 11:30 am Youth Ministry	24 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	25 7:15 pm Boy Scouts	26 4:00 pm Senior Singles	27 8:00 am Men's Fellowship	28	29 9:00 am Yoga by Karine
30 <i>Family Fifth Sunday</i> 9:40 am Prelude Worship 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Bible Studies 11:30 am Youth Ministry	31 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study					



10400 Zelzah Avenue
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SEND TO: (LABEL)

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