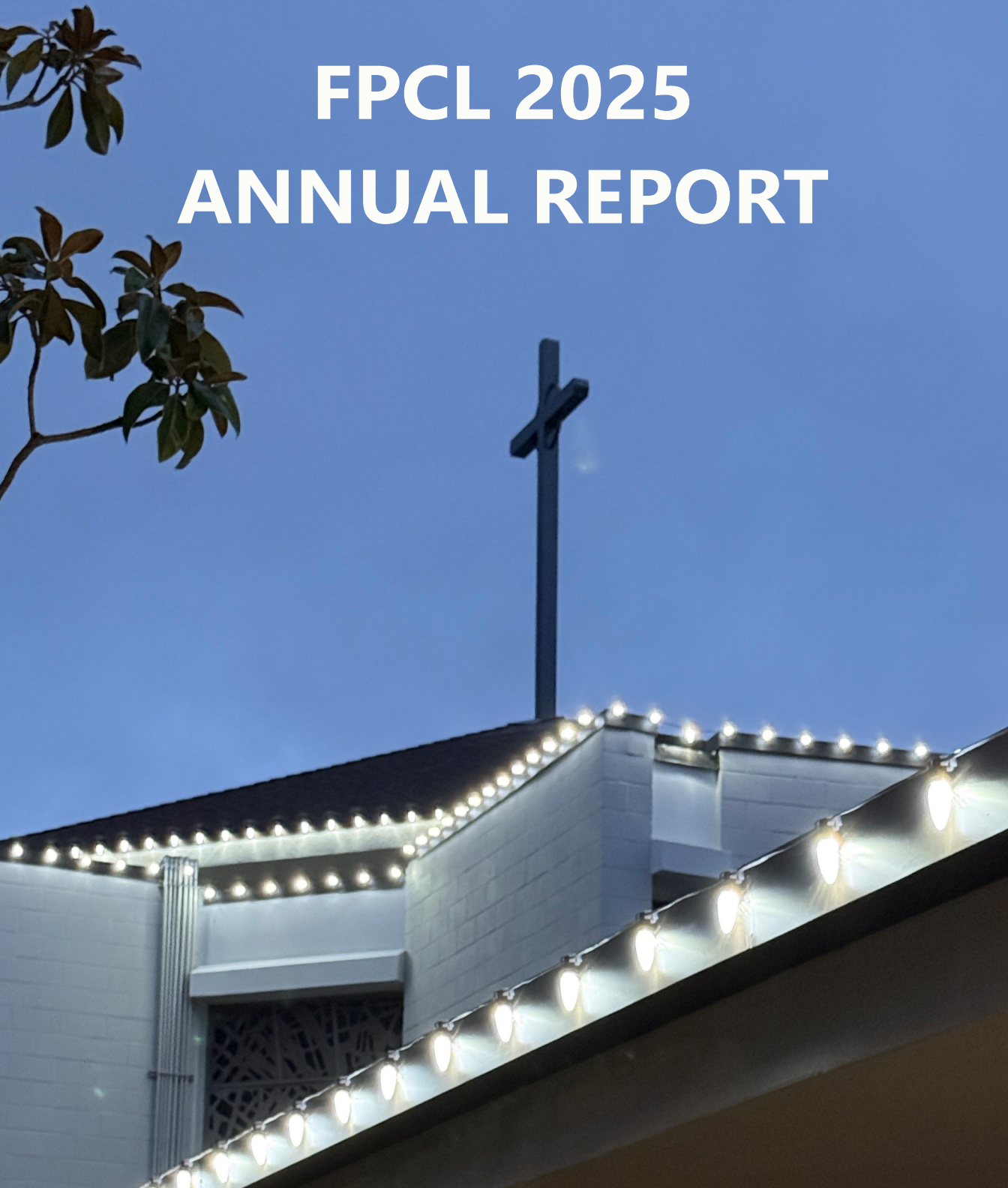


# FPCL 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



We Celebrate & We Remember	3
The Wilde Side of Things	4
From Pastor Denia	5
From Pastor Christina	6
From Pastor Josh	7
2024 Session Elders	8
2024 Board of Deacons	8
Board of Deacons Report	9
Deacons 2024 Fund Summary Reports	10
Buildings & Grounds	11
Connections/Hospitality Ministry	12
Discipleship Ministry	13
Funds Team	14
Intergenerational Ministry	15
Intergenerational Ministry - Children	16/17
Intergenerational Ministry - Students	17
Mission and Service Team	18-20
Ministry Resources	21
Nominating	21
Office	21
Presbyterian Women	22/23
Smart Start	23
Worship Team	24/25
Young Adult Ministry	26



## We celebrate baptism:



Brooklynn Baird

Tom Bartel

Austin Ackley Skaggs

## We celebrate new members:

Brooklynn Baird

Tom Bartel

Diane E. Beebe

Joan Buchanan

Phil Buchanan

Seana E. Field

Christine Golaz

Greg J. Gratsch

Shirley L. Gratsch

Frank S. Gygas

Alana Karpenko

Kayla Marchini

Kathleen L. Moore

Patricia (Patti) A. Nicolson

Amy E. Reichel

Eric A. Reichel

Jenn L. Tereba

Chris c. Timby

Cynthia (Cindy) Timby

Genevieve Vanier

Tim A. Vanier

Joseph G. Wakim

David J. Ward

Laura Kang Ward

## We remember with affection:

Eugene (Gene) LeRoy Alaux

Patsy J. Clark

*(passed in 2023 but learned of it in 2025)*

William (Bill) L. Cosby

Margaret (Peggy) Rosemary Despotakis

Max Franklin Eckert

Linda L. Fields

Esther Mae Longerbeam

Elinor (Ellie) Jane Lott

Marylou Patricia Lowell

Barbara Joan Norris

Edward G. Wohlenberg



## The Wilde Side of Things

Greetings,

**“To the One who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to God’s power that is at work within us...” — Ephesians 3:20**

As I sit down to reflect on the past year of our life together at FPCL, my heart is overflowing with gratitude. An annual report is often viewed as a collection of data and balance sheets, but for us, these pages represent something far more profound: a testimony to God’s faithfulness and the vitality of our congregation.

We find ourselves in a season of remarkable health, stability and strength. In a world that often feels fractured and uncertain, our church has remained an anchor of grace and love. This year, we have been blessed not only by the familiar faces of long-time members but also by the "slight and steady" growth of new families and individuals who have found a spiritual home among us. Each new person is a reminder that the Holy Spirit is moving, drawing people into a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Perhaps the most humbling aspect of this past year has been your extraordinary generosity. Despite the economic shifts around us, your commitment to the mission of FPCL has been a tangible sign of God’s providence at work. Because of your faithful stewardship, we have been able to:

- **Expand our local outreach:** serving as the hands and feet of Jesus in our community.
- **Invest in our church community:** small groups, support groups and fellowship gatherings have allowed us to deepen our relationships with one another.
- **Maintain the blessing of our facilities:** painting the campus, increasing signage, modernizing our spaces all while addressing a variety of maintenance needs.

Our financial health is not just about numbers; it is a spiritual indicator of a community that trusts God deeply and holds its resources with open hands.

As we look toward the coming year, I feel a sense of holy optimism. Stability is not a place to rest, but a foundation upon which to build. We are not merely maintaining a tradition; we are participating in a living movement.

Thank you for your prayers, your service, and your unwavering commitment to this body of Christ that we call FPCL. I thank God for the extraordinary blessing and privilege it is for me to be one of your pastors.

Grace & Peace,



Rev. Dr. Stephen Wilde

## From Pastor Denia

Dear FPCL Family,

I am thankful for the privilege of serving as one of your pastors. In addition to being part of the pastoral care and preaching teams, I find joy and meaning in continuing to lead worship at the 8:00am Reflective Chapel Service each Sunday. We have journeyed through the Gospel of Luke this year, highlighting the passages unique to this gospel, and exploring the relationship between these passages and the scriptures paired with it in the Lectionary.

This coming year, we will be exploring the Gospel of John, a gospel written at multiple levels, often integrating action and dialogue to reveal Jesus' identity, building on images from Jewish tradition to reveal the nature of Jesus, who is God living in our midst. I look forward to this time of study and worship with our early morning worship community!

It has also been a pleasure to lead several Bible Studies this year. This year's PW Horizons Bible Study focuses on the ways we find resilience, joy, and our identity in Jesus Christ, mining the scriptures for the ways God travels our lives with us and supports through all we encounter, a source of both comfort and joy! We meet at 11:40 in F5 on the first Sunday of each month.

On Thursday mornings, online at 9 am and in person in F5 at 10 am, we have studied Sarah Bessey's Field Notes for the Wilderness: Practices for an Evolving Faith, which was both a study and a journey together through the landscapes we travel in coming to understand how God is at work in our lives, even when our understandings change and life is difficult. During Advent, we found meaning in the devotional Be Not Afraid, by our own Donald L Griggs, and they ways he wove the advent themes into the ways we find strength in our faith and relationship with God.

It has been a year full of change and learnings, both expected and unexpected, and I am thankful for them all, and for each of you!

With much love and gratitude,



Denia Segrest - Associate Pastor

## From Pastor Christina

It's my greatest honor to have had the chance to return to serve as one of the pastors at FPCL. After 13 years of continued work with hospice as a chaplain and bereavement coordinator, I'm still amazed that I'm able to continue that work and then build a bridge that ties my work together.

I came back to the church that really designed me as a pastor in the midst of working with grieving families and recognizing the depth of hurt as families deal with loved ones and their memory loss. I've been able to offer support groups which were affecting me personally as well as allowing a space for folks from the church and greater Livermore community to meet, share and recognize the hurt.

Our Support group for Dementia Caregivers is in its 2nd year. It came to me by way of Facebook and Love Livermore as a fellow caregiver reached out to the Livermore community asking if there would be others who would benefit from such a group. Through that question, we have 125 folks on the Facebook support page and about 10-15 folks who attend our monthly group at FPCL.

We continue our Grief Support group and it is in its 4th year. Our group is getting more known in the Livermore/Pleasanton community as good people from the group and from the church share with their loved ones when they've had a loss. It continues to be a safe place where we can share our grief – wonder about our sadness and figure out together what our next steps are. It has been an amazing experience to walk with folks in the midst of their grief journey and watch them support one another as together we determine “what's next?” in our own grief walk.

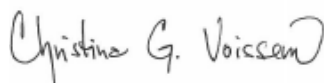
This past December we hosted our 3rd annual Blue Christmas service which included help and support from folks with the set-up and design of a service that recognizes that every emotion during the holiday season is ok and we are recognized when those times are difficult and particularly sad when we are missing those who are no longer with us.

Our Pastoral Visitors and Visiting Deacons continue to work together in ministry as we serve our congregation visiting folks who need some extra support. Our visitation team has been assigned to 25 + folks and we continue to change and grow. This team is always open to others who might need support...just let us know.

I have continued this past year in working as the pastoral liaison to the Deacons Officer Team. This too is an excellent group of individuals who work on making sure our community is cared for and we remain open to recognizing all the ways that God is at work in the midst of the care we offer to those in need. It's an amazing place to be serving “in the midst of all those in need.” I also get the honor of serving communion to our home-bound folks along with one of our deacons - Lee Giroux.

It's been a whirlwind of a year... and such an honor to be one of the pastors here.

**Peace to each of you, Christina**



## From Pastor Josh

### Belize Mission Trip Update

From April 23–27, 2025, FPCL sent a team of six to Belize to partner with PathLight International. Our primary location was Orange Walk, in northern Belize.

During the week, our team served in a variety of meaningful ways. We helped refurbish a dilapidated computer lab at a local elementary school, completed several painting projects, and built picnic tables for the PathLight facility. One of the painting projects included creating a beautiful mural at the PathLight facility, painted in collaboration with a local artist and joined by PathLight students, teachers, and our team—an especially meaningful expression of community and shared creativity. One team member also led a financial budgeting class for parents of PathLight students. In addition, we brought laptops, school supplies, and hygiene items to support both the school and families in the community.

Equally important, we gained a deeper understanding of PathLight’s mission by working alongside their teachers and interacting with the students they serve. This hands-on experience strengthened our relationship and deepened our appreciation for the impact of their work.

Overall, the trip was a successful and encouraging step forward, allowing FPCL to further its partnership with PathLight International. **We are already looking ahead with anticipation to our next trip, scheduled for March 25–31**

### Connection Corner

The Connection Corner continues to be a welcoming place to get connected with church related events that are either onsite or mission and service related offsite.

Ideally this is a space where individuals can talk to someone about what is going on in the life of the church and how they can be involved.

We have 14 volunteers who staff the Connection Corner on a rotational basis each Sunday.

It's also a great place for visitors/new people to feel welcomed and receive information.

In 2025, Connection Corner was the central place for Mission & Service to host the coat drive and the Giving Tree. With its central location in the courtyard, it is easy to find, making it easier for those who donate items.

We hope to continue to evaluate how this space and ministry is best serving our church community.

**In Him,**

*Josh Jonas - Associate Pastor*

## 2025 Session Elders

### Clerk of Session

Christine Weber

### Discipleship

Kim Pillon & Brenda Rettig

### Hospitality

Christine Holsen, Diana Garcia, Padmini Sökkappa

**Intergenerational** - Janet Dimits, Cathy Schultz, Alyssa Wolf

### Media & Communications

Mike Cerruti, Kelly Jonas

### Ministry Resources

David Brewer, Dave Craig, Don Frey

### Mission & Service

Clayton Salch, Steve Stewart, Tim Zwier

### Nominating

Sue Carling

### Personnel

Linda Taylor

### Worship

Alice Klingmann, Ellen Myli

Session is responsible for the mission and government of the church, and is comprised of installed Elders and the Pastors. Members of the Program Staff and the Clerk of Session attend session meetings regularly. Elders are elected by the congregation and develop teams of volunteers who work together within their ministry area. Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

**Moderator of Session** - *Pastor Steve Wilde*

## 2025 Board of Deacons

### Calling/Visiting

Dona Allen, Janet Craig, Larry Fried, Daphne Mangaladoss

### Extended Communion

Lee Giroux

### Giving Tree

Susan Bond

### Martha Ministry

Cecily Karpenko

### Medical Equipment Loan/Exchange

Jennifer Guethlein

### Memorials & Receptions

Susan Frey, Nancy Fritsch

### Moderator

Rob Couberly

### Prayer Chain

Linda Alexander

### Secretary

Julie Keener

### Student Ministry

Andrew Reynolds, Hansa Lakamsani

### Treasurer

Jinok Dean

### Vice Moderator

Kim Salch

## Board of Deacons Report

We have a great group of "working" Deacons, supported by Pastor Christina Voissem.

Looking at 2025, we celebrate the many activities and contributions made to the larger church.

**Congregational Care:** The Deacons have been working all year to check in regularly with people in our congregation who are experiencing life challenges. We have deacons that are specifically "assigned" to be visiting Deacons and Pastor Christina has combined these with the Pastoral Care group to help make sure that people in need of a visit get assigned to someone. An assigned Deacon assists one of the pastors in providing communion to those who are unable to attend worship services in person or who request it. Many cards of support are sent to congregants.

**Christmas Poinsettias:** Deacons assisted the Worship team in distributing poinsettias after the Christmas Eve service.

**Martha Ministries Meal Train:** Is a positive activity that is rewarding to both the people preparing and delivering the meals and to the people receiving them. This year, there were 6 people/families served which represented 31 meals and 18 volunteers. *More volunteers are always welcome!*

**Memorial receptions:** Is something Deacons do well. They set up, prepare and serve food as well as cleaning up afterwards. This year they volunteered for 14 memorial receptions with the help of many volunteers in the congregation. Deacons also provide bottled water, tissues, and guest books for the families.

**FPCL Prayer Chain:** Is an integral part of our ministry which enables us to communicate to the congregation and involve them in actively caring for others in thought and prayer.

**The Deacons agreed to support the following charities using Deacon funds:**

- Open Heart Kitchen: \$1,500 (dedicated towards support of homeless)
- Kids Bike Lane: \$1,000
- Arukah House: \$1,000
- CityServe of the Tri Valley: \$1,000

This year Deacons reviewed and updated the Deacons Description of Duties and Tasks as follows:

- Flower Distribution, Medical Equipment and Grief Support have been redistributed among the remaining Deacon assignments.
- Chariots of Care has been revised to focus on ensuring that transportation to church is available to those in need.
- Giving Tree duty was transferred to the Mission & Service team. *In past years Deacons coordinated the collection of unwrapped gifts, gift cards and cash to be distributed in partnership with Tri-Valley Haven.*

The Board of Deacons has been blessed by this calling to help others in need.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Rob Couberly - Moderator, Deacons

## Deacons 2025 Fund Summary Reports

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE 1/1/25</b>		<b>\$8,491.76</b>
Memorial Donations	\$925.00	
Regular Donations	\$1,800.00	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>\$2,725.00</b>
(1) FPCL Congregational Care	\$1,000.00	
(2) Pastors Discretionary Funds	\$2,000.00	
(3) Crisis Assistance	\$1,000.00	
(4) Memorial Service Assistance	\$395.66	
(5) Vineyard	\$500.00	
(6) Special Projects & Gifts	\$167.52	
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENT</b>		<b>\$(5,0635.18)</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE 12/31/25</b>		<b>\$6,153.58</b>

### Distribution Detail:

- Arukah House: **\$1,000**
- Kid's Bike Lane: **\$1,000**
- Open Heart Kitchen/Vineyard: **\$1,500**
- CityServe of Tri-Valley: **\$1,000**

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
*Jinok Dean, Deacon Treasurer*

## Buildings & Grounds

Elder: Don Frey

Staff Liaison: Jane Ackley



Routine maintenance of the facilities were performed, making sure we stay compliant with Local and State laws.

### Several major projects were performed in 2025:

- The large cross was installed on the cupula in March.
- The whole campus was painted in September/October, including painting the interior doors to match the exterior.
- New door signage was installed.
- The remaining four windows that needed replacing in the Sanctuary were completed.
- Two new signs were installed - one on the Monument in the lawn and the other on the wall on the corner of Fifth and L. St.
- A 7.5 tonne package unit (HVAC) on the Fellowship Hall roof was replaced in December.
- The two old air conditioning units that used to cool the sanctuary were removed, the lines drained of coolant and capped as needed.
- Lighting was placed around the Sanctuary and Cupula, along with Fellowship Hall, Office areas and along the preschool, making the campus look festive and inviting during Advent.
- Trees around the perimeter on Fourth & K. St. were sprayed to control aphid sap.



### Other projects performed around campus

- Large speakers in the choir loft were removed
- Monitor installed on the wall in the balcony
- Installation of memorial bricks as they come in.

Thanks goes to all the volunteers who mow the lawns, care for the roses in the courtyard and keep the campus looking nice and presentable throughout the year.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Don Frey, Ministry Resources Elder, B&G*

## Connections/Hospitality Ministry

Elders: Diana Garcia, Christine Holsen,  
Padmini Sökkappa

Staff Liaison: Pastor Steve Wilde

The Connections Team supports programming of Deacons Congregational care, Discipleship Team, Mission & Service, and Intergenerational Team. While continuing to host Sunday mornings with coffee and refreshments, the team has worked to connect FPCL participants in other ways.

The *Connection Corner* is has become the place to go on Sunday mornings to get information about the events and activities offered by FPCL, sign kids in for Sunday school and bring items for mission projects. Our hope is to continue to share information in an efficient, comprehensive way while creating a space for folks to build relationships with people actively engaged with FPCL groups. We continue to look at different ways to serve our congregation. Our hope is to identify visitors and create more ways they can connect with FPCL through activity-based groups.

The year began with over 120 people attending our Ash Wednesday dinner.

We had special treats to recognize Easter Sunday and celebrate everyone on Mother's Day and Father's Day.

We had a The Taco Cart luncheon to kick off the summer with an opportunity to visit different groups within the church.

We went to one service during the summer and connections team planned fun events after the services: we hosted an ice cream social, picnics on the lawn, games and had a celebration for Tanner and Shannon's wedding.

We welcomed a new team member, Cathy Shultz, who will be taking on the roll of new members classes. Her first class was a great success with 17 new members.

We hosted the Stewardship luncheon provided by the Stewardship Committee.

We Supported Intergenerational team with November Bash.

We ended the year hosting Mingle and Jingle during advent and having special treats every Sunday.

### **What a year!!**

We look forward to coming up with more ideas to connect in 2026.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Christine Holsen,*

Connections Ministry

*Coffee Hour & Connecting*



## Discipleship Ministry

Elders: Kim Pillon & Brenda Rettig

Staff Liaison: Brie MacLaren

Discipleship ministries is focused on short-term teaching, learning, outreach, and education along with ongoing life groups. We serve to open our doors to the community and membership for specific activities that might include overlap with other ministries. Discipleship serves as an on-ramp to other ministries and areas of involvement members or visitors might commit to in the future. The beauty of Discipleship is its variety and spontaneity in activities and ideas to get the church and community involved.

Our biggest Discipleship offering for the congregation during 2025 was several speakers on a variety of topics.

- **April & May:** Christine Sevier from Creating New Hope Senior Living Advisors and Christina Voissom touched on topics about senior living options and other congregation questions.
- **August:** The Livermore Police Department provided a scam awareness & prevention presentation
- **September:** Our own Linda Taylor talked about anxiety in children and how we can support them.
- **October:** Dr. Kostalnick, MD visited our church to talk about faith and mental health from a psychiatrist/physician point of view.

In addition, the Discipleship team was able to offer a variety of other activities such as:

- **February – March (Lent):** Facilitate a Lenten study with in-person attendees as well as an option for online.
- **March:** Assist with the Intergenerational team’s Ice Cream Social Justice Night.
- **April:** Host a labyrinth walk after the Good Friday service.
- **December:** Jingle and Mingle craft – napkin rings
- **Monthly** Fellowship Walk in Sycamore Grove Park every third Saturday of the month.

We look forward to continuing our momentum into the new year with additional studies, speakers, movie nights and other activities or resources that can bring our community together.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Kimberly Pillon & Brenda Rettig, Discipleship Ministry*

## Funds Team

Elders: David Craig, Clayton Salch

Staff Liaison: Jane Ackley, Danielle Hayes, Pastor Steve Wilde

Team: Karen Wilson-Fontaine, Raymie Tindle, Jennifer Jo Ressler, Curtis Rettig, Jill Santos, Kevin Gunn

**Mission Statement:** The funds Committee shall raise awareness, encourage giving and manage funds given to commemorate loved ones, and to meet the future needs of our church

## Commemorative Fund

Donations Received 2025 - **\$1,410**

Year End Balance - **\$12,992**

### Donations received in Honor of:

- Jack Cutting
- Marylou Lowell
- Peggy Despotakis
- Barbara Norris
- Patricia Fletcher
- Darrel Sweet
- Esther Longerbeam

**Christian Heritage Fund Year End Balance: \$131,414** All interest was reinvested this year.

### This year we funded

- Memorial bricks
- A Sign for Connection Corner

### Activity This Year:

1. Read and discussed - “Bounty-Ten Ways to Increase Giving at your Church”
2. Discussed how we could assist with the Session’s creation of a Legacy Fund
3. Promoted the sale of “Memorial Bricks”
4. Ended the year supporting the FPCL Session’s recommendation that the Funds Committee duties be turned over to a “Legacy Fund Advisory Board” to be managed by Session, thus updating the structure of FPCL governance.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
Karen Wilson-Fontaine, Chair

## Intergenerational Ministry

Elders: Janet Dimits, Cathy Schultz, Alyssa Wolf

Staff Liaison: Brie MacLaren, Jen Wilde

Intergenerational Ministry has had a great year continuing some of the successful events we have established over the last couple years in addition to adding new ones. While new events have been cultivated in recent years our church has also been intentional in pursuing volunteer and leadership opportunities for people of all generations. We hope this continues to be an area our church can grow in and strive toward in all ministry areas.

We kicked off 2025 with a **Comedy Night**. We invited local pastor and comedian Jacob Parnell to entertain us for the night. It was also a fundraiser for our mission partner, Pathlight Ministries. The night was filled with music, fun, tapas, and dessert and well received. There is great enthusiasm for doing more events of this nature in the future.



In March we had an **Ice Cream Social Justice night**. We invited the church community out to enjoy ice cream and hear from some of our local mission partners that are doing fantastic work in our community. We heard from City Serve, Interfaith Housing, and Open Heart Kitchen.

In June, we helped with hosting the ministry fair after church. The afternoon included tacos, a bounce house, snow cones, and opportunities to find ways to volunteer at church.

We hosted a movie night as the church kicked off the summer sermon series, Now Showing: Faith in Film.

One of the major highlights for Intergenerational Ministry continues to be the **women's retreat** held in October. The theme was built on "**Life Together**" presented by Guest Pastor Cassie Carroll from Palisades Presbyterian Church. Over 70 women were in attendance and explored how we could impact others by sharing God's love.



We rounded out the year with a new event, **Novemberfest**. This was a well-received event that invited the whole congregation out for line dancing, live music, and fellowship.

We are excited to see what 2026 holds for Intergenerational Ministries and our church community. Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we partner in ministry with you.



**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Brie MacLaren, Intergenerational Ministry*

## Intergenerational - Children's Ministry

Elders: Janet Dimits, Cathy Schultz, Alyssa Wolf

Staff Liaison: Brie MacLaren, Jen Wilde

2025 was a year filled with many wonderful events and activities at FPCL and Children's Ministry. We offered Sunday School during the 10:30 am service, along with childcare during the 9:30 am and 10:30 am services. In addition to our childcare and elementary classrooms, we opened a third classroom for our TK and Kindergarten children. This was a great addition for this age group to explore biblical stories and themes in developmentally appropriate ways. It allowed those kids a space that works for their age and teaching them about Jesus in ways accessible to them.

Sunday mornings continue to be a great opportunity for kids to explore their faith and connect with other children. Kids are enjoying our Sunday morning curriculum as it allows them to explore their faith through different learning modalities.



In addition to our regular Sunday morning program we hosted an Easter egg hunt, Parent's Night Out, Movie Nights, and events for the whole family.

Over summer, Children's Ministry brought on Amber Hayes as our intern. We were so fortunate to have Amber on staff this past summer to take on many tasks and work on some much-needed projects, help teach Sunday mornings and help with other ministries in our church. We are very thankful that we have had the ability to bring on interns the past several summers. Not only does this help Children's Ministry reset during the summer

by allowing volunteers to take a break, but it gives recent high school graduates work and ministry experience.

In August Intergenerational Ministries Director, Brie MacLaren went on maternity leave for a few months after welcoming her baby boy. During this time, we brought on Isabelle Hayes to help with Children's and Intergenerational ministries. Jen Wilde and Isabelle did a wonderful job seeing that ministries continued to thrive while Brie was on leave. We are very blessed to have such incredible staff members in our ministry area.

The school year kicked off with a Children and Student "Open House". The classrooms were open for families and our congregation to see where children and students go each week and what they would be doing as programs kicked-off in August.



Throughout Advent we had one service each Sunday as a church family. This allowed for our kids who come to either of the weekly services offered to be together for the month of December. Advent is a month of traditions for Children's Ministry as we continue to hold the Bethlehem Marketplace and Annual Christmas Pageant. This year we involved the whole congregation in the pageant, which was a fun way to tell the story of Jesus's birth.

What a blessing it is to do life and ministry with the families in our church community.

**Respectfully Submitted,** *Brie MacLaren, Intergenerational Ministry*

## Intergenerational - Student Ministry

Elders: Janet Dimits, Cathy Schultz, Alyssa Wolf

Staff Liaison: Tanner Roberts

2026 is shaping up to be another strong year for our Student Ministry. As we reflect on 2025, we're grateful for the ways God has been at work in and through our students.

Throughout the year, our Sunday 10:30am youth group remained a steady place for teaching, discussion, and connection. Our Thursday evening middle school group, the Gathering, continued to grow, becoming a consistent midweek anchor for many students. Together, these gatherings created space for friendship, encouragement, and spiritual growth.

This year we also walked alongside a confirmation class of five students as they asked hard questions, deepened their understanding of faith, and made their own commitments to our church. It was a joy to see them choose to follow after Christ.

We shared a full calendar of events, including movie nights, beach days, service projects, and fun-filled activities. A major highlight was our winter retreat to Twain Harte, where students spent focused time in worship, teaching, and fellowship, as well as some fun time sledding down the mountains.

Over the summer, our middle school kids participated in a mission trip to Oakland, where they engaged directly with the needs of Oakland's un-housed and learned what it looks like to live out their faith beyond familiar settings.

Looking ahead, we're excited to continue both Sunday and Thursday youth groups and to build on the momentum of this past year. Plans are already underway for our next winter retreat, with many more events besides.

As we move forward, our goal remains the same: to help students grow in their relationship with Christ and with one another. We look forward to what God will do in the year ahead!

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Tanner Roberts, Intergenerational Ministry*

## Mission & Service Team

Elders: Clayton Salch, Steve Stewart, Tim Zwier

Staff Liaison: Pastor Steve Wilde & Pastor Josh Jonas

Team: Ron & Elsa Bernhardt, Rick Edson, Larry Fried, Shari Johnston, Ann Meiers, Kate Mullen, Amy Reichel, Tim Zwier

Mission and Service takes inspiration from the gospel of Jesus (*Centered in Christ*), engages our congregation in service projects (*Celebrating Community*), and provides financial support that changes lives (*Serving Others*). Our monetary contributions to partner organizations seek these goals: **Empowering youth and families, Nurturing well-being, Promoting inclusion, Direct assistance**

Because of the faithful generosity of the FPCL congregation, we are able to support ministries that meet immediate needs, strengthen local partnerships, and expand our church's impact in the Tri-Valley and beyond. Thank you for your continued commitment to serving others in Christ's name.

### Direct assistance and local compassion

#### Giving Tree & Advent Service Project:

In partnership with Tri-Valley Haven, FPCL's Giving Tree ministry provided 127 gift cards totaling \$3,175, plus \$200 in cash gifts. During an Advent service event, the congregation also assembled 1100 pounds of bulk food items into family holiday food packages that were delivered to Open Heart Kitchen Food Bank for distribution to local food pantries for neighbors in need during the Christmas season.

#### Christmas Eve Offering (Local Impact):

FPCL's Christmas Eve offering in 2025 was designated to two local organizations, supporting Night to Shine, which offers a prom experience for individuals who have special needs and the Smart Start Preschool Scholarship Fund. This special offering totaled \$8,742 and reflects FPCL's commitment to empowering youth and families, nurturing well-being, and providing direct assistance in our community. We are grateful for the congregation's generous participation in lifting up these ministries.

#### Faith-in-action support:

Early in the year, we were able to respond to urgent housing-related needs that arose locally, helping a young couple remain housed through short-term rent support and coordinated care.

## **Hands-on service that mobilizes the whole church**

### **CityServe Partnership & FPCL Coat Drive:**

The Hands-on Service team continued developing FPCL’s relationship with CityServe of the Tri-Valley, attending quarterly Church Liaison meetings and sharing partnership opportunities with the congregation. One standout outcome was the FPCL Coat Drive, a four-week fall initiative that gathered 429 coats/jackets, far exceeding the original goal. Mission & Service looks forward to continued coordination in 2026—including exploring volunteer participation in CityServe’s “Souper Tuesdays,” which provides weekly lunch for around 20 people.

### **Interfaith Backpack Project & Beans/Rice Packing:**

FPCL continued supporting the Livermore Interfaith Backpack Project, with congregants filling 144 senior high and elementary school packs to prepare students for the school year. In addition, FPCL supported three beans-and-rice packing events in 2025. Drivers delivered 7,800 pounds of food to 21 locations—supporting food pantries and community kitchens throughout the Tri-Valley. (One October event alone packed 2,600 pounds of goods!)

### **Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP):**

This year included multiple opportunities to serve families through Sleep in Heavenly Peace, including participation in multiple bed builds and a highly successful bedding drive in the fall. FPCL’s Bedding Drive exceeded our goal of 100 sets, collecting 108 full sheet + comforter sets, plus 28 additional sheet sets, 22 mattress pads, and 6 pillows. We also finalized the delivery of the \$11,900 raised at the end of 2024 for SHP—supporting their work ensuring children do not have to sleep on the floor.

### **Open Heart Kitchen (OHK):**

We took meaningful steps toward establishing ongoing service with Open Heart Kitchen, including coordinating group volunteer participation. In late 2025, we committed to a recurring volunteer opportunity in OHK’s Food Pantry operations. The FPCL community will sort donated produce on the first Monday of every month which is then distributed to local food pantries. We plan to build this into frequent FPCL service pathways in 2026.

## **Congregational engagement and connection**

### **Mission Fair:**

Our Mission Fair on October 12 was a joyful and well-attended highlight of the fall, helping the church connect faces and stories to the ministries FPCL supports.

### Looking ahead to 2026

- Mission & Service will continue building sustainable, congregation-friendly service rhythms—especially with partners where hands-on service strengthens relationships and complements FPCL’s giving. Key upcoming areas include:
- **Arukah House & Crab Feed** (February 7, 2026): strengthening connection and visibility
- **Night to Shine** (February 13, 2026): continuing FPCL support and participation
- **CityServe**: expanding partnership, including potential volunteer teams for Souper Tuesdays
- **Open Heart Kitchen**: establishing a consistent group schedule for Food Pantry support
- **Interfaith Backpack Project and Beans/Rice events**: continuing these high-participation, high-impact service days
- **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**: continuing to support builds, deliveries, and bedding drives as needed

**Gratitude** We want to say clearly, and with full hearts: thank you, FPCL church family. Your generosity, your willingness to show up, and your care for neighbors make this ministry possible. Mission and Service activities—both giving and hands-on work—are only possible through your faithful support. We are humbled by the trust the church places in this team and grateful to serve together in the work of the Lord.

Nurturing Well-being	
Arukah House	3,174.
Goodness Village	5,200.
Living Waters	5,000.
Love Never Fails	2,200.
Pathlight International	4,678.
Pilgrims of Ibillin	2,620.
Tri-Valley Haven	3,225.
Promoting Inclusion	
Axis Community Health	7,150.
Covenant Network of Presbyterians	5,000.
Culinary Angels	2,000.
Livermore Pride Sponsorship	804.
Night to Shine (Christmas Eve offering)	4,371.
Presbytery Special Offerings	
Christmas Joy Offering	500.
One Great Hour of Sharing	2,426.
Peacemaking-Presbytery	1,090.
Pentecost offering	160.

Empowering Youth and Families	
Interfaith Backpack Project	4,344.00
Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay	15,575.00
Kids Bike Lane	4,400.00
Pre-school Scholarship (Christmas Eve offering)	4,371.00
Sleep in Heavenly Peace	2,020.00
Engaging in Direct Assistance	
Aid for Hungry	7,720.00
Monthly Miracles	3,750.00
Sundry aid offered	1,800.00
Open Heart Kitchen	9,300.00
Rent assistance	1,933.41
PC(USA) Disaster Relief Southern CA Wildfires	8,470.00
PC(USA) Disaster Relief Myanmar Earthquake	3,000.00
PC(USA) Disaster Relief Texas Flooding	4,550.00
PC(USA) General Disaster relief	2,000.00
Reimbursement - Rice & Beans Project	5,198.13

**Respectfully Submitted, Mission & Service Team**

## Ministry Resources

Elders: David Brewer (Chair), Dave Craig (Stewardship), Don Frey (Buildings and Grounds)

Team: Don Bartel, Rob Couberly, Rollin Harding, Lynne Mullins

Staff: Jane Ackley, Danielle Hayes, Steve Wilde

The Ministry Resources (MR) committee is focused on making sure FPCL has the funding and facility resources needed to carry out the church's mission in the service of Jesus Christ.

Committee members coordinate the annual stewardship drive, meet with Accounting Specialist, Danielle Hayes to review monthly financial statements, and review the church financial picture at monthly Session meetings.

We develop the annual budget in consultation with other ministry areas and staff.

Together with Danielle Hayes, we proactively manage the retirement of the church mortgage, in particular by timing loan prepayments so as to minimize interest costs and to expedite loan retirement while avoiding prepayment penalties.

During 2025, our outstanding loan balance was reduced from \$136,073 to \$42,005. The projected payoff of the loan has been advanced by nearly two years, from May 2028 to July 2026, with savings in interest of over \$21,500.

The vitality and growth of our congregation is reflected in the results from this year's annual stewardship drive. By the end of the year, we had received 163 estimates of giving, up from the 158 received by the same time last year, an increase of 3%. The total amount of these estimates of giving was \$850,750, an increase of 9% over the \$799,180 received last year.

**Respectfully Submitted,** *David Brewer, Chair*

## Nominating

Elder: Sue Carling, Deacon: Rob Couberly

Staff Liaison: Pastor Steve Wilde,

Team: Kathy DeRego, Sarah Karpenko, Bob Taylor, Charles Troop

In April, the nominating Committee met monthly to select nominees for Elders, Deacons and Nominating Team. We are thankful for the folks who prayerfully considered responding to a call to serve the church in one of the open positions.

In October, we presented the following slate for election:

- Two elders to serve a second three-year term and three to replace outgoing elders.
- Five Deacons to replace outgoing Deacons.
- Two new members to serve on the Nominating Committee.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Sue Carling, Nominating Elder & Chair*

## Office

Staff: Jane Ackley, Heather Ceccanti, Danielle Hayes. Counters: Linda Alexander, Shirley Couberly

The office continues to support the various areas of ministry with publications, copies of items per requests from groups.

Along with the day to day tasks, the office infrastructure is kept up to date - computers, network, electronic filing system etc..

We entered into a 5-year lease with a new copier company and the machine is a much better fit for our needs than the previous one.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Jane Ackley, Director of Church Operations*

## Presbyterian Women

**Coordinating Team:** Susan Bond, Phyllis Brewer, Pennie Clouser, Joy Fischer, Zel Helstrom, Christine Holsen, Nancy Holve, Sally Swanson, Karen Vied

Everything we do as an organization and as a community is guided by our Presbyterian Women purpose, and that includes ministry, resources, and relationships. Faith is nurtured and growth takes place through worship, study, friendship, and outreach. Christian leadership is born, nurtured, and sent forth into ministry.

**Together in Service:** Women use their skills and talents to create handmade goods for people in need. We meet monthly on the 2nd Saturday (*much of the work is done at home*).

- 27 prayer shawls have been delivered to members of our community and beyond
- 52 baby hats, 1 knitted baby dress, 1 baby blanket to Little Miracles in Pleasanton
- 34 fleece blankets to United for Restorative Youth Justice (youth coming out of Foster Care)
- 24 hats and 10 scarves went to Open Heart Kitchen from Sherry’s “Needle” group.

### Monthly Life Groups (Circles)

PW has three circles that meet monthly to enjoy fellowship, support mission projects and have Bible study. Our Horizons Bible study for 2025-26 is “Finding Resilience, Joy and our Identity in Jesus Christ”. In September, we were able to have Dr. Rhashell Hunter, the author of our Bible study come and speak to our PW Presbytery women. Denia Segrest lead our first lesson at our Fall Gathering in September. Denia continues to lead our monthly lessons the first Sunday of the month.

## Mission Activities for 2025

January	Presbyterian Disaster Aid	\$ 356.00
February	Vineyard Resource Center Open Heart Kitchen	\$ 314.00
March	Love Never Fails	\$ 393.00
April	PW Birthday Offering	\$305.00
May/June	Women in Military Scholarship	\$212.00
July/Aug.	Backpack support	- - -
September	Nurse Fund (LVJUSD)	\$470.00
October	Presbyterian Disaster Aid	\$307.00
November	Blanket Sunday Thank Offering	\$3,221 \$235
December	Circles support: Giving Tree	\$25.00
<b>TOTAL PW MISSION GIVING</b>		<b>\$5,838.50</b>



## Presbyterian Women

continued . . .

PW participates in the **Least Coin Offering** at their meetings to supplement a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer and reconciliation. Monies go to help fund about 35 to 50 projects.

**Women’s Retreat** this year was at Enchanted Hills in late March with 30 women attending. Barbara Barkley was our speaker and the theme for the retreat was “Dreams.”

PW continues to have a “**game day**” every 4th Thursday of the month to play board games, cards, and puzzles etc. Men are invited too!

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Phyllis Brewer,**  
**Coordinating Team Member**

## Smart Start Preschool

Owner: Dan Karlsen

Executive & Site Director: Rebecca Hardesty

### Enrollment & Staffing

Smart Start continues to serve over 90 students annually, with an average daily attendance of approximately 70 students. This year, we made slight adjustments to classroom age groupings to align with the public school Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program. We are now in our third year with minimal staff turnover. Maintaining consistency among our teaching staff remains a priority, as it provides stability, continuity, and strong relationships within our classrooms.

### Community Engagement

We are grateful for our strong and supportive parent community, whose ongoing referrals play an important role in our continued growth. To foster connection and engagement, Smart Start hosts monthly events that allow families to build relationships with one another and with our teaching staff.

### Facilities & Improvements

Several facility and campus improvements were completed this year. New tanbark was added to the playground, along with upgrades to playground equipment. All door guards on the back doors were replaced, and a new fan was installed in the staff bathroom. Additionally, the playground and grass areas were power washed, and all windows were professionally cleaned.

### Health & Maintenance

To maintain a clean and healthy environment, carpets are professionally cleaned four to five times per year during scheduled school closures.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
*Rebecca Hardesty, Director of Smart Start Preschool*

## Worship Team

Elders: Alice Klingmann, Ellen Myli

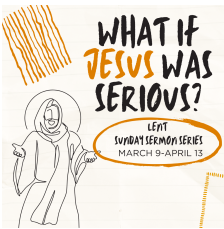
Team: Dane Alexander (Head Usher/Ambassador), Cathy Griggs (Staff), Janet Holmes (Staff)

Staff Liaison: Pastor Steve Wilde

FPCL continues to offer three worship services on Sunday mornings:

- 8:00 (Reflective), 9:30 (Modern), 10:30 (Traditional)

The Traditional service is held in the Sanctuary while the other two services are held in the Chapel. Each service is different and distinct from the others and each has a faithful following.



The Lenten season featured a thought-provoking sermon series called “What if Jesus was Serious”, based on a book by the same name. In addition to Sunday morning services during lent, we offered Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services. All were well attended. Easter was a beautiful service with plants and flowers provided by Alden Lane. The 9am service had 175 attendees (in person and online) and the 11am service had 460 (in person and online).

During the summer, the Worship Team opted to have one service at 10:00am. Our goal was to have a more comfortably full sanctuary and allow congregants to interact with people from all services. It also gave Sunday morning volunteers and staff a break. Feedback was very positive. People understood the rationale for one service and almost all said they would support having this schedule again next summer.

During Advent, we also offered one Sunday morning service at 10:00am for similar reasons. Our hope was for a united congregation celebrating the birth of Christ together. The services were well attended and well received. The music provided by the choir and various instrumentalists lifted spirits and contributed to feelings of sacred joy. Several of the pastors contributed to the Advent sermon series called “Unwrapping Christmas”. The sermons were very creative! Poinsettias, wrapped gifts, and our new wall banners (that can be used with the new HVAC system) decorated the Sanctuary.



In addition to Sunday morning services, we continued offering the Blue Christmas service to support those who struggle with a variety of emotions, especially loss and sadness, during the holidays. Also, the choir gave a beautiful concert to a packed house in the sanctuary on a mid-December Sunday afternoon.



Christmas Eve services were offered at 4:00pm and 9:00pm.

The 4:00pm time was a change from the usual 5:00pm service time we have had in the past. Our goal was to make it easier for families with children to attend and then be able to spend time with family in the evening. 185 attended the early service (in person/online) and 251 attended the later one. As it was windy & raining outside, the candlelit Silent Night hymn at the end was held indoors at both services and was still very beautiful and meaningful.



Although the Worship Team feels that our schedule of services is working well, we are always looking for feedback from the congregation and ways to improve the Sunday morning experience.

We held two “Worship Retreats” that included our group as well as representatives from each of the worship services. The ideas and perspectives we gained from these small groups was invaluable and will impact plans and decisions about our worship offerings in the future.

The Worship Team would like to thank our devoted and talented staff and many volunteers as we strive to provide a meaningful and attractive worship experience for our congregants, attendees, and community at large.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Alice Klingmann and Ellen Myli - Worship Elders*

## Young Adult Ministry

Our Young Adult Group continues to grow! We have shared a wonderful year together, from marriages to the completion of PhDs, and many more milestones besides. Our regular Sunday meetings have offered us a place to connect and grow, and the addition of monthly dinners together have given us time for deep relational connection.

We've enjoyed a variety of events over the year, including a retreat to Santa Barbara alongside several other churches to participate in Westmont College's Young Adult Leadership Lab program. We also held a camping retreat at Lake Alpine, and a variety of holiday parties throughout the year. We've also seen members of our group become even more integrated into the life of our church, including volunteering with a variety of mission partners and serving on session.

Looking forward, we plan to hold some YAG events for the whole church, as well as starting a midweek Bible study. We can't wait to see how God will use our group in the new year!

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Tanner Roberts, Young Adult Ministry*

## 2025 in Photos



# 2025 in Photos





First Presbyterian  
Church Livermore

2020 Fifth St. Livermore, CA 94550  
925.447.2078 | [office@fpcl.us](mailto:office@fpcl.us) | [www.fpcl.us](http://www.fpcl.us)