FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF UPLAND



"TAKING A RISK"

One of my favorite Advent poems is by Madeleine L'Engle, a devout Christian writer of devotional books, and God-filled fiction. She is perhaps best known for her Wrinkle in Time book series.

(continued on page 2)

PASTOR TINA BLAIR



This poem reads:

This is no time for a child to be born
With the earth betrayed by war and hate
And a comet slashing the sky to warn
That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honor and truth were trampled by scorn --
Yet here did the Savior make his home.

When is the time for a child to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by a comet a sky is torn –
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.
Madeleine L'Engle[1]

What a risk God took, to become enfleshed, a mortal, human creature! What love and courage to risk all the vulnerabilities of the human body -- experiencing the beating heart, the pumping lungs, the strength of muscles, the softness of skin – and all the joys and pains that these bring. God took this risk out of enormous love for us – born as we are born, small and vulnerable, growing up and living as we live, needing food, shelter, work, companionship. And then dying as we die, and in a terrible manner; finally, bringing us new, abundant and eternal life through his resurrection. You know the story and all that God risked for us in the Son. Cannot we not take some risks for him, our Savior?

Being a Christian, a person of faith, is risky. Simply deciding to believe in Jesus is something of a "leap of faith," seeming illogical to many around us. Living as a Christian is even riskier. We spend our lives having to think about our actions, about whether what we do is following the teachings of our Lord. Will I stand up for that person being gossiped about? Will I deal with my anger without hurting another by my words? Will I reach out to someone very different from me and try to understand and love them? How grateful we are that the Holy Spirit enfolds, empowers and guides us!

We are now in the Season of Advent, preparing to celebrate the birth of our God in mortal flesh, God's risky act of pure love. I like to think of Advent as the beginning of an adventure, God's adventure offered to us. It is an adventure filled with learning and growing spiritually, with prayer and praise, with new family and friends – and it is an adventure filled with risks, little and big. However, we do not do this on our own; we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, working through the Body of Christ on earth, the church. And the rewards are priceless!

Are you ready? Will you continue to join this marvelous, rewarding, risky adventure? Let us prepare and celebrate the coming of our God!

Pastor Tina

ELEVATE MATT SHOOL



PARENT RESOURCE

Scan this QR code to open a valuable family resource on participating in Advent as a family



TRUSTEES

Good day to our "in-house" and "online" congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Upland.

Normally, the trustees would send out pledge cards and collect them on Reformation Sunday, the last Sunday of October. For the 2027 pledge year, you will receive your pledge cards soon, and we will begin accepting them on November 29th, the first Sunday of Advent. The theme focuses on the joyful anticipation for both the birth of Jesus and His promised return. WHAT A GIFT! Your pledge in 2027 is a gift, and we joyfully anticipate it as we prepare for the mission outreach of First Presbyterian Church of Upland, as well as our mission to find a new pastor. The mission of First Pres is not possible without all of us being witnesses to Christ, His good news, and His kingdom. It would be good for all of us to be part of a congregation where every member is deeply committed, ever growing, deeply connected, and always sharing our walk with Christ.

What to do with the 2027 Pledge Card: Fill out and bring your 2027 Pledge card to service and place it in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office, or mail it to the church at First Presbyterian Church of Upland, 869 North Euclid Ave, Upland, CA 91786

We appreciate you and your support for First Presbyterian Church of Upland.
Blessings from the Trustees,
Gary, Sue, Van, Shawn & Herb



GATHER SUE FRAZEE

On Saturday, November 21st we gathered for our annual church family Thanksgiving Feast. The food was delicious, the fellowship was unsurpassed and the entertainment was the best!




















LADIES IN FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER



Get a lift from LIFT

(Ladies in Fellowship Together)

It's That Most Wonderful Time of the Year! The JAMMRS Are Back To Entertain Us with Holiday Favorites and More

Friday, December 11, 11am -1 pm, Hart Hall

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

If you've been with LIFT for a while, you know that we love music – especially at Christmas! One of our favorite groups has been the Jammrs and they will be joining us again to celebrate the season with the songs that we love, including Christmas favorites.

And to make it more fun, as has been done in the past we will be joining them for a couple of sing-alongs, says organizer Micki Daniels. She, Ali Smilgis, and Monie Guerra have been performing together around the Inland Empire for eight years now. They have performed at community centers, churches, senior living centers, and private parties.

Daniels says they want their singing not only to be entertaining but inspiring and to help remind us of the good times in our lives.

Following a time of worship and a devotion, The JAMMRS will perform and lead us in singing the songs we know and love. So warm up your singing voice!

Lunch is being provided, so please sign up after church service on November 29 and December 6, or contact Carol Diess, 626-482-8862.

Christmas Lunch Will Be Provided!

To be sure we plan for enough food, please sign up after church service on November 29 or December 6, or contact Carol Diess, 626-482-8862



Thank you for your generous donations to support LIFT








BRUNCH
WITH SANTA
SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY. DECEMBER 20TH.
11:15AM – 1:00PM
BRING THE KIDS!

ADVENT--CHRISTMAS WORSHIP:STORIES OF HOPE

Sunday November 29
Hope: Isaiah and the Prophets

Sunday December 6
Faith: Zechariah and Elizabeth
Holy Communion

Sunday December 13
Joy: Mary and the Angel Gabriel

Sunday December 20
Peace: The Birth Story
Children's Nativity
The Madrigal Singers
Breakfast with Santa (after worship)

Thursday December 24: Christmas Eve
Love: the birth of Jesus
Stories from the Innkeeper, a Shepherd, and a Wise Man

Carols and music will fill our worship together!
All are welcome!

DECEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1- Barker	2- Beaton	3- Borger	4- Bragg	5- Bridge
6	7- Brown, H.	8- Brown, M.	9- Baskin	10- Carder	11- Carpenter	12- Chaffino
13	14- Cook, D.	15- Cook, G.	16- Cowles	17- Curija	18- Custer	19- D'Monte
20	21- Davidson	22- Day	23- Decauwer	24- Decker	25- Diess	26- Doss
27	28- Ecklund	29- Emrich	30- Ferguson	31- Fogle		.

Please pray for healing and restoration for:

Jean Vanvieldt, Bill Howie, Lynn McClelland,
Joni Stallings, David Brinkley, Kay Hester, Iris Joiner,
Terry King

Pray for those who are homebound or in assisted living:
Beth Brinkley, Jan McCrea-Foster

Please call Gael in the office if we need to update any information. Thank you. 909-982-8811.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 Gene Doss
01 Chuck Merryman
03 Lynn Amason
06 Janet Kaufman
09 Jennifer Joiner
10 Joy Subject
12 Jonah Anguka
14 Susan Anguka
20 Emma Suzi Anguka
21 Isabella Roman
22 Carol Harkins
24 Connie Phillips
29 Chinma Oji

We would also like to extend birthday greetings to any other December 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!

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 3pm **Connect** 6pm **Serve** 7pm **Gather** AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	**2** 5pm Elevate	**3** 5:30pm **Bells** 6pm **Deacons** Palabra Church 7-11pm HH	**4** 6:30-11pmHH Palabra Church Korean Church upstaiirs730-8:30	**5**
6 **10am Worship with Communion** **1pm Radiant Church-Sanc.** **2-7pm Palabra Church-HH** **9-12:30Korean Church upstairs**	**7** 5:30pm Bells Personnel 7:30pm AA upstairs	**8** 6pm **Trustees** AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	**9** 5pm Elevate	**10** 5:30pm Bells Palabra Church 7-11pm HH	**11** **LIFT** **11 am to 1 pm** Palabra Church 6:30-11pm HH Korean Church upstaiirs730-8:30	**12**
13 **10am Worship** **1pm Radiant Church-Sanc.** **2-7pm Palabra Church-HH** **9-12:30 Korean Church upstairs** ***Grow***	**14** 5:30pm Bells 7:30pm AA upstairs	**15** AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR **Staff Christmas**	**16** 5pm Elevate	**17** 5:30pm Bells Palabra Church 7-11pm HH Preschool Programs	**18** Palabra Church 6:30-11pm HH Korean Church upstairs 7:30-8:30 Preschool Programs	**19**
20 **10 am Worship** **Breakfast with Santa** **1pm Radiant Church-Sanc.** **2-7pm Palabra Church-HH** **9-12:30Korean Church upstairs**	**21** 5:30 Bells 7:30pm AA upstairs	**22** **6:30pm SESSION** AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	**23** 5pm Elevate	**24** **7pm Christmas Eve Service** Palabra Church 7-11pm HH	**25** Palabra Church 6:30-11pm HH Korean Church upstaiirs730-8:30 **Christmas Day**	**26**
27 **10 am Worship** **1pm Radiant Church-Sanc.** **2-7pm Palabra Church-HH** **9-12:30Korean Church upstairs**	**28** 5:30pm Bells 7:30pm AA upstairs	**29**	**30**	**31** 5:30pm Bells Palabra Church 7-11pm HH **New Years Eve**		

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF UPLAND

GROWING IN CHRIST,
MAKING HIM KNOWN,
WELCOMING ALL.



Trustees

Gary Custer, President
Sue Frazee, Vice President
Van Romine, Treasurer
Shawn Kathol,

Staff

Tina Blair, Bridge Pastor
Matt Shool, Youth Ministries
Jannina Guzman, Office Manager
Gael Lecce, Receptionist

Misty Wren, Preschool Director
Nadina Rearte, Director's Assistant

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Gary Custer
Frank Fogle
Sue Frazee
Sue Fredendall
Diane Hallihan
Lisa Murdy
Randy Righetti
Van Romine
Jim Smirl
Donna Strowger
Tony Webner

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Norma Lee Beaton
Carol Diess
Loreto D'Monte
Ebie Fogle
Janet Hunt
Kathy Kler
Gerri Mowery
Lisa Murdy
Margaret Pilcher
Ocha Ukwu

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