

# FIRST PRESS

THE NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF UPLAND



## WAITING FOR PENTECOST

**W**e are now in the season many people call “Eastertide.” It is a time both of rejoicing and of waiting. We rejoice as we call out, “Christ is Risen!” and respond, “He is Risen indeed!” Death is overcome, our Lord is alive! But, at the same time we wait, as the disciples do in our scriptures. Jesus shows up here and there, visits gatherings of the disciples, but no real action occurs. We wait for something more to happen. In our day, we would say, “What are the next steps, Jesus?”

*(continued on page 2)*

# WAITING FOR PENTECOST

REV. TINA BLAIR

Jesus' next step was to lead them to a mountain or hill (Bethany in Luke's Gospel; Galilee in Matthew's), bless them, give them a commission, and then disappear as he ascends into heaven. More waiting seems to be before them. The disciples do not run off and scatter, as they did after the crucifixion. Instead, according to Luke, they "worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God" (Luke 24:52-53). They will soon be rewarded with being given the gift of the Holy Spirit, to be with them and all who believe. It is the gift of Jesus' presence in Spirit, not limited by space and time.

This month we will celebrate the Ascension of Jesus (May 14) and then Pentecost, the giving of the Holy Spirit (May 24). We are blessed that we have been given the Spirit in our baptism and that each year we can celebrate Pentecost and the day we often call "the Birthday of the Christian Church." We wear red, orange and yellow to remember the flames of the Spirit that hovered over the heads of the disciples.

At FPCU we are also waiting – waiting for a more permanent interim pastor, for a Mission Study, and eventually, for a permanent pastor. Can we wait the same way the disciples did, worshipping together with great joy, and blessing God? Can we continue to trust God and know that the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, is with us and guides us?

Of course we can! Let's wait with joy and trust, offering thanks and blessings to our God whose great love for us surrounds and sustains us, now and forevermore!



# ELEVATE MATT SHOOL

## All About Boys... And Their Moms

Author: Traci Keene

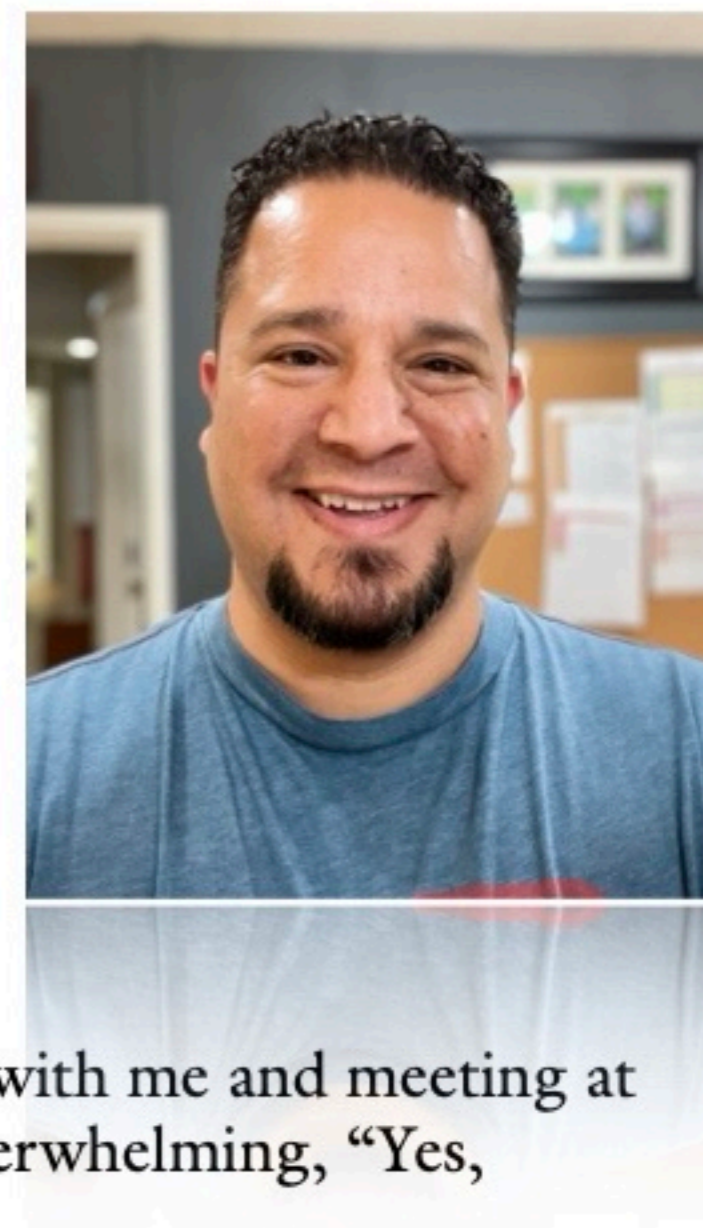
Source: RootedMinistry.com | March 22, 2021

Back in the fall of 2020, while I was out to dinner with a couple of fellow “all-boy moms,” one of them shared a podcast with us: All About Boys with David Thomas. Between the 3 of us we have 10 sons, and we need all the help we can get.

After listening to the very first podcast, “The Five Stages of Development,” I was so encouraged and challenged, as a mom of two boys ages 9 and 12. There was still hope! That’s when I heard that “still, small voice” saying that I wasn’t the only one that needed to hear this... so out went a group text message to all my boy mom friends, asking if anyone was interested in listening with me and meeting at my home on Friday mornings to discuss. Then came the responses: it was an overwhelming, “Yes, please!” and so our 8-week study of All About Boys began.

After several weeks of meeting, gleaning truths from David on topics such as “Boys and Screens” “Boys and Mothers,” and one of our very favorites, “Boys and Purpose,” we decided to end with a celebration so we could put all that we learned into practice.

That celebration was a mother/son dinner at nice restaurant with all of our boys. Not one, but THREE different dinners (one for our 3rd/4th graders, one for our 5th/6th graders, and one for families that did not feel comfortable eating inside of a restaurant still) were planned and expectations were set! Breaking up the dinners allowed for one-on-one time for those of us who have multiple sons of different ages, because real life isn’t like the group dates you see on the Bachelorette.



The key was all about setting the expectations! We even told the boys that they had to dress up. Some boys wore suits, some wore ties, and mine were lucky to find a pair of jeans that they hadn’t outgrown and put on a shirt that wasn’t a soccer jersey.

Our boys brought us flowers, opened doors, wrote us cards, held our hands, and sat next to their mom “date.” (Dads jumped in on this part and gave the pre-game talk to our boys before the big night).

Before arriving that evening, each mom chose one word to describe their son that was written on their son’s place card. Each boy wrote out a personal card for their mom telling them why they were the “best mom in the world.” While waiting to be served, the moms went around the table describing their son and why they chose that one word for them. One of the younger boys asked his mom that night at bedtime if she really thought he was “strong.” That was the word that she had chosen for him. He had thought about it all night.

During the dinner, we practiced the art of conversation by having conversation starter cards on each table to help with the flow (thanks to David’s podcast on “Boys and Emotions”). Having each boy sit next to his own mom prevented us from separating ourselves with boys on one end of the table and moms on the other.

Most importantly, there were **NO SCREENS** during a two hour sit-down dinner. The evening ended with delicious bite-size desserts, a few group pics, and lots of sweet conversations. On the way home, my 9-year-old held my hand and said, “I had the best time, Mom!!! My favorite parts were the desserts, the conversations, and time with you. It was actually all worth having to get dressed up nice.”

Thank you all (and especially David) for inspiring us to step into our boys’ worlds, helping us understand them a little bit more, and encouraging us in how to come alongside the boys we love.



# FROM TRUSTEES GARY CUSTER

## Per Capita Apportionment

May – the second week of May in Ohio was bird migration time. Becky and I would go to Magee Marsh Wildlife area on Lake Erie either side of Mother’s Day each year and walk the Board Walk to see all the different birds, (300 species) and try to identify them. It was a special time for us each year.

Now that I have your attention, I want to introduce you to **PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT**.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) uses an annual per member assessment to share the expenses of their presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly. The amount varies with the needs of the presbytery, synod and General Assembly, and is a regular expense payable by FPCU at the spring meeting of Riverside Presbytery. Per Capita is used for administrative and ecclesiastical costs. It may be described as “covenant funding” or “shared mission cost,” supporting church governance, ordination exams, and administrative duties that connect local churches. The amount to be paid by FPCU Session this year is based on the number of per communicants (Active Members).

When you received your tithe envelopes for 2026 there was a blue envelope with your white tithe envelopes which is your PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT envelope. On the top of your box of tithe envelopes it says, “ Per Capita for 2026 – The Presbytery Per Capita Assessment for 2026 is \$40.00 per member. Please put your contribution in the blue envelope and place it in the offering plate. The session will be sure it is forwarded to Riverside Presbytery.

Thank you,  
Gary Custer, President,  
Trustees



# SESSION AND FINANCIAL REPORT

## Session Notes

The Session met on March 26 and approved the following motions:

- That Jack Shool be hired as Service Media Director;
- That Ava Shool be hired as Service Media Assistant;
- That FPCU extend Pastor Tina Blair’s call as Bridge Pastor to June 7, 2026;
- To celebrate the Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday, April 2
- To host Arise Joy Ringers on May 16. Half of the freewill offering will go to FPCU.
- Elected Barbara Hansen to serve on the Interim Pastor Search Committee to replace Sue Frazee (serving with Tony Webner and Gary Custer)
- Approved adding Sarah Richardson, Lynne Barker, Judy Alford to the Mission Study team with Diane Hallihan and Van Romine (chairperson). A few more persons are needed.

Riverside Presbytery Leader, Rev. Dr. Frances Lin, gave a report on her search for applicants for the Interim Pastor Position. She has approached several people who have declined, and therefore is still searching throughout the area and beyond.

## Session-Deacon Retreat

The Session and Board of Deacons met for a 4-hour retreat on Saturday May 11. They engaged in deep Bible study, prayer and discussion, and learning some history of our Presbyterian and Reformed faith. Much thinking took place about the ministries that work well, and the challenges for FPCU. Some concrete steps emerged, along with an agreement to keep working on future steps in order to be the faithful Body of Christ, the church in today’s world. Important priorities include:

- Communication: between Session and Deacons; between Session and the Congregation and Deacons and the Congregation; an elder-deacon will be added to the Session;
- Process: taking steps so that Session is informed and supportive and more members are involved;
- Ministries: reminding and informing the congregation of the many ministries and activities of the church and opening up ways for members to help out when they are able to.

## Treasurer's Report for the Month of March 2026

Through March, the church is in a solid financial position with net income well above budget thanks to a strong March and careful spending. Even though giving is a bit behind for the year, lower expenses have more than made up for it, leaving the church with a healthy surplus.

First Presbyterian Church of Upland Financial Summary				
SUMMARY	Income/Expense March 2026		Year to Date	
Opening Checkbook Bal.	\$ 17,618.38		\$ 17,218.61	
Added Voided Checks	\$ -		\$ -	
Income for Budget Accts.	\$ 71,671.58		\$ 138,113.07	
Security Deposit Received	\$ -		\$ -	
Transfer To/From Reserves	\$ -		\$ -	
Expenses for Budget Accts.	\$ (42,965.32)		\$ (111,607.04)	
Income for Non-Budget Accts.	\$ 560.00		\$ 3,160.00	
Disbursements for Non-Budget Accts.	\$ (450.00)		\$ (450.00)	
Partial Payment to Uncertainties Acct.				
<b>Checkbook Balance as of 3/31/2026</b>	<b>\$ 46,434.64</b>		<b>\$ 46,434.64</b>	
Note: (1) To Achieve \$6k Checkbook balance				
	<b>Collected / Expended March 2026</b>	<b>Monthly Budgeted</b>	<b>Collected / Expended Year to Date</b>	<b>Amount Budgeted to Date</b>
Pledge Income & Loose Offerings	\$ 60,108.54	\$ 31,255.00	\$ 109,344.35	\$ 93,765.00
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 42,965.32	\$ 46,544.00	\$ 111,607.04	\$ 139,632.00

## VBS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### VBS is Coming — And I Need You!

Vacation Bible School has always held a special place in my heart, and I'm so excited to share that I will be returning to First Pres. this summer to help lead VBS!

Many of you may remember that I once served as the Children's Director here, and while life has taken me in a different direction since then, this church and its children's ministry have never stopped feeling like home. My own kids have been part of VBS at First Pres. since Wyatt was in kindergarten. It has been a constant part of our summers and our story. Last year, when I brought my kids to VBS, I remember sitting there feeling emotional in a way I didn't expect. I was so happy watching them participate, but I also realized how deeply I missed being part of this ministry. I missed the laughter, the worship, the chaos (the good kind), and most of all, the kids. I missed the joy of helping them learn who God is and watching their faith begin to grow. That is why this opportunity means so much to me.

Children's ministry is not just "something we do" in the church — it is one of the most important callings we have. Our kids are growing up in a world full of noise, pressure, confusion, and influences that pull them farther and farther away from the truth of God. They are facing struggles at younger ages than ever before, and they need a foundation that is firm. They need to know they are loved, chosen, seen, and created with purpose. They need Jesus. And they need a church family willing to walk beside them.

That's what VBS is about. It's about planting seeds of faith, building a foundation of truth, and showing children that God is real, God is good, and they are never alone. It's about giving them memories they will carry into adulthood— moments that might one day become the reason they come back to God when life gets hard. This year, VBS is especially important because we currently do not have a full-time Children's Pastor. That means we need the whole church to rally together in a powerful way— and I truly believe we can.

I also want to personally ask for help.

I know volunteering can feel intimidating. It can feel overwhelming. You might think you aren't qualified or that you don't know enough. But I truly believe there is a job for everyone. There is a place for every personality, every age, and every skill set. You don't have to be a teacher. You don't have to be "great with kids." You just have to care about seeing the next generation of Christian children thriving. Whether you can lead a group, help with crafts, decorate, prep supplies, serve snacks, run games, help with registration, pray, or simply be an extra set of hands — you are needed. And you are valued.

If you don't know where you fit, I would love to help you find your place. And if you already have an idea of where you might serve best, please reach out. Let's come together as a church and make this year's VBS something unforgettable — not just for the kids, but for the entire community.

Thank you for supporting this ministry, for loving our children, and for believing in what God can do through something as simple and powerful as Vacation Bible School. Please reach out to me anytime. I can't wait to see what God is going to do.

Erika Schlegel at [erikaschlegel@live.com](mailto:erikaschlegel@live.com) or 909-917-2726



# EVENTS GATHER TEAM

GATHER TEAM has had a busy month.

We provided the food for the Passover Seder. We started out by providing the elements for traditional Seder plates. Then we served matzoh ball soup and salad followed by kosher macaroons.



We celebrated Easter Sunday by enjoying a potluck brunch with the Radiance Church. After an egg hunt for the kids we came inside and broke bread together. The food was delicious and the fellowship a delight!



**On Sunday May 3rd** we will celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a potluck brunch after service.

You may sign up to bring your favorite Mexican dish. We have some fabulous cooks in our congregation so get ready for a culinary delight!



**Get a lift from LIFT**

*(Ladies in Fellowship Together)*

**Going to the Dogs**

**UPD Officer Alvarran and his K-9 Partner Petey Will Share All About the Life of A Police Dog**

**Friday, May 8, 11 am -1 pm, Hart Hall**

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



Dogs have been used in law enforcement since the Middle Ages. The most commonly used breeds are German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois, but other breeds such as basset hounds, bloodhounds, and labrador retrievers have also been used. One of their best assets is their sense of smell, which is believed to be as much as 10,000 times more sensitive than humans'. The Upland Police Department currently has two dogs in its K-9 unit and one of them, Petey, and his handler Officer Nicholas Alvarran will be joining us at our May 9 LIFT meeting to talk about the many things that the K-9 unit does to fight crime and protect the public.

Following a short time of worship and a devotion, Officer Alvarran will talk about the training and capabilities of a K-9 dog and demonstrate some basic techniques that Petey can perform. There will be a short Q and A at the end, so bring your questions.

Afterward we will fellowship over our brown bag lunches. Beverages are provided – or you can bring your own.

**Foothill Family Shelter  
Needs Your Support**

Show your love each and any month by bringing your contributions of personal care items. Items needed include **shampoo, bar soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and hand and body lotion.**

**For more information,  
contact Carol Diess,  
626-482-8862  
or [sbbmom@aol.com](mailto:sbbmom@aol.com)**

**Thank you for your generous donations  
to support LIFT**



**ARISE  
Joy Ringers  
& Singers  
& Instruments**

**Saturday  
May 16  
4pm**

*Celebrating  
the 250th Anniversary of the  
United States of America*

**MUSICAMERICA**

PRESENTED BY ARISE ARTS IN SERVICE  
E. Martene Craig Creator/Producer/Director | [www.martene.org](http://www.martene.org) | 909-596-8166

**Johannes Brahms  
A German  
Requiem**

CONCERTS DEDICATED TO THE  
MEMORY OF ELLEN DOMB

**SATURDAY, May 16, 2026, 3PM  
William Domb, Guest Conductor**

**SUNDAY, May 17, 2026, 3PM  
Matthew Miles, Artistic Director**

**Both concerts followed by receptions**

**PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
600 N. GAREY AVE., POMONA**

Concerts are free.  
Donations appreciated in support of MMC

**ARISE Joy Ringers and Singers**

at FPCU May 16, 4 p.m.

The beautiful sounds of bells and singers will be heard at an exceptional handbell concert on May 16, 4:00 pm in our sanctuary. This concert, presented by the Arise Joy Ringers and Singers, directed by Martene Craig, features all patriotic music in celebration of the 250th year of our country. Rumor has it that there will be a special appearance by Jerry Lewis. Four bell ringers from our own bell choir are part of this group. We are very excited to host this special event.

Invite your family and friends to join us! - Sarah Richardson

**A German Requiem**

Come **Sunday May 17, 3 p.m.**, to a beautiful concert directed by our own Matt Miles of the Brahms Requiem, with some of our own FPCU members in the chorale. Tickets are free! An offering for the Chorale will be taken.

<h1>MAY</h1>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>10am</b> <b>Worship with</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>Cinco de</b> <b>Mayo Brunch</b>	<b>4</b>  Personnel	<b>5</b> <b>6pm Serve</b> <b>7pm Gather</b> AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	<b>6</b>  4pm Homework Club 5pm Elevate 7pm Choir	<b>7</b>  6pm <b>Deacons</b>	<b>8</b>  11am <b>LIFT</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>10am</b> <b>Worship</b>  <b>Mother's</b> <b>Day</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  9:30am Knitters and Quilters 5pm <b>Worship</b> 6pm <b>Trustees</b> AA Groups- HH & upstairs	<b>13</b>  4pm Homework Club 5pm Elevate 7pm Choir	<b>14</b>  12:30pm <b>Preschool</b> <b>Board Mtg.</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Special Bell Concert
<b>17</b> <b>10 am</b> <b>Worship</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  9:30am Knitters and Quilters AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	<b>20</b>  4pm Homework Club 5pm Elevate 7pm Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>10 am</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>Pentecost</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>  <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>26</b>  9:30am Knitters and Quilters AA Groups- HH & upstairs Radiant Church GR	<b>27</b>  7pm Choir	<b>28</b>  6:30pm <b>Session</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>10am</b> <b>Worship</b>						

# MAY PRAYER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1-Hansen	2- Harkins
3	4- Hebert	5- Hester	6- Hesterman	7- Holtrust	8- Howie	9- Hunt
10	11- John	12- Joiner	13- Kathol	14-Kaufman	15-Kemngang	16- Kiertzner
17	18- King	19- Kler	20- Masiya	21- Mba	22-McClelland	23- McCormack
24	25-McCrea-Foster	26-McMullen	27-Merryman	28-Morgan	29-Mowery	30-Mulligan
31						

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

Jean Vanvieldt, Felicia Foreman, Bill Howie, Lynn McClelland,  
Joni Stallings, David Brinkley, Kay Hester, Iris Joiner, Marie Swenson, Bob Summers,  
Terry King, Jerry Wilson

Pray for those who are homebound or in convalescent care:  
John Dooley, Beth Brinkley, Dick Davidson

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

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

02 David Borger  
06 Marilyn Howie  
07 Lynn McClelland  
07 Lynn Olson  
08 M.E. Fuzzard  
09 Donna Rumisek  
09 Linda Wilson  
12 Diane Hallihan  
16 Jerry Cook  
16 Tony Webner  
18 Leslie Borger

21 Jean Vanvieldt  
22 Chester Olsen  
25 Sue Frazee  
27 Lisa Grist  
27 Sandy Forney  
30 Lynne Barker  
30 Pam Polchow

We would also like to extend birthday greetings to any other **May** 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!**



**GROWING IN CHRIST,  
MAKING HIM KNOWN**

**Trustees**

**Gary Custer, President**  
**Sue Frazee, Vice President**  
**Van Romine, Treasurer**  
**Shawn Kathol, Secretary**  
**Paul Sindelar**

**Deacons**

**Becky Custer**  
**Heather Decauwer**  
**Carol Diess**  
**Loreto D'Monte**  
**Ebie Fogle**  
**Lisa Murdy**  
**Constance Phillips**  
**Kim Righetti**  
**Sue Sindelar**  
**Ocha Ukwu**

**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**

**Elders**

**William Anguka**  
**Gary Custer**  
**Frank Fogle**  
**Sue Frazee**  
**Diane Hallihan**  
**Pam Polchow**  
**Randy Righetti**  
**Van Romine**  
**Jim Smirl**  
**Donna Strowger**  
**Tony Webner**

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