

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH, FRESNO

2025 Snapshot





Psalm 136 repeats one phrase twenty-six times – once per verse. Do you remember the phrase? “His love endures forever.” The word translated as “love” is my favorite Hebrew word: **chesed**. It points to God’s steadfast lovingkindness and gracious covenant loyalty toward His people. It’s an amazing word that describes all that God has done for us. So, Psalm 136 repeats the phrase “His love endures forever” over and over as it recounts God’s redemptive history.

In a similar way, every time I consider the history of First Presbyterian Church Fresno, I find myself repeating that same phrase, “His love endures forever.” Surely, it’s been God’s covenant faithfulness to us that has kept us, protected us, held us, directed us, empowered us, provided for us, chastened us, nurtured us, and used us. I pray that as you consider all that God did in us and through us in this last year, 2025, you will also join the Psalmist in repeating, “His love endures forever.” May we indeed, “Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good. His love endures forever.” (Psalm 136:1)

Once again, we have provided two particular reminders of God’s faithfulness to us. The first is what you are reading now. It’s our 2025 Snapshot which includes both some highlights of the last year and information for our congregational meeting on Super Sunday, February 8, 2026. The second is our Annual Report Video being made available on FPC’s YouTube channel on or before February 5. I truly encourage you to take the time to look through this 2025 Snapshot and watch the Annual Report Video. As you do, I trust you’ll be inspired to join the psalmist in declaring that ***His love endures forever.***

PASTOR JEREMY VACCARO

SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR ELDERS



LORI MEADORS, ELDER

Lori has been attending FPC since 1997. She is married to Paul and they have three daughters Georgie, Alex and Ruthie. Their son-in-law, Michael Randall, is married to Georgie. Lori is excited to experience more of God's faithfulness as a church and to grow in her prayer life.



JOSHUA SALVEN, ELDER

Joshua began attending FPC in 2014 with his wife, Kimberly, and family. Their youngest son, Levi, is a member of Ignite; their daughter, Lindsee, attends FPC Dallas; and their oldest son, Logan McDonald, and his wife, Faith, live in Brooklyn and attend church there. Joshua wants to be an active participant in God's redemptive story and continue growing as a disciple of Jesus as they seek God's will for our church. This is a direct response to what God is doing in his life and the life of his family.



STEVE VARVIS, ELDER

Steve has been attending FPC since 2015. He is married to Teri and has one son, Nathan and daughter-in-law, Sarah. He is now retired after serving at Fresno Pacific University as an administrator and professor for many years. Steve finds great joy in being part of the Church and its mission, and hopes he can offer encouragement toward the spiritual health of our life in Christ together.



ASHLEY WIELE, ELDER

Ashley has been attending FPC since 2013. Her husband Ben is currently on our Operations Commission. Their son Cooper is 11 and helps usher. Their daughter Reese is 8 and enjoys serving within the church. Ashley wants to help the church grow and faithfully support its vision and decision-making. Serving also strengthens her own faith and allows her to be an active part of our church community.

SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR DEACONS



SHELLY COBURN, DEACON

Shelly has always attended FPC. She and her husband, Rod, were married here, as were their daughter, Kathryn Gwynne, and Shelly's parents. They have 3 children and 7 grandchildren. Shelly served as a Deacon once before and she is honored to have been asked to serve once more. It is a small way she can give back to the Church after all the Church has given to her.



ANNE ELLIS, DEACON

Anne began attending FPC in 1993. She is married to Jim and they have two children: Robbie (27) and Janie (25). As she serves our congregation and community, she hopes to experience joy, knowing God has given her the ability and opportunity to help others. She also hopes to make new connections and friendships with people in our church.



JIM ELLIS, DEACON

Jim began attending FPC in 1994. He is married to Anne, the mother of their two kids, Robbie and Janie Ellis. Both are members at FPC. Jim hopes to seek God's will and attend to the needs of the Church body.



MELINDA GUNNING, DEACON

Melinda began attending FPC in the early 2000s. She is widowed after 33 years of marriage to Alan. They have two grown children: Alex, who is married to Sam; and Morgan, who is married and expecting a daughter in March 2026. Melinda asked God to call her to serve her church when it was the right time. She is looking forward to finding out what God has planned for her to do.



JENNIFER JORDAN, DEACON

Jennifer began attending FPC in 2020. She is a widow with 3 children and 4 grandchildren. Her granddaughter's involvement in Rooted led her to FPC. God has called her to serve as a Deacon to help others in their time of need, in gratitude for the help given to her when she was in need.



DOUG SMITH, DEACON

Doug began attending FPC in 1996. He and his wife, Suzanne, have been married for 39 years. They have 3 daughters and 7 grandchildren ages 2-9. Doug was kindly asked by Stuart Conrad to serve our church as a Deacon.



SUZANNE SMITH, DEACON

Suzanne began attending FPC in 1996. She and her husband, Doug, have been married for 39 years. They have 3 daughters and 7 grandchildren ranging from 2-9 years old. Suzanne hopes to connect with more members from our congregation through her time as a Deacon.

SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE



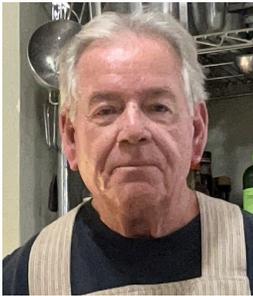
JIM COUSINS, NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jim began attending FPC in 1975. He and his wife Roxanne have two children: Andrea and Catherine. Jim hopes to engage with a larger number of folks at FPC through his time on Nominating Committee.



DEBORAH HUGHES, NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Deborah began attending FPC in 1997. She has been a widow for nine years. God has blessed her with three grown children, a son and twin daughters, plus two grandchildren. Before retirement, she was a high school and college teacher of child development and teacher preparation. Deborah hopes to be a prayer intercessor for choosing the appropriate members to serve as elders and deacons. She has learned to trust the leading of the Holy Spirit in all aspects of her life and church.



STEVE JAURENA, NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Steve began attending FPC in 1972. He has been active in High School Ministry, on Albania Serve & Learn Teams, and is seldom seen in the kitchen at FPC. He is married to Terry, FPC's Mission & Connection Minister. Steve is hopeful that God will continue to bless our church.



SKIP LYNN, NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Skip & his wife Heidi have attended FPC since before they were married in 1980. They have two sons who grew up at FPC and love the Lord. They have both served together in ministry and separately as Elders. One of the things Skip loves about ministry is seeing God at work. He believes that we are to be in service as God calls and the Nominating Committee is an important role. He has found previous service in the capacity really challenging and fun to be with the people on the committee. He's looking forward to it.



KELLI SAMUELIAN, NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Kelli has attended FPC since she was born. She is married to Ronnie and they have 3 children: Devon (25), Taylor (22), and Hudson (19). Kelli's mom, Susan Glover attends FPC as well (timeless). Kelli has been on NomCom once before. When praying about this role, the Lord did not say no, so "yes, here I am!" is her response. She never wants to miss an opportunity to serve the Lord, especially in the church.

SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR CORPORATE OFFICERS



GERRE BRENNEMAN, PRESIDENT

The role of corporate officer gives our church one more level of checks and balances. Gerre believes that such shared responsibility and authority keeps the business side of church transparent and on track. She has served in a variety of ways - some requiring much more time and commitment than others, but all done because loving this church and congregation is one of the best ways she knows to serve the Lord.



DAVE PELTOLA, VICE PRESIDENT

Dave has been married to Kimberly since 2002. They have 2 kids: Adam and Katie. Dave's mother Stephanie has attended FPC since the 1970s. Christ modeled servant leadership motivates him to serve our church. He is blessed to be included in the mission of FPC to spread the gospel and build community.



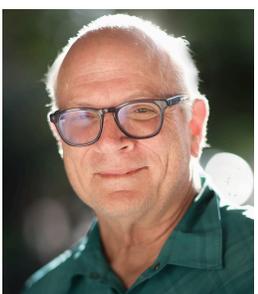
GINNY HARRISON, TREASURER

Ginny is married to Rick and they have three adult children; two sons-in-law, and six grandchildren. They are blessed that all of them live in the Fresno/Clovis area. She was honored to be asked to serve FPC in this capacity and expects to be both blessed and challenged in the role. She is excited to see what the Lord has in store.



CLIFF KLEIN, SECRETARY

Cliff and his wife Jessie have attended FPC since 2014, when they felt the Lord's call through the preaching and worship. They have seven children and sixteen grandchildren. As he responds to this call of the Lord on his life at this time, Cliff hopes to serve Him humbly and faithfully. Through prayer and scripture, he desires to serve, care, and listen.



JAMIE FRANKLIN, MEMBER AT LARGE

Married to Mindy for 42 years with 3 children (Hannah, Bekah, Lucas) and 6 grandchildren, Jamie has attended FPC since 1981. Jamie has served two prior terms on session and on three senior pastor search committees over the past four decades. Serving with fellow brothers and sisters to engage where God leads is one of his favorite adventures.

FINANCES

BUDGET COMPARISON 2025 TO 2026

MINISTRY	2025 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	2025-2026 CHANGE
Administration	\$86,480	\$106,005	\$19,525
Children & Youth	\$53,085	\$54,835	\$1,750
Community Growth	\$12,100	\$12,000	(\$100)
College	\$17,750	\$20,125	\$2,375
Deacons	\$200	\$200	\$0
Facility & Grounds	\$197,427	\$229,772	\$32,345
Mission	\$156,200	\$156,200	\$0
Outreach	\$4,750	\$4,658	(\$92)
Personnel	\$1,209,543	\$1,265,280	\$55,737
Technology & Modern Worship	\$21,500	\$25,500	\$4,000
Worship	\$13,965	\$14,465	\$500
Totals	\$1,773,000	\$1,835,600	\$62,600

Total General Fund Giving for 2025 was **\$1,871,603**.

We received **\$177,281.49 above** actual expenses for the year!

316 General Fund giving families or individuals.

41 first time givers!

We are grateful for your faithful & generous giving.

Everything you give fuels the mission & ministries of FPC and allows us to invest in ministry partners in our community & around the world.

FPC IMPACT

29 people welcomed into membership.

9 of them were new to FPC in 2025!



21 FPCers served as Navigators for our street guests,
offering hospitality, conversation, supplies or local resources info.

1 new & improved website,
with dynamic photos and videos.



930 people attended our Christmas Eve services.
What a full house!



622 hours of listening to the FPC Conversations Podcast!
62 episodes with 3,472 plays



28 households supported by the Practical Needs team
This new ministry launched in 2025!



11 FPCers became Literacy Mentors at Lowell Elementary!
They're serving in K, 1st & 2nd grade classrooms.



67 women served in Women's Ministry programs!
That's great engagement.



DEACONS



170+ Meals to Households



480+ Hours of Prayer



17 Memorial Receptions



140 Pantry Food Boxes Provided



16 leaders regularly volunteered for Elementary Sundays!

That doesn't include nursery & preschool volunteers.

98 kids attended CBA, supported by 92 Volunteers!

What a great adult-child ratio.



20 student Bibles gifted to youth invited by friends!

We love that invitational spirit.

20+ new students attended Rooted in the past 6 months!

What might God do in their lives?



45 new kids attended Good News Club last semester,

supported by FPC's Good News Go Team!

Celebrated 25 years of camp ministry in Erseke Church

with our Albanian partners!



SAINTS GONE HOME

ACTIVE MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2025

Marian Brenneman

Paul Deffebach

Vernon Huebschwerlen

Margaret McDougal

George Melton

Doris Rayburn

Sean Reeves

Jan Richter

Carolyn Scheer

Judith Scrivner

Gary Sells

Jim Swanson

Francis Weaver

Harry "Butch" Wilson

Eleanor Zscheile

What will God do in & through us
in our 143rd year of ministry?





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