



First Congregational Church of Santa Barbara + United Church of Christ

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CHURCH LIFE

AUGUST 2025



MARTHA'S MODERATOR MESSAGE

What's Going On?

In Santa Barbara, August is the month for the big Pride Festival. This year's date is August 23, and the location remains the beach opposite Chase Palm Park. Please plan to help by spending 2 or 3 hours at our booth on that day. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex for the next couple of Sundays, and you can also ask Martha for a time assignment. A couple of hours at the beach – what could be an easier gig? If you are tall, you are especially needed at the beginning of the day or the end of the day with the banners we hang on the booth. This year our theme is "Thank you for your rainbow joy." We are proud that we are an ONA church. Let's put some action behind that pride.

Have you checked out the church's new website? Type SantaBarbaraFirst.org into your web browser and you will find a useful and informative website, for the first time in *years*. Many thanks to Steve Butner, who has put long hours to learn how to create and maintain this website for us. Thanks, also, to the groups who have contributed descriptions of their work.

Thanks to everyone who responded to our appeal for the Samaritan fund. It's never too late, in case you still want to give a few dollars.

Did you enjoy hearing Mary's reflection on the question "Why do I attend church on Sunday morning?" Would you like to give your community another reflection, from your point of view? Just contact Tim to schedule a Sunday!

Sometime soon in the next few weeks we will view a slide show Tim is preparing with more information about the goals and/or next steps we might take with WayCo. Watch for announcements for this slide show, which will happen immediately after Sunday worship service so everyone can see it.

We still have the famous "red cards" and they are available for any member who wants to distribute them to targeted people in their circle. Just ask. The ICE raids continue.

Please remember to write up the events you know of and want to share in Church Life. Whenever you think "There should be an article in Church Life about this!" just sit down, write it, and send it in. Thanks.

As always, please email me at mmpeyton@gmail.com with questions or comments. I love you guys!



MESSAGE FROM REV. DR. TIM

July 25, 2025

Dear First Congregational Friends,

I'm writing today with a full and grateful heart to share some wonderful news:

Last night, the Way Collective community unanimously passed the consent motion to move forward in formal partnership with First Congregational Church Santa Barbara.

The approved motion reads:

"To begin a formal process of partnership with First Congregational Church Santa Barbara — co-developing shared structures and commitments, clarifying roles and mission alignment, and working to co-create a sustainable and shared spiritual home through the end of 2025 and beyond."

This is a significant and hopeful moment — the fruit of many seasons of conversation, discernment, and patient waiting. On behalf of the entire Way Co community, I want to express my deep gratitude to all of you: for your openness to Spirit, your hospitality, and your generosity in allowing this discernment process the time it needed to unfold for us.

It has been my privilege to serve as your bridge minister over the past 7 months — to get to know and walk with you, to listen deeply, and to witness the heart and faithfulness of this congregation. I'm truly looking forward to continuing to serve you in a more permanent pastoral role as this new chapter unfolds.

Your willingness to imagine a shared future together has made it possible for this vision to begin taking shape. Thank you for walking gently and faithfully through this time with us. We'll need that same kind of openness and flexibility in the months and years to come, as we dream a new dream, together.

So...what's ahead, you might be wondering?

Now that both communities have affirmed the intent to pursue this

partnership, we'll spend the remainder of 2025 working together to clarify and co-develop the key structures that will support our shared life: legal and financial frameworks, shared governance, staffing roles, and a new committee with a common mission rooted in our respective identities and histories.

Our shared aim is to move toward a fully unified community by January 1, 2026 — a new beginning for both of our communities as we step into something co-created and Spirit-led.

There will be many steps to come — and much to build together — but today I simply want to pause and say: thank you! Thank you for your faith, your imagination, and your patient trust in this unfolding process. I am so excited that, together, we will get to continue the long legacy of UCC and DoC ministry here in Santa Barbara!

It continues to be my deep joy to serve among you as your bridge minister, and I'm filled with excitement about what we will co-create in the months ahead. May this new chapter deepen our sense of belonging, strengthen our shared mission, and make more space for contemplative love and justice to grow in the heart of Santa Barbara.

With deep gratitude!

Peace,

-Tim



SOLVANG THEATERFEST COMING UP IN AUGUST. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

YES! We will be going up to Solvang Theaterfest for our potluck picnic and play this summer! Thursday, August 28th for "Songs for Nobodies"

Featuring songs by Judy Garland, Patsy Cline, Edith Piaf, Billie Holiday, and Maria Callas. Step into the mesmerizing world of Songs for Nobodies, where the paths of some of the most legendary singers of all time intersect with those of everyday women in a tour de force of inspiration and resilience.

Through the sensational performance of award-winning actor/singer Bethany Thomas, audiences are taken on a journey of discovery through beloved songs like "Come Rain or Come Shine," "Crazy," "Amazing Grace," "Ain't Nobody's Business If I Do," and "Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien." Don't miss this unforgettable one-woman tour-de-force that celebrates the universal truth that everybody has a story—and a song—worth hearing.

TICKETS are \$35 per person for premium center section seats; a significant group discount!

CONTACT: Sharon Kayser for reservations
Cell: 805-886-6692
sbkayser1.5@gmail.com



JULY TRANSITION HOUSE MEAL

The shelter-worker portion of July's FCCSB FoodTeam met at Transition House's shelter on West Ortega St. on Tues. July 8th. Peter and Suzanne Brown, Peter Ford, Bud and Sharon Kayser, Lynn Stewart and I divvied up the work. We made next-day lunches, set tables, placed chairs around the tables, sliced fruit and generally prepped for the evening meal, all by ~6:15 pm = dinner time.

After stopping for a quick prayer of thanksgiving for the opportunity to be there together, Lynn left us. Peter B., Bud, Sharon and Suzanne served slices of warmed French bread (the Browns), oven-BBQ'd chicken pieces,* quinoa w/vegs. & rice (Sharon), refried beans,* hot veggies (Lynn) or and/or green salad (Lynn) along with watermelon pieces. Butter* was out on each of the tables; sliced, pickled jalapenos* and salsa* were on a side table near the serving counter for people to help themselves.

Peter F. put cookies* out on plates which I passed, once dinner was well underway. He also refilled any serving pans when needed and took charge of wrapping and labeling dinner plates to be set aside for the late comers. Just when we thought we were finished, a new family of five arrived. We were pleased to be able to feed them.

(We were prepared to feed 55 residents: 32 adults and 23 children between 2 and 12, but upon arriving found that a couple of families had left TH earlier that day. The numbers were down to ~ 45 and Kristin, the Shelter Manager, filling in for Sal, declined a meal.)

When the servers had finished, including providing seconds for those who wished them, the servers

filled plates and sat down to eat. Peter and I picked up the leftover food and departed to have our dinner at home and clean-up there.

A very big 'Thank You!' to all June FCCSB Foodteam Members. Whether you gave financially, furnished food, purchased supplies or worked at the shelter, your assistance was truly appreciated. This Outreach cannot be done by one person. It is truly a Congregational endeavor.

The next opportunity to participate as a FCCSB TH Foodteam Member will be on Tues. Aug. 12th. Contact me to volunteer.

Mary Howe-Grant, Monthly TH Meal Coordinator

* Purchased using money from FCCSBUCC's TH monthly meal funds.

REV. LIZ AGUILAR LIFE UPDATE!

It is now official that Liz Aguilar has been hired as the new incoming Spiritual Life Director/Chaplin at Vista del Monte upon Laura Mancuso's retirement coming now in late summer!



2025-26 RECIPIENTS FCCSB SOCIAL JUSTICE SCHOLARSHIPS

We were thrilled to hear from the Santa Barbara Scholarship Foundation about our FCCSB Social Justice Scholarship recipients for the coming year. This is Year 4 of our four-year campaign.

Once again we will be supporting Julia Gualarte's academic journey as she enters her junior year at UCI majoring in Criminology. She is looking forward to spending the year studying abroad in Barcelona. See her statement to learn more about her plans.

We have a new awardee this year as past recipient Quetzally Hernandez (UCSB) has chosen to take some time off. We will be supporting Clara Trenado of Santa Maria High School as she enters her freshman year at CSU Fresno to study Agricultural Science. See Clara's statement to learn more about this impressive young woman.

When we began our four-year scholarship campaign we envisioned supporting two students for that period toward their expected graduation. Because of changes in recipients, that estimate hasn't worked out as planned. Julia received a scholarship in our Year 2 for her freshman year. She is an outstanding student and we hope to support her senior year 2026-27. Since the campaign is complete with this year's Year 4 pledge payments, we are currently discussing the best way to proceed with fundraising for Julia's final year. One advantage is that we need raise only half the amount (one student) than we have for the previous four years (two students.) Stay tuned.

Just Peace Working Group Scholarship Committee

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kathy O'Leary
Marty Plourd
Carrie Randolph
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Tracey Solomon
George Thurlow
Donna Weidl
Michael Young

Spring 2025

Robin Rickershauser
First Congregational Church of Santa Barbara
3515 Chuparosa Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Dear Robin,

We are incredibly proud to announce the recipient(s) of the First Congregational Church of SB Social Justice Scholarship Fund for the 2025-26 academic year. Enclosed you will read about the student or students who will benefit from your generosity. On their behalf, thank you for supporting the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara.

PAST PRESIDENTS
& CHAIRS COUNCIL

June I. Anderle
Leon P. Bartholomew
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Ken Saxon

Your financial gifts have an impact throughout the county because the scholarships awarded benefit more than one person. Like the ripple effect of a stone thrown into a still pond, a student's success in higher education spreads to his or her family and throughout the wider community.

An educated community brings desired life outcomes, including better health and greater longevity, increased economic growth, and improved civic participation. Your investment in education ensures that more members of our community enjoy these long-term benefits, and for that we thank you.

Today's students are tomorrow's doctors, scientists, activists, and educators. They are the next generation of investors, builders, creators, and artists. Research consistently shows a strong positive correlation between education level and societal improvement and stability.

The value of education is undeniable. Your continued, consistent support is crucial. Together, we are building the future of Santa Barbara County.

EMERITUS BOARD

Greg Bartholomew
Norm Habermann
Maryann Schall

HONORARY BOARD

Judy Frost
Barbara Hensell
Shirley Ann Hurley

Thank you for investing in local students through the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara. As a result of your generosity and that of other thoughtful community members, we are transforming lives...one scholarship at a time.

In appreciation,

PRESIDENT & CEO

Melinda Cabrera

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Melinda Cabrera".

Melinda Cabrera
CEO & President

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "LynnRae Dunn".

LynnRae Dunn
Director of Development

P.S. Please feel free to contact our office at (805) 687-6065 should you have questions.

CC: Mary Howe-Grant

805.687.6065

www.sbscholarship.org

info@sbscholarship.org

P.O. BOX 3620, SANTA BARBARA, CA 93130-3620

facsimile: 805.687.6031

First Congregational Church of SB Social Justice

Julia Gualarte

Award year: 2025-2026

High School: San Marcos

College: UC, IRVINE

Major: Criminal Justice

Proposed Career: DA Investigator



As an empathetic individual, I've always felt compelled to help others. This passion led me to pursue a Bachelor's in Criminology, Law and Society at the University of California, Irvine, where I continue to explore various fields within Criminology and narrow my interests to a path that allows me to assist others. I also aim to continue my studies with a Master's in Law and Forensic Psychology, broadening my career opportunities in the field. Additionally, I've been accepted into a year long study abroad program at the University of Barcelona, Spain for the 2025-2026 academic year. In Spain, I hope to take criminology courses and immerse myself in the Spanish culture, one quite different from my own. A central focus of mine while abroad is working towards becoming bilingual, consequently opening new avenues for me to serve the wider community through positions such as law enforcement, forensics, investigations, and more.

In the past three or so years, I have found running to be a great outlet for anxiety, a source of dopamine, and a positive form of self-discipline. In November of 2024, I ran a half marathon which required preparation, self-discipline, and consistency, all working towards a goal. The environment surrounding a marathon is unlike any other; the energy was palpable being near others who had equally pushed themselves to get to that point. Bringing with me the same motivation and consistency into 2025, I have started preparation for the Orange County Half Marathon in May 2025, ensuring time to run about five times a week. Running offers a time of peace where I can clear my head and take a break away from my studies. Running in the morning significantly brightens my day as I've started it by engaging in an activity that strengthens my body and mind.

I'm grateful to know first hand the impact a scholarship can make as I've twice been the recipient of the Social Justice Scholarship from the First Congregational Church of Santa Barbara. I've had the pleasure of meeting members of the Church and have built great relationships with them. The support of this organization and the Church has allowed me to greater focus on academics without the weight of financial worries on my shoulders, or that of my family. The support has aided in my academic achievements including being on the Dean's list each quarter I've been enrolled at UCI. Thanks to my steady grades, I was accepted into a study abroad program in Spain for the next academic year. Embarking on this opportunity abroad, an experience that will aid in my growth as a student and individual, a scholarship will never be more impactful in my academic and career journey.

Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara

(805) 687-6065

www.sbscholarship.org

First Congregational Church of SB Social Justice

Clara Trenado

Award year: 2025-2026

High School: Santa Maria

College: CSU, FRESNO

Major: Agricultural Science

Proposed Career: Viticulture and Enology



Upon graduating in June 2025, I plan to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, majoring in Viticulture. Living in California's wine country has fueled my curiosity for winemaking, and I aspire to work for a winery, either in marketing or production. My long-term goal is to earn a degree in Viticulture and Enology and eventually pursue a doctorate in Veterinary Sciences. I chose these goals because I grew to love them and find them interesting after joining Future Farmers of America (FFA). Joining FFA has not only expanded my knowledge of agriculture but also provided the foundation for a future in an industry I'm passionate about, guiding me toward achieving my professional and academic dreams.

When I started high school, I joined my first club, Future Farmers of America. Through this club, I've had incredible opportunities, such as traveling across California to judge poultry and developing strong public speaking skills. Additionally, I've raised and shown livestock at our county fair throughout all four years of high school, including lambs, cattle, and goats. I've also been actively involved in the Warrior Goat Program, which mentors young children with disabilities and helps them show goats at the fair. I have been a mentor in this program for three years. Despite my involvement in numerous extracurricular activities, I remain very family oriented. Even though I often travel for school, I always prioritize spending quality time with my family. I work with my mom as well in many different community service events in our town as well.

Receiving a scholarship means so much more to me than just financial assistance it's a stepping stone toward achieving my lifelong dreams. Ever since I was a child, I've envisioned myself going to college, but the weight of knowing my mom would have to shoulder the financial burden alone was always in the back of my mind. My love for agriculture and education has only grown over the years, but balancing school and work to support my mom has been challenging. As a hardworking realtor, she has always done everything she can to support me, from buying me my first livestock animal to show at our local county fair to helping me cover application fees for my dream schools. This scholarship represents more than just money it's a relief, a reassurance that I'm not alone in this journey. Every bit of support helps ease that lingering worry.

Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara

(805) 687-6065

www.sbscholarship.org



FIRESIDE CIRCLE

Members of Fireside Circle have committed to benefit First Congregational Church of Santa Barbara, United Church of Christ, with planned gifts, usually from their estates. We are grateful for their generosity and foresight. We also honor those who are no longer with us, but whose planned gifts continue to strengthen our church.

CURRENT MEMBERS

Anonymous (2)	Gloria Janka	Johanna & Peter Preiswerk
Peggy Alexander	Patricia A. Jones	Nancy L. Raddue
JoAnne Ando	Bud & Sharon Kayser	Robin Rickershauser
Suzanne T. & Peter N. Brown	Daniel & Carole La Porte	Gwynne K. Schultz
Lynda & Steve Butner	Bill Lindberg & Connie Stevens	Ellie Starfas
Nancy & Stillman Chase	David Mankin	Sally & Nicholas Thacher
Susan Chan Egan	Bonnie Orr	Steven Townsend & Glenn Ward
Mary E. Howe-Grant	Cynthia & Dennis Peterson	Myrna Tuttle
	Martha Peyton & Karen Steward	

IN MEMORIAM

Bill Alexander	Gary Janka	Chuck Rickershauser
Henry & Genevera Bauernschmidt	Jacob & Rebecca Jigergian	Jean Southwick
Elinor Bertram	Florence Jones	Bill Spangler
Mary Carter	Dick Jorgensen	Arnold Schweigert & Family
Winifred Collins	Verna Keirn	in memory of Joan Schweigert
Bette Deckenback	Anna Lamson	Betsy G. Thies.
Mildred Dell	Dorothy LeConte	Emily & Bill Thies, Sr
Avis Goodwin	Clara Matheson	Marilyn Van Donge
Milnore Hall	Dorothy Morgan	Cherie Welty
Mary Jean Harder	Graham & Dorothy Nash	Madeline Whitehead
Persis Hebbard	Robert & Virginia Norris	Dorita Wilson
Jud Holmes	Frances O'Keefe	Leslie Wilson
	Jack Orr	

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!



HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Aug 9 Salome Crowley
 Aug 9 Pam Snyder
 Aug 11 Suzanne Brown
 Aug 13 Emma John
 Aug 29 Karen Steward
 Aug 30 Stillman Chase
 Aug 31 Sebastian Marin
 Aug 31 Kay Utterback

2025 Officers and Committees

Church Officers

Moderator	Martha Peyton ^{MB}
Vice Moderator	Johanna Preiswerk ^{MB}
Recording Clerk	Peter Brown ^{MB}
Treasurer	Salome Crowley ^{MB}
Asst. Treasurer	Mary Howe-Grant
Financial Co-Secretaries	Lynn Stewart & Sue Lael Katnic
Membership Clerk	Karen Steward
Systems Administrator	Steve Butner
Historian	Karen Steward

At-Large Mission Board Members

Karen Steward ^{MB}	Gail Gillies ^{MB}
Sally Thacher ^{MB}	Sharon Kayser ^{MB}

Conference Delegates

Adult	Karen Steward
Adult	Martha Peyton

Standing Committees

Finance and Facilities

3-7 members

Lynn Stewart*
 Peter Preiswerk
 Salome Crowley*
 Bud Kayser
 Peter Ford

Pastoral Relations

3-7 members

Peter Brown
 Nancy Chase
 Kay Utterback

Personnel

3-7 members

Johanna Preiswerk*
 Peter Ford

Nominating Committee

Myrna Tuttle	Robin Rickershauser
Sally Thacher	