



2026 Annual Congregational Meeting

February 1, 2026

As Disciples of Jesus Christ we will:

Love God

Build Up Others

Share Our Faith

To request an emailed copy of this report: office@newarkpres.org

First Presbyterian Church of Newark
35450 Newark Blvd.
Newark, CA 94560
(510) 371-8309

First Presbyterian Church of Newark
Agenda
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
February 1, 2026

Quorum Present?: Teri Marzano

Congregational Meeting called to order with prayer and song: Karl Schadley

Report: Minutes from Annual Congregational Meeting January 2025, approved by Session

Motion to review and approve the revised bylaws as presented by the Session: Bruce Schlobohm & Mike Marzano

Presentation of the 2025 Annual Report

Brief Review of each report: Karl Shadley

Nominating Report: Bruce Schlobohm and team

Report from the 2025 Nominating Committee

Celebrating and thanking outgoing members

Presentation of Financial Report and approved budget for 2026 - Mike Marzano

Election of the 2026 Nominating Committee (three members at large, Session and Deacons will appoint one member each at their next meeting)

STAFF MEMBERS AS OF JANUARY, 2026

Rev. Dr. Karl Shadley (Transitional Pastor)

David Kayumy (Office Manager/A-V)

Adam Miller (music department director)

Closing Prayer and Song - Adam Miller and Karl Shadley

First Presbyterian Church of Newark
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL AND CORPORATION MEETING

Minutes

February 2, 2025

Approved by Session March 18, 2025 (there was no Session meeting in February)

Quorum Present: Yes, more than 10% of membership was present.

MOTION: Open Annual Congregational Meeting.

SECONDED AND APPROVED

Meeting was called to order with prayer and singing Hakuna

Minutes from Annual Congregational Meeting of January 2024, approved by Session, are in the Annual Congregational Report

By-Laws Revision

MOTION: Approve by-laws revisions as presented by Elder Bruce Schlobohm and approved by Session

SECONDED AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Nominating Committee Report

- Many thanks to our outgoing Deacons Hong Lin and Cindy Su. Elders Barbara Miller, Steve Cedeno and Bob Vinson will be retiring Elders this year with sincere thanks to all for their service!
- Session and Deacons will select their Nominating Committee Members at their next meetings.

MOTION: Approve Barbara Miller, Emmanuel Aryee and Naomi Naranjo for the 2025 Nominating Committee.

SECONDED AND APPROVED

- The 2024 Nominating Committee was composed of Elder Bruce Schlobohm and Deacon Marian Andrews as well as Wes Hall, Jan Cedeno and Cindy Matteson. They have proposed the following slates:

MOTION: Elder Class of 2025 (Bruce Schlobohm, Wendy Wang), Elder Class of 2026 (Nikki Hensley-Savio and Sue Marinucci) and Elder Class of 2027 (Mike Marzano and Kathy Vinson).

SECONDED AND APPROVED

MOTION: Deacon Class of 2025 (David Huang, Gloria Wilson, Marian Andrews, Kellie Gent), Deacon Class of 2026 (Joe Most, Vicky Fontes, Kathy Duncan) and Deacon Class of 2027 (Anne Radford). There was a vacancy for the Class of 2027.

NOMINATION FROM THE FLOOR: Vicky Fontes nominated Wanda Proctor, who agreed to serve as Deacon, Class of 2027.

SLATE AND NOMINATION FROM THE FLOOR WERE SECONDED AND APPROVED

Financial Report 2024 and Proposed Expenses for 2025

Mike Marzano reviewed the 2024 Financial Report and Proposed Expenses for 2025, which are contained in the Annual Report and were approved by Session.

STAFF MEMBERS AS OF JANUARY, 2025

- **Pastor Rev. Dr. Karl Shadley**
- **David Kayumy, Office Manager/A-V Team**
- **Adam Ferrer-Miller, Music and Handbell Director**

Pastor's Comments:

It's been a great and challenging year. Good things are happening!

The Congregational Meeting of First Presbyterian Church of Newark was closed with prayer and song at 11:20.

Teri Marzano, Clerk of Session
First Presbyterian Church of Newark
February 14, 2025

Pastor's Annual Report

I began 2025 with specific goals that I hoped would shape our shared work. I am pleased to report that, by keeping these goals at the forefront, we have made significant progress in every area.

First, I worked with the Mission Study Team to complete our mission study, a crucial document that will direct the present and future work of the church. Following a sincere thank you to the Mission Study Team, the congregation elected a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC will use the Mission Study to develop a Church Information Form, officially launching the search for your next pastor. They will begin their work soon and provide regular updates to the congregation.

We are assembling a team to explore uses for our “extra” property. We have successfully partnered with both the Presbytery and the city to aid in this work, and you will hear more about this visioning process in the near future.

I continue to work with David Kayumy and Bob Vinson in their preparation to become Commissioned Pastors. As a wonderful bonus, God has added Bimi Kharnami to this group. We hope to see all three approved and commissioned by April of 2026. This is rigorous work, and I am incredibly proud of our team.

Theologically, I have sought to deepen our understanding of what it means to be a PCUSA church. I challenged us with sermons on the doctrine of the Trinity and the PCUSA's “A Brief Statement of Faith.” Furthermore, our Commissioned Pastor Candidates have taken classes highlighting a broad understanding of Reformed theology, and I have included educational moments in our Worship Committee and Session meetings.

I have continued to build our capacity to be a “Grace Margin” church. In preaching, teaching, counseling, and committee leadership, I seek to live into the promise: “Come as you are, you will be loved.” We know this is often easier said than done, but we are striving toward it.

To help us visualize our growing diversity, I have invited new faces to the front during worship. We have utilized different languages, dialogue sermons, and creative practices—including a diverse group of communion servers—to involve more people in leadership. These are steps toward building a healthy, safe, and multicultural community.

Finally, we have revamped our Youth and Children's Ministry Program. We are blessed to have Bimi serving as our Youth Ministry Intern volunteer. We are learning how to keep everyone together for worship each Sunday, creating a safe, loving, God-filled space where we meet our kids where they are, rather than expecting them to fit a rigid mold.

Thanks for allowing me to work among you all as we seek to be God's healing presence in our family and community.

Blessings and love, Karl

MINISTRY REPORTS 2025

Building and Grounds Report

Elder: Mike Marzano

2025 was a great year at FPC Newark. The Buildings and Grounds Committee works in all areas of the church to maintain the facility and make improvements. We continue to make the usual repairs to door locks and toilets. Working with Session, Buildings and Grounds continue to maintain and improve spaces with fresh paint and updated lighting. With the addition of a new computer network and Wi-Fi, televisions have been added to spaces where people can conduct training and watch services. The Library now has a conference room camera and microphone so committees can meet and include members through Zoom.

Landscaping continues as a weekly task. The Boy Scouts assisted with hedge trimming and look toward some future projects. We removed two trees and replanted the patio planters. Water usage is still restricted at the request of the State Governor, so we are hoping to plan some new drought-tolerant landscaping.

We continue to rent our facility but with the increased use we have increased maintenance, cleaning and security issues. All these items cause us to constantly review our rental fees and adjust as our facility is popular community use.

We are already looking at 2026 and some of the improvements that are needed to continue the active use of our facilities. We have plans for a new sign at the entrance to the driveway. We are reviewing improvements to the sanctuary and fellowship hall. We want to increase outside lighting to help with security. We continue replacement of old components of the electrical systems to meet new building codes. Much of our landscape equipment needs repair or replacement. We also have our routine maintenance and repairs to plan for.

I want to thank all the volunteers that step up and help. The lawn team at the direction of Steve Cleland kept our grounds looking nice. Barbara Miller, as the committee chair, is always looking for additional volunteers to help with maintenance, gardening, repairs and identifying concerns. I appreciate everyone's efforts in maintaining this large facility.

Clerk of Session Report

“The Session is responsible for the mission and government of a particular church. The comprehensive responsibility includes the receiving of members, providing for worship, supervising the educational program, establishing the annual budget, supervising the work of the deacons, providing for the management of property, maintaining relationships with higher governing bodies of the church, leading the congregation outward in evangelism and mission, keeping accurate rolls of members, etc.”

- From the Book of Order, Chapter X

The session of the First Presbyterian Church of Newark met faithfully for 8 slated meetings. There was one Congregational Meeting and one Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation and one Special Congregational Meeting. ● There were 5 new members welcomed to the church. Two members, Butch Legris and Janice Stiles, left this world for their heavenly reward. A list of members and copies of the minutes from Session or Congregational meetings can be obtained by contacting the Clerk of Session.

Continuing to serve on Session in 2026: Kathy Vinson, Mike Marzano, Nikki Hensley-Savio, and Sue Marinucci. Teri Marzano will continue to serve as Clerk of Session, as appointed via email consent, on January 25, 2026, by Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Marzano, Clerk of Session

Deacons Report

Deacons Treasurer: Joe Most

The Deacons ministry for the year 2025 consisted of 8 church members who met once a month tasked with the ministry of taking care of the needs of the church members and community support. We derived our income from the general offerings of the church, from Presbytery foundation income related to the Degey and Pigeon investments that were initiated years ago, from Presbytery Synod interest and CD interest generated this past year. With this income we were able to assist our congregation in many ways.

For the past year, the Deacons helped physically and financially with the Cinco de Mayo event and the Shrimp Boil event. We supported the Viola Blythe and Centerville Free Dining Room with quarterly financial support. We were able to offer laundry service to a member as well as house cleaning, PG&E financial support, rent support, auto repair and travel support to our community. Holiday poinsettias were purchased, Holiday Baskets for 20 church families and 40 Viola Blythe families as well as many holiday gifts for the Viola Blythe families were supplied

Each year 2-3 members come on the board and 2-3 members step off the board in their service for the deacons. The deacon service is usually for a 3 year term. We meet once a month at the church. Each deacon is assigned various members of the congregation to look after, since a church officer or Pastor is not currently at the church on a daily basis.

Education Team

Elder: Nikki Hensley-Savio

Quilting

The quilting group met each Tuesday for most of the year, taking the end of November and the month of December off. Attendance varied from week to week. A number of quilters are from the community, rather from our church.

Small Groups

There were two small groups held, one in the winter/spring designed by Pastor Shadley, and Mere Christianity, by C.S Lewis, also led by Pastor Shadley.

Book Club

Amanda Cedeno continues to lead a monthly Book Club at our church.

CEP Training

Three members of the church—David Kayumy, Bob Vinson and Bimi Kharnami—are attending classes through Presbytery in order to qualify as Commissioned Pastors.

Children's Report

We have been blessed to welcome a beautiful baby girl into our Kids Korner midst, Skylar Christian. We have new visitors on and off but have increased our numbers as a whole.

Our kids have had a wonderful time as they have been more included in the service, learning how to serve God in such amazing ways!

I am continuing to make quarterly schedules for Ann Radford, Teri Marzano and myself to be available to help Bimi Kharnami, our Youth Ministry Intern, at the Korner.

The kids worked for several months to create a wonderful nativity/barn scene, complete with Mary and Joseph, for our Christmas Services!!

Finance Team Report

Elder: Mike Marzano

This past year has been another good year financially for First Presbyterian Church of Newark. We have formed a well-balanced committee to monitor and maintain the church's financial status and systems. Steve Cedeno, our treasurer, oversees all our operating accounts including investments. Steve and our contract bookkeeper, Jessica Burgos, see that all our bills are paid, and our reports are completed. Wanda Proctor continues as our Financial Secretary with the assistance of Gloria Wilson. Together they collect and deposit all our income as well as monitor our online giving. They also maintain your giving records.

We continue with our same 3 Corporate Officers, Kathy Vinson, Bruce Schlobohm and Mike Marzano. The Corporate Officers review contracts and make financial recommendations to Session.

The committee has started the development of a First Presbyterian Church Financial Manual to help document the management of the church financial systems and assist future committees to maintain our financial consistency and stability.

Our major expenses after personnel costs are still the increasing costs of insurance and utilities. Buildings and Grounds received some additional funds to continue the maintenance of our facility and property. We have been able to operate within our annual income. Session approved funds from the Building Fund for the installation of a new heating system and solar system. We have started seeing a savings in our utilities and improved comfort from the new equipment. We increased funds for Hospitality as we see a thriving brunch ministry. The Worship budget is also growing as we see our worship music program grow. We are maintaining our attendance and membership. It is always great to see some younger faces and youth participate as part of our congregation. We are still setting funds aside to assist the Pastor Nominating Committee with the Pastor hiring process when it is needed.

Our congregation continues to support the Church with their tithing and contributions. We will end 2025 with a small deficit. Attached is a Summary Financial Report with more detail. Slow and steady progress as we move forward for Christ and our community.

Kathy Vinson, Mike Marzano, Bruce Schlobohm, Steve Cedeno, Wanda Proctor
Your Finance Committee

Financial Report 2025 End of Year & 2026 Proposed

Fund	2026 Proposed expenses	Change 2025 to 2026	Approved 2025 Budget	12/31/2025
				2025 Actual
Administration/ Stewardship	\$45,000.00	\$0.00	\$45,000	\$45,411
Events	\$500.00	-\$500.00	\$1,000	\$75
Personnel	\$221,816.00	\$5,316.00	\$216,500	\$218,169
Worship	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000	\$3,738
Missions	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000	\$7,150
Fellowship/ Hospitality	\$6,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,000	\$6,149
Education Committee	\$2,000.00	-\$7,000.00	\$9,000	\$75
Buildings & Grounds	\$45,000.00	-\$7,000.00	\$52,000	\$35,368
Total Amount Spent	\$327,316.00	-\$8,184.00	\$335,500	\$316,135
Brunch Donations	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000	\$1,050
Special Funds/Reserves Used	\$2,500.00	-\$500.00	\$3,000	\$3,086
Contribution Income	\$210,000.00	-\$20,000.00	\$230,000	\$189,336
Facility Use / Rent	\$95,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$85,000	\$100,468
Other income/ Interest	\$12,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$10,000	\$16,875
Income Estimate	\$320,500.00	-\$8,500.00	\$329,000	\$310,815
Deficit/Surplus	-\$6,816.00		-\$6,500	-\$5,320
Reserves Used	Building Fund - Heating & solar installation			\$160,742.00

Hospitality Report

Elder: Sue Marinucci

What we do in Hospitality is to have those who attend our church feel welcome and to promote Fellowship and what better way than to offer a Fabulous Fellowship Brunch in the Fellowship Hall after our Sunday Service.

In order to accomplish this mission, a schedule is written every two months to make sure there is ample help. The schedule is fairly flexible and it is my goal to only have each person serve no more than twice a month. And, should there be any conflicts, replacements jump in where needed.

Our duties are purchasing supplies, setting up tables and chairs in the Fellowship Hall, preparing and displaying beverages such as coffee, tea, pastries, cookies, entrees, and other foods donated each Sunday. Through email, we manage to create, add to, and execute a complete menu with main and side dishes, desserts and of course, coffee and teas, and hot chocolate.

Our current Hospitality team is: Steve Cleland, Steve Cedeno, Teri and Mike Marzano, Vicky Fontes, Marian Andres, Teresa and David Kayumy, Viki and Wan Lee Cheng, Patricia Aryee, Wes Hall, Carrie Holdengriggs, and Kimmy-Ann Billings.

Our cooks, bakers and food donation participants are Polly and Richard Anderson, Michelle and John Christian, Nancy Couchot, Kathy Duncan, Teri and Mike Marzano, Karl and Jacque Frederick, Nikki Hensley-Savio, Robert Jones, Bimi and Arnand Kharmani, Jessica Lawrence, Hong and Qing Lin, Barbara Miller, Pam Stringfellow, Bob Vinson, Sandy Klingval and also some drop in donations from others.

Lastly, we have a donation jar at the beginning of the buffet for those who wish to donate that way. The checks are given to the folks in the office to add to the Hospitality budget, and the cash is used for food and such to complete any given menu.

Most importantly, thanks to the Hospitality team, the cooks, bakers, and donors for making our Fellowship the success it has become and will continue to be. We appreciate you all and all that you do.

Blessings.

Mission Team Report

Elder: Wendy Wang

After Jerry Reynolds' resignation, Wendy Wang took over the Mission Team in May with Rev. Karl Shadley overseeing the group.

Committee consists of:

Bimi Kharnami
Brianna Miracle Kharnami
David Kayumi
Mustapha Baksh
Carrie Griggs

The Mission Team had one meeting focused on treating people's needs as holy.

May 5, 2025

Mission Team decided to sponsor Bimi Kharnami, a volunteer, with the costs of ministry for our children's and youth ministries - \$650/month

Jul 13, 2025

Mission Team decided to sponsor David Kayumi's trip to a 4-day conference by CCA, a non-profit that works with Afghans by networking churches, families, and organizations.

Cost: \$1300

Oct 8, 2025

Met with Dr. J. Reeder from Paraclete Ministry on how we can work and help the Afghan Refugee Ministry, who suggests that we have the youth intern actively outreach to promote our church.

Attendees: Nikki Salvo, Mike Marzano, Teri Marzano, David Kayumi, and Wendy Wang

Nominating Committee Report

Elder: Bruce Schlobohm

The Nominating Committee has had a busy year. We were charged with installing a Pastor Nominating Committee as well as our usual responsibility to fill the Session and Deacon vacancies. To that end, the following church members are serving as our Session and Deacons.

For the Session:

Class of 2026	Nikki Hensley-Savio
	Sue Marinucci
Class of 2027	Mike Marzano
	Kathy Vinson
Class of 2028	Steve Cedeno
	Barb Miller

For the Board of Deacons:

Class of 2026	Joe Most
	Vicky Fontes
	Kathy Duncan
Class of 2027	Anne Street Radford
	Wanda Proctor
	open
Class of 2028	John Christian
	open
	open

We thank the 2025 Class of Session members, Wendy Wang and Bruce Schlobohm for their service, and the 2025 Class of Deacons Gloria Wilson, Marian Andrews and Kellie Gent for their service.

The **Pastor Nominating Committee** was commissioned on October 19, 2025, and has begun the process of preparing our church for a new pastor. The members of the PNC are:

Sandy Klingval
 Wanda Proctor
 Elaine Szeto
 David Lin
 Bruce Schlobohm

Personnel Team Report

Elder: Kathy Vinson

Our staff for the year remained the same. Rev Karl Shadley, now our transitional pastor (for up to 3 years), David Kayumy, our office manager, and Adam Miller, our music director.

In January we presented a motion to Session for a Youth Ministry Intern position. It was passed unanimously.

In March we announced to Session that Bimi Kharnami has been selected as a volunteer for the Youth Ministry Intern position. She completed all the training required by the state and San Francisco Presbytery, including a background check.

Karl stated to Session that he appreciates that the personnel team is a good support for him.

We came up with a plan to do a team round table staff review this year. Karl sent a list of items to be discussed: review the year, successes, areas to work on, and set goals for next year.

We included Bimi, our volunteer youth intern, and met in December, it was wonderful! We also shared lunch together.

This was a good year for our team and staff. A real team building experience for worshipping the Lord.

Your Personnel Team,

Pastor Karl Shadley, Kathy Vinson, Steve Cedeno, Teri Marzano

Special Events Report

Elder: Wendy Wang

As of Feb 2, 2025, Special Events are now working with Hospitality.

Apr 20, 2025

Easter Brunch

Rather than Easter Egg Hunt, we decided to do something we're good at – FOOD!

Location: Fellowship Hall

Time: 10:45am – 1pm

Participants: 60 regular church members and 10 kids with parents.

Cost: \$255.34 (candies, plastic eggs, paint brushes, dry cleaning fee for bunny suit, bunny stuff animals)

**Parents' feedback still prefer egg hunt.

Aug 30, 2025

Summer Party with The Oasis Big Band

Co-sponsored with Deacons.

Location: FPCN patio

Time: 4:30pm – 6pm

Participants: ~80 people

Band fee: free

Food expense: \$1,011.07 (70% Deacons/30% Special Event Funds and donation from Marzanos)

Sept 21, 2025

Newark Days – Information Faire

Time: 11am – 3pm

Had a kids' painting table with Shikha, square dancing demo with Nikki, ukulele demo with Qing, and Bob's quilt display

Cost: \$252.76 (donation for 200 pens, rubber wrist bands and trifold handouts)

Inquiries: at least 200 (all giveaways given and many folks came back for more)

Oct 31, 2025

Trunks of Treats

With ACFD - publiceventsrequest@alamedacountyfire.gov

Location: Front parking lot

Time: 5:00pm – 7pm

Served hotdogs, chips, and drinks

Cost: \$771.98 (\$650.93 from Sylvia Mosher Fund and \$120.45 from donation)

Participants: ~200 – 300

**Not many folks around 5pm; best to start at 5:30pm or 6pm

Dec 13, 2025

Charlie Brown Jazz Concert with Jim Martinez Trio and Kathryn Skinner

Location: Sanctuary

Time: 7pm - 8:30pm

Cost: \$1350 from Sylvia Mosher Fund

Participants: 114

**No collection.

***Feedback on having helpers to help with Jim's music sales

****Increase pay to \$1500 next year.

Worship Committee Report

Elder: Bruce Schlobohm

Our worship services are going strong, led by the SF Presbytery superstar, the Reverend Doctor Karl Shadley, as our transitional pastor. Our arrangement with Pastor Karl allows him some time off, and so when he is not leading the worship service, Bob Vinson and David Kayumy have taken turns. We also had a special guest pastor, Reverend Kamal Hassan from Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church in Richmond

Throughout the year, our Worship services continue both in-person and also live-streamed on our FPCN YouTube channel at 9:30am Sunday mornings. Adam Miller is our Director of Worship Music, leading worship services with beautiful music along with our praise team of Adam, Danielle Gruver, Annie Hafoka, and Bob Vinson, and with Linda Martinez on piano. Adam also serves as our amazing Handbell Director continually challenging the ringers to grow in skill and musicality as well as our Choir Director, also challenging our singers. FPCN continues to be one of the few churches in the area with a strong Handbell Choir. We held a Spring Ring and Sing in May featuring all of our musicians. This year, Adam found us a very nice, used, baby grand piano, which we funded with a special offering request. All of our expert pianists agree this piano is far and away better than the old one that we replaced. We also purchased a pair of very special microphones we use for capturing the sounds of our choir and handbells, which has greatly improved the quality of our recorded audio.

The Audio Visual Team, led by Elder Bruce Schlobohm this year has included Barb Miller, Hong Lin, David Lin, Wendy Wang, John Christian, Mustapha Baksh and David Kayumy. We continue to hear from friends who have moved away from the Bay Area that have been able to watch and worship with us via the YouTube Channel, either live or later on the recording. We feel that by using this online worship technology, we have actually extended the reach of our worship services beyond the immediate Tri-City area. Our assistive hearing technology known as T-Loop allows those with hearing aids to hear the service without the need for an extra headset. Headsets are available for those needing help hearing but without their hearing aids.

Marian Andrews continues as head usher and greeter, leading a small team to provide name badges as the congregation arrives. Barb Miller has been leading the team to place seasonal banners and other decorations as appropriate in the Sanctuary as well as prepare the communion elements.

The Worship Committee held monthly in-person meetings to coordinate the upcoming couple of months of worship programs, discussing the recent Sunday services and understanding the theological plans from our pastor. The committee includes Sandy Klingval, Barb Miller, Adam Miller, Pastor Karl, and our Commissioned Ruling Elder candidates-in-training, Bob Vinson, David Kayumy and Bimi Kharnami, and me.

Other Church Ministries

BSA Troop 186 Annual Report for 2025

Eve Marie Little, Troop Committee Chairman

Boy Scout Troop 186 is a long-term ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Troop 186 has been very consistent this year with weekly meetings. This year, we have a total of 30 scouts; we gained 4 new Scouts in the Spring which bridged from Pack 441 and 4 scouts who joined us thanks to referrals from current scouts in our troop. We also had two of our scouts achieve their Eagle Scout ranks, super excited about that. The main leaders continue to be Brian Wynn as the Scout Master and Eve Marie Little as the Committee Chair. We have added two new Assistant Scoutmasters, Melanie Young and Liu Yang, this year.

The Troop has had a VERY successful summer this year with TWO summer camps; one at Camp Wente, where the majority of those that attended were new scouts, and the famous Camp Philmont in New Mexico, where our troop was one of the two troops chosen to be featured in the Camp Philmont Catalog for the fall edition! Who knew we had future models in our unit? During these two camping trips, over 120 merit badges were earned this year, a great accomplishment for our small troop.

We had several fun activities this year, including getting back involved with the Newark Days. The scouts worked hard on parking logistics as well as selling donuts, coffees and similar items on Saturday, the largest day of the event. The troop sent a huge thank you to the church for allowing them to, once again, rent out the parking spaces which helped us raise enough money to pay for the majority of their camping fees this year! Yeah!

We had two heavy-duty Inventory Preparation Days where we shifted through all the old supplies, popped up all the tents to test them, and tossed all the broken/unusable items. We also had one LARGE purchase which was three ALL SEASON tents to add to their inventory, which they used specifically for winter camping in February 2025.

The Scouts also attended the Merit Badge Extravaganza and earned over 50 merit badges on a weekend in February and the Troop Showcase in the Fall.

We had a great site meeting with the Alameda County Fire Department to talk about Fire safety at the main fire station in downtown Newark. Towards the end, they had a real emergency happen and they got to see them prep and leave in less than a minute! Even our leaders got special acknowledgements with our Assistant Scoutmaster, Randy Miranda, receiving the Mission Peak District Certificate of Appreciation at the District Awards in the Spring.

Thanks to the church allowing the scouts to rent out parking spots during Newark Days, the scouts were able to enjoy tons of camping trips this year, including the following:

JANUARY – Indoor Rally and Reverence Walk

FEBRUARY – Winter Camping

MARCH – Mt. Diablo Campout

APRIL – China Camp Weekend

MAY – Coyote Lake Camping Trip

JUNE – Brannan Island Camping Trip

JULY – Camp Philmont in New Mexico

AUGUST – Camp Wente in North California

OCTOBER – Elkhorn Ranch weekend and service project

There were also several fun activities the scouts participated in various other events, including San Jose Shark Scout Hockey Night and Troop Showcase.

As to community events, we decided to get “more green” this year and get involved in helping with some additional environmental issues. The scouts were involved in the Newark Tree Plantings to help get more trees planted within our own city (and Fremont too).

They also helped Don Edwards with a site trash clean-up along with removing invasive plant species in March which was greatly appreciated by the park rangers since so much of their funding has been cut in the last couple of months.

During the month of November, they spent two full weekends of Scouting for Food where close to 5,300 items were collected and donated to Viola Blythe in Newark during Scouting for Food. They also decided to pick up another area (Rosemont in Newark) to pick up more food since we have grown as a troop. We again partnered with the Alameda County Fire Department to sort food items but also reached out to the High School for volunteers, which made the collections sorting SUPER successful this year. Eve wrote an article about this donation and it was printed in the Tri-City Voice at Communities unite for ‘Scouting for Food’ drive | Tri City Voice with a cute picture of the scouts lined up at the church’s parking lot to get their donation bin counted.

As for direct service projects, we were all about fences this year! We helped the church with a massive clean-up of some shrubs and trees on the left side of the entrance along with helping the Elkhorn Ranch put in a new fence for their goats. The boys LOVED learning more about the power tools and “boys toys” needed for these projects.

Our troop was also the troop in charge of assisting with the inaugural “Heroes in the Community” event at Silliman center in October where a “career fair” like set-up was put together to showcase all of the blue collar and behind the scene organization that help keep our city running.