



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 58 No. 01

January/February 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Writing in December, 2020 and projecting into January/February 2021 requires a special kind of naïve bravado. At this point in 2019, who could have predicted what this year was going to be?

Most of us wishfully hope that at the stroke of midnight into the new year, all of this pandemic heaviness will lift and depart. Few of us expect that to actually happen.

So, as we look into 2021, what should we anticipate? Here are my Top 5 things we can and should expect:



1. **We should anticipate that God will still be God.** I confess to you that there is a full dose of humility in that sentence. I am as guilty as many in despairing over the lack of control I can exert over circumstances. This pandemic has been a stark reminder that God's mercies are new every morning. Each day is a gift. Hebrews 13:8 promises: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." It is good to remember whom it is that we worship and serve – and who really is in control.
2. **We should anticipate that God will continue to be good.** The gospel remains the gospel. God's love for us expressed in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ is good news to share with a hurting and broken world. We have hope assured. Nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Thus, we are blessed: we remain disciples called to "go, make disciples of all nations" even though our "going" will look a little different for a while.
3. **We should anticipate a new time and be preparing for it now.** If "going" will look different for a little while, how will we know where and how to go? Well, social distancing does not apply to time in the presence of God praying. There is no substitute for prayer. We can be praying – individually and collectively – that God would make us ready for the environment we will find when restrictions lift and people venture out again. We can be doing what we can in order to prepare. Where are we being called in mission? In service? In fellowship? We can be in prayer and conversation now about initial answers to those questions.

The other part of that discernment process is to be aware of how things around us are going to be different. We have no real idea the scope of the pandemic's impact on the national psyche. People are spiritually and emotionally hurting. We are not designed for isolation. We have no real idea the extent to which children have been affected. Children have gone through this whole experience – and are internalizing all the stress, pain, and sense of powerlessness for things outside of their control. Many families are hurting financially: many businesses have closed and many people have lost jobs that will not be coming back. All things are not going to snap back to "normal" in a moment.

Thus, we are going to need to be discerning and adapting to a world unfamiliar to us. God's guidance and leading is always essential; it is just that now we are much more directly aware of our need for it.

4. **We should anticipate having a greater appreciation for the fellowship God has given us.** We have been blessed with each other. As this crisis has gone on, this has been the most universally experienced hardship. What we are able to do now pales in comparison to the time spent in coffee hour after service

on Sunday – time cherished by many (many!) people. How much more precious we will hold those opportunities to break bread, to sit and visit, to laugh and to cry together. In person.

Part of the blessing of being together is partnering in things. Each of us brings our own ideas and together we sharpen and strengthen one another. Isolation has led to a situation where we have trust our own instincts. The result has been a tendency to become critical of those who do not see things our way. Things that we would not notice or remember suddenly take on new relevance, importance, and become a stumbling block between us. My suspicion is that we will be amazed at how quickly all those disagreements, hurts, and difficulties melt away when we are able to cherish one another's company.

5. **We can anticipate that there will be much to do.** I don't think this needs much explanation. The question will be whether we are willing to heed Christ's call, step up, and do those things that need done. If my experience of this congregation prior to the pandemic was a reliable indicator, I believe the answer will be "yes."

Ultimately, the charge to "Go, make disciples, baptizing and teaching" remains our marching order. Last June, I did a special piece in the Midweek Announcements that bears repeating here as we look into the year ahead:

Friends, we have the opportunity to serve and bear witness to Jesus in tangible, practical, immediate ways.

It is not a time to give up, it is a time to stand up.

It is not a time to despair, it is a time to live with hope.

It is not a time to yield to sorrow, it is a time to live with the joy of our salvation in Jesus Christ as the foundation of our day-to-day, moment-by-moment focus.

In the movie Apollo 13, the true story is told of how scientists and engineers took a disaster and joined together to try to accomplish the seemingly impossible. Toward the end, as the capsule was about to re-enter the earth's atmosphere, there is a scene in the control room in Houston:

Man 1: The parachute situation, the heat shield, the angle of the trajectory and the typhoon; these are some of the variables in play.

Man 2: I know what the problems are, Henry. This could be the worst disaster NASA has ever experienced.

Gene Kranz turns to the man: With all due respect, sir, I believe this is going to be our finest hour.

I hope, pray, and believe that this will be our finest hour, too. I pray that 2021 will be a year that later generations will identify as a powerful moment in the life of this congregation where we stood up, lived in hope, and bore a faithful witness to the power of the gospel – because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith.

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis

Congregational Giving—General Budget			
2020 Projected			
	<u>Budget Need</u>	<u>Given</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<i>December 21, 2020</i>			
Yr. to Date	\$525,724	\$466,346	- \$ 59,378
<u>Current</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>
	\$466,346	\$434,740	+ \$ 31,606
<u>TO DATE</u>			
<u>Cameras</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>
	\$ 8,345.00	\$ 8,345.00	0
THANK YOU, ALL and HAPPY NEW YEAR!			

**TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR
MARCH**
Is February 12

Send your info / articles / submissions
to margo@fpccarsoncity.org

Family Ministries

I am so excited to share an opportunity for the new year with you!
For our Sunday school students PreK-6th, we are going to start the year
with Virtual Sunday School!!

AND

it's not limited to just the kids who already attend.

If you have a child, grandchild, neighbor, or anyone in your life who would
enjoy watching a weekly video and receiving materials to go along with
the lesson, email me with a contact email and physical address, and they
will be included in this fun and exciting adventure too!

Virtual Sunday School

As we don't know week to week what is going to change as far as being able
to meet in person, this curriculum is subject to change. January 3-February 7.

PreK/Kindergarten

Daring Faith

Week 1 - Noah

Week 2 - David and Goliath

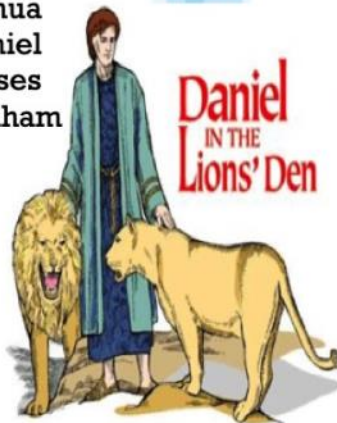
Week 3 - Joshua

Week 4 - Daniel

Week 5 - Moses

Week 6 - Abraham

PRAYER



**Daniel
IN THE
Lions' Den**



Baby Moses

PROTECTION

1st-3rd

Daring Faith

(Different videos and materials than PreK-K)

Week 1 - Noah

Week 2 - David and Goliath

Week 3 - Joshua

Week 4 - Daniel

Week 5 - Moses

Week 6 - Abraham

4th-6th

Week 1 - Noah (Trust)

Week 2 - David (Who you are on the inside)

Week 3 - David and Goliath (God can use you)

Week 4 - Daniel (Pray without ceasing)

Week 5 - Baby Moses (God will protect you)

Week 6 - Moses and the burning bush (God uses
normal things to do the impossible)



**Jonah
and the Big Fish**

FORGIVENESS

sherri@fpccarsoncity.org
Sherri Chenin Gurney
Family ministry Coordinator

Thank You, Jesus -

This month, January 2021, marks the 20th anniversary of my tenure in full time music ministry at First Presbyterian Church! It has been a fast 20 years for sure. I have been privileged to serve this church as a Director of Music Ministry. I previously worked for the church in a part-time capacity as both an Assistant Director of Choir and as a Praise Team Coordinator. For the most part, this journey has been one of joy. The God we collectively serve is so much greater than we can fathom, and I thank you, the members of FPC, for believing that our worship of Him is important enough to dedicate my time to that service.



Having said all that, I want to write today about something near and dear to my heart. The idea that God, speaks so much louder than we are able to hear. And our hearts can often be closed off to the possibilities that God has for us, because we are not listening for His voice. Or we stubbornly refuse to listen for the still small voice of the Holy Spirit in our lives. As Charles Spurgeon has put it "There are spiritual matters that we ought to have seen, corruptions that have been allowed to develop unnoticed, tender affections that are being harmed like flowers in the frost, untended by us, glimpses of the Lord that we might have perceived if we had not barricaded the windows of our soul." We are all guilty of this. What grace, what mercy, God has for us even knowing before we commit these offenses that He would make a way for us to be put back into right relationship with Him! Wonder at the sacrifice of His Son!

Our abilities to make idols out of the things that are so good is unmatched! We do this just by concentrating more on those things than on our relationship with God. The most important choice we make in life is that of choosing to follow Jesus. There is nothing other than that choice that we must make. All other choices pale in comparison.

When we choose to follow Jesus, it means we can depend on His "channel-markers" in our journey through the ocean of life. It means we forsake everything else — which by the way, is modeled in the song we often sing "Seek Ye First", which is based on Matthew 6:33. It means we take all our cares and concerns to the Lord first and wait for His answers to the dilemmas. That may seem like pie in the sky in some ways, but if we act without bringing these items to Him first, we short-circuit His blessings — yes, I say blessings, for who of us can see the outcomes except in retrospect?

So for 2021 — even though we are still in the midst of a raging pandemic, I choose to stay close to God. I choose to communicate with Him and allow Him to resolve any issues I encounter. His is the only "safety" I have known in this life. I choose to say "Thank you, Jesus" in all things, good and bad. And I choose to put Him first! His is the blessing and mercy and grace for which we labor, that others might see and say "tell me more". This is how the Gospel is spread.

God bless us all as we continue in the faith and follow our Lord,

Karen



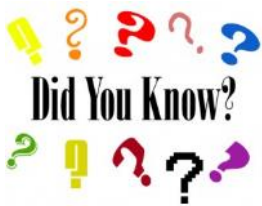


Thank you to all who took and filled the green and red Christmas Bags for the Northern Nevada Dream Center mission project. You returned 35 green bags and 22 red bags. These have gone out with hams and turkeys for the families in our communities that need a little help in order to have a more blessed Christmas. In each bag included a booklet telling the true story of Christmas from the Bible.

2020 -Night Off the Streets (NOTS) Warming Shelter



Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25:40 *"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."* Although the pandemic did increase the concern and fear about offering hospitality to a stranger, it also increased the need and the desire of the faithful to answer the call. Praise God for that! This year's warming shelter at First Presbyterian did get off to a rocky start. We had originally planned to host the shelter for two weeks from December 1-14. On Nov. 29th the shelter was closed in an abundance of caution after a volunteer, who had worked the shelter on Nov. 22nd at its previous location tested, positive for COVID -19. On December 5th the Shelter was able to re-open. We hosted for nine nights and provided 100 person-nights of lodging, 24% of those nights were to female guests. During that time seven of the nights were below freezing and the coldest night was 17 degrees. Thanks to each of you who prayed for the shelter, worked behind the scenes at FPC or were able to work a shift. Thanks to those who also have worked shifts at St. Paul's Lutheran, the United Methodist, and will work at the Salvation Army Church. The shelter is scheduled to remain open through March, 2021. Please continue to pray for NOTS and if you are able to volunteer, contact the shelter by email at notscarson@gmail.com.



Happy New Year! With a new year comes new beginnings. Our website has been revamped and there is a lot to get excited about! You can read and listen to sermons, find all of our announcements, attend virtual Sunday School (K-6th), and much more! If you have any comments or questions feel free to email me at: abby@fpccarsoncity.org.

Abby

We are looking to hire a new part-time bookkeeper. This position is responsible for accounting functions of the church in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), including but not limited to accounting, budgeting, analysis payroll, accounts payable, donations, financial reporting and reports, and maintenance of financial records. The primary areas of responsibility and authority are outlined in the Financial and Accounting Policies and Procedures of the First Presbyterian Church, Carson City, Nevada. CHURCH WINDOWS integrated software program and Microsoft Excel are used to record accounting and related financial entries of the church.



- 16 hours per week
- \$20 per hour

If you are interested or have any questions please contact the office at (775) 882-1032

ECO 2021 DUES

First Presbyterian Church's dues for our denomination, ECO (A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians) will be **\$20.00 per member for 2021**. Our dues goes to help with the Administration of our denomination. They help churches with health, pension and retirement benefits. They also provide training sessions and our Annual Convention in February. Our mission committees can access information from them in times of disasters, as to how we can help and partner with churches in need.

We pay these dues on a monthly basis. Our estimated 2021 dues is approximately \$5,300. There will be a gray envelope in the giving envelope boxes, in the pews and in the narthex, or just drop your check in the offering plate and memo it ECO Dues.

Thank you for helping with this special offering and all FPC's missions in 2021.



Names and dates removed for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER & PRAISES LIST

As of 12-22-2020

REMOVED FOR PRIVACY

MISSION WORK TO PRAY FOR: All of the missionaries and groups supported by FPC – local, national, and international



Names and dates removed for privacy



Names and dates removed for privacy



Names and dates removed for privacy

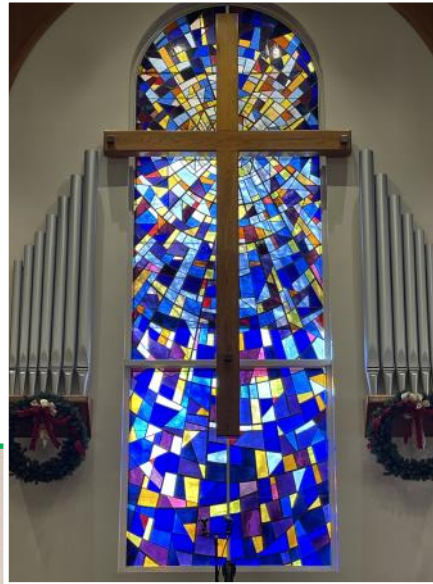


Active-Duty Military in Our Prayers:

Names removed for privacy

WIL AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK KAYE KEETON, RON AND SIGRID HOBBS, VICKI PEARSON, AND BOB AND GRACE SPEICHER FOR COMING AND HELPING TO DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS. WE APPRECIATE EACH ONE OF YOU.
BLESSINGS, CANDI EULER

Did you see our beautiful Sanctuary in all it's Christmas splendor?



Happy New Year to everyone at First Presbyterian Church! We have been talking about getting the online church directory in place for a while now. Data entry and set up has taken longer than was hoped but if you are in the current directory (available in the church office), you will be in the new directory—without or without a picture.

Many of you had your picture taken by Bob and Cecelia Stansbury. **THANK YOU** to them for doing this part of the project. HOWEVER – we still need pictures of most of the congregation. Some of you have not been able to be at church to have your picture taken, others did not stop to take a photo when you were at church on Sunday. Bob is still willing to work with you if you need your picture taken. Contact Margo in the office and we can help!

Some of you have provided some great pictures of your own. This works well too! Email your picture to margo@fpccarsoncity.org, bring it to the office on a thumb drive, or bring in a good, printed photo to be scanned. (The photo needs to be viewable within a small square that is the limit set by the directory program.) Finally, if you had a picture in the 2015 directory, you can let Margo know to use that picture.



So, what is this directory, you ask? In a nutshell, initially, it is a file accessible via a mobile app and online directory website. Access is password protected so information is safe. You will be able to view the directory on your phone or computer, even print it at home (we will also continue to have non-picture directories available in the church office). Information can be updated on an ongoing basis so information can be current. There are a number of possibilities and customizations with this program that can be developed as time goes on to make this a very handy tool for FPC covenant partners to use.

For now, however, thank you for your patience, *please submit your photo*, and stay tuned for the unveiling in the very near future.

Margo

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Corner of North Division & West King Streets
 Administration Office
 306 West Musser Street
 Carson City, NV 89703

Non-profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Carson City, NV 89701
 Permit Number 173

Return Service Requested

Place Label Here

THE TRUMPET

Published by the
First Presbyterian Church
 115 N. Division St.

OFFICE

306 West Musser Street
 Carson City, NV 89703
 775-882-1032
 fax 775-882-8095

The Rev. Bob Davis
 pastorbob@fpccarsoncity.org

Worship Services
 10:00 AM

Webpage
 www.fpccarsoncity.org

Trumpet & Sunday Bulletin articles can be sent to
 margo@fpccarsoncity.org and may be edited for
 space. See calendar for due dates.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY SERMON TOPICS:

January 3	
<i>"In the Beginning"</i>	Genesis 1: 1-2:3
January 10	
<i>"Not Ashamed"</i>	Genesis 2: 4-25
January 17	
<i>"Brokenness"</i>	Genesis 3: 1-24
January 24	
<i>"Members of the Family"</i>	Matthew 25: 18-31
January 31	
<i>"My Brother's Keeper"</i>	Genesis 4: 1-26
February 7	
<i>"Generations"</i>	Genesis 5: 1-32
February 14	
<i>"Build an Ark"</i>	Genesis 6: 1-22
February 17	
Ash Wednesday Worship (Tentative)	
February 21	
<i>"There was a Flood"</i>	Genesis 7:1-24
February 28	
<i>"Disembark"</i>	Genesis 8: 1-22

See us and
 "Like" us on

