



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 57 No. 02

March 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Lent began with Ash Wednesday on February 26, 2020. A formula for determining the dates each year was established in 1583 A.D. Based on church tradition and the adopted formula, Easter is always on a Sunday sometime between March 22 and April 25 – this year, April 12.

I did some looking online to find out how the Easter date is calculated. Apparently, before 325 AD, the resurrection was celebrated on different dates in different regions; in fact, some celebrations were on other days of the week than Sunday. The Council of Nicea (where we get the first formulation of the Nicene Creed) declared that Easter should be on a Sunday.

Later, after the development and widespread use of the Gregorian Calendar, tables were created to establish the date of Easter. It would be the Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon. The date of the Paschal Full Moon was established by the calendar tables. It is curious that this method was chosen because the tables could be as much as two days different than the calculation.

While that may be interesting, the more important thing to recognize is that Lent is the time in the church's liturgical (service) year when we pause to reflect on the meaning of Christ's Passion: his life, suffering, death, and resurrection.

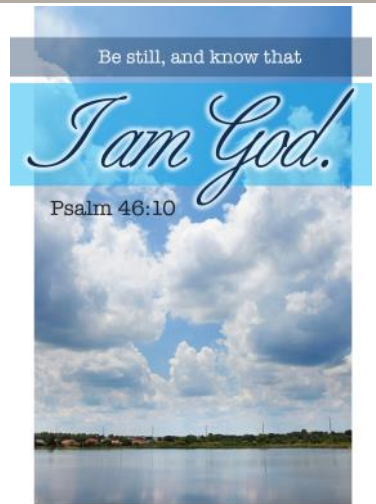
When I was growing up, our neighborhood was comprised of Presbyterians and Roman Catholics in approximately equal numbers. I remember being puzzled when the Roman Catholics talked about giving up something for Lent and not being allowed to eat meat on Friday. There were long strategic discussions among 8-, 9-, and 10-year-old boys about how to give up something that would not really be missed.

What we all really missed was the point.

We did not remember the point of deprivation was to have a physical reminder of Christ's Passion. In that small way, during the irritation or hunger pang, we are reminded to remember how Jesus walked the road to the cross for us and for our sins. How strange that sounds and looks: we need to be reminded to remember.

Yet remembering is a recurrent theme in Scripture. God remembers, leaders remember, and the people remember promises they have made, promises that have been made to them, and how those promises have been fulfilled.

Remembering takes time. In our busy and hectic days, remembering gets short shrift. Phone calls, responsibilities, traffic, media and other things keep us from opening up time to simply reflect. It can be difficult to "be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10) We are more comfortable in being busy – being still often makes us feel like we are not doing anything worthwhile.



(continues on next page)

From the Pastor's Workshop (continued)

During this Lenten season, I would encourage you to take some quiet time each day – even if it is only 15 minutes. Turn off the television or the radio, ignore the phone and the doorbell, and open your Bible to one of the gospels and read. It is a good way to remember.

If you do take time to be still, you can be sure that others will notice. Disciplined behavior is something that those around you will discern – it is a witness to them. They may ask you about what you are doing, perceiving that you are engaged in something out of the ordinary. What a wonderful open door to sharing the good news of the gospel! Your talking about being a disciple is an encouragement to other believers and an invitation to those who are lost or searching.

“For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas (Peter), then to the twelve.” (1 Corinthians 15:3-5). This is the good news we have received, it is the good news we have to share with everyone around us.

May we grow to love God more deeply and know God more intimately as we take time to listen and meditate on His Word.

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis



In light of the scam that targeted our congregation, I want to make sure everyone is aware:

First Presbyterian Church staff and officers will NEVER contact you via text or email seeking money.

We will NEVER ask you to personally front money for ministry, mission, or compassionate purposes.

We have the Deacons' fund that has been specifically designated to address these kinds of events. So, if you receive something purporting to be from us — particularly on a weekend or during a time when the office is not open — please contact the person directly by the phone number in the church directory to confirm what is going on. We want to discourage those who would seek to take advantage of the trust and fellowship we have in Jesus Christ.

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis

PART TIME EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Charlene Rodman is retiring as FPC's Bookkeeper as of April 30th. If you are interested in this part time position, please see the FPC website for more information or contact Grace Speicher for details.

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Year to Date Through February 16th

Needed	\$ 72,158
Received	\$ 93,214
Difference	\$ + 21,056

Thank you for your generous response to our ECO Dues offering. We have received \$2,955 toward our ECO budget of \$5,000 for 2020.

THANK YOU ALL!

TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR APRIL

Is MARCH 13

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

Family Ministries

Save these dates!

May 30: Bicycle Poker Run through the West Side of Carson City.

Father's Day: Bring a picnic lunch and a blanket for a picnic on the East Lawn after church.



Coming soon: Golf and Grub,
and Kayaking!!



student Spotlight



Avery Olson

What do you like to do with your family?
Going on bike rides with my dad, going to the park with him,
watching videos of baby animals with my mom.
What would you like to be when you grow up?
A mom, an acrobat, a ballerina
What does prayer mean to you?
It's good to pray at bedtime, to pray for my mom so she can get
better, to pray for my dad so he can come home soon.



"...but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

Matthew 19:14

Ben Crawley

What's the best thing about being you?
My family.
If you could meet anyone famous, who would it be?
Harrison Ford because he played Han Solo in Star Wars,
and he's a pretty good actor.
What's one thing you'd like to ask God?
How God describes himself.



God Has Shown Us -

*He has shown thee O man
What is good and what the Lord requires of you.
He has shown thee O man
What is good and what the Lord requires of thee*

*But to do justly and to love mercy
And to walk humbly with thy God - (Micah 6:8 as interpreted by Bob Sklar)*



We will be using this song in our worship in March, but I wanted to help us realize what the context of this passage is.

These words of the “prophet” Micah were recorded sometime during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah (so like from 750 - 687 BC). This is roughly parallel to the active time of two other 8th century prophets, Hosea and Isaiah. Micah’s name means “Who is like Yahweh?” He is not officially called a prophet by some scholars, though the source of his powerful words is attributed to the Spirit of the Lord and that makes him a prophet.

God’s people are called always to love mercy and act justly while walking humbly with Him. God honors a humble walk with Him. When researching scripture for songs that we do in worship, I was reminded of this song as an example of how we are called to approach God in worship as well. There are three elements in this scripture that we are called:

- 1) to do justly — God is just and therefore we cannot outdo His justice. But we can show justice to others. This act is lateral — to our fellow human beings.
- 2) to love mercy — and therefore show mercy — again laterally to others
- 3) and lastly in the list — to walk humbly with our God. This is the vertical relationship. We cannot bring to God our offerings of worship that are acceptable until we have shown others the love and mercy that God has shown us. This means that if we have not been merciful or loving to others, we risk having any offering of worship we bring to God be rejected.

This passage of scripture was a teaching moment for both the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. God’s people had become very wicked their behavior; idolatry, seizure of property, failure of leadership, the belief that personal sacrifice satisfied divine justice and corrupt business practices and violence. Somehow, I am reminded of this present age when I read this list. The book of Micah brings into focus the character of God and the sins of his people. God had formed a covenant with Abraham and his descendants who regularly were oppressed due to their unfaithfulness. It also speaks of a Shepherd-King who will deliver God’s people. It shows that covenant faithfulness is not merely ritual, but in fact a proper expression of love: justice, mercy and faithfulness. It also speaks of the true focus of worship - the Lord - and says that the nations are observing Zion to learn of the true Lord and how to live in peace.

Though Micah “indicts” through his prophecy, he also shows that God will forgive and there is grace flowing from God’s love for His people. Forgiveness comes because God is faithful. Should we not also approach Him with faithfulness because of His great grace?

As we enter the season of Lent, may we be regularly showing justice and mercy to all our fellow humans, and may we humbly walk with God that His grace will shine in the world and others will be drawn to Him.

Who is like You, O Lord?

Karen Dahlen
Director of Music

Thank You to All Who Participated!!!!

DESERT SCHOONERS ' CHILI COOK-OFF THANKS



We had another wonderful evening of good Christian fellowship. And, we again had a record crowd! A big thank you is extended to all who volunteered to assume a responsibility and did such a good job. Also, we would like to express great appreciation to all of you who took time to make such wonderful chili and soup for this special occasion.

Congratulations to the winners, who were: First Place – John Sullivan; Second Place – Donald Scherer; and Third Place – Omega Collins (Wheeler).

Of course, a special thank you is extended to all of you who donated items for the silent auction and raffle. The proceeds will be used for various church related projects, as determined by the Desert Schooners.

Looking forward to next year, Bob & Grace Speicher have accepted the responsibility of organizing the Chili Cook-Off. Thank you so much for providing the leadership for this wonderful, special occasion in the future.

A personal note, I do not know how to express my sincere appreciation for everyone who so willingly volunteered to assume various responsibilities of the many, many, many years of this special evening of Christian fellowship. Your efforts helped make these evenings a great occasion. THANK YOU!

Chuck Beattie, Chairman
Chili Cook-Off Committee

SCARVES OF LOVE

To date, we've distributed 342 scarves, hats, gloves, socks and blankets to our neighbors in need. It's been very rewarding and we thank you all for donating. The collection box will be out until March 1 for last minute donations. Any questions, please contact Carol Allen through the church office 882-1032.

FPC NIGHT OFF THE STREETS-2019 RECAP

This past December, from the 15th to the 31st FPC hosted the Night Off the Streets (NOTS) warming shelter in the Family Life Center. During those 17 days we provided 605 bed nights or on average 35 guests per night. We had 460 men and 145 woman join us. We had two ambulance calls and Carson City paramedics provided lifesaving care and transport. During the period we hosted NOTS sixteen of the seventeen days had night time temperature below freezing and we had a couple days in the low twenties and several days of snow.

During the first two months of NOTS in 2019 five of the guests got full time jobs, 3 obtained permanent housing and two began to attend AA meeting and continue to do so. These things provide tangible evidence of our answered prayers.

We had fifty-eight members of the church staff the fifty-one shifts. We had another fifteen members who served behind the scenes, cleaning, locking and un-locking the building and hosting and providing food and gifts for the Christmas morning celebration. Thanks to each and every one of you who served and became the hands and feet of Jesus.

I think all who heard Caren Kipler's testimony on January 26th about her NOTS experience related and were moved by her powerful insights. She shared that initially she was fearful, had some anxiety and was a little self-righteous or "churchy" about this new experience she had signed up for. God had other plans and things to share with her and I think with each of us. When she experienced some ungratefulness on the part of some of the guests (although I think the minority) God nudged her that during her/our walk with HIM, she/we too had been at times ungrateful. That can just knock the self-righteousness right out of you! Praise God for all his many blessing and teachings as we struggle in this world to do what Jesus calls us to do. Let us continue to reach out to others, to help share their burden and to be brothers and sisters in Christ.

Rob Scanland
Missions Committee



Names and dates removed for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER & PRAISES LIST

Requested as of Feb. 19, 2020

Names removed for privacy



Names and dates removed for privacy



Baby Bottles for Life Choices are to be returned on **March 9th** (or any Sunday before March 9th). Sharon Hughes will be at the table in the Narthex to collect them from 9:30 to 10 and after church until everyone comes out. Make checks payable to LIFE CHOICES (not FPC).



The next **HYMN SING** is **MARCH 19!** Join us in the Family Life Center for a meal at 5:30 with singing starting around 6:15



Active Duty Military in Our Prayers: Names removed for privacy



Join **DESERT SCHOONERS** for their next meeting on **MARCH 24** at 11:30 am. BYOL (Bring your own lunch!) Watch for details in the Sunday bulletin.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE:

March is bringing a special treat to our congregation. On the weekend of March 20-22 we will get to hear from another of our mission representatives, CAROLINE KURTZ founder and Executive Director of Maji (Ethiopia) Development Coalition will be with us.

When Caroline was four years old, her parents left Portland, OR to serve as missionaries in Ethiopia. They lived and worked there for 23 years. Caroline considered Ethiopia home until she married and settled in Chicago. She and her husband and children later returned to Ethiopia where they were involved in several mission endeavors.

After Caroline and her family, returned to the US, she worked for 12 years coordinating partnerships between PCUSA churches and the partner denomination in Ethiopia.

Caroline's direction changed after losing her husband. When the people of Maji, desperate for power, approached her for help in getting solar power, the Oregon nonprofit corporation **Maji Development Corporation** was born. Caroline will share her message about MDC from our pulpit **on Sunday, March 22.**

BONUS! Caroline will give a **BOOK TALK** and entertain questions on her published memoir from 2-4 pm on Saturday, March 21st in the Family Life Center.

You'll be amazed at all of her experiences!

EVERYONE is invited to attend and bring others.

JOIN US IN WELCOMING TO CARSON CITY PORTLAND AUTHOR:



CAROLINE KURTZ



PRESENTING A BOOK TALK AND READING FROM CAROLINE KURTZ'S MEMOIR A ROAD CALLED DOWN ON BOTH SIDES: GROWING UP IN ETHIOPIA & AMERICA

(Published by Catalyst Press—July 2019)

Hear about another culture from one whose American home as a child was a mud adobe home in the remote mountains of Maji, Ethiopia in the 1950's.

What was it like as a child for "normal" to be the drums, the languages, and the joy cry of the Ethiopian people?

You will feel her conflicted feelings as she shares her very real reactions to an unfamiliar American environment upon returning to the USA, along with her pulsing desire to not entirely leave her "other" homeland behind. You will experience and learn about the continuing changes in Ethiopian history intermingled with Caroline's personal reflections in the pages of her book

WHEN:

March 21, 2020 / 2:00-4:00 pm

WHERE:

First Presbyterian Church, Carson City—Family Life Center
115 N. Division Street, Carson City
(Corner of Musser and Division Streets)

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. Trumpet mailing team led by Linda Poole.

This Month's Sermons

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| March 1 | "Watch Out" |
| March 8 | "Can You See Anything?" |
| March 15 | "You Are the Messiah" |
| March 22 | "Maji Development Coalition" |
| March 29 | "The Poor in Spirit" |

See us and
"Like" us on

