



# The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 57 No. 05

June/July 2020

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This is the June/July edition of the Trumpet, but I am going to expand it by one day to include May 31: Pentecost. This is the day when we remember the manifestation of the Holy Spirit appearing as if “tongues of flame” and the apostles breaking forth from their quarantined status to declare the mighty acts of God.

This is not an event for just back then. It is an event for us to consider today. Because whether it is a quick blast by which we are released from restrictions or a slow-rolling progression, we are going to enter into a world that looks very similar but is very different. It is a time for which we need to now be preparing as Jesus' people, as his witnesses, as his church.

Let me illustrate why preparedness is important in kind of a long-form manner. As important as it is to be able to articulate the basic message of the gospel, it also is important to be able to understand the community into which we will be sharing.

Douglas Coupland is one of my favorite authors. He is best known for *Generation X*, but he has written a number of novels that paint vivid pictures of characters we all encounter. In *Life After God* he describes the experience of many suburban kids who have grown into young adulthood. There are several different stories, each with the theme, “You are the first generation to be raised without religion.” In the final story, Scout, the narrator, describes his recollection of teen years this way:

[After swimming with friends] we towed off and drove in cars on roads that carved the mountain on which we lived – through the trees, through the subdivisions, from pool to pool, from basement to basement, up Cypress Bowl, down to Park Royal and over the Lions Gate Bridge – ***the act of endless motion itself a substitute for any larger form of thought.*** The radio would be turned on, full of love songs and rock music; we believed the rock music but I don't think we believed in the love songs, either then, or now. Ours was a life lived in paradise and thus it rendered any discussion of transcendental ideas pointless. Politics, we supposed, existed elsewhere in a televised non-paradise; death was something similar to recycling.

*Life was charmed but without politics or religion. It was the life of children of the children of the pioneers – life after God – a life of earthly salvation on the edge of heaven. Perhaps this is the finest thing to which we may aspire, the life of peace, the blurring between dream life and real life – and yet I find myself speaking these words with a sense of doubt.*

I think there was a trade-off somewhere along the line. I think the price we paid for our golden life was an inability to fully believe in love; instead we gained an irony that scorched everything it touched. And I wonder if this irony is the price we paid for the loss of God.

But then I must remind myself we are living creatures – we have religious impulses – we *must* – and yet into what cracks do these impulses flow in a world without religion? It is something I think about every day. Sometimes I think it is the only thing I should be thinking about.

“The act of endless motion itself a substitute for any larger form of thought” may be the best description of today's world.



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## *From the Pastor's Desk (continued)*

We are surrounded by Scouts in our community. There are so many people who are floating along, trying to make meaningful connection by continuous movement. Warren Zevon once wrote a song called, "I'll Sleep When I'm Dead." They are so busy so that there is no time to reflect on the larger purpose of their motion. They are adrift. You see them in the store, you see them on the road, you see them at work or in restaurants. You probably even know a few of them by name.

The shutdown and quarantine put all that to a stop. There is confusion and chaos now because the progression has been halted and people have been forced to ask the larger questions of "what is the meaning of these days?" and "where are we going if everything can stop in a moment?"

How do you talk to someone like this? Asking that question gives voice to the fear many people have in sharing their faith. Perhaps you have had this conversation in your head, "They do not want me to preach at them. They do not want to hear me tell them about Jesus; that is just going to make them mad and walk away. Besides, who am I to tell someone about Jesus – I will probably get it wrong or they will ask a whole bunch of questions I can't answer." All of those things may be true, but they miss the point.

Scout tries to break out of the endless motion, recognizing the futility of going faster and faster without any different results. He reaches out to his teenage friends hoping to re-establish the bonds he once knew, only to realize he is increasingly disconnected from them. He withdraws further until he is fully isolated, and then in the form of a confession to the reader, he cries out to God from the depths of loneliness, hopelessness, and despair of illusory self-sufficiency. He cannot keep it all together by himself. He knows, in the deepest part of his being, that he needs God.

Now – here is my secret:

I tell it to you with an openness of heart that I doubt I shall ever achieve again, so I pray that you are in a quiet room as you hear these words. My secret is that I need God – that I am sick and can no longer make it alone. I need God to help me give, because I no longer seem to be capable of giving; to help me be kind, as I no longer seem capable of kindness; to help me love, as I seem beyond being able to love.

Scout is crying out, praying for connection. When the endless motion finally stops, this is the cry of all of our hearts. We might verbalize Scout's realization this way, "God, help me! I am sick, and I cannot make myself better. I am lost, and I cannot find my way. I am hurting, and do not know why I do the things I do. God, save me!"

So, how can we reach out to a hurting world?

By reaching out and joining in the hurt with them.

Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?

This generation is not inspired by ideas or objective standards of truth. They are inspired by connection. They do not want to be the object of your preaching; nor are they going to be interested in your telling them about Jesus. They will, however, respond to an invitation to join your search, to join in trying to wrestle with answers to the questions you cannot answer by yourself. They will respond to your invitation to share in their experience of being lost, to meet them where they are.

This generation is efficient in technology and communication; it is inefficient in relationship. It knows how to push information quickly, it just does not know what to say. In the attempt to address the void in the heart, it continues to race with the mind. Virtual worlds are safer and more easily controlled; thus, far less able to having meaning in the long run. There is no substitute for sitting, breaking bread together, and conversing face to face. (That statement is true for prayer, too.)

The gospel's account of Jesus and his resurrection is true; in that it happened and is not dependent upon us to be true. It is absolute truth – yet it is a truth we all experience individually. The beauty of the gospels is that they reveal God's answer to our prayer. God has said, "Here I am. I love you and I will be with you always."

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## *From the Pastor's Desk (continued)*

As we work out the meaning of the quarantine in light of Pentecost, take time to look around at the people you see every day. Reach out and explore with them, "How are you?" You may find that you are God's answer to the prayer of another Scout's heart.

Your brother in Christ,

**Bob Davis**



### **He is Our Hope -**

2 Corinthians 4:6 says "Let light shine out of darkness." It was God who said it, it is Paul who reminds us of this, and it is we who need to treasure this passage as we seek to live it out.

We are but the molded creations of God, earthen vessels, and yet He will use us to tell His story to the world. Most of the time it is in our Sanctuary at First Presbyterian, but sometimes, the Good News and hope flows out into our community and beyond. That has been happening through our video services as we have found ourselves in a pandemic quarantine nationwide. Though we began the practice in mid-March of producing services to accommodate our congregation, word has come back to us in multiple ways of how our services have touched people beyond our immediate congregation.



But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us

2 Corinthians 4:7

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 says, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies." We are hopeful by nature if we are Christians. In faith, we believe in something we have not seen with our own eyes, but have believed when we are presented with the evidence of Christ's death and resurrection. Paul speaks in verse 13 of this chapter, "...since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, 'I believed, and so I spoke,' we also believe and so we also speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. And in verses 16 -18, "So we do not lose heart ... for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

I will admit to a flagging demeanor more recently as I have been ill with various issues, but when I look to these passages, I am filled and renewed by the hope that they represent for the future. Paul speaks of things that are discouraging in direct juxtaposition with their encouragements. Paul, who was beaten for the sake of the glory of Christ sees beyond those "light, momentary affliction(s)" and glimpses the "eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison".

A recent song that comes to mind says, "It's hope in God that will sustain us as we're grounded in His promise. His faithful Word is so enduring and He comforts us in suffering. He is hope. He is hope. He is our hope." {He is Hope (c)2020}

As Christians, we are not to grow weary in doing good. We are charged by the writer of Hebrews to "lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed." We will be strengthened, even healed, by serving our fellow man / woman / child and their needs rather than our own. For the sake of those who don't know the Gospel, or haven't felt God's love invading their lives, and those who haven't heard that God loved them (us) so much that He sent His only Son to die for our sins; for the sake of these, whether we agree or disagree with them, may we stay the course, speak the love of God and pray for and meet the needs of others before our needs.

God uses our earthen vessels to shine His light and give His hope to the world. Let His light shine through our cracked and broken lives.

He is Hope,

**Karen**



## UPDATE REGARDING IN-PERSON WORSHIP

On Tuesday, May 26, the session met to discuss when and how to begin moving towards having in-person worship. At the same time, Governor Sisolak announced that Nevada was entering Phase 2, which included:

"I strongly urge places of worship continue to provide online or virtual services as much as possible to protect those they serve, especially those who are among our vulnerable populations.

"That said, in Phase 2, places of worship may reopen their doors for gatherings with a maximum of 50 people attending a service at a time and strict social distancing of at least six feet. This aligns with our new guidance on all public and private gatherings."

The actions and decisions taken by the session were congruent with the Governor's announcement. Specifically,

1. We will be continuing to provide online services only on Sunday through the month of June.
2. **When we have the proper procedures in place**, we will open the doors for people to come watch the production shoots on Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon. The Praise Team has been recording on Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. The liturgist, elder of the day, and pastor have been recording Thursday afternoon at 1:00 p.m.

**DO NOT COME YET – WE WILL ANNOUNCE WHEN WE HAVE THE PROPER PROCEDURES IN PLACE.** When we are ready, we will open the doors for up to 50 people to come and attend the recording sessions in the sanctuary. Only the sanctuary and narthex (space outside the sanctuary) will be open. The only door that will be open will be the Division Street entrance.

Among many other details, we have some work to do to ensure that we have appropriate:

- ◆ Entry and exit procedures;
- ◆ Established safe-distance seating practices and have trained our ushers to be able to facilitate the movement to and from those seats;
- ◆ Safety procedures for those leading worship; and
- ◆ Sufficient cleaning processes between Wednesday night and Thursday.

By maintaining our current schedule and practice while implementing safe distancing and cleaning protocols, we believe that we can bridge and effectively train staff and volunteers for the time when we are ready for in-person worship and numbers in excess of 50.

As we move through this bridge time, there are several things important to note:

1. Masks will be mandatory for anyone coming to attend. Those who are leading and being filmed will not be wearing masks, but everyone else must. We will emphasize that people need to self-check and not attend if they are not feeling well or at all symptomatic. Additionally, we will be taking temperatures at the door.

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2. The taping sessions will NOT be a full FPC worship service —specifically, there may be multiple takes and the entire service is not happening at one time. We pray that these times are worshipful and pleasing in God’s sight, but they are constructed to produce the video that will be incorporated in the full service that the entire congregation can share online on Sundays.
3. It is HIGHLY likely people attending will not be able to sit in their “normal” seat. We are producing video and moving cameras and sound equipment throughout the sanctuary. Entire sections will be blocked off; those attending will be required to sit in pews specifically identified for those sessions.

This is our best solution for accomplishing three separate priorities: a) training staff and volunteers for the new requirements; b) allowing for some public gathering of the flock for those who are comfortable; and, c) to minimize any perception of “pressure” for people to feel that they should be “in worship.” We know that everyone is looking for the day when we can gather without anxiety and restriction. We believe this is a good first step in that direction.

In the meantime, we will continue with the full service video being our corporate expression of worship. That way, no one misses out. Those who want to meet, can during the week. Those who are vulnerable or uncomfortable are not missing out.

Further information will be forthcoming as we get the pieces in place to move to this new stage. Thank you for your patience and your prayers.

#### THE “CONGREGATION” PARTICIPATES IN WORSHIP ON PENTECOST



# FAMILY MINISTRIES

## Teacher Spotlight: Holly Tollefson

This month we hear from one of our faithful Preschool/Kindergarten teachers. Holly gladly stepped up to help teach our little ones the love of Jesus, and we are blessed to have her.

Q: If someone wrote a biography about you, what do you think the title should be?

A: I would love to think that my biography could be entitled "Blessed Beyond Belief" or something like that.

Q: What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

A: My favorite ice cream flavors are anything with nuts...but...pistachio almond.

Q: What makes you angry?

A: So, what makes me angry is when anyone does something bad to one of my sons. This was especially intense when they were little guys and got in trouble for doing "little boy" things. Probably why I started home schooling them.

Q: What is one scripture verse that is meaningful to you?

A: My favorite verse is Psalm 125:2 "As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore." I've just always found this very comforting, knowing God cares for his people, and we are his people!

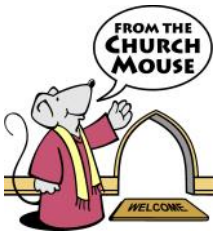


Bible Dingbats				
→ BORN BORN BORN BORN	THE COVENANT	GIVE GIVE GET GET	GIVE GIVE GET GET	COAT

PASS  LAMB
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→ GATE  GATE
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Hello from your quiet friend, the Church Mouse! I've been spending some time upstairs lately, and I thought you might like to see what's going on up there. I much prefer the singing and laughter of the children, but for now even in the stillness, I can see God's hand at work in what's being done.

Miss Karen's room is all ready for her students to return and read their Bibles again.

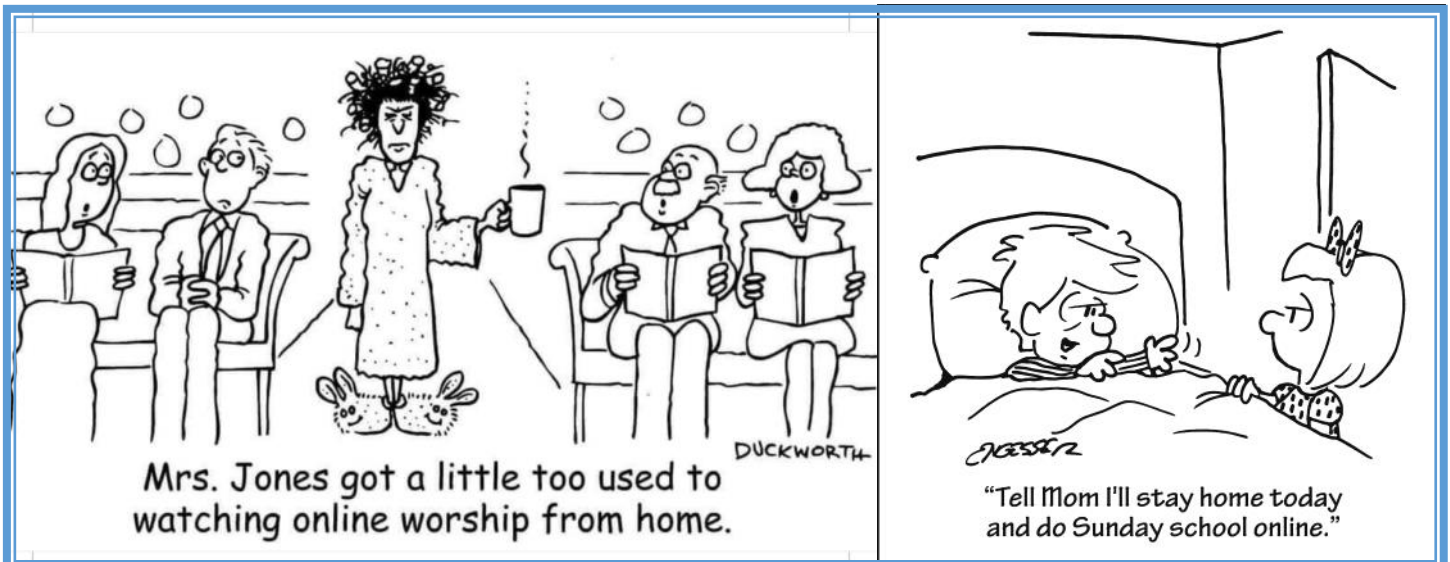


The craft room, one of my favorite rooms in the whole church, is being cleaned and organized. It has a little way to go yet, but it's looking good!

And here's Miss Sherri playing a matching game she Made to help learn the people of the Bible. The Promethean board is really neat, and I've seen her do a lot of interesting things with it to share with you, hopefully soon!



*That's it for now! I hope you are all well and healthy. See you soon!*



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

"Tell Mom I'll stay home today and do Sunday school online."

ON OUR PRAYER & PRAISES LIST


Requested as of May 20, 2020

Names removed for privacy



Dear Friends  
at First Presbyterian Church,  
We would like to send a special thank you to all of you who have been praying for Ryan Rothchild over the past years. Your prayers have made a difference and we would like to say, "Please don't stop now!"  
Ryan is being deployed to Afghanistan in June and will be there for about a year. His last deployment was to Iraq, and we know his witness as a man of God was felt by many there. Please pray for safety, good health, and peace for Ryan, his wife, Deb, and his son, Isaak. Thank you again.  
In His Love, Ryan and his Family

Warmest thanks for your words of comfort and the beautiful cards and flowers!  
I sincerely appreciate the prayers, kindness and support for Tom and I during this difficult time.  
In His love,  
Deana Ercanbrack



**THE TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR AUGUST**  
Is July 17  
Send your info / articles / submissions to  
margo@fpccarsoncity.org





Connie Stanton is looking for someone to help with calling church attendees on their birthday to wish them a happy birthday from the congregation every other month. Carol Bauer is no longer able to do this - her calls every other month have been a blessing to many and we want to continue the tradition but need help doing so. Please call Connie (546-4418) if you would like to participate in this ministry or have any questions. The new caller would begin with July, September, and November. Thank you, Carol Bauer, and thank you FPC for covering this need in prayer.

### ACES BASEBALL 2020



As you all know, we are on hold for a lot of events including Aces Baseball. However, if and when the decision is made for baseball season to open, we are ready. We have 40 tickets reserved for **Faith Night, August 21, 2020**, seating in section 103 of the Greater Nevada Field (Reno Aces) stadium. Tickets will be \$18.00 each — first come, first served. Please stay tuned and watch for more information in the bulletin. Sign ups will be in the Narthex when we do get back to worshipping together.

### FRESH FLOWERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

For the past 22 years, the Deacons have supplied a vase of fresh flowers for each Sunday Service.

After the service the flowers are given to someone in our church family by a Deacon. This brings a smile to someone in a hospital, rehab center, retirement facility, or to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or just to say "Hello, we've missed you at church."

The rose in a bud vase that sometimes appears, celebrates the birth (with announcement in the bulletin) of a new baby, grandbaby or great-grandbaby!

All of this is done by the gracious gifts of money you give to the Deacons. The Deacons do not receive any money from the Church Budget. We operate only through your contributions.

If you wish to have a "special vase" to commemorate your anniversary or birthday (with an announcement in the bulletin) please contact me for more information.

Deacon Kaye Keeton



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**JULY 25th**

It's still in the plans that we hopefully will be able to gather together and celebrate God's goodness!

Good Food! Good Friends!  
Great entertainment!  
More info to follow soon.

### CONGREGATIONAL GIVING—GENERAL BUDGET

	2020 Projected		
	Budget Need	Given	Difference
May 18, 2020			
Yr. To Date	\$206,166	\$210,576	+ \$4,410
<b>Current</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Difference</b>
	\$210,576	\$168,024	+ \$42,552

**YOU ARE ALL A BLESSING!**  
**DONATIONS ARE COMING IN AND**  
**STAFF / SESSION ARE KEEPING EXPENSES DOWN.**  
**THANK YOU, ALL!**



Names and dates removed for privacy



Names and dates removed for privacy



Names and dates removed for privacy



Names and dates removed for privacy



#### Northern Nevada Dream Center

**Thank you** for all of the paper grocery bags that you have brought into the office for the NN Dream Center (aka, the blue barrel organization). They are still using over 1,000 bags every week for food distribution. We would appreciate it if you would continue to bring the bags in plus any food that you can. Every week they are feeding triple the number of families that they normally fed before the pandemic hit.

Thank you for your help during this unusual time in our community. God is Good and we will all get through it by sharing what we have with others.

You can also still contribute financially to their virtual food drive.

Go to the link below to help by donating:

<https://nndreamcenter.org/virtual-food-drive/>


## ATTENTION TRAVELERS and ADDRESS MOVERS



**Did you know?** – Each month we mail you our Trumpet to keep you informed about the activities of the church. However, when you leave the area for a period of time the Post Office returns your newsletter to the us and we are required to pay for its return. At that time we take you off the mailing list until we are notified of your return which means you are missing out on the church news!

Please notify us before you come or go as a “snowbird” so we are mailing to the correct address. We can also accommodate address changes for a few weeks or months away—we could either forward your Trumpet to the new address or stop it for the time that you are away.

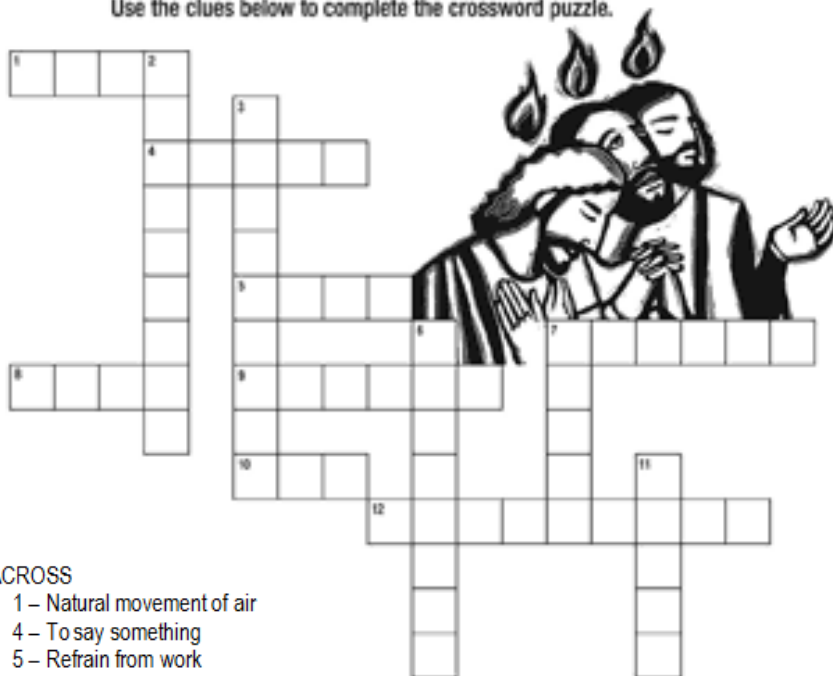
We would appreciate your help in this area as you make your travel plans any time throughout the year. If you are moving it is also important to call the office or email your change of address. Send the change to [margo@fpccarsoncity.org](mailto:margo@fpccarsoncity.org).  
*Thank you, the Office Staff*



# The Spirit Comes

ACTS 2 TELLS ABOUT A SPECIAL DAY  
WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO THE DISCIPLES.

Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.



**ACROSS**

- 1 – Natural movement of air
- 4 – To say something
- 5 – Refrain from work
- 7 – Place where God is
- 8 – A combustion or burning that gives light, heat and smoke
- 9 – Part of the mouth that can taste and lick
- 10 – The time between sunrise and sunset
- 12 – The day the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples

**DOWN**

- 2 – Followers of Christ
- 3 – Moved apart
- 6 – Quickly and unexpectedly
- 7 – A building where people live
- 11 – Vibrations that travel through the air

**ANSWERS**  
 ACROSS: 1 – Wind; 4 – Rest; 5 – Heaven; 8 – Fire; 9 – Tongue; 10 – Day; 12 – Pentecost  
 DOWN: 2 – Disciples; 3 – Separated; 6 – Suddenly; 7 – House; 11 – Sound

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The Rev. Bob Davis  
 pastorbob@fpccarsoncity.org

**Worship Services**

10:00 AM

**Webpage**

[www.fpccarsoncity.org](http://www.fpccarsoncity.org)

Trumpet & Sunday Bulletin articles can be sent to [margo@fpccarsoncity.org](mailto:margo@fpccarsoncity.org) and may be edited for space. See calendar for due dates. Trumpet mailing prepared by a team led by Linda Poole.

**Upcoming Sermons**

<b>June 7</b> By What Authority?	Mark 11: 27-33
<b>June 14</b> The Stone the Builder Rejected	Mark 12: 1-12
<b>June 21</b> Paying Taxes	Mark 12: 13-17
<b>June 28</b> God of the Living	Mark 12: 18-27
<b>July 5</b> The Greatest Command	Mark 12: 28-37
<b>July 12</b> Everything In	Mark 12: 38-44
<b>July 19</b> The Cost of Discipleship	Mark 13: 1-13
<b>July 26</b> Watchfulness	Mark 13: 14-37

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