



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 56 No. 010

December 2019

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

December means Advent and Christmas. Are you ready?

The Advent Season is a time for quiet celebration within the life of the church. On the one hand, we remember the events leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ. On the other hand, we wait in anticipation of Christ's triumphant return – even amidst the noise and busy-ness of our day-to-day lives.

Let me encourage you to take a few moments to prepare for this season. I'm not referring to shopping or managing your calendar for social events. Take a few moments to remember. Take a few moments to look forward.

What should we remember? We should remember God's faithfulness as it is revealed in scripture.

For those of you who have been through *The Story*– the chronological narrative walk through scripture looking at God's redemptive work from creation through Revelation – there is a recurring theme that helps us with remembering. The authors encourage readers to understand scripture as the intersection of God's Upper and Lower stories.

God wants us to read the Bible as we would view a mural. The individual stories on its pages are connected, all entwining to communicate one overarching epic. Woven tighter than reeds in a waterproof basket, together they intersect within God's one grand story. The purpose of [the Bible] is to ponder his divine design and discover our role in it. To stand beneath an all-encompassing Sistine [Chapel] ceiling and see what the entire narrative from beginning to end says about us and to us as individuals.

To better understand this story, we will need to view it with a dual lens. The Lower Story reveals the here and now of daily life, the experiences and circumstances we see here on earth. Goals and fears, responsibilities and reactions. In the Lower Story, we make money, pay bills, get sick, get tired, deal with breakups and work through conflicts.

* * * *

When we rise above the here and now, look beyond the daily grind, and view each of these stories in the Bible from God's perspective, we see something much bigger. When we look up at the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, it gives us hints that the Bible isn't filled with a thousand individual stories of God's intervention just to get people through tough times, but rather one grand story of something larger and eternal. This is the Upper Story. As we view the Bible through this lens, we see that God has been up to something amazing from the beginning. When we look at the Upper Story of God, we discover where we fit in, because this story was created to deliver one singular message: "If you want to live life to the fullest and enjoy it forever, then become part of my masterpiece." (The Heart of the Story, p. 18-19).

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There were generations that waited and prayed for God to fulfill his promise to send a messiah. In the Lower Story, the people wondered if God had forgotten them, gone away, or was never real at all. It can be tough to keep faith when you are waiting.

In the Lower Story we are not geared for waiting. Going through TSA at an airport can seem like an eternal process. Do you have a question? Google it. Need a ride? Call an Uber (or Lyft or...). Do you want something? Amazon will have it to you tomorrow. We ordered something from a non-Amazon company and were somewhat aghast that it might take 7-10 days for it to arrive.

We want God to be on that same time clock. He is not.

Remembering means slowing down enough to look to see where and how God has been faithful through all time. It is only at the right time – God's time – that God acts. Faith in the Lower Story means waiting in hope and confidence that God *will* act. In the Lower Story, we live into the reality that God has promised even when circumstances around us make us wonder if God has forgotten us, gone away, or was never real at all. Advent reminds us that God is faithful – always – in God's time. For that we can give thanks.

For what should we look forward? The promise of Jesus' return. Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again and will take you to myself*, so that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14) As the disciples watched the risen Jesus ascend into heaven, "two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, *will come in the same way as you saw him go* into heaven.'" (Acts 1)

The promise is that God has been at work in Jesus Christ reconciling us to himself. The promise is that we will live together – not looking in a mirror dimly, but face-to-face – with God himself. "By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1)

So, let me encourage you to take a few moments to prepare for this season by reflecting on God's Upper Story. Take a few moments to remember with thanksgiving what God has already done. Take a few moments to look forward in hope for the promises God will fulfill. God is good!

Merry Christmas!

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis



2019 ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION DUE

In preparation for the 2019 Annual Report, church officers, group leaders, staff and other members of the congregation serving at First Presbyterian need to submit their year-end report. **Submissions are due no later than December 30th** (earlier is better!) to margo@fpccarsoncity.org or on a flash drive brought to the church office.

ANNUAL CHURCH REPORT



As we close out the calendar year, I want to thank you all for your overwhelming support in this new ministry. It hasn't been six months yet, and I am in awe of the work our Lord is doing in our church family. Looking at my responsibilities, His hand is obvious, in that I am doing exactly what I have been wanting to do for years – working in a small team, in a creative capacity; supporting teachers so they can be present for our children, creating, writing, coordinating, listening, talking. I have been so blessed! And then there are the challenges. I know I haven't 'arrived'. God is working in me and through me. He's stretching me beyond my comfort zone. Oh, you like writing? Great. Write with a purpose for an audience every month. Gee, you enjoy the company of others? Here's a people-oriented job. Learn to spend quiet time with me when you're off the clock. You flourish in 'by the seat of the pants' situations? It's November. Prepare for Easter. Now. That last one is probably the most difficult for me. I have never thrived in a forward-thinking way. But I worship One who has it all in hand, past, present and future. As I sweat over the Family Ministry calendar for 2020, I know it's already taken care of. I just need to be a good steward of our time and resources. Will you join me in the 2020 chapter of our Family Ministry story? You might be stretched. You will be blessed.



Operation Christmas Child was a great success! Thank you for supporting this mission. Our boxes will fly all over the world, and be delivered with literature about God's love in children's native languages. Please continue to pray for the children who will receive our boxes.



December 7 10am
Candy Making and Cookie Decorating
 with Pastor Bob and his family
 11 Comstock Circle
 Plenty of flavors and lots to take home!

Congregational Giving—GENERAL BUDGET			
2019 Projected			
	Budget Need	Given	Difference
November 21, 2019			
Year to date	\$506,000	\$473,746	-\$ 32,254
<u>Current</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>
	\$473,746	\$472,602	+\$ 1,144

YEAR END GIVING

We are so grateful for your generous hearts in giving to the mission of First Presbyterian Church in 2019. It has been a year of many blessings.

Just a reminder that if you are giving in December and want your donation credited to calendar year 2019, your gift must be in the church offering by the morning of Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019 or postmarked by Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2019.

THANK YOU AGAIN for your gifts to this church!

The Incarnation -

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Philippians 2: 5-8 ESV

In August, I attended the conference called Sing! 2019. It took place in Nashville and was hosted by Getty Music. This year's teaching was on Christ in the Gospels; specifically the Incarnation, the Passion and Resurrection and The Great Commission and Eternity. I would like to focus a bit on the Incarnation in this column. How can God become man?

If you think about Israel, God's chosen people, and realize that they had been waiting 800 years for God's Messiah to appear, you realize that from generation to generation, the story is repeated, perhaps straightforwardly, or maybe with embellishment, but the story was passed on orally. Some of the people may have given up on the promise that God made. But the important thing is that God did not give up on His people or the promise He made. He was faithful to execute "the plan" He had for mankind. Galatians 4:4 tells us "when the time was right".

The Creator God, had a perfect world in mind when He spoke the world into being. He created male and female, who promptly got tangled with evil. Because of the corruption that occurred, all who have been born since have a defect within. We have the desire to be God. When we think of Jesus, we need to realize that He was, as John 1 says, "the Word" that was in the beginning of creation. He was with God and was God. God sent Jesus from His Throne to be born of a woman because our defect could only be lifted by Jesus. He left His Throne above to plunge into our world in the lowliest and most humble way possible. He was born in a stable and laid in a manger of wood — foreshadowing His crucifixion.

The carol, *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*, not widely sung, describes Jesus' entrance into our world: "Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown, When Thou camest to earth for me; But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room for Thy holy nativity."

God's people, indeed none of the people alive at that time except the shepherds (the lowliest), and the Magi, who had been searching the universe for this event, would recognize that the tiny baby lying in the manger was the God of the Universe! It has been said that those in power at the time of Jesus' birth (or indeed any time of our world), were straining toward immortality, and yet, He who was Immortal by nature embraced mortality. Jesus humbled Himself just by being born into our world. He chose to be born in an dusty outpost that was far away from the centers of power. Not even the local inn had room for Him.

The mystery deepens, why would God take on human flesh? Philosophers of the time were looking to escape the confines of the body as they believed that the spirit was life and the body a prison. So they weren't looking for God to become flesh. The Jewish people were looking for a militaristic savior, one that would deliver them from the Romans. So they weren't looking for a vulnerable baby as their King.

God declared war on evil the day He sent Jesus to dwell among us. One commentator has stated that it was D-Day, or the Day of Deliverance! Jesus needed to take on the mortal being of a man in order to save mankind from the corruption that had occurred after Creation. The only way for us to be accepted by God is through Jesus Christ. Therefore, had Jesus not been crucified and resurrected; we would not be able to have His Spirit dwell within us. Romans 6:6-7, "We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him."

I am grateful to God for the incarnation of Christ. What a gift! Though there is great mystery surrounding the event, I must accept that it happened by faith. Further, it is the Holy Spirit within me that testifies to the truth of this event. At the conclusion of each verse in the carol *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*, the refrain says "O come to my heart, Lord Jesus; There is room in my heart for Thee!"

Wishing you a beautiful Advent and Christmas season,

Karen



A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held immediately prior to worship service on



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 8th at 9:50 am to elect new Elders and Deacons and the 2020 Nominating Commission



LiFT Community Outreach and FCA Fundraiser

Get your Fresh Cut Christmas Trees from Oregon and support Fellowship of Christian

Athletes, youth camps & missions .

Tree lot opens on Friday, November 29TH and is open every day at 10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m. UNTIL SOLD OUT!

Location: South Carson Street across from the Ormsby House.

Contact Timothy Plummer (775) 720-9158 with any questions or to get involved.

2020 GIVING ENVELOPES

This is a reminder that if you have a contribution number between 1 and 100 you may pick up your new 2020 GOLD envelopes mid-December in the narthex. Some notes:

- If you have had envelopes but do not want them in 2020, please notify the bookkeeper at the church office as soon as possible. Your giving number will then change.
• If you did not have envelopes in 2019 but want them for 2020 please notify the bookkeeper as soon as possible.

PLEASE DISCARD YOUR 2019 GRAY ENVELOPES

Contact the bookkeeper, Charlene Rodman, at char@fpcarsoncity.org or 882-1032 x215.



Order Your Poinsettias

The Deacons place poinsettias in the Sanctuary for worship services in memory or honor of your loved ones. These will be acknowledged in a

bulletin insert. The deadline to order plants is Thursday, December 12th and the cost is \$10.00 per plant. People who wish to take their plants may do so after the Christmas Eve services. Place this completed form in the offering plate along with your check to FPC with "Poinsettia" in the memo field or bring it to the church office. Thank you for helping.

Your name: _____

Phone: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

_____ I will pick up plant after the Christmas Eve service.

_____ Deacons may deliver plant to someone.

_____ Number of plants ordered (limit of 3).

\$_____ Amount enclosed



Names and dates removed for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER & PRAISES LIST
Names removed for privacy

Requested as of November 20, 2019



Names and dates removed for privacy



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 at 7:00 PM

***Join us for a Christmas
message and beautiful music***

DREAM CENTER CHRISTMAS DINNER FOOD BAGS

We once again have the opportunity to provide a Christmas dinner to a family. Please pick up a bag in the Narthex and return the filled bag by Sunday, December 8th (or no later than 12/15). Also, if you can include \$10, that will help to provide a turkey or ham for the family.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 FROM NOON TO 2:00 IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

What to bring:

- * 3 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies
- * copies of the recipe to swap with others
- * your own containers for taking home all your new cookies!



DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 8:45 AM Sunday School (Adult) 9:30 AM Nursery 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship - FLC	2 6:00 PM The Story Class - Library 7:00 PM Praise Team	3 7:00 AM Women's Bible Study - LA Bakery 7:30 AM Women's Bible Study - Library 7:00 PM Women's Choir	4 8:00 AM Meris Study Group - Joanie's Creekside Cafe 9:00 AM Grace Notes 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study - Fellowship Hall 11:30 AM Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM CIRCLES Meeting - FLC & Library 5:30 PM Pastor's Bible Study - Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM Women's Choir	5 7:00 AM Wilson Men's Fellowship - Joanie's Creekside Cafe	6 6:30 AM Men's Berean Bible Study - Library OFFICE CLOSED		
8 8:45 AM Sunday School (Adult) 9:30 AM Nursery 9:50 AM Congregational Meeting 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship - FLC 11:30 AM Deacons Meeting, Library	9 6:00 PM The Story Class - Library 	10 7:00 AM Women's Bible Study - LA Bakery 7:30 AM Women's Bible Study - Library 1:00 PM Staff Meeting - Goodwin 5:30 PM Mission Committee 5:30 & 7:00 PM Committee Mtgs	11 8:00 AM Meris Study Group - Joanie's Creekside Cafe 9:00 AM Grace Notes 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study - Fellowship Hall 11:30 AM Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM CIRCLES Meeting - FLC & Library 5:00 PM CIRCLES Meeting - FLC & Library 5:30 PM Pastor's Bible Study - Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Chancel Choir 8:00 PM Women's Choir	12 7:00 AM Wilson Men's Fellowship - Joanie's Creekside Cafe 1:30 PM Women's Bible Study - Library 5:30 PM Potluck & Hymn Sing - FLC	13 6:30 AM Men's Berean Bible Study - Library Trumpet Deadline OFFICE CLOSED	14 12:00 PM Cookie Exchange - Family Life Center	
15 8:45 AM Sunday School (Adult) 9:30 AM Nursery 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship - FLC	16 6:00 PM The Story Class - Library 7:00 PM Praise Team	17 7:00 AM Women's Bible Study - LA Bakery 7:30 AM Women's Bible Study - Library	18 8:00 AM Meris Study Group - Joanie's Creekside Cafe 9:00 AM Grace Notes 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study - Fellowship Hall 11:30 AM Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM CIRCLES Christmas Party - FLC 5:30 PM Pastor's Bible Study - Fellowship Hall 8:00 PM Praise Team	19 7:00 AM Wilson Men's Fellowship - Joanie's Creekside Cafe	20 6:30 AM Men's Berean Bible Study - Library OFFICE CLOSED	 First Day of Winter	
			NOTS Overnights				
22 8:45 AM Sunday School (Adult) 9:30 AM Nursery 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship - FLC	23 6:00 PM The Story Class - Library 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	24 3:10 PM Chancel Choir 5:30 PM Praise Team 7:00 PM Candlelight Worship Service	 FOR A CHILD HAS BEEN BORN FOR US. A SON GIVEN TO US... ISAIAH 9:6	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 Annual Report Info Due	28	
			NOTS Overnights				
29 8:45 AM Sunday School (Adult) 9:30 AM Nursery 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship - FLC	30 6:00 PM The Story Class - Library NOTS Overnights	31					

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Carson City, NV 89703

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THE TRUMPET

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The Rev. Bob Davis
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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.



Join us for
Christmas Eve Worship
December 24 at 7:00 PM

This Month's Sermons

- December 1: "Elizabeth" Luke 1:5-25
- December 8: "Mary" Luke 1:26-56
- December 15: "John" Luke 1:57-66
- December 22: "Zechariah" Luke 1:58-80
- December 24: "Christmas Baptism"
- December 29: "Simeon and Anna" Luke 2:22-40

See us and
"Like" us on

