

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Las Cruces, New Mexico**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Stewardship Commitment Sunday<sup>1</sup>**  
**November 14, 2021 – 10:30 AM**  
*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*  
*Entrar para adorar – Salir para servir*

PRELUDE *Preludio*

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**HOWARD**

“Amazing Grace”  
Ruben Gutierrez, Piano

Improvisation

\*\*The Prelude functions like a curtain that separates our world from the worship place of peace and sanctuary. We enter prayerfully. We wait expectantly, listening for God’s Spirit and truth, which challenges us to return to the world equipped for faithful and useful Christian service.

\* *Those who are able, please stand*

*Please turn off all cell phones*

WELCOME, GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Bienvenida, Saludos & Anuncios*

MINUTES FOR MISSION *Minuto por Misión*

Thanksgiving In-Gathering  
Deacons

Rosalyn Stolee  
Debra Smith

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Meditación para la preparación para la adoración*

Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

(Phil. 4:11-13 NRSV)

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<sup>1</sup> **During the final hymn, on Stewardship Sunday** we celebrate our commitment by placing our pledge cards in a basket up front. Even if you are not making a pledge at this time, you are invited to walk up front to the basket as a symbol of committing our whole selves to the Lord.

CHORAL INTROIT *Coral Introito*

“We Lift Our Voices”

OFFERING

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME**  
REÚNIRSE EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP *Llamada a la adoración*  
(Psalm 89)

Carl Connor

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

People: **Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. Blessed be the Lord forever. Amen and Amen.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE *Himno de Alabanza*

“Lord, When I Came into This Life”

LAND OF REST

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

*Oración de adoración y la oración del Señor (al unísono)*

God, giver of all good, you continually pour your benefits upon us. Age after age, we wait upon you and find that your faithfulness has no end, that your care is unfailing. We praise you that the mystery of life is a mystery of infinite goodness. We praise you for the order and constancy of nature, for the beauty and bounty of the earth, for day and night, summer and winter, seedtime and harvest, for the varied gifts of loveliness that every season brings. We give you thanks for all the comfort and joy of life, for our homes, for our friends, and for all the love, sympathy, and goodwill of all people. Praying as you taught your disciples to pray, **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen**

**PLEASE BE SEATED** *Tomen asiento por favor*

CALL TO CONFESSION *Llamada a la confesión*

“God, We Honor You”  
Choral Scholars

ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) *Oración de confesión (unísono)*

Gracious and generous God, we confess that we live lives that are far less wonderful than you intend and desire for us. We have been blessed with far more than we need to live well, yet too often, fear of scarcity makes us hesitant and stingy in sharing our abundance with those in need. You first loved us, and call us to respond, letting nothing get in the way of a deep and meaningful walk with you. But sometimes we let things that do not really matter distract us. Help us, Lord, to use our lives and resources well, according to your will and purpose, and may we live faithful lives, growing more and more like Jesus day by day.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

*Momento de confesión en silencio y reflexión*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

*Seguros del amor y misericordia de Dios*

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News. Jesus died and rose again, overthrowing the powers of sin and death, for the sake of the world. We are enslaved no longer by the powers of darkness. We are set free to follow Jesus. Friends, believe the Good News, in Jesus Christ all our sins are forgiven.

**People: Believing and trusting the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free to follow Jesus. Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Now cleansed from sin, how would the Lord our God have us live?

**People: The Lord has told us what is good; and what does the Lord require of us, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE *Himno de Seguridad*

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

Improv

Diana Gutierrez and Monica Gutierrez, Soloists

Ruben Gutierrez, Piano

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

*Momento de buenas noticias para los discípulos jóvenes*

- Since children under 12 are not vaccinated, they are asked to wear masks and to sit on the carpet squares in the front during the Young Disciples Talk.

CALL TO PRAYER *Llamada a La Oración*

“Lord, Prepare Me”

SANCTUARY

Choral Scholars

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM *Himno*

“Autumn Carol”

Arr. Russel Schulz-Widmar

Vicki Edwards, Mary Maley and Rebekah West, Handbells

**PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

PROCLAMACIÓN DE LA PALABRA DE DIÓS

SCRIPTURES LESSONS *Lecturas de la escritura*

1 Chronicles 29:10-17

Mark 12:38-44

1 Chronicles 29:10-17 (New Revised Standard Version)

Then David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly; David said: “Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name. “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. I know, my God, that you search the heart, and take pleasure in uprightness; in the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you.

Mark 12:38-44 (New Revised Standard Version)

As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.” He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Sermón*

“Our Reason for Hope Is Real”

Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN *Himno Final*

#700 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" I'M GONNA LIVE

**The congregation is invited to place their pledge cards  
in the basket on the chancel during this final hymn.**

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**  
VAYAN EN EL NOMBRE DE DIÓS

BENEDICTION *Bendición*

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Bendición Coral*

"Go In Peace" Arr. Jean Anne Shafferman  
Mary Maley and Rebekah West, Handbells

\*POSTLUDE *Postludio* Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist – Carl Connor*      *Deacon Captain – Gracia Class*

*Sound System – Jonathan West*      *Video – Will Schroeder*



Join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following Worship this morning just outside the front doors of the Sanctuary. This is a time to welcome and greet new friends and old friends alike. Fellowship this morning is hosted by the In-Betweeners.

Rev. Dr. Norm Story	Pastor	Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation
Dr. Janet Loman, CLP	College Ministry	Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Organist
Bobby & Karen Candusso	Youth Group Sponsors	Karen Candusso	Salt & Light Coord.
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music & Bells		

*Greeting before Worship Service:*

*Cecilia Mboh – E*      *Lynne Carver – W*      *Diana Howard – S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Carl Connor – E*      *Erin Taylor – W*      *Rev. Norm Story – S*

\*Those who are able, please stand

**Please turn off all cell phones**

**Please remember in your prayers:** Janet Loman; Don and Jean Rhodes; Dave Schreuder; George and Sandy Abernathy; Bill and Virginia Haynes; Mary Olberg; Carol Bott; Rev. Marcus Burr; all who feel isolated in these troubled times; Presbyterian Church (USA); Deacons' Ministries; Gospel Rescue Mission; Tent City; Community of Hope; Missionaries Doug and Sherry Barron, CRU headquarters in Orlando, Florida.

Welcome!

We come together as a community at worship to experience the grace of God, who is present in our midst. This is a time to open ourselves to Him and to each other. Expect great things of God and His grace will come to you! Thank you for coming to First Presbyterian Church; we are glad that you are here. If you are not active in a church home in this community, we invite you to consider joining our fellowship and sharing in this ministry of Christ.

Our sacred space is not this building or this Sanctuary, but it is the fellowship we share, the hospitality we live, and the presence of God we see in each other.

*For prayer requests during the week, call the church office to get your request on the Church-wide Prayer Chain, or e-mail Linda Ramirez at [linda@fpc.lc](mailto:linda@fpc.lc)*

**Our Vision:** A place where Christian love is modeled

**Our Mission:** To be a place where Christian love is modeled through:

1. Understanding, celebrating, and sharing God's Word.
2. Following obediently where God is leading us.
3. Leading, nurturing, and serving our community for Christ.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Call the church office 526-5559 for information on any events, or by the net: [www.fpc.lc](http://www.fpc.lc) or  
by e-mail: [linda@fpc.lc](mailto:linda@fpc.lc)  
Rev. Norm Story e-mail: [revstory@fpc.lc](mailto:revstory@fpc.lc)  
Facebook: Look up First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces

### **Sunday, November 14, 2021 Stewardship Sunday**

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School class led by Larry Hicks in Branigan Hall. The subject is  
“19th Century Literature’s Use of the Bible and Application for Us Today.”
- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing  
and discussing Season 2 of “The Chosen” video series.
- 9:00 – 11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves Hall
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship outside the front doors of the Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

### **Monday, November 15, 2021**

- 6:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas
- 7:00 PM Bells rehearsal with Beth Thomas

### **Tuesday, November 16, 2021**

- 3:00 PM Listening Prayer in the Jones Hall Parlor (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Session meeting in Jones Hall Library

### **Wednesday, November 17, 2021**

- 9:30 AM Staff meeting, office will be closed during meeting
- 12:00 PM DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin
- 4:00 PM Salt & Light (see announcement)

### **Thursday, November 18, 2021**

- 6:30 PM Deacons meeting in Jones Hall Library

### **Friday, November 19, 2021**

### **Saturday, November 20, 2021**

The Good News Newsletter goes out on Saturdays. Please send submission to:  
[scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net)

### **Sunday, November 21, 2021**

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School class led by Larry Hicks in Branigan Hall. The subject is  
“19th Century Literature’s Use of the Bible and Application for Us Today.”
- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing  
and discussing Season 2 of “The Chosen” video series.
- 9:00 – 11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves Hall
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship outside the front doors of the Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

**\*\*November 25 & 26 the office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday.**

**CCLI License No. 540727**

**Listening prayer** on the calendar: a reflection on the scripture for the upcoming sermon. We are asking people to join us at 3:00 pm on Tuesdays. If you have questions, please contact Mary Maley at [marymaley@netzero.com](mailto:marymaley@netzero.com).



11/14 – Judi Ferguson,  
Mike Bartholomew  
11/17 – Tom Morehart  
11/18 – Stephen Taylor  
11/19 – Ann Miller, Ruth Ward  
11/20 – Carol Goss

(If we missed your birthday, please call the office at 526-5559 or email Linda at [linda@fpc.lc](mailto:linda@fpc.lc))

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Covid19 precautions:

- Hand-sanitizer and wipes are located at each door.
- A purple box is located in each aisle with slots where you can deposit your offering.
- Please register your presence with contact information or prayer requests on the small slip of paper in your bulletin and place it in the purple offering box in the aisle, so that if we need to do contact tracing later, we can contact those who were present.

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**Greetings! Our worship services are now available**

- 1) in-person, with Covid19 precautions
- 2) live-stream on YouTube (search for: First Presbyterian Church Las Cruces, NM)
- 3) video archive on the church website, our Facebook site or YouTube

**Want To Get Involved?**

You're thinking that you want to participate more in the life of our church but just aren't quite sure how to get started? Well, here's a couple of ideas – folks you can talk to. There are lots of ways to get involved in the life of our church – these are just some of them, but hopefully this gives you some insight on how to get started. There are directories in the church office with these folks' names and emails.

Administration - Marsha Topley	Missions - Brad Class
Buildings & Grounds - Rusty Smith	Deacons - Dale Cook
Music & Worship - Vicki Kuyper or Winnie Quinzi	Salt and Light - Karen Candusso
Christian Education - Yolanda Koontz	Music Programs – Beth Thomas
Mary Martha Circle- Cheri McMillan or Helen Moser	In-Betweeners – Judith or Lyn Ames
Congregational Life & Outreach Support - Samantha Armendariz	



**COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT DINNER NIGHT**

We have great news!! Jerry and Helen Moser have invited us to their home for a wonderful evening of great food and fellowship!

We will have plenty of tables and seating to spread out safely.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Friday, November 19, at 6:00PM

2122 Salida del Sol Ct.

Las Cruces 88005

Call/text Janet @ 575.202.4379 to let us know if you will be coming.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU!

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**Salt & Light – “O Give Thanks!”**

Children & Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

4:00 – 6:30 PM

5:50 PM – Dinner

Menu: Tater Tot casserole, green beans, salad, and brownies

- If you plan to join your child for dinner, please RSVP with the church office. \$4.00 suggested donation
- Please call the church office by Monday 11/15/21 at 526-5559 between 9am-2pm to let us know that you will be joining us for dinner.

Karen Candusso, Salt & Light Director



### **An Opportunity to Help**

During a Sunday near Thanksgiving each year, we are asked to bring non-perishable food items to church that will be distributed to those in the Las Cruces community who are in need. This year the Thanksgiving In-Gathering will be Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. During the Worship service there will be a special time when you will be invited to put your food-offerings into the baskets in the front. Our congregation has contributed an amazing amount of rice, dry pasta, boxed and canned foods in the past, remembering, "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me," (Matthew 25:40)

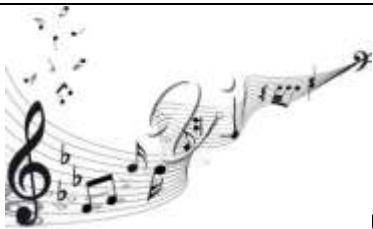
### **Online Giving**

In these unprecedented times, we have been very blessed to have the option of online giving. We have seen a major increase with our faithful congregation giving in this manner. This has been instrumental in keeping our Mission in place and our budget in line. Cash and checks are still welcome, but we are glad to offer a more convenient, safe, and easy way to give. Many options are available and listed below. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

Go to the church website: [fpc.lc](http://fpc.lc) click on the "heart" icon and set up your giving today.  
Or go directly to: [fpc.lc/giving](http://fpc.lc/giving)

Smartphone users can download the Planning Center App: Find First Presbyterian Church, select and start your giving in under a minute.

You can also Text 84321, enter any dollar amount, follow the steps listed and you are set for future giving. One simple step to giving with the convenience of one text from then on.  
QR Scan: Follow the prompts and it is as easy as 1, 2, 3! Give quickly, securely and even set up recurring gifts. Supporting your church has never been easier!



**Our Congregation Is Invited:** Diana Gutierrez, soprano choral scholar, will be performing her senior recital in our Sanctuary on Sunday, November 14 at 2:30 pm. She will be accompanied by her father Ruben Gutierrez and her mother, Monica Gutierrez will be singing a duet with her. Diana's parents are both music educator's in El Paso.