

moon and the stars at night which remind us of your glory. We thank you for the many good things that you have bestowed upon us. Help us, O God, in this time of worship, and beyond, to have hearts that exalt in your grace and goodness, lips unafraid to proclaim your praise, and minds focused on living according your glorious and living word. We ask through Christ Jesus our Lord, who taught his 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

CALL TO CONFESSION “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”
Chancel Choir

SOUTHWELL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of light and love, we humble ourselves and ask forgiveness for the wrongs we have done and caused. Sometimes we live in darkness rather than seeing the light of your love for us and for all your children. We have failed to live out your compassion and light to others. Spiritually, our eyes have been closed, and that blindness has caused hurt and harm. In our moments of doubt, give us strength and courage to believe your promises. May we be open to a vision of new possibilities and boldness in a life of faithfulness, integrity, and truthfulness. Holy Jesus, our living hope, may we become more and more responsive to your grace and to your call.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

(from 2 Corinthians 5:17-18)

Leader: Hear the Good News: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, that our sins are forgiven.

People: **“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us a ministry of reconciliation.” Let us live new lives of Christian unity, faith, obedience, joy, and peace!**

Leader: What does Scripture teach and declare about God?

People: **We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #169 “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

REST

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Debra Smith

Children are asked to sit on the carpet squares in the front.

CALL TO PRAYER #410 “God Is Calling through the Whisper”

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

PASTORAL PRAYER

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

1 Kings 19:9-12

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

1 Kings 19:9-12 (New Revised Standard Version)

At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 (New Revised Standard Version)

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“You Must Be Attentive”

Rev. Norm Story

*CLOSING HYMN

#846 “Fight the Good Fight”

DYJE STREET

GO IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

MADRID

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

Those who are able, please stand*Please turn off all cell phones***Liturgist – Greg Sherman**Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh**Sound System – Rusty Smith**Video – Brent Brewer*



Join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following Worship this morning in the Jones Hall Fellowship area. This is a time to welcome and greet new friends and old friends alike. Fellowship this morning is hosted by the Christian Education Ministry team.

Rev. Dr. Norm Story	Pastor	Rev. Nick Koontz	Dir. of Family Ministries
Dr. Janet Loman, CP	College Ministry	Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation
Ada Castle, Commissioned Pastor		Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Organist
Paul Deason, Commissioned Pastor		Karen Candusso	Salt & Light Coord.
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. of Music & Bells	Karen Candusso	Youth Group Sponsor

Greeting before Worship Service:

Chibuzo Chilaka – E Sandra Abernathy – W Nancy T. Johnson – S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Rev. Norm Story – E Debra Smith – W Greg Sherman – S

Please remember in your prayers: Rev. Jay Bishop; The Grant family; Mary Olberg; Wayne and Marianne Maley; Jessica Borchert Stout, daughter of Beth Thomas; Dorris Hamilton; Clyde Treat, and Norma Klein at the Heritage; Rev. Marcus Burr; all who feel isolated in these troubled times; Salt & Light Ministry; Presbyterian Church (USA); Deacons’ Ministries; Gospel Rescue Mission and their re-store staff; “El Caldito” soup kitchen; Missionaries Joel and Barbara Trudell.

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

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.

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

**HOW
YOU
CAN
HELP**

After Worship Fellowship: The sign-up board is in Jones Hall Fellowship area.



8/20 – Ralph Miller
 8/24 – Eric Burnham
 8/25 – Margaret Goehring
 8/26 – Dinah Jentgen
 8/27 – Janet Loman, Harry Topley

(If we missed your birthday, please call the office at 575-526-5559 or email Linda at linda@fpc.lc)

Covid19 precautions:

Seating in West and South sections of the Sanctuary is unrestricted. The East section is reserved for those wishing to wear masks and social-distance.

Hand-sanitizer and wipes are located at each door.

A purple box with slots for depositing your offering is located in each aisle. Please register your presence with contact information and any 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.

Donations to support your church can be done in a variety of ways. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

Cash or check in the offering (purple boxes in the Sanctuary)

Check sent by mail

Church website: fpc.lc and click on the “heart” icon or fpc.lc/giving or scan QR code

Smartphone App: Church Center

Text 84321



Church Office Hours are: Monday – Friday **9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**



Make a difference!

Please bring a **nonperishable** food item every Sunday for Casa de Peregrinos, the emergency food bank. Baskets are located at each of the entrances to the Sanctuary. Thank you for your support.

In-Betweeners Coming Up

Guess who’s coming to dinner — The Salty Dogs Blue Grass Band! They will be returning to provide our program on

Friday evening, August 25th. We plan to get together at 6 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall for a pulled pork barbecue dinner (cost, \$10/person.) Then, we'll enjoy the music. If you would like to bring your own meal, that's absolutely fine; just let us know, so we won't order for you. Please contact the Ames at 575-526-3247, by Monday, August 21st.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Call the church office 575-526-5559 for information on any events, or by the net: www.fpc.lc or by e-mail:

linda@fpc.lc

Rev. Norm Story e-mail: revstory@fpc.lc

Facebook: Look up First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces

Sunday, August 20, 2023

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing a series entitled, "Beginnings of Judaism" (<https://www.thegreatcourses.com/courses/beginnings-of-judaism>) that describes the transition from the nation of Israel of the Old Testament to the different sects of Judaism during Jesus' time to the Jewish faith and peoples today.

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

9:15 AM Choir rehearsal with Beth Thomas in the Sanctuary

10:30 AM Worship Service

11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall

12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

Monday, August 21, 2023

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

3:00 PM Listening Prayer, a reflection on Scripture in Jones Hall. Contact Marsha Topley with questions

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

9:30 AM Staff meeting, office will be closed during meeting

12:00 PM DEADLINE for submissions for the Sunday bulletin

Thursday, August 24, 2023

The Good News Newsletter will be published on Fridays. Please send submissions by Thursday evenings to: scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net

Friday, August 25, 2023

6:00 PM InBetweeners in Watkins Hall (see announcement)

Saturday, August 26, 2023

Sunday, August 27, 2023

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing a series entitled, "Beginnings of Judaism" (<https://www.thegreatcourses.com/courses/beginnings-of-judaism>) that describes the transition from the nation of Israel of the Old Testament to the different sects of Judaism during Jesus' time to the Jewish faith and peoples today.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES
COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT
DINNER NIGHT MINISTRY

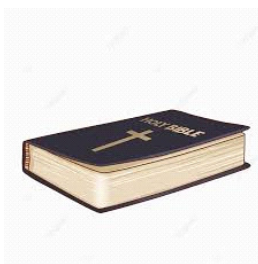
Join us for a home-cooked meal
in the home of Steve and Janet Loman
on

Friday, September 8, at 6:00PM

1622 West Union Avenue, 88005

FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

If you need a ride or are bringing a friend, please let Janet know: 575.202.4379



COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Monday evenings @ 7:00PM beginning September 11

on Zoom

Please call Janet (575.202.4379) or

E-mail drjml@me.com for the link

(NO PREPARATION REQUIRED)

WE ARE HOPING TO SEE YOU!



The Youth will be having a yard sale September 29th & 30th from 9-12 in Watkins Hall! Any and all donations

are welcomed. Items can be dropped off at the church office. If assistance is needed to pick up, or transport heavy items, please contact Karen Candusso at 575-618-9474 or call the church office at 575-526-5559.

Thank you for supporting the FPC Youth!

Instant Church Directory

In addition to our always-available paper directory, we now have our church directory available online and in a phone app, "Instant Church Directory."

The website (instantchurchdirectory.com) can be found on the church website homepage and the app can be found on both the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store for free. Once accessed, please sign in using your email as listed in the directory. Note that this service is accessible to those listed in the directory but locked from prying eyes outside the church. Also note that it allows you to upload a picture of yourself, and that the application serves as a great contact list for getting in touch with your church family. Reach out to Nick at nkoontz@fpc.lc with any questions or technical difficulties.



Salt & Light's **fall kick-off is at 4 p.m. on
Wednesday, September 6th.**

Both newcomers and returning, youth and children are encouraged to attend! Parents play a huge role in this program too. You can sign up online or in person, and plan to attend our **parents' meeting on Monday, August 28th at 6 p.m.**