

# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico  
15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Welcome New Members  
September 10, 2023 - 10:30 A.M  
*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*



PRELUDE “The Light of the World Is Jesus” Richard Miles (1996)  
Trio on “Near to the Heart of God” (McAfee) Brenda Portman (b. 1980)  
“The Lord Is My Light” (from Ps. 27) Mary Frances Allitsen (1848-1912) (British)

\*\*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

## MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with all of you in Christ Jesus. (1 Corinthians 16:13-14, 23-24 NRSV)

CHORAL INTROIT “What Does the Lord Require of You?” MOON

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Trish Carter-Anderson  
(Psalm 27)

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

People **Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.**

Leader Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

People **I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE #744 “Arise, Your Light Is Come!” FESTAL SONG

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

God of heaven and earth, you who are revealed most perfectly in Christ Jesus our Lord, we thank you this day for calling us to be your people and for watching over us and guiding us in the way we

should go. We come before you now, O God, aware of our need for you. We come before you to worship you and to seek your will for our lives. Bless us in this holy time. May we find words and thoughts of hope; may our feelings, as well as our minds, be engaged in your message and in your living presence. Help us to find the living Christ not only in Scripture, but in song and in praise, in prayer, and in one another. And with what we find, may we reach out to others in his most holy name, **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 #555 “O Lamb of God”

LAND OF REST

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Lord God, we are yours, yet we do not always live fully as yours. We compartmentalize our lives, giving some parts to you, but reserving others for ourselves. In our relationships, our speech, our choices of entertainment, we often use our own judgment and act on our own preferences, without consulting you through prayer and Scripture. We confess that you are our God, yet not always Lord of our thoughts, words, and actions. Help us seek and attend to the guidance of your Holy Spirit in all things; be Lord of our lives, of our whole selves. Help us to hold high the light of Christ's hope, as a beacon to bring the world out of darkness.

## TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

### ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

**Leader:** God is gracious and loving. Hear the Good News of the gospel; that nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus. In Jesus Christ, all our sins are forgiven.

**People:** **Thanks be to God; all our sins are forgiven and gone. Amen.**

**Leader:** Now cleansed from our sin, how should we live in faithful response?

**People:** **Jesus said, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #203 “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” CHEREPONI

- Chancel Choir to sing verses
- Congregation to sing refrain

## CELEBRATION AND WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

Robert and Alice Distlehorst

Janet Mara

Rev. Karl and Holly Dalager

(Elders currently serving on Session will greet our new church family members while the congregation stands to sing hymn # 306, “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”, vs. 1-3)

\*Blest Be the Tie That Binds (verses 1-3)

## GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER      “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”      CHILDREN PRAYING  
Chancel Choir

## PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM      “Sing a New Song unto the Lord”      SING A NEW SONG  
• To follow text see hymn #276

## PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS      Dr. Janet Loman

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, 4-11      Romans 13:8-14

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (New Revised Standard Version)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Romans 13:8-14 (New Revised Standard Version)

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Leader:      This is the word of the Lord.

People:      **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON      “It’s Time to Awaken”      Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN      #377 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”      HOUSTON

## GO IN GOD’S NAME

# BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

“Amen”

AMEN

\*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

**\*Those who are able, please stand**

**Please turn off all cell phones**

*Liturgist – Trish Carter-Anderson      Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh*

*Sound System – Jonathan West      Video – Will Schroeder*



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 Deacons.

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
Dr. 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      Sandy Abernathy – W      Linda Pearson – S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Trish Carter-Anderson – E      Rev. Norm Story – W      Erin Taylor – S*

**Please remember in your prayers:** Lon Anderson and family on the passing of his mother Bernice; Brian & Dot Otto; Florence Hamilton; Jessica Borchert Stout, daughter of Beth Thomas; Rev. Jay Bishop; The Grant family; Mary Olberg; Wayne and Marianne Maley; 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; Tent City residents; Casa de Peregrinos, emergency food pantry; 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.

**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

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.

**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.



- 9/10 – Mike McClanahan
- 9/11 – Rev. Jay Bishop
- 9/12 – Bea Connor
- 9/15 – Heather Spencer, Penelope Printz
- 9/16 – Will Schroeder, Brian Otto

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

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**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](http://fpc.lc) and click on the “heart” icon or [fpc.lc/giving](http://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**



**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](mailto:drjml@me.com) for the link  
(NO PREPARATION REQUIRED)  
WE ARE HOPING TO SEE YOU!



**Salt & Light – “God Reigns and Son Shines!”**  
**Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

4:00-7:00 PM Grades K-12<sup>th</sup>

6:10 PM - Salt & Light Dinner,  
\$5.00 suggested donation for dinner, but any amount is appreciated

Menu: Penne Alfredo with chicken, garlic bread, salad and cookies for dessert

Please call the church office with a reservation by Monday at 526-5559  
between 9am-2pm to let us know that you will be joining us for dinner.

- We are also accepting donations if you would like to sponsor a child. Contact information: Karen Candusso [saltandlight@fpc.lc](mailto:saltandlight@fpc.lc) or 575-618-9474



**Mary Martha Circle**

Welcome ladies of First Presbyterian Church. Please join us Tuesday, September 12, at 9:45 AM to socialize with friends and guests. The Bible study will begin at 10:00 AM. We will be studying the Book of Nehemiah. We look forward to seeing you in the Jones Hall Library.

**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](http://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](mailto:nkoontz@fpc.lc) with any questions or technical difficulties.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Call the church office 575-526-5559 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, September 10, 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"

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, September 11, 2023

5:30 PM Calligraphy Guild meeting in the Library and fellowship area in Jones Hall

7:00 PM College & Young Adult Bible Study on zoom (see announcement)

### Tuesday, September 12, 2023

9:45 AM Mary Martha Circle in the Library and fellowship area in Jones Hall (see announcement)

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

7:00 PM Ministry team meetings: Admin, Buildings & Grounds, Christian Education, Congregational Life & Outreach Support, Missions, and Music & Worship in Jones Hall. (please contact your moderators about your meeting)

### Wednesday, September 13, 2023

8:00 AM El Caldito Soup Kitchen (see announcement)

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)

7:00 PM Choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary

### Thursday, September 14, 2023

*The Good News Newsletter will be published on Fridays. Please send submissions by Thursday evenings to: [scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scotty.benaway@sbcglobal.net)*

### Friday, September 15, 2023

Presbytery in Deming

### Saturday, September 16, 2023

Presbytery in Deming

### Sunday, September 17, 2023 "Bible Sunday"

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Catie Brewer in the Jones Hall Library. We are viewing a series entitled, "Beginnings of Judaism"

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



The Youth will be having a yard sale September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> 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!



### Ways to Help – Fellowship

We all enjoy fellowship time after church on Sunday, a time to mingle with friends and meet new ones. The Congregational Life and Outreach Support team is looking for people willing to host the following dates:

- September 17 and 24
- October 22 and 29
- November 5, 12, and 26
- December 10, 24, and 31

Families, friends, and Session committees are all wonderful hosts, and the sign-up chart is in Jones Hall.

There is a page of instructions in the kitchen area to help with set-up. Thank you for helping out with this important and fun part of our church life.

### In-Betweeners on Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>

At 6 PM on our regular fourth Friday, we'll be getting together for a planned potluck dinner in Watkins Fellowship Hall. After dinner, First Presbyterian's new Director of Family Ministry, Rev. Nick Koontz, has agreed to speak. This will be a great opportunity to get to know him and hear about his work.

Please contact the Ames, 575-526-3247 or [jkames@q.com](mailto:jkames@q.com), by Monday, September 18, to let us know that you're coming and what category of dish you would like to bring.





## **El Caldito Soup Kitchen**

For more than 20 years, the First Presbyterian Church has supported the soup kitchen known as “El Caldito” by providing volunteers to prepare and serve food. Volunteers are urgently needed. Please prayerfully consider how often you can help then contact either Linda Ward, Lon Anderson, or Diana Howard. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

The mission of El Caldito is to provide a healthy meal in a safe and clean environment for any hungry person.

A hot nutritious meal is served daily, Sunday through Friday, to everyone who comes to their dining room for lunch. A take-out sack lunch is offered on Saturdays.

There is no charge to guests and the only qualification to receive food is hunger. All food preparation is done by volunteers, using donated foodstuffs from various sources in the community.

Volunteer information and requirements:

Our church prepares and serves on the second Wednesday of each month from about 8:00AM to 1:00PM. A minimum of 8 volunteers are needed to complete a “crew”. The day’s crew leader will assign duties.

New volunteers are given an on-site orientation to kitchen procedures by experienced workers. There is no formal training program. Volunteers are expected to “sign in and out” to indicate the number of hours worked each day.

Ages under 15: Must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Attire: Kitchen volunteers wear clean clothes and closed-toe shoes. Shoulders and midriff are covered and pants or jeans are worn around the waist. Longer shorts are acceptable.

Hair is covered, using a hairnet, baseball cap, bandana, or other head covering, and long hair is tied back. Hairnet is provided.

An apron is worn in the kitchen, and disposable gloves are worn when handling food. Gloves are changed between tasks. Apron and disposable gloves are provided.

If you haven’t volunteered for a while or would like to volunteer, please let Linda Ward 619-417-6912, Lon Anderson 575-649-4108, or Diana Howard 575-649-4266 know of your interest.