

**First Presbyterian Church
Las Cruces, New Mexico
19th Sunday after Pentecost
Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism
October 8, 2023 – 10:30 AM
*Enter to worship – Leave to serve***



PRELUDE

“Footsteps of Jesus” Lani Smith (1934-2015)
“God Leads Us Along” Lyndell Leatherman (b. 1953)
“Dearest Jesus, We Are Here” (See Hymnal #483 for text) Carl Kuntze (1817-1883)

**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

When your children ask you in time to come, “What is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes and the ordinances that the Lord our God has commanded you?” then you shall say to your children, “We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. (Deuteronomy 6:20-21 NRSV)

INTROIT

“Fight the Good Fight”

DUKE STREET

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Janet Green

(Psalm 1)

Leader: Blessed are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

People: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

Leader: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

People: for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#485 "We Know That Christ Is Raised"

ENGELBERG

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Holy God, because of your gracious love in Jesus Christ, we joyously and gratefully come together to worship, realizing we need not summon you into our midst, for you are already here. We need not call you into the secret places of our hearts, for you are already there. We do need our eyes of faith opened, that we may see you; our ears unstopped, that we may hear you; our minds to be made sensitive, that we may recognize and know you. And we need our hearts to be made tender, that we may receive you and live in you. Gracious God, draw us into your life-changing presence through our worship this day. **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

#447 "We Are Forgiven"

WE ARE FORGIVEN

- Chancel Choir will sing through once
- Congregation to join second time through

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Our God of mercy and gracious goodness, you have asked us to serve you in sincerity and faithfulness. We confess that sometimes we go through the motions without really meaning what we have said and done. You have asked us to serve you, but so often we worship lesser and false gods instead. You are a holy God who loves us, and so you sent Jesus to forgive our sins. Forgive us for neglecting you and following foolish and worldly distractions. Forgive us for not being ready and willing when you have called us. Help us awaken to your mercy and pardon, to your call and challenge to our complacency, and hereafter may we walk in sincerity and faithfulness with you, as guided by your Holy Spirit.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: Hear the words of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John and be comforted.
"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in me and in my love." Friends, believe the Good News, all our sins are forgiven.

People: By God's grace we are loved and saved. Through the sacrifice of Christ, our sin is forgiven, thanks be to God. Amen.

Leader: What do you mean when you speak of "the forgiveness of sins"?^[1]

People: Because of Jesus Christ, God no longer holds my sins against me. Christ alone is my righteousness and my life. Grace alone is the basis on which God has forgiven me in him. Faith alone is the means by which I receive Christ into my heart, and with him the forgiveness that makes me whole.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #749 "Come! Live in the Light!" WE ARE CALLED
➤ Choral Scholars will sing the verses
➤ Congregation will join on the refrains

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Amon Taylor

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Elsa Aninwaa Korang (born Sept. 16, 2023)
daughter of Thomas Korang and Janet Mensah

CALL TO PRAYER #482 "Baptized in Water" BUNESSAN

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM "My Jesus, I Love Thee" Arr. Emily Lund
Jeonai Batista, Piano

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Dr. Janet Loman
Joshua 4:1-8 Philippians 3:7-14

Joshua 4:1-8 (New Revised Standard Version)

When the entire nation had finished crossing over the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua: "Select twelve men from the people, one from each tribe, and command them, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the middle of the Jordan, from the place where the priests' feet stood, carry them over with you, and lay them down in the place where you camp tonight.'" Then Joshua summoned the twelve men from the Israelites, whom he had appointed, one from each tribe. Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the

^[1] Question #62, The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version, Approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, one for each of the tribes of the Israelites, so that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, ‘What do those stones mean to you?’ then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off in front of the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the Israelites a memorial forever.” The Israelites did as Joshua commanded. They took up twelve stones out of the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord told Joshua, carried them over with them to the place where they camped, and laid them down there.

Philippians 3:7-14 (New Revised Standard Version)

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “What Matters and What Doesn’t” Rev. Norm Story
*CLOSING HYMN #450 “Be Thou My Vision” SLANE

GO IN GOD’S NAME

*BENEDICTION
*CHORAL BENEDICTION “The Lord Now Sends Us Forth” ENVIADO
*POSTLUDE Hymn Tune Improvisation Howard A. Smolleck
*Those who are able, please stand Please turn off all cell phones
Liturgist – Janet Green Deacon Captain – Gracia Class
Sound System – Jonathan West Video – Will Schroeder

**TODAY FOR THE ANNUAL DEACONS’ HAMBURGER FRY
IN WATKINS HALL FOLLOWING WORSHIP THIS MORNING (see announcement)**

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:

Wanda Mattiace – E Jerry Moser – W Bruce Pearson - S

Greeting after Worship Service:

Amon Taylor – E Rev. Norm Story – W Judith Ames – S

Please remember in your prayers: Josie Frieze; 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; Gospel Rescue Mission; St. Luke's Health Care Clinic; Casa de Peregrinos, emergency food pantry; Missionary Cesar Carhuachin, Presbyterian Minister, Columbia, South America.

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

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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 10/09 – Jacque Parks
- 10/10 – Donna Mathis
- 10/11 – Kyle Breck
- 10/13 – Blaine Goss, Michaela E. Owusu Sekyere
- 10/15 – Jorge Inocencio (youth member), Karma Bromwell

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

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

- 1) Cash or check in the offering (purple boxes in the Sanctuary)
- 2) Check sent by mail
- 3) Church website: fpc.lc and click on the “heart” icon or fpc.lc/giving or scan QR code
- 4) Smartphone App: Church Center
- 5) Text 84321





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.

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

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

Sunday, October 8, 2023 Deacons Hamburger Fry

- 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
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:45 AM Deacons' Hamburger Fry (see announcement)

Monday, October 9, 2023

Office Closed for Holiday

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

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

- 9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle in Jones Hall Library (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 in Jones Hall (please ask your Moderator)

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

- 8:00-1:00 PM "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, October 12, 2023

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

Friday, October 13, 2023

Linda Ramirez's last day in the office

Saturday, October 14, 2023

- 2:00 PM Memorial service for Lon's mother, Bernice Anderson in the Sanctuary

Sunday, October 15, 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
- 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

CCLI License No. 540727

Salt & Light – "God's Galaxy!"

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

4:00-7:00 PM Grades K-12th

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

Menu: Chicken nuggets, green beans with bacon, and mashed potatoes.
Ice Cream 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 or 575-618-9474

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.



We need your 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:

- October 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.



COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

“The Promises of God”

Trace with us salvation history and the amazing ways in which God chooses individuals and groups to be part of the divine plan. From Abraham to Jesus and on to the early church -- and still today -- God is choosing the unexpected so that we can better see the divine love and power in action. We too are called by God and given the promise of blessing and new life.

Join us each Monday at 7:00PM on Zoom!
Please email Janet for the link at drjml@me.com

(NO PREPARATION REQUIRED)
WE ARE HOPING TO SEE YOU!



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, October 13, 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



Mary Martha Circle

Welcome ladies of First Presbyterian Church. Please join us Tuesday, October 10, at 9:30 AM to socialize with our friends and guests. The Bible study will begin at 10:00 AM. We will be studying the Book of Nehemiah, chapter 2. We look forward to seeing you in the Jones hall library.



Need a ride to and from church on Sunday mornings?

- Our church offers free rides to and from the Worship service
- We will pick you up and drop you off at your doorstep
- Church vans are designed for easy access
Please call Linda Ward at 619-417-6912



Deacons' Annual Hamburger Fry Today After Worship!

Enjoy a great hamburger, reconnect with your church family, and help the Deacons make a difference in our community.

Your generosity enables our Deacons to help children, hungry folks, homeless people, and others needing assistance. Through your generous support, we do truly make a difference. Seeing the gratitude in the eyes of folks we've helped, we know this is true.

Come join us after Worship, and leave the cooking to us!

We especially welcome your donations because this event is the Deacons' only fundraiser of the year.



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.



Trunk or Treat Is Coming!

Tuesday, October 31

What is It? Trunk or Treat is an important congregational outreach to our community, sponsored by the Congregational Life and Outreach ministry team. It is a great chance to serve our neighborhood. The essence of Trunk or Treat is serving kids candy from the trunks of our cars in a safe, fun environment. But there is much more, including music, food, crafts, and games.

It's on Tuesday, Oct 31, from 6 to 8 pm, with setup beginning one to two hours prior.

We need your help! **This event is totally dependent on our congregation to be successful.**

Further information: Contact Lon Anderson, 575-649-4108 or lonandenise@q.com

Want to help? Please complete the form below and drop it in the offering box.

Yes! I want to participate in one or more of the following ways:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Give out candy from my car trunk with optional car decoration</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Run a booth for a pre-planned game (ducks, bowling, bean bags, etc.)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Devise and run my own game booth</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Kitchen duty and serving food (hot cocoa, hotdogs, popcorn, etc.)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Donate extra candy (individually wrapped)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Table setup (planning to set up 4 pm on the 31st)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Take-down</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Clean up kitchen</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lighting, power strips, extension cords</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Other (fill in the blank):</i>

Please fill out the information below:

My name is _____ My phone is _____

My email is _____