

# First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico  
Stewardship Commitment Sunday  
24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
Welcome New Members - Veterans Day  
November 12, 2023 - 10:30 A.M  
*Enter to worship – Leave to serve*

11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, Remembrance Day (Veterans Day), November 11<sup>th</sup>. A time to pause in our busy lives and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. A time to pay tribute to all those who have answered the call of our nation. It is a time to give thanks to all the men and women who have answered that call and through their sacrifice have given us the opportunity to live the lives we do today.

## PRELUDE

“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee” (America)

Robert Lind (b. 1940)

“Bountiful” (late 19<sup>th</sup> century American hymn)

Franklin D. Ashdown (1942-2023)

“A Mighty Fortress Is our God”

Wilhelm Rudnick (1850-1927)

\*\*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

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

Mary Maley

Today we dedicate our pledges during the service. This affirms that we make a difference in Las Cruces. Is your giving to the church the right proportion of all your spending? Fill out a pledge card and bring it forward today.

### MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (1 John 2:15, 17, Matt. 6:33 NRSV)

### CHORAL INTROIT

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

Italian Hymn

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Marsha Topley

(from Psalms 103 and 89)

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, do not forget all his benefits and who forgives all your iniquity, and who heals all your diseases.

**People: The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children’s children.**

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. Blessed be the Lord forever. Amen and Amen.**

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

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 unending. We praise you that the mystery of life is a mystery of infinite goodness. 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

## CALL TO CONFESSION

#423 “Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God”

Saraday

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, we come to you to confess our faults before you. We know that too often we have forgotten you, even though you are always faithful to us. Our spirits thirst for nourishment and meaning in life. We forget all that you have done for us and show little gratitude for the blessings of our lives and the wonder of creation. We fail at being servant-like for one another and loving our neighbors as you have loved us. Forgive our sinful pride and stubborn arrogance, our self-absorption and trust in ourselves rather than in you. Forgive our indifference to others and by your grace, bring us closer to you and to each other as we seek the new life offered through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

## TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

## ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE AND MERCY

**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 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 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

#377 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Houston

## CELEBRATING AND WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Tom and Donna Marconi, E. Kathleen Gardner

(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. 1-2)

## GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Amon Taylor

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

CALL TO PRAYER

Come and Fill Our Hearts  
Chancel Choir

Confitemini Domino

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

Autumn Carol

Setting by Russel Schulz Widmar

Handbells: Vicki Kuyper, Mary Maley, Dorothy Rachele

Bryan Berard, Conductor

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Dr. Janet Loman

Amos 5:11-14, 21, 23-24      Luke 16:13-15, 19-25

Amos 5:11-14, 21, 23-24

Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Luke 16:13-15 (New Revised Standard Version)

No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all this, and they ridiculed him. So he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of others; but God knows your hearts; for what is prized by human beings is an abomination in the sight of God.

Leader:      This is the word of the Lord.

People:      **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Seek the Lord and Live"

Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN

#757 "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

Kingsfold

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

GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

#377 "I Want to Walk as a Child of The Light"  
*Refrain only*

Houston

\*POSTLUDE

"Hymn Tune Improvisation"

Howard A. Smolleck

*Liturgist – Martha Topley      Deacon Captain – Divine Mboh  
Sound System – Rusty Smith      Video – Brent Brewer*

*Greeting before Worship Service:*

Greeting after Worship Service:

Martha Topley– E Rev. Dr. Norm Story – W Amon Taylor– S

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

Please remember in your prayers

- Prayers for Lorry Hoksch’s sister who has been diagnosed with brain cancer.
- Prayers for Ryan as she seeks employment. - Barbara Roegge
- Prayers for Rachel Breck’s health.
- Prayers for Curtis Benaway’s mother and her health.
- Prayers for Catie’s uncles, Marvin and Alan. Both are facing serious health issues.
- Prayers for Mel Parish, who fell and broke his femur going into his hip.
- Praises that Gene Harbaugh found that the spot on kidney is not cancer.

Continued Prayer List:

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- Roger Jones
- Jessica Stout
- June Briggs, home hospice
- Dinus Briggs, cancer issues
- Holly Dalager
- Wayne & Marianne Maley. Wayne on hospice care
- Rev. Jay Bishop
- John & Melanie Grant
- Linda Seaton’s father
- Clyde Treat, Dorris Hamilton, Norma Klein, Ann Miller, 854 lettuce Lane, 88001
- Jean Rhodes
- Shannon, blood cancer. Daughter of Bill & Virginia Haynes
- Rev. Marcus Burr
- Rev. Dave Schreuder
- Dale Cook and First Presbyterian Church of Deming
- Mary Olberg
- Jeanine Krenzer

For prayer requests, call the church office, leave a written request in the purple boxes, or email [newsletter@fpc.lc](mailto:newsletter@fpc.lc) to get your request on the Church-wide prayer chain.



Happy Birthday to You, Happy Birthday....



11/14 Judi Ferguson (child care)  
Mike Bartholomew

11/17 Tom Morehart    11/18 Stephen Taylor    11/19 Ann Miller



Ruth Ward

\*If we missed your birthday, please call the office at 575-526-5559 or email Veronica at linda@fpc.



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 CL&OS.

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.

**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.

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

 <p>More information can be found on our website: <a href="http://fpc.lc">fpc.lc</a></p>	<p>Tithes, gifts, and offerings can be done in a variety of ways. Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Cash or check in the purple offering box.</li><li>2. Check sent by mail.</li><li>3. Online at <a href="http://FPC.LC/giving">FPC.LC/giving</a> or via the QR code to the right.</li><li>4. Using the app, "Church Center."</li></ol>  <p>5. Text 84321</p>
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Church Office Hours are: Monday – Friday 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
CCLI License No. 540727



**In The Life of The Church**

**Salt & Light** Wednesday November 15, 2023, 4-7 PM Grades K-12<sup>th</sup>.  
6:10 PM Dinner; Baked Mac n Cheese, green salad and Rice Krispie treats for dessert.

### Mary Martha Circle

Welcome ladies of First Presbyterian Church. Please join us Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM to socialize with our friends and guests. The Bible study will begin at 10 AM. We will be studying the Book of Nehemiah, chapters 3 and 4. We look forward to seeing you in the Jones Hall Library.

*ATTENTION!*

**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 date: December 31<sup>st</sup>. 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.



The New Horizons Symphony Orchestra is performing this afternoon, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM in NMSU's Atkinson Recital Hall. Admission is free. Vicki & Bill Kuyper along with Rusty Smith will be on stage.



Dr. John Phillips, a long-time member of our church, has written to inform us that he has moved to Phoenix to be close to family and receive treatment for cancer. He is 91, feeling well and has responded well to his medications. John is active where he lives, including "playing piano and singing for folks." He misses Las Cruces a lot, but feels it is for the best. He appreciated very much receiving a letter from the church saying we had prayed for him. You are invited to keep in touch with him through the information below:

John Phillips  
5560 Deer Valley Drive, Unit 351

let our lives be full of both  
*thanks & giving*



Phoenix, AZ 85054



Cell: 575-644-0169

### **Thanksgiving-in Gathering**

In anticipation of the holiday of Thanksgiving, during the 10:30 service on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to participate in our special Thanksgiving offering of canned goods. During the final hymn you will be invited to bring forward offerings of non-perishable canned or boxed food items to benefit the ongoing mission of La Casa de Peregrinos. Through this offering, we continue to share the bountiful gifts of God with those in need in our community.

### **CHURCH CALENDAR**

Call the church office at 575-526-5559 or email: [linda@fpc.lc](mailto:linda@fpc.lc)

visit [fpc.lc/calendar](http://fpc.lc/calendar) for more information on any events.

Office Hours 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM Monday - Friday



### **Sunday, November 12, 2023**

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School led by Larry Hicks in the Jones Hall Library, a series entitled "Dietrich Bonhoeffer; Pastor, The Elogen, and Mortar"
- 9-11:45 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 together in the Sanctuary
- 11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Hall

11:45 AM Salt & Light Teachers Meeting in Jones Hall Front Office  
12:00 PM Sermon discussion in the Jones Hall Library with Rev. Story

**Monday, November 13, 2023**

7:00 PM Bells of Praise rehearsal with Beth Thomas

**Tuesday, November 14, 2023**

9:45 AM Mary Martha Circle

3:00 PM Listening Prayer

7:00 PM Committee Night

**Wednesday, November 15, 2023**

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

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

**Thursday, November 16, 2023**

6:30 PM Deacon's Meeting

**Friday, November 17, 2023**

**Saturday, November 18, 2023**

**Sunday, November 19, 2023**

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