



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Las Cruces, New Mexico**  
**Stewardship Commitment Sunday<sup>1</sup>**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Veterans Day**  
**November 10, 2024 - 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**

“A Song of Gratitude”

Harold K. Marks (1886-1981)

“Bringing the Sheaves”

Ignace Josef Leybach (1817-1891)

“God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand”

Lani Smith (1934-2015)

\*\*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**

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse -- who can understand it? I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings. Like the partridge hatching what it did not lay, so are all who amass wealth unjustly; ... and at their end they will prove to be fools. (Jeremiah 17:9-11 NRSV)

**STEWARDSHIP**

Christian Education

Patrick Cummings

**CHORAL INTROIT**

“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”

America

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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.

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Caleb Taylor

(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 -- 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.**

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

#338 "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

Materna

### \*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 unfailing. 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

#692 "Spirit, Open My Heart"

Wild Mountain Thyme

Congregation to sing refrain; Choral Scholars to sing verses

### 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.



That day Gad came to David and said to him, "Go up and erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." Following Gad's instructions, David went up, as the Lord had commanded. When Araunah looked down, he saw the king and his servants coming toward him; and Araunah went out and prostrated himself before the king with his face to the ground. Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you in order to build an altar to the Lord, so that the plague may be averted from the people." Then Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him; here are the oxen for the burnt offering, and the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the Lord your God respond favorably to you." But the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will buy them from you for a price; I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

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

"Because I Know God Loves Me"

Rev. Norm Story

\*CLOSING HYMN

#711 "Lord of All Good"

Toulon

**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

“God, We Honor You”

Abundant Blessings

\*POSTLUDE

Hymn Tune Improvisation

Howard A. Smolleck

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*Liturgist-Caleb Taylor    Deacon Captain-Patricia Adu-Mensah  
Sound System-Jonathan West    Video-Will Schroeder*

*Greeting before Worship Service:*

*Donna Phillips-E    Kathleen Gardner-W    Rev. Nick Koontz-S*

*Greeting after Worship Service:*

*Rev. Norm Story-E    Caleb Taylor-W    Chibuzo Chilaka-S*

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### **An Opportunity to Help**

On the last Sunday before Thanksgiving each year, we are invited to bring to church non-perishable food items to be distributed to those in the Las Cruces community who are in need. This year the Thanksgiving In-Gathering will be Sunday, November 17th. Our generous congregation has contributed an amazing quantity of rice, dry pasta, boxed foods, and canned foods in the past. Remembering the words of Jesus, "...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me," (Matthew 25:40) we can help.

### **Fellowship**

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 Congregational Life and Outreach Support Committee.



11-11 Marjorie Burr

11-14 Judi Ferguson

11-14 Mike Bartholomew

## *Please Remember in your Prayers*

- *The Inocencio Family.*
- *Tracy Howard as he navigates some health concerns.*
- *Sandra Valencia as she settles into her new home in Portales.*
- *Ryan Roegge, who is traveling this week,*
- *Kathy Story's sister, Carolyn, and her family.*
- *Prayers for comfort and peace for Barb Wolflick.*

## *Continued Prayer List*

*Sara Kay; Jack and Joyce Curry, who are at home; Jerry and Rayma Claessen at Grace Village; Arnold McMillan; Nancy Cowan's sister-in-law; Mary Olberg; Millie Conrad; Rev. Marcus Burr, at the Village of Northrise; Dorris Hamilton, Mel Parish, and Ann Miller at The Heritage.*

## *Welcome!*

Our Worship services are available:

- 1.) In-person, with Covid19 precautions
- 2.) Live-stream on YouTube, First Presbyterian Church Las Cruces, NM
- 3.) Video archive on the church website, our Facebook site or YouTube

### **CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS:**

- Seating in the 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 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:**

1. Cash or check in the purple offering box.
2. Check sent by mail.
3. Online at [fpc.lc/giving](http://fpc.lc/giving) or via the QR code on the right.
4. Using the app "Church Center".
5. Text 84321



CCLI License No. 540727

More information can be found on our website [fpc.lc](http://fpc.lc)

**Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.**

**First Presbyterian Church  
200 E. Boutz Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88001  
575.526.5559**



## \*NEW OFFICE HOURS\*

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY'S BEGINNING NOVEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>.



# *In the Life of the Church*

## Salt & Light

On Wednesday, November 13th, our theme is *Jesus Never Leaves You*. Dinner will be taco salad with chips & salsa, and brownies for dessert.



## Mary Martha Circle

*Mary Martha Circle will be meeting in the Jones Hall Library  
on Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 AM.*

*We are continuing our study of the  
Bible book of Matthew with leader Gracia Class.*

*All women are invited to join us for a morning of exploration and conversation.*

*Please contact Helen Moser at 575.647.3365 with any questions.*



## Advent Devotionals



We are collecting daily devotionals for our Advent booklet. Please consider writing one to three short paragraphs on an Advent/Christmas-related Scripture and submitting it to [nkoontz@fpc.lc](mailto:nkoontz@fpc.lc) for inclusion. A list of suggested Scriptures is available upon request.

# November

## Sunday, November 10th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer is viewing and discussing the video series "The Gospel of Matthew" in Jones Hall Library
- 9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Jones Hall (see announcement)
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Jones Hall (see announcement)
- 9:30 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 (see announcement)
- 12:00 PM Sermon Discussion with Rev. Norm Story

## Monday, November 11th

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News
- 1:00 PM Calligraphy Guild in Jones Hall Library
- 7:00 PM Bells Rehearsal

## Tuesday, November 12th

- 9:30 AM Mary Martha Circle in Jones Hall Library (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Committees of Session meetings in Jones Hall Library

## Wednesday, November 13th

- 8:00 AM Serve with us at the Soup Kitchen
- 9:30 AM Staff Meeting, office will be closed during this time
- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin
- 4:00 PM Salt & Light (see announcement)
- 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, November 14th

- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

## Friday, November 15th

## Saturday, November 16th

## Sunday, November 17th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School with Catie Brewer is viewing and discussing the video series "The Gospel of Matthew" in Jones Hall Library
- 9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Jones Hall (see announcement)
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Jones Hall (see announcement)
- 9:30 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, Thanksgiving In-Gathering
- 12:00 PM Sermon Discussion with Rev. Norm Story

Warm and cozy  
holiday season!

