



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

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November 2023

Embracing the Beauty of God's Timing

Whitney Hopler, Crosswalk.com Contributing Writer

iBelieve Truth - September 7, 2023

In a world characterized by impatience and the relentless pursuit of immediate gratification, God calls us to embrace the beauty of his timing.

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” - Ecclesiastes 3:11

Our family was excited to eat peaches from our own tree after we transplanted a sapling peach tree in our backyard. However, the tree didn't bloom in the spring or produce peaches in the summer for about three years while it grew and matured. We were glad the tree was growing but disappointed when our hoped-for flowers and fruit didn't show up, year after year. The peach tree's gnarled trunk and branches were unsightly. The tree didn't look like the beautiful tree we expected, but we continued to look forward to seeing peach blossoms and peaches in the future. Finally, blossoms appeared on the tree one spring, and peaches began growing on it. We were thrilled – until we saw what looked like an ugly fungus on the leaves and peaches. Our gardening center diagnosed the problem as a disease called leaf curl. It had turned our tree into a messy eyesore. Still, we held onto hope that one day we would see beautiful flowers and fruit on that tree. We purchased many bottles of fungicide and carefully sprayed the tree for months over the fall and winter, trying to save the tree and encourage it to bloom and produce fruit the next year. We also prayed often for God to help our peach tree. Then – finally! – ugliness turned into beauty. Delicate peach blossoms, rich green leaves, and large peaches appeared in abundance on our tree the next year. It had been a very long wait, but God had made the tree beautiful in its time.

In a world characterized by impatience and the relentless pursuit of immediate gratification, God calls us to embrace the beauty of his timing. Each season of life has its unique purpose – whether it's a time of persistence and growth, a period of waiting, or a season of joy. Just as flowers and fruit need time to bloom, so do our own aspirations. God's timing is perfect, even when it seems to us like God is taking too long to act. As Ecclesiastes 3:11 points out, God has made everything beautiful in its time. God, who has designed every part of creation – including us – with intricate precision, knows exactly the best time to bring something to fruition in our lives.

God has carefully planned a good future for us. He assures us in Jeremiah 29:11-13 that we can step into that future when we seek him wholeheartedly: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” When our circumstances look bad, God still has something good in mind for us. It's only by seeking him in loving relationships that we can see the beauty of God's plans unfold in the right timing.

The second part of Ecclesiastes 3:11 mentions that God has set eternity in our hearts, even though we can't understand the full scope of God's work over time. Deep within us, we yearn for something more than what we can see right now. God has given us a divine imprint that reminds us of our eternal destiny. As we navigate life in this fallen world, let's look beyond the ugliness and seek to live in holy ways that align with God's beautiful purposes. Let's place our trust in the One who sees the full picture of what can happen when



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we dare to hope and dare to pray with confidence that God will answer on time. As we release our desires to comprehend and control, we open ourselves to the beauty of closer relationships with God.

The beauty of God's work unfolds within its appointed time. In our hearts, a longing for eternity resonates, inspiring us to trust the Eternal One who wants the best for us and all creation.

Dear God, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the beauty you have brought into our lives. Help us to embrace each season and moment, trusting that your timing is perfect. Open our eyes to the eternity you've placed in our hearts, reminding us of our ultimate purpose in relationships with you. In times of uncertainty, may we find peace in the assurance of your sovereign love. Guide us, Lord, as we seek to align our lives with your eternal purposes. Grant us the wisdom to release our need for complete understanding and to trust in your wisdom. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Thank You Lord for Answered Prayers!

Saturday, October 14

Praise God that Ryan and Annabel Koher are back in the U.S. for an extended period of rest and reunion with family after Ryan's time in prison in Mozambique. The two volunteers for the orphanage who were detained with Ryan also had all their travel restrictions lifted. Praise God for this answer to prayer.

Holiday Craft Fair Update

I wish to thank all the volunteers that helped with the Holiday Craft Fair October 13 & 14. It would not have been possible without those who took down tables and chairs, moved furniture and vendor areas; those who manned the doors, sold raffle tickets, directed "traffic," baked and sold cookies; and those who returned on Saturday to get the church in order for church on Sunday. **Thank you, thank you!!**



The vendors always tell us how they enjoy coming to our fair because everyone is so friendly and helpful. We do not have the total amount raised as more money is still to be collected. As of October 25th the total is \$3,000!

Thanks again, Grace Speicher

Mark your calendars: Anticipated 2024 fundraising events for which Session approval will be requested: February-Chili Cookoff; May-High Tea; June-Garage Sale; October-Craft Fair.



TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR

DECEMBER

Is November 16

Send your info / articles / submissions to margo@fpccarsoncity.org

**Congregational Giving
General Budget as of Oct 16, 2023**

Remaining Budget Need	\$174,654
Year To Date Received	\$331,231
Current Month	
Income	\$24,833
Expense	\$12,601
Difference	\$12,232
ECO Dues	
Annual Budget	\$5,200
Year To Date Received	\$2,690

THANK YOU, ALL!!

Family Ministries

*"I will not cause pain without allowing something new to be born," says the LORD.
Isaiah 66:9 (NCV)*

A few weeks ago, as I stood in front of you, waiting for the countdown to tell me we were live on livestream, I was struck with amazement at what I was seeing – a thriving, robust body of Christ that has assembled for eight months now without a senior pastor. In those eight months, my spiritual journey has been intense. From the first moments of shock and grief, our loving heavenly Father has used this time to help me grow and mature. And through this growth, I hope to help and encourage you. I want to share the blessings God has granted us, beginning with Bob being installed as our pastor to now, when we are seeking God's discernment for our next pastor.

First, God sent us Bob, knowing we'd only have him for less than a handful of years. In a fully human sense, I cry out, "That's not fair! You took him from us too soon. We had so much more to learn from him!" Turning that around, we see the blessing of having Bob lead us through the pandemic, a daunting job, and one he did well.

And how did he do it well? From day one, he taught and reminded us that he was not the head of the church. We are *all* the body of the church, worshipping and serving our Lord Jesus Christ, the only head of the church. For four years God used him to equip us to do what we are doing. Though it dumbfounded us, God was not surprised to welcome Bob into his arms. And he equipped Bob to prepare us for just such a situation.

Do you know how deeply disrupted FPC was upon his death?



We skipped one week of midweek announcements.

Let that sink in for a moment. It was minutes before we were supposed to film on a Thursday morning that we got the news. Had it come a day earlier, we would have continued on without interruption. That's it. One less Mary and Sherri Show. There was immediate scrambling, phone calls, emergency meetings, visiting pastoral care. But on Sunday we were at church, being ministered to by one of nine visiting pastors who have now shared a word with us. But here's another blessing that we've been given: As of October 29th, we've had fourteen people within our own congregation take a Sunday to preach, teach, and testify. This is the fruit of what Bob planted in us during his time here.

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But we haven't just maintained, waiting patiently for new leadership to keep us on track. Recently, we held a New Covenant Partners Class, and welcomed *three* people into our congregation. Adult Sunday School has continued. The monthly newsletter has gone out. Committees have met and planned, organized, budgeted, and led. Musicians have learned new pieces and played and sang to the Lord. We've enjoyed larger gatherings such as the Ice Cream Social, Deacon Sunday, and the Autumn Alliteration Adventure. I can't help but think that to the outside world, their vision of us is that we should be in turmoil and chaos. However - *We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.*

- Romans 8:28 (NRSV)

The blessings don't stop there, by any means. The first round of interviews has now taken place. Multiple pastors responded to FPC's need for a senior pastor. I believe each one prayed about the decision to apply for this position and sought God's calling in this move. I know our Pastor Search Team has prayed for months for wisdom and discernment in revealing this person to us.

Now, imagine for a moment you're one of those people. You are able to go online, and thanks to our livestream and YouTube channel, familiarize yourself with our church. You'd do it, wouldn't you? And what would you find? A thriving, robust body of Christ that has prayerfully sought to follow God's will and continue the ministries of FPC through one of its most difficult seasons. You would be eager to serve among such a congregation. I do hope and believe that this is the case, and we can look forward to what God has in store for us as we move into the next stage in the life of our church. Take the time to ponder for yourself the blessings you've seen during 2023, thank God for all he has done and continues to do, and pray for our new pastor, who will surely be blessed by the body of Christ at FPC.

In His Service,

Sherri Gurney

Family Ministry Coordinator

If you missed the recent "An Ordinary Day with Jesus" Adult Bible Study...

You have another chance to attend! In November and December, Sherri Gurney will be presenting this class again on Mondays at 11:15 AM in the Library. Everyone is welcome!

COME JOIN THE FUN AND
HELP BEAUTIFY OUR
SANCTUARY FOR THE
ADVENT SEASON!



December 2 will be our annual Hanging of the Greens. This will start at 9:00am in the Sanctuary.

We can always use as many people as are willing to help out! We especially need strong people who can lift our large wreaths up high on poles—this is a tricky bit!

Candi & Wil Euler coordinate this fun activity so if you have questions, see one of them.



DON'T FORGET!

Daylight Saving Time ENDS on November 5

Set your clock **back** an hour so you get that extra hour of sleep before you come to church to worship!

Music for the Seasons

Before we celebrate the Advent season, November is the end of the Liturgical Year and gives us an opportunity to give thanks for the author of salvation and the one who has given us the gift of the church, the fellowship of the body that we celebrate each time we gather in person. Thanksgiving Day is a chance to ask God for forgiveness for our sins, repent for our disobedience, and express gratitude for all He has given us. Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate the abundance of God. Therefore, we will be singing songs and hymns of praise and thanks.

Now that fall has finally arrived, the choir is starting to prepare for the Advent and Christmas season as well. The Christmas Cantata is being rehearsed along with other anthems to be sung throughout this season. The Cantata is open to anyone to join the choir and be a part of the Cantata performance. As part of our outreach as a music ministry, the Cantata, "Let There Be Christmas," will be performed by our First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, along with people outside of our congregation from our community, and other churches will be represented. Within the Cantata the congregation will be singing along with the choir, making this a heartfelt performance and celebration. The Cantata will be performed on Sunday, December 17th during the Sunday church service.

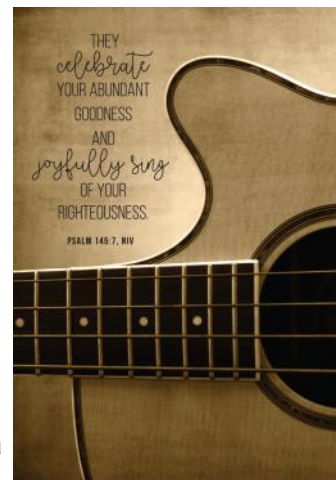
Our bell choir, Grace Notes, started rehearsals in August and is now preparing to perform for worship services October through May. The bell choir performs musical pieces that have been arranged by our bell choir conductor, Paul Weaver. These arrangements have been written to help modify the number of ringers that are in the bell choir, along with enhancing the musical arrangements to embellish the bell choir's sound. The bell choir will be performing once a month from now up through the Advent season. The next arrangements will be performed on November 12th and December 10th.

The Praise Team will be doing special songs this Advent season to help enrich our upcoming holiday season. Along with the Praise Team there will be special music performed by guest cellist Lou Goffman and pianist Lynda Norris on December 3rd during the worship service. The piece they will be performing is called "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." On December 10th during the Offertory, a harp and clarinet duet will be performing an arrangement of "What Child Is This?" The instrumentalists performing this piece are harpist, Mary Law, and clarinetist, Carol Yeager Deode.

During the Advent Season, the congregation will be singing traditional Christmas carols to help celebrate this joyous time of year and get everyone into the holiday spirit! This year's Advent season will be a wonderful time of year and celebration leading us up to the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Stewart



COME TO THE DEACONS ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK DINNER

Sunday, November 19, following worship

You, your family, and friends are all invited!

Turkey & gravy, ham, rolls, and pumpkin pie are all provided.

If you wish to bring a dish to share, feel free! If your last name starts with:

A-J bring potatoes or stuffing

K-R bring a dessert

S-Z bring a salad or vegetable casserole.

OR—just bring your specialty!

Please know it is not required that you bring anything to join us for the meal!



You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.
Deuteronomy 8:10



Names removed for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 10-19-2023

Names removed for privacy † Fire and Law Enforcement, First Responders, Front-line Caregivers; our Local, State, and National leaders



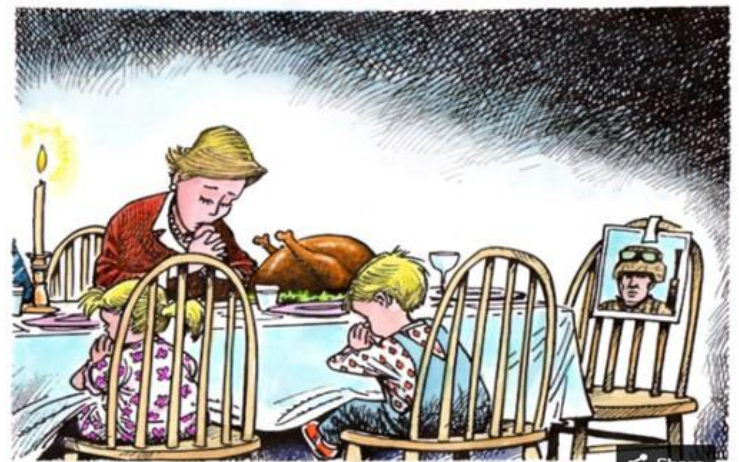
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 10 immediately prior to worship for the purpose of electing our new Elders and Deacons and the 2023 Nominating Commission.

Each year, Deacons place poinsettias in the Sanctuary for worship services in memory or honor of your loved ones. These will be acknowledged in a bulletin insert. **This year's deadline to order plants will be Monday, December 18.** Order forms will be in the December Trumpet and in worship bulletins beginning November 26th.



Names removed for privacy



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Dave Granlund, USA TODAY Network
USA TODAY NETWORK

Active-Duty Military: Names removed for privacy

PRAY FOR OUR
MILITARY

SHARING THE JOY OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH OUR COMMUNITY...



...THROUGH FOOD DONATIONS

The Northern Nevada Dream Center (NNDC) Food Bags will be available on Sunday, November 12th for you to share holiday food for upcoming Christmas celebrations. Every year we fill Christmas bags for the NNDC to deliver to individuals or families in our local communities who do not have the means of getting food for their Christmas celebrations. You help bring joy to them by providing a bag full of non-perishable food items and \$20 with which the NNDC purchases a ham or turkey to complete their meal.



Christmas bags will be available at the church mid-November in the Narthex and at the office, or contact Charlene Rodman to have a bag to fill delivered to you. There is a list of food items that you will purchase and an envelope for the \$20 (cash or check) for the NNDC to purchase the ham or turkey. If you wish to write a check, please make it out to the Northern Nevada Dream Center (NOT the church). If you would like to attach a Christmas card or special item like Christmas candies, it is always welcomed! The purpose of these bags is to bring joy to these families and share The Good News of Jesus Christ—the real reason for the season! Bags will be due back to the church no later than **December 3**.

...THROUGH ANGEL TREE



Every year our church partners with Prison Ministry to purchase Christmas gifts for children in the Carson City area whose parent is in prison. **We need your participation when the names are made available at the table in the Narthex on October 23 through November 12th.**

Gifts should be returned by November 26th.

Volunteers call the caretaker for each family to determine what the child needs or wants as a clothing and toy gift. We then prepare Angel Tags for each boy and girl in the families we received. These tags show what you should buy for the child: size needed, their age, and sex. Toys and clothing are two separate gift opportunities. Gifts should be new and cost no more than \$25 each.

You attach the Angel Tag to the gift when you return it so we know to whom it is to be delivered. A gift receipt can be included in case it needs to be returned. Volunteers call the caretakers again to arrange a day when they can come in to pick up their gifts the week of December 10. We meet them in the Narthex and give them their gifts and pamphlets about Jesus. Cards to order free age-appropriate Bibles are provided, so they can fill them out and mail to Prison Ministry. We don't have any Bibles to give out this year.

Thank you in advance for being generous and willing to share Christmas

...THROUGH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Boxes are due back by November 12.

If you opt to give on-line: Please let Lynne Weaver know so you can be included in our tally at the end of the project. Thank you to all who have filled and returned boxes!



... OTHER POSSIBILITIES:

F.I.S.H. needs hats and caps of all sizes to give to clients who need them. They also need canned meat, Ramen noodles, and financial donations to purchase meat products.

Pilgrim Radio is always looking for new donors to support their expanding ministry.

OLD SANCTUARY PRESERVATION UPDATE

Since the formation of the Old Sanctuary Steering Committee, we have raised close to \$140,000 toward the preservation of the Old Sanctuary. Expenditures to-date are approximately \$43,000: we have replaced the roof, replaced two sets of stairs at the entrances on Nevada Street, powder coated and replaced both sets of railings for the stairs, and hired Construction Engineer Melvyn Green to evaluate needed work by phase. A portion of the funds raised have been from fundraisers, but the majority of the funds is from the generous donations from YOU. Without your help, the preservation of the Old Sanctuary would not be possible.

Thank you so very much.

Our next major project, as determined by Mr. Green, is to clean the paint and regrout the tower of the Old Sanctuary. We have this project tentatively scheduled for Spring 2024 with Abstract Masonry Restoration of Salt Lake City, Utah. The estimate is \$119,000 for the regrouting with some additional for the extensive cleaning and treating of the paint residue from the bricks. We currently have close to \$100,000 in our accounts and are hoping to have additional funds from proceeds of the Fall Holiday Craft Fair and the Chili Cook-off to cover the entire project.

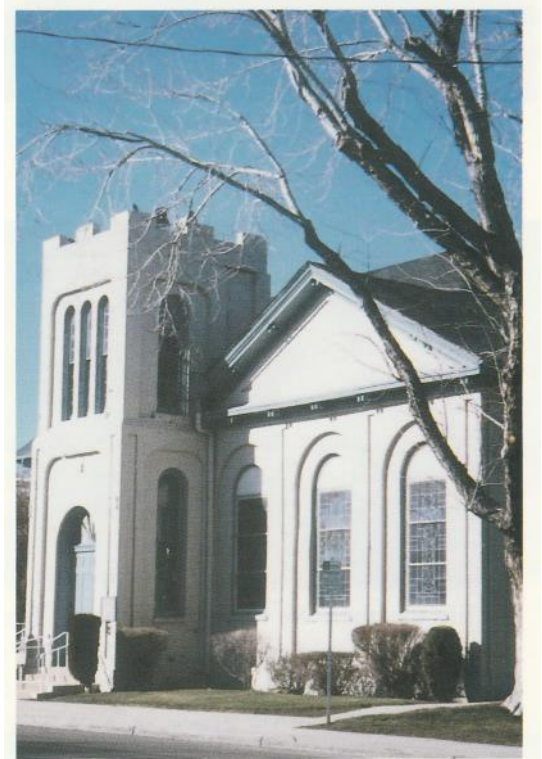


Photo by Roy Parks



GraceWorks

HOLIDAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

What: Thanksgiving dinner for the community hosted by the Carson City Plaza Hotel

When: Thanksgiving morning

Where: Plaza Events Center - 801 S Carson St

The GraceWorks portion of this project will be to pack meals into “takeout boxes,” and to deliver meals to people who are unable to come to the Plaza Hotel in person. Volunteers will offer to sit with the recipient to enjoy the fellowship of a meal with them in the place where they live. Volunteers will be joining with people from other churches to carry out this project. Watch for future announcements regarding how to volunteer.

If you know of a person who would benefit from home delivery, please give their contact information to the church office at 775-882-1032. For questions or additional information contact Kyle Hamilton

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg – FLC & Library 7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	2 9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study – Cashion residence 2:00 pm: Pastor Cmte Mtg - Library 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	3 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library	4 9:00 am: Autumn Outdoor Church Clean Up Day 
 Fall Back DST ENDS 8:30 am: Adult Sunday School – Fellowship Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Gathering – room by Nursery 9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School 10:00 am: Communion Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship	5 8:30 am: Adult Sunday School – Fellowship Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Gathering – room by Nursery 9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School 10:00 am: Communion Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship	6 11:15 am: Women's Bible Study – Library 5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Group – Library	7 8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – Location Varies 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg – FLC & Library 7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	8 9:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg – FLC & Library 7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	9 9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study – Cashion residence 1:30 pm: Women's Monthly Bible Study – Library 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	10 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library 
12 8:30 am: Adult Sunday School – Fellowship Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Gathering – room by Nursery 9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship 11:45 am: Deacons Meeting –Library	13 11:15 am: Women's Bible Study – Library 5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Group – Library	14 8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – Location Varies  5:30 Session Budget Meeting	15 9:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg – FLC & Library 7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	16 9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study – Cashion residence 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	17 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library  TRUMPET DEADLINE	18
19 8:30 am: Adult Sunday School – Fellowship Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Gathering – room by Nursery 9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship followed by Deacons' Thanksgiving Lunch	20 11:15 am: Women's Bible Study – Library 5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Group – Library	21 8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – Location Varies	22 9:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex Office closing at Noon  7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	23 24 25 Thanksgiving Break  GIVE THANKS	24 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library	25
26 8:30 am: Adult Sunday School – Fellowship Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Gathering – room by Nursery 9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship	27 11:15 am: Women's Bible Study – Library  Turtle Adoption Day 5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Group – Library	28 8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – Location Varies 5:30 pm: (Regular) Session Meeting– Fellowship Hall	29 9:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg – FLC & Library 7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	30 9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study – Cashion residence 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	31 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library	1  NIGHT OFF THE STREETS NOTS BEGINS - DECEMBER 1-31

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10:00 AM

Webpage
www.fpccarsoncity.org

Trumpet & Sunday bulletin articles can be sent to margo@fpccarsoncity.org; they may be edited for space. See calendar for due dates. Trumpet mailing prepared by a team led by George & Connie Stanton.

Enter his gates
with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him:
bless his name!

Psalm 100:4



See us and
"Like" us on

