



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 61 No. 02

March 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

Hello Church!

As I write this it is two days after my first Sunday with you as your pastor, and what a Sunday it was! First, I want to thank you for the wonderful welcome that you all have extended to my family and to me. We received warm smiles, handshakes and hugs. We received amazing quilts from hard-working artisans (quilts that my children are carrying all over the house as their personal blankets, thank you!). But best of all, we received the opportunity to worship with you and to begin to see what God has in mind for the next chapter in our church's history.

Over the last year there has been a refrain running through my head and heart; "Our best days are always in front of us." It's a bit counter-intuitive, isn't it? Some of us are closer to the finish of this life than the beginning, and age is taking away some of the capacities we've relied on, and things hurt that didn't hurt before. Some of us may have gone through a great catastrophe in our lives; a divorce, a death, the loss of a job. Some may be idolizing some event or time period in our past, and we're ever trying to recapture it. How could it be that our best days are still in front of us?

I came to this conviction in preaching through the book of Revelation in 2023. The book of Revelation is meant to explain what the churches of Asia Minor were experiencing in their own lives, to pull back the curtain of history to see God at work, and God and his people winning even as Christians are being persecuted and are dying. Believe it or not, this is actually the primary focus of the book of Revelation – despite appearances God is accomplishing through his people exactly what He set out to do. But Revelation also points us to something else – there is a day when this world is done, when all that is broken, corrupt, and even evil will be cast out and the whole creation, including you and I, refreshed, resurrected, and set free for an eternity of how things were always meant to be.

The Apostle Paul summarizes this well in the second half of the first chapter of his letter to the Philippians, especially in verse 21: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Our days are not defined by the aches and pains, by the heartbreaks we experience, by the loss of our youth or our capacities. Our days here are "in Christ," and are defined by our growing closeness to him in appreciating his benefits, in beginning to live his life, and in enjoying him forever. Outside of Christ we might believe that weakness, pain, and even catastrophic circumstances diminish our lives, but in Christ we know that they function to help us strip off the old person and put on the new person (Eph. 4:22-24). Every day of our lives has been laid out on purpose by God and they are full of meaning and significance. In this life our best days are always still in front of us because each day we can be more and more in Christ as he brings his resurrection power to bear on us. To live is Christ!

And to die is gain. There is something better than the best this world has to offer waiting for us. "[God] has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you." (1 Peter 1:3-4) We can draw

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strength today from the fact that "this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison..." (2 Cor. 4:17). So each day brings us closer to the realization of all that is best and most glorious for us and we don't have to try to recapture some era in our church's life, or in our own lives. Those happiest and most productive seeming days we look back upon were themselves meant to point us forward in anticipation of the greater thing God will do!

It doesn't matter how old or young you are, how much you have lost or gained in this life, or how irretrievable a good future seems for you. Your best days, and our best days, are still ahead. To live is Christ – increasing intimacy with him and a greater experience of his benefits, as well as exactly the exciting work God has planned for us. These days are on purpose! And then, at the end:

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Let's get ready for a great adventure together!

Pastor Ian



Chili Cookoff 2024

Another great evening of fun and fellowship was had by all who attended this year's Chili Cookoff. Eight soups, 16 chilis, and numerous corn breads were enjoyed and filled us up! Twelve chilis were entered to be judged. Winners were: 1st place - Chris Torres; 2nd - Cecelia Stansbury; and keeping it in the family, 3rd - Cindy Torres.

Many thanks to all who helped make the cookoff a success. There are too many volunteers to list here, but you know who you are! **Thanks!!**

All the proceeds went to the Old Sanctuary Preservation Fund; \$2,556 was raised this year from your donations, raffle tickets, and silent auction bids.

In great appreciation, Grace and Bob Speicher



The Stansbury's want to thank everyone for their concerns, prayers, and cards during Bob's recent health event.



TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR

APRIL

Is March 18

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

Financial Update as of February 18, 2024



Family Ministries



EASTER SUNDAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Lower Elementary Sunday School Learning about Jesus

Nursery and K-2 Sunday School available

Third Grade and up will stay in service



Easter egg hunt following service on the East lawn. Please gather in the long hallway and get directions from Sherri.



Friends, Spring is nearly here! What a wonderful display of God's love as we focus on rebirth and new growth. My favorite flowers are the early spring blooms - daffodils, crocus and tulips, and I eagerly await their appearance so I can enjoy their beauty after a cold, dark winter. We are experiencing rebirth and new growth in FPC as well, having come through a 'winter' without a pastor, to calling Ian to lead us in ministry. And we are going to focus on growth in Family Ministries. We are eager to see new things in our church family. I believe we have a heart to grow this ministry. So often, I hear that people have ideas to welcome young adults and children into our church. We need you and your creative, passionate suggestions to plant the seeds. We need you to tend the early growth - to water, fertilize and remove weeds. And we need you to continue to tend the garden once it is in full bloom.

To start with, please keep Family Ministries in daily prayer.

If you have ideas that you want to share, please email me at: sherri@fpccarsoncity.org.

Why did the hawk sit on the church steeple?

He was a bird of pray.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead:

1 Peter 1:3

Dates for your Calendar

March 10 - Pi(e) Day: Bring a pie to share at fellowship time.

March 17 - Baked potatoes to celebrate St. Patrick's Day during fellowship time.

March 24 - Palm Sunday

March 28 - Maundy Thursday

March 31 - Easter Sunday



Caroling Fun!

Hosanna in the Highest!



Now that Christmas has passed, we are now in the Lenten Season, preparing music to help us worship our Lord and Savior. This March brings us the Celebration of Palm Sunday, commemorating Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It is associated in many churches with the blessing and procession of palms. This year the Chancel Choir will be singing the anthem, "Wave the Palms, Hosanna!" for Palm Sunday. This piece tells the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a colt just as the prophet promised, with the children singing, while people wave the palms and throw the branches at his feet. Blessed is he who comes! We sing "Hosanna!" In most churches the palms are often taken home by the members of the congregation to serve as sacred sign of the sacraments, and some of them are burned the following year to serve as the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Immediately after Palm Sunday comes Maundy Thursday. Christ's "mandate" is commemorated on Maundy Thursday..."maundy" being a shortened form of mandatum, which in Latin means "command." It was on the Thursday of Christ's final week before being crucified and resurrected that He said this commandment to His disciples. Jesus and his disciples had just shared what was known as the Last Supper and he was washing their feet when he stated: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you also are to love on another" (John 13:34). The choir will be singing two pieces from a Cantata called "The Lenten Sketches" that focus on some of the last days of Christ's life. The anthem, "From An Upper Room," tells the story of the Last Supper, sharing bread and wine with his disciples. The anthem, "Scenes From Gethsemane," tells us as a congregation about the special place of quiet and solitude for Jesus. It is here following the Passover meal that Jesus and the disciples seek comfort and refuge beneath a canopy of olive trees. Suddenly the golden stars shining in the distance became torches of violence. Led by Judas, armed Centurions burst into the sanctuary of the garden looking for Jesus. "Father, let Thy will be done," He spoke as he rose to face His destiny. "Scenes from Gethsemane" gives us a powerful insight of what Jesus faced, giving his life for us to be saved.

Finally, we come to this year's Easter Sunday service, celebrating the resurrection of our savior, Jesus Christ. During this service the congregation, along with the Praise Team and Chancel Choir, will be singing, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," and "Let It Rise!" Later within the service, during the Offertory, the Praise Team will be singing "Alive Forever, Amen." The end of the service will be celebrated with the congregation singing "Lift High the Cross, the Love of Christ we proclaim, Till all the world adore His name."

Hosanna in the highest means more than praise and adoration. Rather the word itself means save us. It is used as a crying out for help, salvation, and freedom. It is during this time we celebrate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for giving His life so that we will be saved.

Blessings,

Stewart

UPCOMING OLD SANCTUARY FUNDRAISING EVENTS

- * May High Tea, May 3. Debbie Audet will keep you informed about this exciting event.
- * FPC Garage Sale will be held June 1. We will begin collecting your donations late May.
- * Holiday Craft Fair, October 11 and 12. Looking forward to the return of many crafters as well as adding a few new ones!

More information to follow on all



BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

The 2024 Life Choices Baby Bottle campaign is in full swing! Bottles are available on the Narthex table for you to pick up and fill with coins, cash or checks. When filled, please return on any Sunday or return to the church office during the week, but definitely by Sunday, March 31st.

Your gifts help Life Choices continue to serve women and families in our community with free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling, education classes, fatherhood classes, baby items, and the message that Jesus loves them and their baby. Life Choices staff also conduct Biblical classes for women and men who are healing from past abortion experiences. Your gifts help to do all of these services to save babies.



If you have questions about Life Choices or this bottle campaign, please contact Charlene Rodman at 775-781-7875.

Mission Potluck lunch April 7, 2024 | 11:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall

On Sunday April 7th, Lu Hawley and Pang from the Karen Leadership Development Program (KLDP) in Chang Mai, Thailand will be with us and doing a brief Mission Message during the 10:00 AM service. Following Coffee Hour, Lu and Pang will join us for a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall at approximately 11:45am. They will be preparing a “taste” of Karen food to share with us from Thailand. Following the meal, we will have some time to interact with Lu and Pang, ask questions and hear more about what is happening with the KLDP. **Please bring a salad, main dish, side dish, or dessert to share.** The Mission Committee will provide drinks. Please join us for a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing.

SAVE THE DATE—SATURDAY, MAY 4TH

WE WILL BE HOLDING A HIGH TEA FUNDRAISER FOR THE OLD SANCTUARY PRESERVATION FUND

Ticket Donation \$35.00 Time 11:30am-2pm



Kim Harris, accomplished Chautauquan performer, who has created a new characterization for the tea, “The Ferris Family and First Presbyterian Church in the 1860s and Beyond” will be providing entertainment for this event.

Also featured: quilt auction and raffle basket, free raffle ticket for hat wearers with a drawing for a separate prize. More surprises may be included.

If you can help by baking, selling tickets, loaning tableware, serving, or just have questions, contact Debbie Audet. Bring family and friends to a delightful pre-Mother’s Day event!

GraceWorks is happening Saturday, May 11.

Stay tuned for signups for breakfast, community projects, and T shirts.
Come join other Carson City churches in being the hands and feet of Jesus!”





Names removed for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 02-21-2024

Names removed for privacy

✦ Fire and Law Enforcement, First Responders, Front-line Caregivers; our Local, State, and National leaders

Active-Duty Military: Names removed for privacy



Congratulations, Chuck!



Names removed for privacy

COME CELEBRATE ON MARCH 17th!

First Presbyterian Church of Carson City invites you to join us as we celebrate the Installation of our new Pastor, Rev. Ian Hodge.

We will celebrate this occasion through worship and with God's Word. Your presence will make this event a memorable experience for Pastor Ian and the congregation.



Easter Season Activities



Palm Sunday—March 24

Adult Sunday School at 8:45 am followed by worship at 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday—March 28—Soup Supper and Service of Tenebrae

A potluck soup supper starts at 5:30 pm followed by worship at 7:00 pm

Bring a crockpot of soup and/or bread to share



Easter Sunday—March 31

Adult Sunday School at 8:45 am followed by worship at 10:00 am

Sunday School at 8:45 am followed by worship at 10:00 am

EASTER LILY SIGN UPS—Easter is March 31. The Easter Lily Program is to remember and honor those we care about. Tear off and place the completed form in the offering plate along with your check marked "Easter Lily" or bring the form and donation to the church office.

The deadline to order the plants is March 25th and the donation is \$11 per lily.

The lilies will be displayed and memorials listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR PHONE NUMBER: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

_____ I WILL PICK UP THE PLANT **AFTER** 10:00 AM EASTER SERVICE

_____ DEACONS MAY DELIVER THE PLANT(S) TO SOMEONE

_____ NUMBER OF PLANTS ORDERED (LIMIT OF 3)

\$ _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED (\$10 EACH)



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THE TRUMPET

Published by the

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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.



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