



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

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April 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It seems every year there appears to be a new challenge to the authentic witness of Scripture. There is a lot of media attention, then, whatever the “new” thing was seems to go away and not have any lasting power. You might remember some of these: the furor around the Da Vinci Code; the previous year there was fear of anti-Semitism from the “Passion of the Christ”; and, the documentary claiming to have found the ossuary containing the bones of Jesus.

Why the buzz? The cross and resurrection are a scandal. They are a stumbling block for all who do not believe.

The hope of the Christian faith lies in the meaning of the cross and the victory Jesus won over death in being raised from the dead. The resurrection is the sine qua non – the “without which not” – of our faith. Paul says it this way:

If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead; the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The cross remains a scandal because it points to realities the world would like to ignore.

The first reality the world would like to ignore is: there is a holy God who commands our worship. God does not need our worship; he commands our worship for our benefit. Worship is the rightful activity of creation because it keeps us in a right relationship with our creator. Sin – and the consequence of sin, death – are a result of forgetting God, disobeying God, and trying to be like God.

Worship involves glorifying God. As you have heard me mention, the Westminster Shorter Catechism (which is a part of ECO's Confessional Standards) begins with the question, “What is the chief end of man?” Why are we here? The answer: “To glorify God and enjoy him forever.”

Worshiping God means that we do not worship other things: not money, not powerful people, not possessions, not ourselves. All of those other things vie for our attention and our devotion. Scripture makes clear that those things are distractions and experience bears that out. In our most critical times, none of those things make a difference. We do not pray to any of those because we know they are unable to help us; we pray to God because God is able.

The second reality the world would like to ignore is: there is a loving God who acts to deal with our sinfulness. We do not like to think of ourselves as sinful. We prefer to think of ourselves as good, as meaning well, and as people who deserve a little grace. Other people – well, they do not deserve grace, they should know better than to do the things that they do.



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV

(continued on next page)

Sin is a critical issue in our lives. It is critical even if we do not realize it or acknowledge it. It is rebellion against God, it is a refusal to recognize God's sovereignty over us. God will not allow sin to exist eternally. In Romans, Paul talks about God's patience, but it is not a limitless patience. "Do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But by your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed." Romans 2:4-5.

God is not fooled by our rationalizations of why we think it is acceptable that we disobey him. "It was just this once." "It was really important." "I really needed it." "They deserved it." God sees into our heart. God knows our frame. These are things we would like not to see and often choose to ignore. We would be horrified if other people knew what things we held secret in our hearts.

What is remarkable is God deals with our sinfulness. "While we were yet sinners," "while we were still enemies of God," God sent Jesus to deal with the consequences of our disobedience and rebellion. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." Instead of destroying us – which God would be justified in doing – he acts to save us. That is grace.

The third reality the world would like to ignore is: there is a powerful God who is willing and capable of defeating evil in his own way. This God who loves us so much as to deal with our sinfulness is powerful enough to defeat evil. He has already conquered the greatest fear for humans: death. Jesus was obedient unto death – even death on a cross – and God raised him from the dead. That's just plain crazy: dead people do not get up.

Scripture tells us that the tomb was empty. Scripture tells us that Jesus actually, bodily, was raised from the dead. Scripture tells us that Jesus ascended into heaven. We bear witness to those truths – those are not myths or metaphors, they are truths.

The cross and resurrection will remain a scandal. It was a scandal then, it remains a scandal today. We can expect continued challenges and claims that it did not happen.

Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

(1 Corinthians 1:22-25)

It is with that same foolishness that we boldly proclaim, "Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!" May God bless you with wonderful joy through this Easter season.

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis

THE ROAD TO THE CROSS – Friday, April 10, 2020

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR THIS YEAR.

Pastor Bob is planning to read one of the Gospels aloud as a Lenten Reading each morning from April 6 through 9 at 7:30 am
THIS IS NOW PLANNED TO BE LIVESTREAMED—see our website for details coming soon.



Due to current events, this year we will not be doing purchases of Easter lilies honoring or memorializing family or friends.

Family Ministries

Student Spotlight:

GayLeeAnn Bowen, and Darren and Lizzy Muhlenberg



What do you think is God's greatest creation? A train track and some trains with a bridge and a tunnel.

(Lizzie: God gave us chocolate.) *Smart girl!! ;)*

How would you like to change the world? I would be a fireman and use a hose to spray water on the fire and spray it out.

What's the best thing about being you? I love to eat my food. I love to sing. I eat my carrots. I like the lions at the zoo.

What job would you like to have? A teacher because I have good teachers that make math and stuff fun.

What is the best thing about being a kid? Not having to go to work.

What is one question you want to ask God? For my forgiveness.



Our Sunday school students will play a special part in both our Palm Sunday and Easter services. You won't want to miss our youngest as they praise and worship God!



What do you like to do with your family? Hug.
What fun activity should we do as a church? Run in a race. I like ice cream.

What's one thing you'd like to ask God? Why did you make bugs all over the place?



How Great is Our God!

*"I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being." Psalm 104: 33*

There is a praise song written by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves and Ed Cash that sounds very much like the opening to Psalm 104. That is because its chorus was written when Chris Tomlin was studying that Psalm. In remembering the work of God, Chris mentions the attributes of the One who formed the earth and created all the aspects of it. The song talks about God's splendor and light; His majesty, His power over the darkness and evil. It concludes with a chorus, "How great is our God". The song, "How Great is Our God", was first introduced in 2004, but has been used heavily since then and remains popular with more contemporary expressions of worship.



Several generations ago, Swedish Pastor Carl Boberg wrote a lyric that was sung to a Swedish folk song for a number of years before being translated into German and then Russian. It too spoke of the greatness of God. When Pastor Stuart Hine heard the song, he translated it from the Russian into English and the song became known as "How Great Thou Art!"

The parallels of the two songs are so powerful, that often, you will hear them both sung back to back. The Boberg/Hine song became popular at the close of World War II as it was being used in crusades led by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Team. The story of 'How Great Thou Art' goes something like this: Upon visiting a country estate, Pastor Boberg was caught in a sudden, violent thunderstorm with awesome lightning. Just as suddenly, the weather cleared and bright sunshine prevailed. Boberg observed the singing of birds as the storm passed. He fell to his knees and worshipped God. Nine verses of praise were the result—and the basis for the hymn as we know it today. We have three of those verses in our current hymnal. The fourth was penned by Pastor Hine.

God designed music to be used to praise Him. We are commanded to "sing to the Lord a new song" in Isaiah (42:10), Psalm 96 (1), and Psalm 98 (1). There are references in Paul's writing to singing of various types of songs to the Lord, (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). We are to be a singing people as long as we have breath. And then, when we arrive in Heaven, we will sing forevermore. Let us remember the greatness of our God by singing His Word back to Him!

Not just humming,
Karen

What is it like to be a Pastor's wife?



I am asked this question all of the time. My answer often includes comments like, "it can be hard sharing your husband with 300 people." Today, as we approach our one year anniversary at First Presbyterian Church, I would like to update my answer to "I am so blessed to be married to the man I love and who serves a church as amazing as this church."

Why the change? Because of you. We are so grateful to be here with all of you. We have been showered with love and care by all of you. Our year was filled with wonderful dinners and get-togethers, kayaking, snow shoeing, hikes, wine walks, plays, orchestra concerts, outdoor concerts, Nevada Day, the chili feast and an amazing Scottish dinner.

But these "events" are not all. Because of you, we were able to purchase a house close to church. Several of you have helped us in making this house into the home of our dreams. You have been our realtor, our architect, our helpers and our contractor. The willingness to help is positively overwhelming.

We left our family and friends in southern California and gained a congregation made up of caring and loving family members. We are blessed beyond our wildest dreams. Thank you!

In Christ,

Jennifer Davis

ZEPHYR POINT SPRING WORK DAY—Saturday, May 9, 2020

"Spring is in the air" and encouraging all of us to spend time outdoors. I can think of no better place to get outside than at Lake Tahoe.

This is the first year without the founders of the FPC's mission to support Zephyr Point Conference Center – Dave and Jan Brees. Let's keep their legacy moving forward!

Volunteer your services for the day and be treated to a great lunch! Projects again will vary but there is always something for everyone to do. In the past, we have completed carpentry projects, painting and staining, spring gardening and flower baskets, and various other projects to enhance the beauty of Zephyr Point Conference Center.

If you who have never had the opportunity to join us at one of the most beautiful areas God has given us, please come and join the fun this year. SIGN-UPS WILL BEGIN IN March 29

Thank you, Bob and Grace Speicher



ZEPHYR POINT KIDS SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Daycamp for grades 1-6. These begin start June 15 & end August 7 with no camp week of June 29th. Bus service from Carson the second & fifth week. For more information, go to:

<https://www.zephyrpoint.org/programs/family/camp-zephyr/>

Junior High & Senior High Backpacking & Camping in the high country. Camps are concurrent, but separate. Held the week of August 2 to 7. There is no bus service provided. For more information go to:

<https://www.zephyr-point.org/programs/family/summer-high-camp/>

Direct any questions to Kerri Wasko at Zephyr Point (775) 588-6759 x113.



GraceWorks

2020 GraceWorks Community Event

Save the Date: Sunday, May 31, 2020

Tenth Anniversary!

GraceWorks is an opportunity for Christians from various Carson City churches to work together to serve others, on this one special Sunday. On GraceWorks Day, Christians share the love of Jesus by doing work projects which assist people in our community. All interested persons are welcome to attend and participate.

Begin Sunday morning in Mills Park, with worship and a free breakfast at 8 am, followed by departure to work projects, 9 am. Tentative projects include, among many others:

- ◆ Painting, minor repairs at FISH shelters and main location
- ◆ Work for the environment at Carson River
- ◆ Projects at Advocates Against Domestic Violence
- ◆ Food packet assembly

Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex in May, or sign up by computer on the Eventbrite site, available in May.

Some participants already own their GraceWorks T-shirts. Wearing the red GraceWorks T-shirt on May 31st is encouraged, to be recognized as a group of Christian workers. Limited sizes of T-shirts are available. For further information, contact Rob Scanland, Kyle Hamilton, or Carol Wilson, or the church office at 882-1032.



Names and dates removed for privacy



ON OUR PRAYER & PRAISES LIST

Names removed for privacy



Names and dates removed for privacy

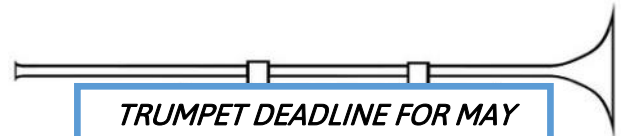
Active Duty Military in Our Prayers:

Names removed for privacy



We so appreciate the cards and ongoing prayers! Thank you all for being so thoughtful!

In His Love,
Tom and Deana
Ercanbrack



Is April 10

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

Please note that all in-person activities/gatherings listed in The Trumpet and calendar are subject to rescheduling due to COVID-19 guidelines or restrictions. Call the office or go to www.fpccarsoncity.org for updates.



Come one, come all for Deacon Sunday during coffee hour currently scheduled on April 19th. There will be lots of food for you to sample (with a few crumbs left over for the Church Mouse) and a chance to meet and talk to your deacon in person. We so look forward to meeting you so please do join us for this fun event.

The Deacons Need Vases for Sanctuary flowers!



Do you have larger-sized flower vases that you are wondering what to do with? Maybe you had an arrangement delivered for a special occasion or were the recipient of a Sunday morning's flowers via your Deacon. If you don't want it, please bring it to church for the Deacons to use. The vases need to be large or medium in size. You can just put the vase in the small kitchen or contact Kaye Keeton at 841-3991. Thank you!

We appreciate that many in our congregation are staying at home and taking care to not be exposed to the Coronavirus. The FPC Finance Committee would like to recommend that if you are not coming out to our services that you mail in your donations (FPC, 306 W Musser St, Carson City, NV 89701). The FPC staff is still here to serve you and are being paid, the utility bills are still being paid as are all of our other expenses. We would appreciate you remembering your pledges and giving to First Presbyterian Church during this stressful time in our community and nation. This too will pass as we all keep our eyes on Jesus and know He is our guide and protector.

Thank you, Your FPC Finance Committee



Church Directory



Hello FPC members. This is Bob Stansbury and it is picture directory time once again! With a new pastor and staff, plus new covenant partners joining the church, it is once again time to create a new pictorial publication. After putting together the last two directories, I am excited to be working with a completely different format that will take advantage of modern technological advances. Let's list some of the improvements for 2020:

There will be no sitting appointments or sales presentations for photo packages. (A) Photos will be taken before or after the church service. (B) You can submit your own picture. (C) I can use your old directory picture that I still have. (D) I will take your picture at your residence if you can't make it to church.

- ◇ Once completed, you can have the directory on your cell phone.
- ◇ If you wish to have a printed copy with pictures, you can travel to a copy center on Carson Street. They will print a copy for you in black and white or color at your expense. A basic no-picture printout will still be available in the church office
- ◇ The directory will be constantly updated, so it will be extremely accurate. There will not be a need to have a big event to get pictures in the future.
- ◇ You can submit changes involving emails, addresses or phone numbers that will keep your information current.

And lastly, you don't have to do any of this if you don't want to.

I need photographers that can cover church services during April and May. Please contact me VIA THE CHURCH OFFICE.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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10:00 AM

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www.fpccarsoncity.org

Trumpet & Sunday Bulletin articles can be sent to margo@fpccarsoncity.org and may be edited for space. See calendar for due dates. Trumpet mailing team led by Linda Poole.

This Month's Sermons

Please note—these sermons and all other church activities are subject to change depending on COVID-19 guidelines.

April 5 "What Are You Doing?"
 (Palm Sunday) Mark 11:1-14

April 9 "My House"
 (Maundy Thursday) Mark 11:15-19

April 12 "He Is Not Here"
 (Easter) Mark 16:1-8

April 19 "The Greatest"
 Mark 9: 30-37

April 26 "Whoever"
 Mark 9: 38-50

See us and
 "Like" us on

