



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 59 No. 04

May 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The gospel's account of Jesus and his resurrection is true: in that it happened and is not dependent upon us to be true. It is absolute truth – yet it is a truth we all experience individually. The beauty of the gospels is that they reveal God's answer to our prayer. God has said, "Here I am. I love you and I will be with you always."

This is going to be a longer-than-usual article in order to reflect on the question of "how do we share the good news with a generation too busy to listen?"

A while back in a sermon, I mentioned that Douglas Coupland is one of my favorite authors. He is best known for *Generation X*, but he has written a number of novels that paint vivid pictures of characters we all encounter. In *Life After God* he describes the experience of many suburban kids who have grown into young adulthood. There are several different stories, each with the theme, "**You are the first generation to be raised without religion.**" In the final story, Scout, the narrator, described his recollection of teen years this way,



[After swimming with friends] we towed off and drove in cars on roads that carved the mountain on which we lived – through the trees, through the subdivisions, from pool to pool, from basement to basement, up Cypress Bowl, down to Park Royal and over the Lions Gate Bridge – the act of endless motion itself a substitute for any larger form of thought. The radio would be turned on, full of love songs and rock music; we believed the rock music but I don't think we believed in the love songs, either then, or now. Ours was a life lived in paradise and thus it rendered any discussion of transcendental ideas pointless. Politics, we supposed, existed elsewhere in a televised non-paradise; death was something similar to recycling.

Life was charmed but without politics or religion. It was the life of children of the children of the pioneers – life after God – a life of earthly salvation on the edge of heaven. Perhaps this is the finest thing to which we may aspire, the life of peace, the blurring between dream life and real life – and yet I find myself speaking these words with a sense of doubt.

I think there was a trade-off somewhere along the line. I think the price we paid for our golden life was an inability to fully believe in love; instead, we gained an irony that scorched everything it touched. And I wonder if this irony is the price we paid for the loss of God.

But then I must remind myself we are living creatures – we have religious impulses – we *must* – and yet into what cracks do these impulses flow in a world without religion? It is something I think about every day. Sometimes I think it is the only thing I should be thinking about.

"The act of endless motion is itself a substitute for any larger form of thought" may be the best description of today's world.

We are surrounded by Scouts in our community. There are so many people who are floating along, trying to make meaningful connection by continuous movement. They are so busy -- so busy that there is no time to reflect on the larger purpose of their motion. They are adrift. You see them in the store, you see them on the road, you see them at work or in restaurants. You probably even know a few of them by name.

(continues on next page)

From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

How do you talk to someone like this? Asking that question gives voice to the fear many people have in sharing their faith. Perhaps you have had this conversation in your head, "They do not want me to preach at them. They do not want to hear me tell them about Jesus; that is just going to make them mad and walk away. Besides, who am I to tell someone about Jesus – I will probably get it wrong or they will ask a whole bunch of questions I can't answer." All of those things may be true, but they miss the point.

Scout tried to break out of the endless motion when he recognized the futility of going faster and faster without any different results. He reached out to his teenage friends hoping to re-establish bonds he once knew, only to realize he was increasingly disconnected from them. He withdrew further until he was fully isolated, and then in the form of a confession to the reader, he cried out to God from the depths of loneliness, hopelessness, and despair of illusory self-sufficiency. He could not keep it all together by himself. He knew, in the deepest part of his being, that he needed God.

Now – here is my secret:

I tell it to you with an openness of heart that I doubt I shall ever achieve again, so I pray that you are in a quiet room as you hear these words. My secret is that I need God – that I am sick and can no longer make it alone. I need God to help me give, because I no longer seem to be capable of giving; to help me be kind, as I no longer seem capable of kindness; to help me love, as I seem beyond being able to love.

Scout was crying out, praying for connection. When the endless motion finally stops, this is the cry of all of our hearts. We might verbalize Scout's realization this way, "God, help me! I am sick, and I cannot make myself better. I am lost, and I cannot find my way. I am hurting, and do not know why I do the things I do. God, save me!"

So, how can we reach out to a hurting world?

By reaching out and joining in the hurt with them.

Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?

This generation is not inspired by ideas or objective standards of truth. They are inspired by connection.

They do not want to be the object of your preaching; nor are they going to be interested in your information push telling them about Jesus. They want to belong. They will respond to an invitation to join your walk of discipleship; that is, to join in trying to address the questions you cannot answer by yourself. They will respond to your invitation to share in their experience of being lost, to meet them where they are.

This generation is efficient in technology and communication; it is inefficient in relationship. There is often a phone (or two) involved in rather than a face-to-face conversation. This generation knows how to push information quickly, it just does not know what to say. In the attempt to address the void in the heart, it continues to race with the mind. Virtual worlds are safer and more easily controlled; thus, far less able to having meaning in the long run.

Yet, here is the truth: there is no substitute for sitting, breaking bread together, and conversing face to face. (That statement is true for prayer, too.)

The gospel's account of Jesus and his resurrection is true; in that it happened and is not dependent upon us to be true. It is absolute truth – yet it is a truth we all experience individually. The beauty of the gospels is that they reveal God's answer to our prayer. God has said, "Here I am. I love you and I will be with you always."

As we work out the meaning of the resurrection in this season between Easter and Pentecost, take time to look around at the people you see every day. Reach out and explore with them, "How are you?" You may find that you are God's answer to the prayer of another Scout's heart.

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis



Family Ministries Crafting Day

April 2, 2022

Coming up next...

May 21 - Bicycle Poker Run

Get involved by:

- being a stop on the route
- set-up/tear-down
- delivering signage & snacks to stops
- food prep
- registration table
- yard games
- decorating bikes
- riding in the poker run
- inviting friends and family





WELCOME OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES—STEWART PEBBLES

It is with great joy that we welcome Stewart Peebles to serve as our new Director of Music Ministries. He is known to many of you in the congregation already from his work in the Carson City schools and throughout the community. He and his wife, Mary, are long-time residents of Carson City.

We thank God for answering our prayers by raising up Stewart to begin this new chapter of his ministry with us. In so many ways, Stewart’s background, qualifications, and heart for ministry exceeded the search team’s expectations. We were delighted to hear how his hopes and vision for the music ministries coincided with the mission of “opening the gospel to Carson City and beyond.”

As we celebrate Stewart’s beginning, we also take time to recognize and give thanks to Jacque Dyer for her incredible work in leading the music ministry after Karen Dahlen’s retirement last May. Jacque spent innumerable hours putting together music that helped the congregation sing God’s praises. The variety of musicians, music, and musical styles were a blessing that Jacque helped reveal.



Further, we want to say thank you to all the musicians who stepped up and have served through COVID and this transition. You have been an encouragement to all.

Finally, to the choir: get ready because it’s about to get real.

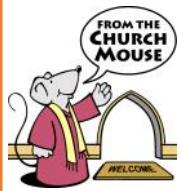


Born and raised in Montana on a family cattle ranch, Stewart Peebles holds a Bachelor of Vocal Performance from the Vienna Musik Gymnasium. While in Vienna, he studied music and voice under Otto Edelmann, former head Meister Singer of the Vienna Opera. After returning to the United States, Stewart continued his education and received a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the University of Montana. Stewart began his teaching career as a high school choral director for the Whitefish School District in Montana.

Stewart relocated to Carson City where he was a music educator for 20 years, and pursued his Master in Music from the University of Nevada, Reno. In addition to his time in the Carson City School District, Stewart also taught vocal music classes, private voice, and choir at Western Nevada College for 12 years. Stewart has also been the choir director for St. Peter’s Episcopal Church and Trinity Lutheran Church in Gardnerville, Nevada.

We are thrilled to welcome Stewart and his wife, Mary to First Presbyterian Church. We look forward to seeing how he is able to help us spread the Gospel, through music, to Carson City and beyond!

Choir rehearsals are on Thursday at 7:00 pm in the Library.



Hi everyone, It’s so great to see so many of you back at church every Sunday! It’s nice to have the family back doing things together. Don’t forget to mark your calendars with all the great events we have coming up!

One more event you’ll want to make note of is **DEACON SUNDAY on May 15** following worship. (It’s one of my favorite days because there are always even more tasty crumbs for me to feast on!) If you don’t know who your wonderful Deacon is, now’s your chance to meet them face-to-face, so plan on dropping by to say “Hi!”

THE DREAM CENTER BLUE BARREL is located in the Narthex near the Sanctuary doors. Canned and packaged food as well as paper goods may be brought on any Sunday. Items are picked up on a regular basis and delivered to the Dream Center to help those in need in our community.

Your items are distributed to apartments, hotels, and homes with a prayer and Christian materials. Everything you bring in is given out every month.

Thank you – all of you – for helping to feed the sheep.



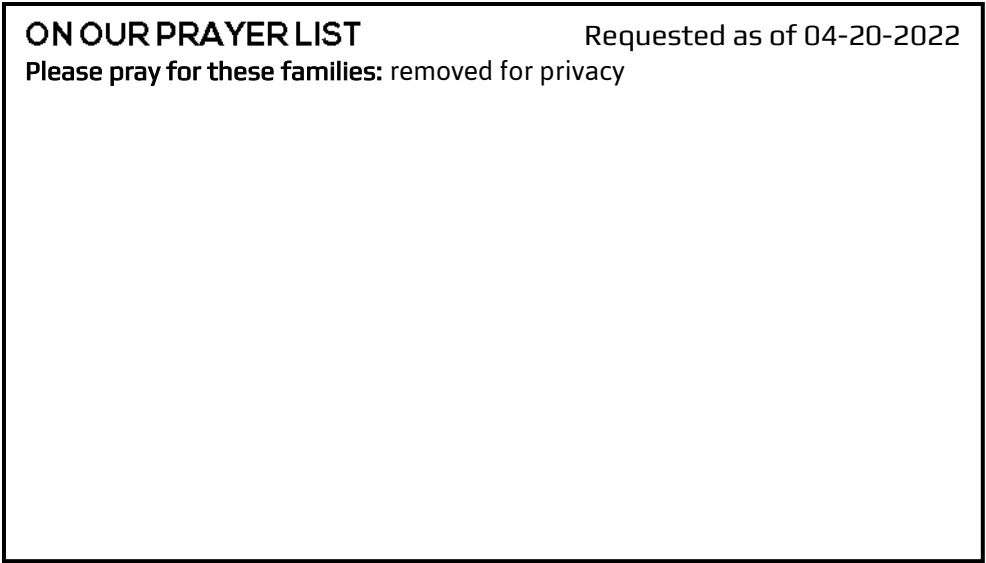


Names and dates removed for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 04-20-2022

Please pray for these families: removed for privacy



Active-Duty Military: Names removed for privacy



Names and dates removed for privacy



TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR
June / July
 Is May 13
 Send your info / articles / submissions
 to margo@fpccarsoncity.org



Congregational Giving—General Budget

2022 Projected

	<u>Budget Need</u>	<u>Given</u>	<u>Difference</u>
<i>April 14, 2022</i>			
Yr. to Date	\$151,019	\$127,395	- \$ 23,624
Current Month	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Difference</u>
	\$ 19,567	\$ 23,971	- \$ 4,404
ECO DUES	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	
	\$ 1,410	\$ 5,200	

LIFE CHOICES' BABY BOTTLE REPORT

What a fun year it has been with your participation in the Life Choices Community Pregnancy Clinic Baby Bottle fund raiser! You were wonderful to pick up bottles each week and then returning them each week. What fun it was for me to watch! I delivered your bottles to the Life Choices office each week that were filled with your coins, bills and checks. In total I delivered 36 heavy bottles with coin and 11 checks. Some time in the future we will get a total dollar amount donated in our 2022 campaign. So stay tuned. Thank you to everyone who participated in this fun and very worthy mission cause. We are helping to save one baby at a time.

Charlene Rodman
Mission Committee



LOTTIE SCOTT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

School will be ending in a few months so it's time for those graduating from high school, continuing on with more college or returning to college to think about applying for the Lottie Scott Memorial Scholarship.

Who qualifies to apply: This fund is available to individuals who were involved in our church while growing up or whose parents and/or grandparents have been active members. Priority is to be given to those who would like to go into Christian Education. The fund is also available to anyone from our church who wishes to further their education through college or a trade school.

Scholarship Amount: The amount of each scholarship is not to exceed \$1,000. Scholarships are subject to approval of the Finance Committee.

Application Period: Prior to the beginning of any college semester or quarter. Applications are available by contacting Cecelia Stansbury. She is available to help any applicant needing assistance completing the application or their personal statement of faith.



ROAD TO THE CROSS 2022

Well another Easter and Road to the Cross is in our rear view mirror. And what an Easter this has been, sharing Jesus with our church family and communities. This report will center on the Road to the Cross.

First I would like to thank Ron and Sigrid Hobbs for coming back and sharing with us their talents and spiritual direction. We could not have done this event without them. Second, thank you to the 45+ wonderful, dedicated volunteers who did everything from passing out posters, advertising, setting up stations, welcoming visitors, praying, putting up signs, making bake goods/coffee, buying snacks for volunteers and helping to clean up. In the same way I can't mention all of the names, I also can't mention all of the volunteer hours given and their jobs. God is so good; all the time! He provided the servants and then brought folks to hear, read, and experience Jesus' walk through Jerusalem to the cross. Our total attendance this year was 205. We had 205 in attendance including groups from ten churches in Minden, Dayton, Washoe Valley, and Carson City, as well as nine from Sierra Place! We gave hope to those who might have wondered what happened after Good Friday. Jesus rose from the grave and He is waiting for each of us to come home.

Thank you to all who participated this year. And now some questions- will this event happen again? Who will step up to lead? Where, oh where, do we store all of the props and equipment? *It is up to you to step up.* If you're interested in this event continuing, please see Pastor Bob or your Elders who are our leaders. Pray about it, please.

Thank you for letting me coordinate this event once again. I am always blessed beyond measure as I see so many walk through our doors and be touched by your service and Jesus' story.

In Christ Service,
Charlene Rodman



DENOMINATION DUES

First Presbyterian Church's dues for our denomination, ECO (A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians), is **\$20.00 per member for 2022**. Our dues go to help with the administration of our denomination; they help churches with health, pension, and retirement benefits; they also provide training sessions and our Annual Convention. In addition, our mission committee can access information from them in times of disasters as to how we can help and partner with churches in need. If you have not yet paid your annual contribution, please consider doing so.

Just note "ECO Dues" in the memo line of your check; mark "Other" on your giving envelope or drop your check in the offering plate. You can also use the general giving envelope in the pew racks. You only need to pay this once during the year.

Thank you for helping with this special offering and all of FPC's mission work in 2022.



DID YOU GET YOUR TICKETS FOR MCAVOY LAYNE PRESENTS "MARK TWAIN'S CARSON CITY?"

This event will take place at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, May 4. Doors will open at 6:00pm; "Mark Twain's Carson City" will begin at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$25 each (student rates available) and can be purchased at church on Sundays or the office during the week. Invite your friends to come enjoy a great evening!

FPC RUMMAGE SALE—Saturday, June 4, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Start setting aside your donations to the second *FPC Rummage Sale*. All proceeds go toward the preservation of the Old Sanctuary. Donations can be brought to the Family Life Center on Thursday, June 2 and Friday, June 3, 9:00 am – 12 noon



Saturday, May 14, 2022 - GraceWorks. Sign up now for the project you want to help with!



Project 1: Planting flowers at Eagle Valley Children's Home
Looking for five volunteers

Location: 2300 Eagle Valley Ranch Road—9:30am start

BRING YOUR OWN: Gardening trowel, gloves, drinking water

To sign up and get further details, call the project leader, Donna Hataway

Project 2: Refurbish a fence at FISH and their Stewart School facility.

Looking for twelve total volunteers (six each project)

Volunteers will put up new cross-members and fence boards.

Project 3: Stain/paint the Project 2 fence and/or other outside surfaces plus other misc. repairs

To sign up and get further details about Projects 2 and 3 including time, location and what to bring, please contact the project co-leaders: Dave Berger or Rob Scanland

Project 4: Mac and Cheese food packaging for FISH

Looking for thirty volunteers

Location: FPC Fellowship Hall—9:00 am start time

BRING YOUR OWN: measuring cups, need ¼ cup, ½ cup and 1 cup sizes.

To sign up, call or text the project leader, Amber Brown

Plan to wear your red "GraceWorks" T-shirts if you have one!

(For volunteers who sign up, limited sizes of T-shirts are available.)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Carson City, NV 89703

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THE TRUMPET

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

115 N. Division St.

OFFICE

306 West Musser Street

Carson City, NV 89703

775-882-1032

The Rev. Bob Davis
pastorbob@fpccarsoncity.org

Worship Services
10:00 AM

Webpage
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 prepared by a team led by George & Connie Stanton.

This Month's Sermons

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 1 | John 6: 41-59
"Bread from Heaven" |
| May 8 | John 6: 60-71
"Words of Eternal Life" |
| May 15 | John 7: 1-24
"Festival of Booths" |
| May 22 | John 7: 25-52
"How Do You Know?" |
| May 29 | John 8: 1-11
"Writing on the Ground" |

See us and
"Like" us on

