



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 57 No. 09

November 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

November means Thanksgiving. What are we thankful for in 2020?

Well, that seems like a loaded question, doesn't it? This year has been filled with difficulties, trials, unprecedented situations, and all sorts of things that normally would not fit our typical definition of "blessing." The pandemic. The social unrest. The election. The sense that people are becoming more polarized than united.

There are all sorts of gallows-humor jokes circulating about this year. The general sense is that we cannot get beyond it quickly enough.

If that's the case, do we really have anything for which to be thankful this year?

Yes. Yes, we do.

First, we can be thankful that we have the gospel. Our salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ is something we have been given; it is not *a* given. God was under no obligation to redeem us. That God has chosen to do so is remarkable. Later this month we will celebrate "Christ the King" Sunday, when we remember Christ's ascension to the right hand of God the Father. It brings to mind the verse from one of the praise songs we sing, "Amazing love, how can it be; that you my king would die for me. Amazing love, I know it's true, and it's my joy to honor you – in all you do, I honor you." For God's lovingkindness we can be thankful.

Second, we can be thankful for the church. We have benefited by being able to receive the gospel through God's generous provision of Scripture and the faithful witness of generation after generation. Nearly two millennium have passed since the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ – and we are still unpacking the meaning of what happened in all those events. Further, if this year has taught us anything, it is just *how valuable* is the gift God has given us in each other. We have experienced the pain of isolation and not being able to worship together.

Third, we can be thankful for the new doors opened to us for sharing the good news we have received. What an incredible blessing has been the development of the electronic media ministry. Let me list a couple of examples: livestreaming worship so that people unable to attend in person can join and be included; Aunt Betty's Studio, where we have seen extraordinary possibilities come to fruition; family worship in the Family Life Center; and, the expansion of the number of people participating in worship through liturgy, music, production, and development.

Fourth, we can be thankful for God's protection through a difficult season. As overwhelming as has been the pandemic, we have not experienced the kind of exposure or contamination that has occurred elsewhere. It has not been easy and it has been really frustrating. We have adapted – and are constantly adapting – to be good stewards, but we have enjoyed a season of relatively



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good health through this time (I do not want to discount those who have suffered loss or been ill with other things; I just want to observe that we have not been decimated by the pandemic).

And, I could go on. So could you.

2020 will *not* last forever. Even as tough as it has been and continues to be, however, Paul's words in Philippians 4 bear repeating:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:10 I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ Not that I am referring to being in need; for *I have learned to be content with whatever I have.* ¹² *I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need.* ¹³ *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.* ¹⁴ In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress.

In a year of shared distress, it is particularly important that we take time to rejoice and give thanks to God – God who has been faithful and true through it all.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis



Dear mystery gift giver: We wish to thank the person who left the commemorative plate of the Old Sanctuary on our porch. You are very thoughtful. We would like to thank you personally if you would let us know who you are. Thank you, Grace and Bob Speicher



DON'T FORGET!

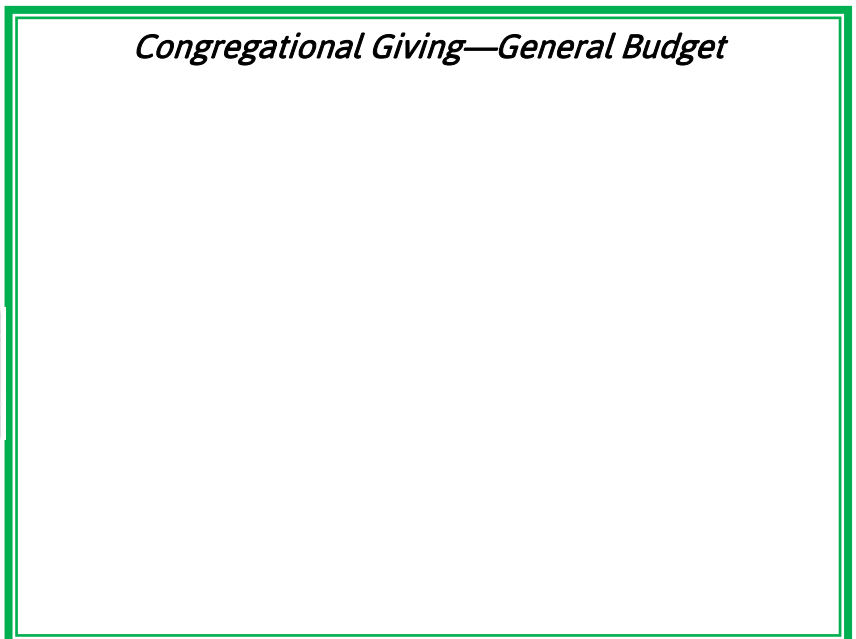
**Daylight STANDARD Time starts
Sunday November 1!**

**TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR
DECEMBER**

Is November 13

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

Congregational Giving—General Budget



Teacher Spotlight

Kathy Hernandez



Kathy has worked in the FPC Nursery for nearly 21 years! She is a wonderful asset to us, loving and caring for our littlest ones.

She has two sons.

What is the best thing about working in the nursery?

Working with the children, and keeping everything clean and sanitary for them.

What is your favorite place in the world, and why?

Carson City, NV because it's home.

What do you love the most about being a mom to boys?

I love being a mom to my boys because they are so much fun, and they are very talented and love me so. I love them with all my heart.



An acrostic poem takes a word and places it vertically. Then a word or phrase is made of each of the letters. Work with your family to make an acrostic poem from THANKSGIVING. God bless and happy Thanksgiving everyone!

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Christ Our Hope

There are several new hymns that I connected with while attending the Getty Music Conference in September. One of them is entitled, "Christ Our Hope in Life and Death." The Getty Music group has given us such new hymn classics as "In Christ Alone", "Psalm 130 (I Will Wait for You)", and "My Worth is Not in What I Own". Each of their songs contain deep theological truths and teach us, in this day, how to look at Scripture and apply it to our lives. So many of the songs we sing in worship have been hymns and will continue to be hymns, but it is so great to have a more modern language approach that speaks to our generation and future generations as we worship God.



The words to the new hymn we will be learning and using during November actually comes out of the first question of the Heidelberg Catechism: "What is your only hope in life and in death?" and the answer is "that I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ". This reminds us that Christ, when all else has failed us, will always stand as the only hope we can cling to in our world. That is true in every part of life. We try to fill our lives with everything but Christ, generally speaking. The idols could be money, fame, status, sex, food, etc., but all will be stripped away leaving only Christ. Believers in every age have dealt with difficulties brought by cultures and authorities, medical disasters, physical disasters, sometimes all of these things. This is not unique to our day.

We are commanded to sing in good times and in bad times. This hymn reminds us to "sing hallelujah!" and to "now and ever (we) confess, Christ our hope in life and death." The second verse asks these questions, "What truth can calm the troubled soul?" and answers, "God is good." "Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?" "Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore, the rock of Christ?" All these questions can be answered by meditating on Christ's sacrifice for us and invoking His name.

Another hymn I hope to introduce to the congregation soon comes from these same writers and is called "His Mercy is More." It deals with the human predilection to sin. It talks about how badly we sin, but how much greater is God's love and forgiveness towards us. "Our sins they are many, His mercy is more." Look for it as a special in our Thanksgiving service. We will learn it in the new year as we look forward to becoming deeper believers in Christ.

I hope that you are still able to participate in services whether at home or in our Sanctuary or Family Life Center. This has been a tough season for being able to fellowship with one another. I have missed talking with you all after services in our fellowship hour. I have missed singing God's praises together in worship and in choir. Though that is true now, we all need to remember that the "glue" that keeps us together is Jesus Christ and His love for us. We may not ever be quite the same in our worship times, but Christ is the same, today, tomorrow and forever, and on that we can depend!

He will see us through this. So join in as you are able and continue to lift up the name of Christ in all you do and say. God's blessings on you all!

Karen



We will have Wednesday at 7:00 pm rehearsals in the Sanctuary for several small groups throughout the month of November in order to prepare for the Advent season which begins November 29th. If you have questions, please call Karen!



Our theme for the 2021 stewardship campaign is “Produce the Harvest of Righteousness.” We all know that God expects/commands us to give. Often times we only think of this as financial, but we are to give of ALL that God has given us. That includes our talents, our time, our knowledge, our abilities, our prayer time, etc. Use this time as you fill out your pledge card to prayerfully consider all the ways you can support the growth of God’s church.

As elders prepare for the 2021 budget, your pledges give us an idea of what funds we have to use for spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. Your session understands that things can change during 2021, as they definitely have in 2020.

At each session meeting your elders review the giving and spending and make any changes as required. We praise God that you have not allowed all the changes in 2020 to keep you from supporting the work of God’s church, both local and around the world.

Always remember that your gifts are a gift to God in thanksgiving for all He has given to you. God has assigned elders and deacons to faithfully dispense these funds according to His word and the leading of the Holy Spirit, so please pray monthly that their actions reflect God’s wisdom.

Pledge cards and information have been mailed out. If you did not receive a mailing, please call the office at 882.1032 X215. Pledge cards are also available in the Narthex and in the Family Life Center for you to pick up and drop in the offering plate, mail back to the office, or drop off at the office. Dedication Sunday will be November 22, 2020.

Thank you!

George Stanton
Elder



Annual Church ELECTION

With the prevalence of the coronavirus, so many things look different than they did before March of this year. As the end of the year approaches, one of the changes you will be seeing is the process by which our Elders, Deacons and Nominating Commission will be elected. Normally (before March), the Nominating Commission prepares a slate of names for a congregational meeting. At the meeting, there would be a final chance for congregational members to nominate people for any of those positions. If there are no “nominations from the floor” - and usually there are none - the slate created by the Nominating Commission would be elected by the 150-200 people in the congregation that day.

Since there is no possible way we can hold a congregational meeting that large, the Session has approved a change making it possible for the new officers to be elected by just the number of congregants in the Sanctuary and Family Life Center on that day. As with any congregational meeting, there has to be notice given in advance. Notice will be printed in the bulletins on November 29 and December 6 for the congregational meeting on December 13. The slate presented by the Nominating Commission will be included in the notice for the meeting. Any nominations “from the floor” will need to be submitted in writing during the two weeks prior to the meeting. Then, if you would like to be involved in the election of First Presbyterian Church’s new slate of officers, plan to attend the service on **December 13, 2020**, which is when the meeting will take place.

And don’t forget to continue to pray for all the Elders, Deacons, Staff, and the Nominating Commission. They work hard to follow the Lord’s leading as we fellowship and worship together.



Names and dates removed for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Names removed for privacy

Requested as of 10-22-2020



Names and dates removed for privacy



First Presbyterian Church staff and officers will NEVER contact you via text or email seeking money. We will NEVER ask you to personally front money for ministry, mission, or compassionate purposes.

We have the Deacons' fund that has been specifically designated to address these kinds of events. So, if you receive something purporting to be from us — particularly on a weekend or during a time when the office is not open — please contact the person directly by the phone number in the church directory to confirm what is going on. We want to discourage those who would seek to take advantage of the trust and fellowship we have in Jesus Christ.

ATTENTION TRAVELERS and ADDRESS MOVERS

Did you know? – Each month we mail you our Trumpet to keep you informed about the activities of the church. However when you move or leave the area for a period of time the Post Office returns your newsletter to the church and we are required to pay for its return. At that time we take you off the mailing list until we are notified of your return. That notification sometimes doesn't happen and you are then missing out on the church news!

Please notify us before you depart (or return) as a "snowbird" or if you are changing you mailing address with the USPS for some other reason so we can either forward your Trumpet to the new address or stop it for the time that you are away.

We appreciate your help in this area as you make your travel plans any time throughout the year. If you are moving it is also important to call the office or email your change of address to margo@fpccarsoncity.org.





We are back to working on a new **photo church directory!** We will be using an online directory format which eventually can be updated on an ongoing basis, accessed online, or printed—all by you!

To get us started, Bob Stansbury will take photos during the **half hour before and half hour after** worship on Sundays; Cecelia Stansbury will also go over a sheet of the information currently on file for you so it can be updated and expanded with information we may be missing.

If you are unable to come to church to have your photo taken, a time for someone to come to you to take a picture and do the information update is also an option and can be arranged with Margo. Call her at the office at 882-1032 x212 Monday—Thursday 9-4. You may also submit your own photo to Margo to be considered for inclusion in the directory at margo@fpccarsoncity.org. A picture that can be scanned may also work. **Starting in November office volunteers may be contacting you via telephone to follow up on pictures and to confirm your information.**

Ultimately, you will be able to do your own information updates and view the directory on your electronic devices. Paper copies with pictures will be available to be purchased through a local printing company—details will follow later—and “no-picture” directories will still be available in the church office..



NND C CHRISTMAS BAGS ARE COMING!



Every year we have filled 100+ Christmas Bags for the Northern Nevada Dream Center to deliver. The bags you bring in are given to folks in our community and surrounding communities who do not have transportation or means of getting food for their Christmas celebrations. You bring joy to them by providing a bag full of nonperishable food and ten dollars for the Dream Center to purchase a ham or turkey to go with the bag to complete their meal.

Christmas bags will be available in two sizes in late October or early November for you to pick up at church, in the church office, or call Charlene Rodman at 775.781.7875 and she will deliver one to you. Attached to the bag will be the list of food items you will purchase to fill the bags. Also attached is an envelope for you to put \$10.00 in if you can so the Dream Center can purchase the meat. If you write a check, please write it to **NN DREAM CENTER**. If you would like to include a Christmas card or special candies that is always welcomed. Our purpose in this mission is to bring joy to these families and share Jesus Christ since that is the Reason for the Season.

Please return the bags to the church by or before Sunday, November 22nd. Thank you!

The 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. **The deadline to order plants is Monday, December 14th and the cost is \$10.00 per plant.** People who wish to take their plants may do so after the Christmas Eve service. TO ORDER: Submit this completed form along with your check to FPC with "Poinsettia" in the memo field in the offering plate, by mail or in person to the office (306 W. Musser Street, Carson City, NV 89703).

Your name: _____ Phone: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

I will pick up plant after the Christmas Eve service **OR** Deacons may deliver plant to someone

_____ Number of plants ordered (limit of 3). \$ _____ Amount enclosed

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Corner of North Division & West King Streets
 Administration Office
 306 West Musser Street
 Carson City, NV 89703

Non-profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Carson City, NV 89701
 Permit Number 173

Return Service Requested

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THE TRUMPET

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The Rev. Bob Davis
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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 Linda Poole.

This Month's Sermons

November 1	
"Pressing On"	Philippians 3:1-16
November 8	
"Heavenly Citizenship"	Philippians 3:17-4:1
November 15	
"Rejoice"	Philippians 4:2-9
November 22	
"I Know"	Philippians 4:10-23
November 29	
"Hope"	Haggai 2:1-9

See us and
 "Like" us on

