



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 57 No. 10

December 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we come to December 2020, I suspect there are not many who will be sorry to see this year pass. The events of 2020 have highlighted just how vulnerable and broken is this creation. Nature, culture, politics, sports, and the economy all have been wildly disrupted and disruptive. On top of everything, we cannot meet together as we would like and, as a result, we have been experiencing extraordinary separation and loneliness.

It has been a dark year. Even so, we know where to look for light; or rather, *to whom* to look for light. As we wait for the pandemic to pass, so also we wait for the fullness of the kingdom of heaven to be revealed.

I am not writing this to depress you. Instead, let me suggest to you that it is important to acknowledge the darkness in order to appreciate the wonder of the light. December is Advent season and a significant part of Advent is darkness. Suffering and waiting and yearning and darkness are the conditions through which the hope of a messiah was held. Suffering and waiting and yearning are three words we could use to describe this year.

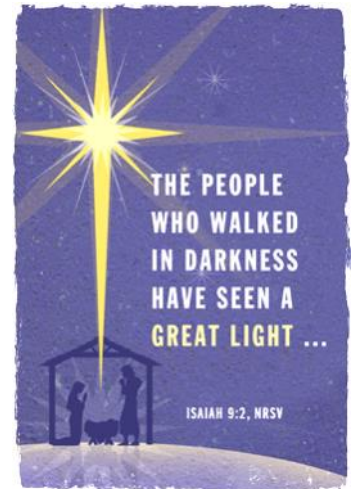
We often spend time reading prophecies from Isaiah during the weeks leading up to Christmas. We do that because they are familiar and comforting words. We do that because they remind us that God was faithful. We do that so that we can be re-assured that God is faithful even now in the time of our own darkness.

However, make no mistake: Isaiah was written at an extraordinarily difficult time in Israel. The Book of Isaiah was written over the course of twelve generations that endured – endured in the midst of suffering. The situation was not good for Israel. The northern kingdom was defeated by Assyria, the people taken into exile and never heard from again. The southern kingdom would survive a little longer; however, it, too, was defeated and the people taken into exile.

The words of Isaiah 9 are familiar: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.” If you hear those words, you immediately start thinking of Christmas. However, that is not what the first readers would have thought. Those words were written after two of the tribes (Zebulun and Naphtali) had been attacked. We do not know the extent of the losses they incurred, but both tribes were suffering badly. We read those words looking back in fond remembrance; they heard those words looking forward as a message of hope in a time of despair.

It is important we include the darkness of suffering in our reading in order to understand the meaning of hope within the text and within our faith. We cannot get to the real meaning of the glorious sounds of Handel’s Messiah, “Unto Us A Child Is Born” if we do not understand how *bad* things were. And, perhaps more difficult for us, we must remember how the *generations* of Israel persisted in hope while looking for a messiah who would show up *hundreds* of years later.

Advent is about living in faith *through* the midst of darkness. It is about remembering God’s faithfulness in the past in order to look forward in hope and trust that God will be faithful to His promises in the future. Advent is about enduring in hope and trust in God. It is about hoping and trusting that God is with us through the darkness, it is not as if God were simply waiting at the end to see if we will make it.



Continues on next page

You do not endure things you enjoy, you endure things to get to something you can enjoy. What has every parent told every child? "You cannot have dessert unless you eat your vegetables." Endurance is persevering through the difficult to get to what has been promised.

So, as we come to the end of this crazy year and look forward into the next – without really knowing what kind of year it will be – we endure and persist in hope. We acknowledge the darkness because it demonstrates how deeply broken creation is; and we raise our hands to the heavens asking God, "how long?" Even as we ask, though, we know that the day will come when God's promises will come true and "those who walk in darkness have seen a great light; those who live in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined."

Let's be a people who bear witness to the hope of the coming light: Jesus Christ.

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis



A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held immediately prior to worship service on **Sunday, December 13th at 9:45am** to elect new Elders and Deacons, and the 2021 Nominating Commission, listed below:

ELDER NOMINATIONS:	DEACON NOMINATIONS:	2021 NOMINATING COMMISSION
Linda Ritter	Susie Bell	Roger Merz
Bill Rose	Sandy Cashion	Charlene Rodman
Dan Skinkis	Susan Rose	George Stanton
Bob Stansbury	Pat Skinkis	Faye Wheeler
Bob Stroh	Sharon Hughes	

The 2020 Nomination Commission is still seeking one Deacon. If you are interested in serving or have a nomination, please contact a current commission member or the office.



**TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR
January / February**

Is December 11

AND

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT ARTICLE
DEADLINE**

Is December 30

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

Congregational Giving—General Budget

2020 Projected			
	Budget Need	Given	Difference
<hr/>			
<i>November 16, 2020</i>			
Yr. to Date	\$474,182	\$420,272	- \$ 53,910
Current	Income	Expense	Difference
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$420,272	\$409,162	+ \$ 11,110
<hr/>			
TO DATE			
Cameras	Income	Expense	Difference
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 8,345	\$ 7,938	+ \$ 407

THANK YOU, ALL!!

Family Ministries

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Josh Russo has been a huge help and wonderful resource with our Youth.

What's the best thing about working with teens?

I enjoy working with youth because it helps me feel young and forget that I'm not a teenager anymore.

What makes you a strong believer in your faith?

I love the overall message of Jesus's teachings in the New Testament, taking care of the less fortunate. Feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, healing the sick, housing the homeless, taking care of each other even if that means lowering your own quality of life. I would love it if the entire world were able to live by those teachings.

Who in the Bible, besides Jesus, would you like to sit down and chat with?

This one is a little tough but I think I have to go with Paul, I would want every detail possible about his experience on the road to Damascus and what that must have been like to experience.



SUNDAY SCHOOL RE-OPENING



January 3, the nursery and Sunday school will be open again! We will be taking children from the time you arrive. Masks for ages 4 and up will be required. A full set of protocols has been drafted. If you have any questions, please contact Sherri.
sherri@fpccarsoncity.org
775-882-1032



Hope in the Winter

I find that winter can be a difficult time for me as there is less sunlight and more physical darkness until the days begin to brighten after the 21st of December. It is comforting to know that I am not alone in this. We have experienced significantly more darkness in our region this year, due to both the COVID pandemic and the huge amount of smoke we experienced this summer. The darkness has not gone unnoticed by our God.

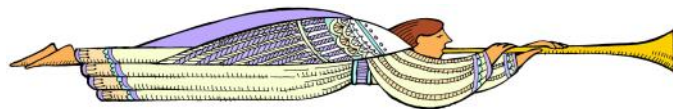


The nation of Israel experienced many periods of darkness in their journey through the Old Testament. And finally, think of the gap of time between the Old Testament and the New Testament. God did not speak to His beloved people in that period. Though there were people faithful to God in that period, theirs was truly a journey of faith without seeing the evidence of God. That is a difficult thing to do and John talks about the people being in darkness as they waited for the promised Messiah. God was preparing to send the Shepherd-King; the New David; the Kinsman-Redeemer. In the darkest of times, God is still at work on behalf of His chosen people. This faithfulness that is modeled to us by God, is the same faithfulness we are called to show in our darkest times. We are human and fail. God never fails! Will we give into despair or will we watch in hope for the Lord?

Someday, we will have no winter of difficulty, for we will be home with the Lord. Why not practice now for the day that is coming? Choose to hope in God and what He is doing according to His plan. Advent is the time to see the juxtaposition of the darkness of humanity and the Light of the World, Jesus. Jesus came to pierce the darkness and bring salvation to all mankind.

Let us bring our wintry souls to the manger and let the Light of the World warm them with His love.

Karen



A moment of personal privilege: Carl and I want to say THANK YOU to all who have been praying for our grandson Sam! He has finished his treatment for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and has “rung the bell”. “Ringing the bell” is a milestone for those with this blood cancer. It is a praise for completing and the oral, chemo and radiation components of his treatment. Sam and his family have moved to Phoenix from New Jersey where they previously resided. His dad, Don, continues to work remotely for the City Colleges of New York City. Sam will be monitored for five years in order to keep track of his health following his treatment. We invite you to continue to pray for this brave little guy as he is still dealing with the effects of the juvenile diabetes he acquired during treatment. We are grateful to God for this healing and continue to ask for complete healing of the diabetes issue in Sam’s life. Sam is an active 5-1/2 year old and has been attending school online. He plays sports, swims and keeps tabs on his older brother, Joel and his younger brother Levi. Lauren and Don, his parents are so grateful for your prayers!

YEAR END GIVING

We are so grateful for your generous hearts in giving to the mission of First Presbyterian Church in 2020. While being a year of challenges, it has also been a year of many blessings! Just a reminder that if you are giving in December and want your donation credited to calendar year 2020, your gift must be in the church offering by the morning of Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020 or postmarked by Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020. THANK YOU AGAIN for your gifts to this church!

2020 ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION DUE

In preparation for the 2020 Annual Report, church officers, group leaders, staff and other members of the congregation serving at First Presbyterian need to submit their year-end report.



Submissions are due no later than December 30th (earlier is better!) to margo@fpccarsoncity.org or on a flash drive brought to the church office.

What's Happening at FPC?



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.** Please see the back of the December calendar insert for the order form and other details.

worship
WITH US

JOIN US IN PERSON ON SUNDAY IN THE
SANCTUARY Or FAMILY LIFE CENTER
OR ONLINE VIA YOUTUBE LIVESTREAMING
Subject, of course, to current restrictions



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 at 7:00pm

Join us for a Christmas message and beautiful music
Sunday morning protocols for masks, etc. will be observed.



Night Off the Streets (NOTS) Warming Shelter needs your help

The NOTS shelter is opening November 15th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church located at the corner of Saliman and Hwy 50. They need volunteers for the three nightly shifts beginning with November.

Your Session has approved **FPC hosting the NOTS shelter from December 1 through the 14th.** We will be using the Family Life Center and also encourage you to help out. This year the NOTS program has worked closely with the Carson City Health Department to establish and implement numerous new protocols to insure the health and safety of the guests and volunteers. We are called in Galatians 6:2 to "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ."

To volunteer for the NOTS shelter at any of their locations, email notscarson@gmail.com or contact Molly McGregor at (775) 350-9511. She can get you on the schedule and direct you to the online training video and training manual. For other questions about the program contact the church office at (775) 882-1032 and they can put you in contact with members of your Mission Committee.

2021 GIVING ENVELOPES

If you signed up for giving envelopes, please pick them up in the Narthex/lobby in mid-December.

If you are not coming to church and want your envelopes delivered or mailed, please contact the office. If you need envelopes for 2021 and have not signed up for them please contact Charlene at the church office, email her at char@fpccarsoncity.org, or leave a message at 775-882-1032 x215.

PLEASE DISCARD 2020 GOLD ENVELOPES

The part-time position of FPC Bookkeeper is open. If you are interested, contact Grace Speicher, Barbara MacSween or the church office.

Due to the corona virus and the vulnerability of the members of Desert Schooners, the Chili Cookoff in February 2021 will have to be cancelled. We want to thank all who assisted and participated in this successful event!!

We'll see you in 2022!
Wagon Master
Sandy Ehresman





Names and dates removed for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER LIST
NAMES REMOVED FOR PRIVACY

Requested as of 11-19-2020



Names and dates removed for privacy

Advent Colors

Purple has traditionally been the main Advent color, symbolizing repentance and fasting. A royal color, purple looks forward to reception of the coming King who is celebrated during Advent. Today, however, many churches use blue instead of purple.

Pink or rose is used during the third Sunday of Advent. It represents joy, anticipating the coming celebration.



White is the color of the center candle, representing Christ as the sinless pure Savior.



Remember Those in the Military

Active Duty Military in Our Prayers:
Names removed for privacy

WELCOME TO THE FPC STAFF!



Abby Davis has joined the church staff as our new part-time Electronic Communications Coordinator! Abby will be responsible for FPC's online/electronic presence as well as other communications responsibilities. First up has been work on the FPC Facebook page and starting and overhaul of the FPC website. She will be in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We are so happy to have her on staff!



ANGEL TREE PRISON MINISTRY



This year the Angel Tree Prison Ministry is virtual. If you plan to do it, please email Dawn Berger (berg1280@sbcglobal.net or 721-4766) or Sharon Hughes (Sharon Hughes: 938was@gmail.com or 431-4143) to be sent the hyperlink and FPC sign in code. Please choose your recipient early as Angel Tree plans to mail out gifts around December 10.

Once you are logged in, eight to ten names of children & caretakers will come up in red. Hit "Show Me More" if you want to see names of additional children. You are allowed 30 minutes to make your choice. The name turns green when you choose who to adopt. Next, go to checkout. The cost for each name is \$42. You can pay with checking, savings, debit, or credit card, but they do not accept PayPal.

Angel Tree will mail your packet to the child of an incarcerated prisoner. It will include a Walmart credit card for \$40, a message from the child's parent, a gospel presentation, and an opportunity to request a free Adventure Bible.



THE FCA CHRISTMAS TREE LOT IS BACK!

Located across from the Ormsby House, the FCA tree lot will be open for business every day 10 am—7 pm beginning Friday, Nov. 27th. All proceeds benefit the local Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Ministry and helping families in need with clothing and Christmas gifts. The best ways to support this outreach:

1. Shop here for your fresh-cut Christmas tree.
2. Make a donation toward a tree for a family in need in our community.
3. Make a donation to help support our 2nd Annual Trees for Troops. We provide Christmas trees to service men and women at the military base in Coleville.
4. Sign up to volunteer at the tree lot or to bring a warm meal for the volunteers working at the lot.

Make donations payable to "FCA" and drop them off at the tree lot or the FPC church office. Contact Timothy Plummer at 775-720-9158 or tplummer@fca.org for more information.



Northern Nevada Dream Center Christmas Food Bags

We wondered how many Christmas Bags we would be able to pass out and receive back this year of distancing/masks and online services? These bags of food go to help the folks in our community that need a little extra joy, sharing of Jesus, and Christmas dinner. As always, our FPC Family came through as the faithful servants that you are for this local mission cause. Ken Lloyd (pictured) recently picked up 19 green bags and 12 red bags to be delivered to the Dream Center to be distributed into our neighborhoods.



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO WERE ABLE TO FILL A BAG AND ALSO INCLUDED MONEY FOR A HAM OR TURKEY!

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

Place Label Here

THE TRUMPET

Published by the
First Presbyterian Church
 115 N. Division St.

OFFICE

306 West Musser Street
 Carson City, NV 89703
 775-882-1032
 fax 775-882-8095

The Rev. Bob Davis
 pastorbob@fpccarsoncity.org

Sunday 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

December 6 "Peace"	Luke 1: 57-80
December 13 "Joy"	Isaiah 55: 6-13
December 20 "Love"	Matthew 1 18-25
December 24—Christmas Eve	
December 27 "The True Light"	John 1: 1-18

See us and
 "Like" us on

