

The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 59 No. 10

December 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are "sent" people. The picture of the worshiping community is the temporary gathering of God's people in a terminal, waiting to be sent out on planes to their destinations. We gather to praise God, in order to be sent out to the people and places where God has called us to bear witness..

To what do we bear witness? Well, think about the Christmas season. Advent is a time in which we remember the incarnation – the Word became flesh. We think of Emmanuel, God with us, in the birth of the Messiah. We bear witness to the reality that Jesus was born of Mary. We are not arguing about a



hypothetical concept, we are stating an historical fact that has great meaning.

Advent also is a time to remember God's promise and anticipate Jesus' return. We express our confident hope in the great words of prophecy. We live in the expectation of Jesus' triumphant return; we are just like those who lived in the darkness before Jesus' birth, waiting for the Messiah. Together, in our worship, in our preparations, in our conversations with others, we have the opportunity to share our conviction that the God who has been faithful will continue to be faithful. We place our trust in Him.

Thus, Advent and Christmas are more than tradition. They are our testimony remembering how God is faithful to His promises. The **gifts we give** each other mimic the great gift God has given in Jesus Christ. The **peace** about which we sing is His peace. It is good news.

Thinking about the nature of Advent and Christmas, it occurred to me how miraculous it was that the news of God's gift of the Messiah was sent out – even if it did not travel through official channels. The coming Messiah had long been predicted: the prophecies foretold his coming for hundreds of years – think of Isaiah, and Daniel ,and Zechariah, and Jeremiah, and others. Even so, Christ's arrival surprised those who should have been best prepared.

There were those who knew ahead of time; they just were not the people most expected to have known. Instead, God revealed His purpose to those on the outskirts of power: Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah (John the Baptist's father). When Jesus was born, it was not the national news media who were alerted; no, it was the shepherds and the wise men. As Jesus began his ministry years later, those who encountered and engaged with him were the outcasts and blue-collar workers of the day: fishermen, tax collectors, and folks from the nowhere towns of the day. Yet, these same "nobodies" later would end up being his witnesses to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and – literally – to the ends of the earth.

Somehow, God used all of these people to "tip" the message of the gospel to the ends of the earth. In his 2002 bestselling book, *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make A Big Difference*, Malcolm Gladwell's premise is that big movements often follow patterns similar to a viral epidemic. We are all too familiar with what this looks like in a virus.

Continues on next page

From the Pastor's Desk

These three characteristics – one, contagiousness; two, the fact that little causes can have big effects; and three, that change happens not gradually but at one dramatic moment – are the same three principles that define how measles move through a grade-school classroom or the flu attacks every winter. Of the three, the third trait – the idea that epidemics can rise or fall in one dramatic moment – is the most important, because it is the principle that makes sense of the first two and that permits the greatest insight into why modern change happens the way it does. The name given to that one dramatic moment in an epidemic when everything can change all at once is the Tipping Point.

The spread of the message of Christ did not happen overnight, but it did follow a pattern like an epidemic. Those who were "infected" with the gospel started in a small area (Jerusalem), spread slowly outward (Judea and Samaria) and then to the ends of the earth.

The Book of Acts reads like a tracing of the viral nature of the message: first, how Peter and the other Apostles incubated the message in Jerusalem; then, how Paul caught the gospel on the road to Damascus and ended up carrying it all around the ancient world, including to Rome.

History continues to detail the exponential growth of the faith. Through the centuries, the message of salvation in Jesus Christ has gone through times of great expansion. There have been variant strains that have started and died off. There have been changes in the outward appearance, but the basic DNA remains the same. The message of the gospel continues to have relevance and can be very, very contagious.

The question is whether we have now quarantined the gospel for our own protection. It is safe to talk about faith on Sunday morning during worship. Outside of church activities, however, it is a different story. Many people are afraid of telling the story because they do not want to "impose" their beliefs on others.

This is why Advent and Christmas are such a blessing for us. They remind us of the good news of what God has done; they remind us of the good news of what God has yet promised to do. We have a story to tell. Telling that story is not an imposition; rather, it is a gift we have received that we are sharing with others.

Do you know anyone who needs to hear the Gospel? Have you seen anyone who would be blessed by an act of compassion, a word of hope, a prayer that they might find joy? The gospel spreads when we have eyes to see those whom God would have us "infect." This may not be the most traditional Christmas message you have ever heard expressed; however, here it is: Christmas is a time when God has sent you to sneeze the gospel on your neighbors. Let's be an Advent Epidemic.

Enjoy! Merry Christmas!

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis



Congregational Giving—General Budget									
	2022 Projected								
	Budget Need	Given	<u>Difference</u>						
November 14, 2022									
Yr. to Date	\$405,865	\$360,541	- \$ 45,324						
Current	Income	Expense	<u>Difference</u>						
	\$ 15,547	\$ 14,976	+ \$ 571						
ECO DUES	Income	<u>Budget</u>							
To Date:	\$ 2,120	\$ 5,200							
THANK YOU, ALL!!									



Ministries

Around the office, there's a lot of good-natured razzing about the Trumpet deadline. It is a fixture on the calendar. Every month, we see the appointed hour in our planners. And each month, we face crunch time in getting our articles ready for publication. Of course, one of the biggest laughs is who will get their piece done and in first, considering that most of the time, my page is pictures of the monthly activities. Well, occasionally, there are no pictures to share. So I was told I'd have to do what everyone else does – just sit down and write. To which my first reaction was a top-notch eye roll. Oh yes, how quickly my attitude needs an adjustment when I'm faced with an inconvenience. After letting me stew in my own juices for a while, the Holy Spirit begins to nudge me, and I, maybe a little reluctantly, start looking past the end of my own nose to the bigger picture.

In Genesis 6, God tells Noah to build an ark before he destroys the earth. Verse 22 – "Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him." In Genesis 22, God tells Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, and without question, Abraham did as he was told, and Isaac was spared. In Matthew 4, Jesus tells Peter and Andrew to follow him. Verse 20 "Immediately they left their nets and followed him." as well as James and John. These are just a few of so many examples of people being told to do something, and obeying without question.

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm certainly not suggesting that my having to sit down and write an article to fill a page in the newsletter is on par with any of these illustrations. But I do find it to be a good lesson in obedience. We are called to be obedient, and that in itself is an act of worship. Because I do only have one page, I won't quote the entirety of Psalm 119. But I urge you to read it this month, as will I. And as we look to 2023, keep Family Ministries in your prayers, that I would obediently minister to our families, that committee members would guide faithfully, that those who feel the Holy Spirit's nudge to get involved would obey, and that families would be blessed.

Psalm 119

The Glories of God's Law

¹ Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

² Happy are those who keep his decrees, who seek him with their whole heart,

3 who also do no wrong but walk in his ways.

4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

⁵ O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

6 Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances.

8 I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

9 How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.

11 I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

¹³ With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.

¹⁴ I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.

¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.



Mark your calendars!
Friday December 16 6PM
Christmas caroling!

Meet in the narthex for hot cocoa, cookies, and fun riding around town, blessing people with our voices raised joyfully as we sing favorite Christmas carols!



Let There Be Christmas

During this beautiful winter season, we are celebrating Advent and the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The snow is covering our town and mountains with a carpet of white. The winter nights are full of starshine, dazzling and bright. The chilly days and evenings make us want to stay inside our homes, while we sit close to the fireplace, sipping hot chocolate. The smell of scented candles and pine cones, along with a freshly cut Christmas tree, and baked Christmas cookies just out of the oven, helps warm our hearts and get into the holiday season.

Our music ministries have been very busy, getting ready for the month of December. The Praise Team has been preparing to share their music during this Advent Season and will be singing Christmas Carols of old and new, lifting their voices to help us all rejoice in our Savior's birth as we sing along with them and listen to the special Offertory music messages of the Advent season. December 11th, the Prelude of the worship service will be performed by the Grace Notes bell choir, ringing in the holiday season with a special medley arranged and directed by Paul Weaver, called "Angels!" This beautiful arrangement and sound of bells ringing familiar Christmas Carols during Advent, helps give a special feeling within our souls, and helps us realize the true meaning of Christmas.

To help celebrate the Advent season this year, the Chancel Choir will be presenting a cantata called "Let There Be Christmas" by Joseph M. Martin. The cantata will be performed on December 18th, during our worship service. The main storyline of the cantata helps describe the holiday season and the celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas. The words and phrases that best describe the essence of the cantata are the following:

Let there be music. Let there be praise.

Christmas, come now, and fill us with love.

Bring your spirit of grace from above.

Christmas, come let our hope be restored.

Bring us news that a Savior is born!

Let there be glory. Let there be peace.

Let there be promise. Let justice increase.

Heaven has spoken, "Let there be Light!"

Come, all ye faithful. Let there be Christmas tonight.



Come join us on December 18th during our worship service and listen to the message that this year's Cantata brings to all of us. As a congregation, you will be joyfully singing Christmas Carols at the end of the Cantata, worshipping the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Wishing you a Blessed Holiday Season,

Stewart





What a wonderful meal was shared by all on November 20th! I enjoyed a "food coma" from devouring all the left-over bits of the ham, turkey, and stuffing provided by the Deacons and all the other tasty dishes brought in by you fabulous church members!!

It's such a joy to be able to break bread together again!

*Happy Thanksgiving!







HANGING OF THE GREENS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 at 9:00am

Come help make the Sanctuary beautiful to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Everyone is welcome—*especially needed* are some strong folks to help with hanging wreaths using a heavy pole. Meet in the Narthex. Contact Candi Euler to volunteer and for other details.



DECEMBER 11, 2022 9:30 am

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING for the the purpose of electing New Elders, Deacons, and 2023 Nominating Commission members, and to approve modifications to the By-Laws of First Presbyterian Church is scheduled for prior to the worship service. You must be in attendance to have your vote count.

IT'S TIME TO GO CAROLING!!!

DECEMBER 16 - MEET IN THE NARTHEX AT 6:00PM

Wear your warm clothing, hats and mittens so you'l l be cozy and warm riding around town on a one-truck open hay wagon spreading Christmas cheer. When we're done, we'll head back to the church for more (& warm) fun!





Advent Worship with the Christmas Cantata Presentation

December 18 at 10:00 am

Be sure to come to this special worship service which includes the presentation of the "Let There Be Christmas" cantata by the Chancel Choir

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

December 24 at 7:00 pm

Come praise God in anticipation of the birth of His Son with a wonderful message and beautiful music

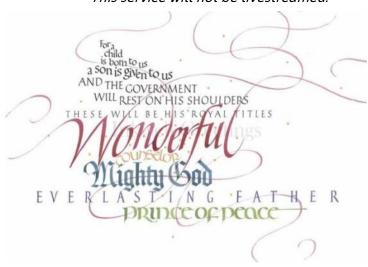




Christmas Morning Worship

December 25 at 10:00 am
Come worship together and thank God for the birth of His Son.

This service will not be livestreamed.





ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Names removed for privacy

Requested as of 11-17-2022



ANGEL TREE THANK YOU'S!

We didn't ask for as many Angel Tree names this year, because people seemed to think that we should only ask for names from Carson City. In past years, they



only gave us 10 names from Carson City & filled in with names from other areas nearby. This year we ended up with 13 names and a caretaker's child was added for total of 14.

Seven people helped with calling and giving out names of children. Thank you Carol Allen, Marylee Branson, Jennie Golinsky, Sharron Baldwin, Natalie Berger, Lu Campion, Susan Secoy, and DeDe Stevens. We will deliver them in early December.

Sharon Hughes



Names removed for privacy



Vicki and I would like to thank everyone for their recent prayers, cards, and best wishes. I have had the **RATITUDE** prescribed 28 radiation treatments and with God's support and in answer to your prayers, I feel like I haven't skipped a beat. I am sure it has done the trick, but maybe still lift me up in prayer once in a while that

my cancer stays away. Vicki also appreciates your prayers. Although she is private in these times, she really looks forward to coming to church and visiting with old friends. Not to mention the occasional sock hop. Ken & Vicki Pearson

Active-Duty Military: Names removed for privacy



Remember Those in the Military

Important December Information

LOTTIE SCOTT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

It will soon be the start of the second school semester or quarter, so it's time for those interested in starting college, 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.

Cecelia Stansbury, Chair



2022 YEAR END GIVING

First Presbyterian Church is blessed to have many generous hearts supporting FPC's mission of Opening the Gospel to Carson City and Beyond!

For those who would like donations credited to calendar year 2022—the deadline to bring your donation to the office is 4:00PM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29TH or your USPS-mailed envelope must be postmarked December 31, 2022. Thank you all for your gifts of support to FPC!

2022 ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION IS DUE!

In preparation for the 2022 Annual Report, Church Officers, group leaders, staff and other members of the congregation serving in leadership need to submit their year-end reports to Margo at the church office. The deadline is Friday, December 30th (or earlier would be helpful...!) Send your report to margo@fpccarsoncity.org. or bring it saved to a flash drive to the church office. Thank you!

Poinsettia Poinsettia

Poinsettias may be purchased from our Deacons to be placed in the Sanctuary during upcoming worship services in memory or honor of your loved ones. These are acknowledged in a bulletin insert. **The deadline to order plants is Monday, December 12th and the cost is \$11.00 per plant.** People who wish to take their

plants may do so after worship on Sunday the 18th or 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 a plant after December 18th service.☐ I will pick up a plant after Christmas Eve service.	☐ Deacons may deliver the 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

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THE TRUMPET

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Carson City, NV 89703

775-882-1032

The Rev. Bob Davis pastorbob@fpccarsoncity.org

Worship Services 10:00 AM

Web page 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

December 4 Psalm 122
"Pray for Peace of Jerusalem"

December 11 Psalm 126

"Shouts of Joy"

December 18 Psalm 117
"Praise the LORD all Ye Nations!"

December 24 at 7:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service

December 25 at 10:00 am Welcome Jesus Worship Service

See us and "Like" us on







SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			PLEASE NOTE: The Night Off the Streets is in the Family Life Center every night December 1 – 31 from 9pm to 7am	1 8:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Mallard's	2 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Lib National Mutt Day	9:00 am: meet in the Narthex
	I I I			7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary	5	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School 10:00 am: Communion Worship Service followed by Coffee Fellowship	11:00 am : Women's Bible Study – Library	8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – Location Varies	8:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Mallard's 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex 10:00 am: Pastor's	8:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Mallard's	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library	giptetgiptet giptetgiptet giptetgiptet
rellowsnip			Study – FH 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg – FLC & Library 6:30 pm: Pastor's Study – PresbyPod Studio & Zoom 7:00 pm – Praise Team	1:30 pm: Women's Monthly Bible Study – Library 7:00 pm: Choir		
ADVENT			Rehearsal - Sanctuary	Rehearsal - Sanctuary		
9:30 am: CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship	12 11:00 am: Women's Bible Study – Library Gingerbread House Day	13 8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – Location Varies	14 8:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Mallard's 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex 10:00 am: Pastor's	15 8:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Mallard's	16 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library JANUARY/FEBRUARY TRUMPET DEADLINE	17
Service followed by Coffee Fellowship 12:00 pm: Deacons Meeting – Library			Study – FH & Zoom 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Graduation – FLC & Library 6:30 pm: Pastor's Study – PresbyPod Studio & Zoom 7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary		6:00 pm: Caroling – meet at church	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship Service/Cantata presentation	11:00 am : Women's Bible Study – Library	8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – Location Varies	8:00 am : Men's Bible Study – Mallard's	8:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Mallard's	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library	
followed by Coffee Fellowship	Look for An Evergreen Day		National Humbug Day			Christmas Eve
ADVENT			7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary		7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Worship
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:00 am: Worship Service *no livestreaming	OFFICE CLOSED	8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – Location Varies	8:00 am : Men's Bible Study – Mallard's	8:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Mallard's	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library	2023
			Tentative: 2:00 Gail Jenkins Memorial	5:00pm: End of Business 2022 for donations, etc.		
			7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary		



A REMINDER: Night Off the Streets is in the Family Life Center from 9:00 pm—7:00 am every night of December. We are blessed to be able to offer this space to those who need shelter during the winter!

Thank you to those of you who are participating as overnight volunteers!

If you are interested in providing financial support to NOTS, there is an easy, ongoing fundraiser through AmazonSmile. It costs absolutely nothing for you, but NOTS receives a small percentage of every sale! You can even use your Amazon Prime account once it's connected. To start donating:

Go to www.smile.amazon.com (instead of just Amazon.com)

- Scroll down to select a charity
- Type in Night Off The Streets Inc.
- Connect your account by agreeing to the terms, and you're done!
 See Jenny Scanland for more information about how to do this—every penny helps!



fellowship of Christian Athletes Christmas Tree Outreach

Looking for the place to buy your Christmas tree this year?

The lot is open every day 10am-7pm beginning Friday, November 25th and is located on S. Carson Street across from the Ormsby House

FCA is also opening a 2nd location in Gardnerville this year next to DST Coffee (1411 Hwy 395).

All proceeds benefit the local Fellowship of Christian Athletes Ministry and helping families in need with clothing and Christmas gifts.

HERE ARE THE BEST WAYS TO SUPPORT THIS OUTREACH:

- 1) Shop at one of our two locations 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 Annual Trees for Troops program. We provide 75 Christmas trees and tree stands to our 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

 Please make all donations out to "FCA" (not the church) and drop it off at the tree lot or at the FPC Office

 Contact Timothy Plummer at 775-720-9158 or tplummer@fca.org

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR A SUCCESSFUL ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR!

Thanks to more than 25 volunteers, our Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair was a huge success! Many hands helped move and set up tables and chairs before and after the event, baked cookies for selling, created craft items to sell, worked the event, and greeted the public who attended and supported the vendors. Twenty-four quality vendors presented their wares for sale. Over \$4,100 was raised to support the preservation of our Old Sanctuary.

We hope this will be an annual event—many of the vendors said they want to return next year!

Plans in 2023 to support the preservation of the First Presbyterian Church Old Sanctuary will include:

February 4 — Annual Chili Cook-off

April/May — Ladies High Tea

June— Rummage/Tag Sale

October—Holiday Arts & Craft Fair

Please consider how you can help make these events successful and mark your calendar now to attend!

Mark your calendars—the next Friendship Suppers will be January 20 & 21. Sign ups begin January 1. Details coming soon.