

Hello church!

It's my pleasure to address you as your almost-pastor in this first newsletter of the year!

As I write, it is still early December and the Hodge family is right in the middle of closing one chapter in our lives and preparing for a new one to begin. We are (among other things) saying tearful goodbyes, purging our closets of the accumulation of 10 years of life, and looking forward with excitement to a new home and new



life with all of you. We are such a mess of fear and excitement, loss and gain, joy and sadness. I'm not sure I've ever experienced a season quite like this!

Now I know for many of us, Christmas will be long-gone by the time you read this, but in good Christian fashion I want to resurrect it. Although we usually reckon the new year as beginning on January 1, the church's calendar of worship considers the beginning of Advent to be a new year. It's Advent and Christmas that set the tone for the way we approach the rest of the year, and I don't want us to exit this season having forgotten what it holds for us.

First, in the church year we begin with waiting. Unfortunately, we aren't very good at waiting anymore. Microwaves, and prosperity, and the internet mean that so much of what we desire at any moment is right at our fingertips. But depending on what is happening in our lives, Advent can especially remind us of two things.

First, Advent reminds the comfortable that all is not right with the world. In seasons of prosperity it can be easy to think that we've made it, and from now on it will be smooth sailing. It can also be easy to forget the suffering of our neighbors, or even to intentionally avoid the same as a way of protecting our own comfort. Advent is a cure for this. Advent reminds us that we are still waiting for the fulfillment of our hope. Advent reminds us that for 400 years there was no more prophecy, only a painful, prolonged waiting that can only be cured by the coming of the Son of God. Our current comfort is not our hope. As a matter of fact, while our present comfort can be received as a good gift to be enjoyed, we must be careful to guard our hearts against making it the substance of our hope. Martin Luther once wrote,

No one noticed or was conscious of what God was doing in that stable. He lets the large houses and costly apartments remain empty, lets their inhabitants eat, drink, and be merry; but this comfort and treasure are hidden from them. O what a dark night this was for Bethlehem, that was not conscious of that glorious light! See how God shows that he utterly disregards what the world is, has, or desires; and furthermore, that the world shows how little it knows or notices what God is, has, and does.

Second, Advent reminds the suffering that Jesus is coming. In seasons of pain and deprivation and lack our hearts cry out like the Psalmist, "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?" (Psa. 13:1) Notice first, that God isn't afraid of that prayer or those questions. It's a strong faith that asks questions, believing that there are indeed answers, where a weak faith refuses to question, afraid that there is no answer after all. Psalm 13 is an excellent example of how to pray our questions, and I encourage us all to study it carefully and memorize it if we can. But to continue, Advent speaks to the suffering that God is indeed coming to answer their prayers. In Advent we remember that Jesus has come, but even more we identify with those who waited for Christ's first coming by waiting, on the edge of our seats and with bated breath, for his second coming. Christmas may be a great miracle, but somehow it is still preparation for what comes next, when the Lord shall *continued on next page*

Return to finish all that God has started. He shall resurrect our broken bodies, he shall fully repair our broken hearts, he shall judge evil and take up his rule. I love how the prophet Isaiah describes the Lord's kingship in chapter two of his prophecy:

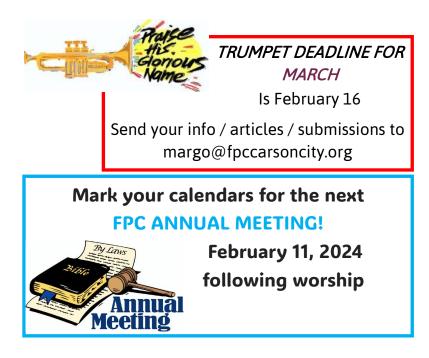
It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

So Advent teaches us to frame our year in remembering that we are still people who are waiting – our joys today are only shadows of the joys to come, and our suffering today will surely be relieved and more when the Lord returns. But the season of Advent ends with the coming of Christmas (which is a season itself; 12 days, just like the song says!), and it wouldn't be right to begin our year with Advent if we didn't move on to Christmas.

Christmas shapes our understanding of the year to come in many ways, but I am struck by one in particular. Immanuel; God is present with us. The context of Isaiah 7:14 where the virgin birth is prophesied and the name Immanuel is given is that of rescue. An insurmountable army is on its way to Jerusalem, and the king and all the people are terrified. But God takes the initiative and promises rescue to the kingdom of Judah, and when that rescue is received the people will know that God is really with them. This prophecy foreshadows the coming of Jesus, which happens at a time no one expects and is received by the unlikeliest of people. In the same way we ought to expect sightings of God in and around our lives in any and every circumstance; God comes to stand with His people in anticipation of His great coming at the end of the age.

When you read this the new year will have begun. Remember, in this year we are as much in need of the Lord's coming as we ever have been. Let that truth influence the way we all take in the events of the year to come. And let us remember also that the Lord has come already, that He is present to us and for us in every moment by the Holy Spirit, and that His first coming guarantees that He is coming again. As the early church said, "Maranatha! Our Lord, come!"

Ian Hodge



Congregational Giving General Budget as of Dec. 21, 2023 *THANK YOU, ALL!!*

Family Ministries

I'm writing this as the year is wrapping up. There are still many things I need to accomplish in ministry and personally before the end of the year. For instance, I am **still** editing videos for the Advent devotional(!), I need to write my end-of-year Family Ministries report, start planning with Ian for the future of our church, prep for Christmas at home, send out Christmas cards, and find time to study and rest.

You'll be reading this as we start 2024. Though I know a calendar date doesn't change circumstances, I have to say I am very glad to see 2023 on the way out. Each new year brings for me the anticipation and hope for what good lies ahead. But all too often, the lens I use to look for what I deem good is focused on the wrong things. I want 2024 to be happy, free of death, cancer, anxiety and stress. I truly hope it is! But I'm not so young and naïve to believe this will be the case. I recognize that through this year that was such a personal struggle for me, I have endured, grown closer to God, deepened my study of the Word, and found hope in the circumstances. Romans 5:1-5 is particularly encouraging:

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

If I had to choose one passage that sums up 2023 for me, this would be it. How great is our hope in our Lord, Jesus Christ! I can boast of his faithfulness and goodness through the sufferings of death, cancer, and anxiety. And as we move forward, whatever is thrown our way, we can continue to boast of the Lord's love as we endure the brokenness of the world we live in. We can share that hope with a world that so desperately needs it. It can be as simple as talking to a neighbor.

We have a lot to be hopeful about as we begin a new year. Though it shouldn't surprise me, I am amazed at God's faithfulness at bringing us a new pastor so quickly. We are all so excited to welcome Ian, Kaela and the kids into our community and church family. We are hoping for new life and growth in our church. I'm excited for all we hope for. Let's praise God in this time of hopeful anticipation.

And as the days go on, whether they're sunny or storm-filled, let us continue to praise God and share his presence in the situation with those who need to hear it.



Sherri Gurney, Family Ministry Coordinator

Time For New Beginnings

As we end the Christmas and Advent season, we are starting to look forward to a new season within our church. To help start off this new year, we are looking ahead to welcoming our new Pastor, Ian Hodge and his family. January is also a time for new beginnings and working on new pieces together within the choir. We will start working on music from the Cantata, "The Lenten Sketches," working toward the Lenten season. The music during January and February will be focusing on our communion services and hymns of praise to help lift our souls, along with preparing us for Lent.



After the birth of Christ and celebrating the Christmas holiday season, January and February seem to go quickly, changing our music from the joy of Jesus' birth to immediately preparing ourselves for a period of forty days during which whose life and teachings are the foundation of Christianity. The music has a definite feeling of devotion and love of Christ's journey through this time.

Inspired by the life and message of Jesus Christ, artists in every medium have endeavored to capture the magnificence of His ministry among us. From poets and painters to singers and sculptors, the human spirit has long labored to convey the deep things of faith through artistic expression.

Together as we gather and look forward to the new beginning of the new year, may our music motivate the spirit of worship with the simple gifts of sound and insight as a testimony to the faith we long to honor and share. Starting the new year, the choir will be singing, "Dona Nobis Pacem" (Give Us Peace). This choral piece is a continuous repetition of these words, forming an unbroken whole, without interruption, giving a calming effect to the listener, and granting us a prayer by the end of this beautiful piece.

In closing, let us all open our hearts and Love to our Lord and Savior, and listen to what is being expressed through the music of our Chancel Choir, Praise team, and Bell Choir this upcoming new year, and enjoy the new beginning of what's to come.

Blessings,

Stewart



Thank you to everyone who helped make the Sanctuary so beautiful for Advent and Christmas!



It's Time for the Rnnual Chili Cook-off Saturday, February 3



Calling all chili cooks! Enter the chili cook-off for bragging rights for the year! Bring your entries to be judged to the Family Life Center on 2/3 by 4:30 pm, Judging will begin about 4:45, and dinner about an hour later.

Bring your friends to enjoy fellowship and fun with our church family. Donations accepted at the door, raffle tickets available, and silent auction. All proceeds benefit the Old Sanctuary Refurbishment Fund. Raffle tickets: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.



Music will be provided by *Hallie Kirk*

Sign-ups to bring non-judged chili, corn bread, or soup will begin Sunday, January 7 Donations for the raffle can be dropped off at the Family Life Center Friday, February 2, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Contact Grace Speicher for more information and to volunteer!!



BABY BOTTLES ARE COMING

Yes, it's time to start saving your coins! The Life Choices Community Pregnancy Clinic will join the nation-wide March for Life campaign in January. First Presbyterian Church will join in on February 25, 2024. On this Sunday you will see baby bottles on the Narthex table for you to pick



up and fill with coins, cash or checks. When filled, please return on any Sunday but definitely by Sunday, March 31st or return to the church office.

Your gifts will help Life Choices continue to serve women and families in our community with free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling, education classes, fatherhood classes, baby items, and the message that Jesus loves them and their baby. Life Choices also conduct Biblical classes for women and men who are healing from past abortion experiences. Your gifts help to do all of these services to save babies.

If you have questions about Life Choices or this bottle campaign, please contact Charlene Rodman at 775-781-7875.

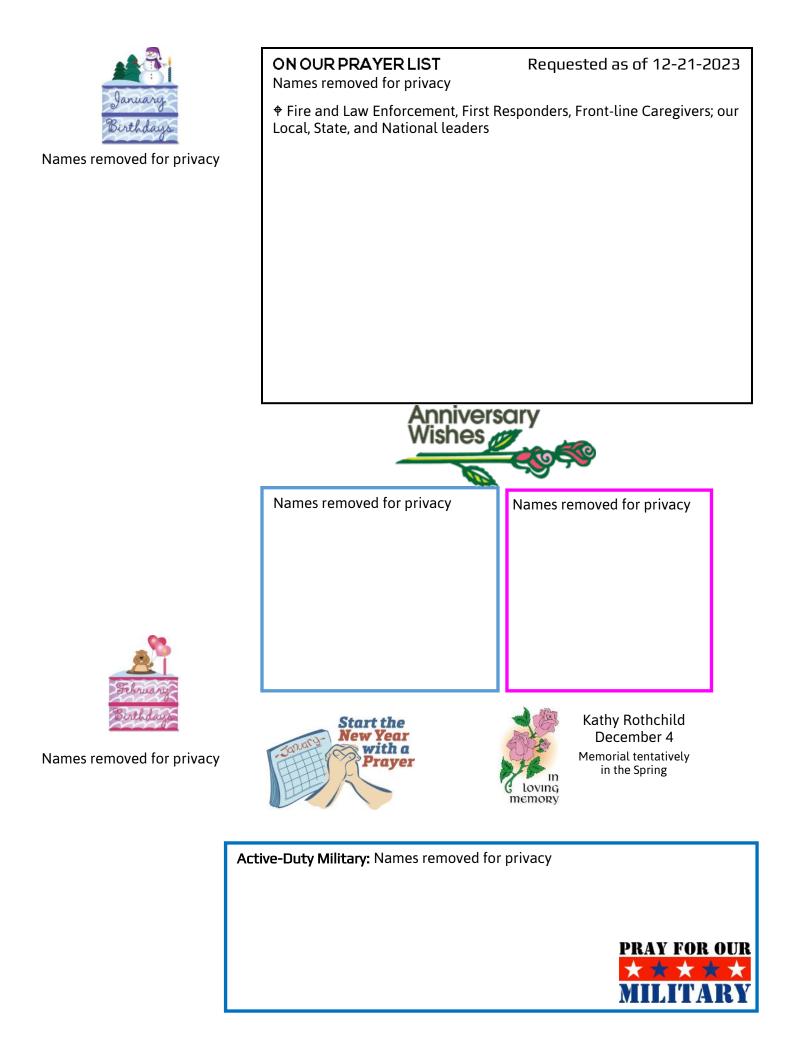
Thank you for joining your Mission Committee in this local mission.



RE YOU SINGLE OR WIDOWED? ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING TO START A NEW SINGLES GROUP?

I am looking for your feedback as to your interest and what kind of meetings we should hold. I will be at the table in the Narthex on JANUARY SEVENTH & FOURTEENTH to talk with people who would be interested in starting this kind of group in our church. This could involve an age range from 18 to 100, and there may be a need for different groups according to interests and age. Sunday afternoons might be a good meeting time. I look forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas.

Sharon Hughes





CHRISTMAS BAG 2023 UPDATE

We have had another year of many needs in our communities. Thank you for once again helping to feed and provide much-needed items for the Northern Nevada Dream Center (NNDC) to deliver to shut-ins at apartments, homes and drive through cars. Seventy-five red Christmas food bags were handed out. You generously returned sixty-nine bags full of food from the list plus special cookies, candies and Christmas cards. Thank you to Ken Lloyd and Randall Gray for helping to load the bags.



Throughout the year you have generously and faithfully placed items in out blue barrel that is in the Narthex. Every two weeks your food items, paper goods and bags, toiletries and clothing items are picked up and delivered to NNDC. These items can also be dropped off at the church office.

Thank you all for caring for those in our community. Prayers are offered with each delivery.

Charlene Rodman, Northern Nevada Dream Center Ambassador

PRISON MINISTRY ANGEL TREE



Thank you to those who purchased gifts to be distributed to children of incarcerated prisoners. We couldn't have done it without you! You bought 30 gifts for 14 families.

On December 11th—through 13th the caretakers of these children came to our church to pick up what we had for them.

I appreciated the people who came to help me distribute gifts on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Sharon Hughes, Angel Tree Ambassador



UPDATE ON NELSON FAMILY IN GUATEMALA

After returning from their visit with us in July, things didn't go well for them in Guatemala City and the country. Jeff & Lucie came down with Dengue Fever; they are better now. The government wasn't stable and because of that the grocery store shelves ran out of food. They thought they might have to return to the States. The diabetes clinic continued, but not as strongly as usual. Things became a bit more stable and they took a brief vacation at the shore. If you want to read about this and look at pictures, go the following site: <u>https://abbiejeffnelson.substack.com</u>

Sharon Hughes, Missions Ambassador



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	January	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY				
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 8:30 am: SON Rise	3 9:00 am: Men's Bible	4 9:00 am : Wilson Men's	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 9:00 am: Removal of				
	New Years Day	Women's Bible Study – Location Varies	Study – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex 9:00 am: Quilters – Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg – FLC & Library	Fellowship – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:30 am : Women's Bible Study – Cashion residence	6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library	the Greens				
			7:00 pm: Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary		CUUSLE UP				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13				
8:45 am: Adult Sunday School – Fellowship Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Gathering – room by Nursery 9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School	 11:15 am: Women's Bible Study – Library 5:30 pm: Priority 	8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – Location Varies	9:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex 9:00 am: Quilters – Fellowship Hall	9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study – Cashion residence	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library	Rubber Ducky Day				
10:00 am: Communion Worship with installation of Officers followed by Coffee	Prayer Group – Library	5:30 & 7:00 pm : Cmte Mtgs – all rooms	5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg w/ Dinner - FLC & Library 7:00 pm: Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	 1:30 pm: Women's Monthly Bible Study – Library 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary 						
Fellowship 14	It's Bubble Bath Day! 15	16	17	18	19	20				
8:45 am: Adult Sunday School – Fellowship Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Gathering – room by Nursery 9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship 11:45 am: Deacons Meeting – Library	 11:15 am: Women's Bible Study – Library 5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Group – Library 	8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – Location Varies	9:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex 9:00 am: Quilters – Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg – FLC & Library 7:00 pm: Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Eagle Vatley Golf Club 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study – Cashion residence 7:00 pm: Choir	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library National Popcorn Day					
				Rehearsal - Sanctuary						
21 8:45 am: Adult Sunday School – Fellowship Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Gathering – room by Nursery 9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship followed by Coffee	22 11:15 am: Women's Bible Study – Library	23 8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – Location Varies	24 9:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex 9:00 am: Quilters – Fellowship Hall	25 9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study – Cashion residence	26 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library	27 Chocolate Cake Day				
Fellowship	5:30 pm : Priority Prayer Group – Library	5:30 pm: Session Mtg- Fellowship Hall	5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg - FLC & Library 7:00 pm: Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary						
28	29	30	31		<u></u>					
 8:45 am: Adult Sunday School – Fellowship Hall 9:30 am: Prayer Gathering – room by Nursery 9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School 10:00 am: Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship 	 11:15 am: Women's Bible Study – Library 5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Group – 	8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – Location Varies	9:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Eagle Valley Golf Club 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex 9:00 am: Quilters – Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg – FLC & Library 7:00 pm: Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary							



February										
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY				
	-			1	2	3				
			9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Eagle	OFFICE CLOSED						
	NATIONAL BILD LEGDING WONTHI				6:30 am: Berean Men's	CI 171 T				
6.44				Bible Study – Library	CHILL					
	*	12. 49 A	3.			9098 (
	-	0.	an ser		NARAL CRC/IMOHOL/ MAN					
						COOKOFF				
	2 🥗 👗					AND SILENT AUCTION				
1			S	7 00 01 1						
~ ~ ~ ~			7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10				
4	5	b	7	8	9	10				
8:45 am: Adult Sunday School –	11:15 am: Women's Bible Study –	8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible	9:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Eagle Valley	9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Eagle	OFFICE CLOSED					
Fellowship Hall	Library	Study – Location	Golf Course	Valley Golf Course	6:30 am: Berean Men's					
9:30 am: Prayer Gathering – room		Varies	9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal –		Bible Study – Library					
by Nursery			Narthex							
9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School		and	9:00 am: Quilters – Fellowship Hall	1:30 pm: Women's Monthly Bible Study						
10:00 am:			r enowship ridu	– Library	630					
Communion Worship followed	5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Group –		5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg							
by Coffee	Library	National Chopsticks Day	- FLC & Library							
Fellowship			7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary	National Pizza Day					
			-	_						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17				
8:45 am: Adult	11:15 am: Women's	8:30 am: SON Rise	9:00 am: Men's Bible	9:00 am: Wilson Men's	OFFICE CLOSED					
Sunday School – Fellowship Hall	Bible Study – Library	Women's Bible Study – Location	Study – Eagle Valley Golf Course	Fellowship – Eagle Valley Golf Course	6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library					
9:30 am: Prayer Gathering – room		Varies	9:00 am: Grace Notes	-						
by Nursery		Radio Day	Rehearsal – Narthex							
9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School		~	9: 00 am: Quilters –							
10:00 am: Worship			Fellowship Hall							
followed by Annual Congregational	5:30 pm: Priority				Harris					
Meeting and	Prayer Group – Library	5:30 & 7:00 pm: Cmte	5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg - FLC & Library	7:00 pm: Choir	MARCH TRUMPET					
Coffee Fellowship 11:45 am: Deacons		Mtgs – all rooms	7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary	Rehearsal Sanctuary	DEADLINE					
Meeting – Library										
18	19	20	21	22	23	24				
8:45 am: Adult	OFFICE CLOSED	8:30 am: SON Rise	9:00 am: Men's Bible	9:00 am: Wilson Men's	OFFICE CLOSED					
Sunday School – Fellowship Hall	11:15 am : Women's	Women's Bible Study – Location	Study – Eagle Valley Golf Course	Fellowship – Eagle Valley Golf Course	6:30 am: Berean Men's					
9:30 am: Prayer	Bible Study –	Varies	9:00 am: Grace Notes		Bible Study – Library	la 🦣				
Gathering – room by Nursery	Library		Rehearsal – Narthex							
9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School										
10:00 am: Worship	President									
followed by Coffee Fellowship	• <u> </u>		5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg			Play More Cards Day				
. cashship	5:30 pm: Priority		 – FLC & Library 7:00 pm – Praise Team 							
	Prayer Group – Library		Rehearsal - Sanctuary	7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary						
25	26	27	28	29						
8:45 am: Adult	11:15 am: Women's	8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible	9:00 am: Men's Bible	9:00 am: Wilson Men's						
Sunday School – Fellowship Hall	Bible Study – Library	Study – Location	Study – Eagle Valley Golf Course	Fellowship – Eagle Valley Golf Course						
9:30 am: Prayer Gathering – room		Varies	9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal –		a brill.	7 5 4 5				
by Nursery			Narthex		- She	Stor Tor				
9:45 am: Grades 1-3 Sunday School						Same Streng Sten				
10:00 am: Worship	5:30 pm: Priority				This is t					
followed by Coffee Fellowship	Prayer Group – Library		5:00 pm: CIRCLES Mtg - FLC & Library	Happy Leap Day!	i nis is t	ne aay				
		5:30 pm: Session Mtg	7:00 pm – Praise Team	7:00 pm: Choir	the lord h	he day has made				
		Mtgs – Fellowship Hall	Rehearsal - Sanctuary	Rehearsal Sanctuary	UIE LUIUI	US THUUA				
	1	Пац	1	I	F					

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Return Service Requested

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

Place Label Here

THE TRUMPET Published by the

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SANCTUARY 115 N. Division Street

OFFICE 306 West Musser Street

Carson City, NV 89703

775-882-1032

Worship Services 10:00 AM

Webpage www.fpccarsoncity.org

Trumpet & Sunday bulletin articles can be sent to margo@fpccarsoncity.org; they may be edited for space. See calendar for due dates. Trumpet mailing prep team led by George & Connie Stanton.



See us and "Like" us on



