



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 60 No. 10

December 2023

What a year this has been... We opened 2023 full of Great Expectations, as this article was originally titled. This year, we have grieved together, and we are healing together. And now, together, we are on the edge of a new beginning with a new shepherd. We will welcome Pastor Ian Hodge and his family to FPC in 2024, and we rejoice that God has provided us with a new pastor who will help us move ahead down God's path.

The following was Pastor Bob's first Advent article for The Trumpet. We have been doing some reminiscing about him recently, so going back to a "first" something from him seemed an appropriate way to bring this year to a close. This article also helps remind us what we really need to be focusing our hearts and minds on. What he said to us then, holds just as true now as we prepare to celebrate and welcome Christ to earth.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

December means Advent and Christmas. Are you ready?

The Advent Season is a time for quiet celebration within the life of the church. On the one hand, we remember the events leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ. On the other hand, we wait in anticipation of Christ's triumphant return – even amidst the noise and busy-ness of our day-to-day lives.

Let me encourage you to take a few moments to prepare for this season. I'm not referring to shopping or managing your calendar for social events. Take a few moments to remember. Take a few moments to look forward.

What should we remember? We should remember God's faithfulness as it is revealed in Scripture.

For those of you who have been through *The Story* – the chronological narrative walk through Scripture looking at God's redemptive work from Creation through Revelation – there is a recurring theme that helps us with remembering. The authors encourage readers to understand Scripture as the intersection of God's Upper and Lower stories.

God wants us to read the Bible as we would view a mural. The individual stories on its pages are connected, all entwining to communicate one overarching epic. Woven tighter than reeds in a waterproof basket, together they intersect within God's one grand story. The purpose of [the Bible] is to ponder his divine design and discover our role in it. To stand beneath an all-encompassing Sistine [Chapel] ceiling and see what the entire narrative from beginning to end says about us and to us as individuals.

To better understand this story, we will need to view it with a dual lens. The Lower Story reveals the here and now of daily life, the experiences and circumstances we see here on earth. Goals and fears, responsibilities and reactions. In the Lower Story, we make money, pay bills, get sick, get tired, deal with breakups and work through conflicts.

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When we rise above the here and now, look beyond the daily grind, and view each of these stories in the Bible from God's perspective, we see something much bigger. When we look up at the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, it gives us hints that the Bible isn't filled with a thousand individual stories of God's intervention just to get people through tough times, but rather one grand story of something larger and

(continues on next page)



eternal. This is the Upper Story. As we view the Bible through this lens, we see that God has been up to something amazing from the beginning. When we look at the Upper Story of God, we discover where we fit in, because this story was created to deliver one singular message: "If you want to live life to the fullest and enjoy it forever, then become part of my masterpiece." (The Heart of the Story, p. 18-19).

There were generations that waited and prayed for God to fulfill his promise to send a messiah. In the Lower Story, the people wondered if God had forgotten them, gone away, or was never real at all. It can be tough to keep faith when you are waiting.

In the Lower Story we are not geared for waiting. Going through TSA at an airport can seem like an eternal process. Do you have a question? Google it. Need a ride? Call an Uber (or Lyft or...). Do you want something? Amazon will have it to you tomorrow. We ordered something from a non-Amazon company and were somewhat aghast that it might take 7-10 days for it to arrive.

We want God to be on that same time clock. He is not.

Remembering means slowing down enough to look to see where and how God has been faithful through all time. It is only at the right time – God's time – that God acts. Faith in the Lower Story means waiting in hope and confidence that God *will* act. In the Lower Story, we live into the reality that God has promised even when circumstances around us make us wonder if God has forgotten us, gone away, or was never real at all. Advent reminds us that God is faithful – always – in God's time. For that we can give thanks.

For what should we look forward? The promise of Jesus' return. Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again and will take you to myself*, so that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14) As the disciples watched the risen Jesus ascend into heaven, "two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, *will come in the same way as you saw him go* into heaven.'" (Acts 1)

The promise is that God has been at work in Jesus Christ reconciling us to himself. The promise is that we will live together – not looking in a mirror dimly, but face-to-face – with God himself. "By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1)

So, let me encourage you to take a few moments to prepare for this season by reflecting on God's Upper Story. Take a few moments to remember with thanksgiving what God has already done. Take a few moments to look forward in hope for the promises God will fulfill. God is good!

Merry Christmas!

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis



TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

Is December 16

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

Congregational Giving
General Budget as of November 19, 2023

THANK YOU, ALL!!

Family Ministries

We've had some fun events this Fall, starting with the **Autumn Alliteration Adventure:**

Casserole Cook-off, Film Festival, Song Soiree

Randall Gray, Bill Rose, and Nina Sattely were the casserole winners.

We watched a variety of films including the first ever by the newly formed Youth division of Aunt Betty's Studios -



Their film "How (Not) to Welcome People to Your Church" was instructive AND funny.

Mary and Sherri's attempt at a devotional on 'Patience' did not go exactly as planned.



We remembered Bob, and had a brief overview of the beginnings of Aunt Betty's Studios.



Remember Sock Puppet Bob?

Hallie Kirk led us in praise songs, and it was a great time of singing and rejoicing in the Lord.



If you weren't able to attend, you can find these and more on our YouTube site.

[@firstpresbyterianchurchcar1360](#)

For the first time ever, we participated in the Nevada Day Parade. Richard Baldwin drove us, Joe Gurney and Randall Gray were our videographers, we were joined by friends Megan and Pam from The Well, who film their show "2 Girls and a Bible" in Aunt Betty's Studios, as well as Mr. Potato Head. As we rode down the street, filming The Mary and Sherri Show, plans were already being made for next year.



We are tentatively scheduled for Christmas caroling on December 21. Watch for updates in your bulletins and on the Mary and Sherri Show.

This is another wonderful opportunity to invite friends and family for a fun outing.



What is your favorite event of the year and why?



'Tis the Season

Joyful
MERRY & BLESSED



It's Time for Christmas and Advent

Now that the winter season has arrived, we will be celebrating Advent and the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Chancel Choir, Praise Team, and Bell Choir have been preparing to share their music for this time of year. We will be singing and playing Christmas Carols of old and new to help us all rejoice in our Savior's birth. December 10th, the Prelude of the worship service will be performed by the bell choir, Grace Notes, ringing in the holiday season with a special medley arranged and directed by Paul Weaver. The Praise Team will be lifting their voices to help us all rejoice as we sing along with them and listen to the special offertory music messages of the Advent season.

Christmas Music



To help celebrate the Advent season this year, the choir will again be presenting the cantata, "Let There Be Christmas." The cantata will be performed on December 17th 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 Cantata's story line 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.

As a part of our ministry's outreach, PLEASE come and join us, and bring a neighbor or friend on December 17th to the worship service and listen to the message that the cantata brings to all of us. As a part of this special celebration, we will be joyfully singing together as a congregation Christmas carols at the end of the cantata, and worshipping the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Wishing you a Blessed Holiday Season,

Stewart



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR DEACONS FOR ANOTHER WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING DINNER!

What a wonderful meal was shared by all on November 19th! 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!!

Thanks to all for coming to fellowship together. May God bless your holidays!

Thank you to all who filled a box, including online. As a congregation we sent 79 boxes to children who may have never received a gift or heard about Our Savior Jesus Christ. Pray for the child who will receive your box that they will choose to become a follower of Jesus. Again, thank you very much. Lynne Weaver.



Upcoming Events!



HANGING OF THE GREENS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 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 10, 2023 following worship

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING for the purpose of electing New Elders, Deacons, and 2024 Nominating Commission members is scheduled following the worship service. You must be in attendance to have your vote count.



Looking for the best place to buy your Christmas Tree?

Starting Friday, November 24 come support Fellowship of Christian Athletes!

They now have two locations:

The Carson lot is across from the Ormsby House (501 S. Carson St)

The Gardnerville lot is next to DST Coffee (1411 Hwy 395)

The lots are open from 10:00 am to 6pm

Purchase of a tree can also help the FCA project of TREES FOR TROOPS

<https://fca.regfox.com/crowd/2023nvtreesfortroops>

Come join us for a fun evening of riding around Carson City singing Christmas carols!

DECEMBER 21 ❖ 6:00 PM



Bundle up and climb into the back of the truck!

We'll be singing all your favorite carols and enjoying some hot cocoa and Christmas cookies too!



Join Us to Celebrate Advent and the Birth of Our Lord, Jesus!

The Season of Advent begins December 3 at 10:00 am worship

Advent Worship with the Christmas Cantata Presentation

December 17 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 Morning Worship

December 24 at 10:00 am

Come worship together and thank God for the birth of His Son.

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.
This service will not be livestreamed.



What is Advent?

ADVENT IS a season of four Sundays that mark the beginning of a new church year. The ancient Christian church celebrated Advent as a kind of fresh start to faith and worship. Advent is a time to anticipate and spiritually prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior: God's gift of love to us. At the same time, Advent anticipates and hopes for Jesus' glorious return at the end of the age.

THE WORD "advent" comes from the Latin *advenio* meaning "coming" or "arrival."

THE TRADITIONAL Bible readings for Advent teach how the prophets, kings, and forerunners prepared the way for the coming Messiah.

MANY CHRISTIANS celebrate Advent with a special time of devotions including Bible reading, prayer, singing, and lighting candles on an Advent wreath.

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. It represents joy, anticipating the coming celebration.

WHITE IS the color of the center candle, representing Christ as the sinless, pure Savior.



The Advent Wreath

THE ADVENT Wreath was developed in the 1500s as a way to mark the season of Advent, preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. The wreath is made of evergreens, and is usually placed on a table with spaces for four candles around the wreath and one in the center. Candles are often purple or blue (three), rose (one), and white (one). One candle is lit on each succeeding Sunday during Advent, with the fifth candle in the center (the white Christ candle) also lit on Christmas Eve.

As a symbol of light, the Advent wreath reminds us of Jesus' words: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).



Prayer

YOU ARE our eternal salvation,
The unfailing light of the world.
Light everlasting,
You are truly our redemption.
Grieving that the human race was perishing
through the tempter's power,
without leaving the heights
You came to the depths in your loving kindness.
Readily taking our humanity by Your gracious will,
You saved all earthly creatures, long since lost,
Restoring joy to the world.
Redeem our souls and bodies, O Christ,
and so possess us as Your shining dwellings.
By Your first coming, make us righteous;
At Your second coming, set us free:
that we may serve You and all Your creations in full confidence
and when the world is filled with light
and You judge all things,
may we be clad in spotless robes
and follow in Your steps, O King,
Into the heavenly hall.

WE LIGHT these candles of hope, peace and joy,
and await Your advent with us. ✠



BELIZE MISSION TRIP—MARCH, 2024

And the Lord said "Whom shall I send?" And I said "Send Me!" Isaiah 6:8

If you ever wanted to go on a mission trip, now is your chance! We are planning a mission to Siene Bight, Belize the first half of March. The trip will include sharing God's love with the village through community service, fellowship, and worship. It can be hard, but rewarding work.



We will stay with Pastor Jim and Miss Anna in their guest cottages; eat at the street vendors, buy groceries at the local store; attend church services; and have a chance to explore some of God's beautiful creation in Belize.

Participants will need to pay for their airfare and anything extra, while the Mission Committee typically covers food and vehicle rental in Belize. Please think and pray about joining this mission trip. Contact Karen and Michael Klug for information.

"Truly I tell you whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Mathew 25:40



Here are TWO opportunities to help raise money and donate food for groups we support:

***Empty Bowls* is going to be at the Carson Mall on Friday, December 1st.**

What is **Empty Bowls**? Potters and other artisans work with the community throughout the year creating and donating handcrafted ceramic bowls. In exchange for a donation, each guest selects a handcrafted bowl to keep as a reminder that there are empty bowls in our community. The money raised is donated to FISH, which works to end food insecurity. You buy a bowl for \$15 & fill it up with delicious soup. You can purchase tickets at the FISH office on Long Street or at the Carson Mall on the night of the event. Hope to see many of you there!

December 8th is the KTVN Food Drive at the Governor's Mansion.

This community event goes from **6 AM to 6 PM** on this one day.

Food collected from **6AM to 10AM** goes to **Advocates to End Domestic Violence**, where Krae Waller of our church works. **FISH will be at the mansion from 10 until 2** and anything collected during that time goes to FISH.

Other organizations that distribute food will be there when FISH or AEDV aren't, so no matter what time you come, you are helping a local outreach.

(Ron Roberts from our church always helps with this event so come see if you can catch him "doing something good!" Ron works from 6 AM until 2 PM. He has done this for 16 years!)



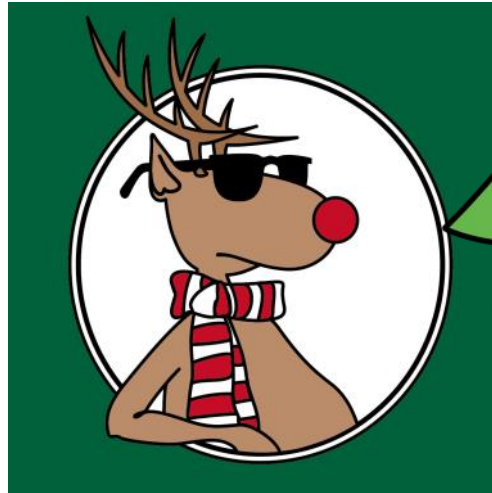
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ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 11-21-2023

Names removed for privacy † Fire and Law Enforcement, First Responders, Front-line Caregivers; our Local, State, and National leaders

Merry Christmas



Removed for privacy

Active-Duty Military: Names removed for privacy

Do you have an active-duty military family member or friend you would like to put into our prayer list as well as having their picture posted in the hallway? Contact the office 775-882-1032.



Remember Those in the Military



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> NOTS OVERNIGHTS Every night in December 7PM-6AM </div> | 2 9:00 AM: HANGING OF THE GREENS – SANCTUARY <i>Hanging of the Greens</i> |
| | | | | | 3 8:30 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: Communion Worship followed by Coffee Fellowship <small>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</small> | 4 11:15 am: Women's Bible Study – Library 5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Group – Library |
| 10 8:30 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 <small>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</small> | 11 11:15 am: Women's Bible Study – Library 5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Group – Library | 12 8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – Location Varies 5:30 & 7:00 pm: Cmte Mtgs – all rooms 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal | 13 9:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Eagle Valley Golf Course 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex 7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary | 14 9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Eagle Valley Golf Course 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study – Cashion residence 1:30 pm: Women's Monthly Bible Study – Library 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary | 15 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library JANUARY/FEBRUARY TRUMPET DEADLINE | 16 |
| 17 8:30 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 & Cantata followed by Coffee Fellowship <small>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</small> | 18 11:15 am: Women's Bible Study – Library 5:30 pm: Priority Prayer Group – Library | 19 8:30 am: SON Rise Women's Bible Study – Location Varies | 20 9:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Eagle Valley Golf Course 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex 7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary | 21 9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Eagle Valley Golf Course 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study – Cashion residence 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary | 22 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library | 23 |
| 24 8:30 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 7:00 pm: Candlelight Worship Service 31 See the 10th | 25 OFFICE CLOSED Rejoice! Christ is Born | 26 OFFICE CLOSED | 27 9:00 am: Men's Bible Study – Eagle Valley Golf Course 9:00 am: Grace Notes Rehearsal – Narthex 7:00 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal - Sanctuary | 28 9:00 am: Wilson Men's Fellowship – Eagle Valley Golf Course 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study – Cashion residence 7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal - Library | 29 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 am: Berean Men's Bible Study – Library | 30 |

Important December Information

LOTTIE SCOTT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

It will soon be the start of the next 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



2023 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 2023—the deadline to bring your donation to the office is 4:00PM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28TH or your USPS-mailed envelope must be postmarked December 31, 2023. Thank you all for your gifts of support to FPC!

2023 ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION IS DUE!

In preparation for the 2023 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 29th (or earlier would be helpful...!)



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 18th and the cost is \$11.00 per plant.** People who wish to take their plants may do so after morning worship on Sunday the 24th or after the Christmas Eve evening 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: _____

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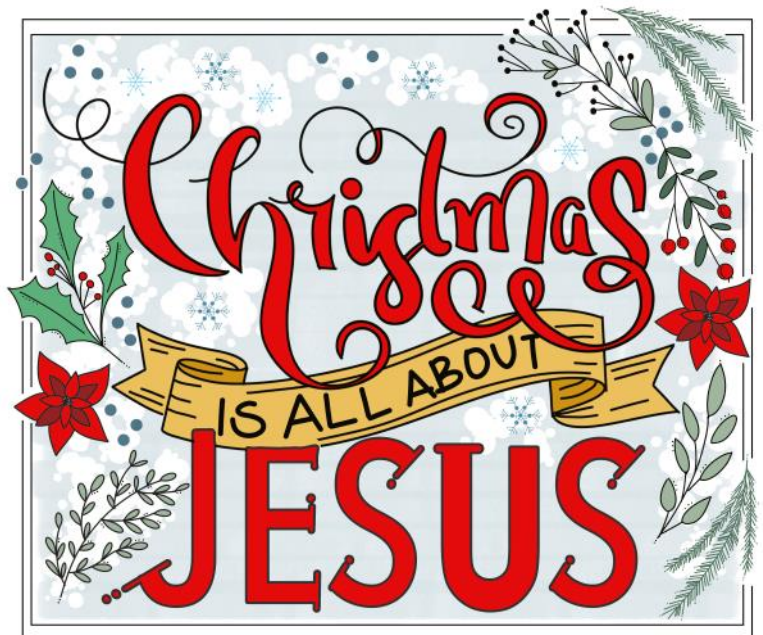
Carson City, NV 89703

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 prepared by a team led by George & Connie Stanton.



See us and
"Like" us on

