



# The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 55 No. 10

December 2018

*From the Pastor's Workshop*

## "CHRISTMAS PRESENCE"

Hard to believe it is already December. Today I looked at the top of my apple tree where one last apple hung by itself out on a limb. When I looked more carefully I realized there was a sparrow above reaching down to peck from the backside of the fruit. And I thought of Jesus' words, *"Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"* And I thought, "This is what Christmas is about. God comes to feed us beyond anything we could do; on a cold day when it seems there is nothing else for us."

And if we LOOK, especially in this season of Advent we will discover this everywhere. Inside and outside of ourselves God is going out on a limb to give us himself; to show us his faithfulness in our times of greatest need. And by doing this; by coming in person Jesus defines our need and then meets it. This is "*Christmas Presence*"

Before the days, (daze) of the season overwhelm us with activities and expectations how will we "prepare him room" to be our Christmas Presence? And how will this be reflected in our lives such that others realize the same need being met, not in over activity, but in standing in awe at what God did in coming to find and feed us with himself?

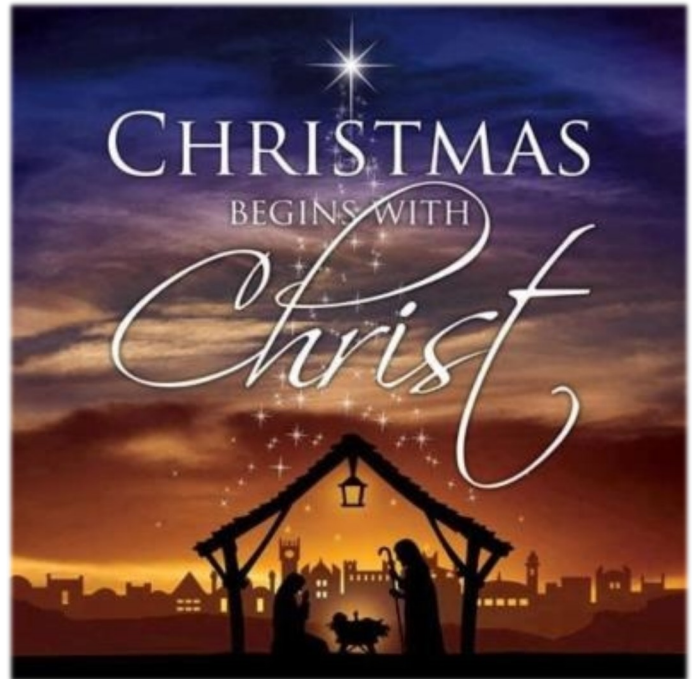
I have some suggestions; ones I have probably shared with you in the past and have not taken to heart myself.

But with this being my last Christmas as your pastor I want to reflect on them in hopes that we will all STOP to do some of this every day in this season; and if we are wise, continue in the new year. First, read the Christmas story every day. (Luke 2:1-21) Ponder it. The Greek word for ponder means to connect the dots. Let the pieces of the announcement of "Emmanuel" capture your heart. Think about what they mean for each of us in light of the dark that tries to sink us. Then, SING! Sing the Christmas songs that tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love; that explain so clearly the wonder of what God did in giving us his Christmas Presence. Ponder the words of the carols. You can find the words on the internet. You'll be surprised as you sing along how well you know them. Get a classic CD of carols and sing along with it. Slow down. Listen to Handel's "Messiah". Take in the wonder of how Christmas is the gift that tells us God has come and "all is calm, all is bright" even when lots of things around us aren't. And may this open our hearts and minds and eyes and ear to "the wonder of his love".

May this Christmas be an extra special one for us all as we ponder what God has given us and is giving us in making us his own.

Merry Christmas my dear friends,

***Bruce***





PLEASE JOIN PRINCESS SUGAR COOKIE and Coffee Candi for a cookie exchange on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, noon to 2:00 p.m. Bring 5 dozen cookies to share and a container to place your goodies in. RSVP to Wanda Brown at (775) 507-6208.

## 2019 GIVING ENVELOPES

This is a reminder that if you have a contribution number between 1 and 100 you may pick up your new 2019 **GRAY** envelopes mid-December in the narthex. Some notes:

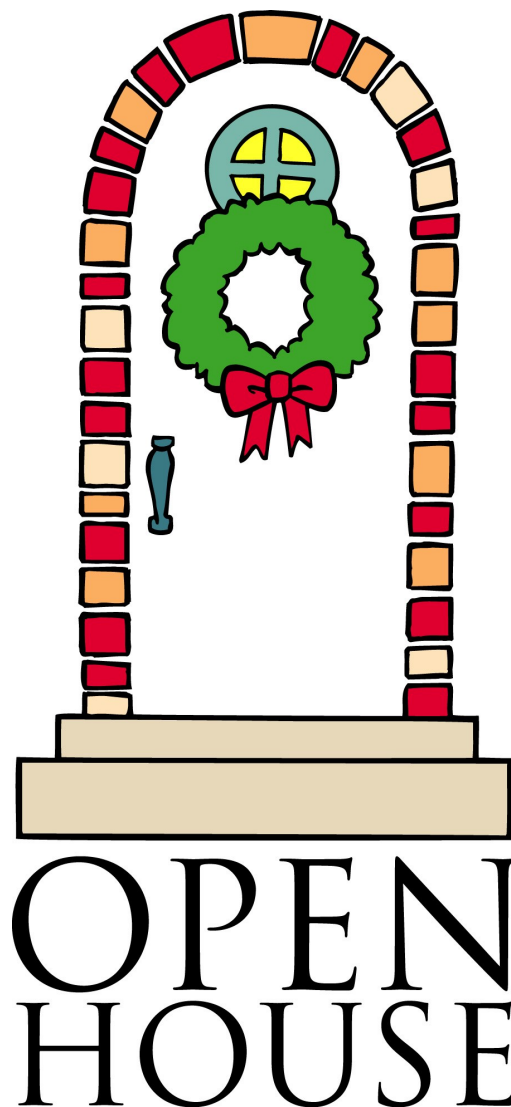
- If you have had envelopes but do not want them in 2019, please notify office manager at the church office as soon as possible. Your giving number will then change.
- If you did not have envelopes in 2018 but want them for 2019 please notify the office manager as soon as possible.

**PLEASE DISCARD YOUR 2018 BLUE ENVELOPES.**

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION DUE



Do you lead a ministry group or help spend the church's money? In preparation for the Annual Report, church officers, group leaders, staff and other members of the congregation that serve at First Presbyterian Church will need to submit their year-end report. In order to allow sufficient time to assemble the Annual Report, we ask that your submission be received by **Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup> or before if possible.** Please email your report to [dawn@fpccarsoncity.org](mailto:dawn@fpccarsoncity.org). You may also deliver your information to the Church office via a flash drive.



## KOCHSMEIER'S CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>  
2:00-4:00 p.m.

## YEAR END GIVING

We are so grateful for your generous hearts in giving to the mission of First Presbyterian Church in 2018. It has been a year of many blessings.

We would like to remind you that if you are giving in December and would like your donation to be credited to calendar year 2018, your gift must be in the church offering by the morning of Sunday, December 30 2018, or postmarked by December 31, 2018.

Thank you again for your gifts to this church!



# THE KING'S KIDS



...Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me...for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.' Luke 18:16

## THANK YOU for your support of the KING'S KIDS MISSION PROJECT: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (Samaritan's Purse)



*Shopping for Operation Christmas Child*

**We filled close to 100 shoeboxes with Christmas joy! They were delivered and will be sent to kids around the world, sharing the GOOD NEWS of the SAVIOR!**

### **ADVENT WORKSHOP: Sunday, December 2 (2:00-4:30 p.m.)**

This is a make-it-take-it workshop for kids to make Christmas decorations and crafts; decorate cookies, and celebrate Jesus' birth. YOU are welcome to join your kids and grandkids! Bring friends and kids in your neighborhood! Our afternoon will end with a pizza snack.



**King's Kids will be lighting the Advent Candles this Advent!**  
Come join them in Worship of the Babe who became our Savior!

### **KING'S KIDS BIBLE EXPERIENCE**

**...Experiencing GOD... Experiencing the BIBLE... Experiencing COMMUNITY...**

In December, we'll be experiencing Advent lessons – looking forward to the coming of the Christ-child.

#### **Memory Verses:**

"To you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

"Be alert. Stand firm in your faith. Be courageous. Be strong. Let everything you do, be done in love."  
1 Corinthians 16:13-14

"Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In ALL your ways acknowledge Him, and HE WILL direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5,6



## MORE THAN THE WATCHMEN WAIT FOR LIGHT –

Advent is a season of waiting. There's an old carol that says, "Watchmen tell us of the night, What its signs of promise are. Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height, See that glory-beaming star." A watchman was someone who stood watch over the town or fortress and their very presence was a comfort to the residents. In Psalm 130, the watchmen are a symbol of hope that does not fail according to a commentary by Kidner. Think of waiting 800 years (the night part of this), for God's promised redemption, like the people of Israel!

My point in this is that as we travel through Advent anticipating the coming of the infant Christ, and as we travel into a new year, with all its hopes and challenges, we become like those who watch and wait. And if we're really honest, we are actually pilgrims, both in this season and in all of life. If we focus on the Word and Gift of God, and do not allow ourselves to be distracted by the outward trappings of the very commercial assault on our lives during the Advent/Christmas season, we will be more at peace and better able to receive that which God sends.

Psalm 130 is a "pilgrim psalm" or "song of ascent" and was sung during the pilgrimage up to the Temple in Jerusalem. In Psalm 130, the psalmist cries out to the Lord in his initial distress, (vs. 1-3). But in verse 4, there is a turning and in Psalm 130: 5 - 7, he states, "I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption." Tim Keller's devotional for Psalm 130 reminds us that "Morning has broken!" with the arrival of Jesus and He has come to save His people. Keller then prays, "Lord, thank You for the joy of forgiveness." We live on the other side of Jesus' coming and wait for his reappearance and we realize that He is the answer to our questions and the receiver of our confessions.

The song, *I Will Wait for You (Psalm 130)*, is a retelling of the Psalm shown above. It will be sung on January 6th by our Praise Team as we move into the first communion service of 2019 and also remind ourselves that the calendar has changed, but our God has not. The watchman in the old carol sums it up in the last verse: "Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace, Lo! the Son of God is come!" He comes to save us from our sins. Verse 8 of Psalm 130 says, "He *himself* will redeem Israel from all their sins."

Watching and waiting with joyful anticipation,

*Karen*



Thank You!  
THANK YOU!

David and I want to let you know how much it helped us and meant so much to us for all your concerns, help, and prayers during our health problems. Prayers really do help. Thanks again.

Many blessings,

*David and Charlotte Fenlon*

## THANK YOU ALL

The FPC family is the most generous family in this community. You continue to fill the Blue Barrel every month to overflowing and now Christmas comes our way. What a fantastic, blessed response you have given! Forty plus bags were given out and returned full of Christmas dinner items and money to complete the dinner with a turkey or ham. The Northern Nevada Dream Center will be taking these bags of food out to some pretty needy areas of Carson City, Mound House, Dayton and Silver Springs the first 3 Saturday's of December. The Christian bikers group will be helping with the distribution.

Thank you to all of you who helped make a families Christmas happier. Your prayers and witness will be going to each of these families as they learn the true Christmas story. You have made it possible. THANK YOU!

### Your Mission Committee



### LiFT Community Outreach and FCA Fundraiser

Get your Fresh Cut Christmas Trees from Oregon and support Fellowship of Christian Athletes, youth camps & missions .

**Tree lot opens:** Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> through December 23<sup>rd</sup> every day 10:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

**Location:** South Carson St. across from the Ormsby House

Contact Timothy Plummer (775) 720-9158 with any questions or to get involved.



**CAPITAL CITY COMMUNITY BAND** is holding their free Annual Winter Concert Sunday, December 2, 3:00 p.m. at the Carson City Community Center Bob Boldrick Theater. Please join them for "Music for the Season". They are in their 42<sup>nd</sup> year of performances!



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 Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> and the cost is \$10.00 per plant. People who wish to take their plants may do so after the Christmas Eve services. Place this completed form in the offering plate along with your check marked "Poinsettia" or bring it to the church office. Thank you for helping.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up plant after the Christmas Eve services.

\_\_\_\_\_ Deacons may deliver plant to someone.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of plants ordered (limit of 3).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed



Names omitted in online version for privacy.

**ON OUR PRAYER LIST**

Requested as of 11-18-2018

Please pray for these families:

Names omitted in online version for privacy.



Names omitted in online version for privacy.

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019**

**Trumpet Deadline**

**Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Have something to share?

Please send articles to:

dawn@fpccarsoncity.org



NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR  
*Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year*

Reminder as we get close to years end; the Church office is closed Fridays.

We will also be closed Tuesday-Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**The Church staff wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!**



and  
good will  
toward  
men

# Peace

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

For to us a child is born, to us a son  
is given, and the government will be  
on his shoulders. And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*Isaiah 9:6-7*



*Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ.  
Candlelight Service ~ Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.*

*Bring your family and friends too!*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

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**THE TRUMPET**

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**First Presbyterian Church**  
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bruce@fpccarsoncity.org

**Worship Services**

10:00 AM

**Webpage**

[www.fpccarsoncity.org](http://www.fpccarsoncity.org)

Trumpet & Sunday Bulletin articles can be sent to [dawn@fpccarsoncity.org](mailto:dawn@fpccarsoncity.org) and may be edited for space. See calendar for due dates. Trumpet mailing prepared by a team led by Bette Denning and Linda Poole.

**December Sermons**

December 2: "Light for Our Darkness" John 8:12-20

December 9: "The Truth that Frees" John 8:32-59

December 16: "Opening Blind Eyes" John 9:1-34

December 23: "The Good Shepherd" John 10:1-18

December 24: "The Best News" Luke 2:1-20, Candlelight Service at 7:00 PM

December 30: "The Incomparable Jesus" John 22-42



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"Like" us on

