



The Trumpet

The Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Carson City

Vol. 60 No. 02

March 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

At the annual meeting, I gave a Top 5 list of emphases for 2023. The first thing on that list was:

A concerted effort to be in prayer for God's church. We are going to pray for the continued growth of this congregation *and* that the way may be made clear as to how to begin planting new congregations in the communities around Carson City.

Prayer is such an integral part of the life of faith that it almost seems unnecessary to mention.

However, it also is an area of discipleship with which many people struggle. People feel inadequate or un-equipped to pray. People feel like they are "doing it" wrong. Prayer is the first thing set aside when schedules get too busy because they think nothing tangible is produced and time is scarce.

Writing those things is not intended to provoke guilt or to lay additional weight on your shoulders. In fact, my hope (and prayer) is that it would do just the opposite – that it would encourage you to go to prayer. Remember, the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, in large part because they shared the same kinds of hurdles we face. Jesus did not scoff or rebuke them, he encouraged them. We have been reading in Acts about the early church and their absolute commitment to prayer. That was for a reason.

Prayer matters.

Our prayers do not provoke God to do anything God was not already going to do. Prayer does prepare *us* for what God is doing. We cannot predict when God will show up in surprising ways; particularly when we heed the call to "be still and know that I am God."

One good illustration of this is something that may not have hit the mainstream media: it is being called the Asbury Revival. On February 15, I distributed an article published a few days before that began:

Most Wednesday mornings at Asbury University are like any other. A few minutes before 10, students begin to gather in Hughes Auditorium for chapel. Students are required to attend a certain number of chapels each semester, so they tend to show up as a matter of routine. But this past Wednesday was different. After the benediction, the gospel choir began to sing a final chorus—and then something began to happen that defies easy description. Students did not leave. They were struck by what seemed to be a quiet but powerful sense of transcendence, and they did not want to go. They stayed and continued to worship. They are still there (five days later).

I teach theology across the street at Asbury Theological Seminary, and when I heard of what was happening, I immediately decided to go to the chapel to see for myself. When I arrived, I saw hundreds of students singing quietly. They were praising and praying earnestly for themselves and their neighbors and our world—expressing repentance and contrition for sin and interceding for healing, wholeness, peace, and justice.

Continues on next page

One report I read elsewhere indicated that everything began as a student was leading a prayer of confession. Toward the end of the article, this writer observed:

As an analytic theologian, I am weary of hype and very wary of manipulation. I come from a background (in a particularly revivalist segment of the Methodist-holiness tradition) where I've seen efforts to manufacture "revivals" and "movements of the Spirit" that were sometimes not only hollow but also harmful. I do not want anything to do with that.

And truth be told, this is nothing like that. There is no pressure or hype. There is no manipulation. There is no high-pitched emotional fervor.

To the contrary, it has so far been mostly calm and serene. The mix of hope and joy and peace is indescribably strong and indeed almost palpable—a vivid and incredibly powerful sense of *shalom*. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is undeniably powerful but also so gentle.

I do not know what, if anything, will result from this revival. It is too early to discern the fruit of this event; whether it was hype and manipulation or genuine. That will be seen over time. For now, if nothing else, it is a reminder that God is real, God is active, and God moves. Prayer matters.

You will be reading this in the midst of the Lent. This time is a season in which we remember the movement of God in Jesus Christ; a movement that was promised and expected, and then looked very different than everyone thought it would look. Lent is an opportunity for us to humble ourselves before God, recognize that His ways are not our ways, and to submit ourselves to asking for his grace and mercy in helping us discern our way forward.

How do we humble ourselves and submit to God? Pray.

So, let us be a people concerted and intentional in prayer.

Your brother in Christ,

Bob Davis



TRUMPET DEADLINE FOR

APRIL

Is March 17

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

Congregational Giving—General Budget

2023 Projected

	Budget Need	Given	Difference
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February 15, 2023

Yr. to Date	\$521,766	\$ 60,581	- \$ 461,185
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Current	Income	Expense	Difference
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	\$ 24,097	\$ 42,606	- \$ 15,507
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ECO DUES	Income	Budget
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To Date:	\$ 200	\$ 5,200
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THANK YOU, ALL!!

FAMILY MINISTRIES

AUNT BETTY'S STUDIOS UPDATE

MARCH 2023

How do you view the world and relate to others? Do you know what drives your perceptions, values, feelings and behaviors? If you had a tool that could help you deepen your relationships with friends, family and coworkers, and could even strengthen your spiritual walk, would you use it? Jeanne Hansen is bringing her knowledge of the Enneagram (a nine-sided infographic to explain personality types) to Aunt Betty's Studios in a new podcast "The Enneagram: A Look Within". I'm very excited about this new show, and not just because Jeanne has asked me to help her with it. I've studied the Enneagram, as well as other personality profiles, and what I love about these things is first, I get to know myself better - what drives me, and why I respond the way I do to different experiences and people. And secondly, it helps me relate to others on a more meaningful level. Our loving heavenly Father knows us more intimately than we know ourselves. Being able to learn more about what drives us, and others, to strengthen our relationships, is a real gift.

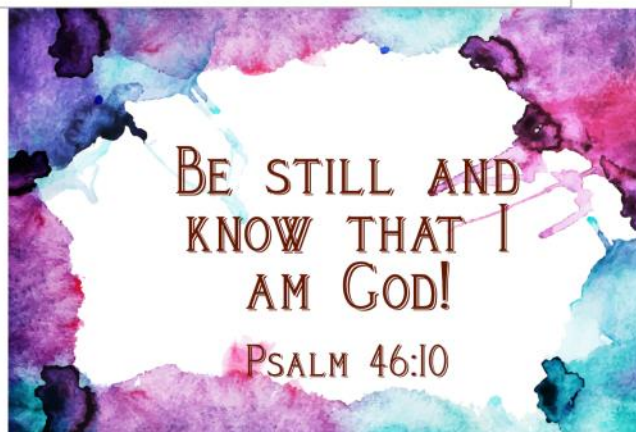
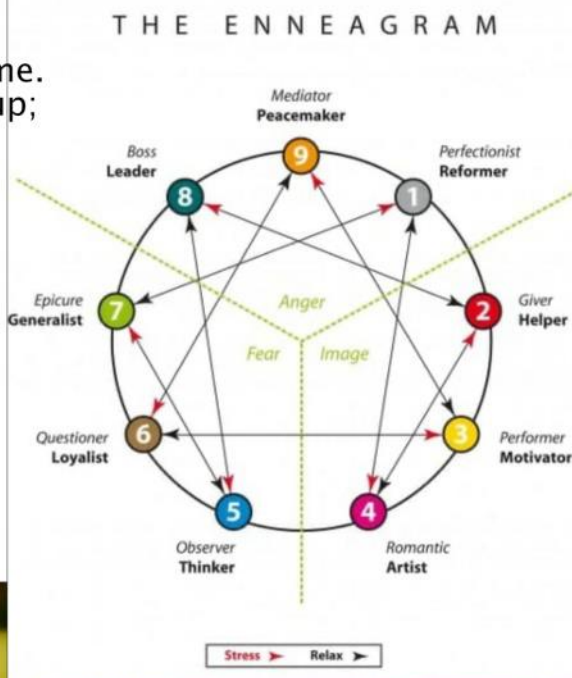
Psalm 139

- ¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
- ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.
- ³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.
- ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

Pi(e) Day 3.14

Celebrated Sunday, March 12

Bring your favorite pie to share during Coffee Fellowship!



Music to Comfort for the Lenten Season



Lenten Music

Now that we have begun the Lenten Season and look forward to Easter, there is a lot to cover and share within the worship service through music. We are singing about Christ's journey through the time of his teachings being challenged and being our Savior. With these challenges, Jesus spreads the word of God and brings to light the true God and word of our Lord. To begin the season of Lent, the choir started with "Dona Nobis Pacem." We sang about the Lord blessing you and keeping you, the Lord making his face shine on you, being gracious to you, and giving you peace. These are all words that help us through this time of year within our Lenten Season. Along with those comforting words

of prayer we then sang, "Thanks Be To God," which is a captivating arrangement of the beloved traditional Irish tune commonly known as Londonderry Air. The song's arrangement has a gently flowing accompaniment, rich harmonic colors, and a new text proclaiming thanks to the Creator God whose loving hand guides and sustains us.

Ash Wednesday's music this year was be presented by the Praise Team. The service opened with a Prelude called, "Glorious Day," leading into the hymn, "In Christ Alone," each talking about how, while living, He loved us. Then the second hymn we sang, "I Surrender All," telling how we surrender all to Jesus freely, with everlasting love and trust in Him. The closing hymn described how deep the Father's Love is for us. Filling us with His Love and Power so divine.

When we approach Maundy Thursday, the choir is singing a song called, "From An Upper Room," describing the Passover Feast as Jesus gathered with the disciples in this humble sanctuary. Later within the Ash Wednesday Service we sing, "Scenes From Gethsemane," which was a special place of quiet and solitude for Jesus. He would often go there to pray and be silent among the beauty of His creation. Following the Passover meal, Jesus and the disciples once again walked through the gates of the garden. Seeking comfort and refuge they quieted themselves beneath a canopy of olive trees. The song describes how suddenly the golden stars shining in the distance became torches of violence. Led by Judas, armed Centurions burst into the sanctuary of the garden looking for Jesus. "Father, let Thy will be done," He spoke as He rose to face His destiny.

I hope you find the music this Lenten Season to be comforting, knowing what our Savior has done, so that we may live in the glory of his name.

God's Blessings,

Stewart

Session Snapshot

The first meeting of the 2023 Session (elders elected by the congregation to serve with the pastor in shepherding the congregation in mission, ministry, and administration) was held on January 17, 2023. This was mostly an orientation and vision setting meeting.

The session reviewed and discussed the emphases for 2023 that Pastor Bob set out in the Annual Report:



Prayer: Being a congregation committed to intentional, concerted prayer; for growth, church planting, leader training, and mentoring

Youth Participation: creatively involving our increasing youth population in meaningful mission and ministry – including worship, evangelism, mission, and education

Composition and creative arts: encouraging and inviting participation of offering gifts in worship of song, word, and artistic expression giving glory to God.

Increasing mission participation: whether locally through Graceworks, NOTS, or other hands on activity; or nationally and internationally through short-term mission trips, acting as a liaison, or committing to prayer for our missionaries;

Deepening the walk of discipleship for this congregation.

The Session meets on the 4th Tuesdays of most months at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Due to this year's very cold winter and the ongoing need for a safe place for the homeless in Carson City to sleep, First Presbyterian is tentatively scheduled to host an additional two weeks for the NOTS from March 1-15. Often by now, the population served has decreased to a smaller number and the church scheduled to host in March would be large enough to handle the anticipated number of people needing space, however that is not the case as of writing this. FPC will split the month with another church to help provide this assistance for those in need. If you can volunteer to help cover during the overnight shifts, please contact NOTS at 775-600-2632.



Thank you all for your ongoing gifts for the Northern Nevada Dream Center Blue Barrel. You are all helping to feed those in our community and beyond who need a little help. Your gifts of food, paper goods, toiletries, clothing and paper bags are all taken to the Dream Center and given out every week. Twice a month they have a drive-by food distribution program on Fridays. I was told recently that 106 cars drove by and receive a bag or box of food items. On other days, trucks take food to apartments and hotels to help those who do not have transportation. On Wednesdays, volunteers deliver bags of food to apartments at their request. Trucks also go to the Ranchos in Gardnerville and distribute food. So you can see that your donations at FPC are being used to help many. As Jesus says in John 21:13a "Feed my sheep." You are doing just that. **Thank you!**

We are once again participating in the baby bottle fundraiser for Life Choices Community Pregnancy Clinic. It is a part of the nationwide annual campaign to honor the sanctity of human life. You can still get a bottle by contacting Charlene Rodman. Fill them up with your loose coins, cash or even a check **made out to Life Choices (not FPC)**. Please return them to the Narthex or church office by Sunday, March 19th.

These gifts 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.

This is the 40th Anniversary for Life Choices in Carson City. Stay tuned for two big events coming this year. The **Spring Benefit Concert on June 15, 2023** at the Carson City Community Center will feature the music of **Selah**, who have half-a-billion streams, over 4 million albums sold, and 11 GMA Dove Awards. (Check out their music at www.selahonline.com then click on the Listen/Stream box.)

The second event will be the semi-formal **Annual Fundraiser Gala on Friday, September 15, 2023**, at the Atlantis Casino in Reno. Details for this will come later.



PALM SUNDAY – April 2 – 10:00 am worship



MAUNDY THURSDAY SOUP SUPPER & WORSHIP – April 6
5:30pm meal followed by worship at 7:00pm



EASTER – April 9 – 10:00 am worship



THE NEXT FELLOWSHIP DINNERS WILL BE HELD APRIL 28 & 29. SIGN-UPS WILL BEGIN IN APRIL. CONTACT SANDY EHRESMAN OR DIANE YOUNG WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

GraceWorks is happening Saturday, May 20th!

Local churches will once again gather together to work on projects to benefit local non-profit organizations. Stay tuned for further details.





Names removed for privacy

ON OUR PRAYER LIST

Requested as of 02-22-2023

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



A note of thanks from Deana Ercanbrack:

We appreciate the ongoing prayers for Shirley Parks. God is good. Through His grace and the strength of the Holy Spirit that we are experiencing more “on” days than not. We are very grateful for every day we get. Thank you to all for your encouraging words, support and prayers!



Names removed for privacy



Catherine Neely

Active-Duty Military: 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 Kathy Rothchild or the office 775-882-1032.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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THE TRUMPET

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The Rev. Bob Davis
pastorbob@fpccarsoncity.org

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 George & Connie Stanton.

This Month's Sermons

- March 5 Acts 8:26-40
"Do You Understand?"
- March 12 Acts 9: 1-19
"Who Are You, Lord?"
- March 19 Acts 9:19-31
"A Changed Witness"
- March 26 Acts 9: 32-43
"Health & Life"

See us and
"Like" us on

