

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—ELKO NEVADA
1559 SEWELL DR., ELKO, NEVADA 89801
775-738-3430**

Tom's Corner



I've been here three months now and yet I still feel green under the gills as your interim pastor in many ways. Thanksgiving might already have passed as you're reading this short article. And no doubt Advent has most likely already begun. And after having survived this year's nasty and raunchy election season I'm still a little bit numb myself.

So instead of giving you some of my own theological insights I've decided to just quote some people whose articles I read in the recent issue of the 'The Presbyterian Outlook'.

Jill Duffield their editor in residence writes this:

"Each place and person is known by God, so beloved that Jesus is coming not to condemn, but to save them. Come, Lord Jesus. Please, Lord, Jesus. Now, Lord Jesus."

Jessica Tate, another one of their writers, shared these words which I believe we all yearn for:

"We long for peace, beauty and light in darkness. We want a viable (dare I say joyful?) way forward as people of faith as we see that congregational life continues to grow slowly for some and decline for most in the North American church. We long for things to be set right so that our communities - indeed, each of our souls are not plagued with racism, homophobia, demonization and polarization. These are our deep longings. So too, do we look around and long for Christ to come again to the ruins of our time and our lives, bringing new creation, abundant life, and an end to mourning and crying and pain."

Finally Jana Childers, a friend and dean and vice-president of academic affairs at San Francisco Theological seminary, writes:

"God gives us God's word so that justice, peace and healing may break out on earth."

May you grow in Him during this Advent season awaiting his arrival again on Christmas Day.

In Christ's Service,

Reverend Tom Holslag - Interim Pastor

• Interim Pastor	Tom Holslag	•	Pianist
• Melissa Fonder	Director of Family Ministries fm.elko.firstpres@gmail.com familyministries@elkofirstpres.org	• Patty Fisk	Choir Director
• Bertha Lister	Office Manager	• Bertha Lister	Desert Pulpit Editor
• Caren McBride	Financial Secretary	• Church Office	775-738-3430
• Heather Norero	Nursery Attendant	• Fax number	775-738-0805
• Jim Hill	Organist	• Church e-mail address	fpchurch@frontiernet.net info@ElkoFirstPres.org website address: ElkoFirstPres.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/First.Presbytertian.Church.Of.Elko

Director of Family Ministries



Christmas:

Our *Christmas Program* will be during Worship on December 4th. We will practice that morning at 9:00 in the Sanctuary. All children, youth, and college kids are welcome to participate!

The Spring Creek High School Choir will perform at 10:00 on December 4th and the Elko High School Choraliers will perform December 11th at 10:00.

Sunday School: Children 3-years-old through Adult

There will be **no Sunday School December 25th and January 1st.**

Sunday School books are still available to order. Order forms are in the Sunday School classrooms, the Church Office, and in the Bulletin.

Nursery: Babies 6 weeks to 3 years old

The church nursery is still available to little ones after the Children's Message Sunday mornings.

We have a list of qualified nursery attendants posted on the nursery door. If you see a family in church with a little one between 6 weeks and 3 years old, please let one of the attendants know.

Children's Church: Children 4 years through 2nd grade

There will be no Children's Church December 25th and January 1st.

Confirmation Class: 5th Grade through 12th Grade

Reverend Tom and Melissa will be team teaching a confirmation class for any young people interested in church membership. Classes will be Sundays from 1:00 to 2:30 and will begin January 15th and will conclude on Easter Sunday.

Youth Group: Kids 6th grade through college

In December the youth group will be having a craft night, movie night, and game night, as well as having our annual Christmas Party at Melissa's house after worship on the 18th, and have our annual New Year's Lock-in.

College/Young Adults: Kids out of high school through 25 years old

Our College/Young Adults group meets the second Wednesday of each month for lunch at GBC and then meets every Wednesday night at Charlyn's house for food and fellowship.

Adult Bible Study:

Becky Schaffner leads a Women's Bible Study on Monday mornings at 9:00 and Kathy Reyes leads a Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 9:30

New Members Class:

Reverend Tom's New Members class will conclude December 4th.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University:

If you are interested in a Spring 2017 FPU class, please see Charlyn.

Melissa Fonder

My Office Hours:

Mondays 8:00 - 3:00

Tuesdays 8:30 - 12:30

Wednesdays 11:00 - 3:00

*The First Presbyterian Church
of Elko, Nevada*

*Has received a contribution to the Rev. Ralph C. Bolin
Memorial Scholarship Fund
In Appreciation and Thanks to:*

*My Loving, Caring & Supporting
Church Family*

This gift was given by:

*Kim Bolin
100 Sage
Elko, Nevada 89801*

Sincerely:

Bertha Lister

*Church Secretary
First Presbyterian Church
1559 Sewell Dr.
Elko, Nevada 89801*

POT LUCK



**AFTER WORSHIP
SUNDAY, DEC. 4.
BRING A DISH
TO SHARE.**

Obituary

Louise Collett passed away on November 27 after a long battle with cancer. On December 10 at 9:00 am there will be a graveside service at the local cemetery at 11:00 am a memorial service will be held at FPC with a reception to follow.



The Church will be participating in the Snowflake Feasible parade on December 10. Anyone interested in helping to decorate the float can meet at the church on Friday, December 9 at 3:00 pm. Line up to the parade will begin at 3:00 pm on Saturday. For more information, contact Melissa Fonder.



The *Spring High School High Expectations Choir* will perform on Sunday, December 4 before worship at 10:00.

The *Elko High School Choraliers* will perform on Sunday, December 11 before worship at 10:00

“Need a Tax Break”

Consider making a year end tax-deductible donation to the church! Remember the church is the one organization where you have more say in where your charitable dollars are spent.

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY’S DESERT PULPIT ARTICLES IS DECEMBER 20. E-MAIL YOUR ARTICLE(S) TO fpchurch@frontiernet.net OR BRING YOUR ARTICLE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.

T G I S

(Take Groceries In Sunday)



Let's "Sleigh" Hunger!

The Mission Committee is now collecting non-perishable food items to help local non-profit organizations stock their shelves after the holidays. Any canned or packaged food items would be appreciated. Please check the expiration dates on your contributions and place them in the box in front of the office. Thank you for your previous donations of warm-weather clothing.

Thank you for your support

SALVATION ARMY SUPPORT

I am sorry to report that there is not an open Salvation Army office or a person working for the Salvation Army in Elko right now. I know they are looking for someone, but no one is available right now. So the Mission Committee will not be asking you to sign up and ring the bell in front of Raleys this Christmas unless the situation changes. Thank you for all your support in the past years and hopefully we'll be back supporting the Salvation Army next year.

Meantime, don't stop your generous support of less fortunate people this Christmas. Of course we'd suggest first that you donate to the Mission Fund, but if you would like to support something that directly helps feed hungry people, our local food banks always need help. Consider a donation to FISH, Ruby Mountain Resources, or Family Resource Center.



Birthday Party for Jesus!

DECEMBER 4, 2017

After worship service

*We will have a birthday cake to
celebrate the birth of Jesus.*

*Bring unwrapped new baby items
and place them under the Christmas
tree in The Fellowship Hall.*



*Baby Items will be donated to the
Northeastern Nevada Regional
Hospital.*

Women's Christmas Potluck Dinner

The women's Christmas Potluck Dinner will be held on December 1, 2016. All women and young ladies are invited. Mocktails will be served at 5:30 and Potluck Dinner at 6:00 with a special ornament presentation by Susie Jones. Bring a friend and a wrapped ornament.



IN THE NEWS

Kaitlyn McLeod made a goal during the soccer game between Spring Creek and Elko Adobe Middle School.

Mary Marie Tomera with the Spring Creek girls cross country running team won the regional meet held in Sparks, Nevada .

SESSION-DEACONS

The Session and Board of Deacons have agreed that Elko First Presbyterian should return to electing elders and deacons on the same cycle as our budget. Current officers will extend their terms for six months in order to get us on the corrected schedule from January to January. We will elect new officers in January 2018. We will be presenting changes to the ByLaws and electing a nominating committee during the annual congregation meeting in January 2017. If you would like to study the old ByLaws and the proposed changes, please pick up a copy at the office.

NO Work Bazaar

Presbyterian Women received \$1080.00 for our no work bazaar. Some of this money went to help the local 911 fund, some went to F.I.S.H, Family Resources Center, and Veteran's Van. The Presbyterian Women would like to thank all those who participated in our **NO WORK BAZAAR.**

WE WILL BE HAVING A POTLUCK AFTER WORSHIP SERVICES ON DECEMBER 4. BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE.

*Give thanks to the Lord of lords...to him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever.
Psalm 136:3-4*

YOUTH PROTECTION PROGRAM

This program will be offered to all personnel who work with children. You will be required to watch a video and fill out some papers. For more information contact Melissa Fonder at 738-3430.



Pianist Needed

The church is looking for someone to play the piano and work with the choir. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this position, call the church office or talk

to Kathy Reyes or Patty Fisk. This is a paid position.

Grassroots Uganda Sales

The Grassroots Uganda sale was a success. I want to thank you for your support and prayers. We raised \$715.00

Judi Bando

**Office Closed for Christmas on
December 23 & 24.**

**Office Closed for New Year's
December 30**

*Children's Christmas
Program—December 4th.
The Tiniest Christmas star.*





WE HAVE NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE END OF DECEMBER. IF YOU WANT ENVELOPES TO USE FOR 2017, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH FINANCIAL SECRETARY ASAP



Christmas Eve Worship Service will be held at 7:00 pm on Saturday, December 24.

Christmas Eve



Communion will be held on Sunday, December 25 during our worship service.

A CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST
The Wonders Gift

12TH ANNUAL ELKO REGIONAL INTERFAITH
CHRISTMAS CRECHE EXHIBIT

Thursday through Sunday
DECEMBER 1 through 4, 2016

Nativity Displays Live Music Christmas Wreaths

Live Christmas Nativity Re-enactment
 Thursday & Friday 5 - 8 PM, Saturday 1 - 5 PM

Plus The opportunity to receive a piece of the Retired Madonna & Child Collection that started the Crèche Exhibit.

11:00 AM TO 8:00 PM ➤ FREE ADMISSION
 3001 NORTH FIFTH STREET, ELKO
 THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS ELKO NEVADA WEST STAKE CENTER

Share a Gift

We are partnering with Joshua Tree shelter and collecting new—and almost new—items for those without homes. Suggested items are:

➤ Hand warmer pouches	➤ Men's winter gloves	➤ Thermal underwear: men's sizes M & L
➤ Food Gift Cards	➤ Men's Boots: sizes 9, 10, 11, & 12	➤ Flashlights
➤ Grey winter socks: men's 6-12	➤ Women's Boots: sizes 8 & 9	➤ Tarps

➤ Cold weather rated sleeping bags

ELKOCRECHE.ORG ➤ FACEBOOK.COM/ELKOCRECHE

Musical Performances

Thursday DECEMBER 1

- 5:00 PM Spring Creek High School High Expectations Choir
- 6:00 PM Penny Nielson Piano School
- 7:00 PM LDS East Stake Adult Choir & Soloists

Friday DECEMBER 2

- 5:00 PM Adobe Middle School
- 6:00 PM Elko High School Choraliers
- 6:30 PM Sing-Along with the Elko High School Choraliers
- 7:00 PM The Miner Chordsmen, Elko's Barbershop Chorus
- 7:30 PM Christmas Quartet

Saturday DECEMBER 3

- 11:00 AM Paula Jenkins Piano School
- 1:00 PM Mountain View Elementary School Choir
- 2:00 PM Spring Creek Elementary School Honor Choir
- 3:00 PM LDS West Stake Primary Children's Choir
- 4:00 PM Cat-erific Music Studio
- 5:00 PM Memmott Music School

Sunday DECEMBER 4

- 4:00 PM The Elko Handbells
- 5:00 PM 23RD Annual Messiah Sing-Along (Sponsored by the Elko Religious Leaders Assoc.)
- 7:00 PM Christmas Devotional with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir plus inspirational Christmas Messages (via satellite)

SPONSORED BY THE ELKO NEVADA WEST & EAST STAKES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

- 12/04 Thompson Family, Strickland Family, Pearson Family, Aida Mathews, Doris Toothman, Kristi Tomera
- 12/11 Jan Webb, Bev Klem, Smith Family, Pearson Family, Daniel Family, Bisson Family.
- 12/18 Guttry Family, Jennifer Kidwell, Hobbs Family, Diana Jones, Cress Family, Kump Family.
- 12/25 Becky Nahnacassia, Fonder Family, B.J. Hurley, Hall Family, Hill Family, Merschel Family.

COFFEE



COOKIES



You will also need to help set up and clean up
Everyone Welcome!

BIRTHDAYS

Simon Schaffner	12/01
Diana Jones	12/02
Joseph McLeod	12/03
Susan Jones	12/07
Kaitlyn McLeod	12/16
Dorothy Read	12/19
Maxine Garcia	12/19
Jeannie Gillins	12/20
Kathleen Reyes	12/24
Carol Cutbertson	12/25
Tamera Gunter	12/27
Bill Nisbet	12/27



Hannah Nahnacassia	12/27
Sarah Daniel	12/27
Sollera Keller	12/28
Janice Collett	12/28
Doug Petersen	12/29
Lori Passmore	12/30
Charlie Cress	12/31
Ruth Hoskins	12/31



Call the church office if your name is missing from the birthday list.

We are still trying to get all the information we lost back into the system.

Thank You to Lynn Bondo, Mike Jones, Larry Hall and Gene Schain for replacing the lights throughout the church building. Job well done.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE IN THE OFFICE ON DECEMBER 16.

This is the day the Lord had made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

Advent 2016

Daily Scripture and Reflections in Preparation for Christmas

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

27 NOVEMBER Be Ready!

Jesus, the Son of Man, is coming again. Watch and be ready in faith for his return.

Matthew 24:37-44

28 Lord, Heal Me

Lord, I am not worthy, but say the word and I will be healed and forgiven.

Matthew 8:5-11

29 The Branch of Jesse

A shoot shall come forth from the stump of Jesse and a branch from his roots.

Isaiah 11:1-10

30 Call on the Lord

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Romans 10:9-18

1 DECEMBER Build on the Rock

Build your life on the words of Christ our Savior, the Rock of our salvation.

Matthew 7:21, 24-27

2 Lord, Have Mercy

Son of David, open our hearts to behold your glory.

Matthew 9:27-31

3 Walk in the Way

You will hear a word behind you saying, "This is the way, walk in it."

Isaiah 30:19-21

4 Repent!

Prepare the way of the Lord and bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

Matthew 3:1-12

5 Jesus Heals and Forgives

The people glorified God, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today!"

Luke 5:17-26

6 Comfort My People

Lift up your voice and announce the good news: "Behold your God!"

Isaiah 40:1-11

7 Renew Your Strength

The Lord will renew your strength; you will run and not be weary.

Isaiah 40:25-31

8 Chosen and Adopted

Before creation, God chose us in Christ to be his sons and daughters.

Ephesians 1:3-6

9 Peace Like a River

A river of peace and waves of righteousness are ours through our Redeemer.

Isaiah 48:17-19

10 Elijah Must Come

John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare Christ's way.

Matthew 17:9, 10-13

11 Be Patient

Be patient as you await the day when our Lord will come as Judge and King.

James 5:7-10

12 Magnify the Lord!

Blessed is Mary among women and blessed is the fruit of her womb.

Luke 1:39-47

13 Repent and Believe

Will you go and work in the vineyard of the Lord today?

Matthew 21:28-32

14 Jesus Is the Messiah

The blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the poor hear the good news!

Luke 7:18-23

15 I Am Your Redeemer

With compassion and everlasting love, God gathers us to himself.

Isaiah 54:1-10

16 A Shining Lamp

As burning and shining lamps, we point to Jesus, the Light of the world.

John 5:33-36

17 Lion of Judah

The scepter will not depart from Judah until it comes to the rightful Ruler.

Genesis 49:2, 8-10

18 Come, Emmanuel

The Virgin will bear a Son and call his name Emmanuel, which means "God with us."

Isaiah 7:10-14

19 Filled With the Spirit

John will be filled with the Holy Spirit and go before the Lord to prepare his way.

Luke 1:5-25

20 Call His Name Jesus

Mary will conceive and bear a son and shall name him Jesus.

Luke 1:26-38

21 Rejoice and Sing!

Sing aloud! The Lord God is among us, the Mighty One who saves us!

Zephaniah 3:14-18

22 Holy Is His Name

He who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

Luke 1:46-56

23 He Is Coming!

He whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.

Malachi 3:1-4

24 Light in the Darkness

God gives light to those who sit in darkness and guides them in the way of peace.

Luke 1:67-79

25

Christ Is Born!

I bring good news! To you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Luke 2:1-14



December-2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 5:30 PW Christmas Party NO CUB SCOUTS MEETING	2	3
4 <u>NO Communion</u> 9:00 Sunday School for all ages Spring Creek Choir 10:15 Worship Last membership Class Birthday Party for Jesus Potluck Music & Worship meeting 12:00 Youth Studies	5 6:00 Handbells 4:00 Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall 6:00 Boy Scouts	6 6:00 Handbells 1:00 Hobby Group 6:00 Youth 6:00 Cub Scouts	7 6:00 Handbells 9:00 MOPS- Steering 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 4:30 Cub Scouts 6:00 College Group	8 12:00 Al-Alon 5:30 NAMI 5:30 Cub Scouts	9 3:00 meet at the church to decorate the float for the Snowflake Parade.	10 11:00 Memorial service for Louise Collett 2:00 Civil Air Patrol in Fellowship Hall 5:00 Snowflake Parade
11 9:00 Sunday School for all ages Elko High School Choir 10:15 Worship Mission 12:00 Youth Studies 4:00 Handbell Choir	12 5:00 Cub Scouts 6:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Joy Circle	13 1:00 Hobby Group 6:00 Youth 6:00 Cub Scouts	14 9:00 MOPS 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 12:30 College Lunch 4:30 Cub Scouts 6:00 College Group	15 10:00 Esther Circle Christmas lunch 12:00 Al-Alon 1:00 Esther Circle 5:30 NAMI 5:30 Cub Scouts	16 <u>ANNUAL REPORTS DUE</u>	17
18 9:00 Sunday School for all ages 10:15 Worship Deacons Meeting 12:00 Youth Christmas Party at Melissa's	19 3:00 M & E Meeting 6:00 Boy Scouts	20 <u>Deadline for Desert Pulpit articles</u> 1:00 Hobby Group 6:00 Session 6:00 Youth 6:00 Cub Scouts	21 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 4:30 Cub Scouts 6:00 College Group	22 12:00 Al-Alon 5:30 NAMI 5:30 Cub Scouts	23 OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS	24 OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS 7:00 Christmas Worship Service
25 <u>Communion</u> NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 Worship NO YOUTH NO C.E. MEETING	26 6:00 Boy Scouts	27 1:00 Hobby Group NO Youth 6:00 Cub Scouts	28 9:00 MOPS 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 4:30 Cub Scouts 6:00 College Group	29 12:00 Al-Alon 5:30 NAMI 5:30 Cub Scouts	30 OFFICE CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR	31 Youth new years lock-in