

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



#### Tom's Corner

I was at a loss as what to write about this time in the 'Desert Pulpit'. So I started thumbing through two magazines that I get each month. - *'The Christian Century'* and *'Presbyterians Today'*. And it was in *'Presbyterians Today'* that I came across an article entitled 'Faith vs. Fear' that caught my eye. So I'll begin by referencing two scriptures:

*'When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself; for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.'* - **Leviticus 19: 33-34**

*'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.'* - **Hebrews 13:2**

So then to paraphrase what Vernon Boyles III said about our attitude and response to those foreigners in our midst needs to be this. That if we truly want to call ourselves followers of Jesus then our 'principle and practice' needs to be that of love and hospitality towards the alien and the stranger, instead of being fearful, racist, or demonstrating ungodly attacks against those we deem to be too different from ourselves. For all of humanity and creation are the works of God our Father and deserve our respect, love, and care.

During World War II Martin Niemoller of the German Confessing Church wrote this about the Nazi authoritarian rule that was sweeping across much of Europe at the time:

*'First they came for the Socialist, and I did not speak out - because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionist, and I did not speak out - because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak for me.'*

As I said on Easter morning a few weeks ago, being one of his disciples is never an easy task. But because he is risen and we have nothing to fear he daily awaits our response.

God's Peace

*Reverend Tom Holslag - Interim Pastor*

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|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • <b>Interim Pastor</b>  | <b>Tom Holslag</b>                                                                                       |
| • <b>Melissa Fonder</b>  | Director of Family Ministries .....<br>fm.elko.firstpres@gmail.com<br>familyministries@elkofirstpres.org |
| • <b>Bertha Lister</b>   | Office Manager                                                                                           |
| • <b>Caren McBride</b>   | Financial Secretary                                                                                      |
| • <b>Jim Hill</b>        | Organist                                                                                                 |
| • <b>Brandolyn Thran</b> | Pianist                                                                                                  |

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • <b>Patty Fisk</b>            | Choir Director                                                                                                                               |
| • <b>Bertha Lister</b>         | Desert Pulpit Editor                                                                                                                         |
| • <b>Church Office</b>         | 775-738-3430                                                                                                                                 |
| • <b>Church e-mail address</b> | <a href="mailto:fpchurch@frontiernet.net">fpchurch@frontiernet.net</a><br><a href="mailto:info@ElkoFirstPres.org">info@ElkoFirstPres.org</a> |
| • <b>website address:</b>      | <a href="http://ElkoFirstPres.org">ElkoFirstPres.org</a>                                                                                     |
| • <b>Facebook:</b>             | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/First.Presbyterian.Church.Of.Elko">www.facebook.com/First.Presbyterian.Church.Of.Elko</a>                  |

## Director of Family Ministries



Praise God for the April showers that brought us beautiful May flowers here at the church!

*Thank you to everyone who participated in Holy Week activities. It was another beautiful Easter season at First Pres.*

### Sound System Training

Sunday, May 7th immediately after worship there will be a sound system training for anyone interested in learning how to operate the sound equipment in the Sanctuary.

### Sunday School

May 7, 14, and 21 Reverend Tom will be teaching a three-class series about the history and polity of the Presbyterian Church. This is some of the information he teaches in his new members classes.

May 21st is our last day of Sunday School for the year.

May 21st is also Promotion Sunday, when any children completing 4th or 8th grade will receive their new Bibles in church.

Youth Group: Kids 6th grade through college

May 21st the youth group will be serving people experiencing homelessness after worship and then having our last Sunday youth activities for the year.

We will continue meeting at our usual youth night (Tuesday nights from 6:00 to 8:00).

### Who's Doing What In May:

	Children's Sunday School	Children's Message	Children's Church
May 7	Sally Winsley	Rev Tom	Malissa Bisson
May 14	Becky Schaffner	Becky Schaffner	Heather Norero
May 21	Heather Norero	Heather Norero	Becky Schaffner
May 28 No Sunday School		Emily Fonder	Bev Klem

*Have a beautiful May*

*Love and Blessings, Melissa Fonder*

### ***Maundy Thursday—Last Supper reenactment***



## Notes from the Keys

by Brandolyn Thran

May 2017

First and foremost, thank you to Bertha, Caren, Rev. Tom, the choir, and the congregation for the warm welcome onto the piano bench!! The grace and encouragement shown to me as I settle into my role as “the piano player” is gratefully appreciated. My hope and prayer for this column is that, like my piano playing, I can help move you into reflection and worship so you may grow in God.

Ever since I can remember I wanted to play the piano, and in fourth grade my parents directed my desire for music to band instruments; a flute was a lot cheaper and smaller! Being part of the school band was invigorating and I loved everything about it, but it still wasn't the piano, so I continued to ask about piano lessons. Quarter notes turned into half notes, which turned in years of whole notes and measures of rest, when one day in sixth grade I came home from school and my parents said, “It's time, let's go to Anchorage and pick out your piano.” Little did I know, that during that long waiting period, they were preparing for the big purchase; my dream wasn't being denied, it was simply on hold, resting, until the time was right. Looking back, it's easy for me to find a parallel to faith, to the time God keeps us waiting, not because He isn't hearing, but because He is preparing us for the big reveal. Oh, you can imagine the excitement as we went to the piano store and I picked out the most beautiful piano ever! Dreams do come true, prayers are answered, but sometimes we must wait in the rests so that our big reveal is at just the right time.

This concept is confirmed several times in the Bible, and particularly in Isaiah, for it seems even back then, people had a hard time waiting on God and thought they had the right idea and rushed ahead. For example, Isaiah 26:1 – 3 *“The path of righteous is level; you make level the way of the righteous. In the path of your judgements, O Lord, we wait for you; your name and remembrance are the desire of our soul. My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you, for when your judgements are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.”*. Walking in righteousness (meaning ‘aligned with God’) means waiting on God.

Likewise, in Isaiah 30:15 *“For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”* In rest, in the quiet, we are strong when we recognize (trust) in God.

Rest in life, and rest in music, tends to be an uncomfortable thing because we want to “jump back in” to the game of life and play our instrument loud and proud. We don't want to be left out in the quiet. However, in *our* quiet God is still working, the band is still playing, and when we come back in to the mix in-time and at the right time, marvelous things will unfold before us.

Prayer: Dear God, Help me to find quiet, comforting rest in You. I admit I tend to want to control and to skip the rest to get to “the good stuff”, but remind me that in the quiet, in the rest, You are there preparing great things for me. Help me quench the “nagging” that I am missing out, and instead recognize the learnings that are occurring so when the time is right, and my rest is over, I am ready to step into Your big reveal. Amen.



# SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

## Greetings from Session

We had the joy of accepting new members Priscilla Mason and Matt Niday at our March 14, meeting; April 9 special meeting, youth communicants, Simon Schaffner, Samantha Thompson and Brandon Thran to be received by the congregation Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017.

Exceptional preparation by Reverend Tom and committees was appreciated as we journeyed to the cross through Holy Week to recognition of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior on Easter morning. In lieu of fellowship hour, a bountiful breakfast was served before worship.

Presbytery delegates brought reports of General Assembly voting items which will follow at next General Assembly meeting. Further reporting will continue at Session meetings.

Membership as of April 18, is 190

Committees reported on sanctuary roofing issues, kitchen floor repair requirements. It was with regret that we received the resignation of Elder Tim Winsley as he has recently moved to be near his family in another state. He will be greatly missed.

The Nominating Committee, John Daniel, Chair, and Susie Jones, Vice-chair will begin nominations for Pastor Nominating committee. As of this printing, it has been decided that a Mission Study must be accomplished and will be advertised for congregational information and input. A letter will be sent for all members to assess and review the needs of the church in their opinion. Three meetings will be held: May 21 after church, June 4 after church and June 14, Wednesday, 6 to 6 p.m. Following this process, a Mission Statement will be developed for Elko First Presbyterian Church and the Pastor Nominating Committee will proceed to the pastoral search. (Ephesians 4)

Be sure to check the church calendar for activities available to the church family **AND BE SURE TO CLEAR WITH SESSION AND/OR THE CHURCH OFFICE BEFORE SCHEDULING AN EVENT** to avoid overscheduling.

Blessings in Christ  
Judi Boyce—Clerk

## Musicians Needed



We need musicians to sign up for summer music. If you play an instrument or would like to sing during the anthem time in the worship service, please sign up. There is a sign up sheet posted on the office window.



## Boy Scout Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser

April 30 in the Fellowship Hall after worship service. Dessert will be included.

\$5.00 Donation will be appreciated.

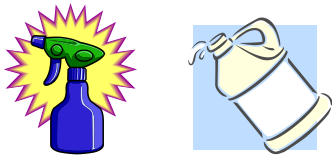


Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed

forces. The holiday, which is observed every year on the last Monday of May, originated as Decoration Day after the American Civil War in 1868, when the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois, established it as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the Union war dead with flowers. By the 20th century, competing Union and Confederate holiday traditions, celebrated on different days, had merged, and Memorial Day eventually extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service. It marks the start of the unofficial summer vacation season, while Labor Day marks its end.

## T G I S

(Take Groceries In Sunday)



### Spring Clean

Help others clean! During the month of May, the Mission Committee will be collecting cleaning products which will be distributed to local non-profit organizations. Please place your donations in the box in front of the church office. Thank you for all of your donations this year.

*Thank you for your help*



### MAY DAY, MAY DAY!

Spring is here and the rummage sale is getting ready to roll! Bring your gently used or no longer needed items to the church from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM on May 1 and 2, and 8:30 AM to 6:00

PM on May 3, 4, and 5. If you need items for the sale picked up, please call the church 738-3430 or Diana Jones 340-4956. There is always a great deal of preparation getting the sale items sorted and displayed for the sale, so please consider volunteering a few minutes or a few hours during the times shown to accomplish this task. We will also need helpers on Saturday from 7:30 AM until about 2:00 PM. The sale itself is 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM and the snack bar will be open. For those with baking talent and ambition, please consider bringing goodies for sale either on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning by about 10:00 AM. We will also need about three pick-up trucks with drivers to haul the excess items to the Ruby Mountain Resource Center.

Dear friends and family,

Soon we will send out our first e-Update, of which you can see the introduction below. However, to receive this and future e-Updates, you will first need to [sign up here](http://eepurl.com/cuKL39) (<http://eepurl.com/cuKL39>). Please complete the requested information and we will add you to the distribution list. **Your action is required for us to do so.** Feel free to forward this message to others who you think may wish to receive our e-Updates. There is no need to respond to this email, although if you have trouble signing up for our newsletter you should feel free to contact us.

Blessings,  
Jeff and Christi Boyd



Rotary Speech Contest  
Winners: **Lexi Baum**  
and **Trenton Freitag**

**Collette Reynolds**,  
daughter of Judi &

Buck Boyce, presented the Boys & Girls Club with a check to help support the youth at the club.

**Skylar Merschel** was the Academic Student of the Week at Spring Creek High School.

**Trenton Freitag** signs to play football for the University of Jamestown, North Dakota.

**Lexi Baum** was present when Big O Tires presented a donation to the Elko High School basketball program.

### SOUND SYSTEM TRAINING

**May 7 after worship—sound system training. Contact Melisa Fonder for more information.**

Dear Presbyterian Women;

We want to express our appreciation for your prayers and money gift to help us remodel our basement. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. Your prayers and gift have lifted our burden and brought great encouragement to our body of believers! May God continue to bless all of you.

In appreciation,  
Pastor John Kraintz and Priscilla  
Assembly of God Church Family

THANK YOU to **Simon Schaffner** and **Brandon Thran** for cleaning all the wax off the candle lighters and for polishing them up? They took quite some time and did a beautiful job! Thanks, guys!

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

- 05/07 Cooney Family, Becky Schaffner, Toni Mendive, Gillins Family, London Family
- 05/14 Donna Gary, Vicki Goichoechea, Pryzmont Family, Pat Pearce, Clarice Gamboa, Tara Lounsbery.
- 05/21 Alyssa Culp, Arthur Family, Plumb Family, Frances Schain, Renee Sawyer
- 05/28 Jan Webb, Strickland Family, Pearson Family, Aida Mathews, Doris Toothman



**You will also need to help set up and clean up**



### **BIRTHDAYS**

- 05/02 Kathy Chilton  
05/02 Jake Kump  
05/10 Charles Harper  
05/13 Thomas Tsukamoto  
05/22 Elaine Knight  
05/26 Jan Petersen  
05/31 Brian Arthur



### *Spring Tea*



Celebrate Spring with the Presbyterian Women at the Spring Tea on Saturday, May 20th. All women of the church are invited to bring family and friends. 11:30-1 in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a salad or dessert to share. A great program will be given by Lois Ports!

**Please remember to call the church office if you have changed your e-mail address, mailing address, phone number(s) both cell and land line. You will be missing important information if we can't get ahold of you.**



### *Support the Congo Coffee Project*

The Congo Coffee Project supports the growth and healing of the war-torn Democratic Republic of the Congo. For every bag of organic coffee sold, Equal Exchange will donate \$1 to the Panzi Foundation, which supports the work of the Panzi Hospital and educates the public about issues facing the D.R. Congo. Since 1999, the Panzi Hospital has treated tens of thousands of women who are survivors of epidemic sexual violence or are in need of reproductive and maternal care. Beyond the medical their work includes essential counseling, skill training, literacy education, and daycare. Learn more about the Project and this special coffee online: [Equalexchange.coop/congo-coffee-project](http://Equalexchange.coop/congo-coffee-project)

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**Please remember that you need to check with the church office when setting up events at the church. This helps us keep from getting two groups scheduling events on the same date or time.**



# May – 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 9:00 Women's Bible Study  6:00 Boy Scouts	2 1:00 Hobby Group  5:30 Handbells 6:00 Youth 6:00 Cub Scouts	3 9:00 MOPS – Steering 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study  4:30 Cub Scouts 5:30 Choir Rummage sale set up	4 12:00 Al-Alon  5:30 NAMI  5:30 Cub Scouts  Rummage sale set up	5      Rummage sale set up	6   8:00—1:00 Spring Rummage Sale
<b>7 Communion</b> 9:00 Sunday school for all ages 10:15 Worship Music & Worship 12:00 Youth Studies	8 9:00 Women's Bible Study  5:30 Cub Scouts 6:00 Swim Team 6:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Last meeting for Joy Circle	9 11:30 Hobby Lunch 1:00 Hobby Group  5:30 Handbells 6:00 Youth 6:00 Cub Scouts	10 9:00 MOPS 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study  4:30 Cub Scouts 5:30 Choir  6:00 Nominating Committee Meeting in the Parlor	11   12:00 Al-Alon  5:30 NAMI  5:30 Cub Scouts	12      	13      
<b>14 Mother's Day</b> 9:00 Sunday school for all ages  10:15 Worship Ice Cream Social Mission  12:00 Youth Studies	15 9:00 Women's Bible Study  3:30 M & E 6:00 Boy Scouts	16 1:00 Hobby Group  5:30 Handbells 6:00 SESSION 6:00 Youth 6:00 Cub Scouts	17 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study  4:30 Cub Scouts 5:30 Choir	<b>18</b> 12:00 Al-Alon 1:00 Esther Circle  5:30 NAMI  5:30 Cub Scouts	19      	20   11:00—1:00 PW Spring Tea 
21 9:00 Last day for Sunday school 10:15 Worship Promotion Sunday Deacons Mission Study Youth serving the Homeless/Last day for youth Studies	22 9:00 Women's Bible Study  6:00 Boy Scouts	23 <u><b>Deadline for Desert Pulpit Articles</b></u> 1:00 Hobby Group  5:30 Handbells 6:00 Youth 6:00 Cub Scouts	24 9:00 MOPS 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study  4:30 Cub Scouts 5:30 Choir	25 12:00 Al-Alon  5:30 NAMI  5:30 Cub Scouts	26      	27      
28 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 Worship C.E. Meeting	29 9:00 Women's Bible Study  6:00 Boy Scouts <u><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></u> <b>Memorial day</b>	30 1:00 Hobby Group  5:30 Handbells 6:00 Youth 6:00 Cub Scouts	31 9:00 MOPS 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study  4:30 Cub Scouts 5:30 Choir			