

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



Tom's Corner

Summer is definitely here – ugh! With the ‘dog-days’ of summer upon us don’t forget that our summer hours for worship have moved up to 9:30 am each Sunday morning. These new summer hours will continue right up through Sunday September 17th. Yet, just because it’s hot now don’t forget that there is still a lot going on here at the church. Mark your calendar for Sunday July 9th, as the church will be electing two elders and two deacons to replace some elders and deacons who had to step down. We will also, make changes to the By-Laws. There will be a congregational meeting immediately following worship on that Sunday.

The nominating committee has begun the process of starting to look for candidates to serve on the (PNC), pastor nominating committee, which will hopefully be up and running by this fall. If you have been an active member here at First Presbyterian Church for a few years and you sense God’s calling to serve in such a capacity please let someone know on the nominating committee so that you can be considered. However, as you might imagine, this is a serious and long-term commitment. It often takes a year or more for any church to call and secure its next called pastor.

As of this writing I have yet to leave on my ‘Mission Trip’ to Baton Rouge, LA. Upon my return I hope to give a presentation at some point to the congregation on what God is doing in that part of our country. (PDA) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is a mission agency within the Presbyterian Church USA. This will be my second (PDA) mission trip and I’d encourage anyone to jump at the chance of going on one of their trips the next time one comes up, for being involved in mission is at heart of whom we are called to be as Christians.

Don’t hesitate to call me or come by my office if you have a pastoral concern. Have a great summer and if you’re headed out on vacation, do motor safe. Try to stay cool this summer and remember the doors are always open here at the church and that *Jesus* is always just a prayer away and that he wants to hear from each of us regularly.

God’s Peace and joy to each of you,

Rev. Tom Holslag – Interim Pastor

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

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|-------------------------|--|
| • Patty Fisk | Choir Director |
| • Bertha Lister | Desert Pulpit Editor |
| • Church Office | 775-738-3430 |
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info@ElkoFirstPres.org |
| • website address: | ElkoFirstPres.org |
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Director of Family Ministries



Happy Birthday America!

VBS 2017

We will have VBS Prep every Wednesday from 10:00am to 2:00pm throughout the summer.

There are Registration Forms (bright red paper) on the bookshelf in Melissa's office.

Please feel free to take them.

VBS is August 7-11 from 8:45 to 12:15 (Volunteers, please plan on 8:30 to 12:30) with an **"Ice Cream Pigout!"** and **VBS Children's Concert** August 11th at 6:00 for friends and family to attend.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School Curriculum for 2017-2018 has been chosen! We will be using

"Seasons of the Spirit - Encore"

It is a Lectionary-based, online curriculum. All materials will be printed at the church. For those who would like to make a donation to defray the costs of the curriculum and printing, a \$10 donation would be very appreciated. We will be offering three levels of classes from this material:

1. Elementary (Children 3 years old through 5th grade)
2. Jr/Sr High & College (Students 6th grade through College)
3. Adult class(es) will be offered of "Seasons of the Spirit".

In the fall, Kristi Glass and Becky Schaffner will be team teaching an adult class titled

"We Saved You A Seat: Finding and Keeping Lasting Friendships"

College students are welcome to join either adult class if they'd like.

Children's Church Kids 4 Years Old through 2nd Grade

In the fall we will have the same person teaching the **Children's Sunday School Class** and **Children's Church** each Sunday. Please let Melissa know if you would like to take a turn teaching the children on a rotating schedule.

We will continue to have a different person give the **Children's Message** during Worship. Please let Melissa know if you would like to take a turn giving the Children's Message on a rotating schedule.

Who's Doing What In July:

	<u>Children's Message</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>
July 2	Becky Schaffner	Malissa Bisson
July 9	Heather Norero	Heather Norero
July 16	Melissa Fonder	Becky Schaffner
July 23	Becky Schaffner	Bev Klem
July 30	Heather Norero	Malissa Bisson

Have a beautiful July,

Melissa Fonder

Criteria for Membership on the Pastor Nominating Committee

When the congregation's Nominating Committee begins considering prospective members of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), it should enter a prayerful process, seeking God's guidance for a good result. The PNC's work will do much to shape the congregation's life, for good or ill, for years to come.

You may wish to consider how to gather the information you're looking for. Getting names is the easy part – but how do you receive and evaluate evidence of a person's Christian life, or indications that the person has the gifts and abilities needed on the PNC? Some nominating committees interview prospective PNC members; others ask for a letter or statement from each one – perhaps as simple as responding to the question, "Why do you want to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee?"

One important way to discern the gifts and qualifications for prospective members of the PNC is to see how (or if) they participate in the Mission Study.

The selection of nominees is not an easy process. You're likely to know these people and be friends with them. Some of them want fervently to be on the PNC. And some of them may have to be passed over – for reasons of representation if not because of other criteria listed below. This is not a time to guard people's feelings at all costs; the future of the congregation's life, ministry, and faithfulness is at stake. This is a time for prayerful, careful discernment.

The following criteria should be published for the congregation: this is what you're looking for. The list should be available to those who submit their names or those who wish to suggest others. The criteria should be distributed again at the congregational meeting when the PNC is elected.

- Evidence of bearing the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-26). Spiritual maturity "trumps" strong opinions, long church activity, or a forceful personality. Clearly this requires a certain amount of discernment on the part of the committee, and it may seem by some as presumptuous. But the scripture enjoins us to use such discernment in selecting church leaders (Acts 6:3, for example), and the PNC itself will certainly have to examine potential pastors for signs of spiritual maturity and giftedness.
- Evidence of faithful participation in the life of the congregation in recent years, months and weeks. This doesn't mean that a person has to be an old-time member of the congregation. But someone who suddenly appears on the scene after an extended period of inactivity is probably not the best person to be on the PNC. You'll want to think twice about someone who "dropped out" because of dislike for the former pastor, who now wants to influence the selection of a new pastor. Again, this doesn't mean that everyone on the PNC has to have liked the former pastor, but those who remain faithful in the congregation regardless of how they feel about the pastor are most likely to serve faithfully in the PNC process.
- Evidence of faithful discipleship beyond Sunday morning worship. Worship, of course, is at the heart of the church's life. But if worship is the only expression of a person's Christian life, it may cast some doubts about the person's spiritual maturity, let alone his or her ability to grasp the full range of church programs and pastoral responsibilities.
- Evidence that the person understands, and is both willing and able, to invest the time and energy the PNC's work will require. This is a demanding responsibility. Consider the impact on the committee's work if it has members who have plans for extended absences during the next eighteen months or so; whose work schedule, health, or other factors preclude regular meetings that are fairly long and intense. Work between meetings is also demanding. The PNC's work requires a good deal of physical, spiritual and emotional energy.

- Ability to keep confidences. Confidentiality is an absolute requirement for this committee. Much damage has been done in some churches, and to some pastors, by PNC members who “just can’t resist” telling somebody about the prospective pastors they’re considering. The requirement of confidentiality means not telling anyone outside the PNC other than appropriate people at the Presbytery level – not even one’s spouse. People who can’t keep confidences don’t belong on the PNC.
- Ability to deal with disappointment and frustration. The PNC’s work is highly likely to have its ups and downs. The committee may find it difficult to agree on a pastor. Personality clashes are likely. The committee may decide unanimously on a pastor, only to have that person turn them down (in fact, in today’s environment, such a scenario is likely to repeat itself). The ability to deal with such frustration in a healthy manner is crucial.
- Ability to help build consensus. Presbytery policy requires a unanimous final decision by the PNC regarding their nomination of a pastor. (Other decisions do not have to be unanimous.) For the rationale behind this requirement, see “Covenants for Pastor Nominating Committees.” Consensus-building is not the same as compromise, although compromise may be involved. Persons who have such strong opinions that they cannot listen to differing viewpoints, or see the validity in the experience of others, probably have no place on the PNC. The committee would benefit if several of its members have a special talent for helping a group beyond individual opinions to a point of consensus.
- Ability to speak one’s mind, and to listen carefully to others. The “Covenants” paper refers to both speaking and listening. You’ll want members on the PNC who know when to speak, and when to keep quiet and listen. A healthy committee will have conflict. Its members will need the ability to speak carefully, but also to listen sensitively to each other.
- Representation. In addition to such factors as age, sex, and ethnic background, the PNC should also include various theological viewpoints consistent with the Reformed understanding of the Christian faith. It might also include a balance of personality types and opinions about evangelism and worship. This calls for a considered selection by the congregation’s Nominating Committee and careful attention by the congregation when the PNC is elected. This is one good reason for the nominating committee to look at the full slate of prospective nominees before telling anyone that he or she will be nominated.
- Willingness to abide by Presbytery’s “EEO” guidelines. A willingness to consider candidates without screening them for age, gender, race, disability, or other factors unrelated to a profession of faith or to pastoral gifts and skills, is essential. A person who is unwilling to consider candidates without such screening is ineligible for the PNC (G-14-0502b). The Information Form includes a place for the PNC to affirm its intention to consider candidates on a non-discriminatory basis.
- Prayerfulness. This is the heart of it. You’re not looking for pious display but for a Christian life, lived with integrity and undergirded with prayer. One evidence of a prayerful life is a willingness and openness to have one’s mind changed – to be interrupted and taught by God.

Notes from the Keys by Brandolyn Thran
July 2017

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9
For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7

When I reflect on why I wanted to learn how to play the piano, playing in front of other people was not high on the “why” list. Once in high school I was “the piano player” for our church Christmas Program, and I remember the pressure to perform correctly stole the joy of playing, so I didn’t do *that* again...until...One day, about five years ago, I found my feet maneuvering me through the crowd at my new church in Fernley, NV and offering my gift to the very contemporary-band leader. It was an out-of-body experience, my Spirit moved me up to the front of that sanctuary that day, not my logical mind. I thought it was a pretty big step of faith when I was welcomed into the band as “keys”. However, between the electric guitars and percussion section, the piano was barely heard. The pressure was minimal so rocking out for God worked out well; no one could *really* hear me. It was safe.

When we started attending this church I heard the need for a pianist, but I kept my head down, I didn’t want to offer my gift; that would mean exposure and expectation. However, I found Spirit-self saying “I could do it”. In January, when I found myself in front of this congregation, ALL BY MYSELF, I felt very exposed and very vulnerable. After a minor freak-out and fighting the strong desire to duck-and-run, I focused on the fact that I am not the first person God has placed in very uncomfortable situations in order for growth to occur. Moses, Esther, Joshua, Paul, Peter, the list goes on and on; so why would I expect it to be any different in 2017? Silly me.

Once I accepted that the duck-and-run option was not viable, I started to pray that my playing would be “bold and courageous”. Bold and courageous; playing for God, not for people. Bold and courageous; to move people into worship, not a performance about Brandolyn. Bold and courageous; to learn what I needed to learn in the unknown, not run back to safety of the known. I know that both times my piano gift has been offered into service for others it has been my Spirit moving my feet and mouth. Left up to me, the very human me, I would keep my gift hidden in my own home, safe where mistakes are not heard and I’m not vulnerable to critics. But how does that bring glory to God?

As 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us, we are not to be timid because we have a Spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. That verse strips away all excuses for me. God expects us to move into the unknown in a bold and courageous fashion, not focusing on the vulnerability tied to fear and unknown, but focusing on the power He gives each one of us when we accept Him as our Savior. That known, the known that God goes before us, is with us and is for us, and that we have power, love and self-discipline should overpower any of our unknowns.

What are you not doing because the vulnerability seems too much? My hope is that you become more “bold and courageous” and move into your unknown with power, love and self-discipline.

"We Saved You a Seat" For a New Sunday School Class This Fall About Friendship

Rebecca Schaffner and Kristi Lyn Glass will be leading an (in)Real Life sponsored Adult Sunday School class this fall called " We Saved You a Seat." Teens are also welcome to attend. The class is about how to find and keep friendships. The series is a follow-up to the Adult Sunday School classes on friendship that Kristi led at FPC a few years ago.

Each session will feature a video presentation followed by discussion. Participants will use a study guide during the week for more in-depth learning and introspection about friendship challenges.

The class will start Sept. 17th, during the 9-10 am FPC Sunday School hour, and it will be at least 7 Sunday sessions long. An additional 5 sessions may be added to the schedule by including video presentations from the fall (in)Real Life "Friended" event to be held in Nashville, TN, and available for in-home viewing via simulcast.

The first 10 people to reserve a seat for this Sunday School series will receive a free interactive study guidebook. After the first 10 books are reserved, the book will cost each participant \$12.99 plus shipping and tax. Contact Kristi at 775-738-3520 or Kristi@KristiLynGlass.com if you want to sign up, and she will reserve you one of the free study guides or place a study guide order for you.

For more information, see <http://www.lifeway.com/n/Product-Family/We-Saved-You-A-Seat> and <http://www.incourage.me/2017/06/big-news-introducing-real-life-friended.html>

Thank you for welcoming me back to the First Presbyterian Church of Elko. Your loving kindness has meant so much! Our family has been so blessed by the many years of fellowship, your caring support through Mom's illness and now into this new season with Dad and me.

" Wherever we go, God is sending us; wherever we are, God has put us there - He has a purpose in our being there." in the last few years I have called that "My Trust Trip Life". So here I am "trust tripping" with you all! I come with hope and encouragement! What the world needs now is "love sweet love" ... and that's what First Pres Elko has to offer! I pray for the unity of our church as we receive more of God's love and explore new ways to bring this love to Elko and beyond.

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant our church, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man of each person, that Christ may dwell in First Pres Elko through faith; that it being ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to KNOW the love of Christ which passes knowledge that our church may BE FILLED with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is ABLE to do exceedingly abundantly above all that First Pres Elko ask or think according to the power that works in us, the congregation. To Him be glory in First Pres Elko by Christ Jesus to ALL generations (past, present, and future) forever and ever. Amen." (Eph. 3:14-21 NKJV)

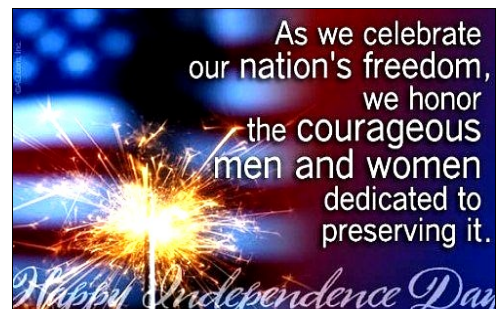
Lovingly in Christ,
Ginny Collett Oustad

Independence Day fun facts

Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence on a "laptop," a kind of writing desk that could fit on one's lap.

Did you know Thomas Jefferson changed the wording of the Declaration of Independence from "the pursuit of property" to "the pursuit of happiness"?

The Liberty Bell had nothing to do with July 4th. It wasn't called the "Liberty Bell" until the 1830s and that's also when it got its famous crack





Dr. Hugh Collett and Bob Burns Jr. were two of the surviving founders of Great Basin College. They were on hand to watch students receive their Diplomas. The late Mark

Chilton, Norman Glaser, Dr. Leslie Moren, Paul Sawyer were also instrumental in the success of GBC.

Emily Fonder played the trumpet with professional jazz artists during the annual Emil Matys Jazz Fest.

Nick Halton presented the Rotary Club Scholarship to **Skylar Merschel**.

Jim Byars presented the Elko Masonic Lodge No 15 scholarship to three students.

Scholarships Awarded:

Rev. Ralph C. Bolin Scholarships: **Emily Fonder and Trenton Freitag**.

Newmont: **Emily Fonder**;

Barrick: **Trenton Freitag**,

Jeston Pray Memorial: **Trenton Freitag**.

Evergreen State College: **Cassidy Jones**,

University of Jamestown Football scholarship:

Trenton Freitag,

Utah State University: **Emily Fonder**.

Academic Recognition Awards:

Gold: **Emily Fonder and Trenton Freitag**.

Volleyball award: **Lexi Baum**

Building and Grounds Committee needs some more handymen and women! Please let Bertha know if you are willing to volunteer to help this committee keep our building and grounds in good condition.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS Jeff and Christi Boyd, our mission workers, will be here on August 6 to preach and tell us about their work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, and Equatorial Guinea (Jeff) and Madagascar, Niger, Rwanda, and South Sudan (Christi). They hope to be able to stay for part of the Vacation Bible School activities that begin that week.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

There is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the office for anyone interested in purchasing a Church Directory. They are ordered in units of 25 to keep the cost at \$10 each. We will order when we have enough interest.

Congregational Meeting to elect 2 Elders and 2 Deacons and making changes to the By-Laws will be held on July 9 immediately following worship.

If you don't go after what you want, you'll never have it. If you don't ask, the answer is always no. If you don't step forward, you'll always be in the same place.

T G I S

(Take Groceries In Sunday)

Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation



The Mission Committee is collecting non-perishable food items to be distributed to local non-profit organizations. These organizations may now have a greater need since families with school-aged children won't benefit from school meal programs. **Please check expiration dates** and place your donations in the container in front of the church office. Thank you for your previous contributions.

Thank you for your help

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

07/02	Vicki Matys, Jan Webb, Nickel Family, Toni Mendive
07/09	Bondo Family, Tara Lounsbery, Van Slyke Family, Liz Better
07/16	Boyce Family, Patty Fisk, Jill Phillips, Norero Family
07/23	Pike Family, Vicki Goicoechea, Clarice Gamboa, Kristi Glass
07/30	Gary Family, Alyssa Culp, Jerry Cooney, Toni Mendive



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



BIRTHDAYS

07/06 Emily Fonder
07/07 Jeff Kump
07/05 Charline Hull
07/09 Robert Burns
07/09 Jordan Norero
07/10 Rebecca Thompson
07/14 Jenifer Henry
07/14 Rob Thran
07/16 Brandolyn Thran
07/16 Ann Haglund
07/17 Jennifer Koopman
07/23 Tania Kump
07/23 Glen Guttry
07/24 Mary Craig
07/24 Mark Van Slyke



Happy Birthday!

Please call the church office if you don't see your birthday listed.

Thanks to our 1st Presbyterian family for the cards, prayers, food, flowers, good wishes and general support. All have been much appreciated, and we hope you will continue with the good wishes and prayers. Ann's hip is healing, although (of course) slower than she'd like, and we know your prayers have been good 'boosters' in the process. We are surely blessed by all of you.

Bill & Ann Nisbet



Hero Central

Vacation Bible School

August 7—11

8:45—12:15 For children and Youth, 3 years old through entering sixth grade. Registration forms are available in the church office.

Per Capita is \$40.00 per member




In order to cut costs we are asking all **non-church groups** using the Xerox machine to pay for any copies made on the church Xerox machine. The cost is 10 cents a copy. Thanks for helping to keep costs down.

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.



July – 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 9:30 Worship Music & Worship Youth serving the homeless	3 Office Closed 6:00 Boy Scouts	4 Office Closed 	5 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 VBS Prep 5:30 Cub Scouts	6 12:00 Al-Alon 5:30 NAMI	7	8 10:00 Memorial Service for Ruth Hoskins
9 9:30 Worship <u>Congregational Meeting</u> Mission Meeting	10 5:30 Cub Scouts 6:00 Boy Scouts	11 11:30 Hobby Lunch 1:00 Hobby Group 6:00 Youth Group	12 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 VBS Prep	13 12:00 Al-Alon 5:30 NAMI	14	15 All Day A & B Cleaning Service will be stripping the floors in the Fellowship Hall
16 9:30 Worship <u>Final Mission Study</u> Deacons Meeting	17 6:00 Boy Scouts	18 <u>DEADLINE FOR DESERT PULPIT ARTICLES</u> 1:00 Hobby Group 6:00 Youth Group	19 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 VBS Prep	20 12:00 Al-Alon 5:30 NAMI	21	22 All Day A & B Cleaning service will be stripping the floors in the class rooms
23 9:30 Worship C.E. Meeting	24 6:00 Boy Scouts	25 1:00 Hobby Group 6:00 Youth Group	26 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 VBS Prep	27 12:00 Al-Alon 5:30 NAMI	28	29
30 9:30 Worship	31 6:00 Boy Scouts					