

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—ELKO 1559 SEWELL DR., ELKO, NEVADA

#### TOM'S CORNER:

Now that fall is upon us it shouldn't come as a surprise that the church is sending out its annual Stewardship letter. It is usually written in a manner that extols the virtues of giving, with a line or two of scripture to illustrate that point.

I am writing at this time to tell you that I pledge to the church each year for purely selfish reasons. I pledge because I want First Presbyterian Church to exist-and given your generosity, to thrive- because if it didn't there are so many things about it that I would miss dearly. I would miss having that time on Sunday morning that I can spend thinking about the holy, in a place I feel accepted and loved. I would miss the community of parishioners and friends that I have developed through this church, some of whom I only see at worship each Sunday or at church-sponsored events. I would miss the music that we experience together each Sunday and throughout the year. I would also miss the learning that we experience together about Christ and his church during Sunday school time each week.

I am sure that each one of you would have your own list of things, events and people that you would miss if First Presbyterian Church didn't exist (many of which would be less selfish than my own).

I can also tell you that it would be impossible for First Presbyterian Church to continue to exist if a very large number of you didn't make an annual pledge. And as you probably already know pledges allow the Session to make a responsible budget each year.

In recent years the church universal has struggled to meet its mission expectations, deal with losses in membership, and also meet physical plant maintenance requirements. This church however continues to maintain a true commitment to outreach, and we need to remember to celebrate that. Our financial record-keeping is in much better shape since I first came here a little over a year ago. And again this year it is my hope that everyone will pledge a percentage of their income and increase their giving if their income has increased. And also remember if you're not currently tithing, that's always something to strive towards because God never lets us down. Please begin thinking prayerfully, progressively, and proportionally about your giving.

In today's current uncertain financial climate, you may pause about declaring a pledge. I would encourage you that now is the perfect time to stand up and claim your priorities. Now is the time to say, **this is my church family** and it is an ultimate priority. It is where I receive my spiritual nourishment. It is the place that challenges me to live beyond the voice of culture to a freer life of faith.

You are a congregation of generous people. May you give generously to the church's ministry and mission for next year as the (PNC) Pastor Nominating Committee has already started the process of securing and calling your next called pastor. As you give, may you know the joy of giving and the satisfaction of knowing what an important presence this church is in this community of Elko and the world.

On Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup> I preached my first Stewardship sermon entitled – “*What is God asking of You?*” I'll be preaching two more Stewardship sermons on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> we will be receiving your pledge cards during worship that morning. On Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating our annual “Reaping of the Harvest” as a Thanksgiving ‘potluck’ meal after worship in the fellowship hall. I hope many of you plan on attending. Blessings to each and all of you in the coming New Year.

Reverend Tom Holslag and ‘The Stewardship Committee’



#### Interim Pastor.....

Tom Holslag

Director of Family  
Ministries.....

Melissa Fonder

Office Manager.....

Bertha Lister

Financial Secretary...

Caren McBride

Organist .....

Jim Hill

Pianist .....

Brandolyn Thran

Choir Director.....

Patty Fisk

Desert Pulpit Editor....

Bertha Lister

Church Office.....

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Website.....

[ElkoFirstPres.org](http://ElkoFirstPres.org)

Fackbook.....

[www.facebook.com/First](http://www.facebook.com/First)

[Presbyterian.ChurchOf](http://Presbyterian.ChurchOf)

[Elko](http://Elko)

## Director of Family Ministries



### **Sunday School**

Sunday School is in full swing and everyone is welcome! Classes start at 9:00am.

Our Sunday School Classes:

1. Children through 4th Grade - Seasons of the Spirit in the Children's Church Room with Sally Winsly
2. Youth 5th through 12th Grade - Seasons of the Spirit in the Youth Room with Melissa Fonder
3. College/Young Adults - Revelations at Cool Beans with Charlyn Van Slyke
4. Adults - Seasons of the Spirit in the Adult Sunday School Classroom with Mike Jones & Tara Lounsbery
5. Adults Seasons of the Spirit in the Parlor with Kathy Reyes & Judi Boyce
6. Women We Saved You a Seat in the Classroom beside the Resource Room with Kristi Glass & Becky Schaffner
7. Adults New Members Class in Melissa's Office with Reverend Tom (through October 15)

### **Nursery**

### **HELP WANTED**

We are seeking a Sunday morning Nursery Attendant for 8:45am to 11:45am (approximately) during Sunday School and Worship. Please contact Sally Winsley if you are interested in this paid position.

### **Children**

The children of the church are participating the "Nickels for Nets" Missions Project. Children will be collecting money through the last Sunday in October (10/29/17). All proceeds go to "Sweet Sleep" for mosquito nets for orphans.

### **Youth Kids 6th through 12th Grade**

- The Youth Group meets every Sunday afternoon until 2:30 for lunch, missions, and Bible study.
- We also meet on Tuesday nights from 6:00 to 8:00 for games and fellowship.

### **College**

The college/young adults are meeting at Charlyn's house each Saturday afternoon at 4:30 for a potluck and Revelations D&D.

**Adult Bible Studies;** Our current adult Bible Studies:

1. Women's Monday 9:00 am study with Becky Schaffner
2. Men's Monday 9:00 am study with Reverend Tom
3. Adults Wednesday 9:30 am study with Kathy Reyes

### **Children's Leaders in October:**

- October 1
- October 8
- October 15
- October 22
- October 29

### **Children's Message**

Becky Schaffner  
Victor Godina & Youth  
Melissa Fonder  
Becky Schaffner  
Heather Neroro

### **Children's Church**

Melissa Fonder & Youth  
Heather Norero  
Bev Klem  
Malissa Bisson  
Becky Schaffner

**"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers"**



October blessings,  
Melissa

Notes from the Keys by Brandolyn Thran  
October 2017

*“Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy, think about such things.” Phil 4:8*

Playing the piano brings me so much joy. Practicing is my favorite, however “performing” on Sunday is just a necessary evil of the job. When I practice it is me and God, the music flows from my heart through my fingers and into my ears, and an indescribable joy is felt. The sound of the blending notes, the rhythm of the song, my breathing fluid with the music, and the movement of my fingers without really even thinking about it – it is heaven on earth! I find myself playing with abandoned recklessness and passion, and it is so much fun!

When I play on Sunday, however, it is me, God, and a whole lot of people! I find my hands shake, my breath is short and sometimes forgotten until it becomes a gasp, counting to 4 becomes challenging, and it feels less like heaven and more like being squashed. My ears hear the tension in my playing, a reduced volume, the tangling of my fingers and a measured attempt a solidier would be proud of, to get it “right”.

Then, the epiphany happened this 10<sup>th</sup> month of playing, sometimes a-ha moments are slow to materialize!! It donned on me at practice, wrong notes just float into the music and are part of the whole, but on Sunday wrong notes blare out so loud that they are all I remember; my focus moves from enjoying a gift to critical judgement.

Who else is guilty of this? Focusing on the wrong note – the wrong note that most people probably didn’t even hear, the wrong note that was one of 99 right notes, the wrong note that didn’t make a difference in the overall piece, the wrong note that just sucks up any joy like a vacuum? Focus on the wrong word spoken at the dinner table amid many compliments? Focus on the mistake made 20 years ago amid millions of good decisions? Focus on the one poor test score amid the many A’s and B’s? Focus on the one mistake amid the many atta-boys your supervisor gives you?

Focus is a choice; where we focus our attention is our choice. The Bible tells us in Philippians 4:8 where we are to focus, *“Whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy, think about such things.”* Wrong notes, mean words, poor test scores, and mistakes are not what we are to focus on. We can certainly acknowledge them, because we do need to recognize where improvements can be made or learning needs to occur, but we don’t FOCUS on them...there is a difference between acknowledgement and focus. According to the Oxford Dictionary acknowledgement is the “acceptance of the truth or existence of something” and focus is “the center of interest or activity”. We need to accept we did something less than desirable, but we don’t have to make it the center of our universe. We don’t have to let the acknowledgement steal our focus from things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and praiseworthy!

With my new awareness, my goal is to approach playing on Sunday more like practice, with more reckless abandon, and when I hit those wrong notes, because I will hit them, they will be loud and proud and acknowledged, but my focus will remain on the opportunity to serve God and the joy that brings.

My hope is that if you also struggle with joy-stealing moments, that you too will practice separating acknowledgement and focus, and find more joy today than you did yesterday.

# Nevada Day—October 31

Carson City's Nevada Day parade and celebrations is among the oldest ongoing parade activities held in the Silver State, and, with the exception of Hawaii and West Virginia, is the only admission day activity of its kind in the country.

Regarding the inaugural parade in 1938, the Daily Appeal claimed the event was "Nevada's largest and best Admission Day celebration in the history of the state." Celebrating Nevada Day in Carson City is a long time-honored tradition, but the history on commemorating our statehood predates the 1938 parade by more than 60 years.

The eight-day birthday bash in the centennial year of 1964 was far and away a record-breaker. Tom Wilson, co-founder of Carson City's Nevada Day and chairman of the Centennial Commission, Governor Grant Sawyer had planned the event for three years. The Saturday parade with over 230 entries was three hours long, the longest up to that time (ironically, the typical length of a parade today). Governor Grant Sawyer presented "Adoption" plaques to the "Bonanza" cast and company including parade marshal Lorne Greene, Michael Landon, and Dan Blocker. An estimated 70,000 people watched the parade which was broadcast in its entirety by TV station KOLO in Reno and filmed by UPI crews for California stations. Since then, whenever October 31 has fallen on a Sunday, the parade has been held on Saturday, October 30 (1971, 1976, 1982, and 1993). In 1971, the law governing holidays was amended to designate Friday as the state holiday when October 31 falls on a Saturday.

The Nevada Day parade and celebration in Carson City has become a long-standing tradition and the Silver State's largest parade. It has witnessed Nevada's 75th, 100th, and 125th anniversaries. Now in our state's 137th year, conceivably the Nevada Day activities during the three day weekend will grow along with the fastest-growing state in the union, the fastest-growing metropolitan area in the country (Las Vegas) and our ever-growing capital city.

**Elko's 29th annual Nevada Day Parade** will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 28. This year Nevada will be celebrating 152 years of statehood and the City of Elko will be celebrating its centennial in 2017. The Knights of Columbus Council 2511 and Assembly 614 announced that the parade theme this year is "**Elko Centennial: Keeping Traditions Strong for 100 Years and beyond.**"

## Home, Means Nevada

Way out in the land of the setting sun,  
Where the wind blows wild and free,  
There's a lovely spot, just the only one  
That means home sweet home to me.  
If you follow the old Kit Carson trail,  
Until desert meets the hills,  
Oh you certainly will agree with me,  
It's the land of a thousand thrills.  
Home, means Nevada,  
Home, means the hills,  
Home, means the sage and the pine.  
Out by the Truckee's silvery rills,  
Out where the sun always shines,  
There is the land that I love the best,  
Fairer than all I can see.  
Right in the heart of the golden west  
Home, means Nevada to me.

Whenever the sun at the close of day  
Colors all the western sky,  
Oh my heart returns to the desert grey  
And the mountains tow'ring high.  
Where the moon beams play in shadowed glen,  
With the spotted fawn and doe,  
All the live long night until morning light,  
Is the loveliest place I know.  
Home, means Nevada,  
Home, means the hills,  
Home, means the sage and the pines.  
Out by the Truckee's silvery rills,  
Out where the sun always shines,  
There is the land that I love the best,  
Fairer than all I can see.  
Right in the heart of the golden west  
Home, means Nevada to me.

## HURRAH!

We hope that you are sitting down, because

**it's time for the Presbyterian Women's No Work Bazaar,**

when you get to just relax and put your feet up.

All you have to do is: sit in your chair, write a check, put it in the envelope, and bring it to the Church or add a stamp and mail it.

This donation will help Presbyterian Women reach out to our community in your name with God's guidance.

Please make your check payable to:

Presbyterian Women – No Work Bazaar

**We so appreciate your support!**

**Thank you so much!**



**Monday, Oct. 30  
the church office  
will be closed to  
observe Nevada  
Day.**



## Building and Grounds Committee

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is in need of some more handymen and

women! Please let the church office if you are willing to volunteer to help this committee keep our building and grounds in good condition.

## HEIFER

Thank you for all your support of Heifer International! Your donations totaled \$2,363.00 and with the donations of \$236.00 made during VBS, we are able to send \$2,599.00 to Heifer. It takes \$1000 to provide an entire village with BioGas stoves. No longer will those villagers have to gather firewood by hand, depleting the soil and environment. No longer will those villagers have to breathe in the smoke that causes lung and eye diseases. In addition we will be able to send \$1500 for a Joy to the World Basket, which consists of two sheep, four goats, one heifer and two llamas. These animals will provide wool for blankets and clothing, sustain families with enough rich milk to feed dozens of people, and raise money for food, clothing, medicine and school tuition - and also provide manure for the BioGas stoves – which will produce fertilizer and methane gas. And one of the big reasons Heifer is worth our support during the Heifer Service each year is that each recipient of an animal has the responsibility and joy of Passing on the Gift of an offspring to another family. Thank you for your generosity.



## WHERE HAVE YOU VOLUNTEERED THIS YEAR?

Membership and Evangelism is compiling a list of all volunteer work of members and friends of the church.

We would like each of you to make a list of the work you have done in the church and community this past year. This could be individual things such as mowing lawns or shoveling snow for the Church or a neighbor, or group projects like Hobby Group. Include any and all volunteer work around the church and community including Charlie's Angels, taking food to those in need, helping flood or fire victims. You all do so many things no one ever knows about. Please include them.

Some of you not only volunteer with work, but also with donations of things besides money. Please include them.

If you wish to remain anonymous, please indicate that on your list. We mainly want to become aware of the church family volunteers and the projects you have contributed to. No names will be published; however, we will publish the list of projects in the Desert Pulpit so that our church family will be aware of all the good things we do and all the places others can become involved in.

Please get your list in to the church office by December 31. Give them to Bertha or put in my box. Thank you. Kathy Reyes



## 2 FREE STUDY GUIDES LEFT FOR "WE SAVED YOU A SEAT" WOMEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

About Friendship Rebecca Schaffner and Kristi Lyn Glass are leading an (in)Real Life sponsored Sunday School class for teen and adult women this fall called " We Saved You a Seat." The class features a Bible-based approach to how to find and keep friendships. The series is a follow-up to the Sunday School classes on friendship that Kristi led at FPC a few years ago.

Each session features a video presentation followed by discussion. Participants may use the class' study guide during the week for more in-depth learning and introspection about their personal friendship challenges.

The class meets during the 9-10 a.m. FPC Sunday School hour through Dec. 10 (skipping Thanksgiving weekend). In addition to the seven sessions covered by the study guide, five sessions will include video presentations from the Oct. 14, 2017, (in)Real Life "Friendened" event to be held in Nashville, TN, available for later viewing via streaming internet video. Here are the upcoming session topics:

Oct. 15	Friendened event speech #1
Oct. 22	Friendened event speech #2
Oct. 29	Friendened event speech #3
Nov. 5	Friendened event speech #4
Nov. 12	Friendened event speech #5
Nov. 19	Friendship takes forgiveness
Dec. 3	Friendship takes walking away wisely
Dec. 10	Friendship takes action

Two of the 10 free 160-page paperback interactive study guidebooks are still available. Contact Kristi at 775-738-3520 or [Kristi@KristiLynGlass.com](mailto:Kristi@KristiLynGlass.com) if you want one of the free study guides.

**Walk-ins to the class are welcome at any time.** You do not have to have a study guide or complete any homework to benefit from the class and learn how to gain and keep lasting friendships. **Come join us! We saved you a seat!**

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-friendened.html>

## T G I S (Take Groceries In Sunday)



There's a Nip in the Air

The Mission Committee is now collecting cold weather items for men and women who might be in need. Suggested items are hats, gloves, scarfs, socks, or anything else to help stay warm this winter. Your donations will be given to Underdog Street Ministries.

Please place your donations in the box in front of the church office. Thank you for your previous contributions of school supplies for Gifts of the Heart.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### SEPTEMBER

Acknowledging elders and deacons installed and ordained for vacated positions was reviewed: Elders - Victor Godina and Patty Fisk; Deacons, Robbie Nickel and Heather Norero. Pastor Nominating Committee members were commissioned: Tim Pike, Frances Schain Erin Munson, Rebecca Schaffner, Patty Fisk and (alternate) Judy Bondo. Committee. PER CAPITA per member for 2018 is \$ 42.00.

### OCTOBER

Key policy received and approved and will be made available through the church office.

Updates on committee activities received with projects to be reviewed for future funding. Nominating committee reported near completion of nominees for church officers.

Reverend Tom is leading Session through Elder leadership training at Session meetings and this will continue as a standard for the foreseeable future.

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

- 10/01 Tara Lounsbery, Hill Family, Diana Jones, Munson Family, Heather Norero  
10/08 Nickel Family, Byars Family, Kristi Glass, Patty Fisk, Halton Family  
10/15 Sally Winsley, Renee Sawyer, Kump Family, Sue Melsher, D'Ette Burgess  
10/22 Pruitt Family, Boyce Family, Henry Family, Vicki Matys, Nisbet Family  
10/29 Roberta Gallegos, Pike Family, Joan Zunino, Lee Reiersen, Van Slyke Family



You will also need to help set up and clean up



*Everyone Welcome!*

**Per Capita is \$42.00 per member**

### BIRTHDAYS

- 10/01 Jo Arthur  
10/06 James Niday  
10/19 Mike Jones  
10/21 Marge Polkinghorne  
10/23 Ed Gillins  
10/25 Skylar Merschel  
10/26 Lynn Bondo  
10/26 Pat Pearce  
10/26 Mary Marie Tomera  
10/27 Sydney Reed  
10/27 Jennie Anderson  
10/30 Catherine Kump



**UGANDA SALE** November 12th during fellowship. We will have more of the wonderful handmade items from Uganda. Add to all of that, beautiful Christmas ornaments, masks and hand carved elephants. All of the items are handmade and one of a kind. The Mission committee hosts this project and all the proceeds go back to the guilds of GrassRoots Uganda. Our church is excited to be a small part of this life changing project.



**Lexie Baum** was selected as Elko High School all-around three sport student, competing in volleyball, basketball and track. She was also the Athlete Student of the week.

**Sonya Kirby**, granddaughter of **Kathy and Leon Reyes** shot a 4.6 bull elk last October.

**Kaitlyn McLeod** helped with the winning corner kick during the soccer game between Spring Creek and Lowry. She also kicked the winning goal during the game with the Spring Creek Lady Spartans.

**Alex Smith** was homecoming king for Elko High School. His parents are **Paul and Michelle Smith**.

**Jaxon Tomera** sold his 4-H Champion beef cow to Boss Tanks.

**Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.**

Psalm 96.2



# October – 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 Communion</p> <p>9:00 Bible Study for all ages</p> <p>9:00 New Members Class</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p> <p>Worship &amp; Music meeting</p> <p>12:00 Youth Studies</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00 Handbells</p> <p>9:00 Women's Bible Study</p> <p>9:00 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 Handbells</p> <p>1:00 Hobby Group</p> <p>6:00 Youth</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00 Handbells</p> <p>9:00 Tai Chi</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>4:30 Webelos</p> <p>4:30 Lions</p> <p>5:30 Wolves/Bears</p> <p>5:45 Choir Practice</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:00—1:00 PW Bible Study Group</p> <p>5:30 Tigers</p> <p>5:30 NAMI</p>	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 Bible Study for all ages</p> <p>9:00 New Members Class</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p> <p>Mission Meeting</p> <p>12:00 Youth Studies</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00 Handbells</p> <p>9:00 Women's Bible Study</p> <p>9:00 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00 Handbells</p> <p>1:00 Hobby Group</p> <p>6:00 Youth</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00 Handbells</p> <p>9:00 Tai Chi</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>4:30 Webelos</p> <p>4:30 Lions</p> <p>5:30 Wolves/Bears</p> <p>5:45 Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:30 Tigers</p> <p>5:30 NAMI</p>	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 Bible Study for all ages</p> <p>9:00 New Members Class</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p> <p>Deacon Meeting</p> <p>12:00 Youth Studies</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00 Handbells</p> <p>9:00 Women's Bible Study</p> <p>9:00 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>3:00 M &amp; E</p> <p>6:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:00 Handbells</p> <p>1:00 Hobby Group</p> <p>6:00 Session</p> <p>6:00 Youth</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00 Handbells</p> <p>9:00 Tai Chi</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>4:30 Webelos</p> <p>4:30 Lions</p> <p>5:30 Wolves/Bears</p> <p>5:45 Choir Practice</p>	<p>19</p> <p>5:30 Tigers</p> <p>5:30 NAMI</p>	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 Bible Study for all ages</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p> <p>C.E. Meeting</p> <p>12:00 Youth Studies</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:00 Handbells</p> <p>9:00 Women's Bible Study</p> <p>9:00 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00 Handbells</p> <p>1:00 Hobby Group</p> <p>6:00 Youth</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00 Handbells</p> <p>9:00 Tai Chi</p> <p>9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>4:30 Webelos</p> <p>4:30 Lions</p> <p>5:30 Wolves/Bears</p> <p>5:45 Choir Practice</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:30 Tigers</p> <p>5:30 NAMI</p>	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 Bible Study for all ages</p> <p>10:15 Worship</p> <p>12:00 Youth Studies</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:00 Handbells</p> <p>9:00 Women's Bible Study</p> <p>9:00 Men's Bible Study</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:00 Handbells</p> <p>1:00 Hobby Group</p> <p>NEVADA DAY</p>				