

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



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It's the holiday season! A season for giving thanks for all we have in our lives.

We usually have no problem being thankful for the good things in our lives. But, being thankful for the hard things we experience is a serious challenge for most of us.

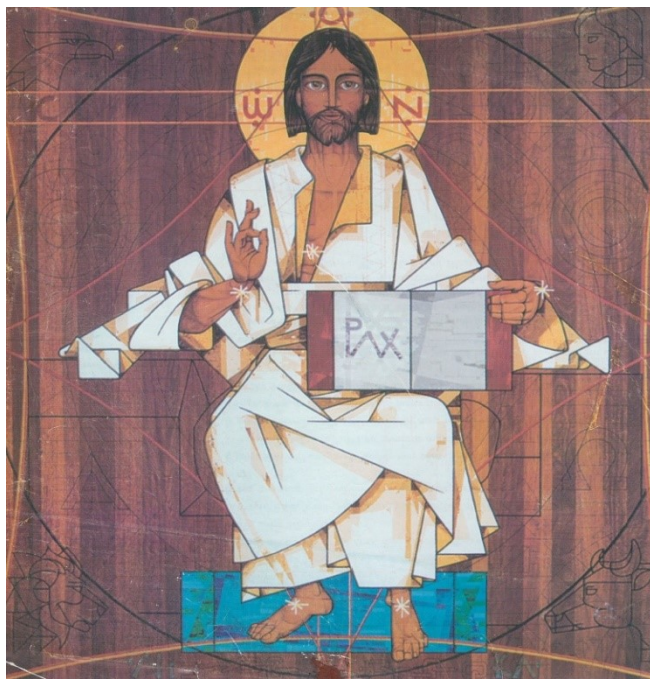
Paul tells us to “give thanks in all circumstances.” That sounds pretty difficult to me. However, perhaps the “secret” to being thankful in every situation lies in the directions surrounding that admonition. We are to “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-19, NRSV)

To pray without ceasing is to recognize that no matter what we're doing or where we are, Christ is with us and is available to us as readily as our breath, and that is certainly something we can rejoice in. God wants us to live with that mindset; to trust that even in the most trying times, we are his and he is ours. When we embrace that truth, we are better able to face the storms of life.

This year has been/is strange in a way most of us have never experienced. Our lives have been changed in ways large and small, and it is next to impossible not to feel frustrated by the limits this pandemic has forced upon us. Even if we haven't lost someone dear to us due to Covid-19, we are more isolated, lonelier and bored or overwhelmed. How easy does anyone find it to give thanks for this season!

We are not called to give thanks for a virus, nor for any illness. Rather we can give thanks that regardless of the circumstances we face God is still God and is and will remain the victor over every darkness.

Sunday, November 22nd we celebrate Christ the King or the Reign of Christ. It is the end of the liturgical Church year when we affirm and celebrate Christ's ultimate victory over death in all its forms. The icon below is a marvelous depiction of Christ the King.



Christ the King, glorified, on his THRONE. On either side the Greek letters ALPHA and OMEGA declare Christ the first and the last. The letters on his HALO are the initials of the Greek words meaning “The Living One.” His WOUNDS are visible as points of light. The FIGURE OF CHRIST is opaque to symbolize his imposing prominence while all else is transparent and transient. His white vestments represent divinity shining through humanity. He holds the OPEN BIBLE with the word PAX (peace): the first word Jesus spoke to the apostles following his resurrection. At his feet is the azure sea (the rectangular block) which, in *Revelation*, was before the throne and was surrounded by the saints. The CIRCLES, representative of eternity and the universe, are filled with the SUN, MOON, STARS and WINDS and are transcended by the length and breadth of the CROSS, symbolizing salvation extending beyond all bounds. The four evangelists are represented in the four corners by THE EAGLE for Joh, THE MAN for Matthew, THE OX for Luke and THE LION for Mark.

The season of Advent begins on November 29th. It is the beginning of a new Church year. We return to the first coming of Christ; the birth of the Savior of the World, even as we remember that Christ the Eternal victor will return.

This year, as part of our Advent worship, we will have four Wednesday evening meetings (December 2, 9, 16 & 23) in the sanctuary focusing on the Lukan birth narratives. I hope you will join me as we explore these texts and these people in personal ways through Lectio Divina. This will also be an opportunity to learn (or refresh) the practice of Centering/Contemplative prayer. I hope you will join with me as we prepare for Christmas.

Meanwhile, Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas as they arrive!

Blessings, Pastor LaVonne

DESERT PULPIT October 22 2020

Session met October 20. Committee reports were received. Stewardship Sunday is scheduled for October 25 where the pledges will be received for the budget year of 2021. Budget review is scheduled in November. Nominating committee will be seeking leaders for the Deacons and Session so if you are interested or know of anyone who is interested in serving please contact Patty Fisk who is Chairperson for the committee.

Due to the current health concerns, many activities have been withdrawn until we can meet again as a whole community. Continue to follow the Desert Pulpit articles to keep informed regarding your particular interest.

We have returned to the sanctuary with the weather change and there is room for more of our members, so please if you are comfortable, join in the Sunday Worship services with light refreshments served in the Fellowship Hall.

If there are any concerns, requests or suggestions you may wish to offer, please contact the office, Reverend LaVonne or the committee chairperson so that your needs or concerns can be addressed.

Blessings to all and prayers for each and everyone of you,

Esther Circle resumed meeting.

Our next meeting will be Nov. 19th in the Parlor at 1:00 p.m.

Mission

Your support for the Navajo Strong drive was phenomenal. We added \$200.00 to the earlier \$1,177 we had sent. Doug Kilmer from Cottonwood Presbyterian is going to shop for us again and add to another drive they are doing this month to continue support. Thank you. You are a generous congregation! Pictures are on the mission bulletin board in the church.

We sent \$300.00 to help the Department of Child and Family Services provide necessities to children who come to them with nothing but the clothing on their backs. DCFS provides gift cards so older children can choose their own clothing.

Your support of the 2 Cents a Meal program has helped Community in Schools and Underdog Street Ministries this year. We are mailing a check for \$362.67 to Underdog for this past quarter. We chose to support Community in Schools again this next quarter because they are helping provide food for more children during the Covid 19 crisis.

The Joy Offering will be collected the Sunday before Christmas. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Joy Offering supports the past, present, and future leaders of our Presbyterian Church because it is split equally between the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian related school and colleges that equip communities of color.

Oregon Travels By Megan:

Well nothing too much has happened since the last time I wrote. For the last two months I've been sitting on my butt enjoying the breeze that always smells like flowers and the fact that the leaves actually turn colors here. Recently I've had more excitement. I went crabbing for the first time in my life. It was sooooo fun. We caught 6 Dungeness and 3 Rock crabs. I am strong enough to pull up rings which is awesome. Picking crab is not my favorite activity though. My dad got a really good job that he starts October 26th. He now has a lot less stress and feels like he has a purpose. For me, I've had a few bites when it comes to an architecture internship. It's hard with COVID to find a firm that's not working from home, but I will have had informational meetings with three different companies by the time this is published. I might not have a whole lot of luck this year with an actual internship, but I will be able to ask lots of questions to help me prepare for my future. No luck on finding a church yet. Pretty much every Presbyterian church in my area is only doing prerecorded services so I haven't been able to meet anyone. Hopefully things will change in the future when COVID is done. I've been missing you guys a lot lately. I hope everyone is doing well. God Bless You All ❤️
Megan



DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE A REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION FROM YOUR IRA?

Consider giving some of your RMD payout directly to First Presbyterian Church. You won't get a charitable deduction on your tax return, but your contribution will be excluded from your taxable income. You must direct your IRA custodian to make the check directly to the church. If it's made out to you, it will be counted as taxable income even if you turn around and donate the money to the church. The IRS calls this a qualified charitable contribution (QCD), and it only works for IRAs, not 401(k)s and other plans.





1-Minute Bible Love Notes

Did you know that 100 grams of dark chocolate has as many antioxidants as 100 grams of spinach, prunes, raisins, kale, and Brussels sprouts combined?

Dark chocolate also contains more than 700 compounds that are good for our bodies, and it can help reduce our food cravings.

No, I'm not selling dark chocolate, but I wanted to make a comparison.

Many folks think of the Bible as spinach or kale, something they need, but not something they crave.

But the Bible is more like dark chocolate, something to enjoy. In addition, scripture is able to heal and strengthen our hearts and minds. It's able to reduce our cravings for the bad things in life. It's also surprisingly rich and delicious.

And it's even better than dark chocolate because you can never eat too much of it! The more you read it, the better you feel.

So, every day let's "taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalm 34:8)

IT'S FINALLY HERE

It's the Presbyterian Women's No Work Bazaar!

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

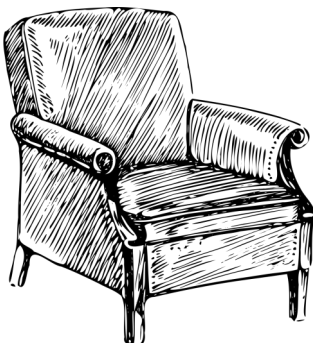
(especially in these trying times **you need to rest**)

All you have to do is sit in your chair, write a check and put it in the envelope.

Then bring it to the church or add a stamp and mail it.

This donation will help Presbyterian Women,

With God's guidance, reach out to our community in your name.



Please make check (cash works too) payable to:

Presbyterian Women— No Work Bazaar

We appreciate your support!

Thank you very much!!!

2¢ a Meal.

If you've forgotten

Is The Mission Committees project to remind us of the abundance we've received. If we, out of gratitude, donate 2 cents for each meal we eat, we can help feed Elkoans who don't share in that abundance.

This quarter's collection will be sent to
Underdog

August's collection was \$65.55

NOTE: next collection November 15



Women's Bible Study:

Wednesday morning Bible study current study is "Sermon on the Mount" by Amy-Jill Levine. We will also do a study "The Lion and the Lamb" for Advent. You are welcome to join us.

We are meeting at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall for social distancing. Please join us.

Newcomers welcome.



MISSION STATEMENT

"We believe we are called by God through the grace and love of Jesus Christ to worship joyfully, grow spiritually, love one another, serve those in need and share the good news of the gospel with everyone.."

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 to help stay warm this winter. Suggested items are hats, gloves, wool socks, long johns, and hand warmers. Also being collected are granola bars and canned, hardy foods with pop top lids such as chili and soup. These items will be given to Underdog Ministries. Any child-sized clothing will be taken to Communities in Schools. Please place your donations in the box placed in the Narthex on Sundays and in front of the church office during the week. Thank you for supporting these organizations

The Church office hours are,
9:00am-1:30pm
Monday –Thursday



Worship service are still available
Sundays via YouTube.

To find the videos, go to
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=elko+first+presbyterian+church,
or open YouTube and search for Elko
First Presbyterian Church.

To whom it may concern,

My name is JR Green. I am the director of a family services agency located in Reno. The name of the organization is Call To Compassion. One of the many services we offer is specialized family foster care.

Like other programs within a system of care approach, a fundamental assumption of treatment foster care is that the most effective treatment environment for a youth is his/her home, community, and school. Within this model, foster parents pay close attention to the youth's behavior on a daily basis and are in close communication with other members of the youth's treatment team in order to provide individualized, coordinated treatment (Fisher & Chamberlain, 2000). Treatment foster care is a "specialized" or "advanced" version of foster care in which foster parents are provided with additional training and support in order to provide specialized care and support to high-needs youth. Foster parents receive ongoing consultation and support so they are able to provide the best possible environment for the youth.

As you may already know, foster families are in high demand and there are hundreds of kids in specialized foster care, who are in need of a safe place they can call home. The rural areas of Nevada are especially in need of families. We have been in contact with the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to assist with this need.

Please, If you know of anyone interested in making an impact in a child's life, please email me at, CTCDIRECTORJG@GMAIL.COM

Thank you and God bless!

JR P. Green

Call To Compassion

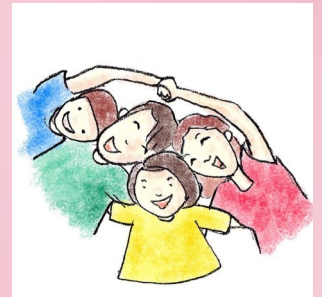
Office: 3100 Mill Street, Suite 204, Reno, NV, 89502

Mailing: P.O. Box 10522, Reno, NV 89510

Phone: 559.250.6938

Email: ctcdirectorjg@gmail.com

Website: calltocompassion.org



Attention Church Members:

We are looking for volunteers who have a passion for filming or taping our worship services. Since the beginning of Covid-19 we are recording the worship services to be seen on the church website. Contact Rev. LaVonne at the church or Patty Fisk @934-4594. Any age is qualified to volunteer for this important job.

Thanks! Worship/Music Committee.



Submissions for January—February 2021

Desert Pulpit Due

December 18th

NEWS
LETTER



The Presbyterian Coffee Project is a partnership between the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Equal Exchange, a worker-owned co-operative offering 100% fairly traded coffee, chocolate, tea. You can purchase these items in the church office during regular office hours. They make good gifts.

Sunrise Ringers of the Elko Handbells

will present 3 selections during

the December 13 church service in appreciation of continuing support from Elko First Presbyterian Church. Their annual CONCERT will be that same date - December 13 - at 4:00 pm at FPC. Details of the performance will be determined as restrictions allow. We hope to record the performance in a manner that will allow YouTube access for at least the

week following the concert, perhaps for the remainder of the month. We treasure the support of the church members and the community, and wish for all a very blessed Christmas.



BIRTHDAYS!

December

November

Erin Munson	11/02	Simon Schaffner	12/1
Alexis Freitag	11/11	Diana Jones	12/02
D'ette Burgess	11/16	Joseph McLeod	12/3
Wesley Tate	11/23	Jeannie Gillians	12/20
Evalyn Plumb	11/28	Kathy Reyes	12/24
Tim Winsley	11/30	Sarah Daniel	12/27
		Hannah Nahnacassia	12/27
		Bill Nisbet	12/27
		Janice Collett	12/28
		Doug Petersen	12/29
		Lori Passmore	12/30
		Charlie Cress	12/31



ATTENTION!

IF YOU USE THE CHURCH BUILDING, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING SURE THE DOORS ARE LOCKED AND LIGHTS ARE TURNED OFF WHEN YOU LEAVE. HELP KEEP THE CHURCH BUILDING SAFE FOR EVERYONE USING IT.



Presbytery of Nevada 31.83

Synod of the Pacific 5.22

General Assembly 8.95

Per Capita is \$46.00 per member

November -2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1. 10:15 Worship Service	2. 6:00 Bells	3. 6:00 Bells	4. 6:00 Bells 9:30 Women's Bible Study	5.	6.	7.
8. 10:15 Worship Service	9. 6:00 Bells 7:00 Joy Circle	10. 6:00 Bells	11. VETERANS DAY 6:00 Bells 9:30 Women's Bible Study OFFICE CLOSED	12.	13.	14.
15. 10:15 Worship Service	16. 6:00 Bells	17. 6:00 Bells	18. 6:00 Bells 9:30 Women's Bible Study	19. 1:00 Esther Circle	20.	21.
22. 10:15 Worship Service	23. 6:00 Bells	24. 6:00 Bells	25. 9:30 Women's Bible Study	26.	27.	28.
29. 10:15 Worship Service	30. 6:00 Bells		<p>There are two Sunday School classes available , on Sundays.</p> <p>8:00am Zoom Sunday school , Contact Mike Jones for information.</p> <p>9:00 am in person class, contact Kathy Reyes.</p>			

December -2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1. 6:00 Bells	2. 6:00 Bells 7:00 Advent Prayer and Study	3.	4.	5.
6. 10:15 Worship Service Birthday For Jesus Crèche Fest	7.	8.	9. 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Advent Prayer and Study	10.	11.	12.
13. 10:15 Worship Service 4:00pm Hand Bell Concert	14. 7:00 Joy Circle	15.	16. 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Advent Prayer and Study	17. 1:00 Esther Circle	18.	19.
20. 10:15 Worship Service	21.	22.	23. 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Advent Prayer and Study	24.	25.	26.
27. 10:15 Worship Service	28.	29.	30. 9:30 Women's Bible Study	31.		

Advent 2020

Daily Scripture and Readings in Preparation for Christmas

SUNDAY

29 NOVEMBER Mercy Rules

God knows what we need most for Christmas this year—freedom from our sins.

Isaiah 63:16-19; 64:2-7

MONDAY

30 Good News

We have heard and believe. Now spread the good news that Jesus is Lord to the ends of the earth.

Romans 10:9-18

TUESDAY

1 DECEMBER Newborn King

Jesus rules like no other—he aims only to bring peace.

Psalms 72

WEDNESDAY

2 Living Stones

We are chosen and precious living stones, built up to offer sacrifices to Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-9

THURSDAY

3 Wishing

The greatest Christmas gift is the joy of building one's home on faith in Christ, our foundation.

Matthew 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY

4 Shining On

May each twinkling light, each glowing candle, grant you the comfort of God's protection.

Psalms 27:1, 4, 13-14

SATURDAY

5 Peace on Earth

God's kingdom arrives when bounty, healing and wisdom come to all.

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26

A PRAYER FOR LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES

In the darkness we light a flame of hope. May it dance not only upon our Advent wreath but within each of our hearts as well. Hope is the flower that blooms from the ground of faith. And so, with joy, we keep the tradition of ages past as we encircle our Advent wreath with love and prayerful expectation. May this Advent season bring us a new birth of hope in the ancient promises of God. Amen.

6 Thy Kingdom Come

Though we count the days to his coming, God is not bound by time.

2 Peter 3:8-14

7 On the Roof

Whether you come bearing gifts or bring others to the blessing, God is glorified in it.

Luke 5:17-26

8 Christmas Caroling

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, a melody of the marvelous things he has done.

Psalms 98:1-4

9 Be Still

Wearied of all the season's activity already? Find your rest in the presence of the Lord.

Isaiah 40:25-31

10 Follow Him

John humbled himself and pointed the way to Jesus. This alone is what makes him great.

Matthew 11:11-15

11 Ignore the Appearance

Look beyond the seasonal surface and see the peace, hope and joy beneath it.

Matthew 11:16-19

12 The Most High

Christ came down from on high to each of us, who serve him in humility.

Luke 1:26-38

13 We Are Called

Mary was blessed to receive the mission of carrying God within her.

Luke 1:46-54

14 Heaven's Authority

The power from above is present in the words and deeds of Christ, who is God-sent.

Matthew 21:23-27

15 Sing Out

Lord, may every word that comes from my mouth today give you glory and praise.

Psalms 34:2-7, 17-19, 23

16 God With Us

Jesus is that one, special gift you have always wanted but never expected. Receive him today.

Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25

17 Age to Age

From age to age prosperity shall come to God's people in Christ. Spread his blessings.

Psalms 72:1-4

18 Righteous Branch

A Branch from the line of King David shall rule in justice and righteousness.

Jeremiah 23:5-8

19 You Will Be Speechless

Quiet the voices around you today and listen to what God promises in the Word.

Luke 1:5-25

20 It's Possible

Despite the sinfulness of David's line, God remained faithful to it throughout generations.

Luke 1:26-38

21 Sharing Joy

Are friends and family coming your way? Celebrate and share the Good News together.

Luke 1:39-45

22 Magnify Him

We, his servants, lift up our voices and our lives to exalt the Lord and his help.

Luke 1:46-56

23 Filled With Wonder

With wonder and awe, we welcome those whom God has placed in our lives.

Luke 1:57-66

24 Way of Peace

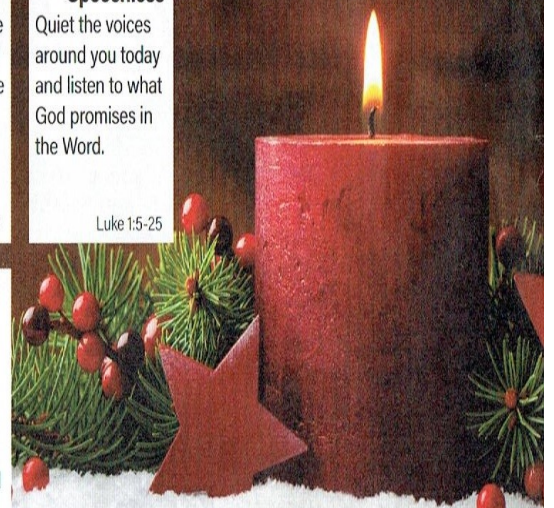
When we don't know where to go, God will guide us in the way of peace.

Luke 1:67-79

25 Seek Him

Go out to see your Lord and Savior, for he will reveal himself to you, and you shall rejoice.

Luke 2:15-20



By Julia DiSalvo and Mark Zimmermann. Design by Jamie Wyatt. Cover image: Shutterstock.
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