

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



Pastor.....
LaVonne Alexander

Office Manager.....
Naomi Tanner

Financial Secretary...
Dalana Tognini

Pianist /Organist.....
Connie Muir

Choir Director.....
Patty Fisk

Nursery Attendant....
Marilyn Robinson

Desert Pulpit Editor....
Naomi Tanner

Church Office.....
775-738-3430

Church e-mail.....
fpchurch@frontiernet.net

Website.....
ElkoFirstPres.org

Facebook.....
[www.facebook.com/First
PresbyterianChurchOf
Elko](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchOfElko)



Designed by **Vecteezy**



Words

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, God said, "Let there be light."

In the beginning was the Word.

God spoke the world out of chaos into order. He spoke. God's words brought his intention into being.

In the beginning the Word, the Logos, was there. God's Word – Jesus, the Logos, lived out God's intention as a human being.

Words are important for they express our intentions as well. The words we speak publicly, and even – or perhaps more importantly – privately – reveal who we are and how we view others.

Writing in Psychology Today, Jack Schafer Ph.D., writes: "Words cannot change reality, but they can change how people perceive reality. Words create filters through which people view the world around them."

April Michelle Davis, Executive Director of the National Association of Independent Writers & Editors said: "Words are the basis for communication, no matter the language spoken. In every aspect of life, personal or professional, words form the basis of relationships with others."

We are living in a time when many words (too many words?) are tossed around as if they have no impact on us or others. And yet, they DO impact not only others, but ourselves!

Scripture is clear about how important our words are and how we are to use our words. Jesus said, "I tell you, on the day of judgment you will have to give an account for every careless word you utter; for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matt. 12:36-38)

Paul wrote of the important way in which we are to use our words: "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear." (Eph. 4:29) "Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." (1 Thess. 5:11)

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus teaches that "it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles. . . what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander." (Matt. 15:11, 18-19)

Our attitudes and intentions are revealed in how we speak. The way we think and what we speak do have a real impact – on us, and those around us. Have you ever experienced "catching" a bad attitude from someone else? I have. I was a member of a choir and I thoroughly enjoyed it; it brought me joy. Then I began to ride to rehearsals with another singer who was unhappy about nearly everything to do with the choir. She spent the entire drive (45 minutes each way) complaining. I found that over the course of a few months my own attitude was impacted; my joy had nearly vanished. For my own well-being I stopped sharing the drive with her and in short order my enjoyment of the choir returned.

We can choose to hold a negative attitude which will almost certainly be expressed in the words we use. Or, we can rest in the truth that – whatever the situation – God is present and at work in his creation. By trusting the God who loves us and is always for us, we can "flip the switch." When we direct our thoughts toward the life-affirming words and work of God in Christ, we will have little room for the negative thoughts that lead to harmful words.

Let us be people of love and hope in the midst of a fractured world. Let us be bringers of "the words of eternal life."

SESSION

At the February meeting items addressed were:

Received Deacon's appointments to committees as follows:

Business and Finance- Jerry Cooney

Buildings and Grounds – Pam Anderson

Worship and Music – Robbie Nickel, Vicki Matys

Membership and Congregational Life -Robbie Nickel

Christian Ed -Mike Jones

Mission and Outreach – Donna Gary

Admin and Personal- Pam Anderson

Stewardship -Susan Merschel

Nominating Committee- Jerry Cooney

Deacon Rep to Session – Jerry Cooney, Robbie Nickel

The church received \$10,000 from a grant from the governors office to defray the loss of revenue during Covid-19.

Due to security concerns we have purchased brackets for the doors.

Per capita of \$46.00 per member has been remitted. We ask if you haven't yet given that, to do it soon.

ELDERS

2021 Jan Petersen, Sally Winsley

2022 Patty Fisk, Susie Jones, Erin Munson

2023 Diana Jones, Kathy Reyes *Clerk of Session*

DEACONS

2021 Robbie Nickel, Heather Norero, Vicki Matys, Kathy McLeod

2022 Jerry Cooney, Donna Gary, Barbara Pearson, Brett Pearson

2023 Pam Anderson, Mike Jones, Priscilla Mason,
Susan Merschel, Matt Niday



Mission and Outreach

Souper Bowl

Your generosity is amazing. On Souper Bowl Sunday, thanks to the reminders, announcement, and decorated box from the Munsen family, the youth collected over 20 bags of food to be distributed to CADV and FISH, along with a check for \$181.00 to CADV. GO TEAM!!!

Presbyterian Women!

World Day of Prayer

Normally (what is normal?) the Presbyterian Women would be hosting other Elko churches on March 5th to celebrate the World Day of Prayer. This year the women of Vanuatu, an island nation in the South Pacific, have created a worship service focussing on the Bible story in Matthew 7:24-27. The terrain and the climate is crucial to them because the island is prone to earthquakes, cyclones, volcanic eruptions, and rising sea levels. In lieu of a collection to support the women of Vanuatu, PW will send a check from the amount you have contributed through the No Work Bazaar and yard/rummage sale.

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Our congregations partner to care for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events.

Wildfires roared through the Pacific Northwest in the fall of 2020. A PDA National Response Team member was deployed to assist the Presbytery of the Cascades, and to work with for the immediate need for housing.

Hurricane Iota hit Nov. 2020 with 155 mph sustained winds in Nicaragua. Immediate support was realized through PDA with support for water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH). Long term support includes rebuilding efforts, livelihood programs and long term recovery needs.

Budgeting money is challenging. Please remember gifts to special funds/projects are not included as part of our pledged giving, but will be included with your financial statement of giving to the church.

A Layman's 10 Commandments

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
2. So why is a car's windshield so large and the rearview mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.
3. Friendship is like a book. It takes years to write, but only a few seconds to burn.
4. All things in life are temporary. If it's going well, enjoy it, that won't last long. If it's going badly, don't worry, that won't last long either.
5. Old friends are gold! New friends are diamonds! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold! Because to hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold!
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, dear one, it's just a bend, not the end!"
7. When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities; when God doesn't solve your problems, He has given you the abilities to deal with them.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied, "Yes, losing your vision!"
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them. When you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace.

Esther Circle has
paused meetings until
further notice



Your generous Christmas
Eve donations allowed the
Mission & Outreach Com-
mittee to deliver a check
for \$225.00 to Underdog
Street Ministries to help
them feed hungry Elkoans
in January. Thank you.

Budget numbers

January 31 2021	February 7, 2021	February 14, 2021
Income \$13,436.03	Income \$14,604.03	Income \$24,698.03
Expenses <u>\$ 10,103.07</u>	Expenses <u>\$20,655.99</u>	Expenses <u>\$24,650.72</u>
\$ 3,619.54	<\$6,051.96>	\$ 47.31
February 21 2021	February 28 2021	
Income \$26,861.08	Income \$29,417.57	
Expenses <u>\$ 26,449.30</u>	Expenses <u>\$33,614.66</u>	
\$ 411.78	<\$4,197.09>	

Though COVID19 changed the celebration of our annual Birthday for Jesus, your generosity continued to help those in need. Through the kindness of Susie and Mike Jones and Kim Pruitt, RN (OB nurse at NNRH), our mission was fulfilled. Susie and Mike served the Christmas cookies during coffee hour, and the Mission Committee generously donated \$200.00. Kim purchased many of the items in the photo with the donated funds plus her own financial giving. Kim is second from left in the photo. Thank you to everyone for again supporting our Birthday for Jesus.

Janet Strickland



Rev. Ralph C. Bolin Scholarship

Scholarship Application Forms for 2020 are available in the Church office. Applications MUST be submitted in ONE sealed envelope and received by noon on Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Application Envelopes can be delivered to the Elko First Presbyterian Church office or mailed to: FPC at 1559 Sewell Dr., Elko, NV 89801. For further information and questions please contact Barbara Pearson at 738-3796.



Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) is one part of the One Great Hour of Sharing. The point is to alleviate hunger & eliminate the root causes. I can't imagine true hunger so when I read that over 1,388 chickens, pigs, goats & rabbits being shared with families or hundreds of beehives placed in communities around the world I get excited. Seedlings, seeds, trees & new farms created help to ease the hunger burden & eliminate food deserts.

Plus, we Presbyterians purchased over 63,000 pounds of fair trade coffee--& maybe some extremely excellent chocolate may have been involved.

You may want to consider buying fair trade coffee, tea or chocolate at our own church as a way to support One Great Hour of Sharing.

The nominating committee is looking for three members of the congregation to serve on this committee. The committee's job is to find members of the congregation willing to serve as deacons and elders. This committee only meets a couple times so it isn't a large time commitment. We can meet during the day if that works for most of the committee. Chairperson is Patty Fisk along with Erin Munson, Jerri Cooney, and Rev. LaVonne Alexander. Please consider serving on this committee by letting one of the committee members now that you are willing to serve on this committee. Thanks!

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

CADV

January's collection was \$131.00

February's collection was \$84.50

NOTE: next collection March 21 and April 18th

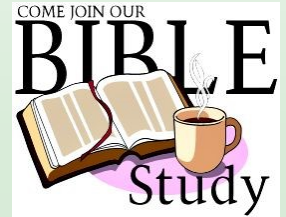


Women's Bible Study:

Wednesday morning Bible study current study is "Sermon on the Mount" by Amy-Jill Levine. We did 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)



Spring Clean

Help others clean! During the months of March and April, 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.

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,](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 May - June 2021

Desert Pulpit Due

April 20th 2021

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.

One Great Hour of Sharing is so much more than we can envision. It truly IS social justice, seeds, trees, healing, encouragement and more. I have been blessed AGAIN to be reminded of this great project. So much to learn, do and pray for. And yes, we do want our own church family to continue with our regular contributions, and also grab that extra blessing of giving a bit extra to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Thank you for learning with me,

Judy Bondo

WAYS TO GIVE:

check in collection with note in memo for OGHS

Credit card online at: presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs

Text PGHS to 91999 to give

Send check to: Presbyterian Church (USA), POBox 643700, Pittsburgh PA. 15264-3700

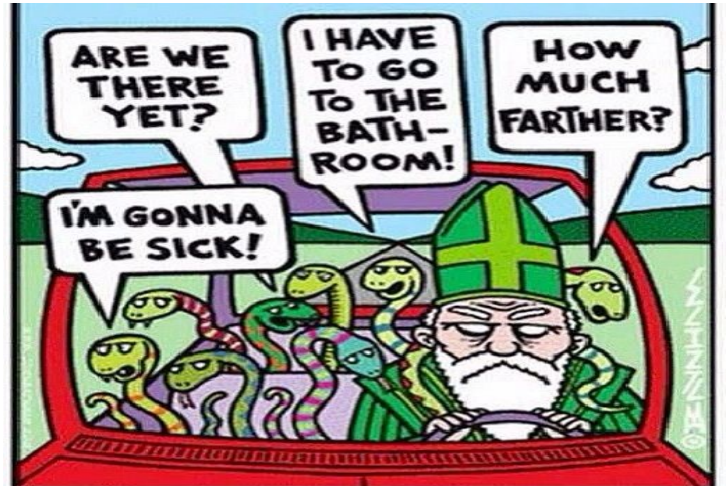
BIRTHDAYS!

March

Janet Webb 3/1
 LaVonne Alexander 3/2
 Tyson Schaffner 3/4
 Janet Strickland 3/6
 James Polkinghorne 3/7
 Curtis Jones 3/8
 Rebecca Schaffner 3/10
 Becky Kerna 3/11
 Brandon Thran 3/16
 Becky Nahnacassia 3/21
 John Daniel 3/25
 Jacob McLeod 3/29

April

Kristi Lynn Glass 4/2
 Carol Hall 4/8
 Kelly Hobbs 4/9
 Gladys Burns 4/12
 Patty Fisk 4/12
 Doris Toothman 4/13
 Larry Plumb 4/17
 Nathanal Schaffner 4/17
 Brett Pearson 4/18
 Kim Bolin 4/19
 Michael Beyer 4/21



St. Patrick driving the snakes out of Ireland.

Presbytery of Nevada 31.83
Synod of the Pacific 5.22
General Assembly 8.95
Per Capita is \$46.00 per member

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.



March - 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1.	2.	3. 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Meeting	4.	5. World Day of Prayer	6..
7.. 10:15 Worship Service	8.	9.	10. 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Meeting	11.	12.	13.
14. 10:15 Worship Service	15. 6:00 Joy Circle	16. 6:00 Session	17. 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Meeting	18.	19.	20.
21. 10:15 Worship Service	22.	23.	24. 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Meeting	25.	26.	27.
28. Palm Sunday 10:15 Worship Service	29.	30.	31. 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Meeting			

There are two Sunday School classes available , on Sundays.
8:00am Zoom Sunday school , Contact Mike Jones for information.
9:00 am in person class, contact Kathy Reyes.

April - 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1. Maundy Thursday 6:00 service	2. Good Friday 1:00 service	3.
4. Easter 10:15 Worship Service	5.	6.	7. 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Meeting	8.	9.	10.
11. 10:15 Worship Service	12.	13.	14. 15. 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Meeting	15.	16.	17.
18. 10:15 Worship Service	19. 6:00 Joy Circle	20. 6:00 Session	21. 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Meeting	22.	23.	24.
25. 10:15 Worship Service	26.	27.	28. 9:30 Women's Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Meeting	29	30.	