

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



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Naomi Tanner

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Pianist /Organist.....
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Putting Faith into Action



We've begun the book of James in worship and it got me thinking, thinking about what Faith in Action might look like. It probably looks different for each individual. But, let's consider some small ways that our faith impacts our actions.

If we remember that every single person we see is a beloved child of God, we might consider as small an action as smiling or saying "Hello." To the delivery person or the waitstaff at a restaurant we can treat them as fully human and of no less value than ourselves – they've just got a different job – one that makes our lives a bit easier. With as little as a gracious smile or greeting, we are showing our faith because we are called to love others just as we want to be loved.

On what we might call an intermediate level, we put our faith into action by funding ministries that help those less fortunate than ourselves. Funding is important, but I do wish we as a congregation were more "hands-on" in our mission work. Then we could be a face of God's love for the people we serve.

There are those whose faith has a large impact in (and on) the culture: great theologians and preachers who gain a national platform to both elucidate our faith in Christ, and to proclaim the truth about the God we worship and his love for his entire creation. I think immediately of Billy Graham, but there are many others: C.S. Lewis, Henri Nouwen, Tim Keller, to name just a few.

Further thinking about faith in action brought Judas to mind. I believe that Judas was acting out his faith – just not his faith in Christ as Messiah. His faith was in conquest; he wanted to overturn the Roman Empire's grip on Israel. He was unable to trust that Jesus was doing exactly what God required for the salvation of humankind.

He was impatient. I know a little about that, and I bet you do, too. It is very hard to "be still" and wait upon the Lord. American's by-and-large are go-getters, we mistakenly act like "God helps those who help themselves" is in the Bible. It's not. Perhaps a little like Judas, we can't see what God is doing, so we act – often out of our own thoughts and impulses.

Of course, Jesus perfectly put his faith into action. He willingly followed God's plan and was murdered by those he loved.

We don't see the Big Picture – God's big picture – but our faith calls us to trust that, whatever the circumstances look like to us, God IS at work accomplishing his purpose. With that understanding in mind, go out and do the small things, and join with others to do the medium things, and pray for those whom God has called and placed on a national or international stage.

And, let us trust God in all things, which is NOT easy, but it can give us Shalom.

Pastor LaVonne

For this edition of our Desert Pulpit, I'm printing an article from The Gospel Coalition (with permission). It speaks of the importance of the Church, and of your participation in your local church. I find it meaningful, and I hope you will as well. Pastor LaVonne

Prioritize Your Church! Or the Dangers of Being a Highly Online Christian (HOC) 8/19/21 by Brett McCracken

Every week we make hundreds of choices about how to spend our time and where to give our attention. We're overwhelmed with choices when we open our phones or computers: watch this clip, click on this ad, read this article, listen to this podcast, scroll through this story, swipe through this app.

The Gospel Coalition exists in this world—one of many voices inviting you each day to watch, read, or listen. We hope our content is spiritually enriching to you, especially because of the internet's general lack of enrichment. But honestly, there's an action we'd invite you to take that's more vital to your spiritual health than almost anything you could click on (including here). What's the action I'm talking about?

Be committed to a church.

TGC exists to support the church, never to replace it. If you have two hours on a Sunday morning to spend somewhere, don't spend it browsing TGC.org or any website (however helpful it might be). Go to church.

We plead: do not neglect the church (Heb. 10:25). Prioritize it. Commit to it. Invest there. Serve there. Grow alongside real, flesh-and-blood people. Embrace its unavoidably uncomfortable aspects. The deeper all of us step into the internet age, the more we at TGC—an internet-based ministry—are convinced: a Christian is strongest when embedded within a healthy local church and driven by a love of and commitment to that church.

Formation Happens in Church

We are spiritually formed wherever we spend our time, for better or worse. If we're spending most of our time reading Scripture and investing in the life of a church, we'll be spiritually formed in one direction. If mostly on TikTok, Twitter, and Netflix, we'll be formed in another direction.

Excess time online largely forms Christians for the worse. The more time we spend in bias-confirming online bubbles, on curated feeds full of voices that radicalize us in various directions, the more our desires are shaped by what our online tribe loves (more than what God loves). Highly Online Christians (HOCs) naturally start to grow less interested in things—such as Scripture and church—that don't perfectly fit the narratives they ingest online. But in shunning the very things that can recenter them on solid ground, HOCs become further entrenched in a self-deception spiral of their own digital making.

Sadly, this is happening all over the world, simply because we're spending more time online and less time in church communities. The natural result? Many churches are losing the battle to form Christians.

This is why the "rediscover church" plea is so urgent. The division and angst in our world—including the Christian world—is rapidly reaching a tipping point. But healing won't come online. Progress might be made, though, if we all recommitted to the church. The church is God's unique gift for his people's flourishing. It's the place where Christ-followers learn how to follow Christ. It's where we learn and apply God's Word, and participate in his mission. It's the best place for ordering our loves toward God, tuning our hearts to sing his praise.

The church is where it all happens.

- No YouTube video or Wikipedia entry can train us in virtue like the church can.
- No Twitch stream or subreddit can create sustainable, edifying community like the church can.
- No Twitter debate can help us love our enemies like the church can.
- No activist hashtag can channel our righteous anger and longing to do justice and love mercy like the church can.
- No Spotify worship playlist can replicate the glory of embodied, congregational singing.
- No celebrity preacher's blog or podcast can replicate the gift of a pastor you can sit across from, known and loved, even in your darkest moments.
- No confessional "vulnerability" on social media—however many likes it receives—is as satisfying as intimate confession with members of your church family.

Are there lots of things online that are good and helpful for the Christian life? Absolutely. But none of it beats the church.

Yes, It's Hard

But this is idealistic, you might think. My church is not a place where I feel safe or known. It's not the primary place where I grow.

Fair enough. But even if the above statements don't match your current church experience, they still describe the church as it *can* be. Committed membership in a church, while imperfect, is still your best shot to live a faithful Christian life. Find the healthiest church you can, but never assume it will be perfect. It won't be. It'll be uncomfortable. If you go to the hospital for dehydration and the doctor puts an IV drip into your arm, that's uncomfortable. But it's also your lifeline. The discomfort gives way to renewal.

So it is with church. We're dying on the vine in the digital age. Going to church isn't the most comfortable thing, but it's what we need to become healthy again:

- Amid the disorienting chaos of the digital age, church helps orient us.
- Amid the partisan tribalism, church—a diverse and global family—breaks down walls.
- Amid the disembodied surrealism or virtual life, embodied church reconnects us to reality.

Amid the ephemeral, blink-and-you'll-miss-it speed of life online, church connects us to history and situates us in a much bigger story—an eternal story.

Church Outlives Everything

Spend an hour on the internet (or five minutes on Twitter), and it can feel like the world is falling apart. Everything is framed with emotional urgency and “breaking news” gravitas. Ominous headlines describe another COVID-19 surge, another horrific act of violence, another insipid conspiracy theory shared on Facebook.

And if Twitter is your main reference point, you might think the church is falling apart too. But in my experience, spending less time online, and more time with my church, almost always tempers my sense of gloom and doom. Why? Because when I'm at church, I'm part of the one institution in this world that won't eventually collapse.

I'm looking around at people—of every color and background—who will be my tribe eternally. I'm doing the thing—worshiping God—I'll be doing forever. Church takes me out of the hazy fog of this fleeting life and brings me into the clear, oxygen-rich air of eternity.

When the world's foundations are crumbling, run to the church, whose one foundation is Jesus Christ, our Lord. Will the church disappoint you? Yes. You will have wounds and scars. We all do. This side of heaven the bride of Christ will always be blemished. Yet Christ is sanctifying her, and one day she will be spotless and radiant (Eph. 5:27).

Never forget, Christian, that “the church will outlive the universe,” as C. S. Lewis puts it.

There will come a time when every culture, every institution, every nation, the human race, all biological life, is extinct and every one of us [in the church] is still alive. Immortality is promised to us, not to these generalities. It was not for societies or states that Christ died, but for men.

Never forget, Christian, the promise Jesus made to Peter, that the gates of hell would not prevail against the church (Matt. 16:18). Jesus never promised that the gates of hell would not prevail against that one Seattle megachurch, or one international apologetics ministry, or one gospel-centered coalition. Those things will come and go. The church will remain. The church is the only institution Jesus founded and the only one that will end in success. All other institutions, parachurch ministries, charities, and businesses will eventually end. The church will not.

Will TGC be around in 20 years? We hope so! But if not, that's OK. In as many years as we are able, we want to help Christ's church thrive in this complicated, challenging stretch of history. We are not a church replacement. We are a church cheerleader and a church equipper. We want to help churches in the daunting task of digital discipleship. If pastors and church leaders are on the front lines of the battle to form Christians in the digital age, TGC is like a supply line attempting to help those in the battle-weary trenches as they fight for souls and ward off relentless attacks from various directions. And it is a battle. Whatever platform or device you're reading this on, it's a spiritual battleground. Christians are being picked off right and left online. Don't let that be you. Shore up your defenses, breathe in replenishing oxygen, feed on the nourishment of God's Word, and be built up by the body of Christ.

In other words: submit your life to a church.

I found this posted on Facebook, and I thought it was helpful information as we consider food donations. ~ LaVonne

So, I spent some time at a Food Bank today, and spoke to the people getting food. Here are some things I learned from those in need:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for rice a roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in spring and summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

In all the years I have donated food at the holidays, I bought what I thought they wanted, but have never asked. I am glad I did. If you are helping a family this Christmas, maybe this can help you tailor it more. I does me!



Choir will begin again this fall. We will be practicing on Tuesday nights at 5:00.

Our first practice will be on Sept. 7 and we

will sing on Sunday, Sept. 19.

We would love to have some new voices join us this year.

Hopefully -----

Sunrise Ringers of the Elko Handbells will start rehearsals on Monday, September 13, (+ Tuesdays & Wednesdays) from 6am to 7am. Concert is scheduled for Sunday, December 12, 2021.

Contact Ann Nisbet 738-5475 for further information.



Heifer Service – September 12 – Save the Date!

On September 12, we will be marking our last day of summertime service at 9:30 and our annual start-the-new-school year with our Heifer Service. This year the Mission Committee will provide the outdoor brunch after the service and donations will be accepted for the Leveraging Success, Honduras Project.

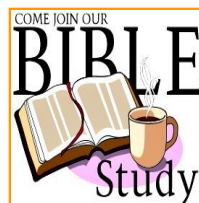
The project includes 70 farmer field schools where local experts support farmers learning how to improve their yields while protecting local resources and the environment. Dairy farmers who are part of this project have increased production from 2.5 bottles of milk per day to 8.

Heifer is also working with local women beekeepers to build businesses and increase the bee population. Local women are also opening a beekeeping store to sell beekeeping supplies as the women increase their numbers of hives. Almost 8,000 permanent and temporary beekeeping jobs have been created in the honey sector alone.

Coffee, dairy, and honey farmers are receiving support to deliver quality, reliable products for high-value markets so the businesses can thrive after the Heifer project is done.



I am sorry to say that Esther Circle will not be meeting anymore. They have disbanded. If you are interested in another ladies group that is studying the Horizon Bible Study, you may be interested in the JOY group. They meet in the parlor on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. They would be glad to welcome new members. Think about it. Maybe I will see you there. Fran



Wednesday morning Bible study is beginning a study on The Screw tape Letters

by C. S. Lewis
on September 1.

There a study guide which can be ordered and the book is also needed.

Join us at 9:30 each
Wednesday.

We also meet at 9:00 for
Tai Chi if you are interested. Hope to see you there.

The nominating committee is still looking for two more volunteers to serve on this committee. Our job is to look at members of the church who would be willing to serve as elders or deacons. If interested in this committee you can let Patty Fisk or

Rev. Alexander know that you are willing to serve



Year to Date Budget
numbers August 31th

Income 117,017.79

Expense 108,697.82

+ 8,319.97

Submissions for
November December 2021
Desert Pulpit Due
October 21st 2021

NEWS
LETTER

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](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=elko+first+presbyterian+church)
search_query=elko+first+presbyterian+church,
or open YouTube and search for Elko First Presbyterian
Church.



T G I S

(Take Groceries In Sunday)



Back to School

Pencils

24 count box crayons
Elmer's glue
Glue sticks
School scissors
Pocket folders

Spiral notebooks

Erasers
Small pencil sharpeners
Dry erase markers
Boxes of Kleenex
Backpacks

These items will be given to Communities in Schools for distribution to area students. Please place your contributions in the box in front of the church office. Thank you for supporting these children, and thank you for your previous donations.

Mission and Outreach

Underdog Street Ministries hosts lunch for Elko's homeless people every Sunday at the train park. On September 19, FPC will take a turn providing food and serving this wide range of hungry people. Watch for a future sign-up sheet so you can join us cooking

SESSION – July -August

July

Heifer Sunday is scheduled for September 12.
Audit of church finances was discussed.
Mission has scheduled a lunch for Underground Ministries for September 19.
The yard sale was successful and raised \$462.00.
Esther Circle has been discontinued.
Pulpit will be filled with members when Reverend LaVonne Alexander is gone.
August 1 – Kathy Reyes, September 5; Music Sunday, September 12; and September 19 – Jim Byars.
VBS – received \$400.00 from St Paul's Episcopal Church to help defray expenses.
The Boy Scout group is no longer. We are looking into what to do with things remaining in the church.
We are looking into changing our service times year round.

August

Joy Circle is planning a pot luck on September 13 to kick off the new year.
Discussion about the doors. It was decided to purchase new doors for Both the Sanctuary doors and those leading into the hall by the office at a total cost of \$9075.00.
Lawn mowing will now be done by Dustin Munson
After discussion on time to begin church services, it was decided to begin church at 10:00 year round, beginning on September 19. Adult Sunday School will begin at 9:00 on September 19 and children's Sunday school will begin in October. Also zoom Adult Sunday School will be at 8a.m.
The TGIS basket is collecting school supplies for CIS.
Membership and Community Life offered a written report. Note new name change. A membership policy is being drawn up so there is no confusion about why members will be placed on the Inactive list or be removed from membership. This will be sent out to member. October 10 will be our celebration potluck for those who have been members for 50+ years.
Cowboy Poetry has been approved to use the Fellowship Hall and kitchen January 24-26.

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.



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..”



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.



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.

Next quarter's collection will be sent to

July collection was \$ 76.00

August collection was \$ 150.00

NOTE: next collection September 19th and October 17th

BIRTHDAYS!

July

Jerry Cooney 9/3

Lois Ports 9/3

Judith Boyce 9/3

Jenna Kidwell 9/11

Devin Robinson 9/17

Leon Reyes 9/25

August

James Niday 10/06

Garrett Munson 10/17

Michael Jones 10/19

Marge Polkinghorne

10/21

Rue Beyer 10/24

Lyn Bondo 10/26

Patricia Pearce 10/26



Presbytery of Nevada 31.83

Synod of the Pacific 5.22

General Assembly 8.95

Per Capita is \$46.00 per member

Are you interested in being a Lector?

The Lector reads the first two scriptures in the worship service. (The Old Testament and the Epistle)

Because God's word is holy and life-giving, it is important that it is presented in a meaningful and polished manner.

To that end, those wishing to read scripture in the service need to sign up with Pastor LaVonne. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the office.

Then we will schedule a class/meeting in October for those who've signed up to go over expectations for preparation.

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, "Son, can you tell me where the Post Office is?" The little boy replied, "Sure! Just go straight down this street two blocks and turn to the right." The man thanked the boy kindly and said, "I'm the new pastor in town. I'd like for you to come to church on Sunday. I'll show you how to get to hevan." The little boy replied with a chuckle, "Ahhh, come on. You don't even know the way to the Post Office!"



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.



September -2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
The Sunday School classes available , on Sundays. 7:00am Zoom Sunday school , Contact Mike Jones for information.			1. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study	2.	3.	4.
5. 9:30 Worship Service	6. 5:30 NAMI	7.	8. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study	9.	10.	11.
12. 9:30 Worship Service Communion	13. 5:30 Joy Circle Potluck 5:30 NAMI	14.	15. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study	16.	17.	18.
19. 10:00 Worship Service 2 Cents collection	20. 5:30 NAMI	21.	22. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat	23.	24.	25.
26. 10:00 Worship Service Deacons	27. 5:30 NAMI	28. 6:00 Session	29. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat	30.	31.	

October-2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat		1.	2.
3. 10:00 Worship Service Communion	4. 5:30 NAMI	5.	6. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat	7.	8.	9.
10. 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Celebration Potluck	11. 5:30 NAMI	12.	13. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat	14.	15.	16.
17. 10:00 Worship Service 2 Cents Collection	18. 5:30 NAMI 6:00 Joy Circle	19. 6:00 Session	20. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat	21.	22.	23.
24. 10:00 Worship Service <hr/> 31. 10:00 Worship Service	25. 5:30 NAMI	26.	27. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat	28.	29.	30.