

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)





Placing Our Trust

We are continuing to live in a strange and unsettling time. We haven't yet recovered from the isolation and confusion of the past two years, which have been filled not only with the

Coronavirus but with all the turmoil surrounding it as well. And now, we are seeing one nation invade another in Europe and wondering if/how/when there will be a resolution to the conflict and what the world will look like in the aftermath.

In Matthew 24:6, Jesus tells the disciples that they “will hear of wars and rumors of wars; [but they] are not [to be] alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet.”

People have been quoting this for generations as a sign that the return of Jesus is imminent. But, when in human history have we NOT heard of – or actually seen – wars? Even if we consider only those conflicts in which the United States has been engaged (when there have been many wars fought throughout the world in which this nation was not been involved), we have had very little peace; the 20th Century was rife with war.

Jesus certainly wants us to be aware of the ways of a fallen world. He teaches that “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.” (Matt 24:32)

However, when the disciples want to know when this will happen, Jesus tells them that “about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Matt 24:36)

We are not to live our daily lives in fear, nor are we to attempt to predict when Christ will make his glorious and triumphant return. We are to live confidently, by trusting in our sovereign Lord.

We might feel uncertainty about what's going to happen, but we don't need to be fearful.

Our truest and deepest well-being is grounded in the God we worship and love. We who know God know that he is faithful and trustworthy. It is in God we can find the peace that we all need today and every day. The Lord doesn't want us to live our lives in fear, but rather to trust him.

The prophet Isaiah gives us encouragement for all seasons of human life. He writes, “But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, he who formed you: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. You are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you. **Do not fear, for I am with you.** I am the Lord, and besides me, there is no savior. (Is. 43:1-4, 11-12)

Whatever happens in the world – in our country and culture – we belong to God; we are his sons and daughters. And, as scripture affirms and reminds us, we are precious in God's sight and we are loved. God is our strength, our guide, our comfort. Place your trust in him and don't be afraid.

~ Pastor LaVonne

Micro Pantry installed at Presbyterian Church

Cynthia Delaney, Elko Free Press, Feb 12, 2022

ELKO – Hunger is real. We see it every day without even knowing it. Just because a person is out and about, it does not mean they have had a meal that day. Or the day before. In fact, there is probably no way to ever calculate the many cases of food insecurity that occur in our community on a regular basis.



Micro pantries, blessing boxes, and karma boxes have been popping up all over the USA as a way to provide nutritional support to those in need.

In the Reno area, the Karma Box Community Initiative was started to bring nonperishable food, first aid, and toiletries to those in need in an anonymous way. Reno resident Grant Denton, who was once a homeless addict, instituted the project. Since recovery, he has dedicated his life to helping others. Michelle Joy, vice president of Carson Tahoe Health, was also very involved.

Now there is a new micro pantry at the First Presbyterian Church in Elko, 1559 Sewell Drive. Church members bonded together to help provide a solution for residents who may be in a food crisis.

Suzy Jones is a member of the Presbyterian Church. She and others are on the Mission and Outreach Committee. “Then we pulled in our Deacons,” said Jones. “When we got going on this, we realized we needed more support.”

“There was an article in Presbyterian Today about micro pantries,” Jones said. “They talked about how their church has a big, red door and they built a pantry with a red door.”

Jones started doing more research on them. She became very interested in the project and realized the boxes are all over the country. “It’s totally anonymous. People can leave and people can take, nobody sees anything.”

Jones was impressed by the need in our area when she and her husband were walking by FISH one day and she noticed there was a line of cars stretched almost to Fifth Street waiting to get help from their food pantry.

“People are suffering,” Jones said. “There are a lot of hungry people. It’s not just for homeless people, it’s for people who can’t make their mortgage that month and feed their kids.”

Jones said the pandemic has contributed to this type of need, especially when people lost jobs or were temporarily suspended because of the economic shutdown. She recommends that people leave non-freezable, non-perishable items. As the weather warms, canned food is acceptable. If people want to donate those items anyway, the parishioners have an entire pantry inside the church to store donated food and hygiene products.

Two high school students helped construct the micro pantry box. “I am with Carlin High School SkillsUSA,” said shop teacher Justin Munson. “Skills USA is a vocational club. We compete in welding, but there are over 90 competitions. It prepares students for the workforce.

“We take on projects fairly often. It’s good for the students and it helps the communities and people who ask us to do it. “I looked them up so I could see what I was building,” Munson said. “One of the things I read about is making sure the critters can’t get in there.” This micro pantry is constructed of metal and has a tight seal with a glass front. A latch in the form of a Cross secures the door.

Jones hopes others, especially church organizations, will recognize that these small boxes of food can help many in our community who have food insecurity.

The pastor at the Presbyterian Church contacted Micro Pantry about supplying a metal sign. They shipped one immediately and it was installed after this interview was conducted.

March

March 6 Kathy McLeod Jenny Byars Robbie Nickel

March 13 Fran Schain Vicki Matys Pam Anderson

March 20 Patty Fisk Jan Peterson Faith Daniel

March 27 Kathy Reyes Jerry Cooney LaVonne Alexander

April

April 3 Judi Boyce Diana Jones Ann Nisbet

April 10 Aida Mathews Robbie Nickel Sally Winsley

April 17 Easter Brunch Deacons— Susie Jones Kathy McLeod

April 24 Jan Petersen Jenny Byars Vicki Matys



You will also need to help set up and clean up

Everyone Welcome!

Join Us!



Choir practice is on
Tuesday nights at
5:00.

we will sing on
Sundays
We would love to
have some new
voices join us.



DEACONS' NEWS

FEBRUARY – 2022

Happy Valentine's Day and President's Weekend to all of you!

Last Sunday all churchgoers were welcomed to church with a special Valentine treat in the narthex given by the Deacons. It was great to see so many smiling faces and give out Valentine hugs. We will be making preparations for Lent and Easter Season which are upon us. Also, we will be preparing Communion for Feb. 27th for "Transfiguration of Christ" Sunday. On Ash Wednesday – March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. Communion will also be prepared.

I would like to thank our outgoing Deaconess Secretary - Robbie Nickel. She did an excellent job of being our Secretary for the past years. We also want to welcome Jan Webb, as she is coming back onto the Deacons for three years. Jan will serve as Secretary, Kathy McLeod as Treasurer and Jerry Cooney as Moderator. The Roll follows: 2022 – Jerry Cooney, Donna Gary, Barbara Pearson. 2023 – Mike Jones, Pam Anderson. 2024 – Vicki Matys, Kathy McLeod, Jan Webb.

Important: If any of our congregation knows of someone of concern in our congregation, we hope you will contact one of us, so that we may help them if possible. Please call the church or my number (775) 934-3279, so that we can reach out to them.

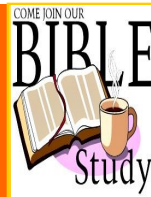
Thank you Deacons, Elders, Reverend LaVonne and all others who watch over our church and ensure that it is a safe, secure and loving environment for all that attend Elko First Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Cooney, Moderator

The Mission and Outreach Committee

Thanks to your generosity, the mission work of FPC has had a very successful month. We mailed off a check worth \$500 to FISH for the 2 cents a Meal donations for the last quarter of 2021 and we sent \$755 to PC(USA) for the December Joy Offering. Our big news, however, is that the MicroPantry is up and running! We are delighted that Justin Munson was able to build one for us. Please read the enclosed Elko Free Press article by Cynthia Delaney and the information about making donations to it. Your food donations to SouperBowl are also ready to refill it as soon as they are needed. We are storing them in one of the cabinets in the Fellowship Hall. You were so generous with those donations that we will forward the monetary donations of \$90 straight to CADV to help fill their cupboards. Thank you



Wednesday morning Bible study will
Be studying
Liz Curtis Higg 's
Bad Girls of the Bible Starting
on March 9th

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 Church office hours are,
9:00am-1:30pm

Monday –Thursday
Worship services are still
available Sunday 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

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 February 28th

Income \$28,429.80

Expense \$26,693.37

+ 1,736.43

Submissions for
May -June 2022
Desert Pulpit Due
April 19th 2022



REV. RALPH C. BOLIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

At the time of Ralph's passing in 1996, monetary gifts were given to Elko First Presbyterian Church in his memory. A committee was established and it was decided to remember his Ministry of serving, loving and caring through the Reverend Ralph C. Bolin Memorial Scholarship. Scholarship Application Forms for 2021 will be available in the Church office by March 1, 2022 and, also, attached at this web site. All instructions on the application MUST be followed. Applications MUST be submitted in ONE sealed envelope and received by noon on Friday, April 15, 2022. Application Envelopes can be delivered to the Elko First Presbyterian Church office or mailed to: FPC at 1559 Sewell Dr., Elko, NV 89801. This scholarship, of up to \$1,000, is open to anyone with an affiliation to Elko First Presbyterian Church. One does not need to be a "new graduate" to apply. It is open to all who are seeking to continue their education. For further information and questions please contact Barbara Pearson at 738-3796.



T G I S

(Take Groceries In Sunday)

Community Pantry

Our Community Micro Pantry is up and being used! Thank you to those who have contributed to this service and a special thank

you to Justin Munson for overseeing the building of the pantry. Non-perishable food donations can be placed in the box in front of the office, in the pantry cabinet in back of the social hall, or directly into the micro pantry. Please remember to check the expiration dates on your donations. We are currently looking for food items that can be frozen, thawed, and still be usable. Personal hygiene and baby items are also being collected.

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.”



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

Community in Schools

January collection was \$55.00

February collection was \$46.00

NOTE: next collections March 20th and April 17th

BIRTHDAYS!

March

Janet Webb 3/1

LaVonne Alexander 3/2

Janet Strickland 3/6

James Polkinghorn 3/7

Curtis Jones 3/8

Becky Kerna 3/11

Becky Nahncassia 3/21

John Daniel 3/25

Jacob Mcleod 3/29

Casey Guttry 3/30

April

Kristi Lynn Glass 4/2

Kelly Hobbs 4/9

Gladys Burns 4/12

Patty Fisk 4/12

Doris Toothman 4/13

Larry Plumb 4/17

Brett Pearson 4/18

Kim Bolin 4/19

Michael Beyer 4/21



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.



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

March - 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1.	2. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat 6:00 Ash Wednesday service	3.	4. World Day of Prayer 12:00 Followed by pot-luck lunch	5.
6. 10:00 Worship Service	7.	8.	9. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat	10.	11.	12.
13. 10:00 Worship Service Day Light Savings	14. 6:00 Joy Circle	15.	16. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat	17.	18.	19.
20. 10:00 Worship Service 2 Cents collection	21.	22. 6:00 Session	23. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat	24.	25.	26.
27. 10:00 Worship Service Birthday Sunday	28.	29.	30. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat	31.	The Sunday School classes available , on Sundays. 8:00am Zoom Sunday school , Contact Mike Jones for information. 9:00am in person Contact Kathy Reyes	

April-2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1.	2.
3. 10:00 Worship Service	4.	5.	6. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat	7.	8.	9.
10. Palm Sunday 10:00 Worship Service Communion One Great Hour Collection	11. 6:00 Joy circle	12.	13. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat	14. Maundy Thursday 6:00 Service	15. Good Friday 12:00 Service Seven Last Words of Christ	16.
17. Easter Sunday 10:00 Worship Service 2 Cents Collection	18.	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 Birthday Sunday	25.	26.	27. 9:00 Tai Chi 9:30 Bible Study 1:00 Prayer Retreat	28.	29.	30.