



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES

NOVEMBER 5, 2015

GOOD NEWS!

Thanksgiving In-Gathering



It's time to watch for sales of canned food, rice, dry pasta, boxed dinners, any non-perishable food you might like to bring to Worship on November 22nd, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. That is the day each year when we bring food for those who most need it, giving in joy and gratitude to God for the bounty of his blessings to us. There really are people in Las Cruces, adults and children, seniors and young people, who sometimes do not have enough to eat. "Happy are those who are concerned for the poor; the Lord will help them when they are in trouble." *Psalm 41:1 TEV*. Our generous congregation has contributed an amazing quantity of food in the past; let's do it again!

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Sunday Calendar – 8:45 AM in the Sanctuary

- Nov 8:** Praise Service – Pastor Himes
- Nov 15:** Praise Service – Matt Holt
- Nov 22:** “Bread & Breakfast” – Watkins Hall
- Nov 29:** Praise Service – Pastor Norm (Advent 1)
- Dec 6:** Praise Service/Communion–Pastor Himes (Advent 2)
- Dec 13:** Praise Service – Matt Holt (Advent 3)
- Dec 20:** Bread & Breakfast – Watkins Hall (Advent 4)

The Faith & Fellowship Praise and Worship Community has [moved to Sundays](#).

Be on the lookout for our “Bread & Breakfast” mornings

Sundays at First Presbyterian is the place to be!



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Cookbook Update



We have to date sold 200 cookbooks. That leaves us a long way from our goal of 500. The cookbook committee appreciates the support that we have gotten from this congregation on this project. We are appealing to you again to help us sell these delightful books. If anyone is involved in any organization that we could reach out to as a venue to sell the books please let me know at deborah.raposa@aol.com or 575-635-4217. We will be selling the books at the Home Grown Event at the Farm And Ranch Museum on November 21 from 9-5 and November 22 from 10-4. That is the same weekend that we will be selling at the Farmers Market. It will be a very busy weekend for the cookbook committee. We could use some help with table coverage in either location during this weekend. If you can help us out for a few hours get in touch with Dot Otto at dototto2@gmail.com or 928-890-8334. It should be a lot of fun and it is for a good cause.

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Driver Needed please *Salt & Light!*

Is anyone able to commit to a weekly pick-up ASAP from:

Hillrise Elementary School (3-4 children)?

*These young children will not be able to participate in our **Wednesday Children & Youth program**, without a way to church. God will work this out, so please pray if it may be you He calls!*

Thank you so much!



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Here is what is coming up in **November** at Salt & Light!

{Off Nov 11 Veteran's Day, No school, No Salt & Light!}

Sunday November 15th S&L Elementary & Middle School Sing

November 18th (10)- "Harvesting for Him!" (Thanksgiving Theme) We will decorate Tom Turkeys!

{Off Nov 25 Thanksgiving Break, No School, No Salt & Light!}

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Faith & Fellowship

Do you like to **EAT**? Do you like to make a **joyful noise**?

Do you like to get together with **family, friends and neighbors**?

Do you like to discuss aspects of a **Christian life**?



Did I mention **EAT**?



You are invited to "**Bread & Breakfast**" in Watkins Hall

Once a month on Sundays, Faith & Fellowship will be meeting for Faith discussions (**Bread**) and Fellowship (**Breakfast**) instead of a Praise Service.

Our first Bread & Breakfast will be **November 22nd at 8:45am**.

There is nothing to bring except a desire to be with others like you who enjoy getting together as a community of faith.

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Now There's a Thought

When looking for faults, use a mirror, not a telescope.



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1st Pres Men: Are you interested in becoming a **Turkey Tom** this Thanksgiving??

Salt & Light has openings for you to **work with children** while you become a turkey tom! All you have to do is stand there, and the kids will transform you in a **gentle & delicate** way!

There is **no laughing or making fun** of turkey toms.

This job is taken very seriously and experience is appreciated!

You can trust the children

So if anyone believes this, apply for the position with Michelle, otherwise she will force the table-parents to do it, see above!

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A Verse for Today

⁽¹⁾Faith gives substance to our hopes and convinces us of realities we do not see. ⁽²⁾It was for their faith that the people of old won God's approval. ⁽³⁾By faith we understand that the universe was formed by God's command, so that the visible came forth from the invisible. Hebrews 11: 1-3



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A Service of Love

What happens when, for reasons of poor health or advancing age, a member of our church family is unable to attend Worship and participate actively in the life of our congregation? Though we may be involved in many things and lead busy lives, we remember Psalm 71:9, “Do not cast me off in the time of old age: do not forsake me when my strength is spent.” Yes, the Scripture is clear: it is an essential part of our ministry to assure those we no longer see at Worship of God’s gracious love and promises by visiting them, talking with them, sometimes just sitting quietly with them.

In the past, Rev. Marcus Burr and then Rev. Carrol Blevins helped greatly with this ministry, making a real difference to many people. When the Lord took Carrol home so suddenly, Rev. John Himes stepped up, agreeing to fill the need temporarily. He has organized our visitation ministry with regular visits and monthly Communion for those who cannot come to church. Rev. Himes has been extremely generous in giving of his time, making 35 to 40 visits each month, but he will be stepping down at the end of December. The visitation ministry is not optional, but rather a critical need that must be filled. The Session is looking for help to meet this need.

If you know of a retired pastor, even if not Presbyterian, who might be interested, we would like to speak with him or her. We are hoping God will send us someone with a compassionate heart, who could serve the Lord’s Supper and work with volunteer lay visitors.

Many of our members do wonderful ministry in visiting the sick and homebound, and they find satisfaction in knowing that they’re fulfilling a mission for the Lord. Even beyond that, there is real joy in getting to know the seniors who have truly amazing and interesting life experiences to tell. If you are interested in being trained and committing to serve our homebound, Rev. Norm will be happy to talk with you and provide the support you need.



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In-Betweeners Planning

Saturday morning, November 28th -- Our next event will be decorating the Sanctuary for Advent, working with the Worship and Music Committee of Session. This is Thanksgiving weekend, so we'll likely be missing some people. The help of everyone who's available will be needed! (no regular dinner get-together in November)

December - YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED! We have tentatively reserved the hall for both the 4th and the 11th, but we must decide SOON. If you have opinions on the questions below, please reply at your very earliest convenience.

December 4th ? December 11th ?

- Progressive dinner followed by carol-singing and dessert ?
- Dinner together at church ? If so, potluck or catered?
- Dessert only, with carols at church ?
- Some other Holiday activity we could do together ? (What is it?)



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Good News Jail and Prison Ministry

Dona Ana County Detention Center of Las Cruces

575-647-7636

Presents

Gospel Concert

Tuesday Evening

November 10, 2015 at 6:30 PM,

First Baptist Church

106 S. Miranda Street

Las Cruces

To benefit

Admission Free

A love offering will be taken

**The Chaplaincy of
David Beam and
Bill Stickles
at the
Doña Ana County
Detention Center**

**Featuring:
TOP Christian Music!!**

Choirs and musicians
from many area
churches



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Good News S&L Oct 28th



Salt & Light Oct 28th was our 8th week, "Boo-lievers Shine the Light of Jesus!" (Christian Halloween). With Halloween costumed kids & staff, and orange & yellow colored everything, we were ready to celebrate the light of Jesus today! Nancy, Sheila & Judi decorated the dinner hall with "Shine the Light of Jesus" pictures & banners, with "Wrapped in the love of Jesus," "Batty for Jesus," "Jesus is Purr-fect" & "I Frankly Follow Jesus!" center-piece bags. Our verse was, "...Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:15-17). We can accept God's love through Jesus!

The Power of Prayer is amazingly larger than what we may think possible! There is no miracle too challenging for our Lord to handle, if we bring it to him in prayer! Our S&L leaders learn the names of the awesome kids who attend, and their families, so we may pray for them all! **We want to acknowledge those parents & families** who kindly let us in on what's happening with them, so that **we may share in big prayers to glorify God for giving His grace & blessings, and in even huger prayers for our Lord's needed protection, love & healing intervention.** "We" includes (but is not limited to): Rev Norm & our Youth & Children Directors, our trusted Drivers & Kitchen Crew, our beloved Bible & Music Teachers & Assistants, Table Parents, Game Leaders, Office Staff, Planners & Decorators. Today, we celebrate answered prayers, and the light of Jesus that is in all of us!



Today, we also all enjoyed really nice weather & played outside as much as possible! Valencia, Marquez & TJ ran older elem Rec at grass games with every possible piece of



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equipment out of the huge bin! Barbara & Heather teamed up to lead the younger kids, who scurried around the grass laughing & screaming! Kathy, Marianne & Wayne made a very special & cool orange soda 'n' sherbert for the last Halloween style snack, and paired it with cheese 'n' crackers to help keep the kids from getting too "hyped-up!"



Our elem Bible teachers continued teaching from Daniel 5, with "Writing on a Wall," on how God will help us live in ways that show others who He is! They explained that God promises to help us do what He has commanded, if we bring in prayer to Him our praiseful successes, humble failures, and depend on Him! Our class sizes were wonderful today, with eager kids gathering in Jesus' name with their friends in fun!



Ms. Cheri's crew dished up hot dogs & tator tots for a fun kids' dinner! During the after-dinner game, Ms. Jamie, led the kids in a "spoon-hanging" competition! It was tough with 1 table parent, 3 elementary, 2 middle schooler & 1 high schooler, who looked like their spoons would never fall off their noses! Luckily we had student-teacher Jamie to mix it up with challenges of lunges & busting moves whilst keeping spoons in place, or not! This ended in a tie between Trevan & Katie! Then we topped off the night giving away "Shine the Light of Jesus" Trunk or Treating Bags with matching stickers, pencils, erasers, and, you guessed it, Halloween candy! Thanks to Nancy, Heather & Jesse for helping put these together! The kids were polite & appreciative of their gifts, so, once again we had something else to be thankful for!





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STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

"You are my God, and I will give thanks to you." Psalm 118:28a

This coming Sunday, November 8, is Stewardship Sunday, when we will give to the Lord our written promises to support his work in the world through our own church, First Presbyterian of Las Cruces. What joy we find in returning freely and thankfully to God a portion of what we have received!

At a time set aside during Worship, we all may bring our pledge cards to the Chancel at the front of the church. It will be a time for dedicating not only a portion of our funds to God, but a time for dedicating our hearts.

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Church Chuckles

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"Some religions don't eat meat on Friday because there's separation of church and steak."



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Seen Around Church



The Good News is a publication of First Presbyterian Church of Las Cruces, New Mexico and distributed on Thursday of each week. Anyone wishing to have information published in The Good News should send it via email to LCFEL01@MSN.COM. Deadline for inclusion in the Thursday issue is 12:00 Noon on Wednesday of that week. Back issues of the Good News are available on the church's web site (URL <http://www.zianet.com/fpc>) under publications or more directly at <http://gnews.qzxservices.com>