



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

GOOD NEWS!



Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent on 11/28

Our Sanctuary becomes even more beautiful at Christmas time, but there is much to do to make that happen. Want to help? On Saturday morning, November 28, everyone -- adults, families, everyone -- all are invited to come and be a part of this joyful work, honoring the Lord Jesus as we draw near to the time when we celebrate His birth. If you have a truck and can help bring large items from the garage, please come at 8:30 am. Others may come to the Sanctuary at 9:00. See you there!

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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 **this Sunday, 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 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)
- Dec 27:** Praise Service – Pastor Norm

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

First “Bread & Breakfast” this Sunday

Watkins Hall at 8:45am – see Bread & Breakfast announcement

Next weekly Praise Service is Nov 29th!

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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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Faith & Fellowship

You are invited along with family, friends and neighbors to

“Bread & Breakfast”

in Watkins Hall this Sunday

November 22nd at 8:45am.

We are making breakfast burritos!!!

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

***Bread & Breakfast happens once a month
In place of the weekly 8:45am Praise Service
in the sanctuary***

Sundays at First Presbyterian is the place to be!



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Christmas Joy Offering - Share in the Joy of a Promise:

"For God who has promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:23)

During Advent, we remember God's promises to us, as we gather together to wait in hope for the birth of Jesus Christ! We, in the Presbyterian Church, join this celebration of God's faithfulness by **supporting those in need of help and hope.**

Thanks to your gifts, the **Christmas Joy Offering** helps provide **financial help** to those who have given their lives to God (our current & retired ministers, mission workers & their families), & also **provides students hope** for a better life, through education at Presbyterian-related schools (like the Menaul School in Albuquerque).

Families with children, please take a "Joy Box," at the church entrances or church office, for your kids to add change they have earned, or they may add part of their money gifts received. You can make it a part of your family's Advent reading time together!

Please return the "Joy Boxes" on the Christmas Pageant day, Sunday December 13th, or at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Thursday December 24th!

Families may also give in the Christmas Joy envelopes during worship on Dec 13th.

These gifts of generosity bear witness to our faithful response
to love one another, as Christ commanded.



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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⁾I shall give praise to you, Lord, with my whole heart; in the presence of the gods I shall sing psalms to you. ⁽²⁾I shall bow down towards your holy temple; for your love and faithfulness I shall praise your name, for you have exalted your promise above the heavens. Psalm 138: 1-2



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Salt & Light is looking for

Stupendous Sugar Cookie Bakers (or Buyers)

for the **Salt & Light Christmas Celebration, on December 9th!**

Please contact Michelle ASAP at fpc@zianet.com:

If you can **bake a few gluten-free plain sugar cookies**,

1 happy youth will decorate & eat them, with the rest of the table of kids!

If you can donate **1-3 dozen plain sugar cookies**, the kids, or families with kids, can decorate their own Christmas Cookie at their tables for dessert!

If you can donate **1 dozen already-decorated cookies**, the kitchen crew & adult guests can *enjoy not having to decorate* to eat!

Thank you for supporting Salt & Light with more Christmas Blessings!



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Here is what's coming up in **late November & December** at Salt & Light!

Please mark your calendars!



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



December 2nd (11)- " Hope, Peace, Joy & Love!" (Advent Theme)

We will decorate the Christmas Tree!

December 9th (12)- "Jesus is the Heart of Christmas!" (Christmas theme)

We will decorate Christmas Cookies!

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In-Betweeners Save the Date!

Our Christmas get-together is planned for Friday evening, December 11th, at 6:00 in Watkins Fellowship Hall. It will be a catered dinner, with good fellowship and carol-singing. Reservations are needed by Monday, December 7th, to burrmb@aol.com, or jkames@q.com.

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Now There's a Thought

"If some of these folks would spend their time following His example instead of trying to figure out His mode of arrival and departure, they would come nearer getting confidence in their church." - *Will Rogers*



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Good News S&L Nov 4th



Salt & Light Nov 4th was our 9th week, "Ask, Seek, Knock!" (Prayer Theme). Prayer themes are always favorites at S&L, because they help Children of God of all ages to remember to bring everything to God in prayer! Our verses were, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7-8) Thanks to Judi & Nancy for decorating so marvelously!



We had another great weather day outside, so it was a priority to spend as much time playing out there as possible! Thanks to Ms. Barbara for leading the younger elementary with creativity & motivation in pleasing their hearts in fun & play! Great job Valencia & Rosa for leading the older elementary in wild grass & cement games!

In elementary Bible class with Dot & Judy, the younger kids colored or wrote on a large Fall leaf something they have prayed to God about, or are thankful to God for. They then cut them out to put up on the wall! The lesson was, "A King Celebrates," from 2 Chronicles 29-30, on how it is good to stop and celebrate all that God has done for us. "Let everything that has breath...praise the Lord." (Psalm 150:6) In the older elementary class, Carol welcomes new kids almost every week! We are happy when after-school sports & activities have breaks, so we can share more Jesus with more families!

During mid-school & high school lessons, the kids wore masks from "Frozen" to adjunct their learning about masks that people wear in life for various reasons, and the challenges of keeping them on. Kelly, Greg & Jamie "bring home" their lessons with this great group



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of kids, by mixing in laughter & love, to keep the bonding barriers down, and the faith walks going!



In Music with Ms. Beth, the elementary & middle schoolers are practicing for their next performance in church, which is happening next Sunday Nov 15th! Beth's dedication to shaping kids' God-given talents with her masterful knowledge & experience, are something we treasure. When these awesome youth & elementary groups perform, everyone appreciates the humorous times tied in with praising our sweet Lord!



Ms. Jacque makes being a crew leader look easy; as her hard-working crew makes prepping the large dinner look simple. Thanks to all who contributed their talents & hard work for another delicious Family-of-God dinner. We are thankful to God for providing us with left-over food to send with 2 large needy families!



We provided corny "Knock-Knock" Kids' Jokes at the tables, and kids of all ages told them to each other. We also celebrated November Birthdays (1 week early since we will be off of school and S&L next Wed Nov 11 for Veteran's Day). We try to add any new kids to the birthday celebration of the month, if their month has already passed, and no one seems to mind receiving a home-made cupcake! Tonight, a special baker provided apple-caramel cupcakes, Yummo! Lastly, we gave extra Halloween TorT candy to our awesome kids; thanks to all who donated (& my neighbors!) All but 2 kids took 1 or 2 candies with a loud, "Thank You Ms. Michelle!"



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November 12, 2015

Dear friends at First Presbyterian Church ,

Here are some pictures of some of what we have been up to. Thank you for your support in October that is helping to make this work possible! We have a lot to do in the next week! Our friend has worked a deal with his company for Steve and Sharon and us to get on a flight to Entebbe November 19th. Steve is madly trying to finish the second renovated house and the first new house before we go out, and Ron is keeping materials flowing to each site and fixing things that break. Then we will come back in the new year, Lord willing, to build the other houses.

With love in Christ,

Ron and Donna Pontier



Steve and some workmen using a planer powered by Dad Pontier's pick-up which was still up here



Hauling bricks with our pick-up that was still up here ...this week two tires exploded and the drivers also managed the same day to break a tail light, shatter the windshield, and smash in the side.



Living room of a house during renovation



A new house going up



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The local Women of the Good News coming to welcome us back to Zemio, singing and bearing gifts of food.



The children's Good News Club coming to thank us for helping with an evangelism trip in town--very humbling—they, too, brought food.

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Sunday December 13th S&L Christmas Pageant

Thursday Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Special 4:00pm Candlelight Service

Off Dec 16, Dec 23, Dec 30 & Jan 6 for Christmas, no Salt & Light!

We will re-start Spring semester on Wed Jan 13!

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Church Chuckles

A third grade Sunday School was reviewing the Ten Commandments. The teacher asked one boy, "If mother told Johnny not to tease the dog and pull his tail and he did anyway, what commandment would he be breaking?"

The boy responded, "I don't know which number it is, but it says 'What God has joined together, let no man pull apart.'"



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Salt & Light Choirs Praising God With Song!





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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>