



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES

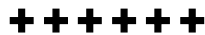
DECEMBER 3, 2015

# GOOD NEWS!

## Deacons Christmas Giving Trees

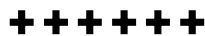


The Deacons have placed Christmas trees with money stars at each church entrance. By choosing a star on the tree and placing that amount in the offering before Dec. 13th, the Deacons will be able to distribute Christmas baskets to Hospice families, Iglesia members and others in need. Thank you for supporting the Deacons in this project that began 13 years ago.



### Sunday Calendar – 8:45 AM in the Sanctuary

- 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



## In-Betweeners Coming Up Soon

Time to make your reservation (by Monday, Dec. 7) for our Christmas get-together! On Friday, December 11, we'll have a catered dinner together in Watkins Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM. After dinner, there will be carol singing, with Howard's accompaniment. You



are welcome to bring a blanket or sleeping bag for distribution through the Gospel Rescue Mission, if you'd like to participate in our annual Christmastime effort to help people who need

to keep warm in the cold weather. For reservations and information, contact the Ames at 526-3247, [jkames@q.com](mailto:jkames@q.com), or the Burrs at 522-2528, [burrmb@aol.com](mailto:burrmb@aol.com).





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## **GOOD NEWS!**



### **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 13<sup>th</sup>, or at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Thursday December 24<sup>th</sup>!**

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

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



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## **GOOD NEWS!**

We only have **2 more Wednesdays of Salt & Light for the Fall semester!**  
We pray your family knows a little more Jesus through this fun & faith program! We really appreciate you giving of your time & talents, if you were able to help at S&L!



Here is our **December Schedule**, please mark your calendars!

December 2<sup>nd</sup> (11)- " Hope, Peace, Joy & Love!" (Advent Theme)  
We will decorate the Christmas Tree & open the Advent Calendar



December 9<sup>th</sup> (12) - "Jesus is the Heart of Christmas!"  
We will open the Advent Calendar & decorate Christmas Cookies!

Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> S&L Christmas Pageant  
(Elementary & Middle School)



Thursday December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve  
Special 4:00pm Candlelight Service  
Kids please arrive at 3:30pm!

**We are Off Dec 16, Dec 23, Dec 30 & Jan 6 for Christmas Break**

**We Restart Salt & Light for Spring on Wed Jan 13  
and go through Wed Apr 13th!!**



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## GOOD NEWS!

Good News S&L Nov 18<sup>th</sup>



We made Turkeys out of 3 Blessed S&L People!



We can no longer call them all "Turkey Toms," because our Awesome Youth, Miss Valencia, became an Official Turkey! The kids also enjoyed decorating Rev. Norm & Mr. Greg Sherman!!



Salt & Light Nov 18<sup>th</sup> was our 10<sup>th</sup> week, "Harvesting for Him!" (Thanksgiving Theme). We send huge "Thank You for Giving" hugs out to Judi & Nancy: What a fantastic stage wall Judi created, and Nancy decorated the rest of the dinner hall with cool Thanksgiving items! Our verse was, "...Harvest the crop for eternal life so (with others) you may be glad together." (John 4:36). We are also very thankful for Sheila, for creating a hand-made wall-sized Advent Calendar, for the kids to open on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at dinner! This is one of the most thoughtful & interactive gifts S&L has ever received, and we look forward to seeing the kids' faces when they open their days! (#can'twaituntildec2, let's-count-down-together!!) Nancy was also a fabulous help to Sheila, to hang it up in the dinner hall!



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## GOOD NEWS!



We thanked our almighty God for providing very nice weather for outdoor play and Rec games!! Kids + Play = Happy Leaders!

While Ms. Dot & Ms. Judy were out, our younger elementary were in great hands! We were blessed with an awesome parent & VBS leader, Heather, and a veteran teacher, Susan, to teach, and our awesome youth, Elizabeth, to assist! The lesson was, "A Promise Announced" (from Micah 5:2-4; Luke 1:5-25, 57-80; & John 1:29-34), which was about telling others the good news about Jesus, the Savior, and celebrating His birth. "I will praise you, O Lord...sing of (about) you among the peoples. For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies." (Psalm 57:9-10). In the older elementary class, Carol & Lon led the kids in making ornaments for the city display in the classroom, while learning the lesson. We are super blessed to have Carol's ingenuity & creativity, as she leads our older elementary in faith!



Ms. Beth, & her talented helpers, began the elem & ms kids in Christmas Pageant practice! They started new songs, and Beth picked kids for the solo parts. We only have 2 more Wednesdays, before Sunday Dec 13<sup>th</sup> Christmas Pageant, during worship! It will be magical & fun performance!

Mr. Don & Mr. Ed, along with their crew members & bakers, made a succulently delicious, very special pork roast dinner & apple cake for all! This is definitely the quietest dinner of all year, because everyone savors the flavor of every morsel. Then, the dinner hall is transformed into a loud laughing frenzy, while the kids decorate 3 lucky people as Turkeys!! Super-sized thanks & appreciative Kudos for all who helped us on this terrific Thanksgiving S&L! May God bless you & yours!



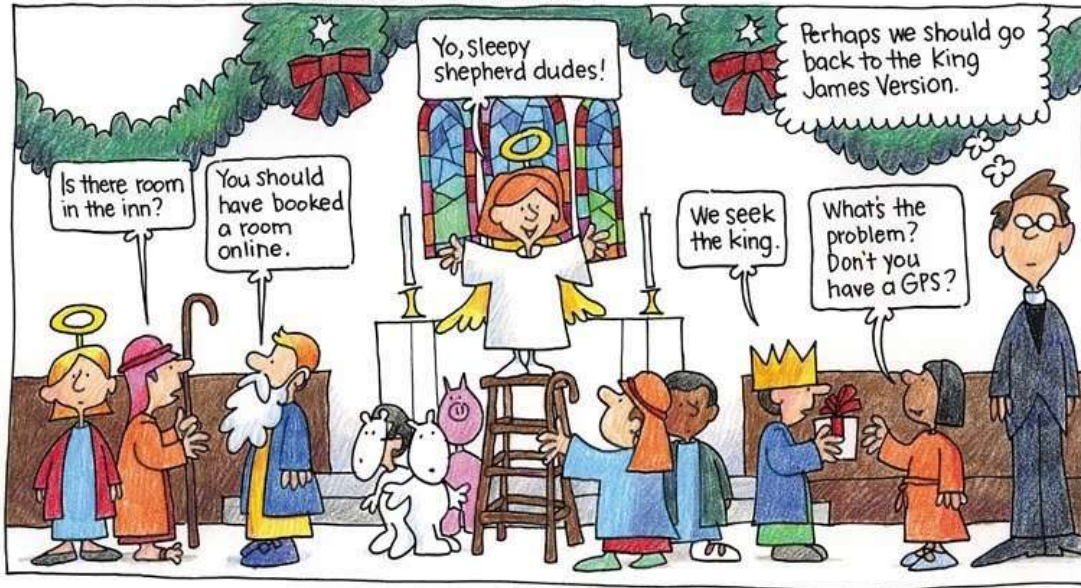
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# GOOD NEWS!

## Church Chuckles

THE RECTOR DROPS IN ON THE PAGEANT REHEARSAL



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### Now There's a Thought

It's beautiful, your cross.  
 Whatever your care,  
 Whatever your pain,  
 There will always be sunshine  
 After the rain.  
 Perhaps you may stumble,  
 Perhaps you may fall,  
 But God's always there,  
 To help you through it all.

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### A Verse for Today

<sup>(2)</sup>In the prophet Isaiah it stands written: I am sending my herald ahead of you; he will prepare your way. <sup>(3)</sup>A voice cries in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord; clear a straight path for him.' Mark 1:2-3



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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](mailto: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>