



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES

DECEMBER 10, 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 this Sunday, 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.

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

**Dec 13:** Praise Service – Matt Holt (Advent 3)

**Dec 20:** Bread & Breakfast – Watkins Hall (Advent 4)

**Dec 27:** Praise Service – Pastor Norm

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

**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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## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS



REMINDER: There is still time to order your Poinsettia.

(print form below, fill it out and bring it with you on Sunday)

Plants are \$7.25 – put cash and order form in an envelope or, if paying by check, make checks payable to the church. Place order in offering plate or return to the church office by December 14.

I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ plants.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one:** in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ or in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I will take plant after worship \_\_\_\_\_ or Please deliver to a shut-in \_\_\_\_\_

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We still have some cookbooks for sale in the church office.  
Price is \$20 each or, if you purchase 3 or more, they are \$15 each.



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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 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 S&L Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>

before:



after:



**Salt & Light Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> was our 11<sup>th</sup> week, "Hope, Peace, Joy & Love!" (Advent Theme).**

Advent is when we watch & wait for Christ's coming. We light Advent Wreath candles of **hope, peace, joy, and love**, as signs of the growing **light of Christ**, while we remember God's promises in prayer (from [presbyterianmission.org](http://presbyterianmission.org)). We get to have 2 Christmas themed program nights, and we make the best of each one!

Ms. Kathy & Ms. Pat popped fresh popcorn for Snack, which made for plenty of trips back for more! Thanks to Pat, working with a tooth issue, and still smiling at everyone! The after-school elementary enjoyed playing in and outside, even though it was chilly (my Grand-D included!)



Today, we had a shortened activity schedule to accommodate Ms. Beth with an hour for Christmas Pageant Practice. It will be well worth it, as 27 kids practiced tonight! The older kids had a marvelous time with 25 minutes of "Free Play" during Recreation, & Ms. Barbara led the younger kids in 20 minutes of Tennis Skill & then gave them 5 minutes of "Free Play." Our mid & high schoolers (after homework of course!), had fun playing skee ball, games, and cards, in the Game Room.



Special thanks to Carol, Judith, Heather, Dot & Judy, who arranged for & led the kids who cannot come to the Pageant, in fun crafts & activities! These teachers have committed to next week, also, so all the kids take part in Christmas! Love it!

Elem Bible Classes were special, as each class of 30 minutes, made ornaments for a small



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tree in the Branigan Hall entrance. Parents & families are welcome to look as progress continues closer to Christmas! The lessons were about, "An Angel Visits Mary" (Luke 1:26-56). The teachers explained how in every situation, we can trust and rely on God's love & "...put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and...full redemption." (Psalm 130:7)



Jacque's crew worked without her being there, due to a medical issue, but it didn't stop her from shopping for the meal & baking the entire peach crisp dessert for our large dinner number! Special Thanks to Bea & Carl, Marilyn & Chris, Mel, Wayne, Sandra, Brian, Debra & Rob, TJ, and Derek, who came together to work as a team to prepare a great kids' meal! They served Buffet-Style, which the kids also loved!



Also at dinner, we had the youngest 12 children open the wall-sized Advent Calendar that Sheila created & donated! We could only do it with Monica, Judi & Heather's help!! And we had all the kids, table by table (or something like that 😊...) decorate the Christmas Tree on Stage! 2 awesome kids (not adults) adjusted some ornaments after all were hung, so it was a Kids' Tree from start to finish! No one was hurt, and Rev Norm didn't get trampled & survived the kids on stage...!! (#dontenvytheminister!)



Special appreciations go out to our Table Parents, for assisting, crowd-controlling, herding, hanging in there, & maintaining composure, while we offer exciting activities other than dinner, at dinner!! You are positive leaders & role-models for our growing bunch, and we wouldn't have dinners without YOU!

Wishing & Praying for all the families, staff & volunteers, to have a December that is (overall) Stress-Free & Blessing-full!



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## **GOOD NEWS!**

### **Welcome Pastor Pyong San Yu**



Pastor Pyong San Yu is now in his 4<sup>th</sup> year of ministering at Las Cruces Korean Presbyterian Church. Pastor Yu came to the U.S. in Florida in 1972 and became a citizen. In 1982 he became involved in missions. Pastor Yu attended seminary at Midwest University where he received his Master's degree. He attended Cumberland Presbyterian Seminary and did post graduate work-of which he currently remains associated with. Over his pastoral career, Pastor Yu has established 6 new churches in 6 different states.

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### **Now There's a Thought**

A grandfather was walking in his yard when he heard his granddaughter repeating the alphabet in a voice that sounded like a prayer. He asked her what she was doing. The little girl explained: 'I'm praying, but can't think of exactly the right words, so I'm just saying all the letters, and God will put them together for me because He knows what I'm thinking.'

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### **A Verse for Today**

<sup>(15)</sup>The people were all agog, wondering about John, whether perhaps he was the Messiah, <sup>(16)</sup>but he spoke out and said to them all: 'I baptize you with water; but there is one coming who is mightier than I am. I am not worthy to unfasten the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>(17)</sup>His winnowing-shovel is ready in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn on a fire that can never be put out.' Luke 3: 15-17



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# GOOD NEWS!



There are two hearing aid amplification systems that have gone missing from the Sanctuary. If you brought these home by mistake, or if you know where they were placed, please call Brad Class 650-7113 or the Church Office. There are those in our congregation who cannot fully participate in worship without these hearing devices.



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### DE-DECORATING

### Mark the date!

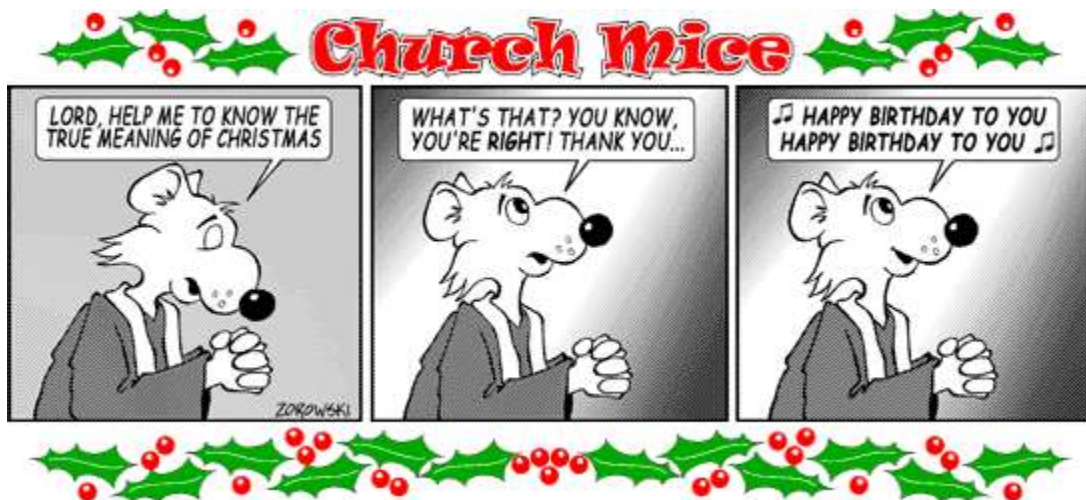
### January 9th at 9 AM



We will be taking down and storing all the beautiful Christmas decorations that are adorning the Sanctuary. This is an easy job **IF** we have lots of willing hands to help. This is **NOT** just a call to In-Betweeners. Young and old, please show up and serve your church. We need you.

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### Church Chuckles





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## **GOOD NEWS!**



You are invited to a  
**Community Christmas Carol  
Sing-a-Long**



**Saturday, December 19, 2015 3:00 p.m.**

Peace Lutheran Church 1701 E. Missouri Ave. Las Cruces, NM

**ALL AGES WELCOME**

**COME TAKE A BREAK** from last minute Christmas preparations, and  
**SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS** with us, reflecting the true reason for the season.

**ADMISSION IS FREE and All Are Invited** - Approximately one hour in length.

Cider and biscochitos served afterwards.

**SPONSORED BY** - Las Cruces Chapter, American Guild of Organists and Peace Lutheran Church

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT -**

[www.lascrucesago.org](http://www.lascrucesago.org) 523-5229

[www.peacelutheranlc.com](http://www.peacelutheranlc.com) 522-7119

Several local organists, including Howard Smolleck  
from First Presbyterian, will be playing in this program.

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### **Operation Spread the Music**

**And the Mesilla Valley Teen Singers**

**will present a concert of Christmas music in our Sanctuary**

**Saturday, December 12 at 7:00pm**

**The public is cordially invited to attend**

**Donations Accepted**







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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>