



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAS CRUCES



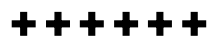
DECEMBER 17, 2015

GOOD NEWS!



Christmas Eve Postcards

If you are on the FPC mailing list, you have received, or will receive, a red postcard about the wonderful Christmas Eve candlelight services at our church. We hope you will not only be there yourself, but pass your postcard on to someone you'd like to encourage to come. Better still, invite them to come along with you! There will be more postcards at the doors on Sunday that you can give or send to invite more friends.



You are invited along with family, friends and neighbors to



"Bread & Breakfast"
in Watkins Hall this Sunday



December 20th at 8:45am.

We are making breakfast!!!

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

Thursday December 24th Christmas Eve

Special 4:00pm Candlelight Service

Kids please arrive at 3:30pm!

We are Off 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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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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A Verse for Today

⁽¹⁸⁾This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; before their marriage she found she was going to have a child through the Holy Spirit. ⁽¹⁹⁾Being a man of principle, and at the same time wanting to save her from exposure, Joseph made up his mind to have the marriage contract quietly set aside. ⁽²⁰⁾He had resolved on this, when an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home with you to be your wife. It is through the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. ⁽²¹⁾She will bear a son; and you shall give him the name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ⁽²²⁾All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord declared through the prophet: ⁽²³⁾'A virgin will conceive and bear a son, and he shall be called Emmanuel,' a name which means 'God is with us'.
Matthew 1:18-23



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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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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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In Betweeners

On Friday evening, December 11, the In-Betweeners got together for dinner and singing carols. We also collected blankets and sleeping bags to help those who need them keep warm in the cold weather.





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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 523-5229

www.peacelutheranlc.com 522-7119

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

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THANK YOU !!! THANKYOU !!!

Beautiful Hand Made Quilt
Made & Donated By Ronnie Harden
Our very own choir director, **Ryan Fellman** was drawn by one of our youth to receive the Quilt.
The Youth raised **\$400** towards the **2016 Summer Mission Trip to South Dakota – Sioux Nation**

THANK YOU !!! THANKYOU !!!

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Now There's a Thought

"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more." *The Grinch*

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Church Chuckles



Due to a slight hearing problem, history does not remember Doug and Gary, chicken herders of Bethlehem.

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Note...the Good News will not be published next week. May you all have a joyous Christmas, and we'll be back in January.

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Office Notice

If anything is needed from the office bookkeeper the week of December 21-25, she will only be in the office on Monday, December 21st.



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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>