

First Presbyterian Church of Albuquerque's

MESSENGER LIGHT

January 8, 2025



Church Office Hours Monday—Thursday 8:00am to 2:00pm

Our staff members can be reached individually by phone or email between 8am and 2pm, Monday through Friday:

Matthew Miller
505-764-2902

Essie Koenig-Reinke
505-764-2903

Leon Lake
505-900-5317

Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo
857-212-0158

Carolyn Rhodes
505-764-2906

Sharon Baca
505-764-2900

Saira Herrera
505-764-2911

If you have an after-hours emergency, you can reach pastoral staff through our helpline at 505-764-2910

First Presbyterian Church (USA)
215 Locust Street, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505-764-2900
www.firstpresabq.org



“The wisemen followed the star rooted in hope, not out of promise or guarantee, but out of hope that if something so amazing like a Judean King being born, than perhaps their home might experience this too.

“The Road isn’t straight”

They weave their way through the desert lands and terrain, they encounter Herod, not too different from their own rulers, and they continue on. More than an act of reverence, this is an act of hope, a faithful resistance to the fear, and all that is wrong in their home and world. And after these strangers leave their mark and gifts to family and land far from home, they could have returned the way they came, but instead, they chart the stars and trust the celestial bodies to guide them once again to safety. To follow the star is an act of hope.”

Sermon *“The Road isn’t Straight”*
By. Essie Koenig-Reinke

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Thursday, January 9th

- ABQ Girls' Chorus, 4:30 pm in Choir room.
- High Desert Pipes and Drums rehearsal, 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.
- Opera South West, Choir room, 6:30 pm.

Saturday, January 11th

- Water color society, 8:30 am.
- Opera South West, 10:00 am in Sanctuary.

Sunday, January 12th

- In-person Fellowship Hall Worship Service at 8:30 am
- Through the Bible Class at 9:45 am in CE Room 219
- Adult Sunday School at 9:45 am via Zoom/In-person in Kerygma Room
- Godly Play Sunday School (ages 3 through 5th grade) at 9:45 am in CE Rooms 210 & 211
- In-person/Livestream Worship Service, 11am
- Sarah Circle, 12:30 pm in Kerygma Room.

Monday, January 13th

- Kerygma Circle, 12:30 pm in Kerygma Room.
- Young Voices, 2:30 pm.
- Enchanters, 5:45 pm in Choir room
- Women's Chorus rehearsal in F.H. at 6:30 pm

Tuesday, January 14th

- Men's Breakfast, 7:30 am in Fellowship Hall.
- Young Voices, 12:30 pm.
- Sandia Peak Scottish Pipes and Drums rehearsal, 6:30pm-8:30pm in the FPC Sanctuary
- Opera South West, Choir Room, 6:30 pm.

Wednesday, January 15th

- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm.

Thursday, December 16th

- ABQ Girls' Chorus, 4:30 pm in Choir room.
- High Desert Pipes and Drums rehearsal, 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.
- Opera South West, Choir room, 6:30pm.

Saturday, January 18th

- Opera South West, 10:00 am.

Sunday, January 19th

- In-person Fellowship Hall Worship Service at 8:30 am
- Through the Bible Class at 9:45am in CE Room 219
- Adult Sunday School at 9:45am via Zoom/In-person in Kerygma Room
- Godly Play Sunday School (ages 3 through 5th grade) at 9:45am in CE Rooms 210 & 211
- In-person/Livestream Worship Service, 11am

REMINDER:

We are always accepting donations to our Rio Grande Food bin (canned/dry food) and to our Hope Found box (household supplies). These ongoing ministry partners are always in need of extra supplies!

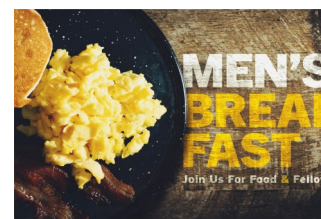


Tuesday Study and Prayer

Tuesday Study and Prayer Group resumes activities on Tuesday the 7th at noon.

Men's Breakfast

Join us at the Men's Fellowship Breakfast on Tuesday 14th at 7:30 am. You can register in the Office with Sharon.



PW Circle Meetings

[HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING FOR A BIBLE STUDY THAT LOOKS AT ISSUES RELEVANT TO TODAY'S WORLD?](#)

First Pres has two, and all are welcome to join! Although the name of the groups, which originally began over 200 years ago, is Presbyterian Women, we welcome men as well!

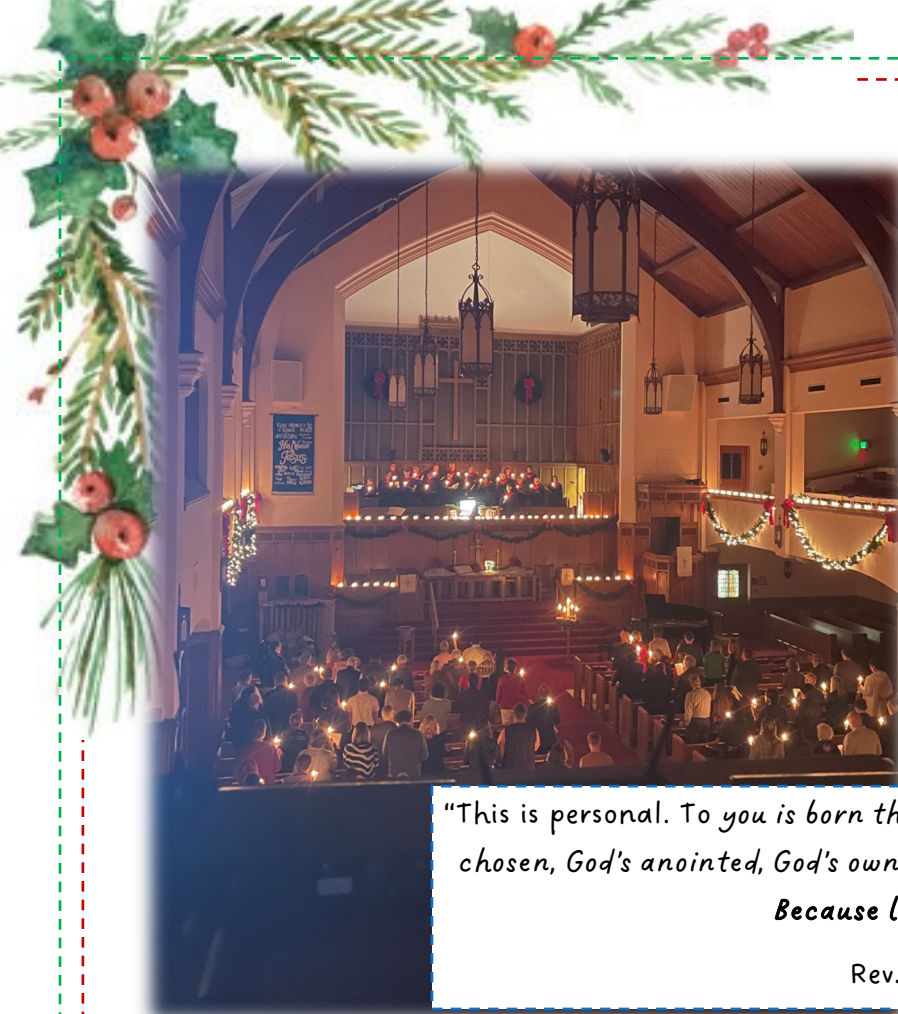
We use a study guide, Horizons, and in January, we are studying several Old Testament scriptures, focusing on Air Quality.

This is part of a larger, year-long study called, "Let Justice Roll Down".

Sound interesting? **Come join us either Sunday, January 12th or Monday, January 13th at 12:30 in the Kerygma Room.**

If you are interested in a ZOOM only group, contact Susan Smith (susankeil1246@gmail.com)

Everyone is invited! We hope you will join us!



Christmas Worship Service

Thank you for another wonderful Christmas Service!

The Church Staff sends best wishes of peace and happiness into the new year.

And our sincere thanks for all your support throughout this year.

"This is personal. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is God's chosen, God's anointed, God's own self. We can and should take this personally.

Because love knows your name"

Rev. Matthew Miller

The Spiritual Journey **William Sloane Coffin**

The Spiritual Journey of William Sloane Coffin, Part 1

Friday 1/17/25 10:00-11:30 Oasis Albuquerque. Price: \$15

William Sloane Coffin (1924-2006) was a Presbyterian pastor and advocate for civil rights and peace. Born into a wealthy family, he served in World War II with the CIA. He would become the chaplain at Yale University and the pastor at Riverside Church in New York City.

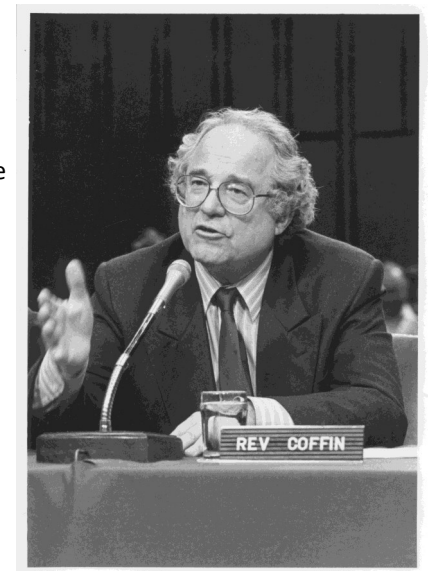
His autobiography is entitled *Once to Every Man*. Frank Yates examines Coffin's life in this first of two lectures on Coffin.

The Writings of William Sloane Coffin, Part 2

Friday 3/21/25 10:00-1:30 Oasis Albuquerque. Price: \$15

William Sloane Coffin (1924-2006) was a Presbyterian pastor and advocate for civil rights and peace. He wrote many sermons and books. Frank Yates examines some of Coffin's thoughts contained in such books as *Letters to a Young Doubter*, *A Passion for the Possible*, *Living the Truth in a World of Illusions*, and *The Collected Sermons of William Sloane Coffin*.

Coffin emerges as a passionate advocate for peace and justice in his writings.



Frank Yates is the Interim Pastor at Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church. He currently teaches at UNM Continuing Ed and St. Norbert College. He is a graduate of Abilene Christian University and UT Austin and has graduate degrees from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Men's Breakfast

Tuesday 14th at 7:30 am.

Join us at the Men's Fellowship Breakfast on Tuesday 14th at 7:30 am. You can register in the Office with Sharon.



Godly Play Sunday School

Godly Play Sunday School is back to activities on Sunday's at 9:45 am in CE Rooms 210 & 211.



Elder and Deacon-Elect Classes of 2027

January 12th & January 19th.

Will have Officer Training on Sunday, January 12 AND Sunday, January 19 from 12:15 to 1:00 pm in the Kerygma Room. Lunch will be provided. **Please contact Carolyn at 505-764-2906 to make your reservation for lunch.**

! Office will be Closed, the staff will be off Monday the 20th for the Holiday of Martin Luther King.

Events:

The New Mexico Women's Chorus
Changing the world one song at a time

**PEARLS OF CHANGE:
30 YEARS OF SONG**

SAT | JAN 18 | 7PM
SOUTH BROADWAY CULTURAL CENTER, 1025 BROADWAY BLVD SE



VIP SENIORS	\$18.00
VIP ADVANCED PURCHASE	\$20.00
VIP AT THE DOOR	\$25.00
SENIORS / STUDENTS.....	\$13.00
ADVANCED PURCHASE	\$15.00
AT THE DOOR.....	\$20.00

SUN | JAN 19 | 4PM
MESA VIEW METHODIST CHURCH, 4701 MONTANO RD NW

SENIORS / STUDENTS	\$13.00
ADVANCED PURCHASE.....	\$15.00
AT THE DOOR	\$20.00

Logos at the bottom: nma, urban embassment, Turquoise Trail Performing Arts

FPC FOUNDATION'S HERITAGE CLUB NEWS

Again, we have the pleasure of announcing qualifying contributions to the FPC Foundation's Heritage Club. Jim Harris and Danielle Johnston have made contributions in memory of their loved ones, Judy Harris and Douglas Johnston, respectively.

Also making a much-appreciated contribution are Janeen and John Doggett.

Contributions like these are so important to the continuing ability of the Foundation to support the Church and its ongoing operation and programs.

The Foundation contributed 48% of the church's operating budget in 2024. It is through contributions like these, given over the past 46 years, and our investment of those gifts, that the Foundation is able to support the Church in such an important way.

For information about how you can give to the Foundation's efforts, please contact:

Bob Bowersock, Executive Director, at 505-263-2798.



USING TRADITIONAL IRA TO GIVE TO CHURCH INCOME TAX-FREE

For senior donors to our church (over 70 1/2 years old) with a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA) (not Roth IRA, 401k or 403b plans), a direct cash contribution from your IRA to First Presbyterian Church is income tax-free.

Not only is it a nontaxable distribution, it counts towards any Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) that may affect the donor for that year. It also means the donor's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for federal income tax purposes is lower than with a taxable IRA distribution. This fact can provide some taxpayers with other tax benefits.

This type of tax-free distribution is limited to an annual amount of \$100,000 per donor to all charities and there are other limitations on the amount of non-taxable distributions related to tax-deductible CONTRIBUTIONS made to an IRA after 70 1/2.

All you have to do is contact your IRA custodian or trustee and ask them how to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to First Presbyterian Church. Not only are you giving to God's work here, but the government provides you an extra bonus tax-wise.

Of course, you cannot double-dip by also claiming a charitable contribution deduction for any income tax-free distribution on Schedule A because it was never recognized as income but that can be better than an itemized deduction.

This is general information available to the public. You must check with your own personal tax advisor to determine if you qualify and how this QCD applies to your particular tax situation.

- Finance and Stewardship Committee

MISSION NOTES –

Again, this **Advent season** we asked you as a congregation to consider giving to five of our Mission Partners. And, again, you provided such generous gifts. Our school partners wanted to provide equipment for the MakerSpaces for their STEM programs.

We asked for a list of items needed. The complete list would require almost \$3000 for each school. Thanks to your gifts we have **about \$2500 for each school**, specifically including a 3D printer for each. YAY!!!!

In the week prior to Christmas, **Rio Grande Food Project** needed food for their many clients. They came to the church hoping to find food in the barrel that is in Commons 2 year-round. We surprised them with the Advent offerings and the staff told me they **FILLED THE BACK OF A PICKUP!**

-This week we will be delivering the remaining items to Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless, Barrett House and Crossroads for Women.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. You all are AMAZING!

Just a word about other generosity .-

The Deacons gave **\$500 each** to Eugene Field and Longfellow schools for their Birthday Book programs AND **\$2500 each** to UNM and CNM for their student food pantries.

Did you know CNM has a Food Pantry on each of their 5 campuses throughout Albuquerque? UNM was happy to receive the funds to support food for students through the winter break when scholarship dollars have not yet arrived.

