



Sanctuary Update

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

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

**First Presbyterian
Church (USA)**

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A couple of months ago, I shared with all of you the discussion the Session had engaged regarding proposed upgrades to the flooring and chancel of our sanctuary. At that time, the congregation was invited to share its thoughts on the proposed changes with the Session. We were grateful for the feedback as it helped us to identify some of the concerns and hesitations you all had. As these were taken into consideration, we also had the opportunity at our October meeting to speak directly with our partners at Facility Build. Cameron Kilcup has been taking over the running of that company from his dad Brian and reminisced about his time running around the Fellowship Hall as a child attending Wednesday Night Live activities. Cam was able to speak to the Session about the advantage of Facility Build's in-house design/build capabilities as compared to the more traditional approach of hiring an architect and then putting the designs out to bid. Elders were able to ask their questions about the project. We then heard from the chair of the Financial Stewardship committee about ways to fund this project. Because the project includes a lift to improve accessibility in our worship space, we anticipate being able to finance the work at a favorable rate through the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program. Satisfied with what they heard and mindful of those who expressed reservations about the project, Session nevertheless discerned that these changes would enhance our mission to expand the church's circle. By doing this we can better serve and include community partners who will increase use of our beautiful sanctuary beyond Sunday morning and the church's active membership. A motion was made and passed to proceed with the work by Facility Build at a cost of roughly \$350,000.

Drawings of the proposed improvements will be mounted on poster board and put on display in the commons to give people a better understanding of the changes we'll be making. The signed proposal has been returned to Facility Build, who will work with the city on the permits required to begin construction. We don't expect that to happen until after the first of the year but hope to have all the work done before Easter. Once we have a better understanding of the timeline for construction, we will communicate the necessary changes to Sunday morning worship while the Sanctuary is under construction and strive to minimize disruptions as much as possible. This will likely require some patience and grace with each other and the staff as together we move toward the future God is calling us to as a church in our community.

Calendar for the Week

Thursday, November 21st

- ABQ Girls' Chorus, 4:00pm in Choir room
- High Desert Pipes and Drums rehearsal, 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 24th

- In-person Fellowship Hall Worship Service at 8:30am
- Fiber Arts Group meeting at 9:40am in Fellowship Hall
- 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, 9:45am in CE Room 210 & 211
- In-person/Livestream Sanctuary Worship Service, 11am
- Dedication Sunday, both services, please bring your 2025 pledges for the Financial Stewardship Committee

Monday, November 25th

- Enchanters, 5:45pm in Choir room
- Women's Chorus Rehearsal in F.H. at 6:30pm

Tuesday, November 26th

- Tuesday Study and Prayer Group begins Advent Study on Zoom at 12:00pm
- ABQ Boys' Choir, 5:00pm in Choir room
- Sandia Pipes and Drums rehearsal; 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 27th

- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm in Choir Loft

Thursday, November 28th

- Church Office Closed—Thanksgiving

Friday, November 29

- Church Office Closed—Thanksgiving Holiday
- **Sunday, December 1st—1st Sunday of Advent**
- In-person Fellowship Hall Worship Service at 8:30am
- 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, 9:45am in CE Room 210 & 211
- In-person/Livestream Sanctuary Worship Service, 11am

Reminder:

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



Giving Options

FPC works in our ministries to reach out to members of the church and our greater community. You can send contributions by mailing checks to the church:

First Presbyterian Church

215 Locust Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

You can give online at www.firstpresabq.org, click on the yellow "Give Online" button in the menu bar. Follow the instructions in the new window that opens to make your donations.

*** Remember to pay your Per Capita! The 2024 amount is \$37.00. You can pay in person or online.**

Quilters Needed for Advent!

This Advent season we will be doing a quilting project for worship, and Essie is looking for several folks with quilting experience to help us with our quilting squares! If this is a talent you have reach out to Essie for more information (essie.kr@firstpresabq.org).

Advent Study & Devotional Books

Join us this advent as we dive into our new advent study and devotional books: *Words for the Beginning: Advent Reminders for New Seasons*. This resource was created by a team of pastors and artists from the ministry Sanctified Art. All advent long you will see this theme being woven into our worship and community. Reading along in your advent devotional or by joining our advent study group is one way to join us this season!

If you are interested in reserving a FREE copy of the devotional for yourself OR if you would like to sign up for our Advent study group (who will be using the same devotional resource) Sign up below. Pick up for ALL devotional booklets will be Sunday November 24 & Sunday December 1 in the church office.

Dates and Times for Advent Study Group:

Tuesday, December 3 @ 6pm (on Zoom)

Tuesday, December 10 @ 6 pm (on Zoom)

Tuesday, December 17 @ 6 pm (on Zoom)

Sunday, December 22 @ 6 pm (in person)

The final gathering will be in person in the Lower Commons area, and we will celebrate the advent season together with hot cocoa and candlelight!

Link to the sign up:

<https://forms.gle/aG8Zhe8vUa5hTi959>

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN'S DEDICATION SUNDAY

This Sunday, November 24th, 2024

Bring your pledge card forward during the service and as a congregation we will bless these financial commitments made by Members and Friends for the work of our church for 2025.

We appreciate all members and friends that contribute to the congregations giving year after year – and we thank you in advance for your thoughtful considerations.

We want to remind you that providing a pledge of your intention for next year's giving supports the Financial Stewardship Committee and Session in developing a budget that is based on sound information/historical trends rather than hopeful estimates.



COMMUNITY LIFE ACTIVITIES

On December 8th, there will be an All-Church Potluck Brunch at 12:15 in Fellowship Hall after the Chancel Choir Cantata. Please sign up in the church office to bring your favorite Christmas breakfast dish. If your last name starts with A-M we suggest you bring a sweet breakfast dish; N-Z bring a savory breakfast dish. We hope to see you there!

The Fiber Arts group meets the 4th Sunday of each month at 9:40am in the Fellowship Hall. We hope that you can join us, this Sunday!

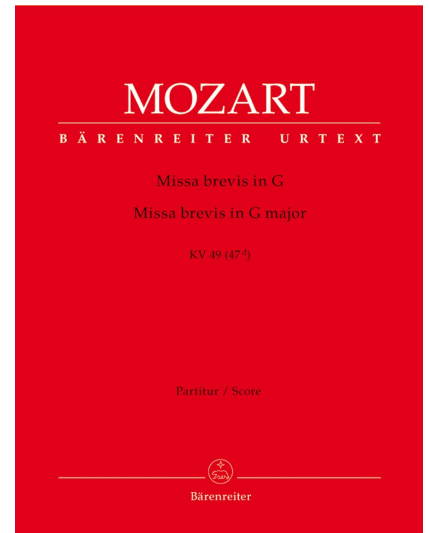
If you are interested in joining a Social Justice Action Group please contact Becky Dees at (505) 350-6152 or rebeccadees921@gmail.com. We will discuss best days and times to meet.

CHANCEL CHOIR PRESENTS ITS CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church ABQ is excited to announce our Christmas Cantata. Please join us on December 8th at 11:00am in the Sanctuary of FPC-ABQ for our offering in proclamation of the birth of Christ as we sing:

Missa Brevis in G K49
By W. A. Mozart

Composed in Vienna in the autumn of 1768, at the age of 12, Mozart's Mass in G major, K. 49/47d), is his first full mass. It is a missa brevis (brief mass) scored for SATB soloists and choir. The score consists of 6 sections. Text and translations will be provided in the bulletin.



TUESDAY STUDY AND PRAYER GROUP

The Tuesday Study and Prayer Group is doing a 4 week Advent study using the book *Rise Up Shepherd! Advent Reflections on the Spirituals*. The group meets on zoom from 12:00 noon until 1:30pm. Please contact the church office if you would like to be included on the email distribution list for the link for these meetings. The first session will be on November 26th.

The Tuesday Study and Prayer Group is hosting an event on December 15th at 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall. We will be hosting our friends from the Raindrop Foundation Turkish Cultural House, an organization founded to promote educational, charitable, social and cultural interactions. John Sitler, religious studies teacher at Menaul School, will give a presentation on the traditions of the Virgin Mary in the various world religions, followed by an opportunity to dialogue with one another.

All are welcome. Please sign up in the church office so that we will have enough food and handouts for all.