



## 2023 Christmas Cantata

**Daniel Rogers Pinkham Jr.** (June 5, 1923 – December 18, 2006) was an American composer, organist, and harpsichordist from Lynn, Massachusetts, who served as senior lecturer at the New England Conservatory of Music. Pinkham's Christmas and Wedding cantatas have long been staples of the choral world, well regarded since they were composed in the mid-1950's being called "a dynamic masterpiece."

As the oldest Protestant congregation in New Mexico, the Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church Albuquerque has a tradition of bringing meaningful music and worship to the community of New Mexico.

The Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church has been working hard to bring Daniel Pinkham's "Christmas Cantata" to worship December 10th at 11:00am in the sanctuary. This amazing American composition brings lively music and traditional Latin text, to celebrate the coming of Christ into this world. The sounds of First Presbyterian Albuquerque's chancel choir, brass choir, and magnificent Muller organ will soar through the rafters on Pinkham's incredible harmony and bouncing rhythms. Please join us as we celebrate through song!

### Church Office Hours

**Monday—Thursday**

**8:00am to 2:00pm**

**Friday**

**8:00am to 12:00pm**

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

**Carolyn Rhodes**

505-764-2906

**Alona Watchman**

505-764-2911

**Sharon Baca**

505-764-2900

**Leon Lake**

505-764-2914

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](http://www.firstpresabq.org)**

## Calendar for the Week

### **Thursday, November 30th**

- ABQ Girl's Chorus, 4:30pm in Choir Room
- High Desert Pipes and Drums rehearsal, 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall

### **Sunday, December 3rd**

- 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 at 9:45am in CE Room 210
- In-person/Livestream Sanctuary Worship Service, 11am
- Civic Chorus Concert, 4:00pm in FPC Sanctuary

### **Monday, December 4th**

- Enchanters, 5:45pm in Choir room
- Women's Chorus rehearsal in F.H. at 6:00pm

### **Tuesday, December 5th**

- Boys' Choir, 4:30pm in Choir room
- Sandia Pipes and Drums, 6:00pm-8:30pm in Fellowship Hall

### **Wednesday, December 6th**

- Social Services Network meeting, 11:30am in Fellowship Hall
- Chancel Choir rehearsal, 6:30pm in Choir Loft

### **Thursday, December 7th**

- ABQ Girl's Chorus, 4:30pm in Choir Room
- High Desert Pipes and Drums rehearsal, 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall
- UNM Concert, 7:30pm-8:30pm in FPC Sanctuary

### **Sunday, December 10th**

- 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 at 9:45am in CE Room 210
- In-person/Livestream Sanctuary Worship Service, 11am
- Congregational Lunch, 12:15pm in Fellowship Hall
- Advent Ornament workshop, 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall

## Poinsettias Coming

The Sunbonnet Shop will be selling poinsettias once again this Advent Season. Colors available are red and cinnamon. Plants will be delivered on November 30, available after noon that day and on Sunday, December 3. If you would like to reserve yours in advance, please leave a message with the Sunbonnet Shop or email Susan Smith at [susankeil1246@gmail.com](mailto:susankeil1246@gmail.com). Cost per plant is \$12.00.

## Sunbonnet Shop News

Holiday items are on their way. Please stop by the Sunbonnet Shop and see the new holiday items available. All proceeds from sales go to local mission projects.

## 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](http://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 2023 amount is \$37.00. You can pay in person or online.**

## Birth Announcement

Lainey Gray Maize, daughter of Angelica and Landon Maize and Granddaughter of Kay and Steve Maize was born, November 17, 2023.

## Tuesday Study & Prayer Group Updates

We will be using the book, "Preparing for Christmas" with Richard Rohr during Advent and starting on December 5th. We will not meet on January 2nd, 2024 and will resume meeting on January 9th to continue our study of "Call it Grace" by Serene Jones.

## Flowers Dedicated For Worship Services

The deacons are grateful for the generosity of members and friends who have dedicated flowers for worship services on Sundays. This "flower ministry" reaches far and wide as deacons deliver to homebound for birthdays, special times and when we have been made aware of circumstances that call for prayer and cheer. If you are remembering a special loved one and wish to have either a small arrangement or an entire bouquet, please let us know prior to the Sunday when the flowers will be in the services, so that deacons can make arrangements to accommodate your request. Otherwise, the deliveries are ordinarily planned in advance. You may leave a message in the office or in the deacon box.

With gratitude and grace for these visible symbols of remembrance and care. The Board of Deacons

**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!

## **From the Finance and Stewardship Committee:**

### **2024 Pledging Update**

As of 11/27/23, the church has received **2024 pledges totaling \$212,960.**

The 2023 budget was built with a pledge base of \$269,124. Our goal is to have a pledged giving base of \$270-350K for 2024. Please continue to turn in your pledges to the church office through the month of December.

### **Per Capita Contributions**

FPC has received \$2,077 (8%) in member contributions towards the church's 2023 Per Capita payment of \$25,746 to the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly governing bodies of PC (USA). If you are a member of FPC, please consider contributing \$37 per member amount.

Per capita dollars undergird, support, and enable the work of the church - Like General Assembly meetings, Commission on Ministry, Stated Clerk, and office expenses and is shared across all governing bodies.

See this PC(USA) site for more information: <https://oga.pcusa.org/section/ecclesial-and-ecumenical-ministries/per-capita/frequently-asked-questions/>

### **2023 Donation Deadlines**

All end-of-year giving and donations must be made by Sunday, December 31st in order to be included in your 2023 year-end giving statement.

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### **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), a direct cash contribution from your IRA to First Presbyterian Church is income tax-free. This contribution counts towards any Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). 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. 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.

See the 11.15.23 Messenger for the full article. 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.

## Endowment Foundation Announcement

God has richly blessed this congregation financially over the years. One of those financial blessings is through the FPC Endowment Foundation supported by the many planned giving and estate donations to the Endowment by past and present members of this church. Their incredible generosity in the past allows the Endowment to be generous to the church today.

The Endowment makes quarterly distributions of profits, dividends and appreciation to various ministries of the church consistent with donor restrictions. Unrestricted donations are distributed to the general fund or operating budget of the church. In 2023, these unrestricted distributions of profits, dividends and appreciation towards the operating fund are \$613,000 or 55% of the total budgeted revenue of the operating fund.

The remaining 45% of the revenue for the operating fund is made up by you -- congregational giving which has averaged \$500,000 for the last several years and to a smaller degree rents and leases of church real property.

A recent trend in the operations budget is that the Endowment is paying more and more of the revenue for the budget. Now it is more than half. This has not been true in the past.

Another recent occurrence is market performance related. The Endowment's standard five-year distribution formula indicates a huge decrease in the amounts to be distributed based upon the market losses suffered by the Endowment (and everyone else, by the way) in 2022. Federal tax law requires the Endowment to distribute more than the indicated amount under the distribution formula but it will still be \$180,000 less than 2023. The Endowment board intends to do what it can to support the operations budget next year in 2024 but increased congregational giving would also help.

The history, purpose and structure of the Endowment may be interesting to you.

The Endowment was formed in 1977 and over the last 50 years has contributed funds to support the current and long-term needs of FPC by being a permanent funding source for the church while holding in perpetuity the principal amount of donations made to the Endowment. The Endowment is a legacy of a faithful Christian people. The Endowment is a gift, a responsibility and an opportunity.

Why legally separate from the church and the session, the Endowment is integrally connected with the church. The Endowment's trustees are nominated by the Congregational Nominating Committee and elected by the congregation every September. The trustees are all members of the church. Only two current session members can sit on the board of trustees at one time. The current Executive Director of the Endowment, Bob Bowersock who is a member here. Bob sits on the church's Finance and Stewardship Committee. The Endowment and the church are bound together and overlap each other.

The Christian programs, service and mission of this church have been supported by members of the congregation for almost 150 years and over the last 50 years joined by the Endowment.

Help the Endowment to continue to underwrite those programs and missions next year and into the future.

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Stephen Rhoades or Bob Bowersock.  
Thank you.



## Advent - Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love ---

Our **Advent Tree** is a way for each of us to share the meaning of Advent with our neighbors. Last year this congregation gave so much to the mission partners we featured on the Advent Tree. We hope you find this project a good way to live into Advent this year as well.

The mission partners we have chosen this year are:

Barrett House

Crossroads for Women

The Community Schools Collaborative

Rio Grande Food Project

Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless

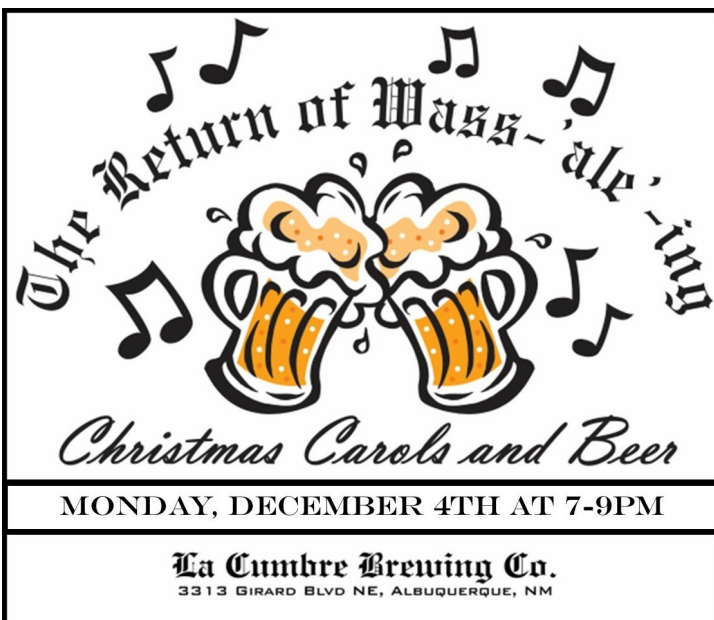
Each of these mission partners serve some of the neediest of our neighbors. Homelessness, increasing cost of rents and food and gasoline all bear heavily on their clients. They ask for food and goods that many of us can take for granted. We may have tightened our belts, but we still manage to have enough. Hopefully we can share generously this year, as we did last year.

At the **Advent Tree in the 2nd Commons**, you will find a brief description of the work of each partner and of some of their greatest needs. There is also a description of how you pick your tags and replace it with a little angel to decorate the tree.

Thank you so much for your support. We wish each of you could hear the thanks we receive from folks who seem amazed that this congregation is so generous and caring.

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## 9th Annual Wass'ale'ing on December 4th at La Cumbre



What is Wassailing you ask? It is the age old practice of singing to the orchards and enjoying the fruit of fermentation so that the orchards will produce an abundant crop the following year. The practice of Caroling grew out of this tradition, as did many of our favorite Christmas Carols.

We will be replacing the orchard with a brewery, but there still promises to be carols to sing and beverages to enjoy. Everyone's welcome, so invite your friends! We hope to see you there!

If you choose to drink, please do so responsibly.

## FPC Fiction Book Group for December

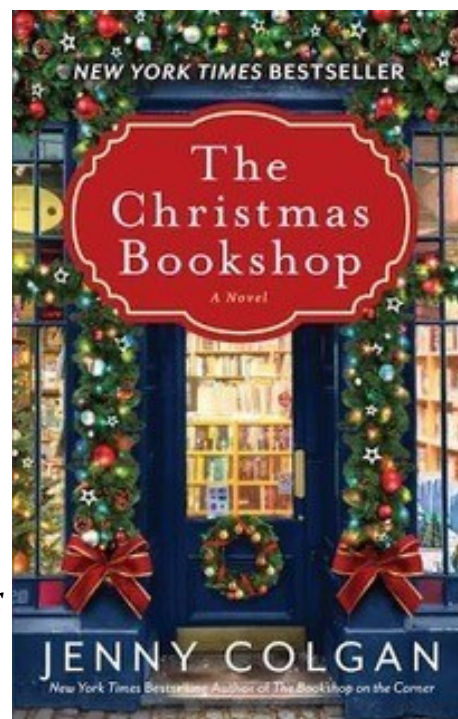
Our next book will be “The Christmas Bookshop” by Jenny Colgan. We will be meeting on December 7th, 2023 at 10am in the Conference room, meeting leader is Marjorie Buck.

**About the book** (from the back cover):

Laid off from her department store job, Carmen has perilously little cash and few options. The prospect of spending Christmas with her perfect sister Sofia, in Sofia’s perfect house with her perfect children and her perfectly ordered yuppie life does not appeal.

Frankly, Sofia doesn’t exactly want her prickly sister Carmen there either. But Sofia has yet another baby on the way, a mother desperate to see her daughters get along, and a client who needs help revitalizing his shabby old bookshop. So Carmen moves in and takes the job.

Thrown rather suddenly into the inner workings of Mr. McCredie’s ancient bookshop on the picturesque streets of historic Edinburgh, Carmen is intrigued despite herself. The store is dusty and disorganized but undeniably charming. Can she breathe some new life into it in time for Christmas shopping? What will happen when a famous and charismatic author takes a sudden interest in the bookshop—and Carmen? And will the Christmas spirit be enough to help heal her fractured family?



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## A Child’s Garden Spring Soiree 2024

### SAVE THE DATE

*A Child's Garden Spring Soiree*



FUNDRAISER IN FULL BLOOM

MAY 18, 2024  
4PM-7PM

WWW.ACHILDSGARDENABQ.ORG

Support ACG at our first major fundraiser since the pandemic on May 18, 2024. A joyful evening at our Spring Soiree from 4-7pm at Public House located at 201 Hermosa Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. Early bird tickets are available for \$75 until March 17 or until they sell out. Reserve yours today by visiting our Square site. <https://a-childs-garden.square.site/spring-soiree>