



CHRISTMAS EVE AT FPC

8:30 am in Fellowship Hall—celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent

4:30 pm in the Sanctuary—Christmas Eve Family service

8:00 pm in the Sanctuary—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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.

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

Calendar for the Week

Thursday, December 14th

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

Sunday, December 17th

- 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 18th

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

Tuesday, December 19th

- Sandia Pipes and Drums, 6:00pm-8:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 20th

- Longest Night Service; 5:30 pm in the Chapel
- Chancel Choir rehearsal, 6:30pm in Choir Loft

Sunday, December 24th

- In-person Fellowship Hall Worship Service at 8:30am
- Christmas Eve Family Service; 4:30 pm in the Sanctuary
- In-person/Livestream Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary, 8:00 pm

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 2023 amount is \$37.00. You can pay in person or online.**

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.

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!



Sunbonnet Shop News

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

SAVE THE DATE

A Child's Garden Spring Soiree



WWW.ACHILDSGARDENABQ.ORG

Join ACG for 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>

From the Finance and Stewardship Committee:

2024 Pledging Update

As of 12/12/23, the church has received **2024 pledges totaling \$258,730.**

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

As of 12/12/2023, FPC has received \$3,026 (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). Thank you to those members who have contributed their Per Capita! 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.

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.