

Messenger Light

April 10, 2024



The Garden of Eden

You are invited to attend the Pops Concert and Dinner presented by the FPC Choirs & Staff on May 11th at 4:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are on sale until May 8th. Adult tickets are \$20 each, or \$35 for two, and children tickets are only \$10. Don't miss this exceptional opportunity to enjoy a unique musical selection and captivating cabaret-style seating that combines the greatest elements of a banquet and theater.

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

505-764-2914

Carolyn Rhodes

505-764-2906

Alona Watchman

505-764-2911

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)**

**215 Locust Street, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102**

505-764-2900

www.firstpresabq.org

The Choirs & Staff of FPC present -
The Garden of Eden
Pops Concert and Dinner

Saturday, May 11@ 4:00pm
Fellowship Hall Cabaret Theater

Musical selections from Wicked, Children of Eden,
& Godspell

Catering from Olive Garden

Tickets: \$20 per person
\$35 for 2
\$10 for children 10 & under

Ticket sales through May 8th



Calendar for the Week

Thursday, April 11th

- Julie Rogers - A Service of Witness to the Resurrection, 11:00am in FPC Sanctuary
- ABQ Girls Choir; 4:30 pm in Choir room
- High Desert Pipes and Drums rehearsal, 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Friday, April 12th

- Bernalillo County Extension, 9:30am-3:00pm in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, April 13th

- Community Life Movie Night, 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 14th

- 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
- PW Birthday Party Lunch, 12:15pm in Fellowship Hall

Monday, April 15th

- Enchanters, 5:45pm in Choir room
- Women's Chorus rehearsal, 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 16th

- Building & Grounds Committee meeting, 9:30am in Conference room
- Prayer / Book Study Group at 12:00pm via Zoom
- Caregivers Support group meeting, 5:00pm via Zoom
- ABQ Boys Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 pm in Choir room
- Worship & Music Committee meeting, 5:30pm in Kerygma room
- Sandia Pipes and Drums rehearsal; 6:00 pm in F.H.

Wednesday, April 17th

- Bell Choir rehearsal, 1:30pm, FPC Sanctuary east transept
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm in Choir Loft

Thursday, April 18th

- ABQ Girls Choir; 4:30 pm in Choir room
- High Desert Pipes and Drums rehearsal, 6:30pm in F.H.

Sunday, April 21st

- 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
- PW Sarah's Circle meeting, 12:30pm in Kerygma room

A Word of Thanks from David & Kathy Hsi to the Deacons, Paul & Margaret Cunningham and all who sent flowers, cards and prayers in honor of Kathy. We appreciate your all your support.

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.**

PW Birthday Party Lunch

Presbyterian Women of FPC invite you to join us for a Birthday Party on Sunday, April 14th, immediately following the 11:00 worship service. Lunch will be served. Ordinarily, in the spring PW takes a special (Birthday) offering to support designated projects that the National organization has reviewed. This year's projects include Advocates for Community Choice dba Bethel Hills Villa 5 Apartments and Recreation Area (serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities) in Marthasville, Missouri and Shawnee Presbyterian Church Café Ginkgo (serving meals for single mothers and children who are suffering from food insecurity) in Louisville, Kentucky.

This year, at FPC, we will encourage those who come to the party to contribute to a free will offering to support these programs. Let's celebrate all our birthdays together with lunch and a party next Sunday.

Adult Sunday School for April/May

Rev. Anna Taylor Sweringen is teaching a class on: Can any of the following be found in the Bible: "he descended into hell," "the love of money is the root of all evil," or "cleanliness is next to Godliness"? Join the adult class in April and May for You Mean That's Not In The Bible? where we will have fun discovering and discussing familiar sayings, concepts and beliefs attributed to the Bible which really are not.

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!

Community Life Activities

April 13 - Hope you can join us for Movie Night at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall. Bring a potluck dish to share, and popcorn will be provided.



May 4 at 6:35 PM - It's Baseball time again! Join us for an Isotopes Baseball game. Tickets are \$16.50 each. If you would like to attend, please sign up in the church office.

Our fiber arts group is on the 4th Sunday of each month in Fellowship Hall, at 9:40 am. We are currently working on hats for Elementary School children, but you are welcome to bring any project.



Mission Committee Updates

April is **Bread for the World Offering of Letters** month. Please join us in the Commons 2 to write letters to your Senators and Representative. We will write letters April 14th and 21st and dedicate the letters at both services on the 21st.

April also has 2 events for our mission partners, **Menaul School** (April 19th) and **Habitat for Humanity** (April 27th). Both are dinner events. If you would like to attend these please contact Carol Marr, 505-710-4616, cmarr2142@gmail.com. We need your response soon!

New Day is launching a **Job Preparedness Course** which includes **Dressing for Success**. They would like help getting the following items:

Women's Shoes - sizes 6+7, with a few size 8s. Size 0 - super petite dress clothes. Women's dress belts.

Men's Pants with a 30-32 inch length (inseam) with a variety of waists.

Shoes - size 9-10 and one pair of size 13 or 14. Men's dress belts.

2305 Renaud Place SE, Ste. 200, 87106.

Habitat for Humanity – St. Andrews Church is sponsoring a workday on May 4th. They would welcome any of our members who would like to work on Unity House. Please contact Marilyn Stoops if you can join them.

Thank you for all your support for our Menaul “Green Tea” Benefit



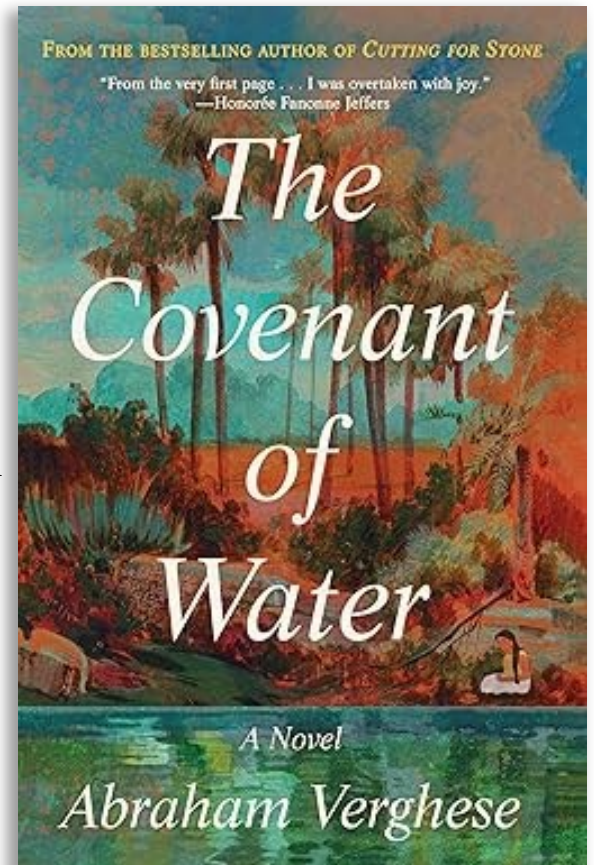
Many thanks to all who contributed to the Green Tea to benefit Menaul School Tuition Assistance. PW raised \$1200 to send to Menaul for this purpose.

FPC Fiction Book Group for April

Our next book will be *“The Covenant of Water”* by Abraham Verghese. We will be meeting on April 25, 2024 at 10am in the Conference room, meeting leader is Kim Denton-Hill.

About the book (from the back cover):

Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, *The Covenant of Water* is set in Kerala, on South India's Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning—and in Kerala, water is everywhere. At the turn of the century, a twelve-year-old girl from Kerala's long-existing Christian community, grieving the death of her father, is sent by boat to her wedding, where she will meet her forty-year-old husband for the first time. From this unforgettable new beginning, the young girl—and future matriarch, known as Big Ammachi—will witness unthinkable changes over the span of her extraordinary life, full of joy and triumph as well as hardship and loss, her faith and love the only constants.



Earth Day Resources for Santa Fe Presbytery Congregations

The first Earth Day was held on April 2, 1970. Since then, over one billion people participate each year in this effort to protect our planet. It is the largest civic movement on earth, bringing people from 192 countries together. It is not a “day” but a movement working toward a healthier, more sustainable environment. This year the organizers of Earth Day are directing us to increasingly reduce the use of plastics for the sake of human, non-human, and planetary health.

Santa Fe Presbytery’s Earth Care Team has several suggestions for how to celebrate Earth Day on Sunday, April 21, but use your imagination and be creative.

PRAY

**Prayers of Confession* can focus on the many ways we abuse creation and fail to be the stewards that God has called us to be. *Prayers of the People* can lift up those who suffer the most from climate change, and petition God to move hearts and minds toward a more peaceful, environmentally sustainable planet.

*Use the *Earth Day Litany* (below)

*Have teens write their prayer concerns for the planet they are inheriting.

*Involve younger children. Perhaps the children could draw pictures on the Earth Day theme and be displayed for the congregation to see.

LEARN

*Plan Adult Education events to learn more about the climate crisis and how we as Christians can respond.

*Youth are gravely concerned about the future they will inherit. Listen to them and help them find hope and courage to face their uncertain future. Ask the youth questions, such as: How important is the health of our planet to your future? What’s one change we could make that would improve the planet’s health?

*Perhaps you can invite a guest speaker on Earth Day to lead the congregation in a reflection. Alternately, if you have a teenage or adult Sunday School class this could be done in that class. If you need suggestions, please contact Dave Wasserman (davewass1948@gmail.com), our Earth Care Team Chair.

Here are some sites for more ideas on what to do for Earth Day:

<https://www.nm-ipl.org/food-and-climate-change/epa-program-on-food-waste/>

[Earth Day Resources - CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES](#)

[Presbyterians for Earth Care – An Eco-Justice Network \(presbyearthcare.org\)](#)

ACT

*Earth Day organizers, as well as the PCUS, are encouraging the reduction of plastics in our environment. Challenge your congregation to begin using less plastics in our church, home, and workplaces.

*Do an energy audit of your church and home.

*Compost, recycle, and make other life-style changes that will reduce waste and pollution. Every action, however small, is a step toward meeting what has been called the greatest challenge human beings have every faced.

LITANY FOR EARTH DAY 2024

(from Gen 1:12, 26-28 and Psalm 96:11-12)

One: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice!

Many: Let the sea roar, and let the field exclaim!

One: The trees of the forest will sing for joy!

Many: God cares for all of God's creation.

One: When God began to create the heavens and the earth the earth was without shape, and it was dark over the deep sea while God's Spirit swept over the face of the waters.

Many: God created everything and called it "good."

One: God created humanity in God's own image to take charge and take care of the earth, the plants, and the animals.

Many: From the smallest seed to the largest tree, from the smallest atom to the largest continent God, calls upon us to care for our good world.

One: It is our responsibility and great joy to care for our world.

Let us call to mind our sins committed against God's Earth.....For our greed, wastefulness, and destruction of the Earth, Lord have mercy.

One: We pray for: 1) Health of God's creation, which has been greatly compromised by the activities of mankind (greenhouse gas releases, plastic use etc.) over recent times. 2) Knowledge for each of us in ways individuals can reduce their personal impact. 3) Knowledge and wisdom for world leaders, and especially for leaders of our Nation, that they might lead us in a way that will provide a healthy, productive globe for future generations.

Many: Today on Earth Day 2024 we pledge to continue caring for our world, to protect endangered animals, to secure safe drinking water for areas without it, to reduce our energy use, and to advocate for the protection of these resources and others. And with God's help the world will be a better place for all. Amen.



OFFERING of LETTERS

Put your faith into action with
Bread for the World's Offering of Letters!

As people of faith, we are called to give of our time, talent, and treasure for a greater purpose. Bread for the World invites you to use your voice to help end hunger.

Every year, Bread for the World organizes churches, community organizations, and people of faith from across the country to write letters and emails to their members of Congress who have the power to impact the policies and programs that can end hunger.

By taking part in Bread for the World's 2024 Offering of Letters, you will help support domestic and international nutrition programs that offer a hand up to families and a brighter future for children.

Your letter matters. Combined with others from your church, campus, or organization—and joined with the voices of thousands of advocates across the country—your letter or email is an expression of faith and hope, urging U.S. decision makers to pursue a world without hunger. God uses these letters to change hearts and minds, and again and again, Bread for the World wins help and opportunity for our neighbors who face hunger.

Prayer of the Day

God of love,

*We gather this day to worship you;
to hear your word proclaimed,*

*to pray for our neighbors,
near and far,*

*and to offer the gift of our voices
-and our words*

*so that children around the world
have enough nourishing food
that they will thrive.*

Amen. 🙏



How to participate in Offering of Letters

Join Bread for the World in pursuing a world without hunger.

Please take a few minutes to write your members of Congress. Urge them to help families and children experiencing hunger and poverty—no matter where they live.

Sample letters can be found to print or send by email at [cl.bread.org](https://www.bread.org).

Offering of Letters Sample

[Date]

Rep. _____
U.S. House of Representatives Washington,
DC 20515

Sen. _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator _____, / Dear Representative _____,

The farm bill is our nation's most important national food system legislation. It is critical to the work of ending hunger at home and abroad. Indeed, the farm bill impacts each one of us.

As Congress works to renew our food and farm programs through the farm bill, I urge you to support legislation that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

Specifically, I ask you to:

- Protect SNAP from funding cuts and further restrictions.
- Increase funding for fresh produce within SNAP benefits through the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP).
- Reduce food waste by cosponsoring the *Food Date Labeling Act*, H.R.3159/S.1484.
- Reauthorize the Food for Peace global nutrition program at no less than its current level of \$2.5 billion annually and allow additional flexibility to provide the most effective form of assistance in each local context.

[Add a sentence or two about why this is important to you. For example: As a person of faith, I am moved to help and advocate for people experiencing hunger and poverty – no matter where they live. This is why I urge you to support a farm bill that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.]

Sincerely,

[Your name]
[Your address]

Please bring your letters to the church by
Sunday, April 28, 2024.

