First Presbyterian Church of Albuquerque's

Messenger Light

May 17, 2023

Bread for the World - Offering of Letters

What can you do to serve folks who are hungry, who live with food insecurity, who don't have access to nutritious food close to home and at a fair price? **What if doing something was free and only took a few minutes of your time?**

Bread for the World is an advocacy organization that works to improve nutrition around the world – domestic and globally. Much of the support for nutrition programming is included in The Farm Bill.

The Farm Bill includes much more than farm policies and programs. Up to 75% of its funding is spent on nutrition programs, primarily SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Bread for the World advocates for global change through

- Reauthorization of The Farm Bill
- Reform of programming to encourage local and regional procurement leading to local agricultural sustainability
- Research in agricultural productivity and nutrition in other countries
- Replenishing funding used to purchase US commodities for global use

First Presbyterian Church is in the midst of our **Offering of Letters** campaign. We are writing letters to our senators and representatives at the Federal level asking for support for reauthorization of The Farm Bill.

Please join us in the Commons area and sign a form letter, or get information that will help you write your own letter. Or go online to www.Bread.org/offering-letters/#Resources and look for the turquoise button labeled "Email Congress".

On May 28th, please bring your letters to church to be dedicated and sent in bulk to our Senator and Representatives. You don't even have to provide an envelope.

HOW EASY IS THAT?

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
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

Calendar for the Week

Thursday, May 18th
- ABQ Girl's Chorus, 4:00pm in Choir Room
- ABQ Pipes and Drums rehearsal, 6:30pm in F.H.

Sunday, May 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-1:30pm in the Kerygma room

Monday, May 22nd
- Enchanters, 5:45pm-7:45pm in Choir room
- Women's Chorus rehearsal in F.H. at 6:00pm

Tuesday, May 23rd
- Session meeting at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, May 24th
- Last Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm in Choir Loft

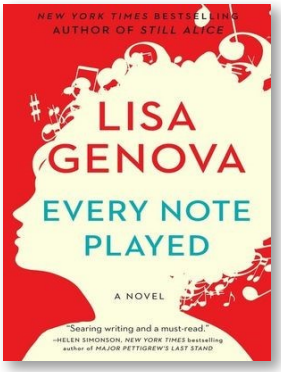
Thursday, May 25th
- FPC Fiction Book Group, 10:00am in Conference room
- ABQ Girl's Chorus, 4:00pm in Choir Room
- ABQ Pipes and Drums rehearsal, 6:30pm in F.H.

Sunday, May 28th
- 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

Summer Adult Sunday School

Starting May 21 and running through August 13, Christian Education is offering a video course "The History of Christianity: From the Disciples to the Dawn of the Reformation" taught by Prof. Luke Timothy Johnson, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta. The class will be taught as hybrid (Class Room/ Zoom) starting at 9:45 am. This year, we will offer the first part of three series, 1-12. A course syllabus will be available at the start of the class.

FPC Fiction Book Group



Thursday, May 25, 10am:

Every Note Played

by Lisa Genova

Facilitated by Cristy Dockter

No need to sign up – just read and show up at the Church ready to discuss. Meeting will take place in conference room. All are welcome!

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.**

Family Promise Update

From May 21st - 28th FPC volunteers will once again have the opportunity to support homeless families participating in Family Promise. There is a need for weekend dinner volunteers and for people to furnish breakfast and lunch items as well as snacks. If you are interested in helping out with this mission opportunity, please sign up on the schedule in Commons One. If you have questions please contact the church office or Ann Calderwood.

2023 Albuquerque Women's Market

Albuquerque Women's Market will be held at Crossroads Village (235-239 Elm St NE 87102) on Saturday, May 20th, from 10am – 3pm. We've invited local artisans to sell their crafts alongside some of our community members. We will have over 25 different vendors including a food truck and face painting for the kids at the event!

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!

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

Community Life Committee - Save the Dates

June 16 - Zoo Music Concert at the ABQ Biopark Zoo 6-8:30 PM
LADAMA (Latin Alternative)
You can purchase tickets online: Adults $17, Seniors and youth (3-12) $8.50, Children 2 and under - free
NMBPS members 50% off with valid ID
We will have a designated place to meet up with church members and friends and enjoy a relaxing evening together.

September 1-3 (Labor Day Weekend) - Ghost Ranch Fall Camp, more info to follow for Registration.

Congratulations to Our 2023 Graduates!

We are so excited to celebrate the academic achievements of this year's graduates at First Presbyterian Church. Congratulations to each of you for your hard work and dedication to education! Please join us in honoring the following graduates in our congregation:

Lily Babenco, daughter of Amy Babenco, granddaughter of Sharon Swallows, graduating from Valley High School.

Leyton Ryan Barefoot, grandson of Joyce Barefoot, graduating from Marist School in Atlanta with a scholarship to Florida State.

Jackson Ziegler, grandson of Bob and Sue Bowersock, graduating from Sandia High School.

Grace Miller, daughter of Matthew and Marie Miller, graduating from University of Arts - London.

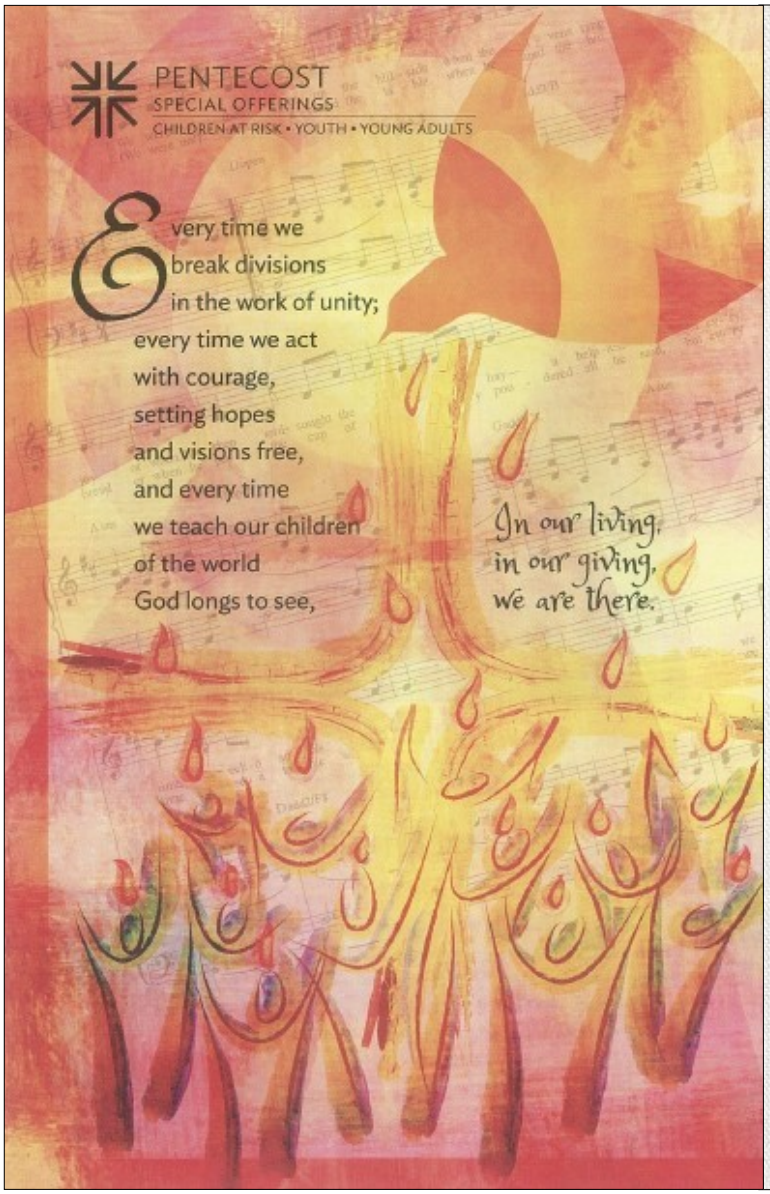
Nicolas and Sofia Tenorio, grandchildren of Beth Busick, graduating from Eldorado High School.

Johanna Ebode, graduating from UNM with B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering.

Allison Parker Butterfield, daughter of Dee Dee and Pete Butterfield, sister of Laynie Butterfield, granddaughter of Gene and Dona Arnot, Niece of Margaret and Paul Cunningham, graduating from University of Texas at San Antonio for hearing and speech, Masters degree of Deaf Education with Special Education Certification.

Pentecost Special Offering

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Donations and offerings made will be distributed to the PCUSA Special Offering fund for Pentecost.



We are there

We are there to create opportunities for young people to grow, thrive and take part in building up the body of Christ through our gifts to the Pentecost Offering.

40%	**stays with our congregation** to support local ministries with children, youth, and young adults.
25%	**supports Young Adult Volunteers** (YAV), serving in communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.
25%	**supports Ministries with Youth** especially the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.
10%	**is devoted to children at-risk** and supports to improve education and provide safe havens.

Won't you join us?

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY...
FOR IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.