



Homecoming Sunday

Growing up, we moved many times between Kansas and Oklahoma, and this made it extremely confusing as a child to know where my home was. I remember the last time we moved back to Kansas. I was mad, my teacher asked me to draw a picture of my home, and when I drew red dirt sunsets and wrote Oklahoma, she said No, you live in Kansas. It was breaking as an eight year old to hear those words, and to some extent I still carry that wound deep in my heart. In many ways I felt like I never knew where my home was.

However, the only places that never changed for me were my churches. I was baptized in a tiny little church in Midwest City, Oklahoma. The church who would pin up updates about my life from my grandparents on the church bulletin board. Years later, I was confirmed in a large suburban church in Prairie Village, Kansas. This is the church that opened doors, and held my hand through the roller coaster ride of my teenage years. Both of these places held me fast in the strongest of storms. I knew both those buildings better than any of our houses. I knew where the best hiding spots were, and looked forward to Wednesday Night dinners after choir practice. In many ways despite all of the moving back and forth, these churches, these people became my home. They were roots, when everything felt ungrounded. They loved me and helped me grow. They gave me a soft place to land, and nurtured the spark of faith deep within my heart.

On Sunday, September 8th, we will celebrate Homecoming Sunday. A day filled with welcoming us all home after the joy, and chaos of summer. This Sunday is an opportunity to reconnect with our church family, and to root ourselves in this place as another fall season emerges. For myself and many the church can be a spiritual home, a place where we connect with God and God's people, a chance to rest and feel renewed, and space to live more fully into who God is shaping you to be. And this is something God wants us to celebrate, and hold close.

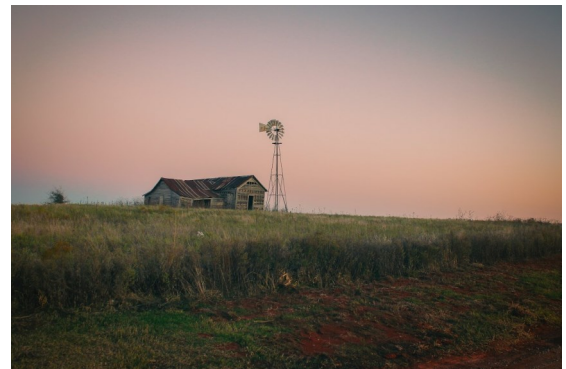
In our worship this day we will have special music, and moments that will celebrate this theme of Home. We hope you will help us do that by sharing a photo with us that reminds you of home. Whether it is your house, church, people or landscape that brings you the feeling of home. We ask that you do so ahead of time, to help us prepare for this celebration. You can do so by emailing the photo to Essie (essie.kr@firstpresabq.org), or by dropping it off in the church office.

Whether you have been part of this church your whole life, or whether this is your first time,

Welcome home. You belong here.

Peace ,

Rev. Essie Koenig Reinke



(This is a photo much like the picture I drew in third grade, when asked to draw a picture of my home.

Red dirt sunsets, always call me home).

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

Calendar for the Week

Thursday, August 29th

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

Sunday, September 1st

- 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

Monday, September 2nd

- Church Office closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 3rd

- Prayer / Book Study Group at 12:00pm via Zoom
- Manzano Mesa Cloggers, 4:00pm in Westminster
- Mission Committee meeting, 4:00pm in Kerygma room
- ABQ Boys' Choir, 5:00pm in Choir room
- Sandia Pipes and Drums rehearsal; 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall
- Opera Southwest rehearsal, 6:30pm in Choir room

Wednesday September 4th

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

Thursday, September 5th

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

Saturday, September 7th

- NM Watercolor Society, 8:30am in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 8th

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

PW to begin Horizons Bible Study: "Let Justice Roll Down"

All women of the church (and men can join too) to gather for the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study this fall. We have a group that meets on Sundays following the 11:00am service, ordinarily on the second Sunday. Another group meets in the Kerygma room on second Mondays at 12:30pm. Bible Study books are available for \$10 in the church office. This study will encompass conversation based on scripture about environmental justice, land justice, food justice, water justice just to begin. Please contact Susan Smith at susankeil1246@gmail.com if you are interested in joining us.

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.**

A Farewell from Rique Michel

After 22 years of stellar service and dedication to First Presbyterian Church, Rique Michel has bid his farewell to us. His first day was September 3, 2002 and his last day will be September 9, 2022. Rique would like express his appreciation for the opportunity to serve and to be a part of this community. He is thankful for all the friendships he has made while here and will miss everyone dearly. While we wish he could stay on board with us, we wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

Getting to Know

Our Muslim Neighbors

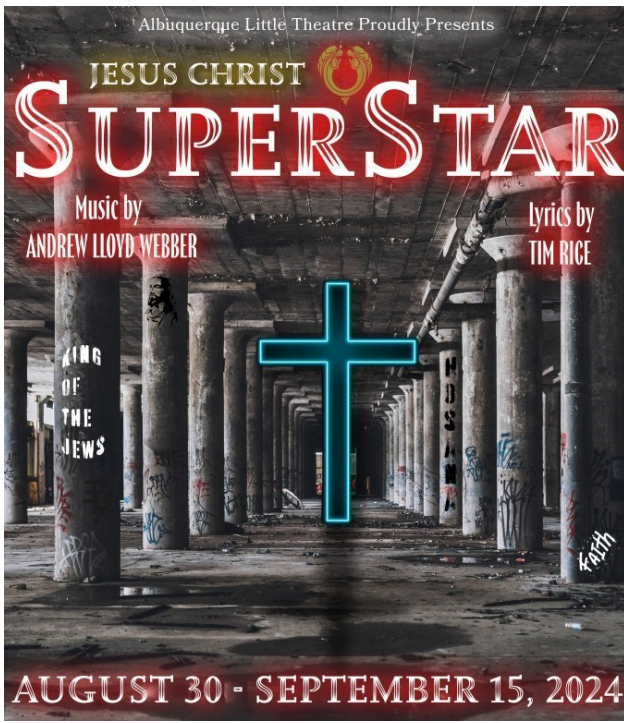
The Tuesday Study and Prayer Group is joining folks from the Raindrop Foundation for a picnic on Sept 7, 2024 at Lynnwood Park at 5 pm.

All of you are invited and there is a playground at the park for the children.

It is a potluck picnic, so bring a dish to share. Our friends from the Raindrop Foundation do not eat pork and some of us have other dietary restrictions. So please list the ingredients in your dish and attach it to your contribution. Also please bring your own non alcoholic beverages, lawn chairs and/or a picnic blanket.

Contact Marjorie Buck at marhbuck23@gmail.com for more information and to give us a count of how many folks to anticipate.

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!



Tickets are Going Fast

Join us as we go and see Jesus Christ Superstar next month! A group from FPC will be attending the final performance on Sunday, September 15 at 2 pm.

Tickets are available at

<https://albuquerquelittletheatre.org/tickets/>.

Contact Essie (Essie.kr@firstpresabq.org) with any questions.

2024 Fall Camp Registration

Registration is underway for our Fall Camp at Ghost Ranch from September 20-22, 2024. If you are interested in attending, registration forms are now available in the commons and the church office or you can request one to be emailed to you.



Save the Date for the 2024 90th Birthday Celebration

Save the Date for the 2024 90th Birthday Worship Service and Celebration. This will take place during the 11am service on Sunday, September 29th, followed by a birthday celebration in Fellowship Hall. Join us in recognizing and celebrating our 90+ honorees!



Participate in Our Small Group Survey!

The Community Life Committee is currently in the process of starting to nurture new small groups, and we would love your help to make that happen by filling out a quick survey. If you are interested in being part of a small group or are curious about what kinds of small groups we are thinking about, Click on the link below and fill out the questions on the google form. We hope to have all responses in by Sunday, October 6. We look forward to hearing from you.


Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/bLToyMvt8V5PE1mG7>

Mental Health Committee

The Mental Health Committee will host a presentation featuring Sam Rhodes of the Albuquerque Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) on September 15th following the eleven o'clock service. Sam will introduce us to de-escalation techniques used to calm a situation down with a disruptive individual, as well as discuss the workings of the CIT.

There will be a meal provided, and Sam will speak afterwards, so we request that attendees please sign up at the church office so we can plan to have enough for everyone. Please come and welcome Sam in Fellowship Hall on September 15th at 12:30.


Church Women United - Human Rights Day Celebration



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC.
CWU Celebrations 2024
Human Rights Day

What Does the Lord Require of CW-You?
Celebrations 2024 Theme Scripture
"... the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8 (NLT)

ACT JUSTLY
Human Rights Day 2024
Matthew 5:9



Sponsored by Church Women United, Inc. (CWU)

Church Women United, an ecumenical Christian women's group, will be meeting for their Human Rights Day Celebration on Friday, September 6th at Second Presbyterian Church, 812 Edith Blvd NE. The theme is "Act Justly", based on Matthew 5:9—"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called God's children". Rev. Jesse Dompree, pastor of Grant Chapel A.M.E. Church, will be sharing information on the Martin Luther King Day breakfast held annually with a noted speaker, the Grant Chapel choir, the awarding of scholarships to deserving students, etc. In addition, Rev. Billiejune Simmons, CWU Southwest Regional Coordinator, will also be with us and participating in the program Coffee fellowship begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by the program. After the service, plan to stay for a light New Mexican luncheon served by the women of Second Presbyterian. Please join us and bring a friend! Questions? Contact Marilyn Stoops 505-265-8358 or mstoops@swcp.com

BOBBY JO VALENTINE

HEART-OPENING, AWARD-WINNING FOLK/POP



SUN. SEPT 8TH
@3PM

LA MESA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
7401 COPPER AVE NE,
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87108
Tickets: \$10/person

Order online today!
<https://lmpcbjv.bpt.me>

"Bobby Jo has both the spirit and songs that bring us back to believing. Whatever our faith, he has the humor, compassion, words, and music to help us believe again."

-Dar Williams

"Catchy songs with good tunes and intelligent, thoughtful lyrics in the tradition of Bob Dylan, Cat Stevens, and Bruce Hornsby."

-Stephen Schwartz, Tony award-winning creator of *Godspell, Wicked, and Pippin*

