



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

Stephanie Urban

505-764-2903

Frank Yates

505-681-0625

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

Re-Entry

As I return from my sabbatical and begin to re-enter the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church, I want to express my deep and sincere thanks to Stephanie, Frank, Libby and Carolyn who carried the extra weight created by my absence with such skill and fortitude. It is a privilege to call them my colleagues and to do this work alongside them. I am equally grateful to the Presbytery of Santa Fe and to our denomination that recognizes the importance of giving pastors a sabbatical after a lengthy season of service. By prioritizing the health of those set apart to serve the church, we send the message so often heard in the safety presentations on airplanes: that we need to put our own oxygen masks on first before we can be of any assistance to others. Thanks is also due to the Lily Foundation's Clergy Renewal Program that funds grants like the one I used to give servants of the church opportunities to let their hearts sing and to refresh themselves. But most of all, I am grateful for you and your willingness to not only give me this time to reconnect with my family and some of my deep passions, but to recognize how important this sabbatical would be to our ongoing ministry together.

Right before I left for sabbatical, my good friend and a friend to many of you, Rev. Tom Hart, had to step away from ministry for the sake of his own health. Burnout is a popular phrase for what Tom was experiencing, and certainly it isn't unique to those in positions of church leadership. But more and more attention is being paid to the toll taken on people in many helping vocations during the pandemic. Those of us tasked with working for the health of our neighbors- be it physicians, teachers, nurses, or yes even pastors- have been worn down over the past two years. What has become clear is that we haven't done nearly a good enough job prioritizing our own health if we're to keep serving and helping others.

In many ways this sabbatical, this time away has saved me from that burnout and given me a greater appreciation for the gift of serving you, but also the importance of attending to my own need for downtime in the process; as well as the needs of our staff. I cannot wait to share with you in so many ways the things we experienced and the ideas it has percolating in my spirit. As I do, though, I will be attempting to better honor my need, and the need of whole church staff, to make restorative rest a priority, so that we can bring our all to the work God is calling us to. That means that, absent pastoral emergencies, I will not be available to meet on Mondays. I will let my body, mind and spirit rest from the prior day's worship and all the activity that comes with Sundays. Then I will be better able to meet you where you are as we consider where the Spirit is leading us together.

~ Rev. Matthew Miller

Calendar for the Week

Thursday, September 15th

- Albuquerque Girl Choir Rehearsal, 4:30pm in F.H.
- ABQ Pipes and Drums Rehearsal, 6:00pm in F.H.
- Segura Rehearsal from 7:30pm-9:00pm in F.H.

Friday, September 16th

- Fall Camp at Ghost Ranch

Saturday, September 17th

- Fall Camp at Ghost Ranch

Sunday, September 18th

- 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 217
- In-person/Livestream Sanctuary Worship Service, 11am
- Segura Recital at 2:00pm in Fellowship Hall
- Fall Camp at Ghost Ranch, All

Monday September 19th

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

Tuesday, September 20th

- Prayer / Book Study Group at 12:00pm via Zoom

Wednesday, September 21st

- Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm in F.H.

Thursday, September 22nd

- Albuquerque Girl Choir Rehearsal, 4:30pm in F.H.
- ABQ Pipes and Drums Rehearsal, 6:00pm in F.H.

Saturday, September 24th

- 90th Birthday Celebration, 10:00am-12:00pm in F.H.

Sunday, September 25th

- 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 217
- In-person/Livestream Sanctuary Worship Service, 11am
- Stated Congregational Meeting at 12:05pm in Sanctuary

Adult Sunday School Update

Our Adult CE class this fall in the Kerygma Room is a hybrid class. Taught by Rev. Frank Yates, this study will continue all fall ending on December 18. Our study will cover the Wisdom Literature of the Hebrew Scriptures and the Apocrypha, especially focusing on the issue of Theodicy. That concerns the problem of human suffering which presents a particular challenge to the faithful then and now. Here is the schedule:

Sept 25-Oct 2 The Song of Songs/Song of Solomon

Oct 9-16 Ecclesiastes/Qoheleth

Oct 23-Nov 20 Job

Nov 27-Dec 4 Wisdom of Solomon (Apocrypha)

Dec 11-18 Ecclesiasticus/Wisdom of Jesus Son of Sirach (Apocrypha)

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.

MinistryOne App Visit the App Store on your smart phone to find "Church by Ministry One." Use this app to donate quickly and securely, and access our YouTube channel for videos and sermons.

The Spiritual Journey of G.K. Chesterton, Part One

Rev. Frank Yates will be teaching a class at Albuquerque Oasis on September 30th from 10:00am to 11:30am about writer and philosopher G.K. Chesterton. The first lecture in this two part series will focus on his life and two of his major works: Orthodoxy and Heretics. Visit the Oasis website at <https://albuquerque.oasiseverywhere.org/> to register for this lecture.

An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religions

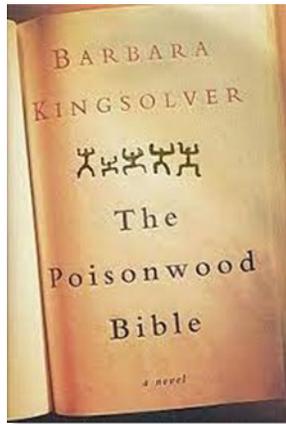
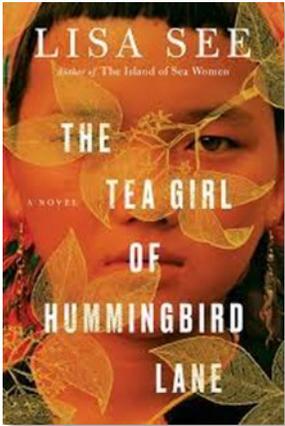
UNM Continuing Education in-person class with Rev. Frank Yates. We'll draw from John Hick's book, *The Philosophy of Religion* (4th Edition), to explore many topics important to both religion and Philosophy: Faith/Reason, The Language of Faith, The Question of God's Existence, The Challenge of Religious Diversity and Secularism, The Problem of Human Suffering, The Varieties of Religious Experience, The Challenge of a Livable Environment (Economic Disparity and Environment Degradation), Destiny, Death, and Afterlife.

This will be an in-person class meeting on Mondays from 10AM-12PM, beginning October 3rd to October 31st. Visit the UNM continuing education website for registration.

<https://continuinged.unm.edu/course/19828>

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!

FPC Fiction Book Group - Upcoming Schedule



Thursday, Sep 22, 10am:

The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Land by Lisa See

Thursday, Oct 27, 10am:

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

No need to sign up – just read and show up at the Church ready to discuss. All are welcome!

90th Birthday Worship Service and Celebration

Please join us for a celebration recognizing our 90+ honorees on September 24th, starting with a short service at 10am in the Sanctuary followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to attend this event, please RSVP by calling 505-764-2911 or visiting the church office, or you could simply reply to the invitation email that was sent out last week. We encourage all church members, along with friends and family, to attend. Hope to see you there!

First Presbyterian Church of Albuquerque presents:

90th+ Birthday Celebration 2022

“FOREVER YOUNG”

You are Cordially Invited

Please join us in celebrating our 90 and older members.

All are welcome-family, friends, neighbors, all church members!

Just let us know you're coming and how many people you're bringing along so we know how much food to make!

Worship Service and Celebration

If you would like to attend our in-person celebration, please RSVP to Alona at 505-764-2911.

Birthday Gift Packages Provided to Honorees

First Presbyterian Church
215 Locust Street, NE Albuquerque, NM
87102

Saturday September 24, 2022 at 10:00am

Fall Book Study

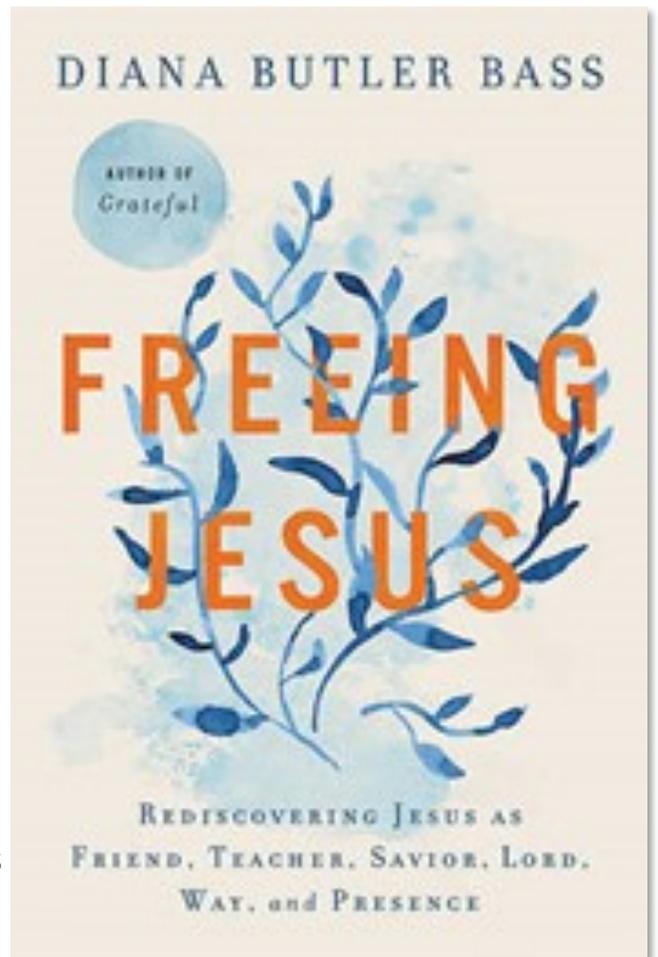
Freeing Jesus by Diana Butler Bass

"How can you still be a Christian?"

This is the most common question Diana Butler Bass is asked today. It is a question that many believers ponder as they wrestle with disappointment and disillusionment in their church and its leadership. But while many Christians have left their churches, they cannot leave their faith behind.

In *Freeing Jesus*, Bass challenges the idea that Jesus can only be understood in static, one-dimensional ways and asks us to instead consider a life where Jesus grows with us and helps us through life's challenges in several capacities: as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence.

Freeing Jesus is an invitation to leave the religious wars behind and rediscover Jesus in all his many manifestations, to experience Jesus beyond the narrow confines we have built around him. It renews our hope in faith and worship at a time when we need it most. (from the back cover)



Join us on Zoom every Wednesday evening in October from 5:30-6:30 as we read and discuss Diana Butler Bass' newest book. Please email Stephanie@firstpresabq.org or sign up at the front office to let us know you're joining us! If you'd like to purchase a copy of the book for a suggested donation of \$10 from the church office, please sign up no later than Sunday, September 25.

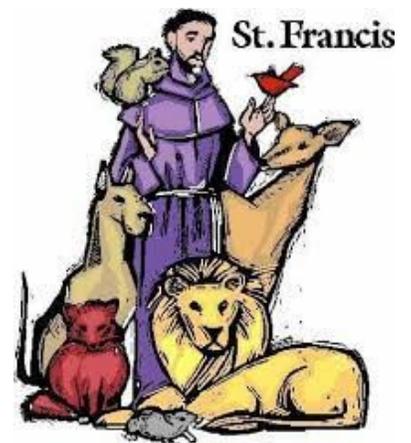
Congregational Meeting Announcement

The Session has approved holding the Stated Congregational Meeting on Sunday September 25, 2022 at 12:05 pm, in the Sanctuary, for the purpose of nominating and electing church Elders and Deacons, Congregational Nominating Members-at-Large and Endowment Foundation Trustees. Those who join the livestream – please stay on and note your presence in the live chat.

Bless Your Pets on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi

First Presbyterian will be holding a blessing of the animals on Saturday, October 1st at 11:00 am in the outdoor courtyard. Please feel free to bring your animals or pets in for a blessing.

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters.



Education Networking Workshops 2022



Presbytery of Santa Fe

EDUCATION NETWORKING WORKSHOPS

Saturday, October 1, 2022
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Covenant Presbyterian Church
9315 Candelaria Rd NE, ABQ

REGISTER AT SANTAFEPRESBYTERY.ORG

Join us for this year's Education Networking Workshops on Saturday, October 1st- offering a variety of workshop options for church leaders.

Lunch will be served with a suggested donation of \$10.

Please share this event with your church leaders and congregation!

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| 9:00-9:30 | Registration & Fellowship | | |
| 9:30-10:45 <i>Session 1</i> | Church Finance Workshop- Part 1 | Considerations for Online Worship | What's the Deal with Sabbath? |
| 10:50-12:05 <i>Session 2</i> | Church Finance Workshop- Part 2 | Personnel Ministry of the Session | Compassion Fatigue: Resilience & Renewal- Part 1 |
| 12:05- 1:00 | Lunch | | |
| 1:00-2:15 <i>Session 3</i> | Safe Church Training | Being an Elder in the Church & Presbytery | Compassion Fatigue: Resilience & Renewal- Part 2 |
| 2:15-2:45 | Closing Worship | | |

Here is the link to register:

<http://events.r2o.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=ao7ejc5e1er46c9a3bf&llr=l4g57icab>