



## 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](http://www.firstpresabq.org)

## Welcome Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo, Organist/Pianist



Dr. Jessie Wenchieh Lo is a Taiwanese American performing artist, recording artist, music educator, and music director. She is a pianist, organist, clarinetist and singer, who has performed in Austria, Belarus, Brazil, China, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, San Marino, Taiwan, and in the United States. She is prize winner in many International Competitions including First Prize and Chopin Prize at The 3rd European Piano Competition Citta del Vasto in Italy; Beethoven Prize from Wiener Beethoven Gesellschaft (Viennese Beethoven Association) at the Vienna

International Pianists Music Festival in Vienna, Austria; and in 2nd International Vienna Piano Competition in Nagoya, Japan; 6th Taipei International Chopin Piano Competition in Taipei, Taiwan; and more. Dr. Lo earned her Bachelor's and Master of Arts degrees in Piano Performance at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria, where she also studied organ and started playing organ in services and concerts in different countries. She received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance from Boston University, where she taught Piano Individual and Group Lessons; as well as Collaborative Piano. She hosted piano masterclasses in Vienna, Austria; and gave piano masterclasses and performances at Boston University Tanglewood Institute. Dr. Lo has held positions of Music Director, Organist and Pianist in Vienna Austria; Boston Massachusetts; Tallahassee Florida, San Francisco Bay Area California, and Santa Fe New Mexico. Dr. Lo performs regularly with many music organizations and individual artists locally, including New Mexico Philharmonic, Coro Lux, Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and more; as well as in other parts of the U.S, and internationally. Dr. Lo is also Music Director for National Dance Institute New Mexico in Santa Fe, where she composes, arranges, conducts, and performs original music and dance production annually. She also serves as judge at piano competitions. Dr. Lo's piano studio offers in person and online piano lessons with students of all ages and from around the world. Dr. Lo has been continuously serving as a musician in churches since 2000 as pianist, organist, singer, composer, arranger, choir/orchestra conductor, and music director. She serves as organist and pianist at First Presbyterian Church of Albuquerque. Her favorite things include traveling; listening to her husband, Dr. Jesse Acker-Johnson, plays beautiful guitar; and spending time with her family.

## Calendar for the Week

### **Thursday, September 26th**

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

### **Sunday, September 29th**

- 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
- 90th Birthday Celebration, 11:00pm in FPC Sanctuary and F.H.

### **Monday, September 30th**

- Enchanters, 5:45pm in Choir room
- Women's Chorus Rehearsal in F.H. at 6:30pm

### **Tuesday, October 1st**

- Manzano Mesa Cloggers, 4:00pm in Westminster
- 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, October 2nd**

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

### **Thursday, October 3rd**

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

### **Saturday, October 5th**

- NM Watercolor Society, 8:30am in Fellowship Hall
- Faithful Families gathering, Sanctuary 9:30am-11:00am

### **Sunday, October 6th**

- 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

---

## 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/bLTToyMvt8V5PEImG7>

## 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](http://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.**

## Family Promise Week

From October 6th - 13th, FPC will have the opportunity to provide food and other supplies to homeless families who are participating in Family Promise. There is a need for volunteers to serve dinner for one night and to provide some food items. Please sign up on the schedule in Commons One if you are willing to help out with this mission. If you have questions you may contact Ann Calderwood or the church office.

## Trunk or Treat Volunteers Needed

On Saturday, October 19, the community life committee is hosting a trunk-or-treat from 3-5 pm at the church, and we need your help! We are looking for individuals who would be willing to bring their cars and hand out candy. There will be an award for the most creative trunk decorations, should you choose to decorate. However, know that Trunk decorating is optional. We need about 15 volunteers to hand out candy make this event happen. Reach out to Essie with any questions ([Essie.kr@firstpresabq.org](mailto:Essie.kr@firstpresabq.org)) and sign up in the church office.

## It's Time To Vote!

The Community Life Committee would like to help with rides to the polls. There will be 20 early voting locations open in Bernalillo County from Oct 19-Nov 2 and Election Day is Nov 5. If you would like a ride to vote, please contact the church office or Becky Dees at (505) 350-6152 to arrange a day and time.

**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!

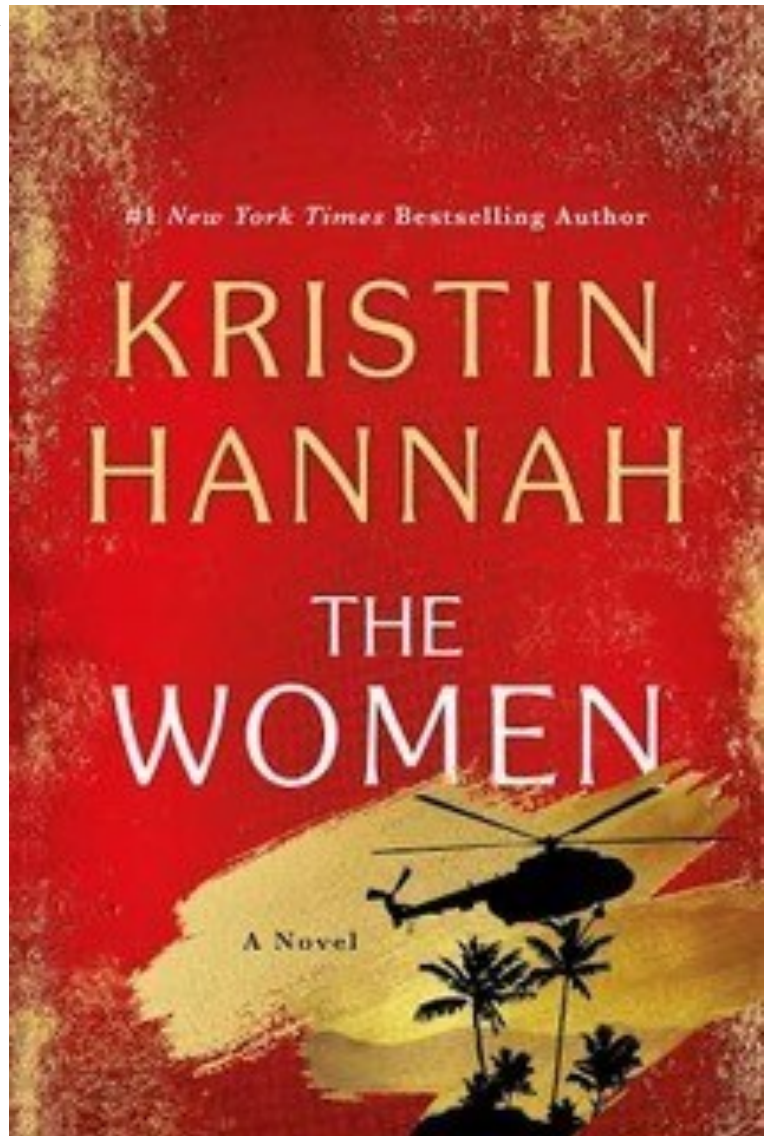
## Fiction Book Discussion Group for September

Our next book will be *"The Women"* by Kristin Hannah. We will be meeting on September 26, 2024 at 10am in the Conference room, meeting leader is Cristy Dockter.

### **About the book** (from the back cover):

Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is over-whelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets—and becomes one of—the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost.

But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.



---

### From the FPC Library Committee

The FPC Library collections grow with generous donations from the congregation and friends. The library committee carefully considers each volume's appropriateness for our church library as well as its currency. While not every donation will be acknowledged in the Messenger, a recent gift of theology and religion themed books from Marilyn Hutcison has been processed. Some of the items duplicate holdings already in the collection and these will be made available to the congregation.

To Marilyn and our other generous donors -- thank you! To all of us, please check out the "free" books on the cart, as well as items for check out on the Commons table and library shelves!

# 2024 90th Birthday Worship Service and Celebration

First Presbyterian Church  
of Albuquerque presents:

Sept  
29

## Loving Living Life LUAU

Communion Service at 11am in FPC Sanctuary,  
followed by a birthday celebration at 12pm in Fellowship Hall.

You are cordially invited to the 2024 90th Birthday Worship Service and Celebration taking place on September 29th. First, there will be a communion worship service in the FPC sanctuary at 11am. Afterwards, please join us in Fellowship Hall for a birthday celebration and luau, as that is our theme for this year: "Loving Living Life Luau"

## 2024 Blessing of the Animals

# Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am



- Food donations will be accepted to benefit homeless pets. We are accepting the following: Small 8 lb. bags of puppy, adult, senior dog food; Small 6lb. Bags of kitten, adult, senior cat food; Small (3 oz.) or Medium (12 oz.) cans of cat food; 16 oz. cans of puppy, adult, senior dog food; Or Gift Cards to PetCo or PetSmart.
- You can also make online donations to Feeding Pets of the Homeless that provide pet food and emergency veterinary care to pets that belong to people experiencing homelessness.

Please visit [petsofthehomeless.org](https://petsofthehomeless.org) to make a donation!

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE  
THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS  
OF ASSISI BY  
PARTICIPATING IN A  
SPECIAL SERVICE FOR PETS  
AND THEIR FRIENDS AND  
FAMILY IN THE OUTDOOR  
COURTYARD AT FPC. PETS  
OF ALL KINDS ARE  
WELCOME; THIS INCLUDES  
STUFFED ANIMALS!



215 Locust St. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

## Join Us For a Faithful Family Gathering on Saturday, October 5th



### What's really happening at the Border? Would you like to find out?

The Mission Committee is sponsoring a Border Encounter at the El Paso/Juarez border. You may have attended a Sunday School class last year when Rev. Dr. John Nelson spoke with us about conditions at the border and about the possibility of an Encounter. We know conditions at the border change constantly and are not 'as depicted by the media'. This is an opportunity to see and listen and learn some truths about what is happening there. It is an opportunity for you to bring back to our congregation impressions and information you have gained.

Tres Rios Border Ministry Foundation, located in El Paso about 50 feet from the border, partners with Abara, described as a community of peace builders, to provide Border Encounters. We will be housed in the Abara Guest House located within their facility. Meals are provided.

The dates are November 12th through 14th, three days and three nights. We can take a group of 5 - 8. A passport is required.

Tres Rios Border Ministry Foundation is an agency of the Tres Rios Presbytery (Texas). More information is available on the following websites.

- <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/tres-rios-border-foundation-connects-presbyterians-to-the-border-and-beyond/>
- <https://www.abara.org>

If you are interested in attending, contact Carol Marr at [cmarr2142@gmail.com](mailto:cmarr2142@gmail.com) or 505-710-4616 as soon as possible.

2024-2025 Albuquerque PCUSA Churches

# YOUTH EVENTS

*More information and signups for local events will be sent out a month prior to the event. Summer Trip information will be available early in the new year.*

**SAT. OCT 26** 8 am - Hike to End Hunger (Location TBD)

**FR. NOV 22** Presbytery Of Santa Fe Fall Youth Retreat  
(More information coming)

**SAT. DEC 21** 6 - 8 pm - River of Lights at ABQ Bio Park  
(\$15 per student)

**FR. FEB 7** 6pm - Youth Lock-in @ First Pres ABQ  
(\$25 per student)

**SAT. APR. 12** 9 am Departure - Santuario de Chimayo Visit  
(bring money for lunch in Santa Fe)

**SUN. JUN 1** Noon - Rest & Renew Picnic (Location TBD)  
(Bring a picnic blanket or hammock with you)

**END OF JUNE** Youth Week @ Ghost Ranch

**JULY 28  
2025** July 28-31 - Presbyterian Youth Triennium in  
Louisville, KY (HS Only)

✉ [ESSIE.KR@FIRSTPRESABQ.ORG](mailto:ESSIE.KR@FIRSTPRESABQ.ORG)

☎ 913-638-1708