

We are staffing the church for limited hours during the re-opening phase of the State's plan. If you need to stop by, please call first. Please be advised that any visitors will be required to wear a face covering and observe social distancing protocols.

**Our staff members can be reached individually by phone or email between 8:00am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday:**

General Office & .....(505)764-2900  
Communications

Matthew Miller.....(505)764-2902

Stephanie Urban.....(505) 764-2903

Frank Yates.....(505)681-0625

Carolyn Rhodes.....(505)764-2906

Libby Whiteley.....(505) 764-2924

Nicole is out of the office from January through February, see backside for details

If you have an after-hours emergency, you can reach Matthew through our Helpline at (505) 764-2910

**Reminder to ACG families:**  
**Registration for the 2021-2022 school year begins January 12th.**  
**Visit the ACG website for details:**  
**<https://www.achildsgardenabq.org>**

**First Presbyterian Church (USA)**  
**215 Locust Street, NE**  
**Albuquerque, NM 87102**  
**(505) 764-2900**

### Calendar for the Week

- Sunday Virtual Worship Service streamed from our FPC sanctuary ~ 9:00am (view on our YouTube and Facebook pages)
- Through the Bible Class ~ 12:30pm
- Godly Play and Adult Sunday School at 10:30am
- Tuesday Prayer / Book Study Group ~ 12:00pm via Zoom meeting with Marjorie Buck (see inside for details)
- Third Sunday Virtual Luncheon ~ Sunday, January 17th 11:30am via Zoom meeting (see website for details)
- Sarah Circle ~ 12:30 pm

### **The Tuesday Study and Prayer Group**

will start a study of "Holy Envy" by Barbara Brown Taylor on January 26. The group meets by zoom from noon to 1:30 each Tuesday. Barbara Brown Taylor is an American Episcopal priest, professor, author and theologian and is one of the United States' best known preachers.

Throughout "Holy Envy", Taylor weaves together stories from the classroom with reflections on how her own spiritual journey has been complicated and renewed by connecting with people of other traditions—even those whose truths are quite different from hers. The one constant in her odyssey is the sense that God is the one calling her to disown her version of God—a change that ultimately enriches her faith in other human beings and in God. If you would like to participate in this study, please contact Marjorie Buck at 238-8075 or marhbuck23@gmail.com



## **Messenger Lite**

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**January 13, 2021**

### **COVID-19 Vaccination opportunities**

Last year the Session took action to formally suspend in-person worship indefinitely. At the time, COVID numbers had come down and there were questions about whether we could gather. Rather than continuing to set arbitrary dates for a return with no good data on when it would be safe to do so, Elders felt it better to take that question off the table for the time being. This past week has seen the highest seven-day average of deaths due to COVID since the pandemic began. We are far from out of the woods and continued vigilance, including mask use whenever we're in public, social distancing, limited travel outside the home, and not gathering all remain critical in reducing the spread of the virus. There is, however, hope in the form of the two vaccines currently approved for emergency use, that later this year we will be able to talk about a return to in-person worship. That can only happen if as many people as possible receive the vaccine. While we often think of vaccines as a form of personal protection from the threat of viral infection, like all of our public health protocols they are also an expression of love for our neighbor.

(Continued inside....)

## ONLINE GIVING WITH FPC

You can give online from our website, ([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.

**MinistryOne App: a new way to connect!** Visit the App Store on your phone to find "Church by Ministry One." Download the app; open; type in "First Presbyterian Albuquerque"; click on Find My Church and select. The app button appears as a purple square with a white cross entitled, "Church." You can use this app to make donations quickly and securely. It's also a great resource to access our YouTube channel for videos and sermons.

### Lenten Study

For a very unconventional year, what more appropriate than a very unconventional Lenten study? We will spend six weeks with *Accidental Saints*, a book by New York Times best-selling author Nadia Bolz-Weber as she invites readers into a surprising encounter with what she calls a religious but not-so-spiritual life. Tattooed, angry and profane, this former standup comic turned pastor stubbornly, sometimes hilariously, resists the God she feels called to serve.

Matthew Miller will lead a discussion on this book on Mondays at 12:00 noon beginning February 22.

Stephanie and Libby will lead a Wednesday group at 5:30 PM beginning February 24. Books will be ordered for you by the church **IF you let us know by Monday, February 1.**

Please call or email Libby if you want 1) a book ordered, and 2) If you wish to join one of the two classes. Books are \$14 each if we order one for you; a Kindle version is also available for your individual purchase from Amazon.

An additional study will be led by Marjorie Buck with the Tuesday Group on Marjorie Thompson's book, *Forgiveness, A Lenten Study.*, beginning February 23. If you would like to participate in this study, please contact Marjorie Buck at 238-8075 or [marhbuck23@gmail.com](mailto:marhbuck23@gmail.com)

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Taking precautions and getting vaccinated now will not only help us return to our sanctuary to gather for worship, it will protect those most vulnerable to the virus by reducing its spread. If you haven't already, please register with the New Mexico Department of Health to get vaccinated according to the priority schedule. The sooner we all get vaccinated, the sooner we can begin talking about a return to in-person worship!

Register online with the NM Dept. of Health at <https://cvvaccine.nmhealth.org/> or use the call center by calling the COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline: **1-855-600-3453**

Users who have questions or would like support with the registration process – including New Mexicans who do not have internet access – can dial **1-855-600-3453**, press option 0 for vaccine questions, and then option 4 for tech support. Grace and Peace, Matthew

### First Presbyterian Church of ABQ Virtual Worship Services

FPC Live-streams worship services each Sunday and post them to Facebook, YouTube, and the church website at 9:00am. You can view these virtual services by visiting First Presbyterian Church of Albuquerque's Facebook and YouTube pages. We hope that you will share in this online worship with us and the Albuquerque community. If you need assistance viewing our virtual worship service, please contact the Church Office and we will be gladly help you navigate our platforms.

### Sunday School Options with FPC

Godly Play and Adult Sunday School Classes resumed on January 10th ~ both classes meet at 10:30am via Zoom.

Through the Bible Class resumed on January 3rd at 11:30am. Frank Yates is leading the class through the month of January. If you have not been receiving a Zoom invitation for this class, contact Libby at 505-764-2924 or [libbywhiteley@firstpresabq.org](mailto:libbywhiteley@firstpresabq.org) to be put on the email list.

### Third Sunday Virtual Luncheon

Join us on the third Sunday this Sunday, January 17, for our Virtual Luncheon at 11:30am via Zoom. Visit [www.firstpresabq.org/church-life/fellowship](http://www.firstpresabq.org/church-life/fellowship) for more details.

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

**Niccole Pierre-Williams and her husband Jeremy Williams welcomed their son, Ruben Eliseo, on January 6, 2021!**

Niccole will be on Maternity Leave through February, or early March. Please reach out to Carolyn or Sharon in the church office with any communications needs at 505-764-2900. Messages to Niccole's phone extension and email will be regularly monitored.

### January Adult Sunday School Opportunity

All Sunday School classes resumed on January 10th. This January, the Mission Committee has invited representatives from several important organizations in our community to join us for our Adult Sunday School hour (10:30am). They will give us an update on how their work has been shaped by Covid this past year and share hopes and plans for the year(s) ahead. We hope that you'll join us to learn more about the great work these partners are doing in Albuquerque! We will send the Zoom link out to everyone who had been attending the 10:30 Adult Sunday School class in the fall, but if you'd like to be added please contact Stephanie ([stephanieurban@firstpresabq.org](mailto:stephanieurban@firstpresabq.org)) and we'll make sure you know how to participate!

January 17 – Andy Braman, Community School Coordinator at Longfellow Elementary School

January 24 – Laura Combs, Director of Family Promise of Albuquerque

January 31 – Kathi Cunningham, Development Director at the Rio Grande Food Project

### Ruth Gannaway

Ruth was born in Tokay, NM. Her father built this mining town located just southeast of Socorro. At peak it was a town of about 500 residents with a general store, post office, a church, bank, houses, a two-story building (with a pool hall on the ground floor and a school house on the second floor), and Ruth's family's house. Her parents moved there from Ohio after meeting at Ohio State and getting married in 1910. Ruth said if it had been up to her, she would have taken the first train back-it was so barren. Ruth and all of three of her brothers were born in Tokay, Ruth and her two older brothers being born at home. The town closed in the 1940's when the mining operation ended.

Growing up, Ruth remembers the family's Buick LaSalle-a seven passenger. They would take it from their house on High Street and Copper up into the mountains all day to "Supper Rock Park." They would take the ice cream freezer with plenty of ice and rock salt and spend the day while her brothers climbed on the rocks.

In high school, Ruth's best friend was Barbara Simms. It was a really special friendship. Ruth's favorite subject in high school was English. Her fond memories of that time were of watching the circus come into town on the train and walking down to the train station to see all of the animals. Her favorite was walking next to the elephants. That was such a treat!

After high school, Ruth attended Northwestern in Chicago, majoring in business. She loved to dance to the Big Band music. There was a big dance hall at Northwestern with an orchestra to entertain the soldiers who were on leave from the war. Ruth said that during the war many of the young men were off fighting. There was a lady in Albuquerque who wanted to give her son a party to meet people in Albuquerque. Ruth met the lady's son at his party at the Franciscan Hotel. She said he wasn't much of a dancer, but the next day they went to Tingley Beach. They swam in the lake and had a beautiful picnic. She said the beach was just like being in California.

I guess the picnic overcame the lack of dancing ability. He later became her husband.

Ruth is a cat lover. Once they found a little stray sitting by their car. They brought the stray home and that became her favorite. She can't recall its name. Her favorite relative is her niece Mabel. Ruth has known Mabel since Mabel was 6 months old. Mabel, who lives in Rochester, NY, has been like a daughter to Ruth and is still a big part of Ruth's life.

Ruth's favorite color is turquoise and her favorite food is New Mexican. She loves Padilla's and Monroe's. She said her mother was a good cook who even learned New Mexico cooking after coming here from Ohio. And guess what her favorite activity is? No surprise here – volunteering! The "One Albuquerque Award," which is given to city workers and community members who go above and beyond with their service to the public, was awarded to Ruth by Mayor Tim Keller in 2019. Ruth, who is over 100 years old, has volunteered for the past 20 years delivering Meals on Wheels, serving as the Surgical Waiting Room Hostess at Presbyterian Hospital downtown, collecting recyclables for Explora, and crafts and clothing for Bargain Bow – thus fulfilling her secret vocational dream of volunteering!



- Interviewed by Deacon Deb Fisher-Rebstock