

The FPC Herald

**The Monthly Newsletter
of
First Presbyterian Church
Roswell, New Mexico
November 2023**



**"O give thanks to the
Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love
endures forever..."**

Psalm 107:1

Reflections of Rev. Randy Nolen

The following is reprinted from the publication Stewardship, produced by Parish Publishing, LLC, and used by permission. (Yes, I called them and asked.) Marilyn found it in my mother's Bible and gave it to me.

"There is an Old Testament legend about wealth and possessions and how misunderstanding God's purpose for them can steal a person's freedom to enjoy all the gifts of God, that were freely bestowed already in the first chapters of Genesis.

"Long ago, even before the Garden of Eden, before God gave mankind dominion over all the earth, God decided to give to animals and to man the gift of freedom. There was one condition: It was to be a time of testing. If, after the testing, they learned the secret of freedom, they were to be relieved of its torture. In the

course of time, all of the animals gathered before the Lord God to report.

“The lion spoke on behalf of all the beasts of the forest. ‘When I first knew the gift of freedom,’ it said, ‘I looked out over all the earth, with all of its wealth and possessions, and I wanted all of these things for myself. But after a while, I remembered that the Lord of the earth had given me life and food. So’ the lion concluded, ‘I resolved to use my freedom to tell all of the beasts of the forest my discovery.’ Throughout the forests the lion roared, ‘All things come from Thee, O Lord.’ God said, ‘You have learned the secret of freedom. Return to the forest.’

“Then the condor came forth to report for the winged creatures of the sky. ‘I discovered freedom,’ it said, ‘as I soared high above the heavens and earth. All created things looked up to me in admiration. Quickly I pondered how wonderful it would be to have all of them bow down to me in reverence and awe. Then just as suddenly I came to my senses,’ said the condor, ‘that my every flight must come to an end, and that only you, O God, remain. Thereupon, I resolved to use my freedom to herald this message to the very skies of the universe: “The Lord is God, and he alone. Let all the earth bow down before God in reverence and awe.”’

“And the Lord God said, ‘You have learned the secret of freedom. Return to the skies!’

Then came forth the great blue whale as the spokesman for all the creatures of the seas. ‘I knew my power and my strength. I knew how wonderful it would be to soar through all of the seas, scattering all sea creatures before me in fear and terror. But, then I remembered that I am appointed to live only once, and then die forever, and that You, O Lord, rule and govern all things. After that I went forth to all of my fellow creatures and reminded them, “All strength and power are from God, and God alone shall renew your strength.”’

“And the Lord God said, ‘You have learned the secret of freedom. Return to the seas!’

“Then it was man’s turn to assemble before the Lord God to report. ‘I have discovered that this freedom is a very heavy, burdensome thing,’ he complained. ‘I have used my freedom to be taken up with possessions; anxious to maintain my standing and status amongst mankind; I became stricken with fear and anxiety over the possibility of losing it all. I used my freedom to hover and hoard; to accumulate and acquire more. I have not had time to learn its secret.’

“So the man returned to earth, and to this day he struggles to learn the secret of true freedom. He spends much of his time and energy, laden with anxiety, dreading its loss. In a few rare and far apart moments of trust in the Lord, the giver of all, he comes to trust the Lord God. In those moments he offers it to God in praise and thanksgiving.

“And the legend concludes: ‘O man, you have captured and conquered the lion, the condor, and the whale with your science and advanced technology. But you yourself have been made captive to greed, wealth, and the accumulation of things. You have lost your freedom in the very pursuit of it. What I gave you to subdue and enjoy captured you, made you its captive, and you have lost the secret of freedom. But you still have time, O man!’”

The apostle Paul tells us that what most people consider “freedom”- being able to do whatever we wish, whenever we wish, regardless of whom it hurts- is actually slavery to sin. What others consider “slavery” to the will of God is actually freedom from sin,

freedom from death, freedom to live as we were created to live in the beginning as part of the Creation that God called “very good.” Let us cast off the chains that bind us to the things of the world, and live in the freedom of the Kingdom of God. As the bumper sticker says, “Let go and let God.”

Pastor Randy Nolen

November 2023 Calendar

Sunday, November 5th - Communion Sunday, Worship Service, 10:00am
*Daylight Savings Time Ends

Monday, November 6th - Prayer Group - noon, Parlor

Wednesday, November 8th - Wednesday Evening Dinner, 6:00pm

Saturday, November 11th - Veterans Day Holiday

Sunday, November 12th - Worship Service, 10:00am

Monday, November 13th - Prayer Group - noon, Parlor

Tuesday, November 14th - Mission Committee Meeting, 2:00pm

Thursday, November 16th - Session Meeting, 5:15pm in the Church Library

Sunday, November 19th - Worship Service, 10:00am

Monday, November 20th - Prayer Group - noon, Parlor

Thursday, November 23rd - Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Church Office Closed

Friday, November 24th - Community Kitchen Ministry, 9:30am

Sunday, November 26th - Worship Service, 10:00am
Hanging of the Greens!

Monday, November 27th - Prayer Group - noon, Parlor

Thursday, November 30th - Java With Jesus Book Club, 4:00pm Stellar Coffee

Daylight Savings Time Ends, Sunday, November 5th!



November Scripture Readings

November 5th - Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Micah 3:5-12 and Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

November 12th - Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5:18-24; and Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

November 19th - Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Zeph. 1:7, 12-18 and Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 26th - Christ the King/Reign of Christ

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

[Read the Scripture passages here.](#)

Serving in November

Week of November 5th

Liturgist: Wayne Bevers

Service Elder: Deb Prince

Camera Operator: Betty Young

Moment for Young Disciples: Margo Fullinwider

Inspirational Phone Message: Ross Robertson

Week of November 12th

Liturgist: Betty Young

Service Elder: Bob Kurtz

Camera Operator: Lynn Karnes

Moment for Young Disciples: _____

Inspirational Phone Message: Ann Ruback

Week of November 19th

Liturgist: Wayne Bevers

Service Elder: Bill Wolf

Camera Operator: Lynn Karnes

Moment for Young Disciples: _____

Inspirational Phone Message: Mary Kling

Week of November 26th

Liturgist: Margy Barbour

Service Elder: _____

Camera Operator: _____

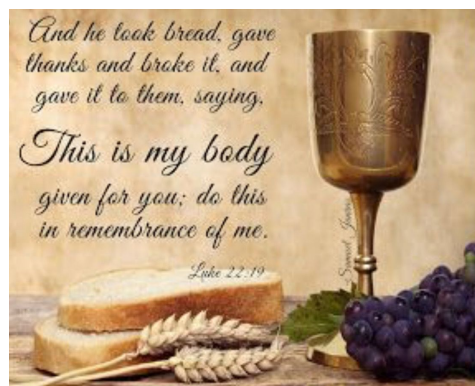
Moment for Young Disciples: _____

Inspirational Phone Message: Margy Barbour

Communion Sunday **Sunday, November 5th!**

Come celebrate the Feast of the Lord!

Join us for the celebration of the Sacrament in person or online. If you join us online, you are welcome to prepare bread and cup for your participation in the Sacrament.



Worship Live Streaming

We continue live streaming worship services to the church's [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) (go to YouTube.com and search for John Gardiner – First Presbyterian Church) or go on the First Presbyterian Church [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com). You may join us at 9:55am (or later) for worship as it happens, and a link to the worship recording will remain on [the church's website](#) after the live stream is done.

The worship bulletin (order of worship), hymn music and lyrics, and weekly announcements can also be found on that webpage, fpcrosswell.org, before worship every Sunday. Those who join the live stream can check in and make comments throughout worship using the chat columns in both Facebook and YouTube.

Join us for "live" worship or check out the recordings afterwards!



Coffee Fellowship is Happening!

You are invited to join us for coffee and cookies served after Worship Service in the narthex! There is a signup sheet on the desk in the narthex if you would like to volunteer to bring cookies one Sunday.

Giving to God Electronically **Through Our Church**

You may give to God through our church via the church's [online giving portal](#). You may specify a one-time or recurring gift using your checking account or credit

card. You may also specify a donation to the church's General Fund, Deacons' Fund, or Pastor's Assistance Fund.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship of God's abundant resources!



Stewardship Pledges for 2024!

Thank you for your Stewardship Pledges for 2024! If you have not turned in your Stewardship Pledge card, please do so; it's not too late! Please contact the Church office if you would like a pledge card mailed to you or the cards are available in the narthex or Church Office.

Stewardship Luncheon, October 22!



Pastor Randy Nolen

Pastor Randy Nolen's last day of service for First Presbyterian Church will be Sunday November 26, 2023. We will have a thank-you celebration for him after Worship Service on Sunday, November 19th. We thank Pastor Randy for his service at our Church for the past two years and wish him the best!

Daily Inspirational Phone Message

Start your day with an inspiring message.
Sit back, relax, and listen to words of peace, hope,
and joy to brighten your day and life!
Dial (575) 622-4923.



Prayer Requests

Please relay prayer requests to the church office at (575) 622-4910 or e-mail at office@fpcroswell.org.

Veterans Day Holiday, Saturday, November 11th



The October 2023 Session Meeting

At its October 27th Meeting, the Session of the First Presbyterian Church...

- Said the response to Pledge Cards is lagging.
- Attendance at Sunday Services has escalated above summer census.
- The Advent Worship Schedule is being prepared.

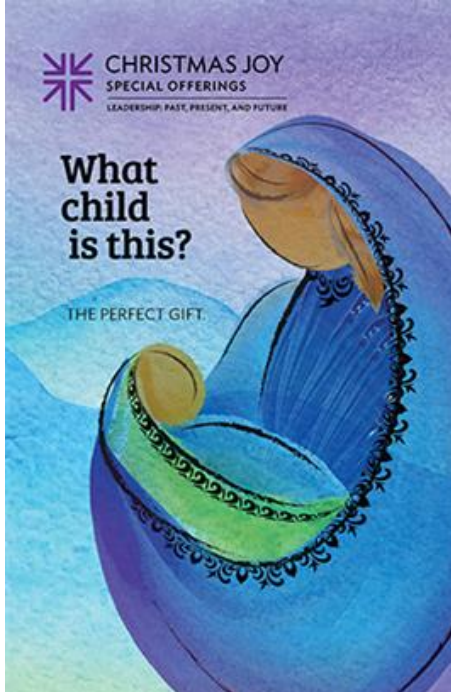
[Read the full report here...](#)

2023 Christmas Joy Offering

Sunday, December 3-24, 2023!

The Perfect Gift

When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace and salvation to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh -- fully human and fully God --



became one of us. One with us. One among us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us -- leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life. *The perfect gift.*

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Christmas Joy Offering envelopes will be available in the pew pockets by December 3rd. Please give generously to this worthy cause!

The Pastor Nominating Committee

Dietta Hitchcock and Paula Grieves are co-chairing the Pastoral Nominating Committee! The Committee continues to review applications and interview for our Pastor position. Please pray for the PNC Committee as they diligently search for a permanent pastor. If you have any questions, contact the following members of the PNC Committee. The Pastor Nominating Committee now includes:

Dietta Hitchcock
Paula Grieves
Ross Robertson
Bob Entrop

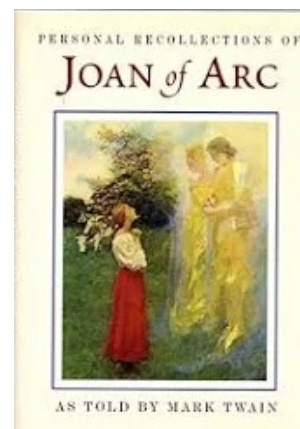
Thanksgiving Day Holiday, Thursday, November 23rd!

Church Office closed.



JAVA WITH JESUS!

Come join us for our Women's Book Chat at Stellar Coffee, 315 North Main Street, in downtown Roswell, NM, at 4:00pm, **Thursday, November 30th!** We are currently reading Joan of Arc written by Mark Twain. Please contact Dietta Hitchcock if you have any questions.



Happy Birthdays in November!

4th - Carola Spreacker

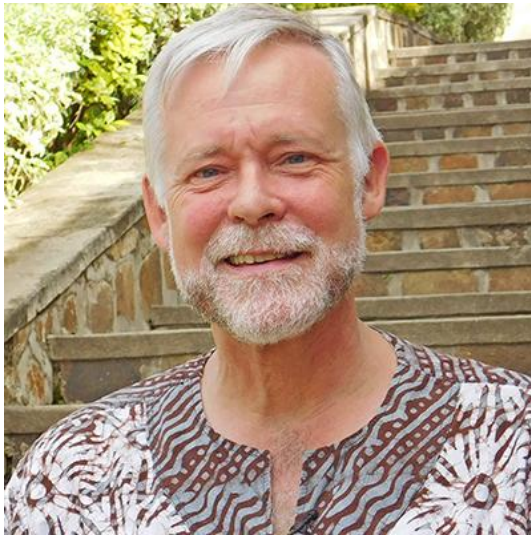
10th - Betsy Cunningham

19th - Kate Daniels

Happy Anniversary

Happy Anniversary in November!

15th - Chuck & Candace Russell



FEATURED PC(USA) MISSION WORKER for November 2023

Doug Tilton

Mission co-worker in Southern Africa since 1992

Doug Tilton currently serves as regional liaison for Southern Africa, helping to strengthen the mutual ministries of the PC(USA) and its partner churches and institutions in five countries: Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Regional liaisons are in regular contact with the PC(USA)'s partners, exploring ways of working together and building the capacity of the global church to bear witness to the good news of Christ's redeeming love for all humanity. Doug also provides support for other PC(USA) mission personnel in the region, helps to connect PC(USA) presbyteries and congregations with their counterparts in Southern Africa, and resources Africa mission networks and partners on advocacy concerns.

[Read more about Doug's work...](#)

Worship Highlights!

Bob Entrop and Wayne Bevers sang on Sunday, October 1st!



Bob Entrop and Wayne Bevers sang on Sunday, October 8th!



Wayne Bevers sang on Sunday, October 22, 2022!



**Dietta Hitchcock taught the Moment for Young Disciples
on Sunday, October 8th!**



Congregational Contact Ministry

Please continue to work with the Deacons and pastor to maintain contact by phone, text, email, and US mail with all of our saints. Thanks for your help with this important ministry.

Please Pray for Our Church!

Please pray for Christ's church in all of its variety in our city, nations, and the world. and...

For the revitalization and renewal of the First Presbyterian Church of Roswell, as we are led by God's Holy Spirit.

Hanging of the Greens, Sunday, November 26th, Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday!



It's that time of year already!

The Annual "Hanging of the Greens" will follow Worship Service on Sunday, November 26th! Please join us in decorating the Sanctuary and the Narthex for Advent and Christmas!

First Presbyterian Church

Deacons
Connie Wolf

Session
Randy Nolen, Moderator

Ross Robinson
Joy Kurtz
Bob Kurtz
Isaac Hubbard
Ellen Jo Williams
Ann Ruback
Caroline (Candy) Reynolds
Lucy Tucker
Jacque Allen

Bonnie Montgomery
Bob Entrop
Dietta Hitchcock
Doug Lunsford
Lynn Karnes
Jim Bloodhart



Dear friends in Christ,

The dream of the Mountain Ministry Parish is to serve our Lord and Savior by keeping these remote small churches alive. First Presbyterian Church, Roswell, NM continues to bless us by holding us in your care. It is through your gracious generosity that helps our dream mission possible.

Thank you for being such a blessing and please know how much you are appreciated. We thank you for your kindness and for being the wonderful, amazing children of Christ that you are.

In the love of Christ,

Janell Kane

Mountain Ministry Parish



October 11, 2023

First Presbyterian Church
ATTN: Clerk of Session
400 W. 3rd St.
Roswell, NM 88201

Dear Partners in God's Ministry,

In his second letter to the church of Corinth, the Apostle Paul wrote, "The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:6-7, NRSV).

Your congregation may invite members to make a financial pledge for 2024 during October. You may also include a Sunday (called Consecration or Dedication or Stewardship), giving thanks for the generosity of commitment. These tangible acts of generosity are both a response to and a reminder of God's grace and gifts we receive, even in challenging times.

On behalf of Presbyterian Ministry Engagement and Support, please convey our appreciation to your mission committee, pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support.

Thank you once again for your support, dedication, and partnership in furthering God's mission around the world. You are a valued partner in mission. As always, please let me know how I can support you in your mission efforts.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lemuel Garcia".

Rev. Lemuel García-Arroyo
Ministry Engagement Advisor - South Region
Office of Ministry Engagement and Support
(502) 919-1835
Lemuel.garcia@pcusa.org



[E-mail: office@fpcroswell.org][WEBSITE: fpcroswell.org]



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