

The FPC Herald

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



Reflections of Rev. Randy Nolen

"All good things must come to an end." I have been honored to have served as your Intern Pastor for the last two and a half years. Thank you for your love, friendship, and generosity during that time. Thank you for your support during Marilyn's illness and death. Good luck with the pastor search and the revitalization plans. May God bless all of you!

December 2023 Calendar

Sunday, December 3rd - Communion Sunday, Worship Service, 10:00am

Monday, December 4th - Prayer Group - noon, Parlor

Thursday, December 7th - Deacon's Meeting, 4:00pm

Sunday, December 10th - Worship Service, 10:00am

Monday, December 11th - Prayer Group - noon, Parlor

Tuesday, December 12th - Mission Committee Meeting, 2:00pm

Wednesday, December 13th - Wednesday Evening Dinner, 6:00pm

Sunday, December 17th - Worship Service, 10:00am
Christmas Holiday Luncheon following Worship Service.

Monday, December 18th - Prayer Group - noon, Parlor

Thursday, December 21st - First Day of Winter!

Friday, December 22nd - Community Kitchen Ministry, 9:30am

Sunday, December 24th - Christmas Eve Service, 5:30pm

Monday, December 25th - Christmas Day Holiday!
Church Office closed.

Sunday, December 31st - Worship Service, 10:00am

Monday, January 1, 2024 - New Years Day Holiday!
Church Office closed.

The Liturgical Calendar **Advent and Christmas 2023**

December 3rd - The First Sunday of Advent

December 10th - The Second Sunday of Advent

December 17th - The Third Sunday of Advent

December 24th - The Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

December 25th - Christmas Day



December 2023 Scripture Readings

December 3rd - First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9 and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 10th - Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11 and Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 17th - Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 and Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24th - Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 and Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve: Isaiah 9:2-7 and Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 25th - Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day

Dawn: Isaiah 62:6-12 and Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2(1-7) 8-20;

Day: Isaiah 52:7-10 and Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

December 31st - First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 and Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

[Read the Scripture passages here.](#)

Serving in December

Week of December 3rd

Liturgist: Betty Young

Service Elder: Deb Prince

Camera Operator: Lynn Karnes

Light Advent Candle: Darwin, Erica, Olivia, & Evelyn Entrop-Martinez

Moment for Young Disciples: Dietta Hitchcock

Inspirational Phone Message: Bill Wolf

Week of December 10th

Liturgist: Wayne Bevers
Service Elder: Paula Grieves
Camera Operator: Betty Young
Light Advent Candles: Bob & Joy Kurtz
Moment for Young Disciples: _____
Inspirational Phone Message: Paula Grieves

Week of December 17th

Liturgist: Paula Grieves
Service Elder: Anna Maria Matteucci
Camera Operator: Betty Young
Light Advent Candles: Jon & Dietta Hitchcock
Moment for Young Disciples: Dietta Hitchcock
Inspirational Phone Message: Mary Hubbard

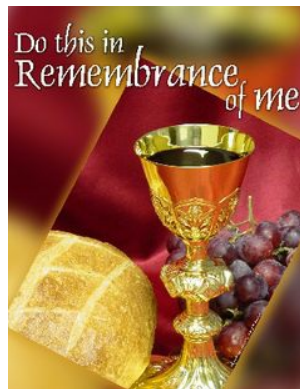
Week of December 24th

Christmas Eve Service, 5:30pm

Liturgist: Wayne Bevers
Liturgist: Rebecca Johnson
Liturgist: Bob Kurtz
Liturgist: Margy Barbour
Liturgist: Bob Entrop
Liturgist: Dietta Hitchcock
Service Elder: Deb Prince
Camera Operator: Lynn Karnes
Light the Advent Candles: _____
Inspirational Phone Message: Doug Lunsford

Week of December 31st

Liturgist: Margy Barbour
Service Elder: _____
Camera Operator: Lynn Karnes
Moment for Young Disciples: _____
Inspirational Phone Message: Bob Kurtz



Communion Sunday
Sunday, December 3rd!

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, fpcroswell.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!



Reverend Amy E. Fisher
will preach for us on Sunday, December 3rd!

Reverend Amy Fisher served the First Presbyterian Church of Tucumcari from 2011 to 2021. She now lives in Clovis with her husband, Jay Fisher, a professional custom

knife maker and artist. Together they are the keepers of 4 cats and 4 large dogs. They create, produce and star in the "Clovis Connections Podcast," chronicling their ongoing project building a recording studio in the Norman and Vi Petty Rock and Roll Museum, using much of the original equipment from the Norman Petty Studio. Amy is taking courses in guitar and audio engineering. She grew up in Fairfax, Virginia with her brother, Jason. She holds a B.A. in Comparative Religions (Virginia Tech) and a Master of Divinity (Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary). She has traveled to Syria, Jordan, Israel, Guatemala, Kenya, France and Canada. Amy is the 2023 Moderator of the Presbytery of Sierra Blanca.

Services of Advent and Christmas **Bob Entrop, Worship/Music Director**

We'll celebrate the beginning of Advent on December 3rd with Amy Fisher at the pulpit. You'll find Amy's biography elsewhere in this newsletter but it's enough to say that she is a delightful preacher who will bring us a wonderful message to commence the Advent season. The Estacio-Entrop family will light the first Advent candle.

A week later, on December 10th, Bob Entrop will deliver a sermon crafted by Terry Aiello and Bob and Joy Kurtz will light the second Advent candle.

December 17th brings our own Dietta Hitchcock to the pulpit with another sermon from Pastor Terry. The third Advent candle will be lit by Jon and Dietta Hitchcock.

On December 24th, our Christmas Eve Celebration begins at 5:30pm featuring a Service of Scriptures, Songs and Candles. Margy Barbour will deliver a homily and the (to be announced) family will light the remaining Advent candles. There will be no morning service that day.

Finally, our regular Sunday morning service on December 31st will feature congregational singing of our favorite Christmas Carols. A joyous event you won't want to miss!



Christmas Holiday Luncheon - **Sunday, December 17th!**

The Fellowship Committee will have a Christmas Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 17th, following Worship Service. The menu will include Ham, scalloped potatoes, salad, bread, dessert, and drinks. Contact De Prince if you have any questions. You are welcome to join us!

The Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is now up in the narthex, with names of local children needing gifts for Christmas! The children's names are provided by the Presbyterian Outreach Ministry. Please take a

name from the tree so that you can provide a wrapped gift for a child. The deadline for gifts is Monday, December 18th. For more information, please contact Margo Fullinwider. Thank you!



Poinsettias



Potted Poinsettia Plants are available to purchase again this year! Please fill out an order form along with your check for \$25.00 per potted plant written to the First Presbyterian Church with "poinsettia" on the memo line. Drop your form and check or cash in the offering plate or bring/mail them to the church office. The deadline to order plants is Sunday, December 17th. All donations will be recognized in a bulletin insert on Christmas Eve. You may collect your plant after the Christmas Eve Worship Service.

Toys for Tots

The Christmas Toys for Tots program is already underway! Money donations are welcome, and checks can be written to "Toys for Tots" with "Chaves County, NM" on the memo line. The money donations need to be in by December 5th so that toys can be ordered on-line. You can also drop unwrapped toys for the local children in a dedicated box located in the Church narthex.



Please contact Michelle William, (575) 246-8469, for more information or go on-line at [Toys for Tots, Chaves County, NM](#). This program is sponsored by the Sgt. Moses D. Rocha Marine Corps League, Detachment No. 1287.



Christmas Eve Service, Sunday, December 24th at 5:30pm

A Christmas Eve Service of Worship is set for December 24th at 5:30pm. The service will feature carols, scripture, and candle lighting. Join us as we celebrate with joy the birth of the King and bring a friend!

You may also join us through the Church's [Facebook page](#) or [YouTube.com](#) (or go to YouTube.com and search for John Gardiner - First Presbyterian Church).

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th!

Church office will be closed.



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@fpcrosswell.org.



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.

The November 2023 Session Meeting

At its November 16th Meeting, the Session of the First Presbyterian Church...

- Approved the Building Use Request for the AA Group to use the old Choir Room in the basement for their meetings.
- Bob Entrop said Clergy Supply is being arranged.
- Dietta Hitchcock said there will be a Christmas Luncheon held on Sunday, December 17th after Worship Service.

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

The Pastoral Nominating 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, Chairperson
Paula Grieves
Ross Robertson
Bob Entrop



Happy Birthdays in December!

3rd - Elizabeth Basiaka-Itie

8th - Candy Reynolds

17th - Doug Lunsford

26th - Candace Russell

Happy Anniversary

Happy Anniversaries in December!

12th - Bob Williams & Kate DeBraose

12th - Dennis & Lynn Karnes

22nd - Jon & Dietta Hitchcock

**FEATURED PC(USA)
MISSION WORKER for
December 2023**

Gary and Marlene Van Brocklin

Mission co-workers serving South Asia at the invitation of various partner churches and organizations in South Asia

The Van Brocklin's serve as regional liaisons for Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) support of partner programs, relationships and activities and as implementers of the Presbyterian



World Mission strategy. They also guide and support PC(USA) mission personnel in the region in communications, information sharing, mentoring, encouraging, and missiological reflection. In addition, Gary and Marlene facilitate and seek to strengthen healthy, effective and missiologically appropriate relationships among entities of the PC(USA) and those of partner denominations or organizations in the region.

[Read more about Gary and Marlene's work...](#)

Baby Evelyn Alexandra Entrop-Martinez

was born to Darwin Martinez and Erica Entrop on Thursday, November 16th, weighing in at 7 and a half pounds! She is the Granddaughter of Rebecca Johnson and Bob Entrop!



Worship Highlights!

Bob Entrop and Wayne Bevers sang on Sunday, November 5th!



**Bob Entrop, Wayne Bevers, and Zoa Stuntz
sang on Sunday, November 12th!**



Bob Entrop and Wayne Bevers sang on Sunday, November 19th!



Margo Fullinwider taught the Moment for Young Disciples on Sunday, November 5th!



The "Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 27th!



The Community Kitchen Ministry, Friday, November 24th!

**(Ross Robertson, Jo Williams, Mary Anderson, Connie Wolf,
Margo Fullinwider, Lynn Karnes, and Martha Mayer)**



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.

First Presbyterian Church

Deacons

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

Session

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

*May **GOD's** blessings come to you a
Thousand fold; May the Love in your
Heart never get old;
and may you find
treasures more
precious than
gold.*



*Have a
and a*

*Blessed Christmas
Happy New Year
to You and Your Family.*

[PHONE: (575) 622-4910]

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



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