

The FPC Herald

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



Reflections of Rev. Randy Nolen

I wish I could take credit for the following, but I can't. It was emailed to me years ago by a member of the church I pastored in St. Louis.

The Prodigal Son in the Key of "F"

Feeling footloose, fancy free and frisky, a featherbrained fellow forced his fond father to fork over his farthings. Fast he flew to foreign fields and frittered his family's fortune, feasting fabulously with floozies and faithless friends. Flooded with flattery he financed a full-fledged fling of funny foam and fast food.

Fleeced by his fellows in folly, facing famine, and feeling faintly fuzzy, he found himself a feed-flinger in a filthy foreign farmyard. Feeling frail and fairly famished, he fain would have filled his frame with foraged food from the fodder fragments. "Fooley," he figured. "My father's flunkies fare far fancier," the frazzled fugitive fumed feverishly, facing the facts. Finally, frustrated from failure and filled with foreboding (but following his feelings) he fled from the filthy foreign farmyard.

Faraway, the father focused on the fretful familiar form in the field and flew to him and fondly flung his forearms around the fatigued fugitive. Falling at his father's feet, the fugitive floundered forlornly, "Father, I have flunked and fruitlessly forfeited family favor." Finally, the faithful father, forbidding and forestalling further flinching, frantically flagged the flunkies to fetch forth the finest fatling and fix a feast.

Faithfully the father's firstborn was in a fertile field fixing fences while father and fugitive were feeling festive. The foreman felt fantastic as he flashed the fortunate news of a familiar family face that had forsaken fatal foolishness. Forty-four feet from the farmhouse the firstborn found a farmhand fixing a fatling. Frowning and finding fault, he found father and fumed, "Floozies and foam from frittered family funds and you fix a feast following the fugitive's folderol?"

The firstborn's fury flashed, but fussing was futile. The frugal firstborn felt it was fitting to feel favored for his faithfulness and fidelity to family, father, and farm. In foolhardy fashion, he faulted the father for failing to furnish a fatling and feast for friends.

His folly was not in feeling fit for a feast and fatling for friends; rather his flaw was in his feeling about the fairness of the festival for the found fugitive. His fundamental fallacy was a fixation on favoritism, not forgiveness.

Any focus on feeling favored will fester and friction will force the faded facade to fall. Frankly, the father felt the frigid firstborn's frugality of forgiveness was formidable and frightful. But the father's former faithful fortitude and fearless forbearance to forgive both fugitive and firstborn flourishes.

The farsighted father figured, "Such fidelity is fine, but what forbids festivity for the fugitive that is found? Unfurl the flags and finery, let fun and frolic freely flow. Former failure is forgotten, folly is forsaken." Forgiveness forms the foundation for future fortune.

Four facets of the father's fathomless fondness for faltering fugitives are:

1. Forgiveness
2. Forever faithful friendship
3. Fadeless love
4. A facility for forgetting

Author Unknown

It is always interesting to look at Scripture with fresh eyes. Sometimes the old words become so familiar they lose their meaning. I hope this retelling of the Prodigal Son parable will perhaps bring you new insights into the text.

The basic message remains intact. The foundation of our faith is God's amazing grace. We have done nothing to earn it; indeed we can do nothing to earn it. But God doesn't care. God gives it to us anyway. Presbyterians in the past have been somewhat like the older brother. Our theology of predestination convinced us that we were the chosen, and everyone else was not. We wanted to keep the fatted calf for ourselves. But the error in our thinking (which crept in after John Calvin's death: Calvin did not think this) is that because we are predestined to be saved, others must be predestined for condemnation. It ain't necessarily so. God's grace is such that God can decide to save everyone. Scripture tells us that, because the possibility exists that some may miss out on God's grace, we have an obligation to spread the Word of God to all we meet, but ultimately the choice of who is saved belongs solely to

God. And when you stop to think about it, we should all be grateful for that.

Pastor Randy Nolen

June 2023 Calendar

The Summer Children's Day Care Program starts after Tuesday, May 30th
and ends August 7th in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 4th - Communion Sunday, Worship Service, 10:00am

Monday, June 5th - Prayer Group - noon, Parlor

Sunday, June 11th - Worship Service, 10:00am

Monday, June 12th - Prayer Group - noon, Parlor

Wednesday, June 14th - Wednesday Evening Dinner, 6:00pm

Thursday, June 15th - Session Meeting, 5:15pm in Library

Sunday, June 18th - Worship Service, 10:00am
Father's Day!

Monday, June 19th - Prayer Group - noon, Parlor
Juneteenth Holiday - Office closed.

Wednesday, June 21st Summer Begins!

Friday, June 23rd - Community Kitchen Ministry, 9:30am

Saturday, June 24th - Women of The Bible Workshop &
Luncheon 10:00am to 3:00pm - Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 25th - Worship Service, 10:00am
Congregational Meeting (following Worship)

Monday, June 26th - Prayer Group - noon, Parlor

June Scripture Readings

June 4th - Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a and Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

June 11th - Second Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 5:15-6:6 and Psalm 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 18th - Third Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 19:2-8a and Psalm 100, Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

June 25th - Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

[Read the Scripture passages here.](#)

Serving in June

Week of June 4th

Liturgist: Bob Kurtz
Service Elder: Lynn Karnes
Camera Operator: Nova Rogers
Moment for Young Disciples: Dietta Hitchcock
Inspirational Phone Message: Mary Hubbard

Week of June 11th

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

Week of June 18th

Liturgist: Wayne Bevers
Service Elder: Bill Wolf
Camera Operator: Lynn Karnes
Moment for Young Disciples: Dietta Hitchcock
Inspirational Phone Message: Doug Lunsford

Week of June 25th

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



Communion Sunday **Sunday, June 4th!**

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.

Trinity Sunday, June 4th!



Worship Live Streaming

We continue live streaming worship services to the church's [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqK1vYk1vYk1vYk1vYk1vYk) (go to YouTube.com and search for John Gardiner – First Presbyterian Church) or go on the First Presbyterian Church [Facebook page](#). 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.



Summer Meeting of the Congregation **Sunday, June 25th!**

Congregational meetings are scheduled twice a year, in February and June to carry out necessary business that, according to the PC (USA) constitution, can be done only by discussion and vote of the congregation. The Summer 2023 Congregational

Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, June 25th**, following worship service.

One important item on the agenda is the election of Ruling Elders, Deacons, and members of the 2023-2024 Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee has been hard at work discerning individuals it believes God has called and equipped for those forms of service. The church Nominating Committee, chaired by ruling elder, Bob Entrop, are working to identify those called by God to serve our church in the coming year and longer. Our sincerest thanks to them for their diligence and faithfulness in discerning those called.

The committee will nominate those ordered ministries for Ruling Elders, Deacons, and the Nominating Committee and will be announced soon.

Nominations from the floor are welcome during the congregational meeting, with concurrence of the nominee. Our thanks to all of the members who say "yes" to God's call for service.

Please mark your calendars for the Congregational Meeting set for Sunday, June 25th, after the 10:00am Worship Service!



The Family Resource and Referral, Inc.
Summer Day Care
at First Presbyterian Church!

The First Presbyterian Church Session has approved the use of our Fellowship Hall to the Family Resource and Referral, Inc. for their Summer Day Care for this summer. The day care will begin after Tuesday, May 30th, and end on Monday, August 7th. The hours of the day care are 7:30am until 6:00pm, Monday through Friday. If you have a child that needs summer day care or would like to work as a daycare provider, please call the Family Resource and Referral, Inc. at (575) 622-9000.

"With Heart and Voice"

"With Heart and Voice" is a weekly organ and choral music series on local PBS radio station KENW 91.1 FM. Programming often celebrates the seasons of the church year. This excellent series is supported by First Presbyterian Church.

Tune in on Sundays from 8:00am to 9:00am!

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.**



Community Kitchen Ministry on Friday, May 26th!

Pictured below are (from left to right): Connie Wolf, Lucy Tucker, Martha Mayer, Margo Fullinwider, and Ross Robertson.



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!



Flag Day, June 14th!



Prayer Requests

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

Happy Father's Day, Sunday, June 18th!



The May 2023 Session Meeting

At its May 18th Meeting, the Session of the First Presbyterian Church...

- Approved the Building Use Request for Alcoholics Anonymous District Meeting to use the Fellowship Hall on December 1, 2, 3, 2023.
- The Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 25th, following Worship Service.
- Bonnie Montgomery and Dietta Hitchcock are working to finalize plans for the Women of the Bible one-day workshop on Saturday, June 24th.

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

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 Wayne Bevers, PNC Committee Chairman. The Pastor Nominating Committee includes:

Wayne Bevers, Committee Chairman
Paula Grieves
Dietta Hitchcock
Ross Robertson
Bob Entrop

Juneteenth National Independence Day, June 19th!
(Church Office will be closed)



Save the Date!

"Women of the Bible and Our Ongoing Journey"

Join us for a one-day interactive workshop with Donna Echols, hearing the stories of the Women of the Bible, finding commonalities in our current culture, and how we can make a difference today.

Saturday, June 24th - 10:00am - 3:00pm

Lunch will be provided, reservations required, \$15.00 to secure your place with a check, cash, or online at fpcroswell.org.

More information coming soon!

Contact Dietta Hitchcock or Bonnie Montgomery if you have any questions.

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, nation, 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.



Happy Birthdays in June!

6th - Dixie Loy

11th - Jim Bloodhart

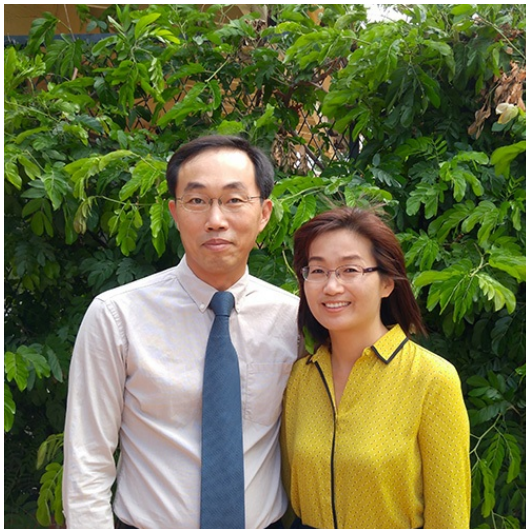
13th - Betty Young

17th - Bill Wolf

17th - Isaac Hubbard

18th - Fred Bennett

25th - Dietta Hitchcock



FEATURED PC(USA) MISSION WORKER FOR June 2023

Noah Park and Esther Shin

**Associates for Ecumenical
Partnerships in Egypt since 2016
Serving with the Evangelical
Presbyterian Church of Egypt,
Synod of the Nile**

Noah Park and Esther Shin, a married couple, serve as professors at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo (ETCS). Noah teaches New

Testament, and Esther teaches Christian education. ETCS, a ministry of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Egypt, is one of a handful of seminaries in the Middle East that trains future Protestant pastors.

Presbyterian mission personnel founded the school in 1863. The seminary located in Cairo has two academic centers, one in Minya/Upper Egypt, and one in Alexandria. Though most of its 350 students are from Egypt, some come from elsewhere in the Arab world, including Syria and Sudan, to prepare for service in churches in their home countries. ETSC also recently launched a distance learning program for Arabic speakers around the world.

[Read more about Noah and Esther's work...](#)

Worship Highlights!

Wayne Bevers & Bob Entrop sang on Sunday, May 7th!



This Quartet includes Bob Entrop, Wayne Bevers, Zoa Stuntz and Wendy Lunsford who sang on Sunday, May 14th!



Wayne Bevers & Bob Entrop sang on Sunday, May 28th!



Flowers Blooming in the Church Courtyard on May 15!
(Photos courtesy of Bob Kurtz)





April 2023

Dear Friends,

During resilience trainings, when speaking to communities who have faced a disaster, we invite participants to be part of a closing ritual. We share an image of a bowl that was cracked but has been repaired using an ancient technique called kintsugi, or “golden joinery.” Beautiful seams of gold glint in the cracks of ceramicware, giving a unique appearance to the piece. This repair method celebrates each item’s unique history by emphasizing its fractures and breaks instead of hiding or disguising them. Kintsugi often makes the repaired piece even more beautiful than the original, giving it new life. The kintsugi method conveys a philosophy not of replacement, but acceptance of change, reverence, and restoration. The gold-filled cracks of a once-broken item are a testament to what it has been through.

We then invite everyone to come and pick a magnet with an image of a kintsugi bowl to remind them of their wholeness, strength, and value, all of which empowers them to continue serving those in need.

Many of the communities we serve understand this idea of kintsugi. Weeks, months, and sometimes even years later, when communities affected by a disaster look back, they also see cracked spirits and emotional wounds that have been healed or are still in repair. Friendships formed, coalitions working together, neighbors that have become family; organizations, churches, leaders who have responded to the call to serve, to seam the cracks of disaster.

During this time of year, as we celebrate the power of the resurrection, we are transformed once again by the Spirit of God that continues to bring healing and restoration in the chaos of our lives and our communities. Through your donation(s), you have helped many communities in their process of repair. Through your support, PDA has provided critical assistance to those who have lost their homes, their loved ones, and their sense of security. We are grateful for your contribution and the impact it has on so many people. Your generosity has helped us bring hope and healing to those broken by disaster, so they can also see their wholeness, strength, and value.

May the power of the Resurrected Christ bless us in our journey.

In Christ’s hope,

The Rev. Edwin González-Castillo
Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

First Presbyterian Church

Deacons

Connie Wolf
Margo Fullinwider
Lorrie Miller
Edith Malcolm
Ross Robinson
Joy Kurtz
Bob Kurtz
Isaac Hubbard
Lois Wilson
Lynn Karnes
Ellen Jo Williams
Ann Ruback

Session

Randy Nolen, Moderator
Bonnie Montgomery
Wayne Bevers
Mary Hubbard
Dietta Hitchcock
Doug Lunsford
Bob Entrop

First Day of Summer, Wednesday, June 21st!



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