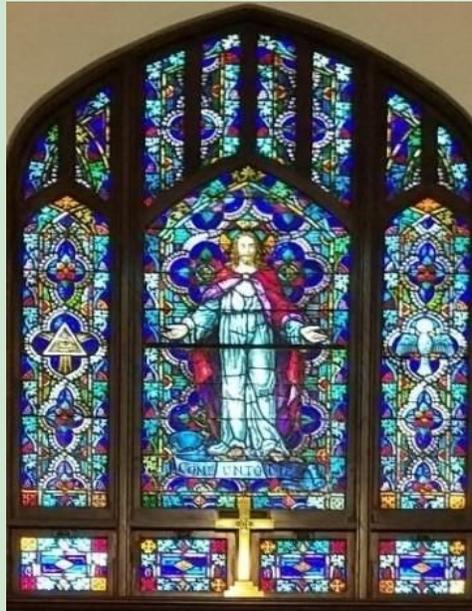


# *The FPC Herald*

**The Monthly Newsletter  
of  
First Presbyterian Church  
Roswell, New Mexico  
July 2020**



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## **The Pastor's Reflections**

During the current time of anxiety and uncertainty I am using this space often to offer some words of encouragement and help from Scripture, as I am with my weekly updates. One of the most prominent and moving psalms of trust is Psalm 91\*...

*You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust.'*

*For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence;  
he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.  
You will not fear the terror of the night,  
or the arrow that flies by day,  
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,*

*or the destruction that wastes at noonday.*

*Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling-place,  
no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.*

*For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.  
You will tread on the lion and the adder,  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.*

*Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honor them.  
With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.*

It is clear that the writer of this psalm is concerned over his well-being and that of his nation and people, as they are threatened by the armed forces of their enemies. The words nevertheless speak to any of us in times of fearfulness and dread.

You may be familiar with the song based on Psalm 91 released in 1979 by Father Michael Joncas, a priest and musician of the Catholic Church. Here is a lovely rendition of "[On Eagle's Wings.](#)"

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor John

\*Selected verses

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### **July Calendar**

July 3rd	Independence Day Observed - Office Closed
July 5th	Communion Worship - 10:00am
July 9th	Deacons Meeting - 5:00pm
July 12th	Worship - 10:00am
July 15th	Session Meeting - 5:15pm
July 19th	Worship - 10:00am
July 24th	Community Kitchen Ministry - 9:15am
July 26th	Worship - 10:00am

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## **July Scripture Readings**

### **July 5th - Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25;  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### **July 12th - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11;  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### **July 19th - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 28:10-19; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25;  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### **July 26th - Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45;  
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

[\*Read the Scripture passages here.\*](#)

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## **Serving in July**

### **Week of July 5th**

Service Elder: Lynn Karnes

Liturgist: Dietta Hitchcock

Inspirational Phone Message: Doug Lunsford

Chancel Guild: Lynn Kares, Ann Hultman, Connie Wolf

### **Week of July 12th**

Service Elder: Bob Kurtz

Liturgist: Margy Barbour

Inspirational Phone Message: Bob Carroll

Chancel Guild: Mary Lou Glass, Rebecca Johnson, Roberta Pess

### **Week of July 19th**

Service Elder: Bill Wolf

Liturgist: Betty Young

Inspirational Phone Message: Jon Hitchcock

Chancel Guild: Wendy Lunsford, Betsy Cunningham, Lucy Tucker

### **Week of July 26th**

Service Elder: Dietta Hitchcock

Liturgist: The Rev. Bob Williams

Inspirational Phone Message: Roberta Pess

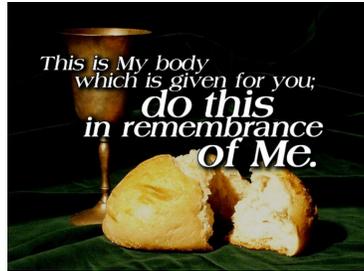
Chancel Guild: Margo Fullinwider, Martha Mayer

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We are worshipping in the Sanctuary on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is very welcome. [COVID-19 safety measures](#) are in place.

Those who are not yet ready to venture into larger gatherings are encouraged to remain home and participate through livestreaming at 10:00 a.m., and the recordings which will remain on [the church's YouTube channel](#).

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### **The Lord's Supper Sunday, July 5th**

Come celebrate the Feast of the Lord!

Please call the church office if you would like to receive Communion at home.

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### **Worship Livestreaming Commences July 5th**

We now have the necessary tools (and fast internet connection) to make worship livestreaming feasible. We will be livestreaming to [the church's YouTube channel](#) beginning July 5th. You can join us at 10:00 a.m. for worship as it happens, and a link to the worship recording will remain on [the church's website](#) after the livestream is done. If you have subscribed to our YouTube channel, you should receive an email with a link to the livestream when it begins. Those who join the livestream can check in and make comments throughout worship using the chat column on the right-hand side of the window.

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

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### **Worship Technical Crew Needed**

A corps of folks willing to help with the technical aspects of worship livestreaming is needed. If you are fairly proficient with a smart phone, you are qualified. This need is urgent. Is God calling you? Please let me know.

Pastor John

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### **Worship CD's Available**

Please call the church office if you would like to receive compact disc audio recordings of worship services. We will be glad to send them to you by US mail.

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### **Prayer Requests**

Please relay prayer requests to the pastor or the church office.

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### **Summer Class for Disciples**

If there is sufficient interest, I plan to offer a short-term summer discipleship class by video conferencing or in-person. As the summer is rapidly drawing to a close, we would need to start soon. Please let me know if you are especially missing opportunities to grow through small-group study. Please also let me know if a video or in-person format is better for you. Many thanks.

Pastor John

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### **Congregational Contact Ministry**

Even though corporate worship has resumed, our joint ministry of regular contact with FPC saints must continue. Please continue to work with the Deacons and pastor to maintain contact by phone, text, email, and USPS mail with all of our saints. Thanks for your help with this important work.

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### **Giving to God Electronically Through Our Church**

You give to God through our church via [the church website](#). You may specify a one-time or recurring gift using your checking account or credit card. Thank you for your faithful stewardship of God's abundant resources.



### **A Prayer for the Coronavirus Pandemic**

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#### **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.

### **Daily Prayer Ministry**

The daily prayer ministry of our church faithfully continues. Prayer ministers come to the church to pray at noon every day, using either the Sanctuary or Parlor. (Some prayer ministers remain at home during the pandemic.)

Prayer ministers pray for our church, town, state, nation, and world. They offer prayers of praise, thanksgiving, confession, and supplication. They pray the Psalms and other Scripture. They meditate and listen for the Lord's voice. Both the Sanctuary and Parlor have CD players and CD's available.

More prayer ministers are needed and welcomed. Please contact the ministry coordinator, Margo Fullinwider, if you would like to join us.

"After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray." Luke 6:46

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### **Report of the June Meeting of the Session**

The Session met on June 28th. At that meeting, the Session...

- Heard from the Church Treasurer that finances remain entirely satisfactory at this point in the year;
- Approved measures for celebrating the Lord's Supper in worship on July 5th and following;
- Heard a report regarding measures underway to improve the security and safety of FPC members and others using the church's facilities.

[More details are available here.](#)

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### **Meeting of the Congregation** **June 28, 2020**

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church assembled following worship on Sunday, June 28th, for its annual summer meeting. The following individuals were elected, with thanksgiving, at that meeting:

As Session Ruling Elders, all for the Class of 2023

Wayne Bevers  
Mary Hubbard  
Dietta Hitchcock

As Deacons, all for the Class of 2023

Margo Fullinwider  
Edith Malcolm  
Lorrie Miller  
Ross Robertson

As members of the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee

Lucy Tucker  
Bill Wolf  
Lois Wilson  
Margo Fullinwider (Deacon Representative)  
Mike Hunter (Session Representative and Moderator)

Dietta Hitchcock needed to resign her position on the Board of Deacons in order to accept the nomination as a Ruling Elder, so that vacancy on the Board becomes a priority for the Nominating Committee.

The congregation heard reports from the FPC Foundation, Church Treasurer, and Mission Committee. Those reports are linked elsewhere in this edition of the *Herald*.

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### **Report of the First Presbyterian Church Foundation**

The First Presbyterian Church Foundation trustees provided their report for 2019 at the June 28 meeting of the congregation. You can find the report [here](#). Please address questions to Foundation trustee Jon Hitchcock.

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### **Midyear Treasurer's Report**

Church Treasurer, Andy Miller, provided a midyear report (through May 31) at the June 28 meeting of the congregation. You can find Andy's report [here](#).

Both receipts and disbursements are slightly higher compared to the same time last year, and excess receipts over disbursements for 2020 were \$29,640 as of May 31. First Presbyterian Church remains financially stable, even three months into the current crisis, thanks to your continued generous giving to God, through our church.

Thank you.

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### **2020 Mission Budget**

The Mission Committee of Session and the Session together developed a 2020 Mission Budget of \$20,900, nearly 10% of the church's total budget. Historically this 10% figure has been the goal of both the committee and the Session.

In February we reported in The FPC Herald the Session-approved allocation of those mission funds to various local, denominational, and international organizations and entities. That report was provided to the congregation again at its June 28th meeting, and is [linked here](#). The mission budget was adjusted slightly since February due to the cancellation of one of our supported ministry events. Those funds have been transferred to the "Contingency" category.

Your faithful giving makes possible our support of all these highly-worthy organizations.

Thank you.

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### **Fifth Thursday Potluck Dinners**

If you would like to host or co-host one of these dinners, please contact Karen Bloodhart. Please mark your calendars for July 30th and October 29th. We hope to be able to gather on these dates!



*Faith* IS NOT KNOWING  
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,  
BUT KNOWING  
*who holds the future.*

### **Daily Inspirational Phone Message**

Start your day with an inspiring message.  
(575) 622-4923



- |      |                              |
|------|------------------------------|
| 5th  | Cindy Miller                 |
| 8th  | Allison (Kurtz) Storm-Valdez |
| 10th | Ralph Brown                  |
| 13th | Jim Young                    |
| 18th | Elexa De La Rosa             |
| 31st | Wendy Lunsford               |



- |      |                      |
|------|----------------------|
| 1st  | Mike & Stacye Hunter |
| 1st  | Bill & Connie Wolf   |
| 6th  | Jack & T.K.Culy      |
| 20th | Mark & Kate Daniels  |
| 29th | Ronny & Martha Mayer |



Wayne Bevers  
Sunday, June 7th



Bob Entrop and Wayne Bevers  
Sunday, June 28th

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**The Pastor's Assistance Fund**  
**\*\* Thank You \*\***

I have for use at my discretion two FPC funds for the alleviation of the suffering of our neighbors in Roswell. One of those funds is the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, provided by the Mission Committee each year as part of its annual budget. The other is a designated line item, the Pastor's Assistance Fund, which is maintained by the designated donations of our members and friends.

The Mission Committee allocated \$3,000 of a \$27,900 2020 mission budget for the Discretionary Fund, and those resources have been essentially depleted. I have then begun to use resources from the Assistance Fund to help neighbors in need. As of June 1, the Assistance Fund contained \$5,507, most of which you have donated during 2020. I am astounded and so very thankful for your generosity.

Most of the assistance you have provided so far in 2020 has been to fill gas tanks and provide a night or two in a local motel. On occasion I help individuals and families with rent, utilities, food, or prescriptions. In general I can help a particular individual or family one time each year. Over the first half of the year, your generosity, through both the Discretionary and Assistance funds, has provided emergency relief for roughly one hundred individuals and families. It seems a small thing to us to fill a tank or have a room with air conditioning and shower, but for these families it is a deeply-appreciated break from the relentless anxiety and hardship of life on the streets or paying the bills.

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40.

Thank you.

Pastor John

## Mission Co-worker for July

**Nadia Ayoub**

### **Serving in Greece with *Perichoresis***

From 2010 to 2017, Nadia Ayoub partnered with the Reformed Church in Carpath-Ukraine in developing and implementing early childhood education programs in marginalized Roma communities. These educational programs served as outreach that sought to steadily improve the self-esteem and status of Roma children and their parents in the eyes of other Roma and those in the larger Ukrainian society.



Nadia's work with marginalized Roma families endowed her with experience and understanding that prove invaluable in working with refugees in Greece in partnership with *Perichoresis*, which explains its mission as "the alleviation of human hardship regardless of ethnicity, race and creed."

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

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### **Supporting Native American Churches** **in** **New Mexico and Arizona**

Our synod, the Synod of the Southwest, has mounted an initiative to provide critical funds for native American churches and communities in New Mexico and Arizona, which have been gravely affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Please see the letter from our synod [linked here](#), and please consider helping.

Thank you.

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## Thank You

The 221st General Assembly (2014) challenged each congregation to begin receiving a new Offering and/or increasing current offering support by 10 percent. We hope this statement helps you track progress of these goals and provide transparency on direct giving to the Mission Agency.

### IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

5084  
First Presbyterian Church  
400 W 3rd St  
Roswell NM 88201-4627

	Your congregation		Nationally	
	2019 <i>(end of year)</i>	2020 <i>(as of 3/31/20 preliminary, subject to audit)</i>	2019 <i>(end of year)</i>	2020 <i>(as of 3/31/20 preliminary, subject to audit)</i>
Christmas Joy Offering	\$1,607.06	\$0.00	\$3,196,236	\$1,445,532
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$855.00	\$0.00	\$6,344,559	\$498,805
Pentecost Offering	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$805,318 *	\$46,539 *
Peace & Global Witness Offering <i>(includes Peacemaking Offering gifts)</i>	\$1,095.00	\$0.00	\$843,985 *	\$183,126 *
Presbyterian Giving Catalog <i>(includes Special Offerings events)</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,154,012	\$188,260

\* Gifts to the Pentecost and Peace & Global Witness offerings do not include the percentages retained by congregations and mid councils.

Individuals giving *directly* to Special Offerings 0

Total number of individuals from your congregation 0

	Total given	# Donors
Christmas Joy Offering	\$0.00	0
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$0.00	0
Pentecost Offering	\$0.00	0
Peace & Global Witness Offering	\$0.00	0
Presbyterian Giving Catalog	\$0.00	0

#### Funds to be remitted to your congregation after 2020 books close

Pentecost Offering <i>(for youth programs)</i>	\$0.00
Peace & Global Witness Offering	\$0.00
Presbyterian Giving Catalog	\$0.00



### First Presbyterian Church

#### Board of Deacons

Connie Wolf, Moderator  
Jacque Allen  
Bob Carroll

#### Session

John Guthrie, Moderator  
Bob Kurtz, Clerk  
Jim Bloodhart

T.K. Cully  
Margo Fullinwider  
Dietta Hitchcock  
Ann Hultman  
Stacye Hunter  
Joy Kurtz  
Martha Mayer  
Lorrie Miller  
Ann Ruback  
Heidi Shanor

Wayne Bevers  
Lynn Karnes  
Michele Hillman  
Mike Hunter  
Bonnie Montgomery  
Steve Shanor

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