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| **﻿The First Word****The Weekly E-Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Carlsbad, NM** |

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| **Schedule of Events**THIS WEEK: **Daily:** 7:00 a.m. Facebook Live Devotions **Wednesday:** 6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)**Thursday:**Noon: Prayer Walk (Chapel)**Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. Bible Study (Library)10:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)Following Worship: Fellowship (Parlor)Worship Committee (Library)﻿**Birthdays**8th Joseph Ogden**Anniversaries**8th Mark & Sue Edwards11th Scott & Shirley Maxwell**Congregational Meeting** Our Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck will be held on January 17, 2021. **All year end reports should be in the church office no later than January 7th.**  If members are unable to attend in person we will be emailing an invitation (with instructions) to participate via Zoom. We need a quorum so please try to attend.**Bylaws**We will mail a copy of the amended BYLAWS this week. We will vote on them as part of our congregational meeting after Worship on Jan. 17th!**Installation of Officers**Because we were unable to vote on Elders and Deacons in October, we will do that as part of the congregational meeting also. The installation will be Jan.24, 2021. |
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| **A Note from Pastor Jan**Happy New Year! During our worship service last Sunday, Epiphany Sunday, I created a PowerPoint slideshow of the passages of Scripture several people sent to me, verses that helped them get through last year, 2020. I thought it would be wonderful and encouraging for us to see these verses, to bring us hope in a year that is filled with the leftover fear, dread, confusion, exhaustion, and doubt from last year. Being a new year, if you’re like me, it doesn’t feel like a typical new year, one that usually brings promise and joy in thinking about the possibilities that were available. Each year should find us on our knees, praying to and dependent upon the Lord; this year’s praying feels more desperate rather than other years’ energetic expectancy. I thought I’d share the verses and the people who sent them in. May 2021 find us reinvigorated and truly hopeful from reading these passages. As I shared in church Sunday, I challenged us to find several Scriptures to memorize! I’m sending out that same challenge today—do I have any takers? As the sermon stated, let’s begin this New Year feeling grateful for the gospel and the privilege we have in serving God. These verses may help us in that goal. Let’s go for it!“Verses That Got Us Through 2020: Which will encourage us for 2021”·      Bruce and Linda Faulk Isaiah 65:1— “I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’” u Romans 5:2 – 5 “…through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And weboast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but wealso glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”  ·      Shelly Ryan 2 Timothy 1:7—“For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”u Isaiah 26:3-- “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.”       Pat Smith and Marcia Westfall Philippians 4:13—“I can do all this through him who gives me strength.” ·      Terry and Lisa Capell Joshua 1:9—“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” ·      Liz Eastup Isaiah 40:31– “…but those who hope in the Lord    will renew their strength.They will soar on wings like eagles;    they will run and not grow weary,    they will walk and not be faint.” ·      Liz Eastup, Frank Westfall, and Patsy Navarette Philippians 4:6—“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” ·      Hannah Raines Isaiah 41:10— “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” ·      Rev. Alvin Desterhaft Romans 15:13— “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” ·      Rick and Susie Coy: Hymns and Scriptures “Be Not Dismayed Whate’er Betide”:“God will take care of you, Thro’ every day, o’er all the way, He will take care of you, God will take care of you”I Peter 5:7—“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. “On Eagle’s Wings”Verse 4: “For to his angels he’s given a command to guard you in all of your ways; upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.”Psalm 91: 11, 12– “For he will command his angels concerning you    to guard you in all your ways;they will lift you up in their hands,    so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”  “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”Verse 3: While life's dark maze I tread/and griefs around me spread/be thou my guide;/bid darkness turn to day/wipe sorrow's tears away/nor let me ever stray/from thee aside.Hebrews 12:2— “…Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” ·      Pastor Jan 2 Corinthians 4:7 – 9, 16 – 18 “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day….For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”  **Putting Christmas Decorations Away**Pastor Jan made an announcement in church Sunday, inviting members to gather in the sanctuary this **Saturday, January 9th, at 9:00 a.m.** to put the Christmas decorations away. Here is what needs to be put away: ·      Christmas Tree ·      Crismon ornaments on tree ·      Wreaths with hooks on entrance to the sanctuary ·      The 12 poles with the candles lining the center aisle ·      The Advent wreath with candles ·      The Nativity set If we get **at least 5 people** to volunteer, it should take **30 minutes** MAXIMUM to put these decorations away. This is also a fun way to get to know other members and catch up on our holiday celebrations. You don’t have to contact the church office, just bring your lovely self! Hope to see you there! **Thank You For Participating in Advent**Pastor Jan would like to personally thank the following individuals who participated in the Advent Wreath and Candle Lighting portion of our worship service throughout Advent and the Christmas Eve service. You blessed us all this past season!November 29: Lisa Ogden, Liz Eastup, Pat SmithDecember 6: Lisa & Terry Capell, Linda & Bruce FaulkDecember 13: Lisa Ogden, Liz Eastup, Doris Bruton CarletonDecember 20: Donna Eakin, Marcia & Frank WestfallDecember 24: Becky Raines, Doris Bruton Carleton, Liz Eastup          |

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| **Weekly Scripture**To ease another's burden, help carry it.*"....the members shoud have the same care one for another."* *﻿1 Corinthians 12:25***Funny Church Signs**"Here's Hoping the Toughest Decision in 2021 is Salt or no Salt"**Bulletin Bloopers**"Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help." |

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**Poinsettias 2020****In Memory of:****Irene Brantley** by Rick & Susie Coy**Robert S. Kearns** by Sherry Kearns **Ann F. Langlinais** by Shelly Ryan**Dr. & Mrs. Fred Westfall** by Frank & Marcia Westfall **Lena Hunt** by Frank & Marcia Westfall  **In Honor of:** **Susie Coy** By Liz Eastup **Rev. Janice Desterhaft**  by Donna Eakin **Charlene House** by Donna Eakin  |

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| **Prayer Concerns** **Pray for RAIN!!!** Ken & Rhonda Beamestefer, Nick Cortese, Janice B. and Alvin Desterhaft, Bonita Kirkes, Patrice Landreth, Teddy Moore, Robin Patillo, Erika Raines,Becky & Bob Raines, Brie West, Donna & Terry Todd, Becky's friend Sandy and her daughter Jen, Donna's friend Shirley, Evan Winegarner, Allan & Judy Wootan, those with Covid-19 and our country.**Joys**: Franz Hill moves to the Craig Institute this week. **Long term health issues:**Owen Carleton, Pat Collins, Susie Coy, Scott & Shirley Maxwell, Phil Sharp, Robert Navarrette **Homebound and Care facilities:** Rich Adamson, Muriel Gossage, Dodie Hendley, Helen Patterson, Phyllis Readel **Military:** Mollie Navarrette Acuna, Rey Acuna, Cody Ogden-Stell **Members/Friends Serving Overseas:** Carol & Leith Fujii  At the beginning of each month, we remove names of people from whom we haven't had a recent report. To add someone to the prayer list or report on their status, please contact Shelly or Pastor Jan. |

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| First Presbyterian Church | PO Box 39, 309 West Shaw Street, Carlsbad, NM 88221 |

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