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| April 27, 2021 |

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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:** Noon: Prayer Walk (Chapel)5:00p.m. Meal (Fiesta Hall)5:30 p.m. Bible Study (Fiesta Hall)6:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)**Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. Sunday School (Library)10:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)Following Worship: Fellowship (Fiesta Hall)4:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)﻿ |

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| **Birthdays** 28th Donna Eakin Patsy Navarrette**﻿Pastor Jan's Office Hours** The pastor is available for conversation and prayer throughout the week, particularly at the church Tuesday – Thursday mornings from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Other times and places gladly arranged by appointment. Generally, Mondays are reserved for Sabbath rest and Fridays for study and sermon preparation.Email: joyfulrevjan@yahoo.com or contact her on her cell phone.  |

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| **A Note from Pastor Jan** The last two Sundays I preached on what the cross of Christ means for us. I thought I’d share a story that is a great illustration of the great freedom we have in Christ because of what he accomplished for us. Sometimes, as this story will convey, the Lord uses non-Christians to share how Jesus Christ won a victory on the cross over Satan and all his works—which means there is release for the captives and deliverance for those who are bound.          “A missionary nurse told John Taylor, an Anglican bishop, an amazing story of an unlikely proclaimer of that good news and its life-changing effects. In the late 1960s, she was serving in a hospital established by the Anglican church in Peshawar, a remote city in western Pakistan on the edge of the Khyber pass. An English hippie named Dick wandered into that hospital one day, terribly sick. He was a heroin addict, and since heroin was plentiful and cheap in that region, he had been living there for several months. Besides being an addict, he had hepatitis and venereal disease. He responded positively to treatment, but refused to stay in the hospital because he craved drugs too much. So before he was completely well, he left to wander about. However, it wasn’t long before his health deteriorated again, and one day when he was roaming the countryside, he fell unconscious and was found lying on a hillside by an older man named Ahmed. Ahmed was a fierce, rugged Baluchi tribesman. He was a devout Muslim, and his religion dictated that he show mercy and compassion on strangers and foreigners. So he picked Dick up, carried him to his own village and began to nurse him back to health again. But Dick was still an addict, and Ahmed knew that Dick couldn’t live without his drugs, so for a while he supplied him with heroin.  “One day, however, after Dick’s health had significantly improved, Ahmed began to talk straight to him about his heroin addiction. Because he had served in the British army years before, Ahmed could speak broken English. “There’s only one hope for you,” he insisted. “Dick, you must pray and ask God to deliver you from your addiction. But when you pray, don’t pray to Allah, pray to Isa, pray to Messiah Jesus. He’s the one who can heal you and set you free.”  “In his desperation, Dick took Ahmed’s advice to heart. He began to cry out to Jesus and was miraculously delivered and set free. Not long afterward, he went back to the hospital for further treatment, and the nurse, who had worked with him before, couldn’t get over the dramatic change in him. Now he was a polite, cooperative patient, and he kept talking about the Lord Jesus, the one who had set him free.  “One day she said to him, “How in the world did this happen to You? And who out here told you about Jesus?” When he told her it was a Baluchi tribesman named Ahmed who lived in a certain village, she couldn’t believe it—she knew Ahmed herself and what a fiercely devout Muslim he was. *Why would he tell someone about Jesus?* she wondered. Yet Dick kept insisting that he had.  “Several months later, after Dick had left the hospital and the area and returned home to England, Ahmed showed up at the hospital for some outpatient treatment. While he was there, this same nurse asked him if what Dick had said was true. “Ahmed,” she inquired, “did you tell Dick, that man you found with the heroin addiction, to pray to Jesus?” “Oh, yes, Madam,” Ahmed replied, “1 certainly did.” “’But Ahmed, why? Are you a Christian now?” Ahmed was incensed. “Oh, no, Madam! Allah is my God and Muhammad is my prophet.”  “’So why, Ahmed? Why did you tell him to pray to Jesus?” Then Ahmed explained, “Oh, Madam, for ordinary people ordinary situations you should pray to Allah. But in cases like this one where there is really no hope and where the power of Sythan (Satan) has complete hold of a person, then there is only one name to pray to: *Isa* (Jesus). Only *Isa* (Jesus) can save us from Sythan’s power. This I firmly believe.”  “How true! And how amazing! An old devout frontier land of the Khyber, preaches to a lost and enslaved English hippie the message of freedom in Christ, all made possible through his victory won on the cross. **Like Dick, we can be set free from bondages and addictions.** Jesus can save us from Satan’s power. Through his cross he can deliver us from all the works of the devil.” (*Seamands, GTC, pages 91 – 93*) Amen—God always has the last word! Nothing is beyond the scope of salvation!  |

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| **Internet and Phone Update**As part of the installation of our video/sound upgrade, and negotiating our services with TDS, we have decided that having two phone lines and a fax line are not necessary at this time. The church office is much quieter than in days gone by and we rarely receive two calls simultaneously. With new copiers/scanners, the fax machine is becoming obsolete. Most companies are asking for documents to be scanned to email rather than sending by fax. Please note that our only phone line is **575-885-2715**. If you get a busy signal, wait a few minutes and call back. This should also help with the answering machine wait time. Currently, the phone rings several times on line 1 and then several times on line 2 before the machine picks up.  |

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| **Funny Church Signs**"It’s hard to get in shape spiritually when you only exercise on Sunday."**Bulletin Bloopers**Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will go to cripple children. |

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| **Weekly Scripture**"Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people." *Colossians 3:23﻿* **New Rose Bush**As a gift to Pastor Jan on her Earth Day birthday, a new "Mr. Lincoln" rose bush has been planted in the rose garden. We look forward to many years of new beautiful red blooms in her honor! |

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| **Prayer Concerns** Diane Patterson, Tony Recker, Charlie Winn, Donna’s friend Shirley, Trey Shelton, Barbara Forney, Cottonwood Elementary School, and the mental health of our educators.**Long term health issues:**Owen Carleton, Pat Collins, Susie Coy, Scott & Shirley Maxwell, Robert Navarrette, Phil Sharp, Evan Winegarner **Homebound and Care facilities:** Rich Adamson, Muriel Gossage, Dodie Hendley, Helen Patterson, Phyllis Readel**Military:** Mollie 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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