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| |  | | --- | | **The First Word                               August 21, 2017** |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://static.ctctcdn.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mlsvc01-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/217c9019201/f8122a57-7711-4524-aa13-330574555e59.jpg | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://static.ctctcdn.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | |  |  | | --- | | **Upcoming Events**  **First Presbyterian Church, Carlsbad, New Mexico**  **August 21-27, 2017**  **Wednesday**  **7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)**  **Sunday**  **8:45 a.m.    Bible Study  (Conference Room)**  **10:00 a.m.  Worship (Sanctuary)**  **After  Worship: Farewell Reception/Coffee Hour (Parlor)**  **4:00 p.m.   Bell Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)**    **Birthdays this week**  **26th Shirley Clark**  **No Anniversaries** |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | https://static.ctctcdn.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | https://mlsvc01-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/217c9019201/344e20c4-5ec4-4322-b938-d91ac1ebfa60.jpg |   **A Word from Pastor Steve**  The Good Idea Fairy       When I came here 3 years ago, I told the Session that the good idea fairy strikes me regularly and that I would from time to time throw one of those good ideas on the table for discussion.  If nobody else thought that was a good enough idea for them to volunteer to lead it then I agreed to never mention that idea again.  Maybe because of the every member canvas, maybe the good idea fairy is just getting out more, but several people have come to me with good ideas for church life.  This is ACTUALLY the kind of congregational environment and attitude that I want to foster.  I want the Holy Spirit to inspire people, and I want to see an open discussion about those ideas!  I never consider it a failure if an idea gets discussed and evaluated and the idea gets set aside.  What's valuable is that in the discussion the congregation is trying to find that one idea that we can do and do well.       Good ideas are very different than individual church members' pet peeves and gripes.  In the every member canvass, the Session heard a number of those.  We rehashed the church music preference issue.  We rehashed whether a screen in the sanctuary is helpful or not.  There were a handful of gripes about the preacher's idiosyncrasies.  Hurt feelings were shared about the failed federation attempt with First Christian.  And, people DO need to vent their frustrations and do need to feel they have been heard, even when their issue is in the minority opinion.  Part of living in community is agreeing to accept the majority views and learning to sacrifice personal preferences for the sake of community unity.  For instance, worship time is 10:00 a.m.   Some would like that time earlier; others later.  But, there can only be one time.  People have to sacrifice their personal preference for the sake of unity.  As we continue to search for good ideas, congregational vision, and mission that unifies us, the people have to set aside their gripes and pet peeves.  There is a time to voice pet peeves.  Now is not that time.  We need a mission that unifies us.  We need to build on congregational trust by succeeding at some small projects.       Here are some ideas to consider:  hold hands during the choral benediction response to strengthen our ties that bind; do a church cookbook; have a sewing group; repeat the homeless crochet mat seminar we did a year ago.  Think about and pray on these ideas.  If the good idea fairy should come to you individually, let's add that good idea to this list as well.         Several of you have expressed concern about my health issues, and I'm grateful for your prayers.  I went home after the potluck dinner yesterday completely exhausted.  I sat down in my Lazy Boy and Fenrir laid on my chest and we both had a little nap.  That was a turning point.  I got up with more energy than I've had in 2 weeks.  My voice is still weak and my cough won't go away, but I am feeling a little better.  Slow and steady wins the race.  Thanks again for your prayers.  Contact Steve by any of the following:  Personal Cell Phone (505) 715-9533  (Voice or text)  E-mail:  stevevoris@gmail.com | | |  |  | | --- | | **Farewell Reception**  There will be a reception during coffee hour after worship on Sunday, August 27 to honor Laverne and Joe Williams who will be moving to Texas in early September.  The move will put Joe and Lavern much closer to family. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://static.ctctcdn.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | |  |  | | --- | | **Fellowship Report**  BBQ, beans and posole! Oh my!  Our Western Potluck on August 20 was good fun with plenty of food, fellowship and desserts.  Buckaroo Bruce dealt the cards for our 50/50 raffle fun(d)raiser.  $84 worth of "tickets" were sold, making a nice pot for our winner.  Our guest, bell ringer Lynda Bickerstaff, held the lucky card and graciously donated all her winnings back to our mission cause.  Thank you, Lynda!  Our next potluck will be on Sunday, September 17.  Watch for more about that later.  Our introductory Saturday Movie Matinee had a nice turnout on August 12.  We watched "Akeelah and the Bee," the heartwarming story of a competitive young speller. We will continue to make improvements to the watching experience and hope you will join us for the fun of it.  The date of next matinee will be announced soon.    Peace and blessings to you all.  The Fellowship Committee |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://static.ctctcdn.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | |  |  | | --- | | **Missionary Visit**  On Sunday, October 1, Carol and Leith Fujii will be visiting with us on their whirlwind tour of the United States.  They are the missionary couple we have been supporting for several years.  The exact time and format for the visit is being developed, but the Fujiis are only available to meet with us in the evening.  Mark your calendars! |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://static.ctctcdn.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | |  |  | | --- | | **Thank You!**  Thanks to the Deacons and out music staff for their support in the wonderful Memorial Service for Rev. Dr. John Tritenbach last Saturday.  The presence of God was in that place as we celebrated his life and ministry.  It takes a community to pull off special events and services.  Thanks to each and every one of you who took the extra time to make this such a special event. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://static.ctctcdn.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | |  |  | | --- | | **Sunday Morning Bible Study**  The Sunday Morning Bible Study meets in the Conference Room at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, August 27.  The study will be on Exodus 1:8 - 2:10 |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://static.ctctcdn.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | |  |  | | --- | | **Sunday Evening Bible Study**  The Sunday Evening Bible Study will resume on Sunday, September 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor.  We will choose what to study and how we want to do the format at that time. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://static.ctctcdn.com/letters/images/sys/S.gif | |  |  | | --- | | **Prayer Concerns**  Nancy Beard, Sherry Kearns, Jack Melvin, Robert Navarrette, Linda Stinson  **Homebound and Care facilities:**  Rich Adamson, Dodie Hendley, Dick Mansfield, Scott Maxwell, Janie Patrick, Marianne Patrick,  Mabel Webber  **Military:**  Mollie Navarrette Acuna, Rey Acuna, Cody Ogden-Stell  **Members/Friends Serving Overseas:**  Carol & Leith Fujii (Thailand), Linsey Ogden (Peace Corps)    The Prayer Chain Coordinator is Phyllis Readel.  If you have a prayer request, you may call either Phyllis at (441-6036) or the church office (885-2715).  Prayer concerns will be removed at the beginning of each month if we haven't received an update. | |

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