Behold a transforming God who invites us to • a joyous way of being • a bolder way of believing • a deeper way of seeing

Be still and take time to • focus on the spiritual • restore your energy • experience God’s word in scripture, music, and art

Become followers of Jesus who are • open to God’s Spirit • trusting, welcoming, caring for one another • passionate about including everyone, confronting injustice, and healing the world

Worship This Week

Sundays 8:30AM — MorningSong Service in Pope Hall — Informal, interactive, prayers, singing, chairs in semicircle, communion every first Sunday

Sundays 11:00AM — Worship Service in the Sanctuary Liturgy, hymns, sermon, choir, candles, pews, communion every first Sunday

Wednesdays 7:00–7:30AM — Morning Prayer in McFarland Chapel — Contemplative, prayers, Book of Common Prayer liturgy

Wednesdays 5:30–6:00PM — Celtic EvenSong in the Sanctuary — Celtic songs and liturgy, communion, weekly themes throughout the month: 1st week—justice and peace, 2nd week—healing, 3rd week—creation care, 4th week—welcome; 5th week—commitment

Poinsettias for Christmas

The Worship & Music Committee invites you to donate a poinsettia to brighten our Sanctuary for:

- Chancel Bell Choir Concert, Friday, December 21
- Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 23
- 5pm & 8pm services, Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24

You may take your plant home after the late service on Christmas Eve, or leave it for Deacons to deliver during home visits. Donation forms are available on the Lobby table. Please put your completed form in the offering plate or in the Office Manager’s mailbox. Thank you!

Opportunities for Study

Acts II New Apostles Lay Seminary Series

Today—9:45AM—Pope Hall

Noted author Lori Robinson will lead the Acts II adult study continuing our fall series on environmental justice. Lori has authored two books (Wild Lives and Saving Wild) about conservation, and leads workshops and African safaris to deepen the connection between people and animals for their mutual wellbeing. She will lead a discussion about maintaining hope and being effective when surrounded by ecological despair. Find her at SavingWild.com and @lorisavingwild on Facebook and Instagram. Copies of her books will be available at the class.

—Weekday Studies

- Religion & Science: 1st & 3rd Monday, 7:00-9:00PM Pope Hall C
- Fireside Chat with the Mystics: Tuesdays, 5:00-6:00PM Rendon Room
- Women's Bible Study: 2nd Wednesday, 10:00AM Rendon Room
- Bible Study: Fridays, 11:30AM-12:30 Bible Study Rendon Room
- Journaling as a Spiritual Practice: Last Friday, 11:30AM Pope Hall
- Men's Breakfast: 2nd Saturday, 8:00-9:00AM Pope Hall
- Spanish Bible Study: Saturdays, 9:00-10:00AM Volunteer Room (third floor)
- Circle of Friends: 2nd Saturday, 10:00AM in members’ homes
For outlandish creatures like us, on our way to a heart, a brain, and courage, Bethlehem is not the end of our journey but only the beginning—not home but the place we must pass if ever we are to reach home at last.

Frederick Buchner, *The Magnificent Defeat*

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**PRELUDE**

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending by William Lloyd Webber

**WELCOME**

The Smock Family

**CALL to WORSHIP**

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow from its roots.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. The wolf shall lie down with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid. And the calf and the lion and the falling together, and a little child shall lead them.

**HYMN 97**

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

First and Third Lines are sung by Women

Second and Fourth Lines are sung by Men

**OPENING PRAYER**

O God, in our secret yearnings we wait for your coming, and in our grinding despair we doubt that you will.

And in this privileged place we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we and by those who despair more deeply than do we.

Look upon your church in this season of hope which runs so quickly to fatigue, and in this season of yearning which becomes easily quarrelsome.

Give us the grace and the impatience to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes, to the edges of our fingertips.

We do not want our several worlds to end.

Come in your power and come in your weakness in any case and make all things new. Amen.

**RESPONSE HYMN 87**

Comfort, Comfort Now My People (verse 1)

**ANTHEM**

Pervasive, Never-Absent One by Joel Martinson

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**SCRIPTURE**

Philippians 1:3-11
BLESSING
The Youth and the Congregation exchange the following blessing:
In body, mind, and spirit, may you be well this day.
And may you be strong for the work of healing in the world.

MESSAGE
Paul’s Favorite Church
The Rev. Dr. Harry Eberts III

HYMN 101
No Wind at the Window

SILENT MEDITATION
and PRAYER CANDLES

HYMN 88
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 1)

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE
and the LORD’S PRAYER
We pray for people and places, silently or aloud, and respond together:
May they know the deep peace of Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY
What Child Is This
arr. by Mark Hayes
The Revs. Marnie and Dave Wasserman

RESPONSE HYMN 93
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (verse 2)

PRAYER of DEDICATION
in unison
by Thom Shuman
See, you come in this holy season with the simple gift of life itself.
See, you invite us to share from the abundance of our lives,
so others might be filled with life, with hope,
with love, and with grace.
Bless these gifts we offer to you, so they may be used
to share the gospel of wholeness and welcome for all. Amen.

GOD SENDS US ON OUR JOURNEY

PASSING of the PEACE
and HYMN 752
Dona nobis pacem

HYMN 100
My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

BLESSING

POSTLUDE
Sonata I (1937)
by Paul Hindemith

The service of worship concludes after the postlude.
The music may be enjoyed, and this time may be used for prayer.
You may remain seated or depart quietly.

SERVING TODAY

Officiant: The Rev. Dr. Harry Eberts III
Liturgist: John Whitcomb
Organist/Music Director: Linda Raney
Assistant Organist: David Solem
Assistant Choir Director: Travis Bregier
Associate Musician: David Beatty
Children’s Ministry: Jill McCormick

WORSHIP COORDINATORS

Worship & Music: Paul Vogel
Ushers: Rebecca Heindel
Liturgists: Karin Lerew
Liturgical Arts: Malissa Haslam, Barbara Ivy
Communion: Betty Jones
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Have you ever “dressed” a candle?** Come up to the Moore Conference Room (3rd floor) on Wednesday, December 12, 6:30-8:00PM. We will be dressing the small white candles in their wax guards for Christmas Eve Worship which ends in candlelight. A simple task while visiting with others; come on up after Celtic EvenSong!

**Be an ANGEL to a homeless teen.** Look for the Giving Tree in the lobby, pick an Angel, and bring your unwrapped gifts to the church by this Wednesday, December 12. The Youth Connection will wrap and deliver your gifts to the Youth Shelter.

**Las Posadas, December 16.** FPC is the host church this year. We need at least 6 volunteers to assist the police in closing streets as the procession passes—brightly colored vests will be provided. We also need volunteers to bake cookies, brownies, or your favorite baked goodies and to help serve. Please let Rebecca Heindel or Judi Haines know if you would like to participate.

**Interfaith Community Shelter.** FPC will serve suppers at the Interfaith Community Shelter January 20-23, 2019. Please check the Shelter Book in the lobby to see where you can help. We will have large and small aluminum pans available after January 1. We also need financial help to buy some of the main dish ingredients. If you wish to help in this way, make the check out to First Presbyterian Church and put MSJ Shelter Food in the memo line.

**Many thanks** to our generous congregation for the donation of Christmas and all-occasion cards and calendars for prisoners. We collected 4 bags full and have had them delivered to the prison. We will not be collecting anymore this year. Judy Crawford

**Stewardship Campaign Update.** God’s work continues through us. Thank you to everyone who has pledged toward the operating budget. To date, Stewardship has raised $352,634 of $525,000. If you have not made your 2019 Stewardship pledge yet, please drop it off at the church office, mail it, or pledge online. Every contribution is critical toward sustaining our church home and our missions. May God’s blessings be with you.

**Earth Care Tidbit of the Week:** The 2015 film “1.5 Stay Alive” referred to a campaign to limit the rise in average global temperature to 1.5°C Celsius (2.7°F Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times. It has also become the rallying cry of small island states which have the most to lose. The New Yorker 10/8/18

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**MUSIC AND ART**

**TGIF 10th Anniversary Season, Friday at 5:30PM:** Join us for a TGIF tradition: the High Desert Harp Ensemble plays carols of the season.

**Back Pew Gallery**—Once again this year, our popular “Ornaments, Ornaments, Ornaments” show & sale is open all month. Come look at our unique ornaments and purchase one or some to add to your Christmas decorations. Thank you for your generous support in the past. We raised $1,000 last year, which we gave to Santa Fe Dreamers Project and recovery efforts in Puerto Rico.

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**PRAYERS AND PRAISE**

Please notify the church office (office@fpsantafe.org or 982.8544) to add or remove a name on our prayer list.

**We pray for:** Glennis & Seth Hinshaw, David Ingalls, Kati Schwartz, Susan Slotter, Dan Crane, Marcella Ortiz, Pat Luiken, Nat Dean, Sheldon Thompson, Jeff Baker, Brianna (Linda Trujillo’s grandniece), Jennifer Elliott, Jane & Jene Alexander, Paul Cast (Ethel Trimmer’s cousin), Bess Brooks.

**And our ministry partners:** Westminster Presbyterian, Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis, Church of the Holy Faith, and Sagua la Grande Church—our brothers and sisters in Cuba.