



Courier

First Presbyterian Church

March, 2024

Pastor's Letter

When we break open the present of a new year and look ahead, it is natural that we consider what to do in it and with it. While we do know that God's plan and ours may be different, it is still important that we have thoughts and goals, ideas and visions of our year – the first year of our future! Our friend Harlen Smith was crippled with a tremendous loss last year. This year, facing a new reality, he decided to move into an assisted living apartment. Beside being happy for Harlen, I think we must also look at ourselves and our church in the same light.

For about three years we were distracted by disease and restrictions, but made it through it by adapting to the new world. The last year or two much has been the same, but it never really is the same. I hear and read regularly about businesses that are closing or going bankrupt today because of the ripples of COVID, yet strong ones seem to be flourishing; many stronger than before. What is the difference? I think it is two things – first, a determination to ride the wave – they may had some resources to help in the lean times, but they really wanted to stay in business.

Second, they changed their business model to maintain levels of revenue that they needed. They adjusted to masks, seating limitations and arbitrary 'essential' rules.

Does our church need to change our traditions to keep up? Many of Paul's letters were written to churches that had fallen on hard times – bad decisions, divisions over leadership, rampant sin and others. The letters to them were designed to get them back on track, to overcome some traditions that were negative and divisive.

(continued next page)

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Pastor's Letter Continued

What would Paul write to us? We did have some resources to see us through and we have changed some traditions (where are the collection plates?), yet many anticipate a return to 'normal.' We have been greatly blessed over the last few years, and God has a knack of making miracles happen when we least expect them. What does our next chapter have in store? What can we and God do together to help our church flourish? This is worthy of

prayer and discussion.

⁴ Rejoice^l in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about^l these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:4-9 NIV)

Love from 907

Deacon Doing by Nancy Dotson

The Deacons continue on with their work as a board. We hosted the potluck brunch after the Annual Congregational meeting on February 11 and are following it the next week with our regular coffee time. Why not have two chances to gather for delicious food, coffee, punch, and fellowship? AS the saying goes, "It's a win-win"!

Thanks to Dianne's idea, we are putting out a call for new socks and underwear to be donated to Puerto Seguro, our local un-housed support center. We will start the collecting on February 18th, but have not decided on the end point for the drive yet. Any donations will be gratefully accepted by the Deacons and gratefully received at the shelter.

If you are aware of any need for an uplifting card or prayer, please let Terry or a Deacon know. Our Deacon Board has 5 active, involved members who are here to serve: Isabel Morris-Svoboda, Dianne Tappe, Pam Winton, Deb Buckman, and Nancy Dotson.

March 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Menaul School Offering	4	5 Session 5:30 pm	6 Bible Study 6:00	7	8 Deacons 10:00 am	9
10 <u>Daylight Sav- ings Time Be- gins</u>	11	12	13 Bible Study 6:00	14	15	16
17 Coffee & Fellowship	18	19	20 Bible Study 6:00	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday	25	26	27 Bible Study 6:00	28 Maundy Thurs- day service 5:00	29	30
31 Easter Sunday One Great Hour of Shar- ing Offering						

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PO BOX 1155

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March Birthday New Addresses

6—Gerry Schwab

Norma White moved on
February 16th.

Her New Address:

Norma White

5201 Roma Ave. #118

Manzano del Sol

Albuquerque, NM 87108

Harlen Smith is moving to
an assisted living soon.

I am sorry at this time I do
not have his new address.