

## ¡BENDITOS SALUDOS! December 2020

# SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 812 Edith BLVD NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102-2408

http://www.secondpresabq.org

office@secondpresabq.org

505-242-8005

### Organized on January 27, 1889

Second Presbyterian Church is a multicultural, multi-generational congregation. Our worship is bilingual, with liturgy and music in both Spanish and English, and an English language sermon.



Church Membership is 239

#### **Mission Statement of Second Presbyterian Church**

Second Presbyterian Church is a vital worshipping community of faith guided by the good news proclaimed by Jesus Christ. Our multigenerational, multicultural, and bilingual community exemplifies the diversity of God's creation unified by God's hope and love. Our ongoing mission is to cultivate that hope and love for all generations by living and sharing it with the world.

#### **In This Issue**

Del Pastor	. 2
PRAYER LIST	
DOES THE CHURCH KNOW HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU?	
INCOME AND EXPENSES THRU OCTOBER	.3
IN REMEMBRANCE OF ALL THE SAINTS	
ROAD RUNNER FOOD BANK	.6
GREETINGS FROM THE DEACONS	.6
CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 24 12:15PM VIA ZOOM	. 7
DAILY DEVOTIONS: NOT JUST FOR MORNINGS	. 7
CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING	.7
STEWARDSHIP 2021	3.
KEEPING TIME	.9
WINGS	.9
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY1	(
MILESTONES – God Bless You!	1
ACTIONS BY SESSION	1



#### **Del Pastor**

A regular feature from The Reverend Doctor Robert B Woodruff Head of Staff of Second Presbyterian Church.

#### "The Coronavirus Christmas Remedy"

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

Advent is coming November 30th. But Advent is also "coming." The Latin word *adventus* means "coming." During this liturgical season, which marks the beginning of the liturgical year, we await Christ's coming; namely in two ways. First, we relive the waiting of the Hebrew people for the coming of a savior more than two thousand years ago. But we also acknowledge our waiting for Jesus to come again to establish his final reign. Advent is literally the coming of Christ—in two ways.

While pondering our coming Advent season, I was struck by a particular wrinkle of this year. You may recall that almost every year during Advent, like clockwork, sermons echo the call for us to slow down. We are exhorted to temper our hurried life rhythms by prayerfully and even reflectively waiting for Jesus' birth. And every year, many of us are rather unsuccessful at altering our pace. Instead of savoring the season, we pass through it at a frenetic tempo. We do not get the best of the season—the season gets the best of us.

And yet, for many of you, this year is radically different. Rather than running frantically to "get ready," for Christmas celebrations and time off, you already find yourself spending more time at home. The prospects of gathering with extended family this year are questionable. This is a year that you may find yourself longing more than ever for the Good News of Christ's birth. We are all especially receptive to any good news that comes our way. But with the stress and anxiety we have experienced from the pandemic and including the accompanying sociopolitical strife, we are wise to embrace the peace of the season like never before. Does the notion of God breaking into the world not sound inviting? Along with an efficacious vaccine, some divine intervention may seem like just what the doctor is ordering.

I invite you to take advantage of your time at home. We are not often able to slow down for Advent and Christmas seasons. Maybe this year you really can. Find blessings in the current reality. Cherish all that you can, like relationships, kindness, and love. Reach out to loved ones. And reach out to help others in the community and in the world in whatever way you can—passing on some of the good news we wait for. Make the most of the season!

Though there is a lot of darkness right now, God's light seems the ultimate antidote. Consider the poignant words from the late author Frederick Buechner:

The Word become flesh...Incarnation. It is not tame. It is not touching. It is not beautiful...It is unthinkable darkness riven with unbearable light. Agonized laboring led to it, vast upheavals of intergalactic space/time split apart, a wrenching and tearing of the very sinews of reality itself. You can only cover your eyes and shudder before it, before this: "God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God . . . who for us and for our salvation," as the Nicene Creed puts it, "came down from heaven." Came down. Only then do we dare uncover our eyes and see what we can see. It is the Resurrection and the Life she holds in her arms. It is the bitterness of death he takes at her breast.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas! --- Roberto



#### PRAYER LIST

#### PLEASE KEEP THESE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anyone wishing a phone call or a visit with Pastor Rob, please feel free to let him know, pastor@secondpresabq.org, or Beverly Chavez, by calling the Church at (505)242-8005.

Tillie Arellano	Desirae Austin	Floraida Baker	Esther Bernard
Patricia Bixby	Concha Brown	Emma Buck	Amanda Candelaria
Cisco Chavez	Elsie Chavez	Ruben Chavez	Lena De Herrera
Carla Drake	Sandra Duran	Susana Esteve	Larry Ferns
Tiffany Gallegos	David Gatewood	Lynn Gatewood	Darren Griego
Harry Hogan	Jeannie Hogan	Melissa Hogan	Katie Joyner
Rick Kenny	Jonathan Leavitt	Suzanne Leavitt	Sharon Lopez
Alice Maestas	Dora Martinez	Isabel Martinez	Jaczyn Martinez
Jerry Martinez	Richard Martinez	Adolph McCoy	Tom Mirabal
Jared Montoya	Maria Montoya	Nancy Montoya	Paul Montoya
Ruth Montoya	Tom Oler	Minnie Olivas	Margaret Perea
Sandra Poole	David Preininger	Brook Quiñones	Bob Romero
Robert "Bud" Romero	Susan Romero	Les Sandoval	Warren Smith
Ed Suazo	Keith Suazo	Victor Suazo	Raquel Tedder
Barbara Trujillo	Juanita Valdez	John Van Dyke	Emilia Vásquez
Floyd Vásquez	Al Velasquez		

If we've got your contact info wrong for either !Benditos Saludos;, the Church Directory, or email announcements, or if you want to stop, or begin, any of these communications, please send email to livewire@secondpresabq.org, or notify the church office at 505-242-8005.

#### **DOES THE CHURCH KNOW HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU?**

- Please check in with the Deacons if you have not received phone calls OR emails from us.
- Please notify <u>livewire@secondpresabq.org</u> if we do not have accurate contact information for you.
- And please DO NOT forget to check your emails.

One of the ways the Deacons are staying in touch with members of our Furthest Pew folks is by sending cards and making calls to those we can. You may contact the Deacons at <a href="mailto:deacons@secondpresabq.org">deacons@secondpresabq.org</a>

#### INCOME AND EXPENSES THRU OCTOBER

YTD INCOME (+)	+\$240,332
YTD EXPENSES (-)	-\$246 <b>,</b> 928
YTD DIFFERENCE	-\$6 <b>,</b> 596

You can designate the funds for your giving on our <u>DONATE</u> page. OR, you can mail your contribution to:

Second Presbyterian Church PO Box 25561 Albuquerque NM 87125

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." <u>Isaiah 7:14</u>

#### *IN REMEMBRANCE OF ALL THE SAINTS*



Eva Pacheco Ortega, b. August 10, 1928, d. May 3, 2020, at the age of 92. Eva was a member of Second for 62 years, and an Elder for 22 years.



Ray Frederick Brown, b. November 25, 1937, d. April 9, 2020, at the age of 82. A good friend of Second, Ray married his wife, Concha, at Second. After moving out of NM, Ray and Concha often returned to volunteer at Menaul School, and attend worship at Second.

Gilbert Emilio Miranda, b. September 9, 1922, d. October 24, 2020, at the age of 98. His current membership was for 21 years, as he had a break in membership at Second. He was an Elder for 67 years.



Continued on next page.

David Lopez, b. January 12, 1957, d. March 29, 2020, at the age of 63. David was a member for 12 years, and an Elder for 10 years.



Elifas Santillanes, b. August 31, 1919, d. July 22, 2020 at the age of 101. Elifas was a member for 58 years. He was a Deacon for 47 years, and an Elder for 74 years.





Jessie Montaño McCoy, b. January 4, (year unknown), d. July 20, 2020. Jessie was a member for 53 years. She was a Deacon for 30 years.

#### ROAD RUNNER FOOD BANK

By Don Bixby

Despite the cancellation of our November 1st worship service at Menaul School, 45 pounds of food was collected and delivered to Road Runner Food Bank. That contribution brings our total to 591 pounds to date.

Since the start of the pandemic, Road Runner Food Bank (RRFB) has been in the midst of responding to the economic fallout created for so many fellow New Mexicans. As businesses temporarily closed to comply with public health orders, many lost their jobs and wages. And that meant that many were seeking food help for the first time. A recent study by *Feeding America* is the first to explore how food insecurity has increased in 2020 due to COVID-



19. The study shows that 21%, or 1 in 5 New Mexicans have experienced food insecurity this year.

The pandemic has required many changes in how the RRFB meets the needs of our community. Today, volunteers and staff go through a screening process before their shifts and cleaning and hygiene protocols have been adopted within the RRFB facility.

Before the pandemic food was provided to partner agencies with a mix of food on pallets for distribution in a "farmers market" style. Now the food pre-boxed. A new model of distribution was created to provide contactless, drive-through distribution. When food arrives at the warehouse, volunteers and staff sort and repack the food. Once the food is prepared for distribution, it is labeled with a bar-code and may remain stored for a brief period. Handling the food requires warehouse equipment like pallets, pallet jacks, scales, chargers, hand trucks and so much more. To prepare for distribution staff scans the tags to find the correct products. Food is moved to the dock and then loaded on to a RRFB semi. Then one of our 14 CDL drivers starts his journey to one of 16 New Mexico counties that are served.

In the midst of all these changes, there is also a lack of consistent food supply, increases in food costs, and requests to increase food distribution to tribal communities harmed by the virus. An initial shortage of beef was met by contracting with NM ranchers to buy cattle directly and have the beef processed locally. In tandem with *Feeding America*, RRFB began rescuing tons of produce from the port in Nogales, AZ. The purchase of a truck makes it possible to transport millions of pounds of fresh, healthy produce to the Albuquerque warehouse, where it is sorted, repacked and prepared for distribution.

For updates on the RRFB pandemic response visit www.rrfb.org, or call 505-349-8909.

Food donations can be dropped off at the RRFB warehouse at 5840 Office Blvd. NE, Albuquerque NM 87109. Donations can be made on line or checks sent to the above address.



#### **GREETINGS FROM THE DEACONS**

On behalf of the Deacons I wish all our friends and family of Second a safe and meaningful Holiday Season. We hope you feel that you are not alone even though you may not have your loved ones around you. We pray for each other, we see your faces in the church directory or on the cell phone director and think of you. When you are sent a card or get a newsletter or get a call, know that we want to know how you are. I would like to ask a favor of you. Will you call someone and listen to how they are doing? We can stay connected this way until we come together again in our

wonderful church with our loving church family to worship and pray together to God the father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Blessings to you and your loved ones, Deacon Lorraine Romero

#### CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 24 12:15PM VIA ZOOM

In consideration of the health crisis, Session has set the Annual Congregation Meeting to be a virtual meeting, using the Zoom meeting application. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to hear reports and transact other business properly coming before such meeting, including receiving Annual Reports, the 2021 budget as approved by Session, and to elect four members to the Nominating Committee for 2021.

If you would like to serve on the 2021 Nominating Committee, please contact Pastor Rob, who is an exofficio (without vote) member of the Nominating Committee.

Zoom meeting information will be distributed to the "Announcements" and "Fellowship" email groups. If you want help using Zoom, please email <a href="mailto:livewire@secondpresabq.org">livewire@secondpresabq.org</a> or <a href="mailto:george.huggins@secondpresabq.org">george.huggins@secondpresabq.org</a>

#### **DAILY DEVOTIONS: NOT JUST FOR MORNINGS**

Our Daily Devotions are available day by day, week by week; please feel free to join at any time, to broaden the circle by inviting your friends and relatives, and to contact Rev. Kay with your prayer concerns and comments: Rev. Kay Huggins

During the last week of November, we continued the serial reading of Luke thru chapter 18. The context is the growing hostility from the religious establishment. In order to document this hostility, Luke slows down the journey account and inserts two collections of Jesus' saying. The first collection is a list of Jesus' condemnations on the Pharisees and Scribes as promoting a two-faced religion. He harshly judges their mis-matched ways doing "religion" without being "religious" in their hearts. Then,



he speaks to his followers about living by trust rather than worry. The great "on the road" adventure continues, but regardless of the miles and meanings traveled, we will seek to stay with our 15-minute approach!

And as Jesus was on the road, so was Rev. Kay! She has visited our churches in Magdalena, Socorro, Belen, Grants, Mora, Placitas, Santa Fe (Westminster and First), Chimayó, Truchas, and in Albuquerque (Rio Grande and Rio Rancho). Visit the "<u>DAILY DEVOTIONS</u>" page of our website to find out where she'll be next!



#### **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**

#### November 29 - December 20, 2020

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Supporting Past, Present, and Future Leaders**: The *Christmas Joy Offering* has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

**NOTE:** You can use Second's DONATE/PLEDGE page to designate your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering.

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2021  812 Edith Blvd Albuquerque, NM 87102 (505)242-8005
NAME:
EMAIL: IN SUPPORT OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, I WILL CONTRIBUTE:  \$
WEEKLYMONTHLYQUARTERLYANNUALLY AND/ORAS I AM ABLE
I CAN ALSO VOLUNTEER MY TIME AND TALENT
PLEASE SEND ME ENVELOPES
Please Cut Below (or Copy) and Mail To: Second Presbyterian Church C/O Stewardship Committee 812 Edith Blvd Albuquerque, NM 87102
Keep This For Your Records  For 2021 I have pledged \$
WeeklyMonthlyQuarterlyAnnuallyAs I Am Able
Second Presbyterian Church is a vital worshipping community of faith guided by the good news proclaimed by Jesus Christ. Our multigenerational, multicultural, and bilingual community exemplifies the diversity of God's creation unified by God's hope and love. Our ongoing mission is to cultivate that hope and love for all generations by living and sharing it with the world
We thank you for your thoughtful consideration!

#### STEWARDSHIP 2021

Dear Friends and Members of Second Presbyterian Church,

The time of year has come for us to reflect upon stewardship for 2021. It goes without saying that this has been a difficult year. By February of 2020, the church was going full speed, living into the most extensive programing and budget that our church has ever set. We were off to a fast start. And then...I recollect sitting down with four other pastors March 12th, having a discussion about this new illness that had already found its way to the United States. I expressed to my colleagues that I was sure we would still worship in the sanctuary that upcoming Sunday, March 15th. I was wrong. That was just *over* eight months ago.

Since then, in our personal lives and as a church community, we have experienced isolation and disorientation. Much of our usual activity ceased. We have ridden a roller coaster of emotions as we have wrestled with the unfolding reality around us. We have bowed our heads in prayer, seeking God's grace and guidance to navigate the "not knowing," and the anxiety that accompanies our pandemic reality.

However, after the initial shock of it all, we immediately began to notice

something. Even though we could no longer meet Sunday mornings, even though meetings, and studies, and fellowship, and mission events came to a halt, we did not cease being a church. God's Spirit did not dissipate. The purpose and meaning of our faith community did not vanish.

This COVID period has in many ways brought out the best in us; reminding us that God does not take time off during disasters. Thanks to Herculean efforts from so many of you, rather than retreating, we have stayed active and open to the Spirit. It has not been the same. It has not been ideal. But what matters most has come more sharply into focus, and is shaping the work of our church. Your Pastors and staff have adapted and remained active and at the ready. Your elders and deacons jumped into action in mid-March and haven't stopped since. And I can testify that God's Spirit is working in and through Second!

Our stewardship theme for the coming year is simple: God is doing a new thing! It comes from Isaiah 43:16. It is safe to say that 2021 will be new. In spite of some good vaccine news, we are still far from normalcy. And our loving, faithful congregation will step into that newness with an openness and faithfulness.

Since we are not currently able to worship in person, we do not have a Dedication Sunday this year. Instead, you are invited to pledge by sending the above pledge card to the church, or, pledging on-line at this address: http://www.secondpresabq.org/donatepledge.html

There is a lot we do not know about what next year will look like: Lots of outdoor Menaul worship? Getting back into the sanctuary by the fall? Holding meetings and fellowship gatherings in-person? But there is a lot we do know: We will worship! We will study! We will pray together! We will reach out in mission! And we will look forward to whatever new thing God will do with our wonderful congregation!

Amazingly, with your generosity, help from the Board of Pensions, and the Paycheck Protection Program from the federal government, we *might* finish this year in the black. Next year, we might trim the

budget a bit, but we will also lose \$15,000 of rent revenue as Family Promise is moving out at the end of December. If you can help make up for that by increasing your pledge, we invite you to do so! Give as you are able, and continue to pray for the work and mission of Second!

¡Bendiciones! Your Stewardship Committee & Pastor



#### KEEPING TIME

By Don Bixby

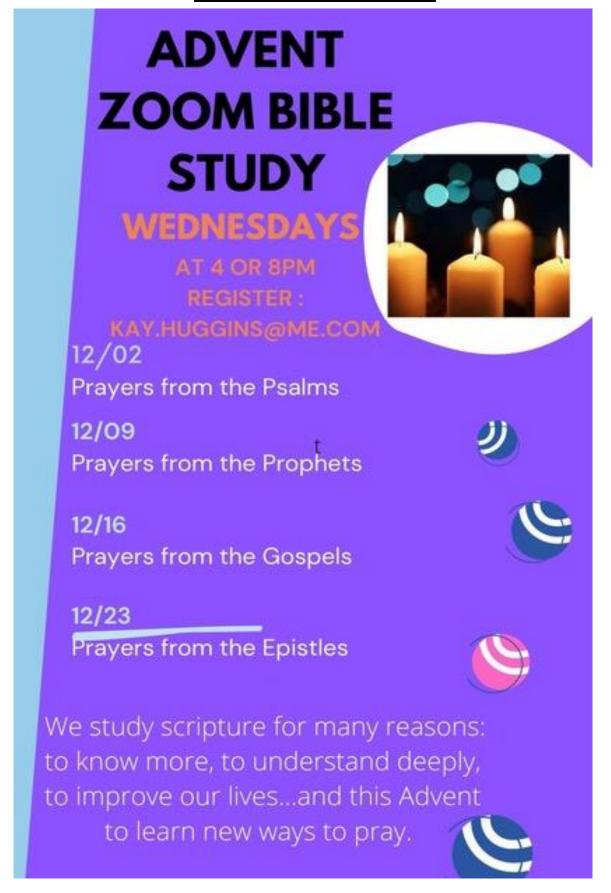
Because of the pandemic we have lost many of the guideposts of our usual weekly schedule. So, some of us are having trouble keeping track of what day it is. We are grateful to still have the Presbytery Worship Service on Sundays, but many of the seasonal liturgical celebrations have passed by without the expected Second Church celebrations... Holy Week and Easter, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, World Communion, All Saints Day, and Christ the King Sunday. We have passed completely through the season of Ordinary Time designated by the color green, and it has been anything but ordinary.

Now we are in the season of Advent, a time of the liturgical year of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. Advent is the beginning of the Western Church liturgical year. The term "Advent" is adopted from Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming; arrival."

How will we prepare for the birth of the Savior in this period of difficult time keeping? This is the time when our sanctuary would be enhanced by purple banners and paraments. We can think "purple" as we prepare our hearts and homes for however we will celebrate the season. Do you have an Advent wreath or Advent calendar to keep time of the weeks and days until the birth of the Christ child? You might also use an Advent daily devotional as well as other ways of preparing for Christmas, such as setting up Christmas decorations, a custom that is sometimes done liturgically through a hanging of the greens ceremony. Worship leaders of Second are working on ways to celebrate the Advent season, so watch for further information.

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Micah 5:2

#### WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY



#### MILESTONES – God Bless You!

Date	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES
Dec 1	Tilda Chavez	
	Margaret Perea	
Dec 3	Anita Torres	
Dec 4	Lorraine Jimenez	Karla & Rob Woodruff
Dec 6	Gary Lucero	
Dec 8	Gloria Montoya	
	Dolores Romero	
Dec 11	Jamie Martinez	
Dec 12	Kelly Van Andel	
	Kera Wilson	
	Tom Woodruff	
Dec 13	Alice Bellini	
	Yvette Gallegos	
Dec 14	Deckie Herrera-Byrum	
	Rebecca Torres	
Dec 15	Christopher Padilla-Sandoval	
Dec 16	Woody Woodruff	
Dec 17	Eli Johnson	
Dec 21	Tom Mirabal	
Dec 22	Cris Ortega	
Dec 25		Carol & Eli Lopez
Dec 26	Mackenzie Mead	
Dec 27	Jude Avila	
Dec 31	Carla Drake	Candy & Bob Deuble

#### **ACTIONS BY SESSION**

Session has continued to meet for our regular monthly Stated Meetings via video-conferencing.

In recent actions we:

- 1. Transferred the membership of Sally Ruybal to United Presbyterian Church of Antonito, CO.
- 2. Received the news that Family Promise will be vacating the Candelaria Wing beginning January 1, 2021.
- 3. Reviewed and approved the minutes of the Congregation Stated Meeting of November 15, 2020.
- 4. Designated source of funds for window repair and protection; video streaming equipment; and additional security equipment.

Isaiah 60:1
Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

When you shop at Amazon, use the link in the footer of Second's website to tell Amazon that you want some proceeds donated to Second! It's an "add to cart" kinda day. And remember, don't buy a car being towed by a wrecker.



Church policy is to publish known birthdays in the newsletter unless the celebrant requests the date and/or month NOT to be published. This is to provide for some protection against identity theft. If you do NOT want your birth month/date to be published, please notify the LiveWire committee via email at livewire@secondpresabq.org or by notifying the Pastor or Office.

December 2020 ¡Benditos Saludos! Second Presbyterian Church 812 Edith BLVD NE Albuquerque NM 87102-2408

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID

Albuquerque, N.M. PERMIT NO. 1295

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

«Family\_Name»
«Street\_Address»
«City» «State»
«Zip»

### Mission Statement of Second Presbyterian Church

Second Presbyterian Church is a vital worshipping community of faith guided by the good news proclaimed by Jesus Christ. Our multigenerational, multicultural, and bilingual community exemplifies the diversity of God's creation unified by God's hope and love. Our ongoing mission is to cultivate that hope and love for all generations by living and sharing it with the world.



812 Edith Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102 (505)242-8005

Bilingual Worship Services Sundays at 10:30 am

**South parking lot:** 35.090136, -106.640028 **North parking lot:** 35.090788, -106.639597

If you are more fortunate than others, build a longer table, not a taller fence.