



First Presbyterian Church

Las Cruces, New Mexico

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 19, 2026 — 10:30 AM

Enter to worship – Leave to serve

PRELUDE

"The Lord Is My Shepherd" - tune by Henry Thomas Smart (British, 1813-1879)

"Bringing In the Sheaves" (19th-Century Gospel Song by George A. Minor, 1844-1904)
setting by Robert W. Thygerson (1921-2017)

*"Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness, sowing in the noontide, and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping, We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves."*

"Then Shall the Righteous Shine Forth" (from Elijah) Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

**The Prelude functions like a curtain that separates our world from the worship place of peace and sanctuary. We enter prayerfully. We wait expectantly, listening for God's Spirit and truth, which challenges us to return to the world equipped for faithful and useful Christian service.

*** Those who are able, please stand** **Please turn off all cell phones**

WELCOME, GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEDITATION IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and said, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? And even this was a small thing in your sight, O God; you have also spoken of your servant's house for a great while to come. You regard me as someone of high rank." (I Chronicles 17:16, 17, NRSV) This Scripture inspired John Newton's writing of the hymn, "Amazing Grace."

CHORAL INTROIT

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

LOBE DENHERREN

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Caleb Taylor

(Excerpted from Psalm 139 NRSV)

Leader: O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

People: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Leader: Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

People: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my

mother's womb.

Leader: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works.

People: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.

Leader: See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

People: AMEN!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

#275 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

EIN' FESTE BURG

*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God, your grace is truly amazing! You pour out your blessings upon us and your faithfulness is great. We praise you for the mysteries of life and the goodness that surrounds us. We praise you for the order and wonder of nature, for the beauty and bounty of the earth, for day and night, summer and winter, seedtime and harvest, for the varied gifts that every season brings. We give you thanks for all the comfort and joy of life, for our homes, for our friends, for love, good will and compassion. Help us to worship you in spirit and in truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who taught his disciples to pray, **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

CALL TO CONFESSION

#419 "Lord, Who May Dwell within Your House"

RIDGEMOOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts and minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Gracious Lord, help us to unmask and bring before you the truth of our lives as honestly as we can. O Lord, may we not waste the opportunity of this precious time before you with lies, disguises, hypocrisies, nor self-deceptions that hinder our opportunity to be healed. O Lord, bring to our minds the times when we have sinned and failed to follow you, so that we may confess and get out from under the burden of our fear and guilt. May we be transformed from our wayward ways by your loving mercy, restored, encouraged and equipped to live out our faith anew into this world so much in need.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY

Leader: There is no brokenness that God cannot heal, no sin too terrible for God to forgive. The proof is this: Christ's death and resurrection have made us a new

creation, set free from brokenness and the hopeless-ness of sin. Friends, believe the Good News: all our sin is forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Alleluia! We are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Leader: And what more are we to seek, having been forgiven?

People: Grace to reflect Christ's glory, letting his love show in our deeds, his peace to shine in our words and his healing in our touch. Amen.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

#370 "This Is My Father's World"

TERRA BEATA

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND

GOOD NEWS TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Erin Taylor

- Children are asked to sit on the carpet squares in the front.
(Any students, teachers, aides or others involved in education are invited to come up as we seek God's blessing upon this new school year.)

CALL TO PRAYER

#616 "Our God Is an Awesome God"

AWESOME GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM

"My Lord! What a Morning"

MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING

PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 44:6-8

Matthew 13:24-30

Rev. Larry Hicks

Isaiah 44:6-8 (NRSV)

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (NRSV)

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds

come from?" He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Larry Hicks

CLOSING HYMN

#649 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

AMAZING GRACE

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

"You Shall Go Out With Joy"

THE TREES OF THE FIELD

*POSTLUDE

Hymn Improvisation

Dr. Howard Smolleck

Liturgist-Caleb Taylor Deacon Captain-Donna Marconi
Sound System-Max Schroeder Video-Dina Schroeder

Greeting before the Worship Service:
David Vandervelde-E Donna Marconi-W Veronica Giron-S

Greeting after the Worship Service:
Caleb Taylor-E Rev. Larry Hicks-W Erin Taylor-S

Rev. Pyong San Yu	Korean Congregation	Dr. Janet Loman	Comm. Pastor, College Ministry
Dr. Howard A. Smolleck	Organist	Ada Castle	Commissioned Pastor, Visitation
Veronica Giron	Salt & Light Coord.	Dr. Paul Deason	Commissioned Pastor
Beth Borchert-Thomas	Dir. Of Music & Bells	Veronica Giron	Office Manager
Pang Baker	Bookkeeper		

Members of Session

Steve Loman	Moderator of the Session	Janet Mara	Moderator, Missions
Alice Distlehorst	Music & Worship	Ada Castle	Buildings & Grounds
Roni Hardin	Moderator, Music & Worship	Jeanette Smith	Administration & Finance
Diana Howard	Moderator, Congregational Life	Scott Burns	Congregational Life
Erin Taylor	Moderator, Christian Education	Nancy Cowan	Missions
Jimmy O'Neal	Administration & Finance	Linda Ward	Moderator, Buildings & Grounds
Jim Parks	President, Foundation	*Dinah Jentgen	Clerk of Session
Wanda Mattiace	Moderator, Administration		

After-Worship Fellowship

Join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments immediately following Worship this morning in the Jones Hall Fellowship area. This is a time to welcome and greet new friends and old friends alike. Fellowship this morning is hosted by the West Family & Friends.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

- *All the people of the church.*
- *Praying for the Blessing of the Backpacks.*
- *The love we had for our most loving family and friends will never be lost or questioned.*
- *Simon, friend of Amber & Johnny, who's been experiencing a mental health crisis.*
- *Valeria Carter's sister, Mae Johnson.*
- *Prayers for Brian Stewart, James Leyba, and Johnny Montenegro.*

Continued Prayer List

Sharon Pierce; Charlotte Brockway; Jacque Parks; Ed Mathis; Barb Wolflick; Amber Nolan; Sandra Valencia; Florence Hamilton; Sara Kay; Jack Curry; Arnold McMillan; Millie Conrad; Dorris Hamilton, Valeria Carter, and Joanne Kersting at The Heritage.

7/19 Lillian Brewer

7/22 Vanessa Medina



7/23 Linda Ward

Welcome

Mission Statement: *A place where Christian love is modeled*

Our Worship services are available:

- 1.) In-person, with Covid19 precautions
- 2.) Live-stream on YouTube, First Presbyterian Church Las Cruces, NM
- 3.) Video archive on the church website, our Facebook site, or YouTube

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS:

- Seating in the West and South sections of the Sanctuary is unrestricted.
- The East section is reserved for those wishing to wear masks and social-distance. Hand-sanitizer and wipes are located in each aisle.
- Please register your presence with contact information and any prayer requests on the small slip of paper in your Bulletin, and place it in the purple offering box in the aisle, so that if we need to do contact tracing later, we can contact those who were present.

*Contributions to support your church can be done in a variety of ways:

1. Cash or check in the purple offering box.
2. Check sent by mail.
3. Online at fpc.lc/giving or via the QR code on the right.
4. Using the app "Church Center".



CCLI License No. 540727



FPC.LC
Website



FPC.LC/News
Newsletter Sign-Up



FPC.LC/Calendar
Online Church Calendar



FPC.LC/Sermons
Livestream and/or
Replay Worship Services

More information can be found on our website fpc.lc

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving.

200 E. Boutz Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88005
575.526.5559

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

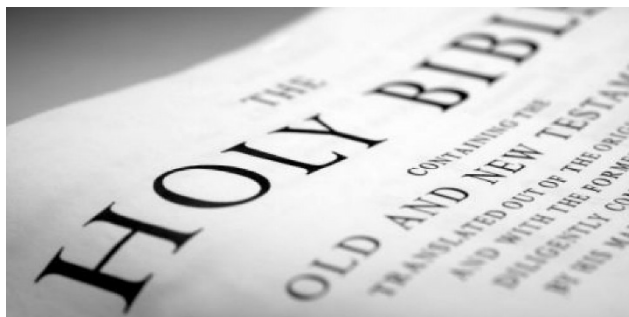
In the Life of the Church



From the Deacons



Thank you to everyone who donated backpacks, school supplies,
socks, and undies for our Blessing of the Backpacks!
You are all truly appreciated!



YOUNG WOMEN'S SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Janet Loman is offering a Bible study for college-age women, ages 18-35, on the Book of Ruth in her home, beginning Tuesday, June 30, at 3:00 P.M. and ending on July 28. Please mark your calendars and plan now to attend every session and the optional swim time afterward! Please contact Janet at 575-202-4379 for more information.



In-Betweeners for July

On Friday evening, July 24th, In-Betweeners will be getting together for a planned potluck dinner at 6 PM in Watkins Fellowship Hall.

After dinner, local historian and author David Thomas will be speaking on
"The Mexican-American War."

Please let the Ames (575-636-0210) know by Monday, July 20th, that you are coming.



July

Sunday, July 19th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library, led by Catie Brewer, viewing and discussing the video series "Invitation: A Bible Study to Begin With." Come any Sunday you can; the sessions are independent.
- 9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Branigan Hall
- 9:30 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves Hall
- 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship together in the Sanctuary
- 11:45 AM After-Worship in Jones Fellowship Hall (see announcement)

Monday, July 20th

Tuesday, July 21st

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for The Good News
- 7:00 PM Session in Jones Hall Library

Wednesday, July 22nd

- 12:00 PM Deadline for submissions for the Sunday Bulletin

Thursday, July 23rd

- 10:00 AM Knitting Group in Jones Hall Parlor
- 1:30 PM Listening Prayer in Jones Hall Parlor

Friday, July 24th

Office Closed

- 6:00 PM In-Betweeners in Watkins Fellowship Hall (see announcement)

Saturday, July 25th

Sunday, July 26th

- 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Jones Hall Library, led by Catie Brewer, viewing and discussing the video series "Invitation: A Bible Study to Begin With." Come any Sunday you can; the sessions are independent.
- 9-11:45 AM Childcare in Branigan Hall
- 9:00 AM Sunday School for grades K-5 in Branigan Hall
- 9:30 AM Sunday School for grades 6-12 in Reeves Hall
- 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship together in the Sanctuary
- 11:45 AM After-Worship Fellowship in Jones Fellowship Hall