**First Presbyterian Church, Tucumcari**

*The Church With the Holy Spirit Window*

**Sunday, January 19, 2020 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Rev. Amy Pospichal, Pastor June Greenfield, Accompanist**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Today is potluck Sunday! Stick around after church for a meal and your church family.

Next Sunday, please remain in your seats after worship in order to participate in our Annual Congregational Meeting. We will go over the budget, elect officers and vote on the choice to renew your covenant with Amy as your part-time pastor.

**Call to Worship (please see bulletin)**

**Prayer of the Day**

Lord, we are called to point the way so all the world can see that the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, is in our midst.

Today we declare in our worship that you are here to stay. So by your Spirit lift our spirits so that we demonstrate our love for you, with all our hearts, all our souls, all our minds and all our strength. This we ask in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**\*Opening Hymn RH #379 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

**Call to Confession**

With our feet still wet from the waters of our baptism, we have sinned yet again.  Ever dependent on the grace of God, let us affirm our brokenness and trust God’s goodness to carry us through to a new day, with a new name, and a new song.

**Prayer of Confession (please see bulletin)**

**Assurance of Pardon**

In Christ’s name, I announce to you that our sins are forgiven!  
 **Alleluia! Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**\*Gloria Patri** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.**

**Responsive Reading Psalm 40:1-11 (please see bulletin)**

**Hymn RH #272 “Just as I Am, Without One Plea”**

**Presentation of Offering and Offertory**

**\*Doxology Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Dedication of the Offering**

**\*Congregational Response We give Thee but Thine own. Whatever the gift may be;**

**All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen**

**Prayers of the People - when I say, “Let us pray to the Lord,” please answer, “Lord have mercy.”**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, for the unity of the church of God, and for the well-being of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this gathering of the faithful, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all the baptized, for all who serve in the church, for bishops and pastors, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our president, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this Tucumcari and Quay County, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather, and for abundant harvests for all to share, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel by land, water, air and through outer space, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphaned, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for those unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance in times of affliction, strife, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In silence, let us lift our prayers. (silence)

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord. Alleluia! Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his name you will be in the midst of them. Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

**Time out for Teaching “Come and See”**

St. John was called an evangelist for a reason. Throughout his gospel there is a distinct theme of evangelism, and interpretation of God’s Word to the reader. From Chapter 1 we see that evangelism effort kick off, and we see it clearly in today’s Scripture.

“Come and See” becomes the catch phrase for the first five men who notice Jesus. John the Baptist has made his announcement, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” That’s bound to grab your attention.

And two disciples hear, and follow Jesus. One of them was Andrew, brother of Peter. They speak to Jesus and Jesus’ response is the gently and enticing invitation, “Come and See.” It happens again, with Simon, known to us as Peter. “Come and See.” It happens again with Philip and Nathanael.

I am fond of this phrasing. How does it strike you? For evangelistic purposes, the invitation is always there for us too.

Would that kind of invitation work for us as a church that needs to grow?

I would like to ask you to think about what do we have to do in order for that invitation to stick?

**Prayer for Illumination**

Spirit of the Living God,  
descend upon us this day  
as you did upon Christ in the River Jordan.  
Reveal your wisdom to us as we listen for your Word  
that we might forever testify not to ourselves  
but to the One who is our Teacher and Messiah.  
Spirit of the Living God,  
descend upon us, we pray.

**Old Testament Isaiah 49:1-7**

1Listen to me, O coastlands,  
          pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
     The LORD called me before I was born,  
          while I was in my mother’s womb he named me.  
2   He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
          in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
     he made me a polished arrow,  
          in his quiver he hid me away.  
3   And he said to me, “You are my servant,  
          Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”  
4   But I said, “I have labored in vain,  
          I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
     yet surely my cause is with the LORD,  
          and my reward with my God.”

5   And now the LORD says,  
          who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
     to bring Jacob back to him,  
          and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
     for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,  
          and my God has become my strength —  
6   he says,  
     “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
          to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
          and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
     I will give you as a light to the nations,  
          that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

7   Thus says the LORD,  
          the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
     to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
          the slave of rulers,  
     “Kings shall see and stand up, princes,  
          and they shall prostrate themselves,  
     because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
          the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

**Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

1Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — 6just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — 7so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Gospel John 1:29-42**

29The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ 31I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

35The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” 37The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. 40One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). 42He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

**Sermon: The Beat of a Different Drummer Rev. Amy Pospichal**

On Tuesday almost 2 weeks ago, the world of rock and roll lost a drummer. He was also a songwriter, who wrote nearly every word of every song for the legendary rock band, RUSH, since 1974. His name is Neil. He was so accomplished as a musician, he was idolized by other musicians. Even though he was highly successful and widely popular, he never stopped taking drum lessons. A reporter for Inc. Magazine reminisced about a chance meeting with Neil while traveling by motorcycle in West Virginia. At first, he was nervous, starstruck that he was meeting the great Neil Peart. But Neil didn’t want to talk about himself or his music. They discussed motorcycles. After lunch, Neil asked, “Where are you headed next?” And the reporter said, “Back to Virginia, where I live. Why?” And Neil said, “I wondered. Sometimes I meet people and they end up following me. Can I give you some advice? Never follow anyone. Be your own hero.”

I love that story. First, I happen to enjoy their music. But second, it is because the advice is good. Be your own hero. Don’t follow anyone. March to the beat of your own drummer.

As Christians we march to the beat of our hero, Jesus the Christ. Our hearts confess that he sets the rhythm of our lives. We are called to walk the walk of Christ, and be the best people God made us to be, individually and collectively. It’s not always easy or clear to us what that should look like. This is especially the case when, during certain times, when we aren’t always clear how and when to follow or how and when to take the lead.

For instance, a classic situation happens when we think we should be humble all of the time, and yet, in trying to be humble, we become afraid to stick our necks out and speak up when we see something. The good thing is that, in this denomination, that’s okay, if we are genuinely discerning the Holy Spirit is speaking through them to do so. In the Reformed Tradition, we confess that sometimes it is the lone voice that can speak the word of wisdom and help to turn the tide. Sometimes it is the majority and sometimes it’s a minority. When this sanctuary was being built in the early 60’s, there was a debate as to whether to install a plastic window in the front of the sanctuary, because it was hard to imagine how we would pay for it. As the story was handed on to me by Mildred Dohrer and other saints of this church, Chester Dohrer, a veteran of WWII and a skilled builder of numerous structures here, stood up before the congregation and announced that he believed that we should get that stained glass window now, because if we didn’t, we might never get around to doing it. A lone voice turned the tide of thought, and in this case, he had plenty of his own resources to make it happen.

Thanks be to God that Mr. Dohrer stuck his neck out, and said what needed saying. As a result, this window has become a sort of trademark for our church.

The examples of John the Baptist and the calling of the first disciples also show us moments when they strike out as individuals but also are followers. John, ever hopeful that the Messiah would come, was that lone voice in the desert who said what needed saying, called for us to confess our sin, get baptized, and remain ever watchful for the signs of the Lamb of God. Talk about a lone voice – John was certainly an unusual individual. We are told he ate locusts and wild honey, wore camel’s hair. He was a holy prophet and friend of God. If he was afraid of looking like a weirdo to society, it wasn’t apparent, for he was more concerned with God’s judgment. When John recognized Jesus in the River Jordan, it was as if God’s voice was spilling out of him; he could not contain his enthusiasm. He had to say what needed to be said, to point and announce that the Lamb of God is near. He became a sort of hero, so that others would know whom to follow. He says, “Someone greater is coming after me.” Jesus is that one to follow.

It is no wonder that when the first few disciples realize he is the one, they respond to the call, “Come and see.” They recognized him as their teacher, their Messiah. And they chose to follow him. It looks a lot like blind faith to us, for the story seems so straightforward as it is told to us. But look at what is happening between the disciples. For they act a little like little John the Baptists to each other. Andrew and another man overheard John the Baptist’s announcement. Curious, hopeful, they approached the Son of God who immediately invites them to “Come and see.” Then Andrew goes home to tell his Simon, bringing Jesus along, and Simon Peter also becomes a disciple. And for the paragraph following John’s gospel tells us that this process also happens with Phillip and then Nathanael. All of these disciples followed Jesus but they did it of their own volition, out of their own desire to know more. To me that is not blind faith but a choice.

One of the many the educational videos about being Presbyterian, which you can watch online at Theocademy.com, elders and ministers discuss the importance of updating our faith system from time to time. Not just for the sake of changing. Not just for the sake of bending in ways to fit into this world in which we live. Rather it is for the sake of helping everyone hear God’s voice. God gave us brains and hearts for a purpose. For the church shall never lose relevance, so long as we continue to speak up and about what God wants for us.

So what of this? We are called as Christians to find our place among the leaders who point the way to Jesus. And we are to find our place among those who follow him. It’s a both-and situation. Leaders who point the way, followers who choose to follow none other than Him. In both cases, we are listeners for God’s voice, witnesses and interpreters of the story of Jesus as He has enlightened us. Friends, how will you stand up and say what must be said this 2020? Try and be sure that it is what God says to you. And let us go forth together, seeking the beat of our drummer, our Hero. Amen.

**\*Closing Hymn RH#407 “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”**

**\*Benediction and Response “Amen, Amen, Amen**

**JANUARY CALENDAR**

M-W-F 9:00 am EEP Meets

Tuesday Noon Yoga!!

Sunday 11:00 am Worship

Attendance Last Week - -

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

12th Rev. John Mikow

14th Ray McKenzie-Young

23rd Rev. Iola Allender

28th Laurel Sims

**THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

**Call to Annual Meeting!**  All those on our church membership rolls are called to the annual meeting on Sunday, January 26th, directly following worship. As usual, we will review the 2020 budget, review take action on several items, including whether to renew Rev. Amy’s contract and to elect new officers. Please expect to stay about 15-20 minutes after worship in order to participate.

**Please,**

Pray for peace in the Middle East, including Iraq and Afghanistan

Pray for a safe return of daughters and sons from combat

Pray for our global community and those in the midst of disaster

Pray for America and her enemies, that all would seek peace!

Pray for all the people and leaders in our local community

Pray for those who are seeking a deeper spiritual life.

Pray for all first responders

Pray for our church, national and local

Pray for our Presbytery and our pastor

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR COMFORT AND HEALING**

Shay – requested by Julie Sursa

Jenna Morris, knee problems

Jim Enriquez & family - medical problems

Emma Lowther, Lou Sims’ great niece – ongoing heart trouble

Reagan Kenyon - more health problems

Gloria (Teresa Gallegos-Brake’s sister) – still having health problems

Sharon McCauley – awaiting surgery

Gene Kelly (Friend of Schusters’) – leaky heart valve

Ruth Johnson – physical problems

Cheryl Brewer – cancer hospice

Karen Foster – chemo for cancer

Sonia (Betty Faye’s daughter) recovering from stroke

Stacie (Glenda’s friend) – medical problems

Gracie Whitson – still recovering

Glenda Coles – home recovering from surgery

Sharon Huffman – continued health problems

Tom Anderson – health concerns

Sheila Martinez – Heart Trouble