



# THE FIRST PRESS

From Tom's Study

"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" – Matthew 28:16-20 (The NRSV)

Preaching through books of the Bible became a typical format for my preaching about 25 years ago. My experience has been that congregations have found this method of preaching a helpful avenue to more fully enter the Biblical story, establishing connections to our daily lives and our life together as a congregation. This month we complete our first such journey, a journey through Matthew's Gospel. I hope you have been drawn into the Gospel Narrative as we made our way through Matthew's account.

Matthew's telling of the Gospel story ends with what has come to be known as "The Great Commission". Matthew's record of Jesus' final words to his eleven disciples, were words spoken as a charge and a sending out. I hope through November each of us will take some time to sit with these final words of Jesus and let them work their way into our lives.

I want to point out two aspects about Matthew's account. First, Matthew tells us that even after the astounding experience of Jesus' resurrection that some of the disciples believed and some doubted. Matthew's honesty is a powerful witness to us about the reality of faith. Sometimes we are going to be firm in our belief and at other times we will be filled with doubt. This reality did not give Jesus any pause. He did not send the doubters away, but fully included them in his final charge. Jesus' inclusion of the doubters is great news for all of us. Our doubt does not exclude us from the Good News of God's Kingdom, nor does it exclude us from being instruments of God's work in the world. From Jesus' perspective doubters are welcome!

The second aspect of Matthew's account that I want to point out, is that Jesus charges his followers to be teachers of a way of living. Through his life, both his words and actions, Jesus taught what it means to love God and to love Neighbor. Jesus charges those of us who accept and pursue his teaching to invite others and teach them this beautiful way to live that loves God and seeks to love all people, as people of infinite value. Matthew lays out Jesus' Great Commission for all to ponder and make a choice about. We are now those people. Have we been captivated by Jesus' teaching and life? Will we choose to be teachers of the Jesus' way as we seek to live it out ourselves?

Matthew's Gospel Account has been a great blessing and teacher for my own faith journey. I hope each of us will continue to dive into the Gospel of Matthew as we seek to be followers and teachers of the Jesus' Way.

Christ's Peace be with you - Tom



## **November 2020**

### **November 1 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Communion**

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 24:32-44, Matthew 24:45-25:13

**Sermon Title:** “Sleepwalking”

**Synopsis:** What would it mean to be sleepwalking from a spiritual perspective? What might it mean to fall asleep from a spiritual perspective? As we experience perhaps one of the most difficult presidential elections in the history of our country how do we live faithfully through this time and not just sleepwalk through it or fall asleep from a faith perspective?

### **November 8 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 76:1-9, Matthew 25:14-30

**Sermon Title:** “Afraid to Act”

**Synopsis:** The Parable of the Talents is one of Jesus most well-known parables. As we consider this parable again let us consider what causes us to be fearful to act, when we know action is needed?

### **November 15 – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 23, Matthew 25:31-46

**Sermon Title:** “Faithfulness Looks Like?”

**Synopsis:** Jesus final parable presents the scene of the last judgment. In this parable Jesus gives us clear direction to how living out our faith might look. What about this parable gets you thinking about how you live your faith?

### **November 22 – Christ the King/Reign of Christ**

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 33:1-11, Matthew 28:16-20

**Sermon Title:** “Sent Out by the King”

**Synopsis:** Matthew ends his Gospel with what we now call “The Great Commission”. From Matthew’s perspective to be a follower of Jesus is to be a person sent out into the world. For you what does that mean to be sent out into the world? How do you live that out? What fears do you have about being sent out?

### **November 29 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 80:1-7, Luke 1:5-25

**Sermon Title:** “Hope and Joy for Zechariah and Elizabeth”

**Synopsis:** This Advent we are going to focus on Hope and Joy. What do those two words mean for you? How have you experienced hope and joy in your life? How do we see the development of Hope and Joy in Zechariah and Elizabeth?



## FROM THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S CORNER

In August of 2019 when immigrants at the border were making headlines, a number of our congregation asked Pastor Tom what we as a church could do to help. He immediately acted on our concern, starting with a meeting open to the

community where several local immigrants told their stories of immigrating here and the difficulties and prejudices they have encountered, followed by nine weeks of small groups reading and discussing "The Power of Proximity," hosting a presentation by the Presbyterian Mission Agency, having a mission brainstorming potluck dinner, and culminating in the creation of three new ministry teams:

- 1) The Advocacy Team to focus on helping the congregation advocate for issues of justice locally, statewide, nationally and globally, consisting of **Amy Barton, Marilyn Bouldin, Mary Grannell, Katy Grether, Phil Maes, Cecil Rhodes, Beth Sanders** and **Lois Scace**. Unfortunately, due to the arrival of COVID-19, this team has been more or less sidelined.
- 2) The Mission/Outreach Team to coordinate mission efforts within the congregation, consisting of **Tom Abbott, Amy Barton, Hilary Downs, Mark Ely, Tim Fairman, Phil Maes** and **Cecil Rhodes**. This team has met to plan educational opportunities, but again due to COVID-19 has not been able to move forward as fast as hoped.
- 3) The Immigration Team to become proximate with new immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees, consisting of **Deb Abbott, Marilyn Bouldin, Cassondra Franco, Katy Grether, Pam Groebner, Kay and Robert Parker, Cecil Rhodes, Beth Sanders** and **Gaylene Stevens**. This team has become engaged in the plight of the family of Antonio and Lourdes Herrera, Guatemalans seeking asylum in the U.S. In March members of the team were planning to accompany the Herreras to their asylum hearing in Denver, but again due to COVID-19, the hearing was postponed. With the help of our Immigration Team and other local churches, the Herreras continue to live in Salida until another hearing is scheduled.

In August of this year, **Justin Anderson**, who works for the U.S. Forest Service, called to let me know they had been doing fire mitigation at Monarch Park Campground and they were opening up the area to the public to collect the firewood. Over three Saturdays in August and September and in three separate groups, **Justin and Dennis Anderson, John Bouldin, Ned Dixon, John Dykins, Doug Guthals, Anderson and Henry Horne**, and **Beth and Clay Sanders** were involved in loading and bringing back to our property three cords of wood. **Ned Dixon, John Dykins, Beth Sanders** and **Jan Wayne** spent two afternoons in October cutting, splitting and delivering this wood to the Herreras to help them heat their house this winter. All of the family enthusiastically helped unload the wood, with Lourdes telling Beth in Spanish, "I can't comprehend a mountain of people who don't even know us doing this."

I just wanted to let the congregation know that the concern that was raised in August of 2019 is being addressed and acted upon, in spite of COVID-19!

As always, hugs from afar,

Cindy



*"It feels like camping." "It's so cozy out here." "I like looking up at the stars when we pray."*

This fall we've had to change things up pretty significantly with our youth group meetings—shortening our time together to just one hour, and up to now, meeting exclusively outside. We've strung up lights, put bean bags out on the grass, and now only snack on juice boxes and pre-packaged snacks. But what felt like a big unknown has been a pretty good adventure (see quotes above) as we've had to flex with the times. Outside we simply can't do some of the things we did in the past inside the church building for youth group, but stripping things down to the basics has had its good parts—like remembering that sometimes it's in the simple things that we connect best with one another and that God doesn't require us to be fancy to show up.

As the weather is now getting colder, our groups will likely need to begin meeting inside, so parents remember to send your kid with a mask to youth group—they'll need to be masked up our entire time inside.

And, as we've said before, if school is not meeting for in-person instruction, youth group won't be meeting either.

It's a topsy-turvy year, but God is still with us!

-Hilary

## *Journey to the Manger*

**Saturday, November 28, 3:00-8:00 p.m.**

This Advent season will undoubtedly be like none other. Last year we would have been madly preparing for parties and concerts and get-togethers with family and friends. This year we are preparing for....well, many of us just don't know. But we do know it won't look like it has before. And we also know the truth is that no matter how strange or difficult or even lonely it may be, God will still show up. We will still celebrate the gift of God coming to us in the birth of Jesus our Immanuel.

So you are invited to come and prepare your heart for this season that's so familiar and yet all new this year.

**Saturday, November 28 from 3:00-8:00 p.m.** the church's **stained glass room (a.k.a. the old sanctuary)** will be set up with interactive stations for you to walk through, read scripture, pray, take a breath, and prepare your heart for this season and for the coming of Jesus.

We've tried to design it with all ages in mind, so your whole family can enjoy this space. At the end there will be a special advent craft to take home.

*YES, we will be taking precautions to keep everyone healthy:*

- Individuals or families must pre-register for a time slot to come. More info to come on this.
- Masks must be worn the entire time you're in the building.
- Though many stations are interactive, we'll be sanitizing in between groups and will have gloves to wear for certain stations.

We hope you will plan to find time to join us on November 28!





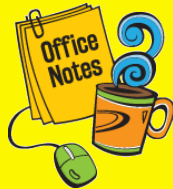
## COME WORSHIP WITH US



Through November we will continue in person worship at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. If COVID-19 cases continue to rise in our state and county then changes to in person worship may be required. Please check your Thursday email for updates. We will continue to broadcast both worship services live on our church's Facebook page. You will also be able to access the broadcast at the our website ([www.salidapresbyterian.org](http://www.salidapresbyterian.org)) by Sunday afternoon.

## REGULAR UPDATES

We will continue to regularly reach out through e-mail and the phone tree to let you know of opportunities to gather on-line, or to share resources you might find interesting. Also please reach out to Tom or Hilary at the church. They continue to hold down the church office Mondays through Thursdays from about 9:00 a.m. to about 5:00 p.m. Lexee is in the office Monday through Wednesday most often from 8:00 to 4:00. Burma continues to volunteer some hours on Thursdays.



## COMMUNION



Communion will be served on Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are worshipping with us on-line please have bread and juice ready so you can partake in the Lord's Supper

## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Tom continues to host a Bible study on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome. Tom sends out a Zoom link each week the day of the Bible Study. **Bible studies will take the first week of November off resuming on Monday, November 9 & Wednesday, November 11.**

## ADVENT BEGINS

As you are considering your worship schedule, mark your calendars for Sunday, November 29, the first Sunday of Advent. If you are interested in helping decorate the sanctuary for Advent/Christmas please connect with Pam Groebner who is coordinating that effort. **The decorators need a 12 or 14 foot step ladder to more safely decorate. If you would be willing to lend the church your step ladder for a couple days please contact Pam Groebner.**

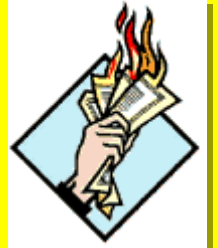


Come  
Decorate for  
Christmas



## THE MORTGAGE HAS BEEN PAID OFF!!

Yes it is great news! On Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, Linda Cook, our financial secretary, had sufficient funds to send in a final payment for the mortgage. **Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!** for your faithful giving that allowed this accomplishment. We plan to have a mortgage burning on December 13<sup>th</sup>, as a part of the worship services that day.



While the mortgage is paid off, the financial needs for capital improvements for the building continue, so please continue your faithful support of the building. You may remember that the church borrowed \$30,000 from its endowment for the building project, so for the next bit of time monies donated for building capital improvements will be split with half going to reimburse the endowment and half going to capital reserves for building repairs. Once the endowment has been reimbursed all monies given for building capital improvements will go fully to that continuing need. Thanks for your continued financial support of our building and grounds!

## GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN

As we wrap up our Generosity Campaign for the 2021 budget year, we could use your input. We



have had significantly fewer pledge cards turned in, so if you have not yet, please fill out a card on-line or in person. That would be a huge gift. The Generosity Team invites everyone to be praying about how he/she will participate in this year's

campaign. Thanks for your continued generosity.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Each fall the nominating committee begins its work of inviting people to serve our congregation in either the role of elder or on the nominating committee. This year the nominating committee will be looking for three elders and three people to serve on the nominating committee, one of those being an alternate. The nominating committee will present their slate of nominations to the congregation at the congregational meeting on December 13, 2020. Please be holding the nominating committee in your prayers as they participate in their vital work.



## CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER

We encourage everyone to get on the phone and regularly check -in with folks. You might even call someone you have never called before.





## CONTINUING COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Like restaurants around the country we are open for take-out. Stone Soup, the Food Pantry, SOS and Energy Outreach Colorado continue to offer support to our neighbors who are experiencing food shortages, or help with other financial emergencies. We also are hosting Laundry Love the first and third Monday of the month. Showers are continuing at the Methodist church on Monday and Thursday from 1:30-3:00 p.m. We are grateful for your support that allows us to continue to be a part of the emergency services for our county.



## WINTER SHELTER

The new 501(c)(3) **Chaffee County Hospitality Inc.** is up and running. We hope to open an emergency shelter for men at The Lighthouse and for women at First Christian Church on or close to November 1<sup>st</sup>. We are in the process of hiring 4 night managers for each shelter, so if you or anyone you know would like a part-time job for one or two nights a week please contact Pastor Tom. If you have an interest in getting involved we have many volunteering opportunities. If you have ideas or resources to share please reach out to Tom Abbott, Beth Sanders, Cheryl Walker or Hal Walker. If you would like to make a donation you can write a check to "**Chaffee County Hospitality Inc.**" Or you can go to the new Go-Fund-Me page at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/chaffee-county-hospitality-inc>



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The shower ministry has seen an increase in people coming in to shower, thus more volunteers are needed to see that things run smoothly, that all who come in are served in a timely fashion. This ministry has changed locations and showers are now available at the Salida Methodist Church every Monday and Thursday from 1:00-3:30 PM. As always, there is no charge to shower.

As a volunteer you will be responsible for welcoming people who come in to shower, explaining guidelines that need to be followed and making sure that everyone has a towel and necessary shower items (shampoo, soap, etc.). Volunteers are also responsible for making sure the shower area is clean before, during and after the time they are there. Proper COVID measures are followed by guests and volunteers.

Thank you for considering helping with this important ministry. Nothing feels better than a warm shower, clean hair and perhaps a fresh shave! Many of the guests that come in to shower are living in their cars/trucks or perhaps a tent where showering is not an option.

For more information or to volunteer contact Mike Orrill at 719-221-5418/[morrill@chaffeecounty.org](mailto:morrill@chaffeecounty.org)

# —STAYING— CONNECTED

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Church office: 719-539-6422      office@salidapresbyterian.org  
 Rev. Tom Abbott, Pastor: tom@salidapresbyterian.org  
 Rev. Hilary Downs, Associate Pastor: hilaryd@salidapresbyterian.org  
 Dan Shuford, Praise Band Director: danny@salidapresbyterian.org  
 Liz Riley, Choir Director, Pianist: emusic1955@gmail.com  
 Lexee Barrera, Administrative Assistant: office@salidapresbyterian.org  
 Cindy Dykins, Volunteer Coordinator: cindy@salidapresbyterian.org

## ELDERS

Linda Colling	719-539-8634	lrcoll327@yahoo.com
Bob Grether	719-530-1788	bkgrether@outlook.com
Phil Maes	719-530-1224	philmaes@yahoo.com
Brian King	719-530-1534	chiroking@live.com
Debbie Quintana	719-221-2557	spikewee4u@yahoo.com
Cecil Rhodes	214-493-8157	CECILWR1948@gmail.com
Barb Snyder	719-539-3956	bsnydermail@gmail.com

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

FRIDAY/SATURDAY-CLOSED

## TIME CHANGE

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>/  
 Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember to set your clocks  
 back one hour before you go to bed Saturday so you'll  
 be on time for church!



**4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
 Su Casa! Furniture  
 & Sleep Shop's  
**DRIVE BY  
 FOOD  
 DRIVE**  
*PUT A STOP TO HUNGER!*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
**SATURDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
**11AM TO 1PM**  
 INTERSECTION OF 3RD & F STREETS

**JUST PULL UP  
 AND DROP OFF!**  
*Thank You!*



Su Casa!  
FURNITURE  
& SLEEP SHOP

On November 14th, bring your nonperishable  
 food items to the intersection of the 3rd and F  
 Streets. All you have to do is drive up and stop,  
 someone will be waiting to take your donations.  
 You don't even need to get out of your car!

OR drop off at Su Casa! anytime  
 the week of November 9th to 14th.  
 OR you can call us at 719-539-4343, and we'll  
 come out to your car to get your donations.

Food collected will go to the  
 Presbyterian Church Food Pantry





**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
*Seeking to love our world in the Spirit of Jesus Christ*

OUR VISION: God's dream for the world, nothing less.

OUR MISSION: Growing disciples of Jesus through knowing God,  
loving each other, and serving the world.

7 Poncha Blvd.

Salida, CO

81201

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**